

Tip o' the Month

Logos and Field Decorations

Stencils help create logos, large lettering, and intricate decorations. They're usually made of polyethylene plastic sheeting or visqueen, which can be folded and stored between use.

When creating a stencil, first draw the logo or design of the decoration to scale on paper. Sometimes your design can be enlarged on a photocopier. This can save a lot of time and effort.

Section the design into a grid of one-, two-, or three-foot squares. This makes it easier to transpose the logo onto your stencil material.



Courtesy: Steve Wightman

Jaydee Drive Liner



The Jaydee Drive Liner is a self-propelled riding line marker. The 35-gallon paint tank carries enough marking material for a complete game field, or several practice fields. The 2-gallon flush tank cleans the discharge lines for work breaks, travel, or overnight. The center or side-mark spray shields are always operator-visible. A nearly zero turning radius reduces or eliminates back and turn maneuvers.

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When Your Game is on the Line.

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Courtesy: Steve Wightman

a blue circle with a white outer boarder, cut the half-moon shapes on the inside of the line that will define the border of the blue area. To create the outline for the white outer boarder, cut the half moons inside the line that will define the outer perimeter of the design. You'll paint the half moons the color of the area they are outlining.



Steve Wightman is turf manager for Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, CA.

You will need to obtain a piece of plastic large enough to accommodate the scale of your design. Sometimes it's necessary to attach multiple pieces together to complete a large logo or decoration — endzone decorations can measure 30 feet by 160 feet!

You're going to need an area that's large enough to spread out the plastic for transferring your design. You'll wind up with a better stencil if your workspace is clean, smooth, and hard, like a gym floor or a concrete pad.

If you work on a soft surface, like grass, the plastic will move around too much when you walk on it. It will be much more difficult to keep your lines straight and your curves uniform.

When the plastic is spread out, secure it with weights and/or tape to prevent it from moving. Then create a grid with dimensions equal to the drawing you are transposing. String line does the job very well.

Transfer the image to the plastic with a permanent marker. Use a straight edge or string for straight lines, and freehand the curves and angles with the help of the grid lines. A metal tape measure will help determine the exact locations of the lines.

Some people use a slide projector or an overhead projector to project the design onto the plastic. However, this requires a large wall on which to suspend the plastic, and a dark place that will allow you to see the projection. Also, the larger the image, the blurrier the projection will be, and the more difficult it will be to transpose.

There are also computer imaging processes that help create large graphics very effectively. However, you'll have to dig into the budget to pay for that kind of clarity.

Once you have transposed your image to the plastic, strategically cut one- to three-inch half moons along the lines within the design to define your borders. Make the cuts on the side of the line that will fall inside an area that is to be painted all one color.

For example, if you want to create

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