

## FINISH LINE BODY PAINT AND DETAIL

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# Personalizing prefab graphics

**W**hether you're stuck in a body rut or you're overdrawn at the idea bank, one of the easiest ways to kick up your next paint job is to use a pre-cut vinyl mask. These computer cut gems are a painless way to add some flash to your body and with a little prep and a few simple techniques, they can make you look like you slaved on your prep, layout and paint job. Many manufacturers offer masks (say that 5 times fast); among my favorites are the designs from xxx-main, Parma and MDI Racing. The flame mask I'm using today is from xxx-main; I particularly like this design because of the overlapping licks and narrow outline that follows the entire graphic. It's time for a little

G35 Flambé using Proto-form's Infiniti body, Parma Faskolor and Alclad 2 chrome paint.



**Step 1.** Always begin by washing the inside of the body thoroughly using a few drops of dish soap, plenty of warm water and a clean cloth or paper towel. Stay away from the kitchen dish-towel because you could end up smearing decayed Spaghettios inside your new body.



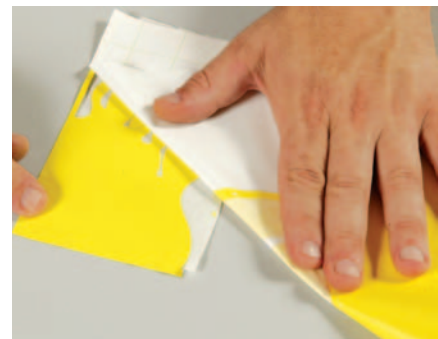
**Step 2.** The window masking is one of those things that people tend to over think; the easiest way to apply them is to match one corner and one flat edge and let the sticker fall into place. Follow up by burnishing the edge of the sticker with your finger to prevent paint from sneaking underneath.



**Step 3.** Next it's time to "weed" the graphic; this simply means get rid of the parts of the sticker that you're not going to use.



**Step 4.** Firmly apply low-tack transfer tape over the top of your sticker; xxx-main includes the tape along with its paint masks but it's also available in sheets from Parma (most sign shops can also hook you up).



**Step 5.** Turn the graphic over so that you're looking at the back side of the mask's carrier sheet; slowly peel the carrier sheet back and the sticker should transfer onto the tape with its sticky side facing up.



**Step 6.** Move the sticker into position on the inside of the body and press the graphic into place firmly.