PlasDECK

How to Make a Template

TOOL LIST:

Template Material:  Templates can be made of different materials but we prefer that you use our template material. We offer rolls that are 50ft x 52in and .007 mil thick. The clear material is great because you can see through it to trace your lines. Plastic is also less prone to stretching or any expansion and contraction that can distort your templates.

Permanent Marker:  Use a fine point permanent marker so that your lines don't smudge.

Magic Eraser:  If you need to erase any lines on your plastic template, a magic eraser works great.

Scissors:  Use scissors to trim your template material to size.

Painters' Tape:  Use painters' tape to hold down the template material so it does not move. Tape can also be used to help create straight lines on your template.

Ruler:  Use a ruler to help you draw nice straight lines.

Carpenters' Square (Optional):  An aid for drawing angles and corners.

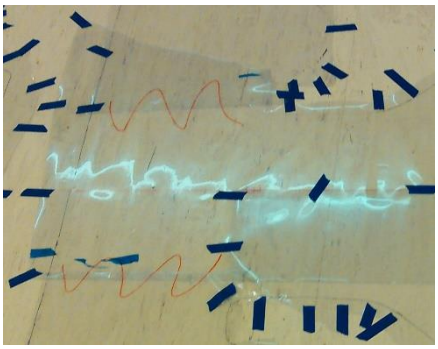
Camera (Optional, But Strongly Encouraged):  Take photos of your deck before and after the templates are laid on your boat. The more information we have, the better. Photos can help us visualize the layout of your boat and the orientation of the templates. You can also send us drawings to help us understand how all your template pieces fit together.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Read this entire installation guide.
- You might also want to watch the two-part "Template to Finish" video on our website to see templating in action and learn more tips on template making.
- Make sure that your boat deck is dry and clean and free of any debris or obstacles.

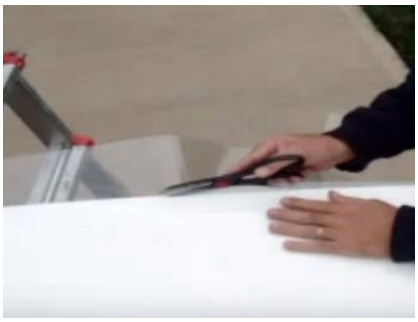
START TEMPLATING:

- **Lay the template material:** Unroll the template material onto your deck, making sure that it covers the entire space that you are templating. Carefully tape two pieces together if you need to cover more space and add "match" lines so we can join these together accurately. Label the match lines on both sides (such as "Match A" through "Match "C"" so they do not get confused.



Notice the red "match" lines that help line up the template pieces.

- **Trim the excess template material:** But do not trim up to your line. Leave a ½" of material outside of where your line will be, where possible.

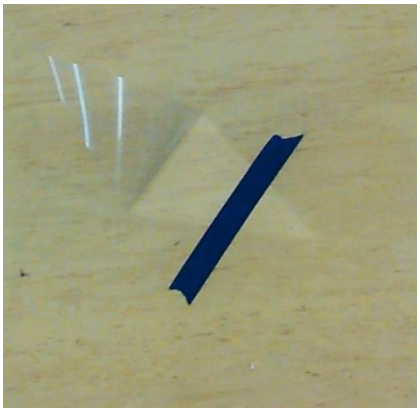


Leave a little extra template material around the edges to give yourself room.

Templating (Continued):

- **Taping:** Tape down the template material so it does not move. Cut triangles out of the middle of your template where needed for larger mats to secure the central areas. Do not allow your template to move during the templating process or the shape will get skewed.

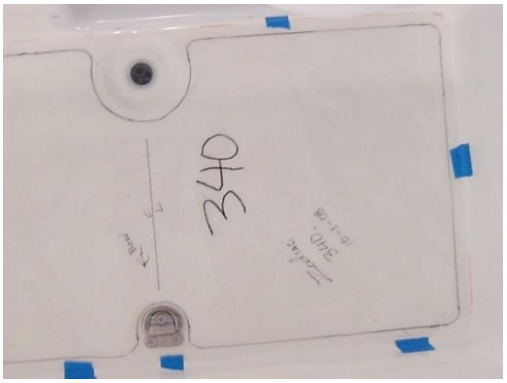




Use painters' tape because it won't damage the deck. Cut a triangle to tape down the center on large pieces.

- **Tracing:** Begin tracing out the objects on the deck and outlining the perimeter of the deck. Make thin, strong lines so we can tell exactly where you want the edge of your decking to be. Avoid wavy lines or lines that are too thick. Using a straight edge or a carpenters' square can help in straight areas. You may be able to use the edge of the nonskid or the lip around your deck to guide you. Decide what would look best. This is your chance to make you deck look exactly how you want it to look. Your deck will be built to the exact lines that you provide for us. Do not leave sections unfinished. Remember that your template is going to someone that has never been on your boat and not every model of that boat is exactly like the next.



