

Overview and comparison of home made stickers for LEGO bricks

compiled by Kaero, [https://kaerodot.gitlab.io/lego-rocket-mocs/stickers tested on Mercury-Redstone by Eiffleman \(1:110 scale\)](https://kaerodot.gitlab.io/lego-rocket-mocs/stickers_tested_on_Mercury-Redstone_by_Eiffleman_(1:110_scale))

Summary

For flat bricks the transparent water decals are the best. Polyester foil is also very good and much simpler to use. For white decals on black bricks, paper can get similar results as white water decals due to white edges.

Details

Paper glued on a brick: White is a little whiter than average lego brick. Simple application. Keeps shape. Quite thin. Do not smudge. Holds tightly.

Use for cheap stickers and for white decals on black bricks.

Vinyl: White is too white. Moderately difficult application. Keeps shape. Very thick, creates shadows on borders. Can be smudged a little if rubbed. Holds tightly. Mind that polyester foils are commonly misnamed as vinyl.

Not worth the money and time.

Water slide decals: Transparent or white. Complicated application. Can be stretched during poor application. Very thin. Do not smudge. Holds tightly, but can be scraped off by mishandling. Use more saturated colours than real pattern, because even the printed regions are slightly transparent. Use on flat surfaces. Use transparent decal for white bricks, white decal for other bricks. When cut, white edges can appear. Use a lot of soap if applying on new bricks. *Looks like a real printed bricks.*

Polyester foils: Easy application. Keeps shape. Moderate thickness. Durable, but can be scratched. Holds tightly. Holds on uneven surfaces. Some producers has got more transparent foils than others. Avery Zweckform foils are noticeably more transparent than other tested, but the difference is not so big. Polyester foils are commonly misnamed as vinyl. *Looks like real stickers.*

Links to stickers used in the test

Paper glued on bricks

Standard office paper for laser-jet with glue stick.

Water slide decals

(many producers, common in hobby shops)

Decal Paper A4 Clear

<https://www.peckamodel.cz/en/1128-obtiskovy-papir-a4-ciry>

Decal Paper A4 White

<https://www.peckamodel.cz/en/1131-obtiskovy-papir-a4-bily>

Transparent polyester self-adhesive foils

AVERY Zweckform, crystal clear labels, laser, permanent

Product code: L7784-25

<https://www.avery.co.uk/product/crystal-clear-labels-l7784-25>

RayFILM, transparent glossy polyester laser labels

Product code: R0400.1123G

<http://www.rayfilm.cz/e-shop/10-sheets-odd1-skp12688-prnts-1,1,2,5,67,72,75,9993,12688>

LOGO, Self-adhesive foils, transparent, clear, for laser printers

<https://www.tonerprint.cz/samolepici-folie-transparentni-cira-a4-125-g-m2-10-listu-pro-laserove-tiskarny-logo-p8306/#gallery>

Vinyl self-adhesive foils

Silhouette, printable vinyl, white

Product code: VINYL-PRINT

<https://www.silhouetteamerica.com/shop/VINYL-PRINT>

Vinyl sticker

White is too much white.

Moderately difficult application.

Keeps shape.

Very thick.

Can be smudged a little if rubbed.

Holds tightly.

Not worth the money and time.

Use decals or paper sticker instead.



**Paper sticker
glued on
brick**

White is a little
whiter than
average lego
brick.

Simple
application.

