

# **DIXIEGRAPHICS**

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## **Electronic File Creation/Etching Specifications for Sign Manufacturers**

Revised: July 22, 2004

# **FILES NOT SET UP TO SPECS ARE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

- **All film and electronic files should be set up according to the specifications listed below:**

- \* All art elements used to create files need to be provided on disk, including any screen and printer fonts.
- \* If you choose not to provide fonts you may convert all text to outlines (Vector drawings).
- \* Disk should be accompanied by a laser proof 100% size or a readable reduced size proof of the file. It's Dixie's policy to output a 100% size proof if one is not provided. This proof is necessary for QC because of the things that can happen between the customer's computers and software and Dixie's computers and software.

**Dixie will not accept responsibility for electronic files that are not accompanied by 100% size proofs from the customer.**

- \* Electronic file compatibility: Adobe Illustrator CS (Illustrator 8.0.1 is our preferred program), Adobe Photoshop 8.0, QuarkXPress 6.1, Macromedia Freehand MX 11.0, Corel Draw 11.0 (It is preferred that Corel files be saved as an eps).

(Please check our web page @ [www.dixiegraphics.com](http://www.dixiegraphics.com) for updated information on software compatibility.)

- **When we preflight your electronic files we look for:**

- \* **Braille:**

Braille dot size must be .035" min. to .040" max. Braille font size 24 pt.  
(It is preferable that all braille be turned to outlines)

- \* **Material sizes:**

See materials list on page 4.

- \* **Trim lines:**

At least .007" (.5 pt) rule thickness, placed .0625" ( $1/16$ ") away from corner of plaque

- \* **Spacing:**

Space between plaques must be .1875" ( $3/16$ ") [the thickness of the saw blade].

- \* **Raised or Recessed:**

What is black on the Art and Proofs (Clear on Film Negative) will be raised on the plaque.  
All braille dots must be black on the Art and Proofs (Clear on Film Negative).

- \* **Proper mounting holes:**

See **pages 10 and 11.**

- **Please choose a standard size of raw material to best utilize the number of square inches.**

Dixie purchases film and plate materials in standard sizes, so it is to your benefit to utilize these sizes and keep wasted material to a minimum.

- 1.) Choose a Zinc or Magnesium size to be etched from the raw material list provided on **page 4**. Choose the best size that will use the square inches needed.
- 2.) Set up the document size to match the "useable space size" also from the raw material list provided on **page 4**. Fill the raw material with as many individual signs as possible by stepping across and down leaving .1875" ( $3/16$ ") between steps, keeping the individual images in alignment so they can be cut apart on a table saw. Art can be rotated 90° to help fill the raw plate material (see example on **page 8**). Individual signs or plaques should be ganged or set-up for multiple images on a flat. Each image must be set to be .1875" ( $3/16$ ") apart for the thickness of the saw blade, and all edges aligned so they can be straight cut on the table saw with or without trim marks (see example C **page 9**).

- **Trim marks**

Trim marks must be included on all plaques or signs, unless a raised border is used as a trim guide, and these need to be identified as such (see example B, **page 9**). When trim marks are used, all art including trim marks are to be .25" (1/4") inside the edge of the raw material (see example A, **page 9**). Trim marks are to be at least .007" (.5 pt) rule thickness, .03125" (1/32") in length, placed .0625" (1/16") away from corners of individual signs (see example A, **page 9**).

**Do not use a hairline rule. It will not hold up on the plate after the etching process.**

- **RECREATING PLAQUES OR SIGNS FROM FAXES OR HARD COPY ELECTRONICALLY.**

There are many different ways to recreate art work electronically and the time it takes can vary from minutes to hours. The following are examples of how jobs can be reproduced:

- **Matching customer's copy:**

This requires digitally scanning the customer's copy into Dixie's computers and tracing the art or even tracing the type itself letter by letter. For example, to recreate a logo can take 45 minutes or longer depending on the detail involved.

- **Similar match to customer's copy:**

This also requires digitally scanning the customer's copy into Dixie's computers, but instead of retracing the art or type letter by letter we match the typeface as close as possible using fonts from our library. The artwork or logos will also be scanned into the computer and used as a 300 d.p.i. scan if possible.

- **Visually match customer's copy:**

This is the most cost effective way to recreate the customer's copy. We do this by working from measurements, and visually picking a font that is close to the same size and style as the customer's copy and placing it within the measurements. The artwork or logos will also be scanned into the computer and used as a 300 d.p.i. scan if possible.

