11.0 STICKALASE PEEL-OFF ADHESIVE LABEL

Material required: Stick-a-lase 4-¾ inches high by 3 inches wide.

Difficulty Level: Easy

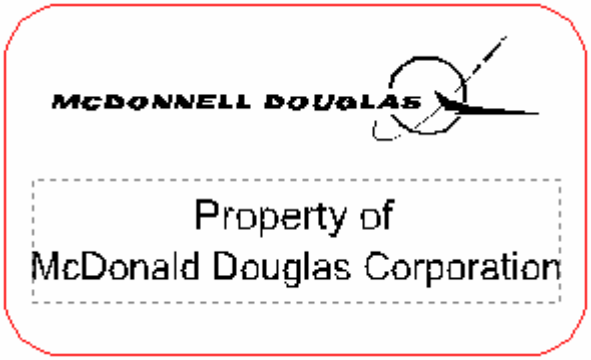


Figure 11-1 Stickalase Label

Stickalase is a thin adhesive-backed material. It comes in rolls and it's ideal for making identification labels. For this job, we'll design such a label and include in the design a vector path that we'll use to cut through the material, but *not* through the peel-off backing. Each label will be 1-½ inches high by 2-½ inches wide and will have rounded corners. The roll of Stickalase that we'll use is 4-¾ wide and has room for three rows of labels. Our finished job is seen in Figure 11-1.

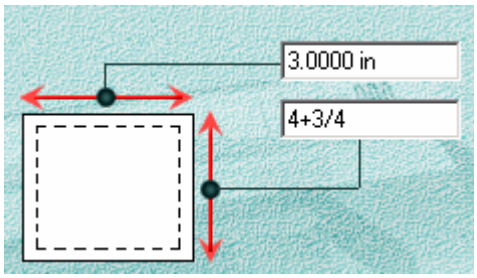
11.1 Design Plan

- Our first step will be to draw the cutout vector. We'll do this first so that it can serve as a design guide in defining the overall size of each label.
- We'll then import a logo (we'll use the McDonald Douglas logo) in a vector format (`MCDONNELL DOUGLAS.eps`). We'll make sure that the logo will correctly raster fill by setting this mode of engraving in the "Laser Color" window and viewing the result in the "WYSIWYRE" screen.
- We'll add text below the logo and center the text and logo inside the label border.
- We'll then replicate the logo so that we have a single column of three labels.

As we begin our design, start a new job and define the material size as 3 inches wide by 4.75 inches high. Go into Select mode.

Power Tip

You can enter fractions into any numeric text box. The program will automatically calculate the decimal equivalent. Use the + and – symbols to separate the whole number and the fraction. The * and / symbols can be used also.



11.2 Drawing the Label Border

- Open the “Geometrical Shapes” tool pallet and select the tool labeled “Rounded/Chamfered Rectangle” (Figure 11-2).

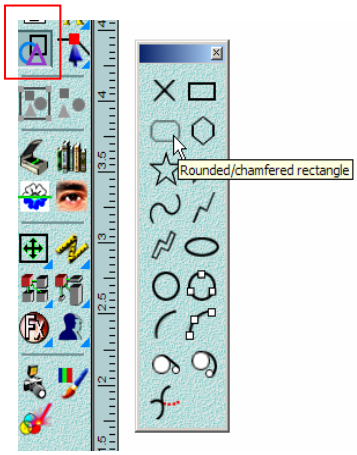


Figure 11-2
Selecting

- On the opened dialog box, specify a corner radius of **.25** inches (Figure 11-3) and click “**OK**”.

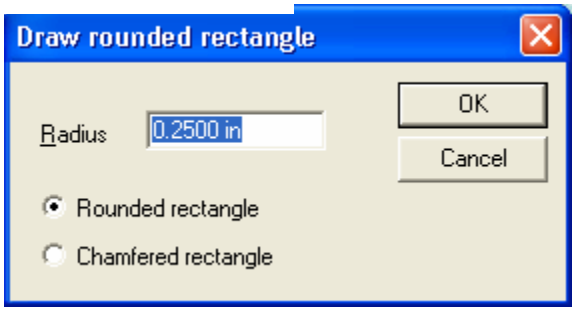


Figure 11-3
Specifying Rectangle Corner Radius

- Start dragging the mouse cursor and press the **F2** key. When the precision dialog box opens, specify the width and height of the box at 2.5” and 1.5” respectively (Figure 11-4). Click on “**OK**” and the rectangle is drawn.

