

TIPS & TRICKS

LOW COST BANNER WELDING

By Bob Glenister

An original idea from Dewi Evans of Signs for You of Midrand, which appeared in the September Issue of Tips and Tricks sparked the following two low cost solutions for banner welding.

More than 50% of digital prints are printed on banner material. As life would have it, 30% of these jobs are wider than your printer, and banner welding has become a necessary evil.

Currently most jobs get farmed out to welding shops. Bottlenecks and bad workmanship has led to many signmakers becoming frustrated at the delays and redo's. In this article I describe two very low cost solutions (less than R300.00) which most sign shops will be able to knock together in about 20 minutes.

In the next issue I will describe a more sophisticated solution for shops that are doing higher volumes of welding.

Solution A:

1. Required items:

- Ordinary household iron (non steaming is perfect, if you can still buy them)
- Staple gun
- Piece of high quality meranti 25mm x 12mm x 2metre, sanded (do not round the corners.)
- 2 pieces 2 metre by 100mm non stick paper (teflon coated would be best, but good old vinyl backing sheet will also work).



2. Place meranti on a rigid table and fix at right angles to the table. Fix non-stick paper to top side of meranti using the staple gun, only at either end not in the middle!



3. Place two banners that need welding printed side down on either side of meranti and fix to meranti using staple gun. Attach to either end, not in the middle! (Edges must be cut square before fixing.)



4. Place second piece of non-stick paper over join and fix to meranti using staple gun.



5. Iron with maximum heat over the join whilst applying pressure. Use pressing cloth or good old butcher paper to protect the iron from being contaminated. (Now ladies is this not a picture for sore eyes, your husband wielding an iron?)



5. A perfect weld!



Solution B:

1. An alternative for those who do not want to use a hot iron is to use PVC weld available from any hardware store.



1. Simply spread the PVC weld along the area supported by the Meranti.



3. Now place the piece to be joined over the previously wetted piece and using a rubber roller and applying pressure join the two banners. (One draw back of this method is that if you apply too much adhesive the extra adhesive will damage the print where it squeezes out.



Warnings:

- 1. Irons are hot, be careful.
- 2. PVC if caused to burn will release Hydrochloric acid. This does not smell too nice and furthermore will scar your lungs. Work in a well ventilated area.

Thanks once again to Dewi.