

## AerTrim sofTouch® Installation Suggestions

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AerTrim sofTouch is developed for aircraft applications to simulate the look & feel of leather-type materials. Typical areas of use are seating applications.

### Tools & Materials Required

- Schneller AerTrim sofTouch
- Sharp razor knife
- Straight edge
- Squeegee
- Gloves
- Clean Cloth
- Contact Adhesive (Fastbond 5, 10,30 or 1357 from 3M™)
- Heat Gun

### Development of AerTrim sofTouch

1. AerTrim sofTouch was developed for flat panel applications or parts with only one single curvature of .250" (6.35mm) or greater.
2. AerTrim sofTouch can be supplied with or without adhesive. In the trial evaluations that have been performed, the AerTrim SofTouch was applied using Schneller Pressure Sensitive Adhesive (PSA). Contact adhesive can be used instead of PSA such as Fastbond 5, 10, or 1357 from 3M.

### Preparation of Material

AerTrim sofTouch was developed to simulate the look & feel of leather-type materials; therefore, it is constructed thicker than most decorative laminates in order to achieve this look. However, the AerTrim sofTouch can still be easily cut to size by using a sharp razor knife.

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#### Application of AerTrim sofTouch PSLHR to Flat Panel

1. The surface of the panel to be covered must be clean and free of all dirt, grease, oil or other contaminants. For best results, panel should be dried and wiped clean with isopropyl alcohol or Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK). Application temperature should be above 50°F (10°C).
2. Application procedures require at least two or more people (depending upon size of panel to recover) to apply, squeegee, and support the AerTrim SofTouch. The use of a template to cut the decorative to size is very useful.
3. Peel the protective liner away from the decorative laminate back for approximately 2-4 inches (5-10cm) along one end or one edge of the material. Be careful in handling of the material, do not to kink or bend it sharply as this will create score marks the material.
4. Hand squeegee exposed strip to the panel. Alternatively, the release liner may be removed completely and the decorative may be touched down in the center of the surface to be covered. By initially adhering the decorative in the center of a large panel the chances of distortion and miss-alignment are minimized. After tacking in the center, squeegee to the top and to the bottom, one end at a time.
5. A second person should hold the free end of the decorative laminate taut and away from the panel surface. Progressively, pull the protective liner away and very slowly squeegee the decorative onto the panel surface. Do not rush through the application.
6. Force out trapped air from between the adhesive and panel surface by using short overlapping strokes with the application squeegee. All the air must be forced out when material is first laid. It is not possible to go back and easily squeegee out trapped air.
7. Squeegee may be of felt or baize, nylon or Teflon (a non-scratching plastic) approximately 1/8 to 1/4 (3-6 mm) inch thick with tapered smooth edges to exert an even pressure across the edge of the squeegee. A clean cloth may be used as well.
8. The use of heat is optional. It should be used only if it is not possible to achieve a good bond at room temperature. A heat gun or hot air blower may be used for a heat source. Care must be used as not to overheat and cause glossing of material surface.
9. The initial tack level of PSLHR adhesive is low to allow for "minimal" repositioning. PSLHR adhesive will build up adhesive strength as it ages on the panel. The adhesive will reach its maximum strength within 24-72 hours after application, depending on

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environmental conditions. Proper handling techniques must be used as not to kink or fold the material which can cause whitening or lightening in that area.

10. Edge trimming may be done with a razor knife or similar cutting device. A very sharp instrument is necessary due to the very tacky nature of the adhesive & the glass scrim in the material.

### Application of AerTrim sofTouch to Curved Surface

1. The AerTrim sofTouch has been successfully applied to curved panels with .250" (6.35mm) or greater radius.
2. A primer or adhesive promoter is recommended when applying to the substrate with a radius. As with the flat surfaces, 3M Fastbond 5, 10, 30 or 1357 adhesive system was used on the curved panels.
3. Repeat steps 1 – 10. The primer or adhesive promoter should be applied after the panel is prepped and cleaned.
4. On curved panels it is recommended to use a heat gun to apply a small amount of heat to the AerTrim sofTouch. By heating the AerTrim SofTouch, the material will relax and form more easily into the curves.

### Sample Material

1. As with all application techniques, the use of the AerTrim sofTouch will vary depending on the applicator, the environment and the particular panel.
2. Please contact Schneller to obtain sample of AerTrim sofTouch material for testing and experimentation.