



MAKE CUSTOM INSTRUMENT LABELS

by [ajoyraman](#) on November 19, 2011

Table of Contents

MAKE CUSTOM INSTRUMENT LABELS	1
Intro: MAKE CUSTOM INSTRUMENT LABELS	2
Step 1: WHAT YOU NEED	2
Step 2: COMPOSING AND PRINTING	4
Step 3: SPRAYING AND DRYING	6
Step 4: CUT REMOVE AND PASTE	7
Step 5: STICK THE LABELS	7
Step 6: ANOTHER PROTECTIVE COAT	8
Step 7: TRY ON ALUMINUM	8
Step 8: DONE	8
Related Instructables	9



Author: ajoyraman Ajoy Raman

I am a retired Electronic Systems Engineer now pursuing my hobbies full time.

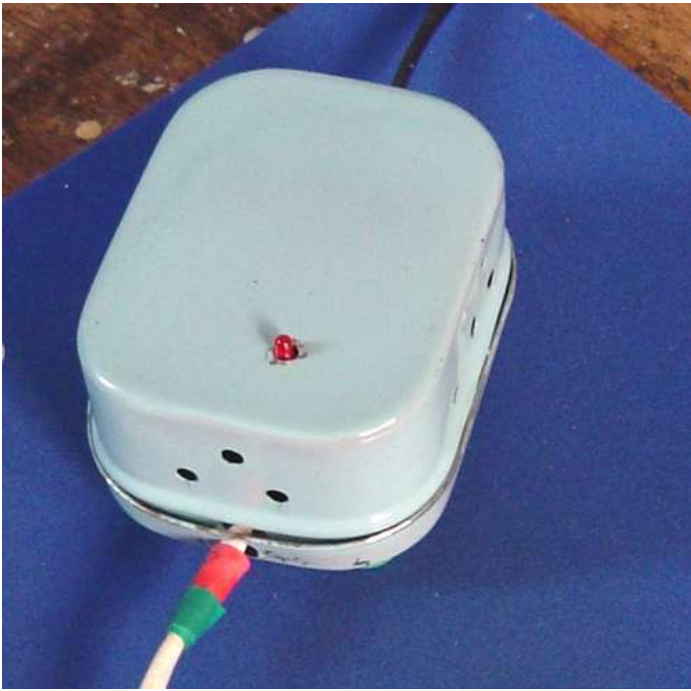
Intro: MAKE CUSTOM INSTRUMENT LABELS

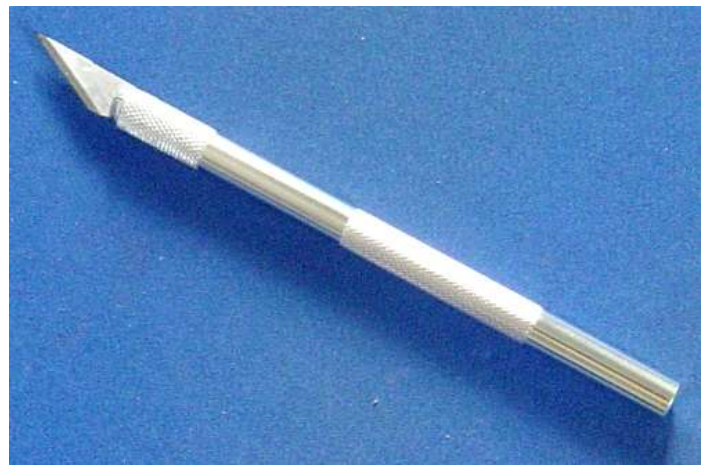
A simple do it yourself method is explained to print and stick custom labels onto home brew electronic equipment