- **Halftones:**

Halftones require Dixie to scan the image or photograph and manipulate the image in order for it to etch on metal properly. Contrast (highlight to shadow) may need to be adjusted in art in order to achieve the best looking plate. Not all photography lends itself to this process. The halftone standard line screen is 65 with a minimum 3% dot. The halftones need to be in positive form on the negative (see page 13).

- **Line art reproduction from a photograph:**

This requires a high resolution scan, then an artist will use the electronic file to create a line drawing of the photograph. Depending on the detail and look that is needed, this can take 3-6 hours for each image.

## Raw Material List - ZINC

| <u>THICKNESS</u> | <u>FLAT SIZE</u> | <u>USEABLE SPACE</u> | <u>Sq. In.</u> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| .064"            | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 23 5/8" x 36"    | 23 1/8" x 35 1/2"    | 820 15/16"     |
|                  | 25" x 34"        | 24 1/2" x 33 1/2"    | 820 3/4"       |
|                  | 25" x 38"        | 24 1/2" x 37 1/2"    | 918 3/4"       |
| .125"            | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 24" x 36"        | 23 1/2" x 35 1/2"    | 834 1/4"       |
|                  | 25" x 34"        | 24 1/2" x 33 1/2"    | 820 3/4"       |
|                  | 25" x 38"        | 24 1/2" x 37 1/2"    | 918 3/4"       |
| .153" }          | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
| .250" }          | 24" x 36"        | 23 1/2" x 35 1/2"    | 834 1/4"       |

## Raw Material List - MAGNESIUM

| <u>THICKNESS</u> | <u>FLAT SIZE</u> | <u>USEABLE SPACE</u> | <u>Sq. In.</u> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| .064"            | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 24" x 36"        | 23 1/2" x 35 1/2"    | 834 1/4"       |
|                  | 30" x 40"        | 29 1/2" x 39 1/2"    | 1,165 1/4"     |
| .125"            | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 24" x 36"        | 23 1/2" x 35 1/2"    | 834 1/4"       |
| .153"            | 24" x 36"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 30" x 40"        | 29 1/2" x 39 1/2"    | 1,165 1/4"     |
| .250"            | 18" x 24"        | 17 1/2" x 23 1/2"    | 411 1/4"       |
|                  | 24" x 36"        | 23 1/2" x 35 1/2"    | 834 1/4"       |
|                  | 30" x 40"        | 29 1/2" x 39 1/2"    | 1,165 1/4"     |

1. When ganging signs on above useable spaces, leave .1875" (3/16") of space between signs for cutting area.
2. After choosing thickness of metal, choose the useable space that best fits the size of signs that you will need.
3. Ultimate goal is to have the least amount of waste possible.

