

What's it cost to produce this way-finding sign?

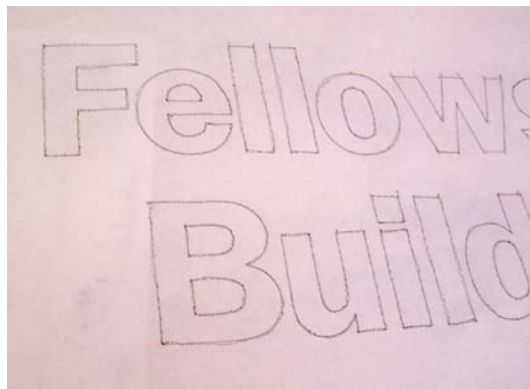
Acrylic letters make this institutional sign easy to fabricate and install

By Chrs Lovelady

Material Costs	
Letters and flush stud mount panel):\$132
Labor	
Draw, pounce and transfer pattern10 minutes
Glue letters in place15 minutes
Installation30 minutes
Total time55 minutes

One of the hardest-working type of signs is the everyday way-finding sign that guides people through a building or around a campus. They may seem routine,

but to the person who is on their way to an appointment, a class or a meeting, they make the difference between getting there on time and wandering around asking for help.



1. Draw, pounce and transfer the pattern: 10 minutes

I created a pattern from the file I sent to Gemini. I drew it on our plotter and perfed it using the electric pounce. I used this pattern to give me the letter placement on the acrylic panel.



2. Glue letters in place: 15 minutes

I use ISP Weld-On #6 acrylic adhesive to bond the letters to the panel.



3. The pounce pattern makes it easy to position the letters.

Here you can see that I've chalked the pattern onto the panel and I'm gluing letters in place.



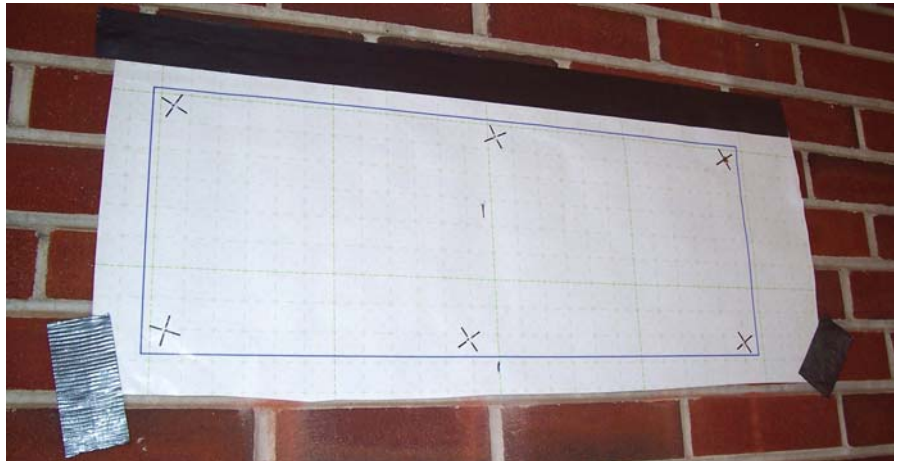
4. Peel off the protective mask:

Gemini delivers the letters with transfer tape on the face of the letters. I always leave it on as I'm gluing everything up; it protects the face of the letters and keeps glue and fingerprints off the surface. Once the glue is dry, we peel the transfer tape off.

This sign was part of such a project—eight identification panels like the one you see here, each installed adjacent to a doorway. Budget, longevity and legibility were the most important considerations, so I specified flat-cut acrylic letters on a 12-by-24-by- $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. acrylic panel. Gemini Inc. [www.signletters.com] produced and provided the letters, stud patterns, and drilled and tapped background panels; our shop designed, produced and installed the signs. •SC



Chris and Debi Lovelady's shop, Vital Signs, has two locations: Thomasville, Georgia, and Tallahassee, Florida.



5. Tape the stud pattern in place and drill holes: 30 minutes Gemini tapped stud holes in the back of the panel and provided the pattern for the stud mount, along with the threaded rod for the studs. We taped the pattern in place and drilled holes in the brick.



We filled the holes with silicone and installed the sign.

