

*AirSick*

# DIAMOND PLATE

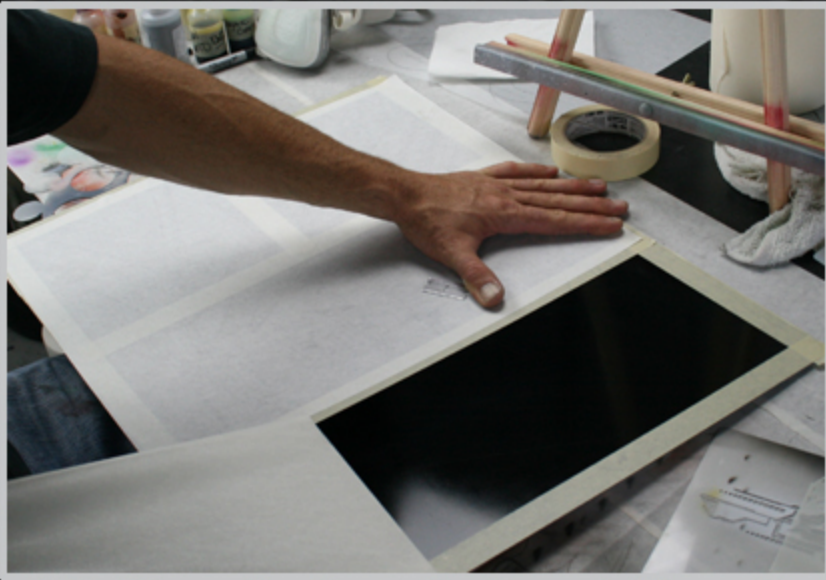
**CAUTION!**

**AWESOME AIRSICK HOW-TO AHEAD**

**BE PREPARED TO LEARN  
TO CREATE REALISTIC  
DIAMOND PLATE  
EFFECTS**



## STEP 1



## STEP 2



Diamond Plate is a great way to fill out a project with some cool texture and background effects. The background of this tutorial is the actual panel we painted for this how-to. To start, we scuff and base a generic 18"x24" panel with HOK black BC25. Since we will be using this panel to do several demos we have taped off several sections to use separately. We remove the tape over where we will begin our current project. Now we begin to establish the tone of the metal. We lightly dust the black area with HOK white BC26 until we get a smoky grey color. You can use a variety of colors and tones to achieve whatever type of metal you want your diamond plate to be. From old and rusted to new and shiny, and everything in between. Experiment with different colors and shades to get your own custom effects for any type of project.

## STEP 3



## STEP 4





## STEP 5



Once you're happy with the overall color of your metal, we begin to add some texture to ours utilizing a stippling technique. We want a gritty texture, so if you are going for that shiny look you might want to skip this part. Using a tongue depressor we spray black at a hard angle to the depressor. This creates a fine splatter pattern on the panel. You will want to be 8-10 inches away from the panel. We do the same with white and gray as well. You can get closer or farther away, as well as move your hands in circular or vertical motions to get different patterns. Experiment to find out what works for you.

