

# How to make a ProtestWarrior sign

This tutorial will help you build a certified ProtestWarrior sign. If you follow the instructions faithfully, you will have yourself an elegant weapon of truth that should last you for years to come.

## SIGN PRINTING

The first thing you need to do is make a list of all the ProtestWarrior signs you plan on using and download all of their PDF files from the HQ site at [http://hq.protestwarrior.com/?page=tools/sign\\_arsenal.php](http://hq.protestwarrior.com/?page=tools/sign_arsenal.php)

These files have already been sized and are ready to print. If you have a Kinko's in your area, they are the most professional and dependable (in my experience) and will be able to print high-quality signs at a fair price (\$.50 per square foot for black and white printing).

Whichever print shop you decide to use, call them to get an estimate for the printing and lamination (recommended but optional) of the signs. Do not hesitate to negotiate a good price. The first price they throw at you can always be negotiated since you are presumably ordering multiple prints. I strongly suggest that you laminate your prints, which Kinko's can do for you. Laminating the sign will make them last for many years and will keep them wrinkle free and will also make the mounting of your sign onto the foam board a thousand times easier. This will cause the cost of your prints to go from \$.50 per square foot to \$2.00 per square foot. However, I have had consistent success negotiating the price down to \$1.50 per square foot (including printing and lamination) and you should be able to do the same.

If you are using an original sign of your own, this should be in Adobe Illustrator format in vector (outline) format or very high-res pdf. The print sizes need to be 34 inches wide by 46 inches tall and should be printed on a wide-format black-and-white printer. MAKE SURE that they cut the print so that it is *exactly* 34 inches wide by 46 inches tall. If you're getting them laminated, MAKE SURE that they leave 1/4 inch lamination around the edges. This will make the mounting of the sign much easier. If you are printing a color sign, your printing costs will sky-rocket, so I advise that you do this if you simply must have one in color.

## SIGN MATERIALS

While the print shop is getting the prints ready, you should start constructing the signs. To do this, you will need the following items:



You will need one "Executive Pro Display Board" (by Hunt) for each sign. The dimensions are 36 inches by 48 inches but when you see it in the packaging, it is folded into three sections. Most office supply stores carry this item. SKU number: 902-090 / UPC number: 079946006209  
Sells for \$11.86 at Office Depot / Sells for \$10.99 at Office Max

It is very important that you get this exact foam board. They are the sturdiest, most durable boards I have used, and the size dimensions work perfectly for our ProtestWarrior designs.



You will need one wooden plank for each sign. Any hardware/lumber store such as Home Depot carries this. The dimensions you need are: 2 inches wide,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick, and 8 feet long. There should be a few types of planks with these dimensions to choose from so make sure you get the ones that have the most softened corners/edges, to make it comfortable to hold.



You will need one 4 FL OZ bottle of Elmer's Glue-All for every 6 signs.



One roll of clear tape for every 6 signs. Tape should have a width of about 2 inches



You will need one staple gun that uses 1/2 inch (width) or larger staples.



One box of staples that fit the staple gun.



One bottle of Krylon Spray Adhesive for every 6 signs.  
You should be able to get this at most hardware stores.

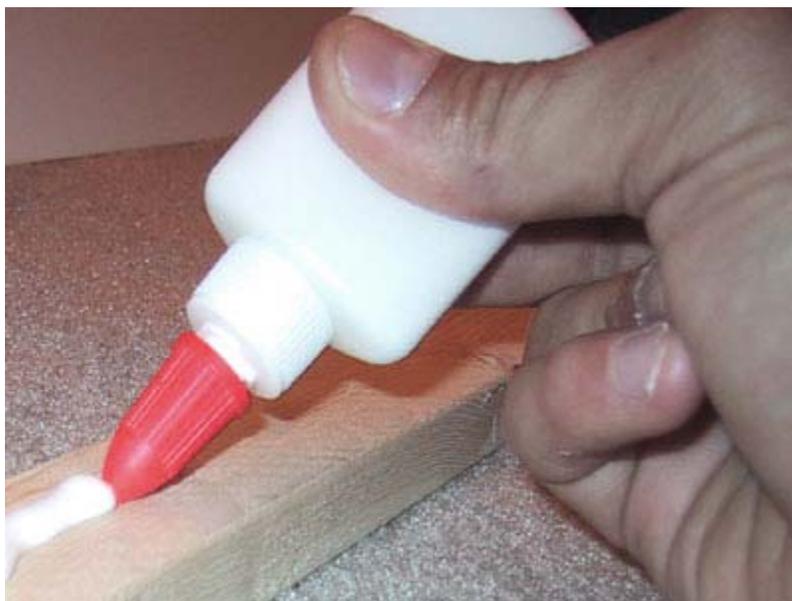
## SIGN CONSTRUCTION

After you have gathered all of the necessary construction materials, you can start putting them together. The first thing you will need to do is remove the shrink wrap from your Hunt foam board. Unfold the board and then mark with a pencil the exact center of the top and bottom of the sign (or with a pen but make sure that the mark you make is very light):

