



# Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool VCAT-2

## Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool Roller L (Large)

## Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool Roller S (Small)

### Product Description

Use these tools to help conform heated film into channels commonly found on vehicle bodies. Recommended techniques are shown in this Bulletin.

### Health and Safety

Before using this tool, read and following these important notes, cautions and warnings to ensure personal and mechanical safety.



#### WARNING

Physical Comfort

Any activity performed for a long period of time in an awkward position or with a high amount of force is potentially a risk for causing musculoskeletal strain, pain or injury. When applying graphics, follow these practices to improve comfort and avoid injury:

- Alternate your tasks during the application.
- Schedule regular breaks.
- Perform stretches or do exercises to improve circulation.
- Avoid awkward reaching.



#### WARNING

Heat Sources

- Read, understand and follow the safety instructions contained in this 3M Instruction Bulletin and the heat gun manufacturer's manual.
- Wear a heat-resistant glove on the hand that holds tool.
- Never use an open-flame heat source with the procedure described in this Bulletin.
- Do not use heat sources near solvent mixtures or residues, or in areas where solvent vapors may be present at hazardous levels.



#### CAUTION

- Before handling any chemical products, always read the container label and the MSDS.
- Always provide adequate ventilation to remove emissions that may result from the use of heat. Failure to provide adequate ventilation can result in operator exposure.

### Important Note!

High heat may degrade foam rollers and damage the substrate. Always direct the heat toward the film, not the foam roller.

### Instructions for Use

- Use the right film for the job.
- Use these tools with a heat gun capable of temperatures of at least 500°F.

#### Use Good Physical Form

For maximum comfort and effective use of the applicator, always:

- Grip the applicator as shown.
- Hold the applicator like it is an extension of your arm.
- Keep the applicator perpendicular to the surface.
- Keep your wrist straight during use.
- Use full arm movements.

### Pro's Tip

Use tape primer. Use 3M™ Tape Primer 94 to reduce the lifting of graphics in deep or difficult vehicle channels.

Prevent trapping air. Always work toward an open edge through which the trapped air can escape. NEVER work from the edge to the center or from an open edge to a sealed edge, such as at a panel overlap.

Don't move too quickly. The most common application error is moving too fast. Try moving at about 2 inches per second at first and adjust as needed.

## Procedure

1. Use 3M tape primer 94 to reduce the lifting of graphics in deep or difficult vehicle channels.
2. Position the film so it bridges the vehicle channels. Apply the film to the flat areas above and below the bridge using normal application methods.



3. **For film IJ380:** Start with the heat gun set to 250°F and heat the film (step 4) to 120-130°F (50-55°C) for convex and concave areas including bumpers and channels.

**For other films:** Start with a heat gun set to about 400°F and heat the film (step 4) to 180°F (82°C) for convex and concave areas including bumpers and channels.

4. Direct the heat gun towards the graphic, just in front of the tool. START with the temperatures recommended in Step 3. Heat the film for about 2 seconds and immediately begin rolling the film into the channel. Advance the tool along the channel at a rate of about 2 inches/second. Adjust the temperature and speed of application as you become comfortable with the use of the tools.



Tool V-Cat2

Tool Roller L

5. Immediately after post-heating the applied graphic, use Roller S to press the film in the channel areas. This step helps the adhesive completely wet out the substrate, reducing graphic lifting. See IB 5.36 for post-application techniques.



Tool Roller S

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## 3M Related Literature

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