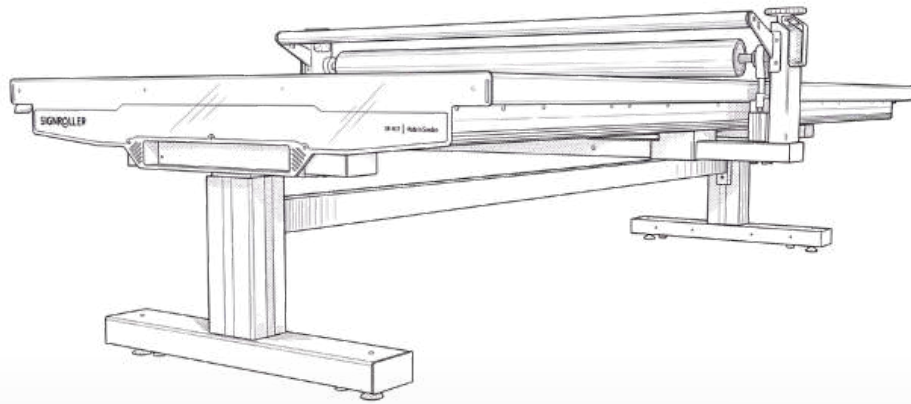




**FLATBED
VS. ROLL**
Pros and Cons
of Each

Do You Need a Flatbed Applicator Table or a Roll-to-Roll Laminator?

For sign shops evaluating equipment, the choice between a flatbed applicator table and a roll-to-roll laminator is not always obvious. Both handle lamination — but they serve fundamentally different production needs.

What a Flatbed Applicator Table Does Applies pressure across a flat, rigid work surface using a motorized or pneumatic roller — designed for mounting graphics to rigid substrates, applying transfer films, laminating wide format prints, and pre-masking cut vinyl. Units in this issue handle substrates up to 65–87mm (2.5–3.4in.) thick on working surfaces from 5×10 feet to 13+ feet.

What a Roll-to-Roll Laminator Does Feeds flexible media through two rollers, applying overlaminate film continuously across the full print width. Optimized for high-volume flexible media finishing — banners, posters, backlit prints, and vehicle wrap. Not designed for rigid substrates, mounting, or pre-masking.

"The flatbed is a mounting tool. The roll laminator is a finishing tool. Many shops need both."

You Need a Flatbed Table If You:

- Regularly mount vinyl to rigid substrates — aluminum, PVC, ACM, foam board
- Produce 5×10 or larger signs on a regular basis
- Apply reflective sheeting to traffic sign blanks

- Pre-mask cut vinyl lettering or graphics
- Need consistent, repeatable results on every job
- Rely on the machine for daily production revenue

You May Not Need One If You:

- Only produce flexible prints and rarely work with rigid substrates
- Only occasionally mount graphics by hand on small panels
- Have very low production volume
- Only need a roll laminator for flexible media finishing

The Investment Question For shops doing regular rigid substrate work, the return comes quickly — reduced waste, fewer remounts, faster throughput, and consistent quality across operators. If rigid substrate mounting is part of your daily workflow, a professional flatbed applicator table is not a luxury. It is a production tool.