### FILM OUTPUT DEVICE FILM SIZES

**SMALL CASSETTE**  
11 3/8" x 43" Max Image

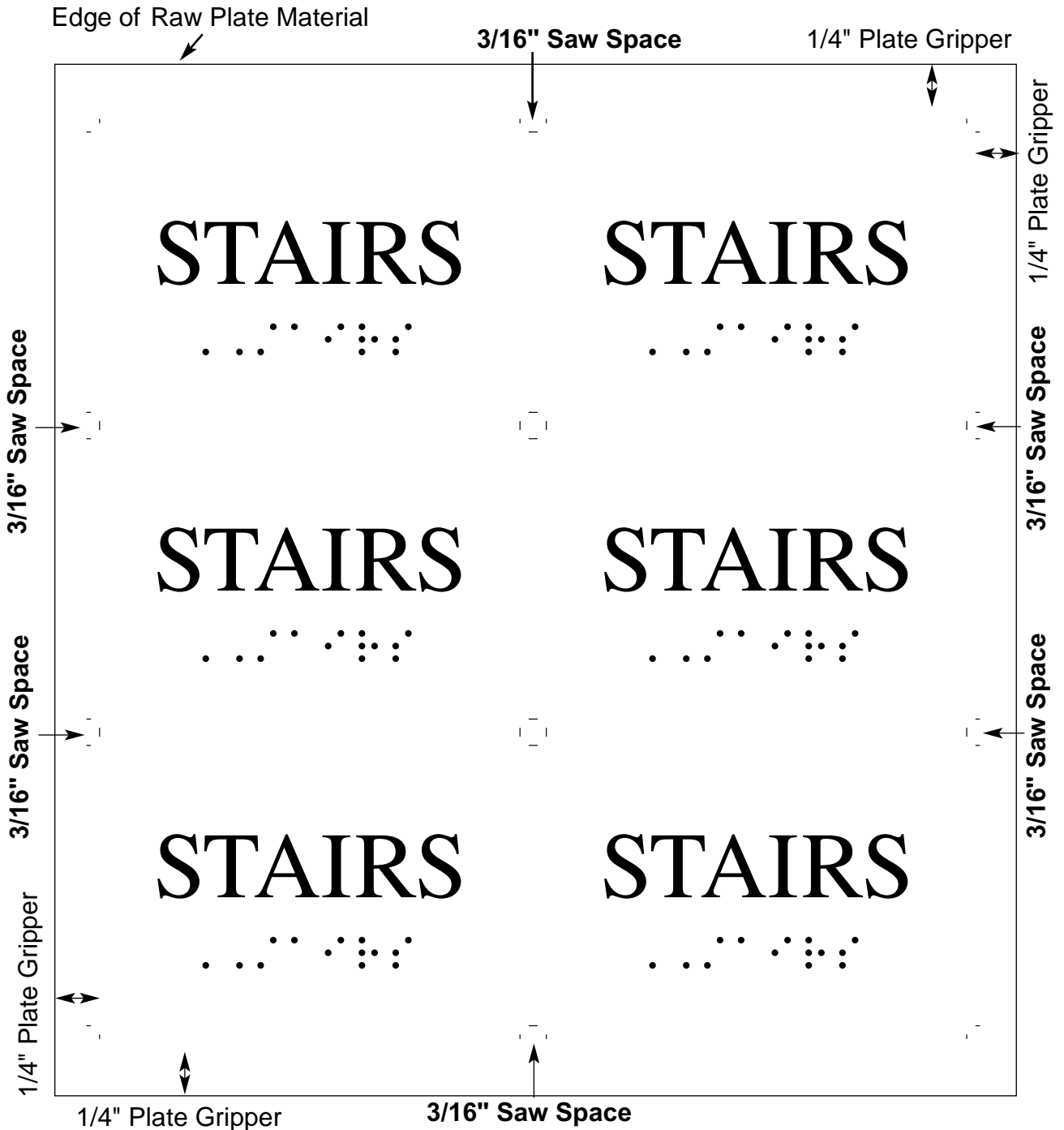
**MEDIUM CASSETTE**  
19 3/8" x 43" Max Image

**LARGE CASSETTE**  
32 3/8" x 43" Max Image

# RAISED COPY NO BORDER

Electronic Art & Proofs should look like this.

(what is white on proof will be recessed on plaque,  
what is black on proof will be raised on plaque)

