

# MAKING YOUR OWN PARADE SIGNS

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**THERE ARE SEVERAL APPROACHES TO MAKING YOUR OWN LOW-COST PARADE SIGN.**

## **1. LOWEST COST: HAND DRAWN SIGN ON POSTERBOARD.**

- Get posterboard with a light background color from a craft or school supply store.
- Cut poster board down to comfortable size to hold in your hands.
- Draw out your sign first using a light pencil.  
Form letters imitating a **bold** font for greatest visibility.
- Use dark felt tip markers to fill in the final layout.

## **2. NEXT LOWEST COST: HAND DRAWN SIGN ON COROPLAST BOARD**

- Coroplast is a plastic material resembling corrugated cardboard. It is stiff and durable, and available in white or yellow for signs.
- Buy 18" x 24" blank coroplast boards from sign supply stores such as SignMart in Orange, Ordway in Van Nuys, McLogan and West Coast Sign Supply in Los Angeles. Cost will vary between \$2-\$4 each. Note: Foam-core is not as rugged as coroplast. School supply stores might carry coroplast in addition to foamcore.
- Letter your sign using same procedure as above in the hand-drawn poster board signs.
- Signs can be hand-carried or mounted onto a 1" x 2" wood pole from Home Depot.
- Special wire handles called "Sign Wavers" are available, but those are special order items.

## **3. LASER-PRINTED SIGNS MOUNTED ONTO COROPLAST BOARD**

- Design your 18x24 inch sign using a graphics program such as Adobe Illustrator, etc.
- If you don't have a graphics program, you can use Microsoft Word 2003 or later to create a sign. The largest paper size I found on it was the B3 (JIS) size, 14.33" x 20.28". Use the narrow margin setting, and fill the space available with your message.
- Send the file of your sign to your local Fedex-Kinkos office to have them print it out on their blueprint printers. They have 36" wide roll paper and 24" wide roll paper. Their cost is 75 cents per sq. ft.
- After printing the signs on bond paper, cut them down to size to fit the 18x24 coroplast board. Tape the printed sign to the coroplast board around the edges using wide clear cellophane tape, or use a spray adhesive.
- Signs can be hand-carried or mounted onto a 1" x 2" wood pole from Home Depot.
- Special wire handles called "Sign Wavers" are available, but those are special order items.

#### **4. COLOR PRINT MOUNTED ONTO COROPLAST BOARD**

- Costco has 16 x 20" enlargements for \$6.99. For a full 18" x 24" image, you have to print a 20" x 30" image (\$9.99) where there is white space filling in the edges of your 18" x 24" image. Use Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, etc. to do that.
- Submit .jpg file to Costco Photo Center. Trim your 20" x 30" print down to 18x24.
- To protect your color print from liquids, laminating the color print at a school supply store is recommended.
- Mount onto coroplast board as described above.

#### **5. Services of a graphic designer**

If you need a graphic designer to create files needed to print your signs for laser-printed signs (method 3) or a color photo for enlargement using method 4 above, Randy Yamashita is available to do the work. I have asked him to set a price for creating artwork for a sign, and \$5 is the basic price for that. If you have a logo to digitize, it will cost more.

Randy Yamashita's contact info:

[yamarandy@hotmail.com](mailto:yamarandy@hotmail.com), 747-444-1214.

If you should have any questions, please contact me:

Harold Kameya, [hkameya@gmail.com](mailto:hkameya@gmail.com), 818-426-0978.