

GEFORCE GARAGE
SCRATCH BUILD SERIES

HOW TO APPLY A PRINTED DESIGN WITH HYDRO DRIPPING

FEATURING
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When it comes to printing high-resolution patterns and designs onto your components, the only thing that beats hydro dipping is hiring da Vinci himself to paint your chassis, mouse and keyboard.

The technique is surprisingly simple! You can buy DIY hydro dipping kits—like the [Black & Fiber Carbon Fiber with Blue Base Coat](#) pattern kit from [MyDipKit](#) that we're using in our video—that contain everything you need to pull off your first hydro dipping job.

Well, almost everything. You'll also need a basin large enough for the component you want to dip, with at least 6 inches clearance on all sides including depth when the component is fully immersed.

Needless to say, follow your kit's instructions very carefully; those instructions may differ somewhat from the ones that apply to our kit. Temperature regulation is crucial, as is the way you handle the film and immerse your component.



Hydro dipping isn't a dangerous process, but it involves chemicals and paint, and it can get messy. So do your hydro dipping in a well-ventilated area with good drainage in case of spills. And keep the pets out of the way unless you want to incorporate bits of fur into your designs.

LEVEL: MASTER

TIME: A FEW DAYS

COST: \$\$\$

TOOLS:

Large plastic basin
Thermometer
Gloves
Timer

MATERIALS:

DIY Hydro Dipping Kit
Heated water
Masking tape*
Etch Primer*
Basecoat*
Pattern film*
Activator*
High gloss clear coat*
Scuff pad*
Wood and tape (optional)

*Included in kit



STEP 1:

Prep your component I

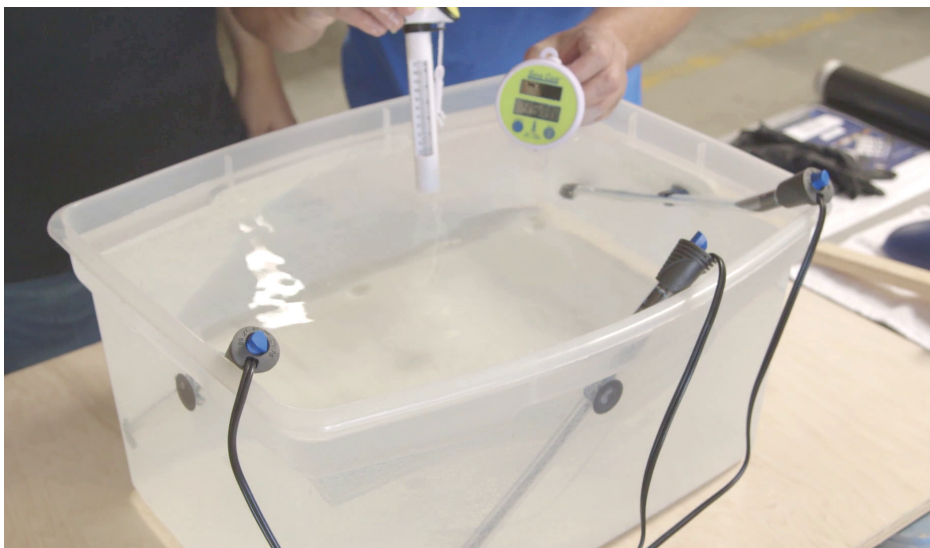
Apply the primer and base coat (check out our [GeForce Garage tutorial](#)). Then prep the surface with the scuff pad included with your kit.



STEP 2:

Prep your component II

Before you dip your component, use masking tape to protect any areas you don't want paint to adhere to.



STEP 3:

Heat water to 90-95 degrees

It's important to heat water to the correct temperature and to keep that temperature stable! Add hot water manually and carefully monitor the temperature, or use aquarium heaters.



STEP 4:

Cut film to proper dimensions

Measure the top of your tub and cut your film to that size minus one inch on all sides. Tape the edges of the film before cutting to minimize deformities.



STEP 5:

OPTIONAL: Attach handles to components

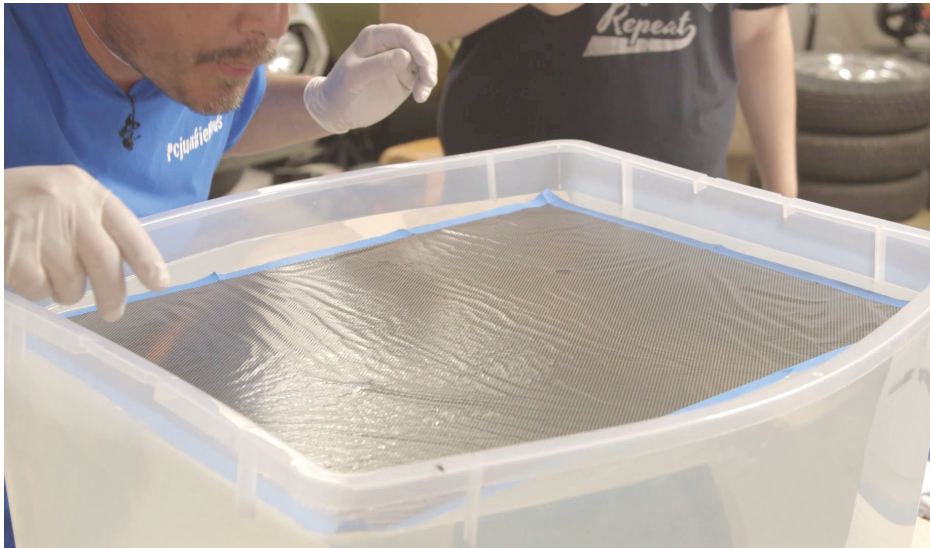
As shown in the video, you may need to jerry-rig a handle to dip your components using a stick and tape, or whatever MacGyver solution you come up with.