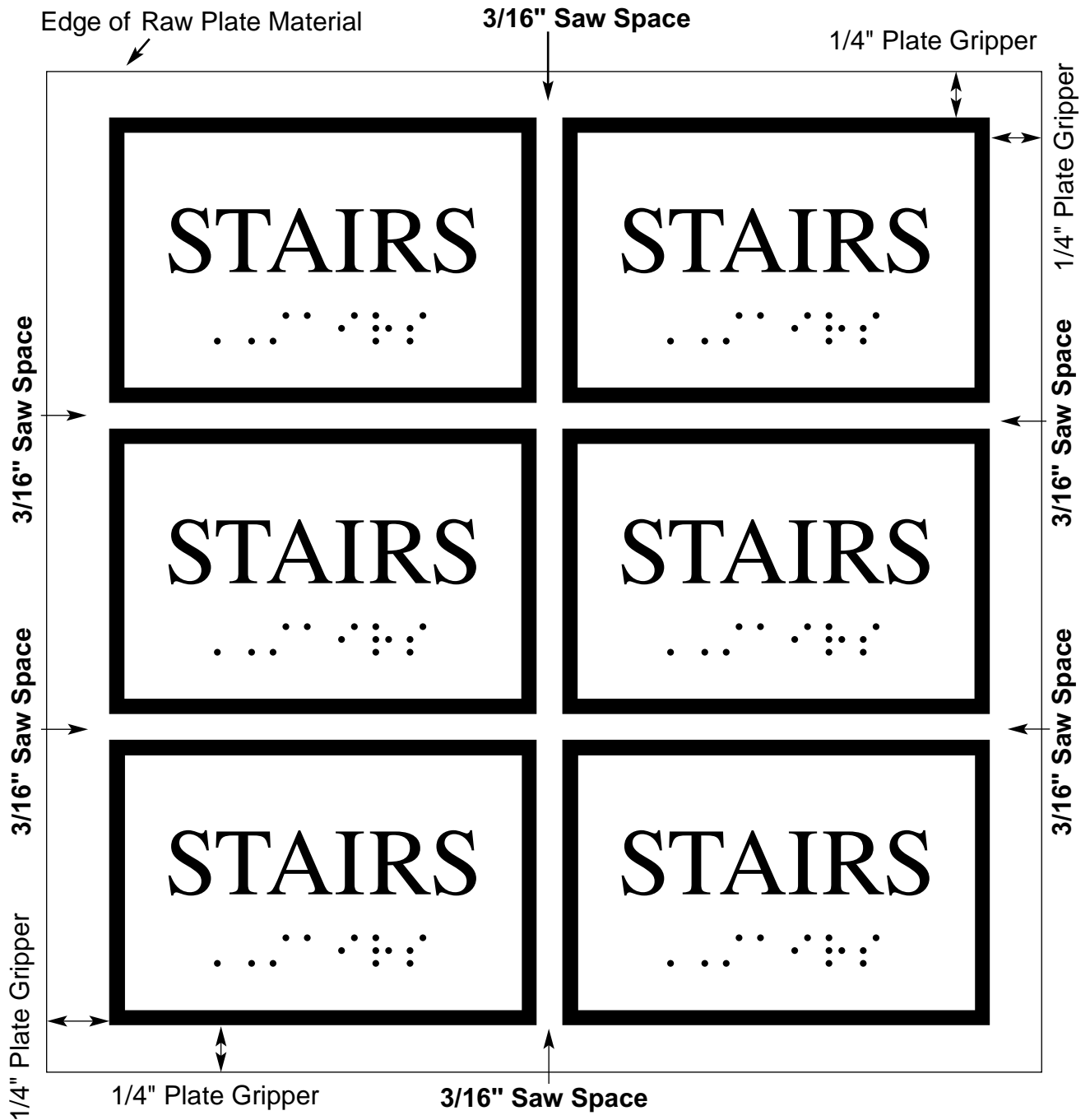


Braille dot size must be between .035" and .040" in diameter at 100% size.

# RAISED COPY RAISED BORDER

Art & Proofs should look like this.

(what is white on proof will be recessed on plaque, what is black on proof will be raised on plaque)

