Republic Banner-Making Guide

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Why Make a Banner?

Homemade banners are a really effective tool in getting more visual coverage at an action or demonstration. Not only are they a good resource to use at an action or demo, but coming together to make them is a great local group event that provides a sociable space for members to get involved.

There are many uses for banners and you shouldn't be limited to what's provided in this guide! Below are the 3 most common uses for banners.

Uses for Banners

Banner Drops
- Often hung from an iconic building/location/object in a static stunt.

Example 1
(Westminster Abbey Stunt, March 2023)

Banners for a Protest
- Often hung on railings for static protest, or in the crowd of protestors. Can be static or mobile depending on use.

Example 2
(Scottish Coronation Protest, July 2023)

Banners for a March
- Often used to lead 'blocks' at marches to give visibility to the message of the march. Held by people and used in a mobile way.

Example 3
(Coronation Protest, May 2023)

What do you need to make a banner?
Firstly, you will need to purchase/choose the banner material! The material choice will be dependent on its use. Will it be used to hang on a railing? On a bridge? Or held by protestors on a march? These will all dictate the choice of

material and how you construct the banner. Below is some general advice to help guide you in picking a material.

Advice on Purchasing/Choosing Banner Material
- Lighter materials will be more mobile and compact, but will require more considerations when painting (Paint will bleed through to the other side and may stick to dust sheet/cardboard underneath).
- Thicker material will be easier to paint but will be heavier and less compact for taking to an action/demonstration.
- Cotton Drill is a really good 'middle' option. It is thick enough that the paint won't bleed through the material, but light enough to be carried and rolled up in a backpack.
- Plastic/PVC material can be used. However, it is not very environmentally friendly, can be slippery to hold and is usually heavier.

Making a Banner

Option One

Resources you will need: Laptop/Computer, Projector, Banner Material, Pencils, Masking Tape, Wall Space, Dust Sheets/Cardboard/Newspaper, Paint, Paint Brushes, White Spirit, Dirty Rag/Towel.

1. Create the message that you would like to put on your Banner on any word processing software.
2. Hang the material you will use for your banner on an open bit of wall opposite where your projector can be located. Use masking tape, as this is the least damaging to wall surfaces.
3. Connect the projector to the laptop and focus the projector onto the banner so that the message fits within your banner. Bear in mind you may have to do the banner message in sections unless you have an ultra-wide projector and/or your banner is small.
4. Grab your pencil and start to sketch the outline of the letters projected onto the banner to create the outline of the message that you'll fill in with paint.
5. Once the message is outlined correctly in pencil, remove the banner from the wall and check for any issues. If there are, try and rub them out and correct them.
6. Bring the sketched banner off the wall and onto the floor or a table prepared with dust sheets/newspaper/cardboard underneath and around the banner to catch any stray drips or spillages.
7. Start to paint the banner, making sure to go slowly and carefully filling in the sketched letters.
8. Make sure you leave enough time for the banner to dry! If possible, try and hang the banner outside to get some air to it or if you need to speed up the drying process, try and locate a large floor office fan.
9. That's it! You now have a banner. Make any finishing touches before it is needed for your action/activism.

Option Two

Resources you will need: Laptop/Computer, Office Printer and Paper (ideally one that can do A3 size), Banner Material, Scissors, Dust Sheets/Cardboard/Newspaper, Paint, Paint Brushes, White Spirit, Dirty Rag/Towel.

1. Create the message that you would like to put on your Banner on any word processing software, but make sure that each page is one of the letters. You will be printing out your message letter by letter.
2. Once your message is complete, print out the individual letters on A4 or A3 depending on the size of the banner.

3. Cut out the letters so that you have paper 'stencils' that you can attach to your banner and use to create painted letters.
4. Attach the paper 'stencils' to the banner and make sure that they are straight and aligned properly.
5. Use a pencil and the paper stencils to create outlines on the banner. Alternatively, stick your paper stencils to the banner.
6. Make sure that your banner is ready to paint on with dustsheets/cardboard/newspaper underneath the surrounding area.
7. Start filling in the letter outlines with paint, slowly and carefully filling in your paper stencils, or the outline you drew in pencil.
8. That's it, you now have your banner!