Step 1: WHAT YOU NEED

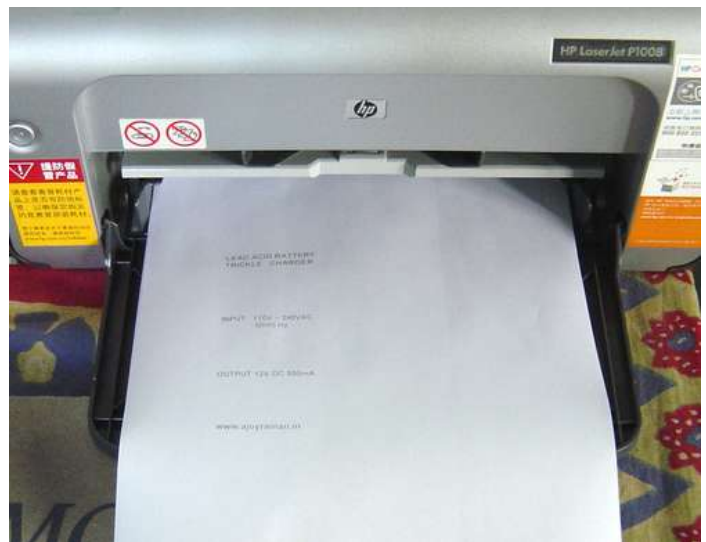
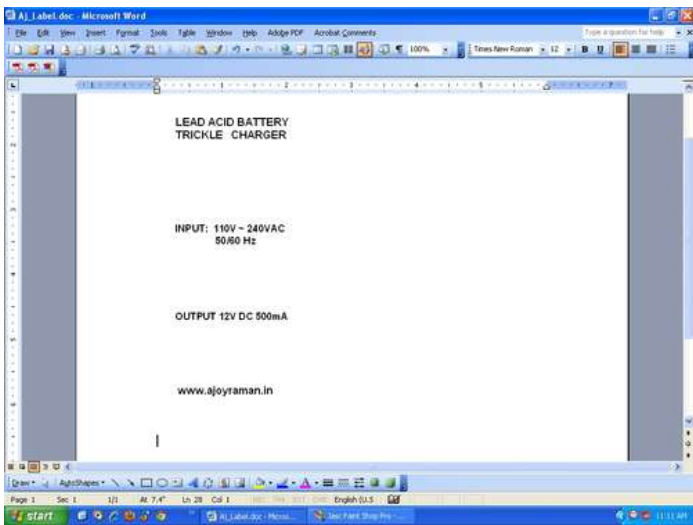
1. A laser printer : This will be used to print the text / graphics which have been composed using a PC.
2. The instrument cover on which the labels are to be stuck : This could be any equipment and the method is suitable for all surfaces. In the current demonstration the text color is black so a suitable background color should be selected.
3. 3M Magic Scotch tape : Scotch® Magic™ Tape is the original matte-finish, invisible tape. Frosty on the roll but invisible on paper, It's the preferred tape for offices, home offices and schools.
4. Hobby knife : Which will be used for cutting the label strips.
5. A spray can of clear lacquer : This is typically the clear lacquer used as a protective coating on Printed Circuit Boards.





Step 2: COMPOSING AND PRINTING

1. Compose the material to be printed on the label using any PC application. Size the text / graphics keeping in mind the final size required and the size of the tape used. 1/2 inch tape is used here.
2. Print a draft print of the material on standard A4 sized printer paper. This is a template and will indicate approximately where we need to paste the 3M tape on which the text / graphics will be printed.
3. Remove strips of tape from the dispenser and paste them exactly on top of the printed areas of the draft print. Use 'TWO' layers of tape. This helps in separating the printed tape from the lower layer which sticks to the paper and preserves the glue on the upper layer.
4. Place the paper with the 3M tape stuck on it exactly the same way as was the earlier print.
5. Print once again in final mode to get the darkest print. There would be small shift in the print and this is acceptable as long as the text/ graphics is on the tape.
6. The laser print fixes quite well onto the 3M tape surface and only gets blurred when scraped with a fingernail.
7. The next step will prevent this from happening by providing a protective layer above the print.