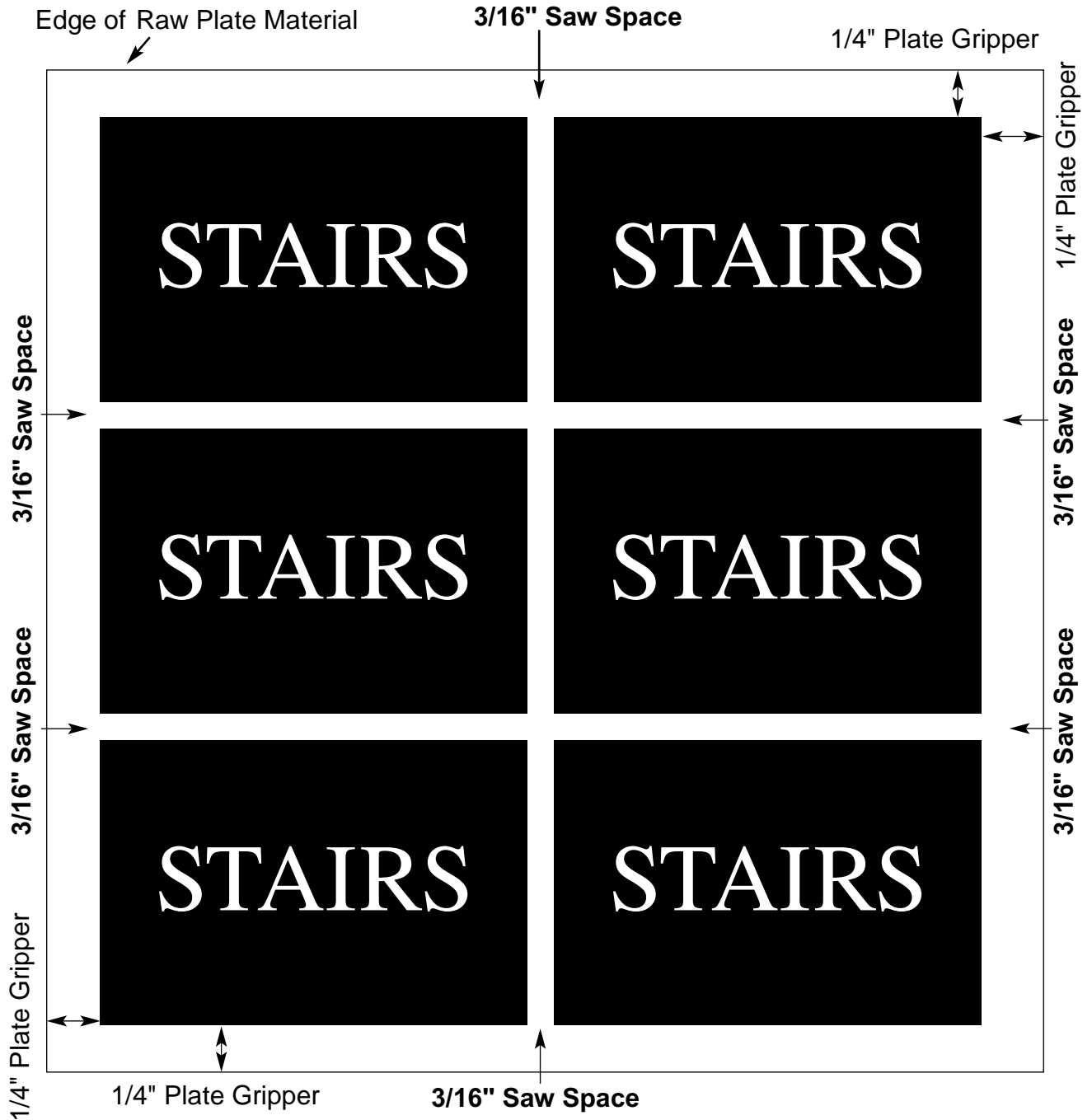


Braille dot size must be between .035" and .040" in diameter at 100% size.

# RECESSED COPY NO BORDER

Art & Proofs should look like this

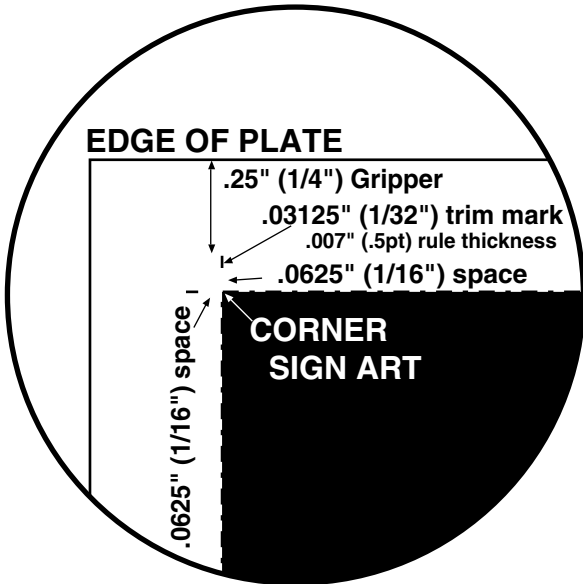
(what is white on proof will be recessed on plaque, what is black on proof will be raised on plaque)