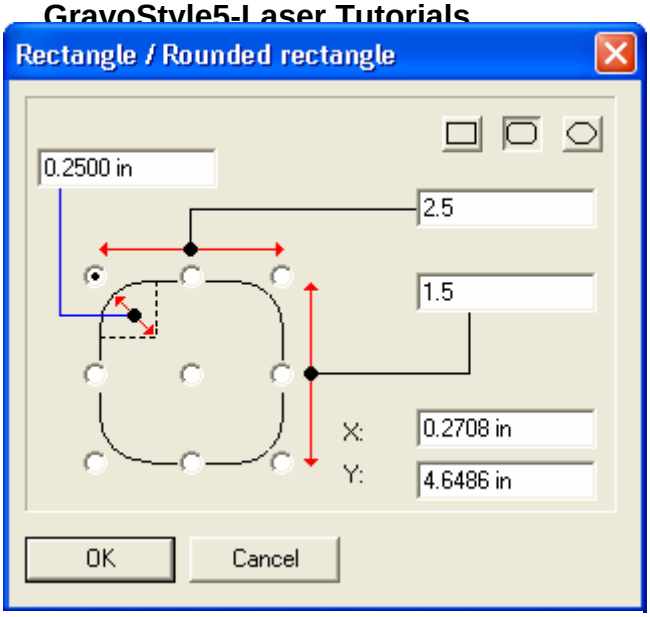


Figure 11-4 Specifying Rectangle Dimensions

11.3 Importing and Filling the Logo

- Get back into Select mode. Click on "**File**" and then "**Import**". We'll specify an ".eps" file type and browse to find the logo file that we

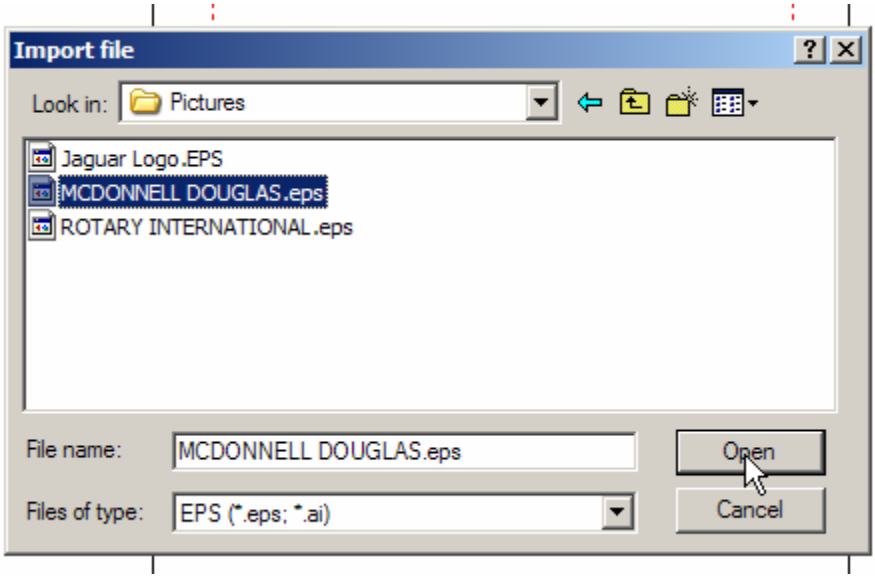


Figure 11-5 Importing the Logo

want (MCDONNELL DOUGLAS.eps) in the Section 11 folder. Click on the file name to highlight it and then click on "**Open**" (Figure 11-5). The logo will be imported. You may not see it if it is out of view. Double-click the right mouse button to Zoom All. If it is outside the

material boundaries, click the lock icon to unlock. Select the graphic and drag it onto the material under the rectangle.

- We should now be working in the “Graphic” view mode. Zoom the view so that we can see it clearly. Notice that the fill is not correct. The insides of “D’s”, “O’s” and “A’s” are filled, the letters “C” and “U” are not filled at all and the upper-right part of the graphic part of the logo is not filled (Figure 11-6).