## STEP 6



## STEP 7

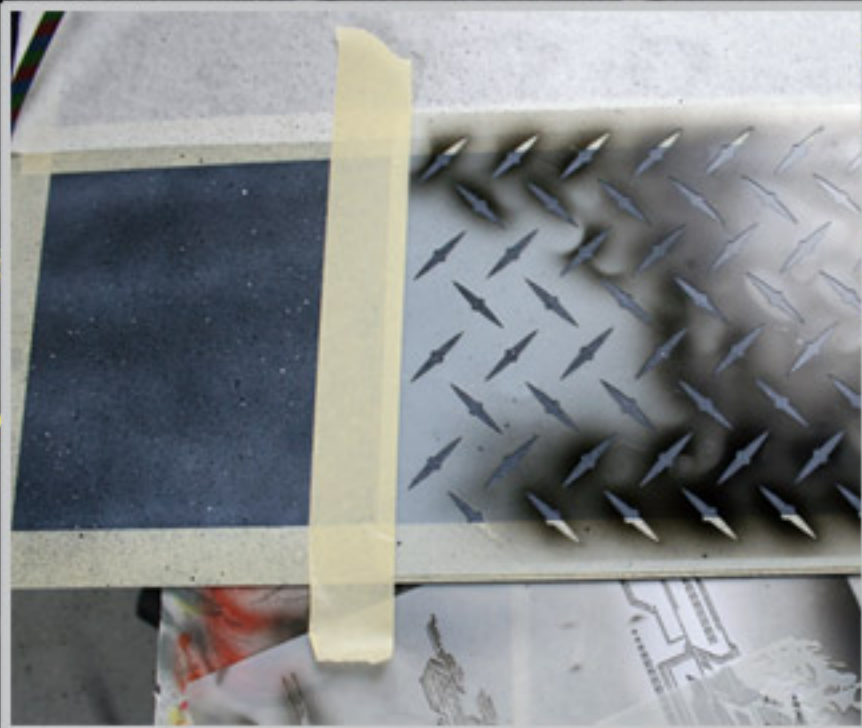


## STEP 8



Now that we have our metal texture where we like it, its time to place our stencil. Notice that we have placed it so that the diamonds go off the page, its always a good idea to have your textures going behind objects and off the page, don't line the stencil up perfectly straight to the border. we like to tape down one edge so we can lift the stencil without moving the alignment. Now we begin to spray black thru the stencil to get the overall shape and what will be the shadow. Again we are using light coats because we want some of that texture to show through the actual diamonds.