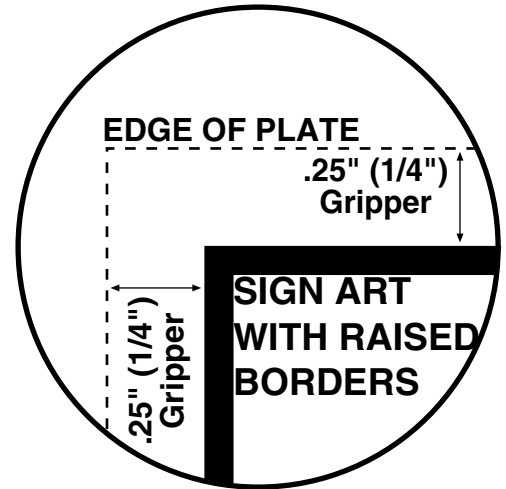


# DETAIL EXAMPLES

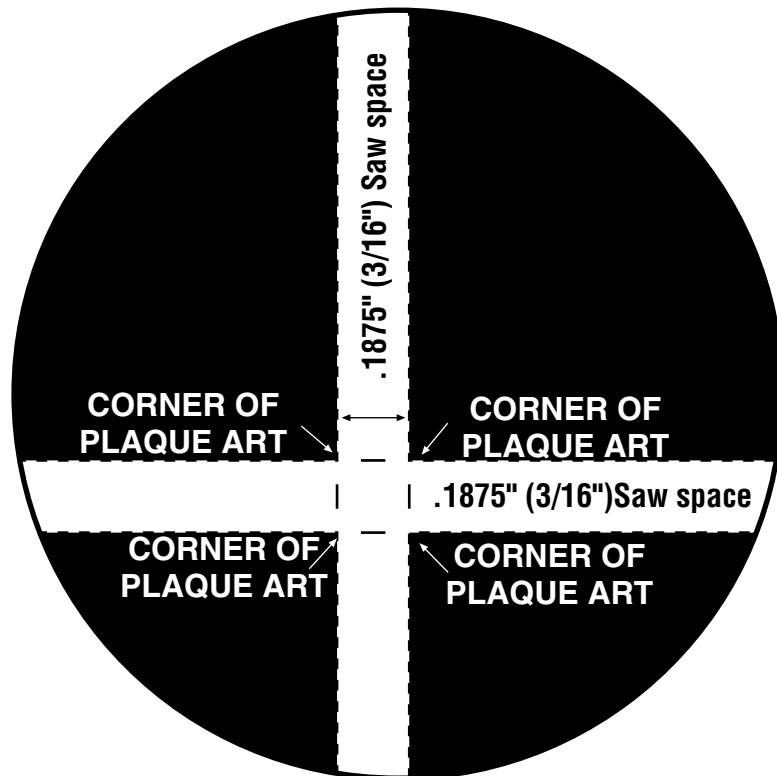
(as they would appear on Art and proofs)



EXAMPLE A



EXAMPLE B



EXAMPLE C

# PLAQUE JOBS MOUNTING HOLES ARTWORK FOR ETCHED ZINC & MAGNESIUM

## Drill Hole Sizes

### Countersunk Holes

The drill hole for **Countersunk** hole will be the **same size** as the mounting hole.  
The center circle of ALL drill holes is .0625" (1/16") in diameter.

| Mounting Hole | Art and Proofs<br>Drill Hole | Film Negative<br>Drill Hole |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5/16"         | 5/16"                        | 5/16"                       |
| 1/4"          | 1/4"                         | 1/4"                        |
| 3/16"         | 3/16"                        | 3/16"                       |
| 1/8"          | 1/8"                         | 1/8"                        |

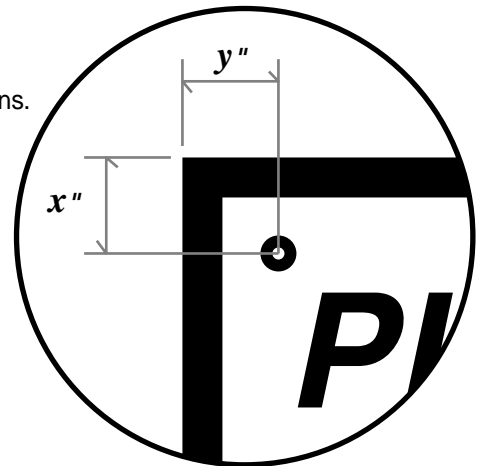
### Non-Countersunk Holes

The drill hole for a **Non-Countersunk** hole will be **.0625" (1/16") smaller** than the mounting hole.  
The center circle of ALL drill holes is .0625" (1/16") in diameter.

| Mounting Hole | Art and Proofs<br>Drill Hole | Film Negative<br>Drill Hole |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5/16"         | 1/4"                         | 1/4"                        |
| 1/4"          | 3/16"                        | 3/16"                       |
| 3/16"         | 1/8"                         | 1/8"                        |
| 1/8"          | 1/16"                        | 1/16"                       |
|               | .01" stroke                  | .01" stroke                 |

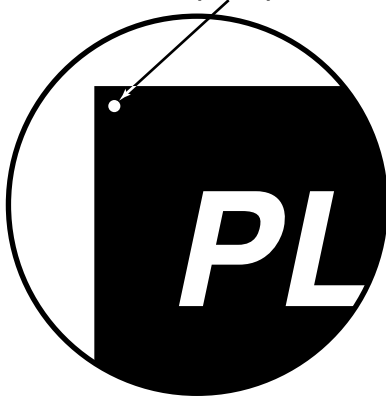
# PLAQUE JOBS MOUNTING HOLES ARTWORK FOR ETCHED ZINC & MAGNESIUM Drill Hole Placement

Position the drill holes from the **corner** of the plate to the **center** of the hole.  
The measurement ( x and y ) will vary and should be on the shop order instructions.