Figure 11-6 Imported Logo

- We’ll try to fix the logo by first dragging the mouse cursor entirely around it to select all of the logo. The first thing that we should always try when correcting vector fills is to click on the side-by-side tools “Split” and then “Link” icons on the left tool bar. This often is all that is required to get a logo to fill correctly, but in this case it didn’t work.

  What’s the most likely reason? Raster fills can only be applied within vector outlines that are closed. The vector must be continuous and the start and end points must be connected. This logo has such a problem.

  GravoStyle5 has a tool that looks for discontinuities such as these and automatically repairs them. It’s called the “Auto-Connection” tool. Here’s how to use it:

  - Make sure that the logo is entirely selected.

- Click on the “Link” tool to make sure that the logo is grouped. The logo will look like Figure 11-7. Notice that the parts of the logo that didn’t fill at all are outlined in red dashed lines and that the rest of the logo is outlined in black dashed lines.

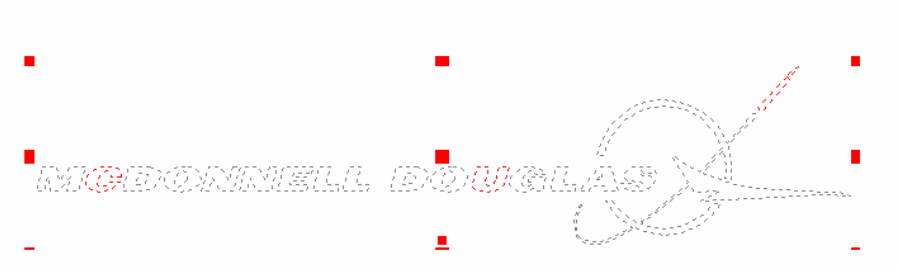


Figure 11-7 Selected Logo

- Find the tool labeled “Point Mode”  on the tool pallet at the left side of the screen. Click on it and its fly-out tool pallet opens (Figure 11-8). Notice that the dashed lines of the logo are now replaced by small colored boxes and

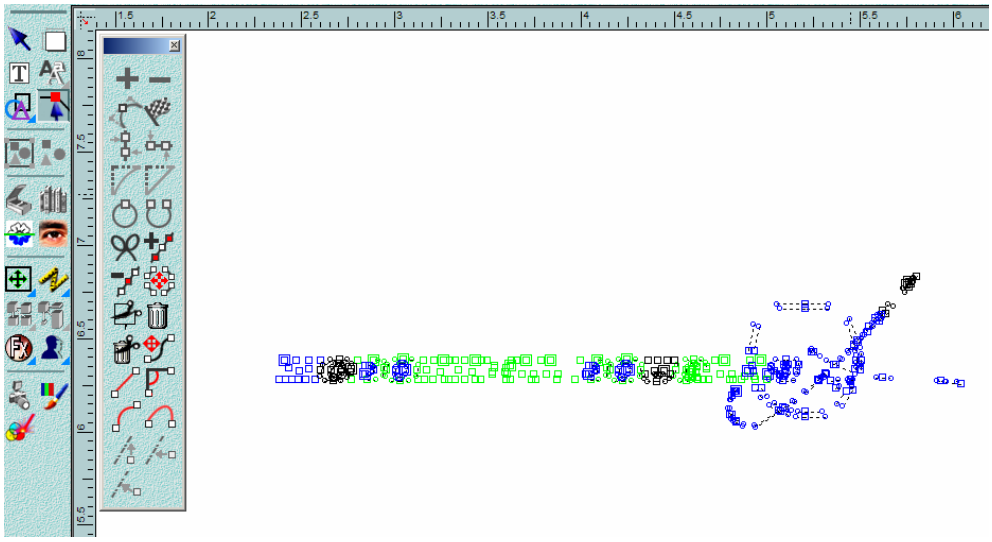


Figure 11-8 "Point Mode" Fly-Out Tool Pallet Open

dashed lines. The colors are green, blue and black, and the

black areas correspond to the parts of the logo that didn't fill at all.