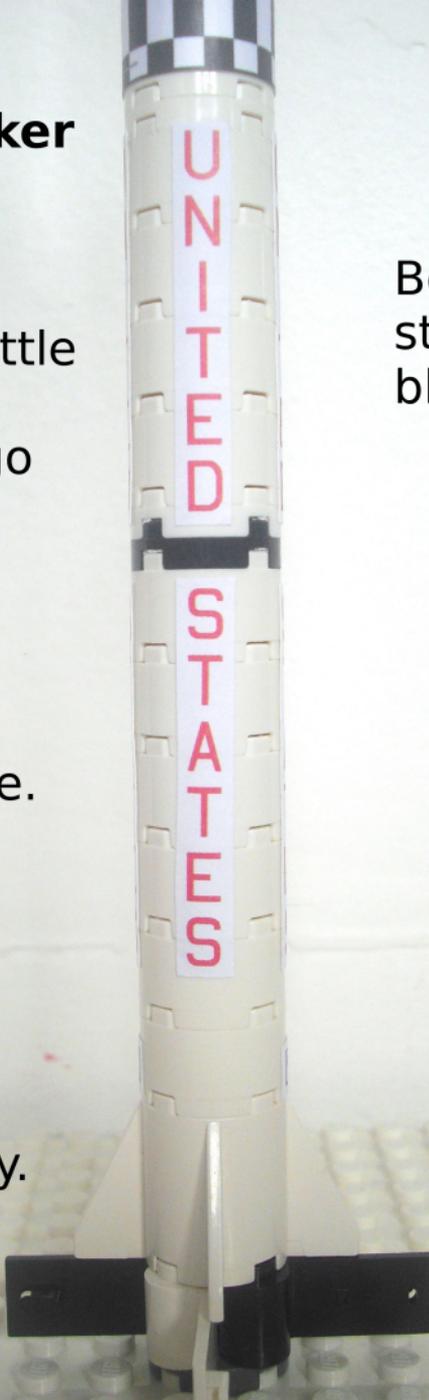
Keeps shape.

Quite thin.

Do not
smudge.

Holds tightly.

Best for
stickers on
black bricks.



Water slide decal

Transparent.

Complicated application.

Can be stretched during poor application.

Very thin.

Do not smudge.

Holds tightly, but can be scraped off by mishandling.

Best look.

On flat surfaces looks like real printed bricks.

For print, use more saturated colors than real pattern, because even printed regions are slightly transparent.

Best on flat white surfaces.

Use a lot of soap if applying on new bricks.



Polyester sticker

Easy application.
Keeps shape.
Moderate thickness.
Durable, but can be scratched.
Holds tightly.

Looks like real stickers.
Holds on uneven surfaces.
Various producers with slightly different quality.

Transparent part almost not visible for Avery Zweckform

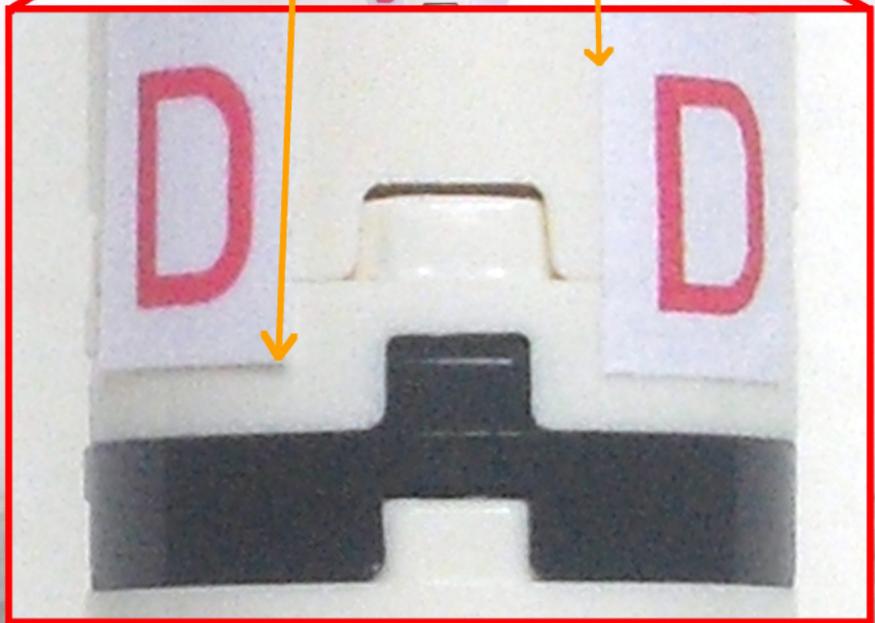
Transparent part slightly visible for Rayfilm and LOGO foils (hard to see on this photos)



Vinyl sticker is thick, **paper** sticker is much thinner.