LEAD ACID BATTERY
TRICKLE CHARGER

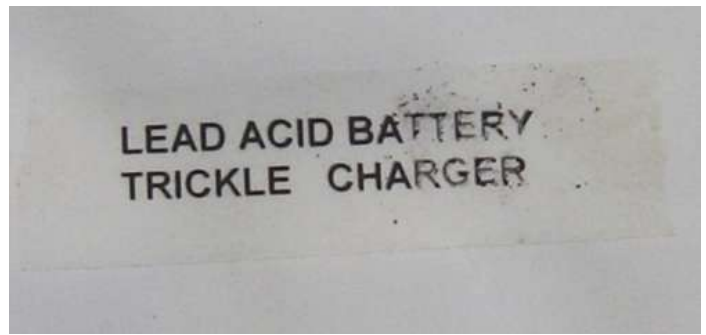
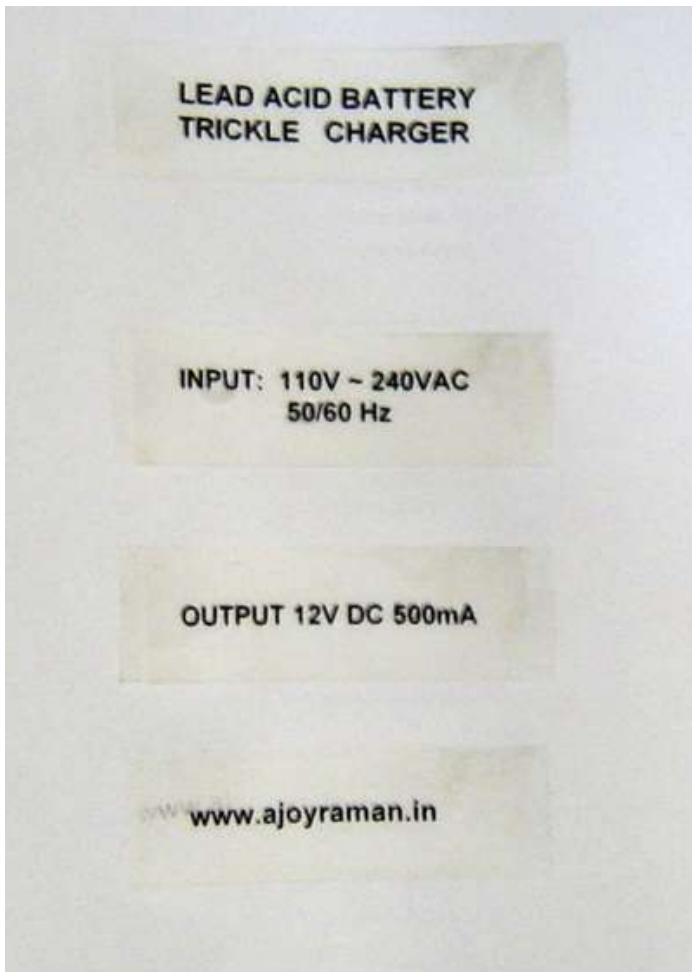
INPUT: 110V ~ 240VAC
50/60 Hz