- Find the tool labeled "Auto-Connection"  on the fly-out

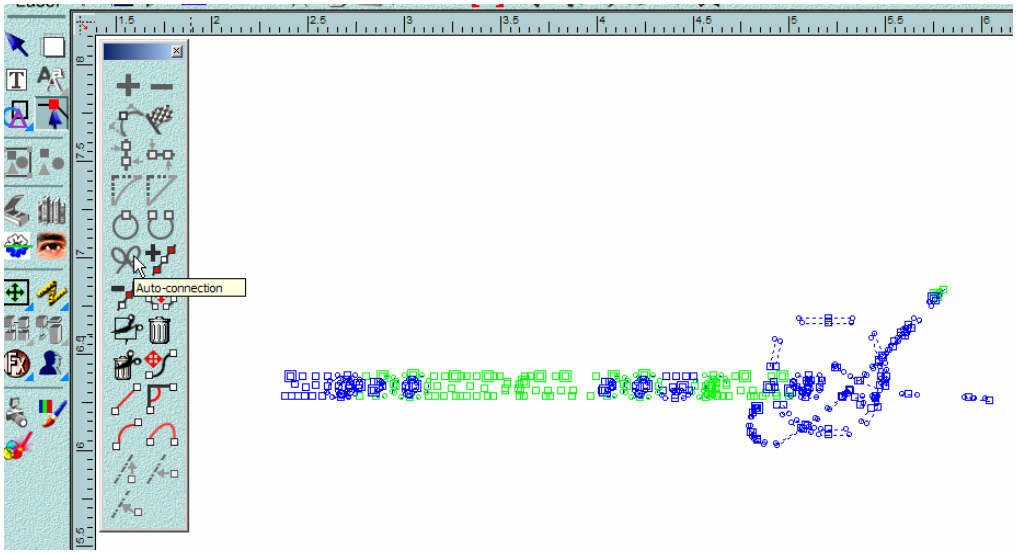


Figure 11-9 "Auto-Connection" Tool Applied

tool pallet and click on it. We'll now see that the black colored parts of the logo are now green & blue (Figure 11-9). We just connected start and end points that overlapped but were not actually connected. This commonly occurs with imported graphics.

- Now, close the fly-out tool pallet, and the logo is correctly

Figure 11-10 Logo Correctly Filled

filled (Figure 11-10).

11.4 Finishing the Label Design

- Zoom out (control button + right mouse button click) so that we can see both the material and the logo. We know that we're going to work inside the rectangle now but the rectangle is filled. Switch to "Wire Color" view mode (Ctl+8) so that the fill won't be in our way.
- Select the logo. Grab a corner selection boundary handle and drag to reduce the size of the logo so that it fits inside the rectangle. Grab the center handle of the selected logo and drag the logo inside of the rectangle. Make a final size and vertical position adjustment after this, if necessary.
- Let's precisely center the logo inside the rectangle. First select the rectangle by clicking on it and add the logo to the selection by clicking on it while we hold down the keyboard's "Control" key. (Remember – the first item selected stays anchored in place and the second item selected moves to it.) Open the Alignment Tools" fly-out tool pallet and click the "Vertical Alignment"  tool. The logo is now centered side-to-side inside the rectangle. Click on the Horizontal Center icon  to center both objects horizontally in the material.
- Let's enter the text as in Figure 11-11. Drag a "Text Inside Rectangle" box in the text area to the size that we want the text to fill. Choose Arial font with a character height of **.125** inches and specify center justification. Type "Property of McDonnell Douglas Corporation" on two lines. Or you can copy and paste from the previous sentence into ***GravoStyle5***. The Copy shortcut is Ctl+C and the Paste shortcut is Ctl+V.

We'll now type in our text and the result is shown in Figure 11-11. The text automatically compressed as we entered it on the second line, but we judge this to be visually acceptable.

