

## XBOX 360 SKIN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

This document explains how to correctly install an Xbox 360 skin. It is very important that you read these instructions thoroughly before attempting installation of your new skin.

As with all decal installations, the cleanliness of the surface is crucial to obtaining maximum performance from your decal.

### Supplies Needed:

- Installation instructions
- Xbox 360™ game system
- Soft, lint-free cloth
- Rubbing alcohol
- Pair of scissors
- Skin kit from DansDecals.com (see "About Your Skin Kit" at right)
- Plastic squeegee (or a flat, rigid piece of plastic, like a credit card)
- A small hair dryer

Start by gathering all of the supplies listed above on a clean, flat surface in a well-lit area such as a kitchen table. Make sure your 360 is unplugged and that no controllers or devices are plugged into any of the ports.

### About Your Skin Kit:

The number of pieces included with your skin kit varies depending on the kit you purchased.

There are 3 layers to your decal. The top layer is the transfer tape layer. It has a clear, rough finish and is used to correctly position and apply the decal. This layer is removed after the decal has been applied. The middle layer is the decal/skin itself and the bottom layer is the paper release backing.

\*\*\* If you've ordered a skin kit and some of the pieces look like they have a different finish than the others, this is because some of the pieces do not have transfer tape and some do. Certain skins, like those made for controllers, do not require transfer tape to install and therefore do not come with transfer tape on them.

Before going any further, read these instructions carefully, from start to finish.

We can not stress enough the importance of taking your time and not rushing - we know you're anxious to get your new skin installed, and we know these instructions are quite lengthy, but you'll be much happier if skin is applied correctly. Reading these instructions from start to finish before beginning will give you a good understanding of what you will be doing, and will help insure that you get the best installation possible of your new skin. The most common problems experienced with vinyl decals (bubbles, wrinkles, creases, poor adhesion, etc.) can be avoided entirely by a proper application.

### Surface Preparation:

Surface preparation is crucial. The surface must be cleaned to remove all dirt, dust particles, grime & oils, including fingerprints. If the surface is not properly cleaned the skin may not adhere well. To clean the surface pour some rubbing alcohol on a soft cloth and wipe down the areas where the skin is to be installed. Be sure the cloth you use is lint-free and doesn't leave any fibers on the surface as they may show up under your skin.

**Note:** Because we are not in control of the application of the decals that we sell we can not and do not guarantee them after they have been removed from their protective backing.

### Skin Layout & Application:

The next step is to do a mock layout to see where each piece goes. Photo #1 shows the skin pieces included with an Xbox 360 Elite skin kit. Other kits may not include all of the pieces shown. Once you have a good understanding of where each piece goes, it's time to start applying them.

Start by first removing the faceplate. We will install the faceplate skin last because it is the most difficult - just set it aside for now. Next, lay your 360 down on its side (left side down, right side up). The side with the small rubber feet should be down.

We'll begin with the right (or top) side. Take one of the side skins and lay it on the 360.

Both side skins are identical and can be used on either side. If the vent holes do not line up, rotate the skin 180° and they will. Now, peel back the white paper release layer from the skin and transfer tape. The skin layer should stay attached to the clear transfer tape layer. If it does not, lay them flat on the table and squeegee them back together and then try again.

**Note:** It is important that you not let the skin touch the surface until it is in the exact position you want it. Some skins (especially the chromes) are very unforgiving if you try repositioning them. Take your time and get it right the first time.

Once the paper backing layer is removed, position the skin & transfer layer over the side of the 360 *without allowing it to touch* (see Note). It may be easier to do this with an extra set of hands. Once it's properly aligned, *lightly tack one end of the skin down in place*. With

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one end tacked down, pull the other end down into place and lightly tack it down as well. At this point the center of the side skin should not be touching the 360. If the skin is adequately aligned, firmly press down both of the edges to hold the skin in place. Now, using a squeegee, press the center of the skin down and work your way out from the middle towards the edges. Be sure to use firm pressure to set the skin in place and prevent air bubbles. Once the skin has been firmly squeegeed all over, slowly begin peeling off the clear transfer tape. Start with one corner and peel the tape backwards, over itself at about a 45 degree angle. If the skin tries to come off with it, stop, re-squeegee firmly then try again using one hand to apply pressure to the problem area while peeling the tape off.

Now on to the bottom side. The procedure for installing this skin is identical to the first side with 1 small change. Because this side has small rubber feet that the top side does not have, you must first cut small Xs in the transfer tape. This will allow the skin to lay flat over the feet. Using a utility knife or Exacto knife, make the 'X' cuts above where the rubber feet are located, as shown in illustration #2. After the cuts have been made, proceed to install the bottom skin the same as the top skin.

Now that the sides are done, it's on to the most difficult piece: the faceplate skin.

### Faceplate Skin Installation:

Take a minute to wipe down the top of the faceplate again with the cloth and rubbing alcohol to insure it is clean. Pay close attention to make sure no dirt or cloth fibers are on left on the surface as they will show up underneath the installed skin.

An extra set of hands to help with installing the faceplate skin can make the process easier, but it can also be accomplished without assistance. Remove the faceplate from your Xbox 360 and lay it flat on the table. ***If you have not already read these instructions, please, Please, PLEASE STOP and read the rest of the instructions thoroughly before proceeding with installing your faceplate skin.***

Carefully remove the paper backing from your faceplate skin and very patiently position the piece above your faceplate ***without letting it touch the faceplate.*** The easiest way to do this is to hold the skin by the ends (pull it tightly from end to end) and use the holes that are cutout for the DVD tray and port doors to align the skin (looking down from above to line them up).