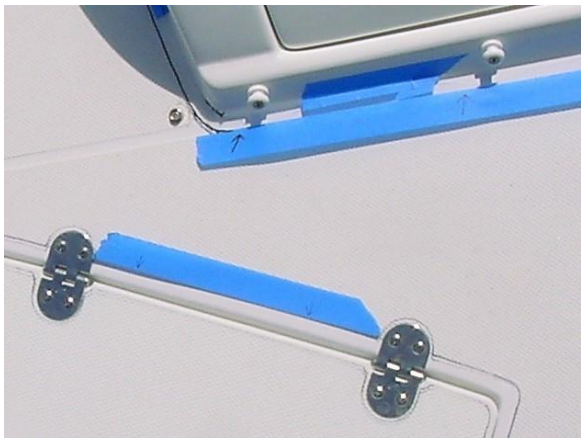


Make thin, strong lines so we can tell exactly where you want the edge of the deck to be.

Templating (Continued):

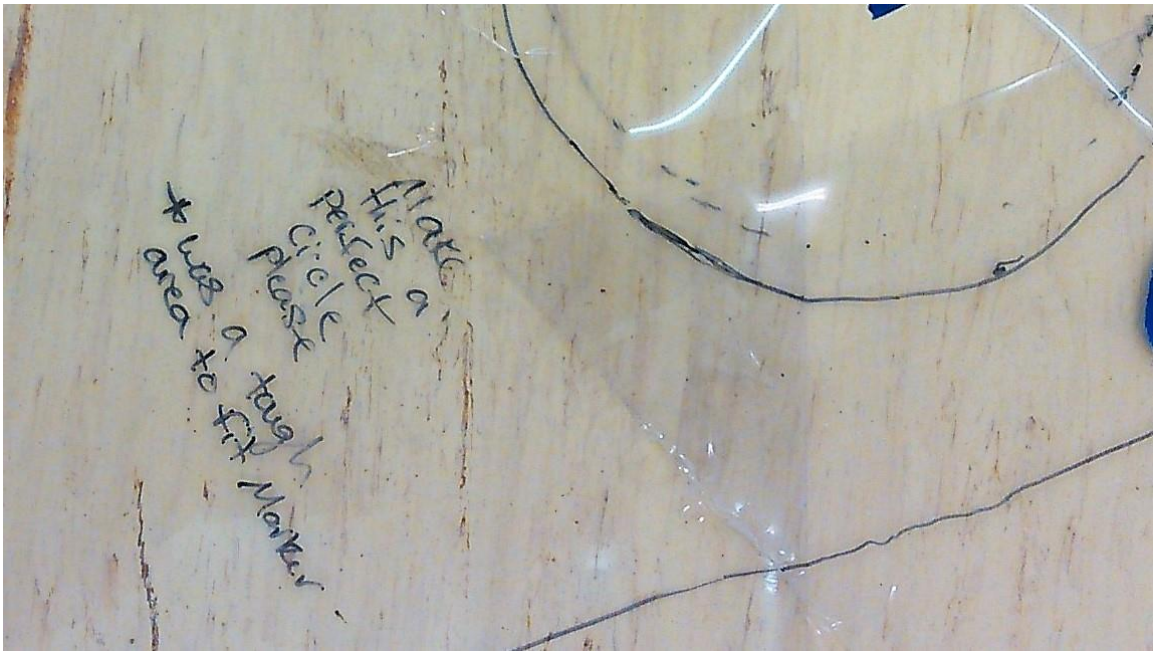
- **Tape Lines:** Tape can also be added to the edges of the template to create straight lines or to help shape tricky areas. Just add an arrow so we know that you intend to use that tape edge as a template line.





Here, tape lines marked with arrows indicate edges of the template.

- **Notes:** Make notes along the way. If there is anything that you think we should know, feel free to write comments on your template. Please make sure that your notes are legible and that we will be able to read them. If you would like to add any custom inlays, make a note of where you would like those to be located.



This note says, "Make this a perfect circle please / It was a tough area to fit marker."