## STEP 9



## STEP 10



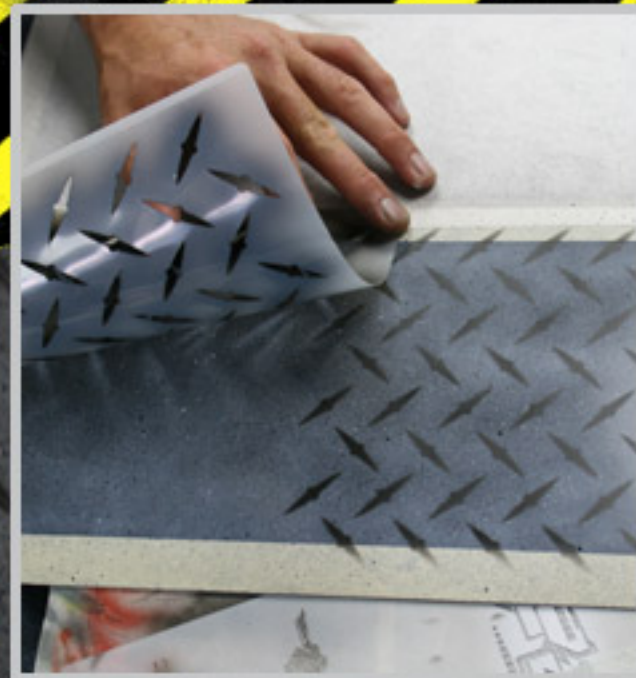


## STEP 11

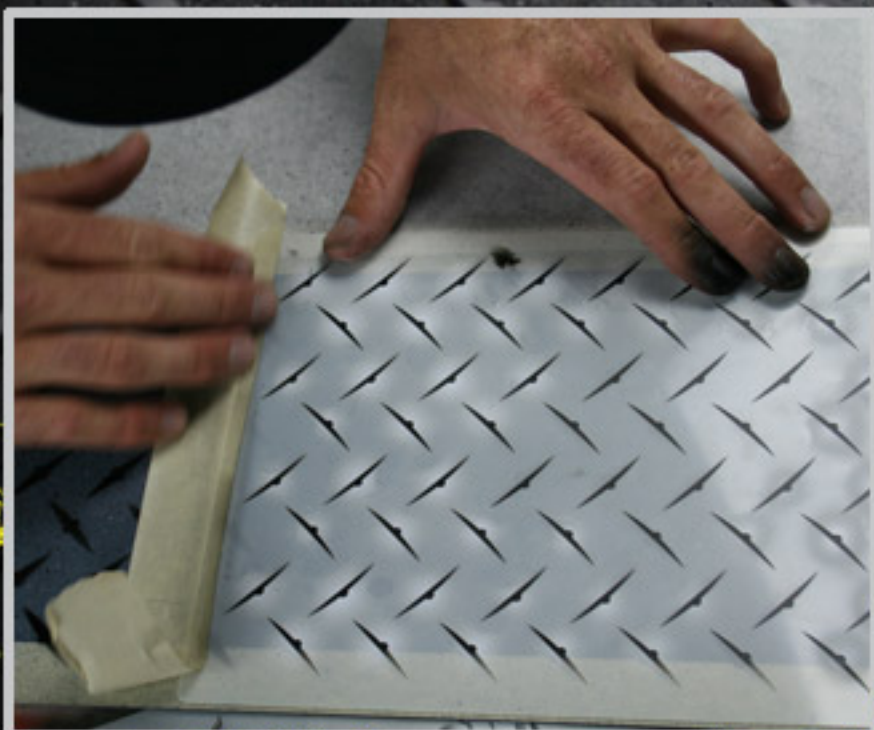


Checking to make sure we have proper coverage first, we then move the stencil down to tile the pattern. You can line up the top row of diamonds on the stencil with the last row that was just painted. Using the same black we spray light coats to make sure we match the tone of the first section.

## STEP 12



## STEP 13



Now we move onto the highlights for the diamond plate. Lining the stencil over the existing pattern and taping it firmly in place. Make sure you accurately place the stencil otherwise the further down you go the more the highlights will be off.

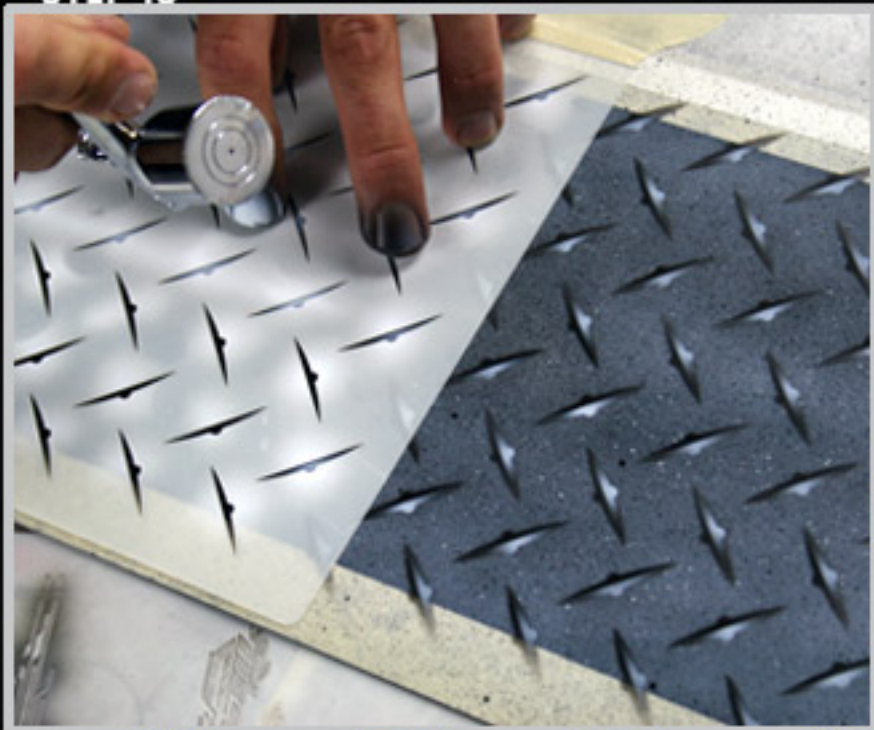
## STEP 14



When spraying the highlights, remember where your light source is. Spray white over just the middle section of the highlighted diamond. They shouldn't be solid white highlights but should fade out towards the edge of each diamond.



