

Cheap Packing Tape as a Protective Layer for Labels, Version 1.1

By **R. G. Sparber**

Protected by Creative Commons.¹

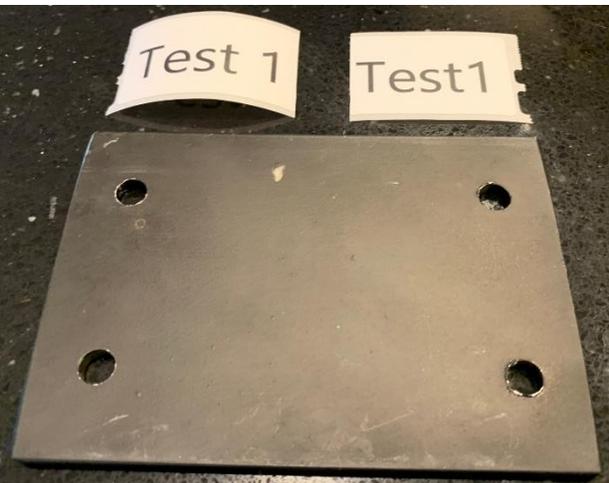


I worked hard perfecting this project only to totally screw up covering the labels with packing tape. The bubbles and ridges look terrible.

Time to figure out how to do this so next time it goes better.

I will do a comparison between applying the tape as carefully as possible versus using the surface tension of water to hold the tape.

¹ This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.



I started out with two identical labels printed on my Dymo LabelWriter 450 Turbo. Out of my scrap drawer came a smooth plate painted black on both sides. I washed the plate in soapy water, rinsed and dried it.

Then I stuck one label on each face of the plate.



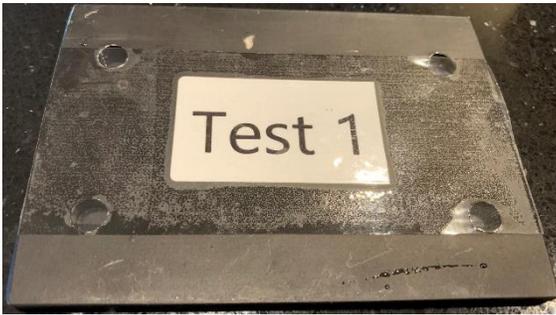
As carefully as I could, I placed a strip of packing tape over the first label



Then I rubbed the surface to get full contact. Yup, it looks like crap. I didn't get any ridges this time but there are a bubbles that won't go away.

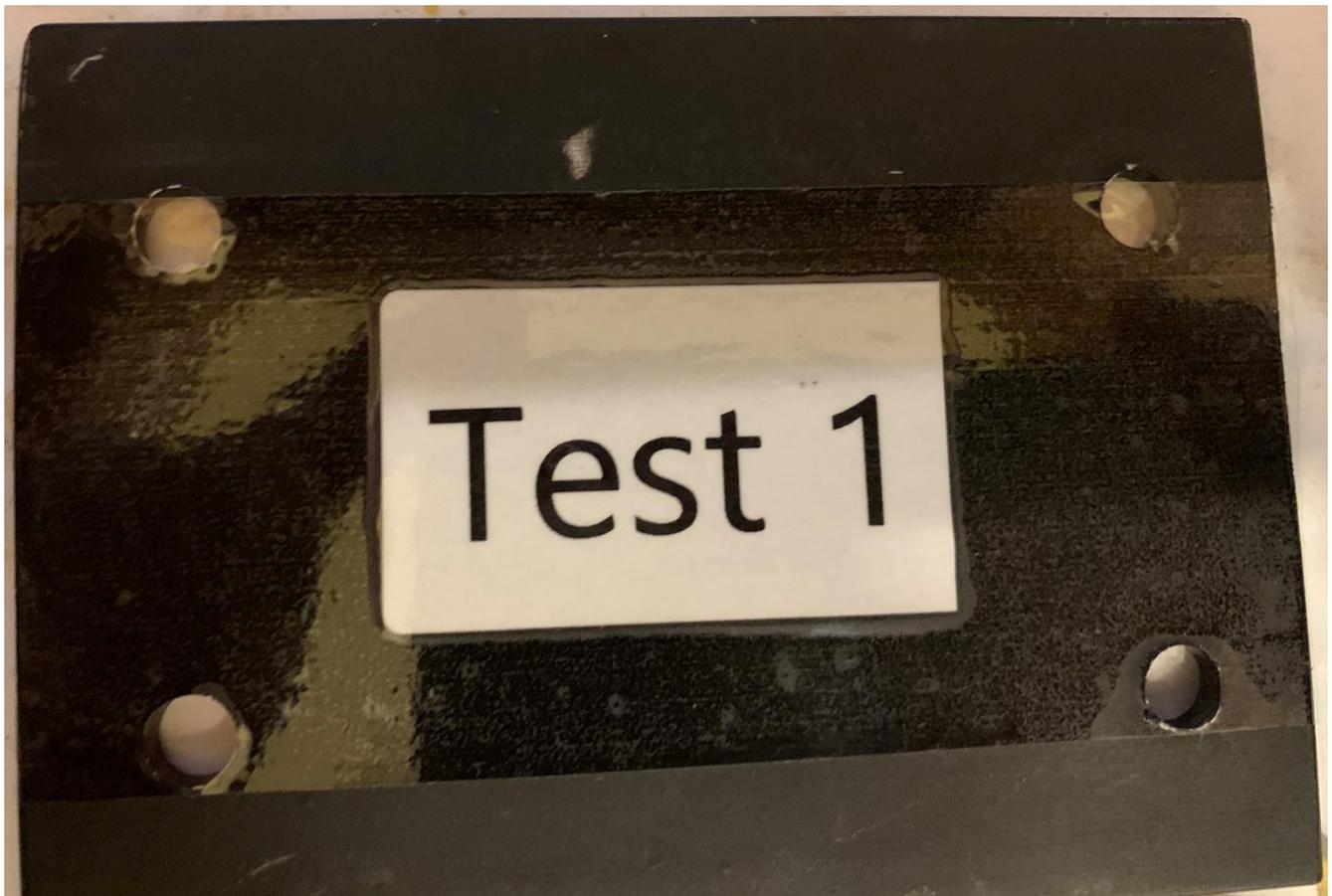


For my second test, I took a clean plate of glass and sprayed it lightly with water. Then I laid the tape, sticky side up, on the water.



Flipping the plate over, I pushed it down on the tape and then lifted it off.

I again worked the tape down on the plate.



Not perfect, but much better.

William R. Meyers, MSgt, USAF (Ret.) suggested that I can break the surface tension to achieve better results. I tried a few drops of “finish” per 6 ounces of water and it did help.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you want me to contact you each time I publish an article, email me with “Subscribe” in the subject line. In the body of the email, please tell me if you are interested in metalworking, software plus electronics, kayaking, and/or the Lectric XP eBike so I can put you on the right distribution list.

If you are on a list and have had enough, email me “Unsubscribe” in the subject line. No hard feelings.

Rick Sparber
Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com
Rick.Sparber.org