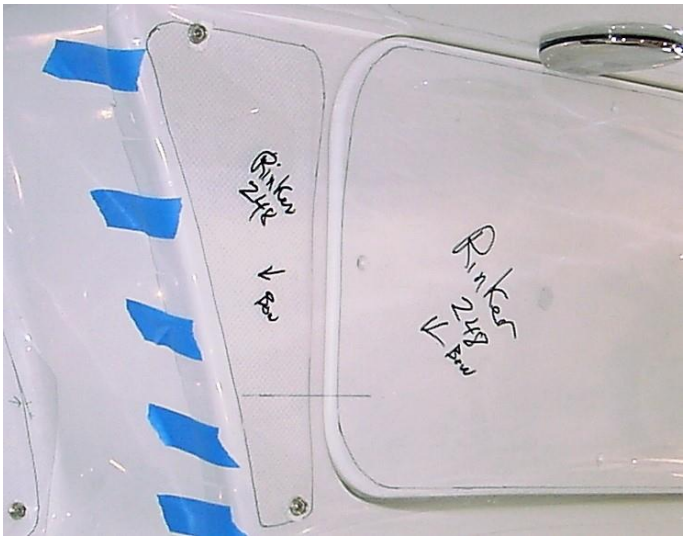
Templating (Continued):

- **Borders:** Now is the time to think about design. If you want to replicate the look of a traditional teak deck with margin boards, you can indicate on your templates where you would like to add these borders. You can also tell us if you would prefer no borders at all, or tell us that you're not sure and you would like our designer to make recommendations.



On this template, the customer uses dotted lines to indicate where he would like borders.

- **Mark Orientation**: Make sure that you mark the orientation of your templates so that we can tell which direction is fore, aft, port, and starboard.



This template clearly shows the direction of the bow.

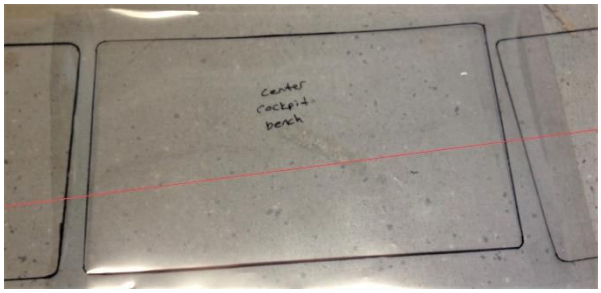
REFERENCE LINES:

- **Reference Lines Are VERY Important:** Reference lines show us how the template pieces line up. By drawing a line from one template to the next, this will help ensure that all of your decking pieces line up correctly, and that the lines in the decking will run continuously from one piece to the next.



The reference lines run from one piece to the next (see blue arrows that point to the reference lines in first photo). The second photo shows an example of how lines in the decking can line up.

- **Use String:** One way to create a reference line is to take a string and lay it across the templates from one piece to the next and then draw the line. This is particularly useful if you are lining up pieces that are not on the same level (like steps).

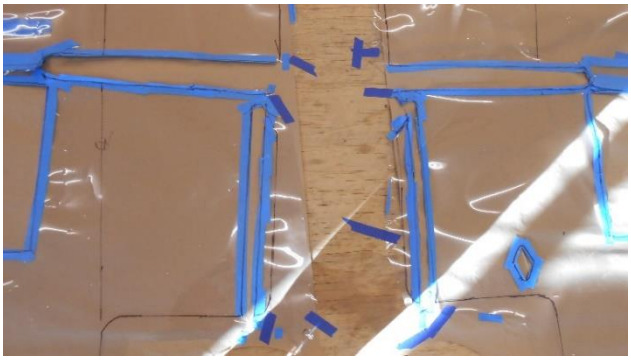


The red line shows how string can be placed to create a reference line.

- **Mark Orientation (Fore to Aft):** This will help clarify your reference line.

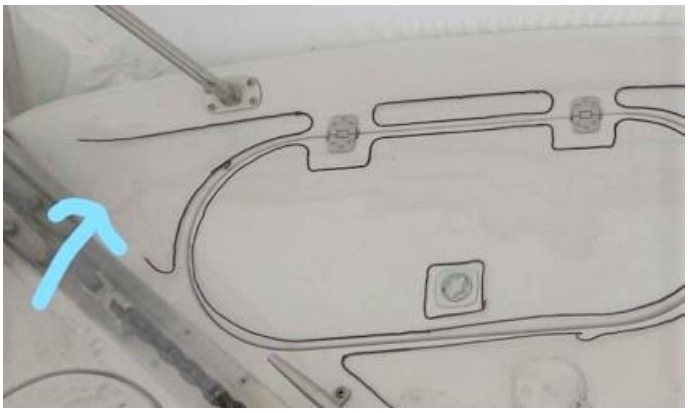
WHAT NOT TO DO:

1. Make sure that your template material is taped down securely. You do not want your template to move throughout the process. That will create incorrect geometry.



These templates are skewed.

