Marking Out Plastic

Plastic in schools is normally in sheet or rod form. The sheet plastic is often protected on both sides by a layer of paper or clear polyethylene. These layers protect against accidental scratching and therefore need to be kept on as long as possible.

When marking out is needed it must be done on the protective layer if possible. Normal pencils can be used on the paper layer. The polyethylene layer will need a Chinagraph pencil or a spirit based pen such as an overhead projector (OHP) pen. (Use a non-permanent pen)

Mark out a line on the protecting paper layer over a sheet of Acrylic

Mark out a curve using a pencil compass.

If the protective layer has been removed then masking tape can be used to cover the area to be marked out.

Double thickness tape will stop the pin slipping

Curve drawn on masking tape pieces

Worksheet 34

1. Why are sheets of plastic often covered with a layer of paper?
2. What markers can be used on the surface of Acrylic?
3. How can the point of a compass be stopped from sliding over the smooth surface of a sheet of plastic?
4. Give two good reasons for using masking tape on unprotected sheet plastic.
5. Illustrate the reasons why shapes should be marked out in the corner of a sheet of plastic and not in the middle.

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