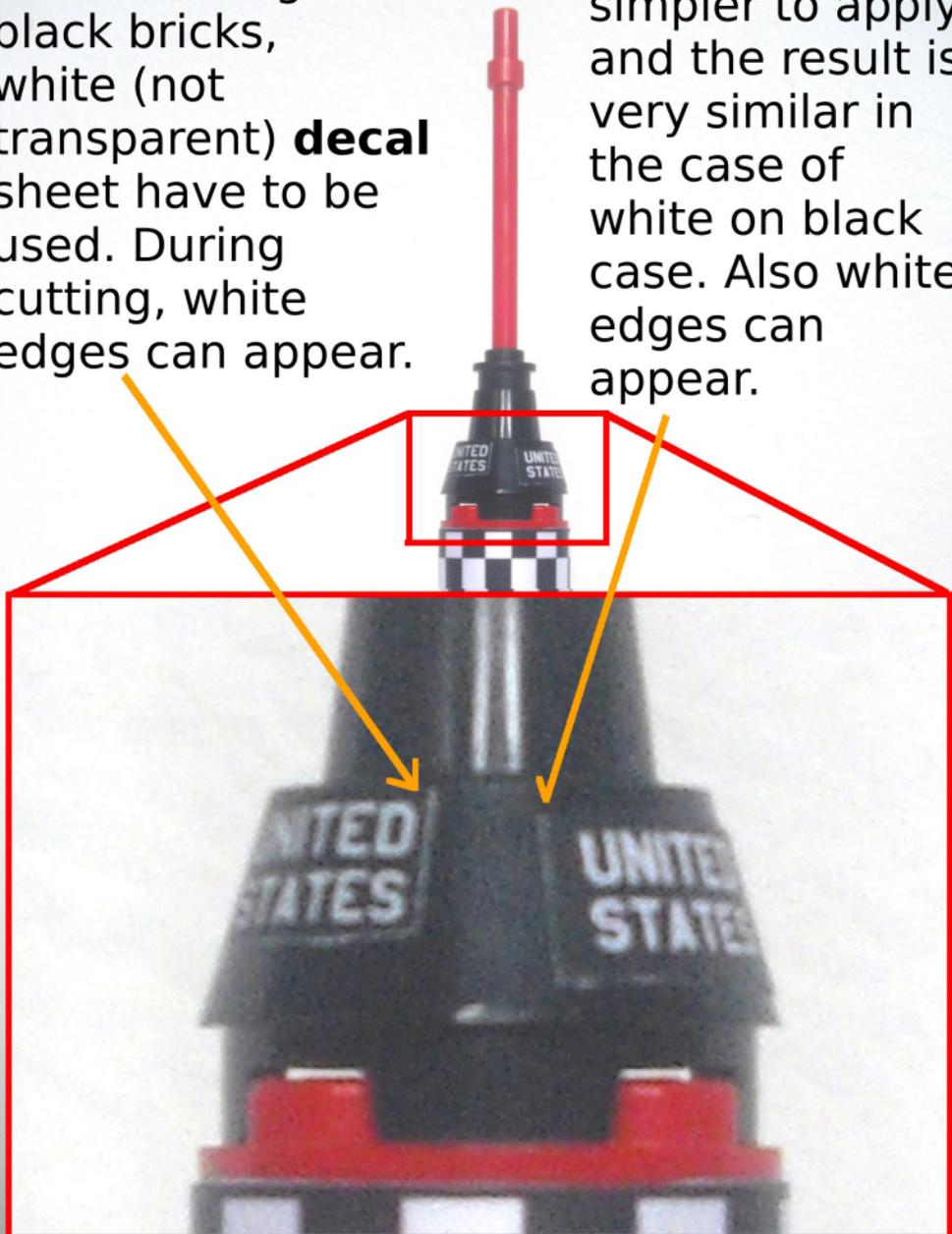
Thick **vinyl** sticker creates noticeable ugly shadows around edges. Looks bad.

Almost negligible shadows around **paper** sticker.



To make white decals for e.g. black bricks, white (not transparent) **decals** sheet have to be used. During cutting, white edges can appear.

Paper sticker is simpler to apply and the result is very similar in the case of white on black case. Also white edges can appear.



Decals do
perfect job on
flat surfaces.
Looks like a
printed brick.

USA



United States

NASA

Decals are fragile. Playing kids and cats broke rocket apart. Cracks in decals appeared. In this case, polyester foil or paper sticker should be used.

