

Use a Laser Printer to Make Sailplane Panel Legends

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Most Airplanes and Sailplane panels are black. For proper esthetics, panel legends and labels should have white lettering with a black background. This note describes a simple process for easily making panel legends using a computer and laser printer.

Here's how reverse print can be made using Microsoft Word:

Insert a Text Box on the page
Select *Format: Text Box, Colors and Lines* tab
Fill Color – BLACK
Font Color WHITE
Font Arial 12 Bold



Print the item on a high quality paper. A paper stock with a shiny finish is ideal. For a dense black, you may need to set the printer to a high quality print mode. Cut out your legend using a paper cutter to achieve straight edges. Cut just inside the black text box. Use a black marker to blacken the cut edge of the paper by lightly rubbing the marker against the edge of the paper.

Spray the legend with an acrylic clear seal product such as Krylon Crystal Clear. This seals the toner and protects the legend. It also stiffens the paper a bit. Once the seal coat has completely dried, turn the label over and spray the back side with a fine mist adhesive such as 3M Super 77 spray adhesive. Position and press the label in place.

