

## HINTS FOR USING ShadeGrip FOR ATTACHING SHADE CLOTH



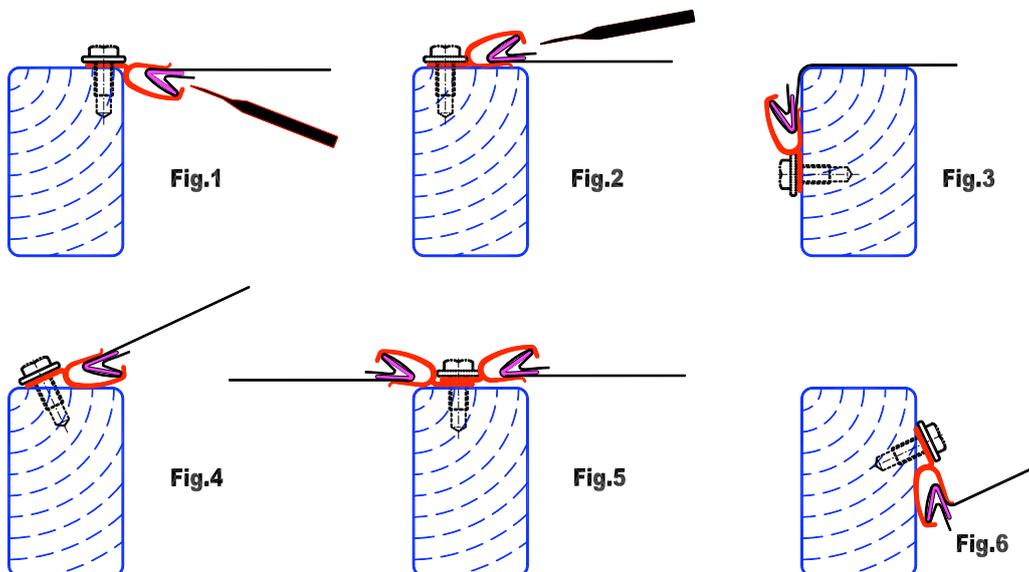
Please refer to our website [www.vgrip.com](http://www.vgrip.com) and/or the ShadeGrip coloured brochure for further details.

NB. *These suggestions are offered for guidance only. Apart from the normal warranty to replace defective product, V-Grip Pty Ltd can accept no responsibility for any damage or failure of any installation even if these guidelines are followed.*



### 1. Alternative fixing arrangements

These are some of the ways in which ShadeGrip can be attached to structures of any type. The ShadeGrip channel has drilling guide grooves on both sides of the flange. This means it can be fixed either way depending on which side is more convenient for doing the job.



### 2. Tools

Special ShadeGrip insertion/release tools are available from your ShadeGrip supplier. Otherwise, simple tools, found in most households, are all that is required for attaching ShadeGrip and fixing the fabric to it. Once screwed to the structure, all that is needed is an insertion/release tool or a wide stiff spatula such as a putty knife or blunt edge paint scraper. The blade should be about 30 - 50mm wide (1" - 2") by about 1.2mm (1/16") thick. A small mallet may be useful too. If the blade is too flexible, cut it short. Screwdrivers, sharp or thick bladed tools are not suitable. For releasing the fabric a Tupperware citrus peeler or a letter opener is ideal.

### 3. Gloves

Wearing gloves is recommended when fixing shade cloth as it can be very abrasive on the hands.

## 4. Attaching ShadeGrip

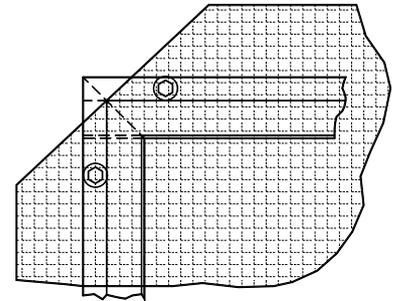
The easiest way to attach ShadeGrip to metal or timber structures is with self-drilling Tek screws. It can also be fixed to brick walls or masonry with conventional wall plugs. The fixing centres will depend very much on the particular application but the maximum recommended spacing is 350mm (14") and no more than 50mm (2") from the ends of the ShadeGrip strips.

## 5. Attaching the fabric

The fabric needs to be large enough to cover the space between the previously fixed ShadeGrip strips, with at least 50mm (2") to spare at each edge.

## 6. Corners

When fixing the fabric on all four edges, the ends of the ShadeGrip can be mitred or just placed corner to corner. The corners of the fabric should be snipped off to avoid bunching.



## 7. Curves

ShadeGrip will curve easily on its flat surface down to at least 1.5 metres (5'-0"). For tighter bends cut notches in the outer leg at about 50mm (2") spacing. It can then be curved down to 300mm (12") or less. The plastic keeper will follow the curve.