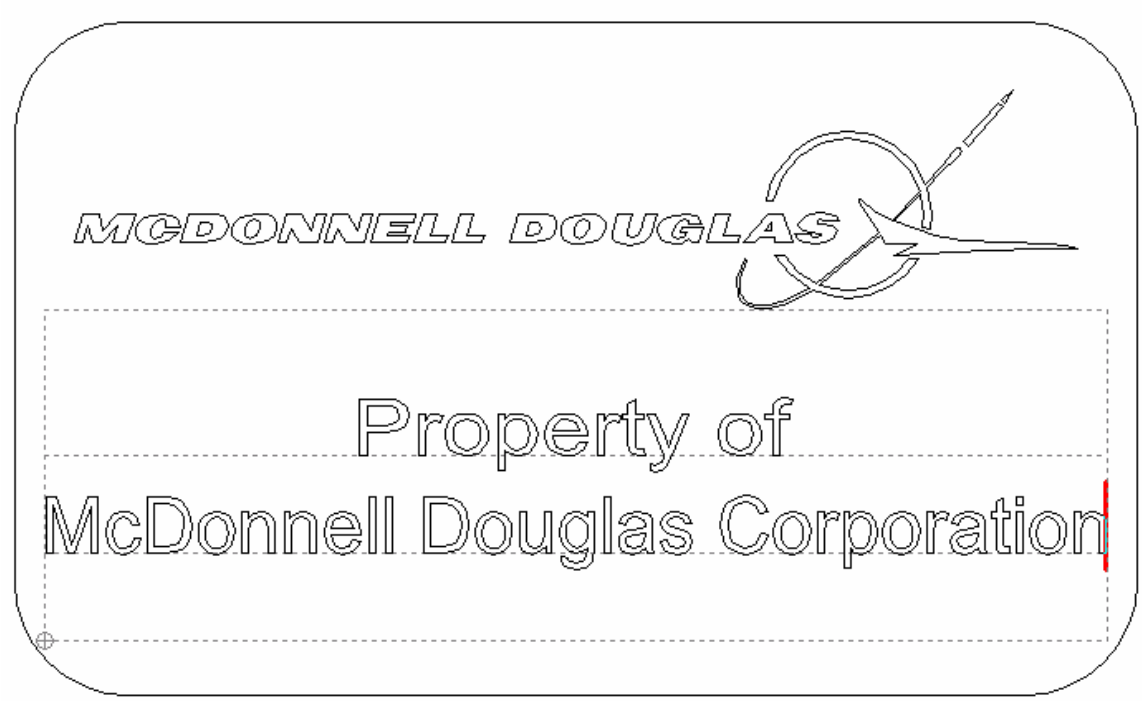


Figure 11-11 Text Entered

- We'll now zoom out to the material size, switch to "Graphic" view mode and open the "Laser Colors" dialog box. Get into Select mode.
- The rectangle again appears filled in black. We'll select it by clicking on its outside edge and double-click the red color box in the "Laser Colors" dialog box. The rectangle is now filled red.
- We'll select "Vector Mode" in the "Laser Colors" dialog window for the red color, and the screen appears as shown in Figure 11-12.