### STEP 15



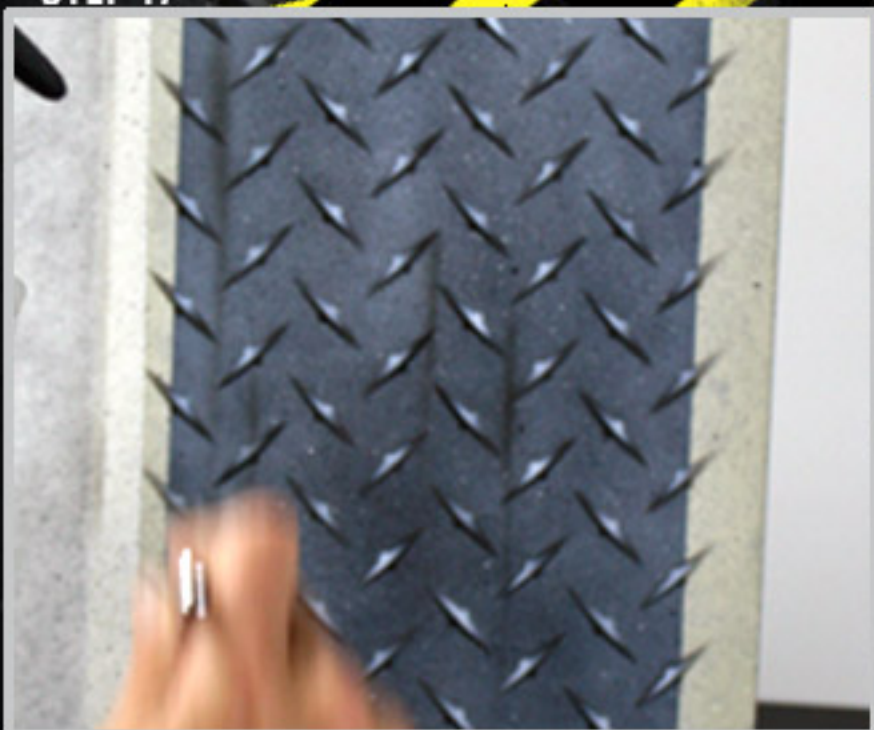
### STEP 16



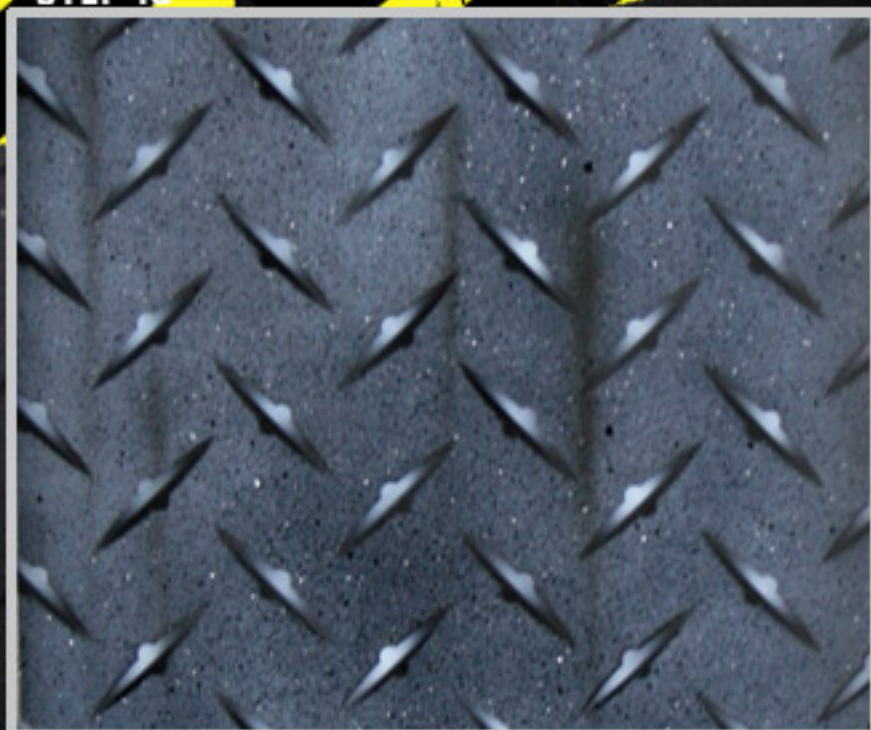
Same as before, lift your stencil off and align it with the lower section, matching the top row of the stencil with the bottom row that you just painted. Remember to spray light coats in the middle of the highlight so that it fades toward the edge.

