

Замена иллюминаторов - 2

Оригинальный текст был в закрытой группе на FB, автор текста: Bryan Rolfe
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The inside edges of the acrylic windows were painted with Krylon Fusion matte black - an acrylic-based plastic bonding paint - to reduce UV damage to the underlying tape and sealant, and also make the windows more aesthetically pleasing.



Peeling off the protective paper after painting, and just prior to installing. Leave it on as long as possible, as acrylic scratches relatively easily.



After sanding the window edges, and cleaning with mineral spirits, I applied the 3M VHB tape along the perimeter of the window.



This is the tricky part. The method I used was to pull the red protective film on the VHB tape just

enough that I had a tab I could pull from between the window and the tape. I then placed the window carefully and supported it with blue painters tape (just so it was hanging there, in roughly the right position). The tricky part is pulling the red film out from between the window and tape, without it breaking. If it breaks, you have a problem, as VHB tape is tenacious, and is basically a permanent bond. While pulling the red film out, I gently pressed along the perimeter. When the red film was completely removed, I pressed very hard all along the perimeter. For the big windows, I had to get a neighbor to come over and help, as the hull would push it enough that the window and tape weren't making contact in some places, and I needed someone to push the hull from the inside simultaneously.



Once the windows were firmly held in place with the VHB tape, I carefully masked out about 1/4« from the perimeter of the window so that I would have a nice edge after the sealant was applied.



I used Dow-Corning 795 sealant, which is also structural. To make sure I filled the gap between the window and hull, I used a syringe.



Make sure you remove the masking tape before the sealant cures, and preferably immediately after application.



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Last update: **22/01/2021 20:17**

