



## HYDROKON PVA FILM USER GUIDE

### **IMAGE PREPARATION**

1. Print on the coated side of the film. Coated side has a matte appearance.
2. After printing, let dry for approximately 30 minutes.
3. If using latex ink, printed film is immediately ready for dipping.
4. If using pigment ink, apply a light coat of lacquer, or fixative, to printed side of film only. See suggestions below.
  - a. Be sure to use within 2 weeks of lacquer application.
  - b. Recommended Lacquer: [Rust-Oleum Clear Lacquer Spray](#) or clear basecoat/intercoat from your hydrographic paint company.

### **PREPARATION OF ITEMS TO DIP**

1. Degrease Object
2. Perform Flame Treatment
  - a. If acetone doesn't affect the surface, most likely needs flame treatment.
  - b. ABS plastic is the only type of plastic that should not need flame treatment.
3. Scuff/Bead Blast
  - a. Use a heavy-duty scouring pad (e.g. Scotch-Brite), to roughen the surface.
4. Base Coat Application
  - a. For an ideal base coat, primer or an adhesion promoter may be necessary depending on object and/or paint.

### **DIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cut printed film to size needed and then remove the clear backer.
2. The film is then placed on the water, printed side up.
3. Recommended water temperature is 90° F (32° C).
4. Film should dwell on the water for 60-75 seconds.
5. Spray with activator. We recommend a 'cool' activator. Examples:
  - a. [Superbrew from K2](#)
  - b. [Ink Drink from OHW](#)
  - c. [Hydro Solutions Activator](#)
6. After hydro dipping object, the PVA film is removed by rinsing with water. Warm water speeds up PVA removal, but temperature should not exceed 120° F to be sure the image is not removed during rinsing.
7. After object is rinsed, the surface should no longer feel slimy. Hydrokon PVA, however, has a special fluorescent indicator quality that guarantees PVA removal. Using a UV blacklight, the PVA will glow, making it easier to determine when all the PVA has been removed. If a bluish/white glow is still present on the surface, rinse the object for a longer period of time.
8. After PVA removal, allow object to dry completely.
9. Apply your favorite clear coat for surface protection.

### **STORAGE**

- Hydrokon film should be stored between 68°-75° F.
- It is suggested for relative humidity levels to be between 45-60%.