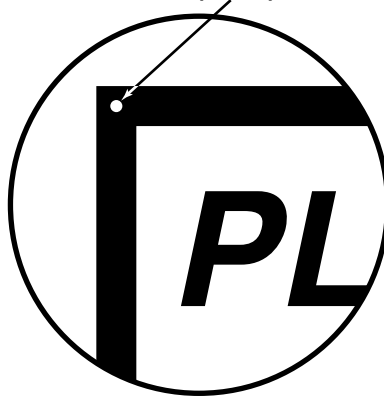


## Art and Proofs

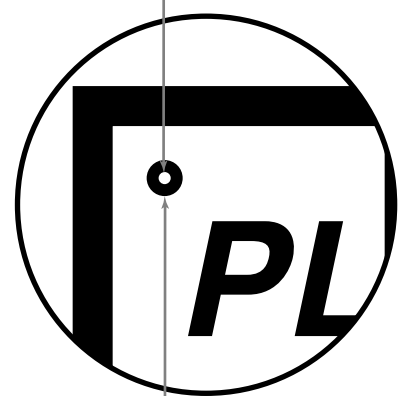
*.0625" (1/16") DIA.*



*.0625" (1/16") DIA.*



*.0625" (1/16") INSIDE DIAMETER.*



*OUTSIDE DIAMETER DEPENDS  
ON SIZE OF MOUNTING HOLE  
(see page 10).*

## Film Negative

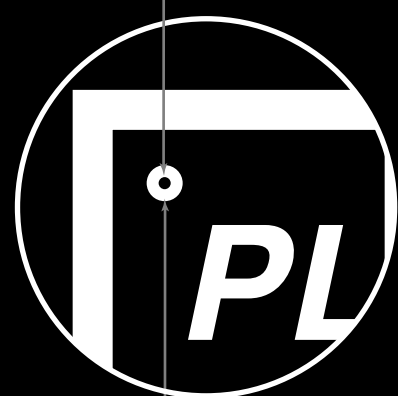
*.0625" (1/16") DIA.*



*.0625" (1/16") DIA.*



*.0625" (1/16") INSIDE DIAMETER.*



*OUTSIDE DIAMETER DEPENDS  
ON SIZE OF MOUNTING HOLE  
(see page 10).*

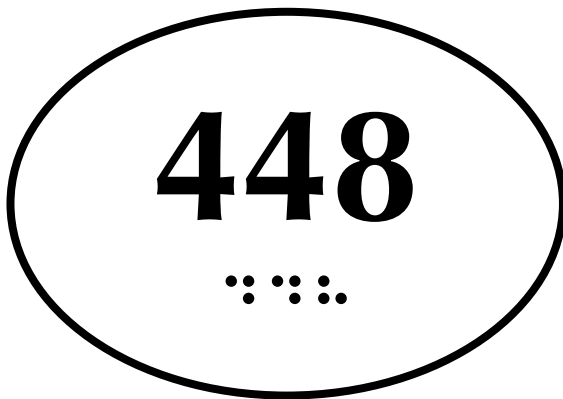
**RECESSED COPY = BLACK AREA ON FILM    RAISED COPY = CLEAR AREA ON FILM**

The drill hole should be white on Art and Proofs and black on Film Negatives. If it's in a recessed area it will be a donut.