STEP 6:

Apply the film to the water

Holding the film by two corners, gently lower it so the center makes contact with the water, then lower the corners so the entire film floats on the surface.



STEP 7:

Check the film for bubbles

Make sure there are no air bubbles or ripples under the film. If you find any, work them quickly and gently out by blowing lightly on the surface.



STEP 8:

Set a timer for 60 seconds

As you wait for 60 seconds to elapse, shake up your activator to get it ready.



STEP 9:

Spray the activator

From a distance of 8-10 inches, spray the activator in smooth back-and-forth strokes. Don't saturate! Only a light layer is necessary. Wait 15 seconds.



STEP 10:

Dip it!

Watch Bob's technique in the video: In a single continuous motion, he begins by dipping the heel of the part into the paint first, then gently rolls the rest of the part in.



STEP 11:

Swish

Once you've completely immersed the component, give it some very gentle swishes. This detaches the unused paint from the part.



STEP 12:

Whoa

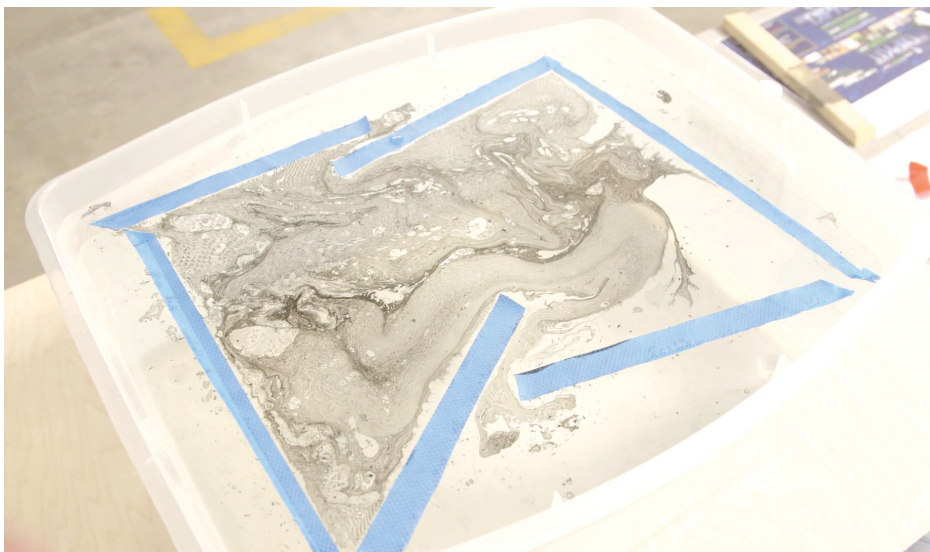
Once you lift a component out from the basin, it's hard not to take a moment to admire the results. Indulge yourself.



STEP 13:

Rinse the component

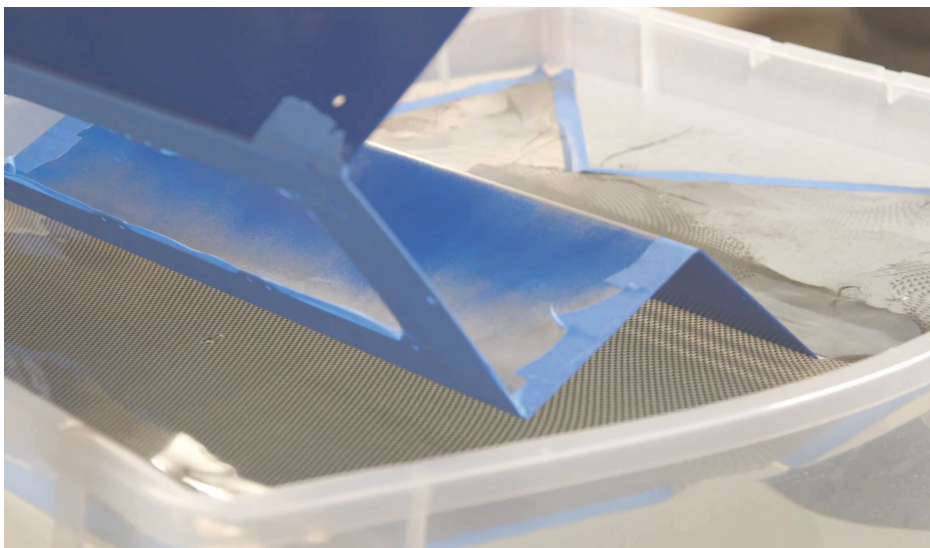
Use warm water to rinse the part until the water runs clear, but *do not touch the painted surface*.



STEP 14:

Do not reuse the water!

This is crucial: If you prep for another dip, use a cloth to remove the surface paint and tape, then empty the basin and *wash it thoroughly* before your next dip.



STEP 15:

Double dip

In the video, Bob shows you how to hydro dip in two stages to cover a surface with a 90-degree angle without deformations.

STEP 16:

Apply the clear coat

Finish the component by applying a layer of clear/top coat and allowing to dry according to the kit's instructions. Repeat until you get your desired finish.



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