

## Protect your Bike with Bonk

by Jeff Eversoll, PCI #494

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Talk about irony. When Ron Burkitt called to ask me to review a product, I was none too sure of my ability to complete the task. I had recently injured myself in a fall from my patrol bike and was working modified duty. Imagine my surprise (and sheepishness) when the product I received was a product designed to help protect a bike finish from damage, aptly named “Bonk”. Thankfully, I was given plenty of time to complete the review, and once I was cleared to return to regular duty, I went to work on testing Bonk.

What is Bonk? According to the manufacturer, *A Graphic Source*, it is basically an 8mm thick piece of plastic film which comes in various widths. It is similar to, and applied like, window tint.

Why do you need Bonk? Imagine that your department has just purchased several expensive bikes and is looking for a way to protect the finish. Applying Bonk over the frame helps protect (and increase the life of) the paint and decals, reducing the chance of chipping and flaking. The film also offers UV protection.

To test the claim that it is scratch-resistant, I applied Bonk to my bike, and then gave it a few licks with a light hex wrench (not wanting to repeat the aforementioned experience of an accident, even a controlled one). The film did a good job of protecting the finish from nicks and scratches.

Recommended areas for application are the top and sides of the top tube, top and sides of the down tube, fronts of forks, head tube, seat tube, chain stays, and areas where cables rub the frame. It is not recommended for application over rough weld joints.

If the earlier comparison to window tint scares you, be not afraid. The do-it-yourself kit comes complete with film, spray (to help keep the film pliable during the application process), and a squeegee block. Very detailed instructions are included in the kit. Even better, for extra tips and tricks, excellent customer service is available (see contact information at the end of the review).

*A Graphic Source* also sent reflective safety strips and cable patches for testing. For those who work at night and want extra visibility, the reflective strips are great. They come in various colors, so finding a color to blend with your bike – thus avoiding the zebra effect – is relatively easy. The silver strips reflect best, but all colors have distinct reflecting ability. The cable patches are a clear plastic film similar to Bonk, but are specifically designed to stick to the frame of the bike where cables may rub, marring the finish. Since this is an almost constant contact point, the patches are definitely beneficial.

Now for the most important question: price. The Bonk kit costs \$33.00, cable patches are \$5.00, and reflective safety strips are \$6.00. Bonk is also sold in rolls, in differing widths, which is useful for multiple bikes or larger bikes and surfaces. *A Graphic Source* also offers 14mm thick chainstay shields.

When I spoke with customer service, they informed me that they can also do custom graphics (a new product called “Mark your Stuff” is launching soon – see website for details). I found that *A Graphic Source* not only offers helpful personal customer service, but their website, where I obtained pricing information and photos, is also useful. To contact them, visit [www.bonkprotection.com](http://www.bonkprotection.com), e-mail [info@bonkprotection.com](mailto:info@bonkprotection.com), or go the old-fashioned route and call (480) 515-2898.

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