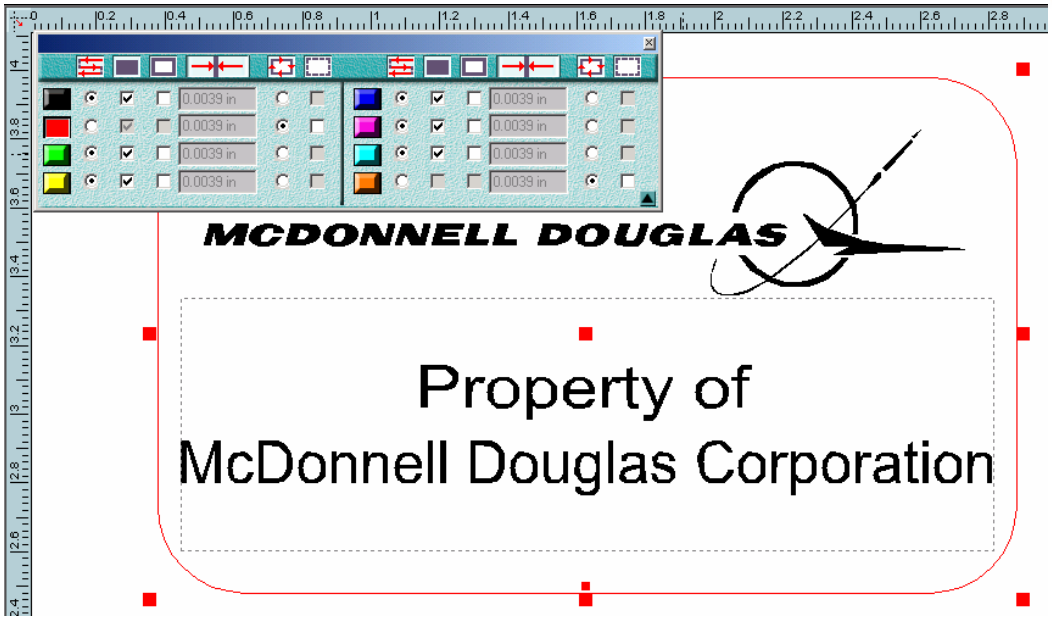


Figure 11-12 Vector Mode Specified for Engraving the Rectangle

- The design of an individual label is now complete. Close the "Laser Colors" dialog Window and unselect everything by clicking outside of the label area. Now verify that the label is correct by opening the "WYSIWYRE" window. In "WYSIWYRE", if the lines are too thick, you can change the line thickness by pressing  and entering the desired amount.

11.5 Replicating the Label

All that remains now is to replicate the label design. Make sure that the label is near the top of the material (drag it there now if it's not). Select the entire label and open the "Duplication Tools"  fly-out tool pallet. Then, select the "Linear Duplication" tool, specify 1 column and 3 rows and drag down. Notice that we've dragged to where the three labels are separated from each other but where all three will fit within the material (Figure 11-13).

The design of our job is now completed.

11.6 Engraving the Labels

Stickalase is very sensitive to power and speed settings. Generally, raster fills produce better quality at slower speeds. You will have to experiment to find the best results. Also, it is important to keep the material flat for consistent results.

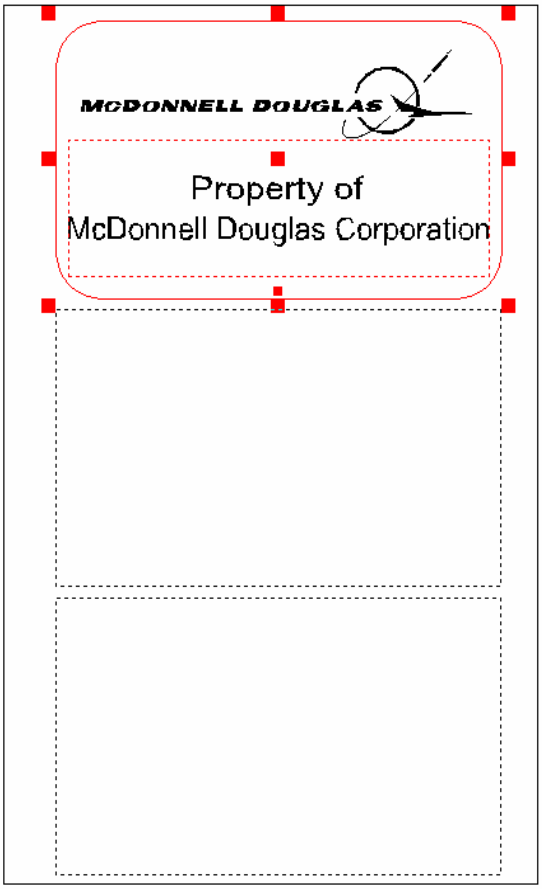


Figure 11-13 Replicating the Label

Click on the “Lasering” tool and open the driver dialog window. For this job using a 60W laser, set the black color (the raster fill) to engrave at a power setting of 15 and at a speed of 20. Set the red (the vector cut) to engrave at a power of 20 and at a speed of 65. Set the resolution at 300 dots per inch.

We chose the raster power and speed for good appearance. We chose the vector settings to cut through the Stickalase material, but not through the paper backing, so that we’ll end up with a sheet of peel-off labels.

11.7 What We’ve Learned

By engraving this job, we’ve learned:

- How to enter fractions for numbers in text boxes.
- How to draw rectangles with rounded corners
- How to troubleshoot and correct vector logos with fill problems.

- How to access the “Point Mode” tool pallet and use the “Auto-Connection” tool.
- How to produce peel-off adhesive-backed labels.