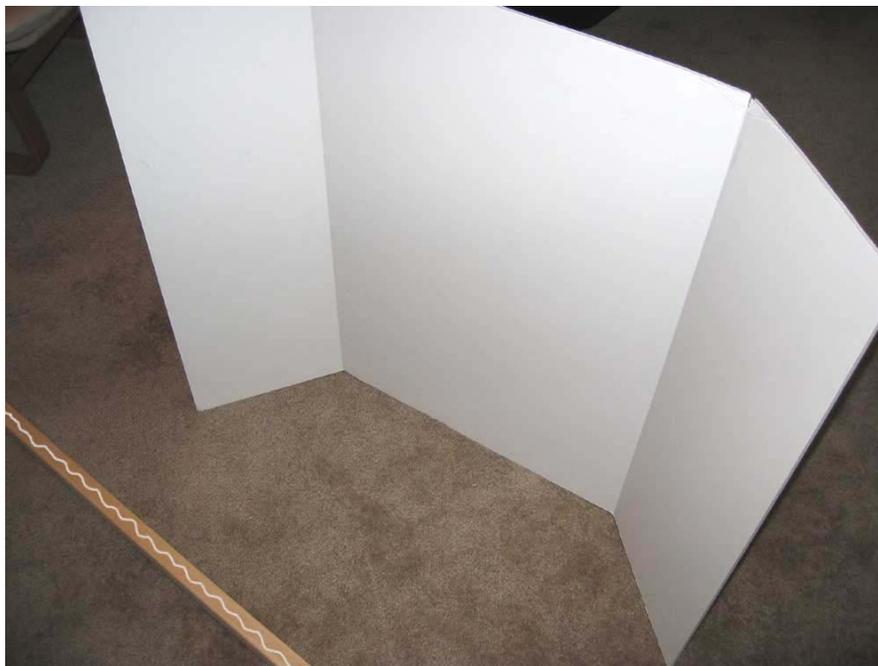


**Note:** The marks I made on this board are thick and very visible just for illustration purposes. When you make these marks, make them very light so that you can see the mark close-up. Also, note that the marks need to go on the side of the board that is opposite the side that folds in.

Next, you will need to apply glue to the surface of the plank which will be making contact with the foam board. Make sure there is a narrow trail of glue leading all the way up the plank, wherever there will be contact with the board. This will ensure that a gust of wind will leave your sign in one piece:



Next, you will need to turn the foam board around so that the side that folds in is facing the wooden plank:



Now, slowly place the board onto the wooden plank:

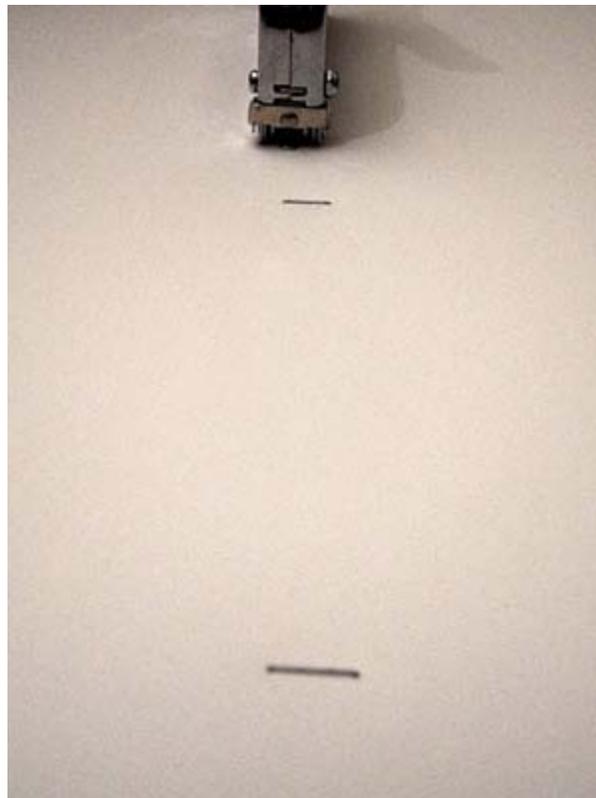


**Note:** use the center markers you made to make sure the foam board is perfectly centered.

Next, staple the board once at the bottom and then once at the top (make sure that the board is perfectly centered before you insert the second staple at the top – once these two staples are inserted, you will not be able to change how it sits on the plank) and work your way up the center of the board, adding a staple about every 6 inches until you get to the top of the board:



**Note:** when you press down with the staple gun to insert your first staple, the board might shift a little due to the layer of glue between it and the plank, so make sure it stops shifting and that the board is still perfectly centered before you insert the first staple.



Make sure you are moving in a straight line so that each staple goes through the board and hits the center of the plank.

You are now ready to apply the print onto the constructed sign. Take the print and place it on the foam board, so that it is perfectly centered. You should have a little less than one inch space between where the lamination ends and where the foam board ends at every edge:



Next, tape the TOP edge (and ONLY the top edge) of the printed sign onto the foam board:



**Note:** You MUST make sure that you orient the top of the printed sign with the top of the foam board so that the lines are perfectly parallel to each other. Also, make sure that the distance between the edge of the printed sign and the foam board is such that leaves equal amount of space between the edge of the printed sign and the foam board all around.

Now lift up the printed sign using the edge of the un-taped bottom so that the under-belly of the sign is facing you, like so:



Now you will need to get the adhesive spray and apply an even coat to the underbelly of the sign. Make sure you get the entire surface of the underbelly evenly:



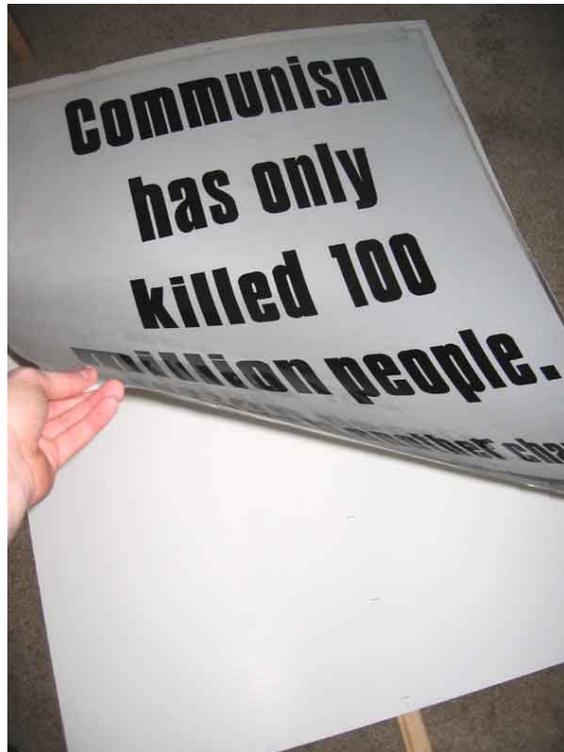
**Note:** make sure the nozzle is at least 6 inches away from the surface to avoid running.

Now do the same for the surface of the foam board that will be making contact with the sign:



**Note:** make sure the nozzle is at least 6 inches away from the surface to avoid running.

Now, you will need to CAREFULLY lay the print onto the foam board. You will need to do it in a rolling motion so that contact is first made at the top of the sign, all the way down to the bottom, like so:



Make sure that the sign and foam board are flush at every spot. If for some reason something is not right, you can try to untack the print off the board and redo it, but it should come together fine, as long

as you made a very accurate alignment when you first taped the top edge of the printed sign to the foam board. **\*\*Note:** if your sign is not laminated you will need to be **EXTREMELY** careful as you lay the print onto the foam board. Non-laminated signs are very thin and very prone to having small air pockets/bubbles form as they are tacked on. It is not impossible to get a non-laminated sign to lay perfectly flush onto the board, but it can be very difficult. This is why I recommend that you have the signs laminated.

Now tape the rest of the sides/edges of the printed sign onto the foam board:



Congratulations! You have just constructed a durable, powerful protest weapon that will last for years to come.

If you have ANY questions whatsoever regarding the construction process of a ProtestWarrior sign, feel free to email me at [kfir@protestwarrior.com](mailto:kfir@protestwarrior.com).

Good luck, PROTESTWARRIOR.