Now we remove our stencil and get our first look at our diamond plate background. You can see how spraying the white in the middle helps us achieve a raised 3D effect.

### STEP 17



### STEP 18



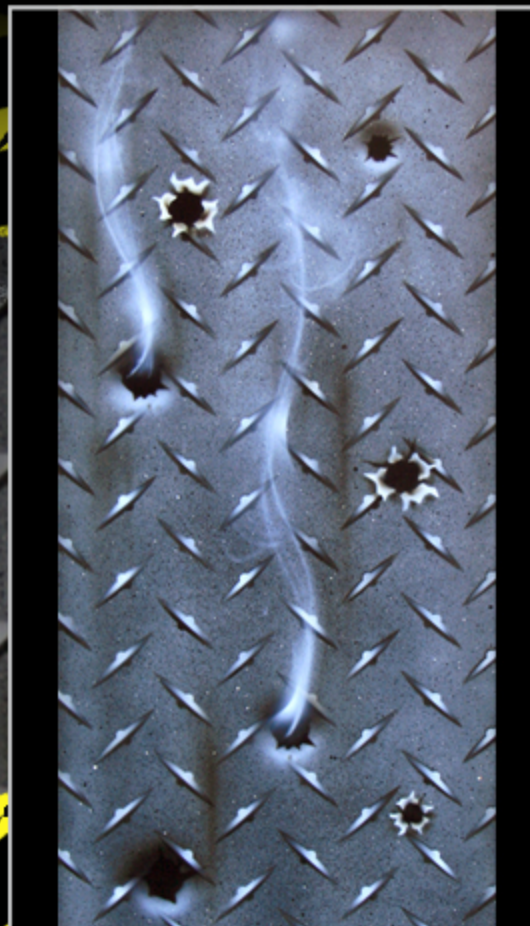
We wanted to add a little more weathering to our panel. Using light dagger strokes of reduced black, we can add some stains and drips. If you want a very weathered look add these strokes before you paint the highlights.

If you add a lot of weathering before you paint the highlights, you will need to lightly dust over them after so that they do not look like they are just laying on top of the surface. Highlights will still have the same color tones of the surface and what they are reflecting.



So here is a final look at our diamond plate background. It was a little boring just by itself so we added some bullet holes and smoke. You can find the bullet holes tutorial from the main menu. This simple and fast background makes for great fills and textures to your work. Add lettering for a sign, use it to frame out a piece, or just all by itself, the options are endless. Experiment and have fun!

Thanks for hanging out!



**PRINTER  
FRIENDLY**





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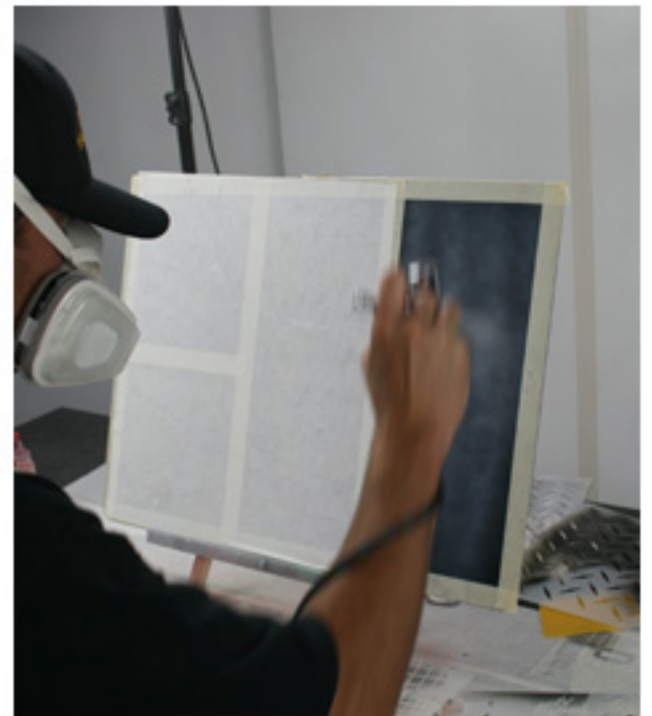


