

How I Stripe a Parking Lot...

28 Years...

By Myself...

By...

Dan Zurcher

**The American Striping Company
Columbus, Ohio**

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The American Striping Company

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ISBN; 978-0-9797621-0-9

Published in the United States by The American Striping Company.
Columbus, OH 43209

Biography

My name is Dan Zurcher and I own The American Striping Company. I've been striping parking lots for 28 years and I've accomplished most of it alone. Parking lots with 50 cars, malls with 1000 cars, playgrounds, streets, small airports, 60,000' indoors. So now? I wrote my book. Why? Because I want to teach you how to stripe. And, I want you to know everything.

Introduction

Striping parking lots is always listed as a "best business start up". I agree. Striping has it all. It's an easy business to start and maintain. And...it's easy to learn. In my book I'll teach you the only (3) jobs in striping; Re-stripe, Re-stripe Over Seal and Layout. I'll share with you how to stencil so that everything is lined up, pretty and quick. You'll also need to know how to stripe playground games...I'll tell you that too. And their pricing.

And...since I own both types of line striping machines...I compare them. I'll compare their glass bead dispensers to mine and how to spray curbs and curves with each machine.

You'll need to know pricing and profit. I give a breakdown in the book. I give prices per foot for lines and curb. I include stencils and games and why they're sometimes expensive.

I give advice on trucks...trailers...paint types...where to get your first job...where to store your equipment...and why. There's also a final exam.

If you're looking for a great business...easy to start...easy to run...easy to maintain...limited competition...almost economy proof...then my book is a must...why? Because I want you to know everything. I want you to do well and I want you to get home. I wish I had this book when I started.

Table of Contents

What I wear	5
Small Tools	6
Slightly Bigger Tools	7
Slang and Snapping	9
Re-stripe to Existing Layout and Pattern	11
Across and Down	15
Long Roping	16
Re-stripe To Existing Layout an Pattern Over Seal	21
New Way To Think	25
New Thing...Minimum Charge	32
Layout and Stripe to Customer Specifications	33
Across and Down Again	35
My Big Deal Thing About Long Roping	40
Angled Parking	42
Stalls On A Curve	46
Stencils	47
Pretty & Practical Gores	54
Games	56
Temporary Striping	58
Bike Paths	62
RAIN	64
Comparing Machines	66
Curbs & Curves	72
Glass Bead Dispensers	74
All About The Paints	76
Truck & Trailer Ideas	83
The Cost of it All	84
Your First Job	85
Estimating and My Bid	86
Final Exams Without Diagrams	88
My Thermoplastic Years	94
Lasers	100
The Pythagorean Theorem Thing	103
The Equilateral Triangle Thing	104
The Wonderful Number (9)	105

First...what I wear;

Yes...my clothing...

White painter shorts. You'll be walking and bending over, in Summer. Every striper I know works in shorts. So do I. However, I do carry a pair of long, white painter's pants in my truck. There are jobs that require long pants = city streets = new construction = I'll forget and show up in shorts. Carry a pair of long pants. I live in shorts...even in Winter. I also wear a white tee shirt. I cut off the sleeves = cooler...and I've been known to cut off *just* the collar = cooler *and* lighter. Boots...I wear 6" leather boots. Some people wear tennis shoes. You decide...I can feel the heat of the new asphalt through tennis shoes. I'll say more later. Buy some kind of a hat to shade your eyes. I wear a hard hat. I know...sounds silly. I carried one for "street" jobs and new construction jobs...now I just wear it...besides...I'm hard on baseball hats. Baseball hats get filthy = covered in chalk and they're hot. Hard hats have a sweat band in them and the hat actually sits up off your head = cooler. Sun glasses, I wear them, some people don't. (I wouldn't be able to see !) I've also gotten into the habit of wearing brown jersey gloves. I started wearing them in cold weather...and when Summer came, I just kept wearing them. Besides, my hands stay nicer. Last...I have an orange reflective vest...sometimes they're required on city streets and inside warehouses. I especially wear one when I'm "piecing" together a parking lot in "open traffic". This differentiates me from a guy who's *walking* in the parking lot, to a guy who's *working* in the parking lot...keep your eyes open.

Costs? Painter shorts...\$15.00. Boots...\$89.00. You'll wear them out in 9 months...\$130.00 boots do not last any longer and \$29.00 boots will hurt you all the way to your shoulders. So ... get good boots...not ridiculous, but good. Hard hat...\$8.00. Sunglasses...\$10.00. Gloves...\$1.00. Vest...\$10.00. That's it...for now.

Next...what I also “wear” ...A tool belt...around my waist. I’ve worn everything from a carpenter’s apron to a nail bag. What I now wear...and have been wearing...is a 2” leather belt with a contractor’s side pouch *and* a different side pouch specifically for a 30’ measuring tape.

The belt has two rows of holes and a double buckle thing. It slips through the 2 individual pouches. I wear the contractor’s pouch on my right side and the smaller pouch...for the 30’ tape measure...on my left side. Next...let’s talk about small tools inside the contractor’s pouch.

My contractor’s pouch has 3 sections. Inside the biggest section is my phone...(and candy). The other 2 compartments are smaller...inside one is chalk...(I’ll say more in a minute). The 3rd compartment has a small pocket knife and one of those razor blade knives. That’s all you need *and* you do not want any more weight.