***\*\*\* VERY IMPORTANT:*** It is critical that when your skin touches the faceplate it is in the correct position. Chrome skins (including chrome colors) are very unforgiving and in most cases can not be pulled off and repositioned even if they have only lightly touched the faceplate. Precise alignment of the faceplate skin will make all the difference on how the finished product looks. Because your skin has been cut for a very precise fit, if it is offset even 1/16 of an inch it will be very noticeable.

Once the skin is aligned, lightly tack both ends in place, one at a time. At this point the skin should be stretched tight from end to end ***with only the ends touching - the center of the skin should not be touching the faceplate at this point.*** You can now press the center of the skin closer to the faceplate, without actually touching the faceplate, to check the alignment. If your skin is not a chrome or chrome color and it needs repositioned slightly, now is the time to gently lift one end at a time and make the slight adjustments needed. Once the skin is aligned to your satisfaction, push the center of the skin down to touch the faceplate (just above the power button).

Now, using your index finger, start from the center and press down a line from the center of the skin to the top of the skin. Repeat this from the center to the bottom of the skin (do not press down the recessed area around the power button at this time). Now, do the same going from the center to the right side and from the center to the left side. You will now have the skin divided into four quadrants, each of which still need to be pressed firmly in place; how this is done will make a very big difference on the final outcome of your skin installation. Please read the following instructions closely before proceeding.

Working with one quadrant at a time, stretch the skin outwards, pulling the edges of the skin firmly towards the corners/edges of the faceplate, so that it is completely flat when pressed down. With the skin stretched, press it down from the center of the faceplate out towards the corner/edges. Be sure to keep it stretched with firm tension pulling it towards the edges as it is pressed down. The skin should look completely flat in each area as you're pressing down. If it is not stretched tightly towards the edges, or if it is distorted in any way, it may not adhere well and/or bubbles & wrinkles may form in the skin (usually within 24 hours). Once a skin has been applied it can not be removed and reapplied, so getting it right the first time is essential.

Repeat the above procedure for the remaining 3 quadrants.

Once this is done it is time to press down the recessed area around the power button. This is the area of the skin that must stretch the most to fit the contour of the 360 faceplate. The vinyl your skin is made of will conform to this shape, however, slowly stretching the vinyl yields the best adhesion results and, in the case of chrome skins (and chrome colors), also causes the least amount of discoloration. Begin using your index finger or thumb to make slow circles around the outside edge of the

recessed area. With each circle, move closer towards the center until the entire recessed area is pressed down. We recommend 10-20 slow revolutions to get to the center. As you begin making the circles, the skin may not stay down on the outer edges - that's okay - just continue to go around, getting closer to the inside each time. This process is stretching the vinyl and eventually, as you get closer to the inside edge, the skin will stay pressed down, even if the transfer tape does not.

Chrome skins (including chrome colors) will show some slight discoloration around the power button area. This can be minimized by making several slow revolutions, allowing the foil to expand evenly. Simply pressing the area down quickly will cause the discoloration to be more pronounced and may also cause it to bubble up later on. If you take your time and do not rush this portion of the installation your skin will look nicer and last longer. Once the entire area is pressed down, apply very firm pressure to it and hold for 10-20 seconds.

You're now done with the main faceplate skin and can peel off the clear transfer tape layer, revealing the finish of your new skin.

Finally, we are to the smallest and easiest pieces. These remaining pieces all come on one small sheet and go on the small port doors located on the faceplate. Installing them is very easy - simply peel them off of the paper release backing, one at a time, and stick them on the appropriate port doors.

Congratulations, you've completed installation of your new skin.

If there are any small air bubbles in your skin they will usually disappear over the next few days. Any air bubbles that do not dissipate can be punctured with a pin to release the air (although this will leave a small puncture hole).

### Cleaning Your Skin:

Always unplug your Xbox 360 before cleaning your skin. The skin can be cleaned with non-abrasive soaps and water. Glass cleaners work well. Avoid solvents and thinners as they can have unpredictable results. Use a soft cloth (a rough, abrasive cloth may scratch the skin) and apply the cleaner to the rag, then use the rag to wipe down the skin. Applying the cleaner directly to the skin could damage your Xbox 360 as it is an electronic device and spraying water directly on it would not be good. When cleaning the faceplate skin, we recommend removing the faceplate first (not the skin) and then reinstalling it after cleaning. We also recommend you let your Xbox 360 to sit for 8 hours after cleaning before plugging it back in - just in case any water or cleaner got inside the case.

### Polishing Your Skin:

Under normal conditions your skin should remain looking like new for quite some time. However, in some circumstances unusual wear can cause a skin to look less than desirable. Not to worry, your skin can be brought back to it's original luster and shine. The vinyl used to make your skin is the same vinyl used for automobile graphics; this means that you can use the same method for restoring it's shine: car wax. *Yes, you can wax your skin* the same as you'd wax your car. Doing so will hide minor scratches and surface imperfections and will restore a glossy finish to your skin. To wax your skin follow the instructions included with your wax, being especially careful not to get any wax inside vent holes, edges and crevices.

Thank you for your purchase from Dan's Decals, your source for high quality game system skins.

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