

Volvo 240 R-Sport (Rallye) New Face Overlay Installation

By Dave Barton

These custom face overlays are the product of years of research and experimentation. They are printed with a special printer using waterproof and UV resistant ink on high quality adhesive backed vinyl and then laminated with a high-quality, non-glare overlay. Follow these instructions closely and you will have a very nice looking set of gauges in your Volvo.

Some of the ideas you see in my instructions have been suggested by customers like yourself. If you have an idea that will help improve installation, please let me know.

PLEASE READ THROUGH THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING.

These directions do not include disassembly or reassembly of gauges. Disassembly of these gauges is similar to 52 mm gauges, so you may refer to those directions.

OPTION: Re-Coloring your Needles.



The original needles are white. If you install white faces, you may want to re-color the needles. I suggest **day-glow orange**, since that is the color Volvo used on later Volvo 240 gauges. This color is found at hobby stores.

On needles that are two colors, use a bit a masking tape to keep from painting the black centers, or use a very gentle hand if you can.

Only the fronts of the needles need paint. The back sides are not visible.

TRIAL FIT FIRST:

Before installing, test-fit the new overlays on the faceplates so you're familiar with the fit. The odometer cut-outs should be a good fit. **The odometer cut-outs must be the priority when lining up the new face to the original speedometer faceplate.**

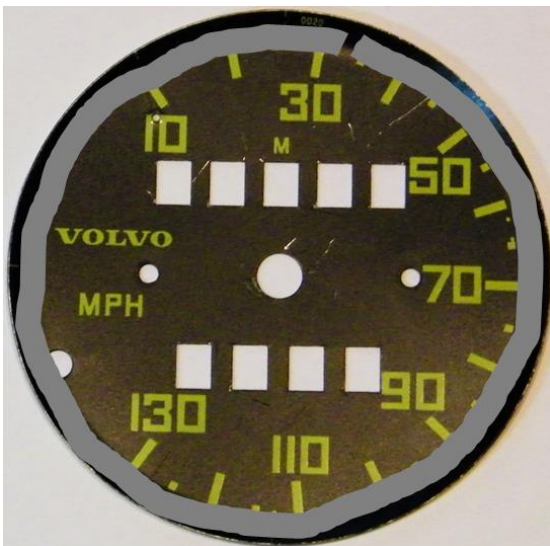


Now it's time to apply the new overlays to the faceplates.



BEFORE YOU START, you may want to consider using an “ADHESION PROMOTER” on the faceplate surfaces.

An adhesion promoter is a strong **primer** that is applied to the faceplate surface before putting down a label. For this installation, it is recommended for any car that will be in high outside heat for periods of time so that the car interior is affected by high temperatures. The adhesive can soften or weaken in high heat, which may cause the outside edges of the labels to lift. This might take years. Using an adhesion promoter makes the adhesion many times stronger and able to withstand heat many times better. This chemical can be purchased in **small inexpensive packets (like photo at left) with sponge tip applicators**, or in pen type applicators or bottles for more frequent use. It's generally a product that is used for difficult areas when vinyl wrapping a vehicle.



<<< Application of such a primer should be done with a swab along the edges, like shown here. It dries clear and provides a better surface for the labels. Allow it to dry (only takes a few seconds), then you may apply the labels. Optionally you may apply adhesion promoter around the odometer windows.

CAUTION: Using an adhesion promoter means you need to be aware that once you place a label down, pulling the label back up for repositioning will be harder than normal because the chemical increases stickiness greatly.



Applying the new labels to your face plates.

Working **one face at a time**, peel off the back liner and carefully fit the face. At this time, don't rub or push the new face down hard, as you will want to look it over to see if any adjustment is needed. The adhesive will allow you to pull the label back up if you need to reposition the face. When you are sure of the position, gently, slowly and gradually rub from the center outward to avoid air from being trapped under the label.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS NEEDED when fitting the Speedometer and Tachometer overlays.

The curved or cupped outer edge on these two faces can cause trouble. Working too quickly can allow **air bubbles** to form under the label and **small wrinkles** can form along the outer edges of the face plate. To improve this installation, I always use a little heat when applying these two labels.

Not a lot of heat. A common hair dryer set on low heat will work. If the heat makes the face plate too hot to touch, that's probably too much heat. Heat will also help soften adhesive if you find you need to lift the label to reposition.

As mentioned previously, it's best to work from the center and move outward when gently and gradually pushing the label down to avoid trapped air. If you get trapped air, it will usually appear near the outer edges where the curve begins. If needed, you may **gently** lift the label up to release the air and try again.



I use the below burnishing tools when installing face labels. Something like this works much better than using your fingernails. Any small, smooth tool could be used. Very light pressure is needed, but be careful not to rub hard as you could scuff the new label.

These tools are available at McGill Craft Supply: www.mcgillinc.com



When all the labels are on the faceplates, it helps to use some heat again. Applying heat to the labels after they're on will help to reduce the chances of the labels "relaxing" and it will help "set" their shapes so they stay in place. The heat used should not exceed approximately 180 degrees Fahrenheit (80 degrees Celcius).

Reassembly Tip:

When replacing the small screws that hold the faceplates, **do not over-tighten them**. They only need to be slightly snug. Tighten them just enough so that they won't vibrate loose later. Making them TOO TIGHT can cause the screws to dig into the new overlays.