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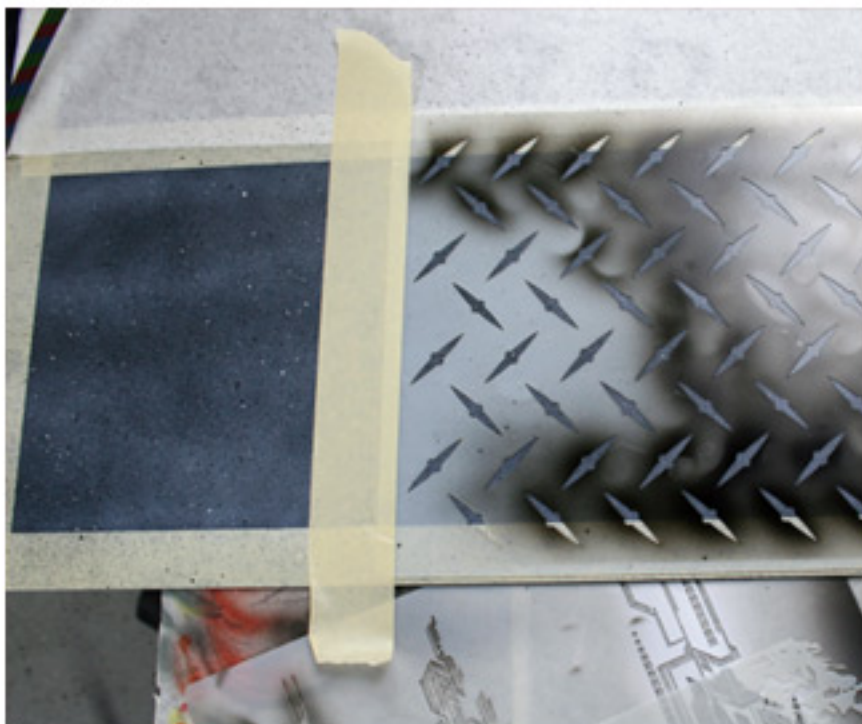


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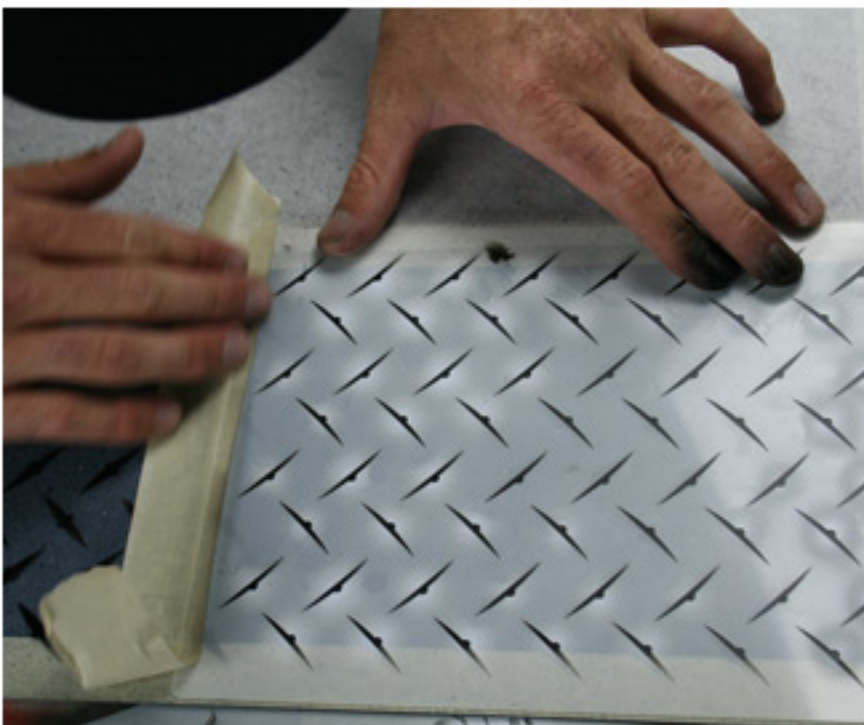


