



Rush Hour Resistance

How to Make Hard Letter Tiles & Display Them

Overview:

Individual letter boards can be combined in numerous ways to spell out a message. There are multiple options for making the letters and boards and for how to display your messages. When you are first starting out, it's best to create enough letters for a message and then build as you go. Take a look at the Tile Inventory & Message Planning folder for resources to help with this.

Materials:

- Templates/stencils
- Options for letters: poster board, foam board, plastic boards, contact paper. Plastic and contact paper are more weatherproof.
- Options for boards: foam boards, plastic boards. Plastic boards are more weather proof.
- Note: See the [Supply List](#) for links to supplies.

1.0 Templates for letters – Options

1.1 Purchase a template

Purchase a template from Etsy, print at home, tape pieces together, then cut out. Optionally trace the paper template onto poster board to make a sturdier template.

Note: On 20"x30" boards, letters that are 4" thick, 26" high and 18" wide work well. You can also go taller. Consider sans-serif fonts like Helvetica, Arial, Futura, Impact, and Bebas Neue.

1.2 Make your own template

Create a design for letters in Canva, overlay grid, then transfer to poster board. Use a compass for curved letters.

Note: On 20"x30" boards, letters that are 4" thick, 26" high and 18" wide work well.

Note: One letter template can work as a template for other letters as well. For example, the template for E also works for L, I, and F. The template for A works for V. The template for R works for P and B.

1.3 Create templates from digital fonts

Download a font like "BEBU NEUE.pdf" (typically around 30 MB), use a material like Corrugated Cardboard Pads: 48 in Wd, 96 in Lg, 3/16 in Thick which can be found at www.grainger.com and cut the cardboard using CNC or laser.

2.0 Boards

2.1 Foam Boards

Foam boards are cheap but don't hold up well as plastic boards. 20"x30" boards can be purchased in bulk from Michael's. See the Supply List for details.

2.2 Corrugated Plastic Boards

Plastic boards are more expensive than foam boards and hold up better. 20"x30" boards can be purchased in bulk at Michael's. See the Supply List for details. Black boards with white letters is the preferred way to go.

3.0 Letters

3.1 Cut Out Letters

3.1.1 How to cut out letters

Cut out letters can be made out of cardboard, posterboard, foam board, plastic boards, or shelf liner. Shelf liner holds up better to the weather than the other materials.

If cutting out of shelf liner, you can cut the letter in pieces. For example, you don't have to trace the E as is. You can cut out an I and then the horizontal parts of the E. This saves on materials. If you are tracing a full letter, be sure to put

the template face down before tracing.

3.1.2 How to attach letters to board

3.1.2.1 Attaching hard letters

Hard cutout letters can be attached with regular double sided tape, carpenter tape, or Velcro. For Velcro, use .5" wide strips in 3-4 places, depending on letter.

3.1.2.2 Attaching shelf liner

Lay the letter right side up on the board and secure it with painter's tape a few inches from the edge where you want to start. Starting at the edge, peel the backing off a few inches and stick it onto the board, smoothing it out with a ruler moving towards the edge. Then remove the painter's tape and secure the rest of the letter, moving slowly and smoothing out with the ruler. Letters can be cut into sections and applied one section at a time. [Pictures for reference](#).

3.2 Painted Letters

Trace letters in pencil on boards, then paint using 2 ½" or 3" brushes. For recommended paint to use, see the [Supply List](#).

3.3 Tape Letters

Trace the letters onto the boards. Cover what you traced with gaffers tape.

4.0 Message Display

4.1 Prepare Boards for Display

If you plan on displaying your boards in a way other than 24" bungees, add grommets. See the Supply List for suggested materials.

4.2 Attaching boards directly to a fence

4.2.1 Boards without grommets

Use 24" bungee cords, one bungee vertically per letter. Do not overstretch the cords as that will create room for the board to tilt and slide. You can also use long bungees to hold multiple letters, provided the letters are resting on the ground.



4.2.2 Boards with grommets

If your boards have grommets, you can attach them to the fence using twist ties, S hooks, carabiners, or ball bungees.



4.3 Attaching boards to furring strips



Use extra large binder clips to attach the top of letter signs to wood furring strips. The bottom of the signs are clipped together to stabilize and give some weight. With this method one person can hold up a short word or 2 people can hold the ends of a longer word. The message can be displayed on a bridge or elsewhere.

4.4 Attaching boards to poles



If you are not allowed to attach boards to the fence, you will be forced to have a free-standing display of your boards. See the [How to Go Mobile with Your Letter Boards document](#)