



# GRAVOGRAPH NEW HERMES

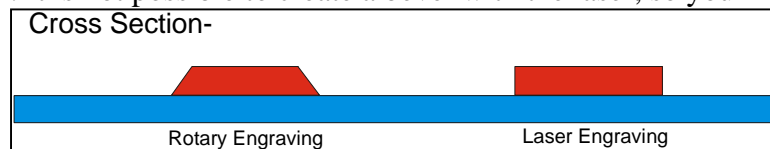
## Advanced Procedures

The processes described in the previous sections are the fundamentals of engraving ADA-compliant signage. This section will show you that much more is possible. Materials and techniques can be combined and modified to produce dramatic results.

### Laser Engraving

You can also use a laser engraver to create ADA signage. Signs made with a laser will have a different look because of the inherent properties of a laser engraving system. The laser beam is always perpendicular to the sign face, so the letters or graphics will always have a “straight-sided” look. It is not possible to create a bevel with the laser, so you cannot use a laser to make a slider sign.

Windows are possible, as long as you realize that the window’s edges will be a straight cut.



To engrave ADA signs with a laser, use the “vector” mode of engraving (in which the laser beam follows the lines of a contour instead of filling it in). Power and speed settings will vary with different equipment, but be careful to set the power low enough to only cut through the top layer of material.

### Alternative Materials

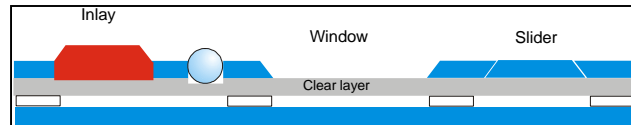
Gravo-Tac and other plastics are not the only choice for ADA signage. You can use aluminum, brass, and other metals, certain types of wood products, Masonite, or almost anything else, as long as the material has a matte, non-reflective surface. Anodized or brushed aluminum works; polished aluminum does not. Aluminum sign faces with Gravo-Tac letters can create beautiful signs, especially when the letters are cut with a laser. Combine this sign with an Aluminum Modular Frame, and you have something even more interesting.

Raster Braille is easy to add to metal sign faces, and brass, stainless steel, and chrome Rasters are available to match or complement the sign colors. Paint the sign face after adding the Braille, and the Rasters almost disappear, but are still 100% compliant.

## Combining Techniques

We've shown how to make a sign with a slider, a sign with a window, and a sign with inlay letters, but what if your customer wants a window sign with a slider, or an inlay sign with a window, or all three?

It is possible to combine techniques easily with a little planning. Window signs with inlay letters are a natural combination, because you are already dealing with a two-layer "sandwich" for either technique. Simply cut the inlay recesses through the colored face, down to the clear layer, and install the letters. Need a slider, too? Cut the slot for the slider through the top material before attaching it to the clear piece. Use the clear window layer as the backer for the slider, paint the area behind it, and engrave the type from the back. Add a back plate for the window, add Raster Braille to the surface, and you have a window/inlay/slider sign.

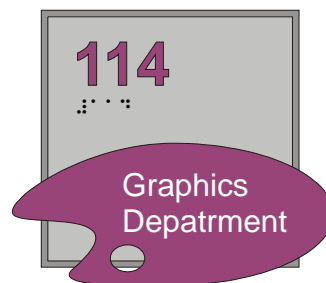


## Beyond The Frame

There is no rule that says that every sign must be rectangular. There is also no rule that says that parts of a sign can't extend past the frame. There is no rule that says a sign needs a frame at all. There are, in fact, no rules whatsoever outside of the ANSI ADA regulations.

Half-round Modular Frames are available; two of them can be connected to form a circular 8" diameter frame. You could also add one half-round to the top of a square frame to change its shape.

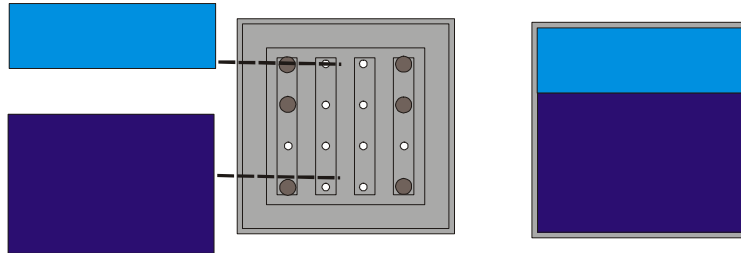
You can add a piece to the sign that overlaps the edges of the frame. This can be especially effective to call attention to important information, or to add an accent that matches with the building's architecture.



If you decide to start experimenting with shapes, remember that the same rule applies to these shapes as to logos and other designs: simpler is better. Basic geometric shapes can be used to great effect, and they are easy to make. Keeping things simple also keeps the sign from looking too "busy." A simple outline of a familiar shape, such as the artist's palette shown above, adds to the informational usefulness of the sign, rather than detracting from it.

## Multi-piece (modular) Signs

One of the advantages of the Modular Frames is the ability to make signs in more than one piece. This allows for changeable inserts, nameplates, for example, to be replaced piecemeal, rather than replacing the entire sign.



When assembling modular signs, be sure to use enough snap locks to support both pieces of the sign. In the example shown here, two snap locks will hold the narrow top piece securely, but four should be used for the bottom piece.

## Clear Faces

Using transparent material for sign faces can create some interesting effects. By using four-color screen-printing or large-format printing, you can add a picture to the sign by reverse-printing on the back of the clear material, and adding tactile letters and Raster Braille to the face. Again, keep it simple, and be careful to allow enough contrast between the background of the picture and the color of the tactile letters.