## 8. Re-tensioning

If there is a wrinkle or loose area in the fabric, just pull it out of the ShadeGrip local to the area, pull it through and re insert the Keeper.

## 9. Soapy water

If the fabric is a bit rough or tends to stick, use a little soapy water to lubricate the contact surfaces when fitting to ShadeGrip.

## 10. Trim off

Once the fabric is in place, trim it off to about 30mm (about an inch), and push the loose fabric into the groove of the channel to give a neat finish to the job.

## 11. Releasing the fabric or film

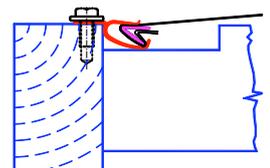
If you ever want to release the fabric to change or remove it, simply pull on the loose edge. Make sure there is no accumulations of dust or dirt in the groove which would prevent the Keeper legs from folding together. If the fabric is very tight or flimsy it may be necessary to push the Keeper in slightly to release the gripping force. Once started, the rest can be released easily by sliding a thin blunt narrow blade like a citrus peeler or letter opener between the outer edge of the ShadeGrip channel and the fabric.

## 12. No intermediate fixings

ShadeGrip will hold very strongly over large spans, depending on the fabric. Never use fasteners between the edges. These cause stress points which will tear through.

## 13. Cross battens

If cross battens are used for structural or aesthetic reasons and the ShadeGrip is used so that it is accessible from below (fig 1 in section 2 above), the battens must be set down or notched by 12mm (½") to clear the ShadeGrip.



## 14. Large spans

Shade cloth can be fitted in to ShadeGrip at least 3 metres (10 feet) apart without intermediate supports. Because of the weight of the fabric, it is a good idea to support it temporarily by wires or other means while inserting the fabric into the ShadeGrip.

It is not necessary to get the fabric tight at first. Just get it up reasonably tight and then go back and re-tighten it a little at a time.

Fixing the cloth on wide spans is easier if the ShadeGrip is fixed around the corner of the support batten at one edge (see Fig. 3 in section 2 above). This makes it easier to push in downwards and get it tight.

## 15. Joins in fabric

ShadeGrip will only accommodate fabric up to 1.2mm (0.05") thick. If there is a join in the fabric it must be trimmed back or the Keeper interrupted locally. It might be possible to sew the fabric edge to edge so that it is only one thickness through the join. This applies only to thick woven or knitted fabrics.

## 16. Polyshade

Impervious reinforced fabrics like Sarlon Polyshade are ideally suited to being fixed with ShadeGrip. It is possible to insert two layers of Polyshade into the ShadeGrip so that narrow widths can be overlapped. Always overlap so that the upper layer is upwind.

As Polyshade is reinforced and does not stretch easily inserting it into the ShadeGrip requires more effort than shadecloth. To make it easier soapy water and light mallet can be used. Another suggestion entails pushing the Polyshade into the groove of the ShadeGrip first and then inserting the Keeper.

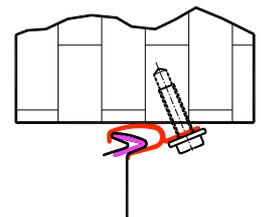
Naturally, the roof must be sloped slightly to allow for drainage. At the lower edge the ShadeGrip should be arranged as shown in Figs. 1 or 3 in section 2 above to allow rain to flow over the edge.

## 17. Insect screening

ShadeGrip can be used with fibreglass fly netting but we recommend using 50% black shadecloth instead. It is just as effective as fly netting at keeping out insects, it is stronger and is available in greater widths. Black is easier to see through than coloured shadecloth. It may even be cheaper.

## 18. Vertical screens

ShadeGrip works well at the top and sides of vertical screens. One possible arrangement is shown here. However, fixing at the bottom edge needs some care if it is to be attached to the floor. A lot depends on the floor itself and the span involved. Be aware that there will be a significant upward pull when the wind blows which may well lift tiles or brick paving. If the floor is solid enough, you could screw a batten to the floor with masonry anchors and fix the ShadeGrip to it.



Another suggestion is to use ShadeGrip at the top and sides only leaving the selvedge as close to the floor as possible. The sides can be pulled really tight but leave the top edge straight. Alternatively, you could sew a wide hem on the bottom edge of the cloth and put a batten through it. The batten could then be fixed at the ends to the walls.

## 19. Stretching Lengthways

When fixing long lengths of fabric it is important to ensure it is stretched along the length. With most fabrics it is possible to pull the short Keeper 'tacks' sideways along in the aluminium channel. Hence, after anchoring one corner and tacking the first long edge, pull the fabric along to smooth out any lateral wrinkles. Starting in the middle of the other long edge, insert the Keeper working the fabric both ways to ensure a smooth wrinkle free finish.