

Permanent Marking of PVC Pipe, Version 1.4

By R. G. Sparber

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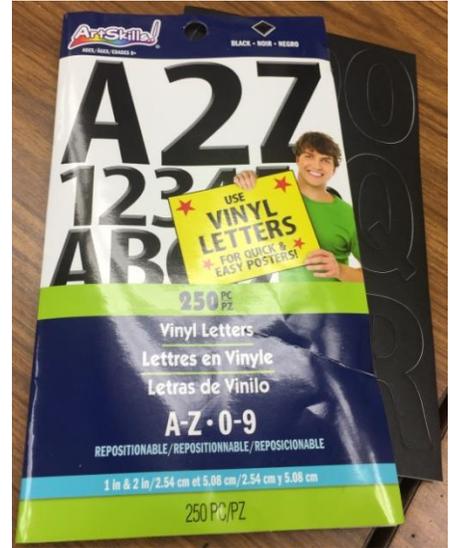
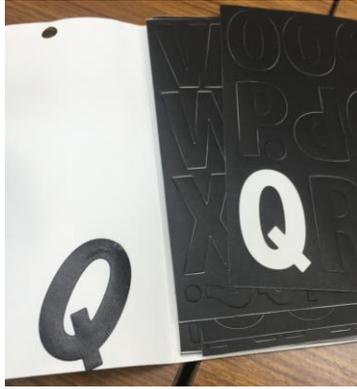


If you have ever cemented PVC pipe you may be aware of the mess made by Purple Primer. The stuff survives even the harshest UV exposure here in Arizona. But is that all bad? Why not use it to mark the pipe?

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The technique involves masking off some of the pipe with stick on vinyl letters and 3M painter's tape and then applying PVC primer. When the primer dries, lift off the letters and pull up the tape. The primer does not appear to attack the vinyl so the letter can be reused.



I did a lifetime buy of letters at OfficeMax for about \$6.



Even though I used 3M tape, some of the primer bled under it. Maybe someone has another suggestion for masking the perimeter.



I tried Frog Tape and it was better than 3M tape for preventing bleeding. In this test I applied a rather thick coat of primer. The blob at the top was from a subsequent test.

The lines at the corners were due to overlap of the tape. It leaves a tiny channel and the primer goes right in.

A thicker coat looks better but there is more bleeding under the vinyl character.



I then tried using PVC Solvent instead of primer. Seems to work well too. It did attack the vinyl character more than the primer did.

Mark Cason wrote me: You can also take clear PVC cleaner (Yellow can) and dye it with Rit dye from the grocery store. Instead of using numbers, you can simply create a multi color barcode of sorts. It's not my idea, just something I saw online several years back. Some of the newer posts suggest using petroleum based dye:

<http://makezine.com/projects/make-30/stain-pvc-any-color-you-like/>

Great idea Mark!

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

Rick Sparber

Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com

Rick.Sparber.org