2. Do not leave sections unfinished. Remember that your template is going to someone who has never been on your boat and not every model of that boat is exactly like the next.



If we need to guess where the line goes, the fit may not be accurate.

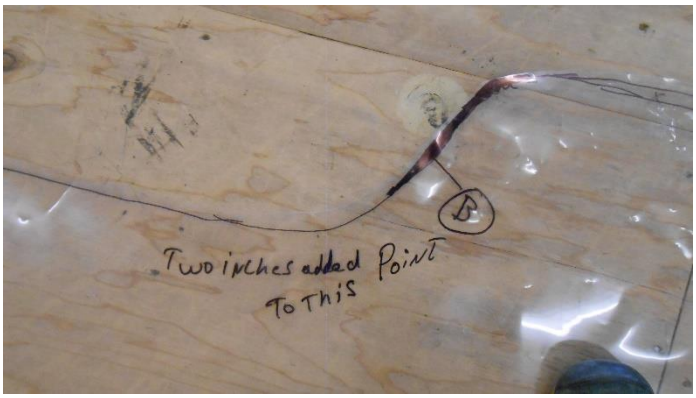
3. Do not fold template material for shipping.



If the templates won't lay flat, we probably will not be able to digitize them accurately. Roll the templates instead of folding them. If the template is too large to ship in one roll, then cut it. Please make sure that you draw "match lines" if you do cut it, so we can line the pieces up together accurately when we reassemble your template.

WHAT NOT TO DO (Continued):

4. Do not make thick lines or vague lines. This makes it unclear where you would like your mat to end. If you do end up with a thick line, indicate which side we should follow with a simple arrow.



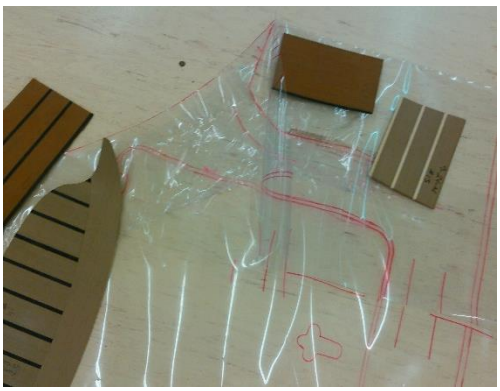
This line (labeled "B") is too thick and unclear.

5. Do not make notes illegibly. If we can't read it, it doesn't mean anything.



These comments are difficult to understand.

6. Do not melt or fuse templates together.



If you need to put two pieces of template material together, please use "match lines" and don't try to fuse the templates in any way.

WHAT NOT TO DO (continued):

7. Do not make multiple lines where there should only be one. If you make a mistake, use your magic eraser and create an accurate line, or use hash marks to show wrong lines and carrots for good lines.



This template has multiple lines and vague instructions.

8. Do not make multiple reference lines per connection. This makes it unclear as to which line we should align.



This template has way too many reference lines.

9. Do not attempt to make a template in a storm. Wind and rain make it difficult to keep your template in place and to draw the lines on the plastic.



Sharpie markers do not work well in the rain.

YOU HAVE A FINISHED TEMPLATE. NOW WHAT?

- **Roll the Templates:** Roll the templates up, being careful not to fold them. Folds and creases can cause distortion. If you have a large template, it can be cut for easier shipping. Roll up either side of the piece and then cut down the center. If you do cut a template, make sure that you add various ”match” lines across the two pieces (before you cut it) so we can line these back up.

- **Pack and Ship the Templates:** Carefully pack the templates. Keep in mind that the ends of templates are often damaged in shipping, so pack the ends well. Include a note with your name, address, phone number, email address, the info on your boat (the year, make and model), your PlasDECK color choice, and any other information or drawings that you think we will need to understand your project. Ship the templates to:

PlasDECK, Inc. - 3489 Sawmill Road - Akron, OH 44321 USA

- **Digitizing:** Once your templates arrive here they will be laid out and digitized to create a digital file. We will send you a drawing of your deck so you can finalize the design. This is a back-and-forth phase where we work with you to finalize your choices for border, color, and custom inlays. Digitizing will also tell us the square footage of your deck and a member of our sales team will send you a quote at this time.

- **Time to Build:** Once you have approved the design and the quote, we will need payment in advance from you. Then we can start building your deck! Lead times can vary - contact us to find out our current lead time.

- **The Deck is Shipped to You:** Check out the PlasDECK Panel Install Guide on our website for helpful tips on installing your deck. If you have any questions at all while you’re installing, feel free to contact us. We are here to help you every step of the way.

- **Enjoy Your Beautiful, Low-Maintenance PlasDECK Boat Decking!** And send us photos of your deck! We love to see finished installs.