



# How to make a STRIKE SIGN that lasts!

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*My 2017 strike sign spent 7 weeks in crazy Chicagoland weather and survived! Yours can too.*

OK, the contract negotiations failed, you just had the vote, you rejected a crummy contract offer from the bosses and you voted to strike.

Congratulations! You are now taking great, giant steps towards improving your life, those of your immediate Fellow Workers and the entire working class, indirectly.

Soon, sometimes within hours, you will be walking the picket line. In the USA, as workers, this is basically our only effective negotiating tool. Use it wisely.



While you and I are on the streets, our Union leadership is at the bargaining table again, but this time on the offensive. To aid the negotiations, we picket rather than just staying home.

A Picket Sign is a most effective aid in your upcoming negotiating session. In fact, Picket Signs define us as strikers and is what separates us from pedestrians. Oh, sure it's simple enough to staple a sign on a stick, but have one single windy or rainy day and you are all out of picket signs! More will be on the way, but it's easy enough to make them almost as tough as you and your fellow workers.

At some point you will be presented with a sign and a stick. If your Fellow Workers have correctly identified you as a good Strike Captain, you will be presented with many signs and sticks.



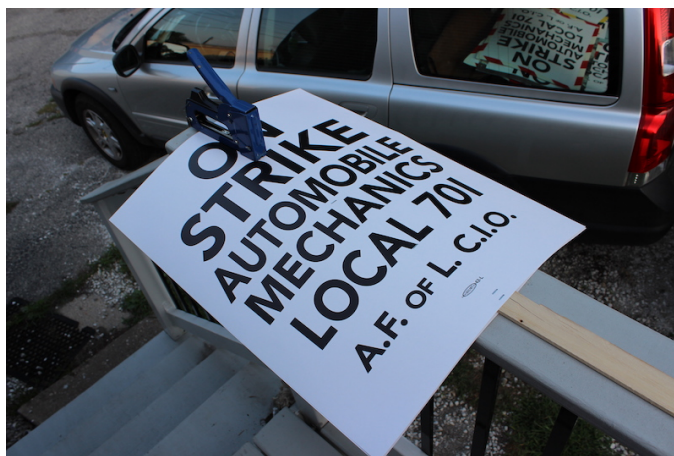
Here's the stuff I use to make Picket Signs that lasts for weeks under horrible conditions:



Signs  
Stapler  
Heavy stapler with short 1/4" staples  
Duct tape  
Spray clear lacquer paint (not enamel)

Sticks. Note: use ONLY the thin, weak "lath" strips as provided by your Local. Do not EVER substitute a substantial stick like a 2x4 or a baseball bat, as these are considered offensive weapons and can put you in jail in no time!  
Also, you will be carrying it around for hours each day. Keep it light!

If you want to make a strong sign that will hold up to wind, rain and snow for weeks, it must be relatively sealed off from the weather. This is easily accomplished by:



Staple 2 signs back to back on the same stick with the utility stapler. Use at least 5 short staples each side or the wind will quickly rip the sign right off.

Then, staple around the perimeter with a regular stapler.

The stapled sign is now fairly strong against the wind and rough handling but is still vulnerable to water, humidity and snow.

To protect the sign from water, I spray it with clear lacquer. This soaks into the paper and dries quickly without affecting the printing.





After the lacquer dries, I then tape the perimeter.  
This not only seals the edges from water but adds strength and provides an eye-catching perimeter.



At this point, the sign can be used for sticking in the ground near entrances, but if it is to be carried it is best to tape the handle to prevent splinters and to increase comfort.

Extra-wide Gorilla Tape works great for this but any duct tape will do.



And there you go! A Picket Sign that will probably outlast most strikes and provide you with a memento of that time you did your part of the negotiating process. Charge up your cellphone, bring some sunblock, some drinks, and a lawnchair.

If you're a Strike Captain, don't forget to bring the sign-in sheets, a first-aid kit, pens, any literature that your local passed out

and of course, THE SIGNS!



Good Luck,  
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