



## Installation of Contour Letters and Designing them with Seams

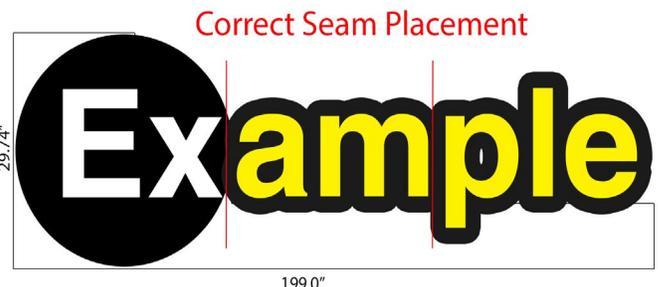
If you're looking to create a custom sign and still get the look of a channel letter, then Contour Channel signs are the way to go. They can be shaped to any contoured letter style or logo and provide a great opportunity for creativity. A contour channel is very similar to a standard channel letter sign, the difference is the letters of the sign are all connected to form one sign instead of separate letters. If you have a sign that is too small to be a regular channel letter sign, you can make it a contour channel. However with the larger contour channel signs there are a few things you should be aware of, like how to design and install them properly so you don't run into problems. With this type of sign come certain actions that installers and designers should both keep in mind.

### Designing with Seams

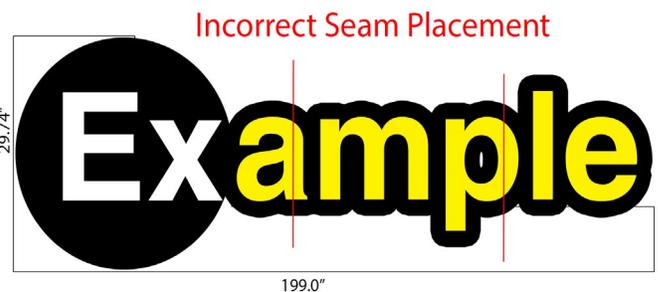
When designing a contour channel, keep in mind where your seam will be placed. Seams are required after 8ft because the length of materials being used. The color and size of your sign will determine how many seams you will have. Standard colors of acrylic and 2447 White come in 6ft x 8ft sheets. For example, if you have a 24ft sign that is standard color red, then you will end up having 3 seams. We do stock a larger size of acrylic that comes in 7328 White and measures 6ft x 10ft. If you were to have a 7328 white acrylic for your 24ft sign then your sign would only have 2 seams.

When a sign has seams and is installed correctly there should be no light leakage. Light shadows are inevitable with seams, but hardly noticeable when installed. It is best to try and keep a seam within the darkest part of your design, such as between letters. Seaming a sign in the middle of a letter also makes a line where the vinyl overlaps on the seam. The bigger the sign is the more flexible the acrylic becomes and if improperly installed, the faces begin to shift. This shift, from improper install, can cause light leakage and breaks and cause your sign to look unevenly lit and look unprofessional.

Another option if you didn't want to seam your sign would be to break it into sections. We highly recommend breaking your sign into sections if possible because it eliminates light leakage, dark shadows, stress points and face cracking.



7328 White with Black trim



By breaking a sign into sections as shown in the examples above and below, you can but the ends together and install them in separate pieces.



## Installation

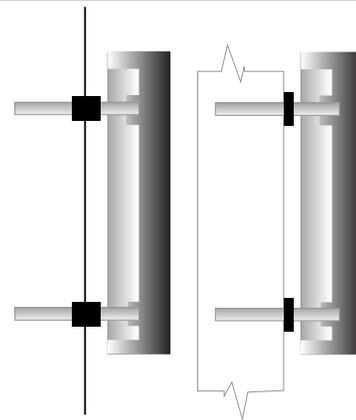
When installing your contour channel sign you need to be aware of the face of the wall, and the material it's made of. These are all important to note because it will determine the mounting hardware and the length of threaded rods and screws that will hold your sign in place.

We have seen numerous contour shape signs that the faces have become broken due to installation. It is important to take great care when installing a contour channel because faces can break easily due to the size of them. If at all possible it is best to avoid removing the face for installation.

When direct mounting w/studs, keep in mind that uneven surfaces may possibly skew the contour channel can and add stress to the face. This stress will cause breakage on certain areas of the face.

Also with direct mount, if you are going to add nuts on the back of the wall do not tighten them down too much as this added force on top of the can will stress the face and cause breakage. Not all flush mounted signs need to be back nudded though. Some contour channel signs can be installed by using silicone in the mounting holes.

Using your installation guidelines, wiring diagrams, schematics, mounting hardware and the pattern when putting your sign up are all important to pay attention too. The pattern is especially important since it will be taped to the wall and used as a guide for when you drill your holes and mount your sign. The pattern is a duplicate of the artwork but double-checking before install (if there is a problem) will save you time and money in the long run.



### Stud Mount With Nut

If you can access the wall behind the letters you can use the nuts behind the wall to help secure the letters. Studs are randomly placed. Patterns are included in estimates for all direct mounted signs.



### Stud Mounting

Stud mounting is the most popular method that is the most secure and most used. Installation patterns are available and recommended for an easy install. All you have to do is drill your holes, fill it with silicone and slide in your letters. The studs are randomly placed. Patterns are included in estimates for all direct mounted signs.