# BRAILLE DOTS

**Braille Dots will ALWAYS be clear dots on Film Negatives, black on Art and Proofs.**

**Art and Proofs**



**Film Negative**



**Braille dots should measure:**

**.035" to .040" on Film.**

**(it is preferable that all braille be turned to outlines)**



# Hudson County Community College

THE JOSEPH A. CUNDARI CENTER



Joseph A. Cundari  
1999

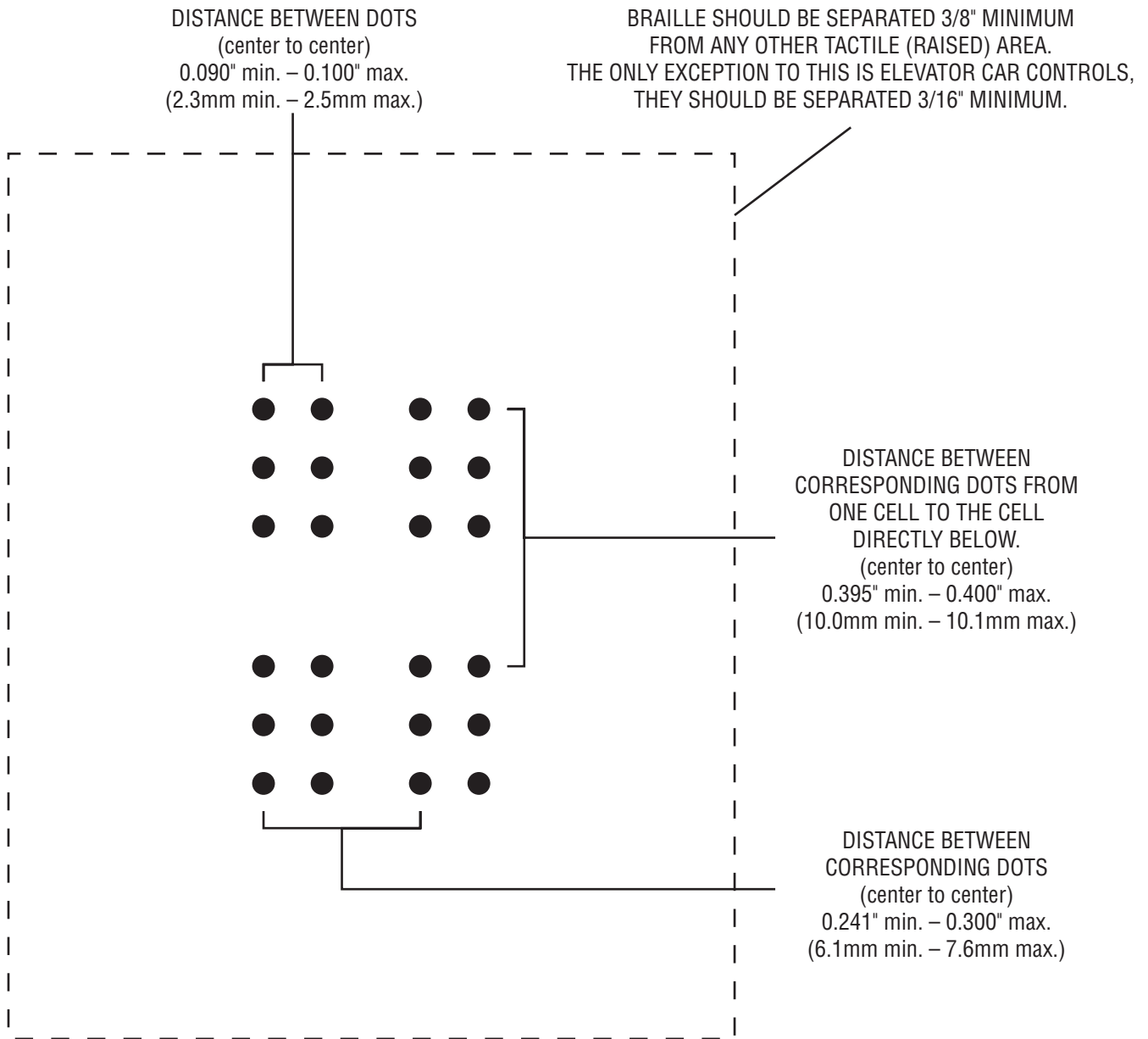
**The example above is how the job should look on the Art and Proofs.  
The example below is how the job should look on a Film Negative.**

THE JOSEPH A. CUNDARI CENTER

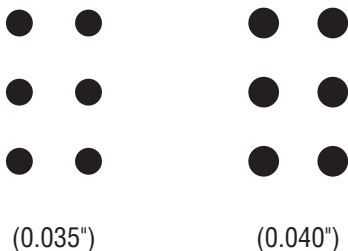


Joseph A. Cundari  
1999

# Braille Measurements per Table 703.5 from American National Standards (Page 59, images at 400% actual size)



INDIVIDUAL DOT DIAMETER ON FILM  
0.035" min. – 0.040" max.  
(0.889mm min. – 1.016mm max.)



DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO DOTS  
(center to center)  
0.090" min. – 0.100" max.  
(2.3mm min. – 2.5mm max.)

