



# How to Make a Barn Quilt

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**Board:** For the best results use ½ inch MDO [medium-density overlay] sign board. This is very smooth and makes a quality product. 1/2" exterior plywood with one side smooth is another option. *This is not carried at most lumber yards so you may have to special order MDO board.* Since both sides are the same, you can create a double sided Barn Quilt



**Primer:** Use a good primer. Prime both sides of the MDO board and all the edges of the sign board with at least two coats. Grey may be a better choice for the primer color or white.

**Color Paint:** Use exterior latex paint in a satin finish. Higher quality paint works better for barn quilts.

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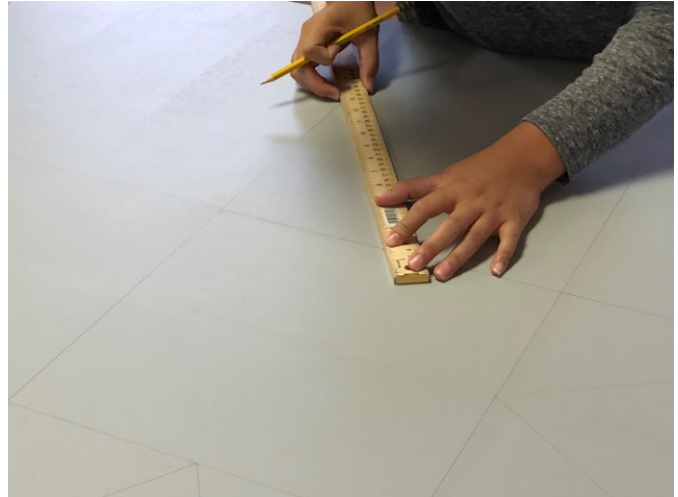
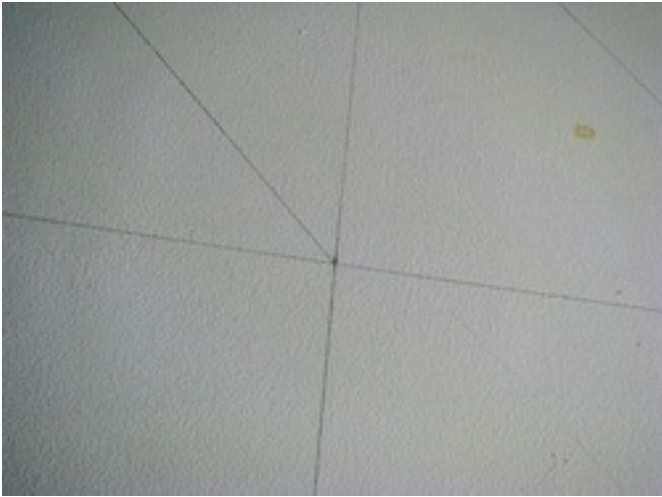
The colors you use on the square should be bold and beautiful. Subtle variations of pastels that look great up close blend into a bland grey at a distance. Remember, most of the viewers of a typical barn

quilt will be driving by at 50 miles per hour (depending on your road) and will have just a few seconds to admire your work. You need colors and patterns that stand out to grab their attention. Beautifully crafted intricate works of art will be passed by with just a quick, unappreciative glance. Of course, if the barn quilt is at the front entrance of a store where people can stop to admire it, you'll have a wider choice of color shades and details.

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**Quilt Pattern:** there are numerous patterns but be sure to avoid using copyrighted patterns. Think about placement and the view from the road. If people will be walking close by, a more detailed pattern is beautiful. However, if driving by on the road you may select a simple pattern with less colors and larger sections.

## Start the Barn Quilt Construction



### Pencil in the design

Use very light pencil lines on the primed face of the barn quilt board. Some colors have trouble covering dark pencil lines. Follow your design on graph paper, use scraps of painter's tape, or Post-It notes directly on your MDO board to mark the color of each section if you need a reminder which color goes in each section.

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### Paint the lightest colors first

Work your way throughout the project by placing green frog tape directly on the pencil line for the section you plan to paint. Press very firmly on the edge of tape to ensure it is sealed to prevent bleeding underneath. Paint with foam brush or small roller depending on the size of board you are working on. Always apply paint in very thin coats, first in one direction, then

allow to dry. Place the second coat in the opposite direction, allow to dry. Repeat until the paint covers the section completely. Remove tape once paint is dry.

Some colors, like red, will need to have a grey background to start with. If you use white primer, be sure to paint the sections with grey paint prior to starting with red. Also, if using yellow, orange, etc. you will need to have a white background to start with. This will save lots of extra painting to get the deep shade needed for your barn quilt.

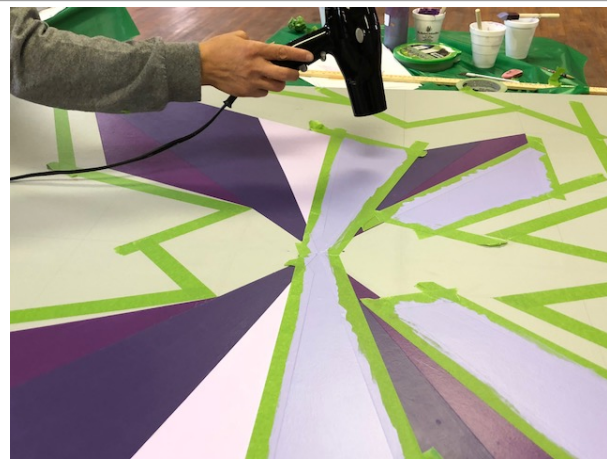
### **Angles**

You can use an Exacto knife and straight edges to help trim very precise angles. The narrower the point, the greater the challenge to get things to look good. Also, be careful when pulling up the tape covering a narrow point. Sometimes the paint will stick to the tape and peel back.

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### **Touch-up**

No matter how hard you try, you still may have places that need touching up. That's what the set of small paint brushes is for. Experience will cut down on the number of touchups needed, but they will still be there unless you stick to the simplest designs.



### **To Coat or Not to Coat???**

It is recommended by the Suzi Parron that you don't add a protective coating, as exterior latex house paint is meant to survive the elements and breathe with the base structure. Other experts use a coating, but warn that some coatings may change colors to a yellow or grey.

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