OUTPUT 12V DC 500mA

www.ajoyraman.in

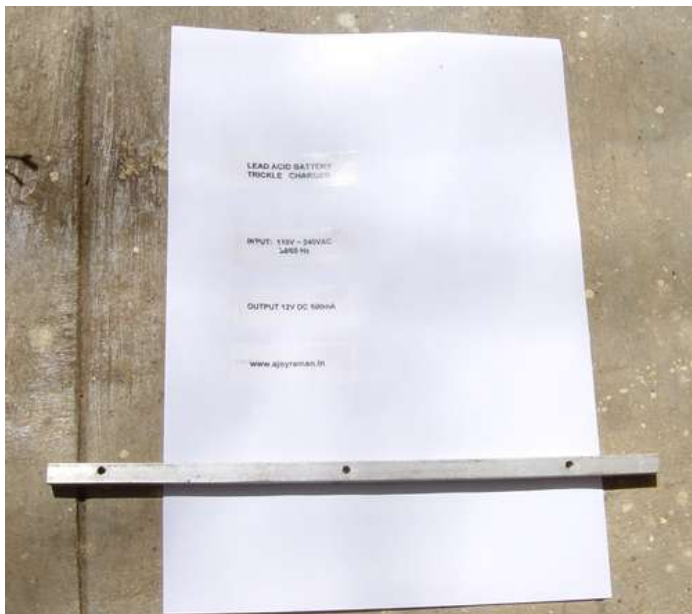


LEAD ACID BATTERY
TRICKLE CHARGER



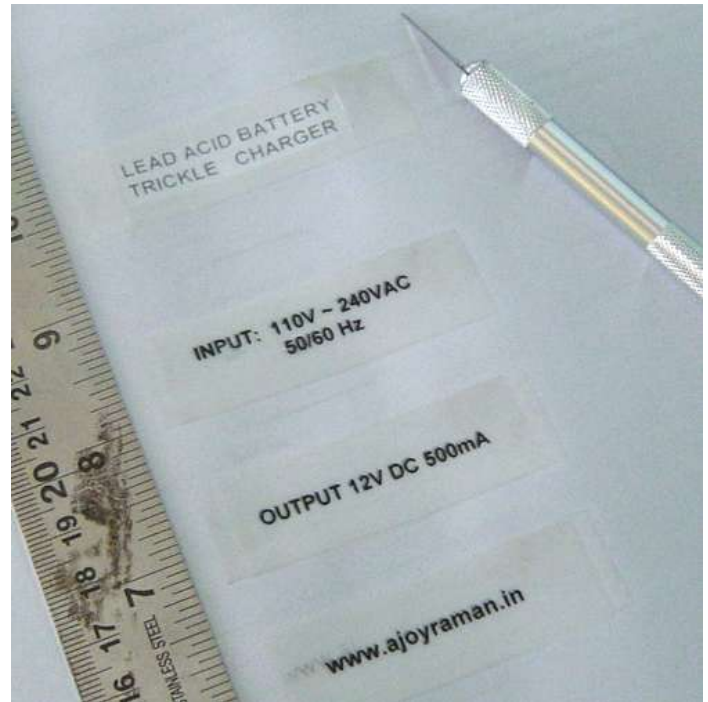
Step 3: SPRAYING AND DRYING

1. Shake the can of clear lacquer well before using it.
2. In a well ventilated space spray two to three layers of thin coats onto the taped areas of the printed paper.
3. Allow each layer to dry before coating the next. This takes 5-10 minutes in the hot sun.
4. Do not overheat as this would discolor the lacquer and distort the tape.
5. Allow to dry till the lacquer completely hardens.



Step 4: CUT REMOVE AND PASTE

1. Take the hobby knife and a steel scale and carefully cut a rectangle around the boundary of the text / graphics which has been printed on the 3M tape and now covered with protective clear lacquer.
2. Carefully remove the upper layer of tape. The lower layer would have been stuck to the paper and hence lost much of its adhesive properties. While the upper layer which is stuck onto another layer of tape is protected just as in the dispenser. This provides the best adhesion onto our instrument surface.



Step 5: STICK THE LABELS

1. Stick the labels one by one onto the instrument at the locations desired.
2. An intermediate step shows two labels stuck on the instrument box cover.
3. Finally All labels need to be stuck.
4. Place a plain paper over the labels and gently press them down to get the best adhesion.



Step 6: ANOTHER PROTECTIVE COAT

1. Another protective coat of clear lacquer closes any small gaps at the edge of the tapes.
2. The overall lacquer coat also appears to make the entire instrument surface more uniform.
3. This photo is taken while drying in the sun

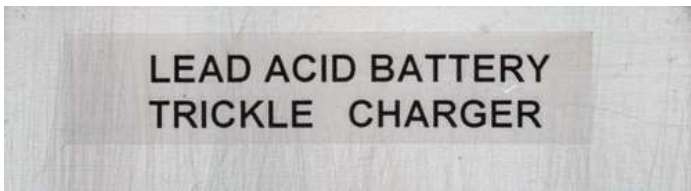


Step 7: TRY ON ALUMINUM

This is the result of a quick check of this technique on an aluminum surface.

The image does not look so nice as the camera picture is of a reflecting surface.

In actual practice the finish on the aluminum is quite good.



Step 8: DONE

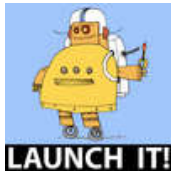
A simple technique for making DIY instrument labels has been presented.



Related Instructables



Waterslide Eggs with Bonus Eggsplotions
by festeezio



How to Enter the Launch It! Challenge
by Contest Robot



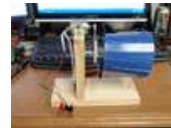
Making a "Soft-Vocal" Instrumental in Audacity
by Hoboman



Making a Saline or Hydroxide Solution
by egbertfitzwilly



Tortilla Bag Instrument/Machi Cover
by ndpmcintosh



How to make a Label Roller
by joeyoung25

raptorofaxys

3 years ago

Great idea! Thanks for sharing!



ajoyraman (author)

5 years ago

Please Checkout

<http://ajoyraman.in/MyProjects.html>

This Project implements a LC-Meter based on an open source design of a "Surprisingly Accurate LC meter" by Phil Rice VK3BHR at <http://sites.google.com/site/vk3bhr/>

Flag [d]



gast

5 years ago

Really like this. Instead of the lacquer maybe a third piece of tape to preserve the printing. Thanks for posting.



ajoyraman (author) **gast**

5 years ago

I tried out your suggestion with 3M and another more transparent tape, the first is slightly dull and second a little shiny. Both are a bit thicker. But for 'Quick & Easy' you win !

Flag [d]



pfred2

5 years ago

I want to see an article about how you made your LC meter.



wambs8

5 years ago

Great idea. I will keep this neat trick in mind.



1tri2god

5 years ago

This is AWESOME!!!!!! Thank you for posting it!!!

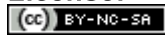
About This Instructable

12,471 views

44 favorites

Posted:
Nov 19, 2011

License:



aoyraman
Ajoy Raman

Follow

267

Bio: I am a retired Electronic Systems Engineer now pursuing my hobbies full time. I share what I do especially with the world wide student community.

More by ajoyraman:



Add instructable to:

Contest

Group

Related



Laser-cut Honey Labels

by RakeMyLeaves



Easy-Off Custom Canning Labels

by amtrudell



TOOLING CLOUD: Print a Label

by blueswarf