



Gerber Stardust™ Series Gold, Silver and Pearl White Vinyl Films

(Discontinued)

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DESCRIPTION

The Gerber Stardust Series is a high performance collection of cast films made exclusively for Gerber. The three films in this Series are designed for printing on the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with GerberColor™ Foils.

Gerber Stardust Series is a durable, opaque, dimensionally stable vinyl with an impressive ultrametallic flake in Gold and Silver, and a smooth pearlescent flake in White. It features a pressure-sensitive, adhesive intended to withstand severe weather and handling conditions.

Gerber Stardust Series is an EDGE READY™ collection of films.

INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Gerber Stardust Series is suitable for a wide range of commercial and industrial applications including automobile, recreational and marine applications, exterior and interior signage, window markings, display graphics, etc. It can be used on flat surfaces with and without rivets or simple curved surfaces, and is suitable for first surface applications only as its ultrametallic flake is not visible from the adhesive side. Gerber Stardust Series is not qualified for automotive O.E.M. applications.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Both wet and dry application methods may be used with Gerber Stardust Series. Paneled graphics should be overlapped. Gerber standard tack application tape is recommended for all EDGE-printed applications (see “Printing” section for important information on applying EDGE ® graphics.)

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Before applying your graphic, wash the surface of your substrate with warm water and detergent. Do not use soaps or other cleaners with lotions or creams, as they will leave a residue. Thoroughly rinse the surface and allow it to completely dry.

Saturate a clean paper towel with a solvent-based cleaner and wipe the substrate surface. Be certain to follow all manufacturer safety guidelines when using any solvent. Dry the surface with a lint-free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.

If applying to glass, wipe the surface with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Glass temperatures can vary across the surface. These temperature variations can produce stresses, which may cause the glass to break. Use caution when applying to glass.

Some polycarbonate substrates may weaken when certain vinyl films are applied to them. Because of this possibility, the user will need to determine if safety items such as helmets, safety shields, and some windshields are compatible with the vinyl’s adhesive.

Many paint systems (e.g. two-part urethane) and some plastic substrates will outgas if they are not fully cured. Outgassing can cause permanent bubbling in most films; substrates should be tested for outgassing prior to final application. Two part paint systems should be allowed to cure a minimum of 5 days at 70°F.

PERFORMANCE LIFE - (UNPRINTED)

The exterior performance life of Gerber Stardust Series is based upon representative experience and testing conducted throughout the United States. When the graphics are processed and used according to Gerber’s recommendations, they should have an expected performance life up to the values shown in the chart that follows. The actual performance depends on the following conditions:

- ◆ Selection and preparation of substrate
- ◆ Application methods
- ◆ Exposure conditions
- ◆ Cleaning methods

Application Specifics	Vertical Exposure* (years)	
	U.S. years	S. W. ¹ years
Signs and Vehicles: Unprinted, applied to first surface	5	Not Available

*Face of graphic is vertical 90° +/- 10°.

¹ The United States Desert Southwest area includes Arizona, New Mexico, and the desert areas of California, Nevada, Utah, and Texas.

Note: Non-vertical applications, especially those applied to horizontal surfaces, expose the film to increased effects from sunlight and the environment. There are foil and film restrictions for these types of applications. The film may change color, lose gloss, and chalk. The performance statements assume that only legibility is required. See the Protecting Graphics section of this bulletin on how to safeguard graphics from maximum exposure to sunlight and environmental conditions.

PRINTING

Use Gerber Stardust Series settings when printing with the GERBER EDGE, EDGE 2® or EDGE FX™.

The following foils can be used to print onto Gerber Stardust Series High Performance Films: GerberColor Finishing (GCF), GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series, GerberColor Process Pro™ CMYK (GCP) Series, GerberColor Medal (GCM) Series, GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils, GerberColor Special Effects Series (GCX) Foils, and ColorSet™.

Gerber standard tack application tape is required to be used as the transfer carrier for all printed graphics.