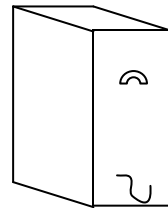
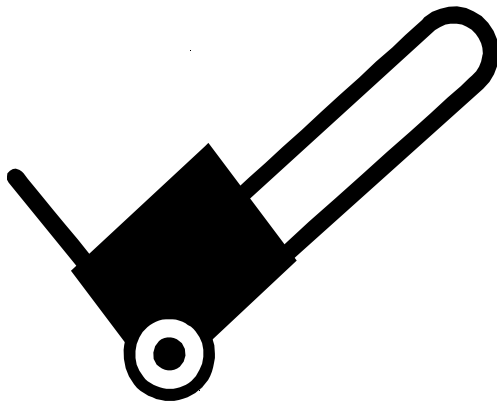
The **chalk**, by the way, is railroad chalk. Railroad chalk is *kinda* like children’s driveway chalk, it’s just softer. Each *stick* is 4” long and about 1” in diameter. I get white...not yellow. It’s easier on my hands and yes I can even see it on concrete...unless yellow is all they have...it’s hard to find. Buy a “gross” = 144 pieces...may last you all season...unless you’re busy. You’ll use it 2 ways. I’ll say how, later. So...that’s it...phone...chalk...knives = pointy and sharp.

Now...on my left side is my small pouch made for a tape measure. **Buy a 30’ tape...not a 25’** tape. (1) You’ll be working with 9’ dimensions = stall width = every once in a while you’ll pull your tape measure out 27’...and...(2) you’ll be working with 24’ dimensions = drive lanes...therefore a 25’ tape is either too short or too stretched. Buy a 30’ tape measure. I own several.

Costs? Belt...\$10.00. Contractor’s Pouch...\$20.00. Tape Measure Pouch...\$5.00. Phone?...candy?...I don’t know. Chalk...\$40.00 or less. (From my site...I ship Free.) Knife...\$5.00 each. 30’ tape measure...\$12.00. That’s it. Quick recap. So far, you know “what I wear” = clothes, tool belt and (2) pouches. You also know what tools I have...at least the little ones.

Next...slightly bigger tools... not many though. I'll give them to you methodically ... or at least how I grab them from my truck.

You'll need a dolly... a rubber tired dolly ...not hard tires...rubber tires...and without handles. Buy a dolly that has a frame that goes up, over and down...not one with two handles...you'll be pulling this thing one handed...handles are weird...you'll just want to grab the top and go.



Next...make a box. A wooden box...= Mr. Box. (TM !) Or...buy my KIT. (It's on my site.) Mine measures 17" across the front...7" front to back...and 17" tall. The wood is 3/4" thick. It is half filled with brick...and it sits on my dolly. I put 5" metal handles on it = easier to lift. Next...toward the bottom of the box, on the side...is a hook...and it's screwed into the box... along the bottom...about a half an inch from the bottom. I'll say why, later...it's easy stuff.

You'll need a rope...a 5/32" or 3/16" **all cotton** rope, kinda like a clothes line...not nylon...or anything else...those won't hold chalk. All cotton...or at least a cotton sleeve over nylon... and...65' in length. A perfect parking lot is broken into 60' increments...therefore a 65' "chalk line" works well. I'll explain that later too...it's simple...well, I'll *make* it simple.

Next, buy one of those orange “disk reels” that you wind up an extension cord onto, or a rope onto. I own a few. Then buy another rope. This time buy 260’ of an inexpensive rope and “reel” in onto the orange “disk”. This rope can be up to 1/4” thick and can be nylon if you want. I have yellow 7/32” nylon. It’s not used the same as the 5/32” ...and being thicker helps. You’ll store this rope on the “disk”. Next...buy a 300’ fiberglass measuring tape = “tape”...not metal ... it’ll crimp and snap the first time you step on it...and not 200’ ...or 100’ ...buy a 300’ “tape”.

Last...Cones. Buy 18” orange cones...not 12” cones. People do not take 12” cones seriously. I’ll also mention caution tape. The problem with caution tape is this...1) unless you store it on one of those orange disks...you’ll run out...and 2) there’s never anything convenient to tie it to. I own 30 - 40 cones...18” cones. However, 8 to 16 cones may be enough for your first job.

Costs? Dolly...\$49.00. Hook...#8 “ceiling hook” or a “J” bolt...\$1.00. 5” handle...\$3.00 ea. 5/32” Rope...\$.07 per foot. 7/32” Rope...\$.17 per foot. Orange disk...\$6.00. 300’ Tape...\$25.00. Cones...\$9.00 ea. You can *sometimes* find them for \$6.00. Caution tape...\$8.00 per 1000’.

That’s it. That’s everything I work with on a regular basis. AND...it’s all sold from my site. Take a look. Click; **BUY Striping Supplies**. I’ll talk “bigger” tools, such as: stencils, machines, trucks and trailers, later...but, right now, let’s get ready to work. We’re getting close.

There are 3 types of striping jobs. There are only 3 types of striping jobs. The easiest of the three is the “Re-stripe to existing layout and pattern.” The other two aren’t very hard either... “Re-stripe to existing layout and pattern over seal” ...did you notice the difference?...= over seal. We get to re-stripe to the same pattern that it was...before it was seal coated...simple job... *more on that later*...and the third job is...“Layout and stripe to customer specifications.” Notice the difference here?...= Layout. Don’t be afraid. Layouts aren’t hard. Stick with me. You’ll be surprised at what you’re about to learn ...and how easy it really is.