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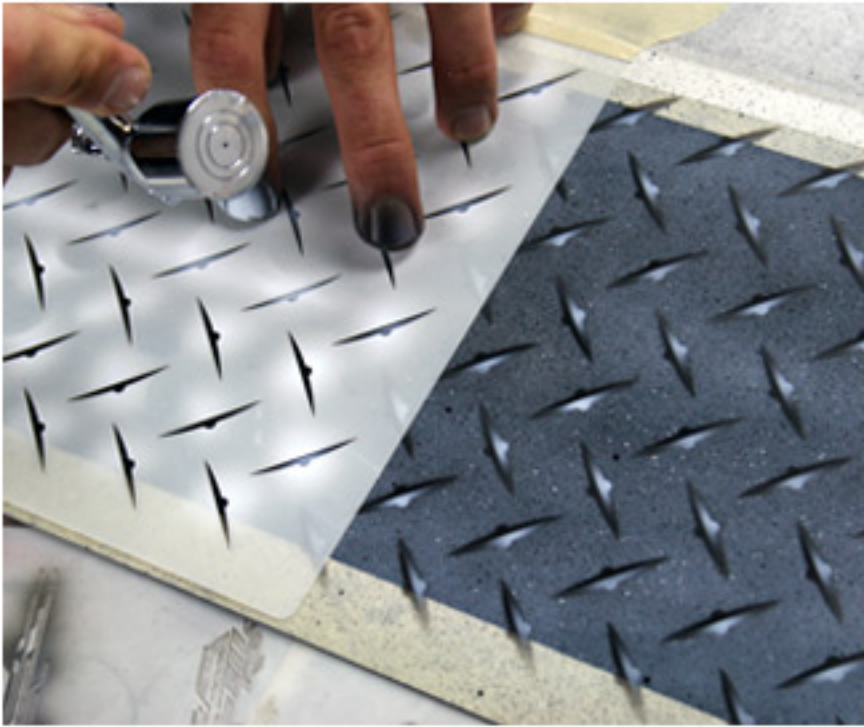
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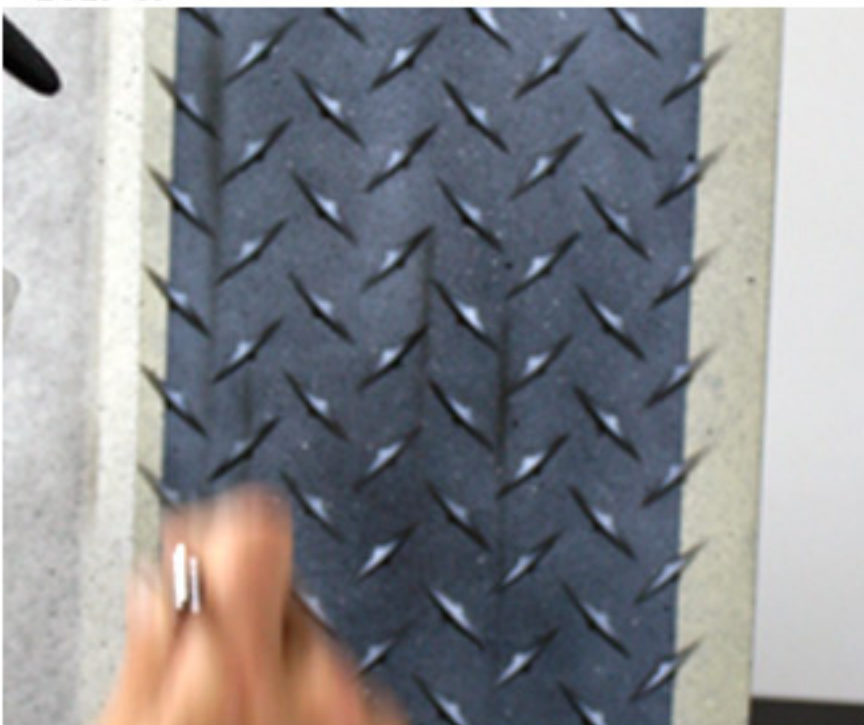
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