



GRAVOGRAPH

NEW HERMES

Material Selection, Cutting, and Sizing

The most commonly used material for the signs described here is New Hermes Gravo-Tac. Gravo-Tac is available in 1/8", 1/16" and 1/32" thicknesses. 1/32" is the standard thickness for tactile letters, and 1/8" and 1/16" pieces are most often used for the background. The 1/32" material used for tactile letters has a layer of PS adhesive on the back.

Note

Gravo-Tac does have a front and a back. The front side, which is protected by a plastic film, has a non-glare satin finish. The back has a glossy but unfinished look. Unless otherwise noted, you always want the front, non-glare side facing up when you are engraving.

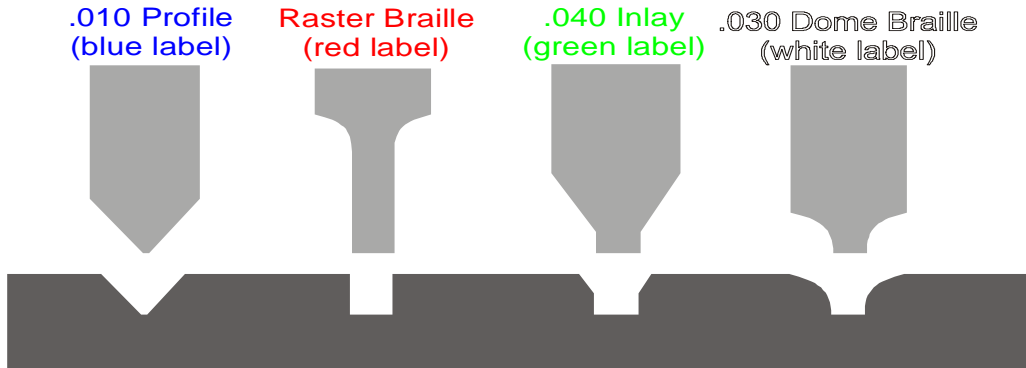
Our Modular Frames measure, just a bit, (1/16") under the stated size. For example, an 8"x 8" frame actually measures 7 15/16" to the inside edges. This allows for less waste when cutting material. If you were to cut a sheet of 24"x48" material into true 8" squares, you would lose quite a lot of material to the saw blade's kerf (the width of the material displaced by the blade as it cuts). By cutting just a little smaller, you take this kerf into account, and therefore waste less material. Typically, we size our sign faces 0.080" undersize, so an 8"x8" is actually 7.92"x7.92". This dimension saves enough material that a full 24x48 sheet can be cut into 24, 8x8 sign faces, with no waste. These faces fit neatly into the recess of the Modular Frame. This dimension also allows for slight expansion of the face material due to temperature and humidity changes.

Note

We do recommend sawing the sign faces to size, instead of shear-cutting them, because the saw leaves a better looking finished edge.

Cutter Selection-

Different cutters have different shapes, and each has a purpose. The four types shown below are the most commonly used for ADA signage. The .010 Profile cutter is most often used for tactile lettering and pictograms, as well as cutting out windows. The .040 Inlay cutter is used for both the “inside” and “outside” cuts of an inlaid design. The Raster Braille cutter, which is a “parallel” cutter, is used for drilling holes for Raster Braille, and can be used whenever else a straight-sided cut is desired. The .030 Dome Braille cutter is used for the Route-out style Braille.



Note

These drawings are not to scale; they simply serve as a reference to the different cutters' shapes.