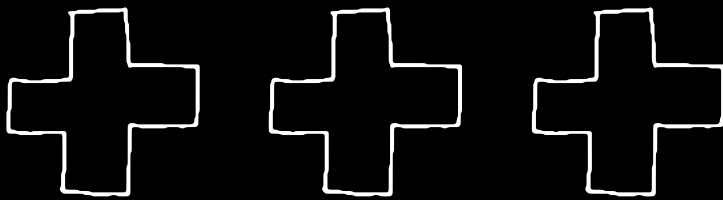


# Paint Masking



# Paint Masking.

Cleaning is very important before masking, edges need to be pre-cleaned and if necessary, compounded to give you a good surface to stick your tape to, also dirt on the edge looks unsightly.

## + Preparation

One of the easiest ways to tell if a car has been refinished is to look out for masking lines in door shuts, wing edges or quarter apertures so to work towards the invisible repair we strive for care has to be taken.

## + Door shuts & edges

For door shuts we suggest foam edge tape which can save a lot of time masking off the whole shuts, this also works well in the bonnet and tailgate gaps. Foam can be rolled into small balls to fill holes where mouldings were - this stops the overspray going into the inside of the vehicle and dirt getting out, contaminating your paint work.

If you are masking off swage lines to minimise the size of the repair, the old trick was to fold the edge over. You would have to fold an edge of about 5mm and stick to itself and stick to the edge as a last edge. Now there is product called 'Swage Tape' which has been specifically designed for this, as well as masking sunken screens, roof rails and other difficult areas. Using this saves all the time of folding over tape, applying, and re-applying. Its simply dispenses from a box, can be cut to size and simply applied. The paint never reaches the edge leaving a soft overspray that is easy to polish.

On the subject of last edges, if you are masking very close to the car body apply the tape here after the rest of the vehicle has been masked. This way if the clearcoat is heavy over the surfaces, you can remove the tape straight away before it start to dry and without having to de-mask the whole vehicle.

## + Masking stripes & lines

Masking stripes and lines is best achieved by using plastic fine line tape, this works better if it's warm. Trim lifting tape is excellent for window trims that touch the paintwork, you can easily use it to pull away the rubber seals to give you a invisible mask without removing the windows.

Paint absorbent Plastic sheet is a great advancement in masking over the last 15 years, it's very quick and can be painted without flaking off when its dry. Keeping the sheet tight over the vehicle is very important. This will stop dust collecting in the folds . Keep the sheet in a clean place help as this will help to keep the dust levels low in the booth.

When you have finished drying your paintwork remove the masking as soon as you can - this will help prevent contamination from the adhesive. Removing foam tape is best achieved by pulling the tape towards you, this will stop the residue from the adhesive staying on the panel.