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50°F to 95°F / 10°C to 35°C
- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68°F to 78°F / 20°C to 26°C
- Operating humidity: 20% to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing (maximum range; actual range varies by material used)

CUTTING

Gerber Stardust Series can be cut on any 15-inch EDGE-compatible sprocketed plotter. A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended for tangential plotters (HS15™, HS15 Plus, GSX™, GS15™, GS750™, HS750™). A 45° blade should be used with swivel knife plotters (FasTrack™, EmbossTrack™, enVision™, and Odyssey™). Plotters can be set to full speed.

The minimum recommended cutting height for text is .375 inch. This recommendation is based upon evaluations using upper case Helvetica Medium copy. Users should verify their own ideal cut heights based upon their specific cutting equipment. The user should perform a test cut to determine the ideal tool force setting.

Excess film should be weeded within 24 hours of cutting to minimize the effect of adhesive flow.

PROTECTING GRAPHICS

Gerber Technology offers products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ manufactured by 3M is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlamine. This film has a petrochemical-resistant construction and is intended to be used when markings may be exposed to petrochemical spillage and/or severe handling conditions.

Gerber UVGuard™ is a custom-formulated, 1-mil, clear, TEDLAR® polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) laminating film designed to further expand the resistance to weathering of printed for up to five years.

Gerber UVGuard™ 9 manufactured by 3M is a 2-mil, glossy, clear, mildew-resistant, polyvinyl fluoride laminating film with a petrochemical-resistant adhesive system. It is designed to further

expand the resistance to weathering of printed graphics up to nine years. Gerber UVGuard 9 has the highest protection from UV fade.

Gerber StrikeGuard™ is an 8.0-mil, clear, glossy overlamine film designed for a variety of applications. This heavy-duty overlamine film is ideal for the protection of graphics, up to two years, and is especially beneficial where printed graphics experience severe handling and forceful impact. Gerber StrikeGuard is not recommended in applications that require petrochemical protection or where additional UV or vandal resistance is desired.

Abrasion Guard™ SPF (Sign Protection Formula) is a clear, top-coat GerberColor Finishing Series (GCF) Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to protect graphics from moderate contact and exposure to harmful effects of UV rays. It has an expected performance life of up to five years (when printed by itself). When applied as a protective overprint on other GerberColor Foils, Abrasion Guard SPF will extend the life of the base color by up to 30%.

Matte Clear is a clear matte finish, top coat GerberColor Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to reduce glare and protect graphics from moderate contact or handling. It has an expected performance life of up to three years.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Apply film within one year of receipt. Printed graphics should also be applied within one year. Film and printed graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Maintain temperature at less than 100°F (38°C).

Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled printed materials. Do not stack printed graphics face to face.

MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives. Automated vehicle washing systems that use rotary cleaning brushes should also be avoided.

PRODUCT LINE

Property	Description
Film	2-mil cast vinyl
Thickness (Film and adhesive)	2.5 to 3.5 mil (0.063 to 0.09 mm)
Film Color	Ultrametallic Gold, Ultrametallic Silver and Pearlescent White
Adhesive	Gray pigmented pressure sensitive – Gold and Silver Clear pressure sensitive - White
Liner	78-lb white kraft liner
Application substrates	For flat surfaces with and without rivets, or simple curved surfaces

Property	Description
Application surfaces	Flexible signage, glass, metal, acrylic, fiberglass, painted surfaces
Removability	Permanent

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Property	English Units	Metric Units
Dimensional Stability	0.008 in	0.2 mm
Tensile Strength	1250 psi	8619 kPa (average)
Minimum Application Temperature	55°F to 90°F	13°C to 32°C

ADHESIVE CHARACTERISTICS

Material	20 min. applied	After 48 hrs.
Paint Panel (RK 8040)	3.9 lb/in	4.6 lb/in
Fiberglass	3 lb/in (526 N/m)	3.2 lb/in (560 N/m)
Aluminum	3.9 lb/in (680 N/m)	4.6 lb/in (805 N/m)

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE

Chemical Agent	Result
Isopropyl alcohol	No significant effect after exposure, 10 min.
SAE 20 motor oil	No significant effect after exposure, 10 min.
Gas resistance	No significant effect after exposure, 10 min.
Water	No significant effect after exposure, 10 days

RELATED LITERATURE

Refer to Product Bulletins of relevant foils and materials for product-specific handling, production, and finishing information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860) 644-1551. Visit us on the Internet at www.gspinc.com to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

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