



## Banner Best Practices

### Banner Finishing Recommendations

Fabricating a banner is similar for all banner types - front-lit, back-lit, blackout and mesh. The edges of banners are typically hemmed usually by sewing, welding or adhesives/tape. The finishing process creates an edge that will not easily fray or tear and provides extra strength. Attachments for the hanging process may also be added, such as poles or ropes that slides into pockets that are created by the hem or grommets placed into the hem area.

**Grommets:** Grommets are the most common way to hang a banner. The grommets are fastened into the hem of the banner and allows for a large variety of hanging options. They provide a convenient method for attaching the banner at fixed points. The placement of the grommets distributes the weight of the banner evenly and keeps the banner from sagging. Typically, grommets should be placed every 2-3 feet along the edges of the banner.

**Banner Tape:** Banner tape is a good alternative for short-term indoor banners. This method reinforces the edges of banners when there is no room available for hemming. The double-sided tape is specially formulated to use with vinyl banners and is not typically recommended for textiles.

**Hemming:** To finish a banner using a hem, fold the edges of the banner over, then sew or heat-weld the material. Double hemming is the most effective finishing method for outdoor banners. Hemmed edges are typically used to reinforce the sides of vinyl banners. This helps to maintain the banner's shape and prevent stretching

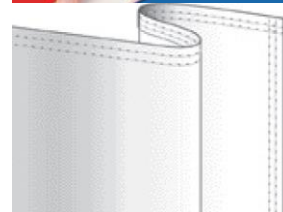
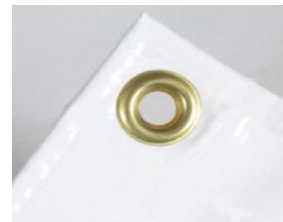
**Heat & RF Welding:** Heat Seaming and RF (radio frequency) welding requires specific equipment and training, but this process creates a stronger, more consistent edge finish. Typically, hot wedge, hot air and RF welding allows for larger, longer welds for grand format banners.

**Reinforced webbing:** Reinforced webbing is a cross-stitched nylon strip that is heat welded or sewn inside of the hem. Webbing is typically used on very large format or grand format banners for maximum strength and durability. When webbing is used, the grommets will penetrate through 2 layers of vinyl as well as the webbing, which greatly reduces the risk of the grommets tearing out in wind or from the sheer weight of the banner. Vision Graphics offers seaming tape, a polyester scrim strip covered with non-adhesive clear PVC. Available in 1", 1.5" and 2" widths by 300'.

**Mesh banners** are used in situations where a large banner will have wind pushing through it and the holes in the mesh will reduce the wind load on the banner and help it keep strong. Common applications include huge building wraps, attached to scaffolding for outdoor events, along fences, etc. Due to the large size of mesh banners and their common applications, it is extremely important that reinforced webbing along the hemline and corners, paired with evenly spaced grommets are used when finishing the mesh banners.

**Pole Pockets:** Finishing a banner with pole pockets allows for rigid poles to be inserted into the banner. This method requires pole pockets to be sewn or welded on the edge(s) of the banner. Pole banners allow for even distribution of the banner's weight to prevent sagging. Using opposing pole pockets can be used to make the banner more rigid and hang more flat and taut.

**Wind Slits:** Most banner materials are made of an inner scrim constructed of polyester fiber which gives the PVC film strength. The moment a banner is cut, the banner material is weakened. The reduction in wind resistance is minimal but the damage caused to the vinyl material is extensive. Wind slits can reduce wind resistance of a banner by 3%. If the size of the banner could be reduced by 3% the same reduction of wind resistance would be achieved without compromising the integrity of the banner. Consider utilizing mesh banner for enhanced air-flow to achieve up to 70% air-flow through.



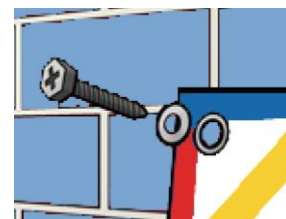


### Banner Hanging Recommendations

Proper finishing and installation techniques are vital to banner performance and customer satisfaction. Many banner failures in the field can be attributed to poor finishing and more commonly, poor installation techniques. Incorrectly installed banners can be quickly destroyed by even the mildest weather and wind when edges are improperly tensioned and allowed to flap in the wind. The material can begin to crack or delaminate resulting in further failure and ruining the job. There are many ways to properly hang a banner, but below are the most common methods.

#### Hanging a Banner Against a Building/Hard Surface “Wallscape”

The best way to install a banner for long-term outdoor use is to make use of all the grommets. This ensures that the banner will be held securely in place. It is also recommended to use screws and washers with this method to hold the banner against the flat rigid surface. This technique provides the most secure installation for long-term outdoor banners because it reduces the amount of force on the banner and allows for the least amount of wind and weather to pass through the banner



#### Hanging a Banner on a Banner Stand or Backdrop Frame “POP/POS”

This method usually requires the banner to be finished with pole pockets. The banner must be stitched to create a pocket along the top, bottom, or sides of the banner. This will allow the frame poles to go through the pockets of the banner which gives it more stability in a free standing frame. Also make sure to follow all directions that accompany your banner stand hardware.



#### Hanging a banner with a bungee cord

To hang a banner with bungee cords, wrap each bungee cord around each support pole or tree. Then hook each cord into the respective corner’s grommets. This method requires a bungee cord for each corner of the banner.



#### Hanging a Pole Banner

Pole banners usually require a pole pocket as well as grommets. The pole banner is connected to a pole using pole brackets. The bracket is run through the top and bottom pole pockets and then is hooked through a grommet. Typically for retractable or scrolling banner stands only proper trimming and affixing is necessary. For the best results, follow the pole bracket’s hardware instructions.



#### Hanging a Banner with Rope

To hang a banner using rope, thread the rope through the top row of grommets and leave an equal amount of rope hanging from each end. Thread another piece of rope through the bottom grommets and tie the ropes to support poles. This method distributes the weight of the banner evenly and also reduces the amount of pressure on the banner.



#### Hanging a Banner with Zip Ties

Zip ties are best for displaying a banner on a fence. They can be wrapped around the fencing and then zip-tied through the grommets on the banner.



Consult your Vision Graphic customer service or sales representative to learn more about which Vision Graphic materials are best suited for each type of application and installation technique. It is highly recommended that an ideal banner substrate be used for each application.

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