

Quick and Dirty Low-Tech Ad Buffer

by [slambert](#) on July 4, 2007

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intro: Quick and Dirty Low-Tech Ad Buffer

This set up will allow you to paint out hard to reach advertising messages, create block letters, or horizontal or vertical stripes.

You might be thinking to yourself "big deal!" Well...

Yes, *something* like this probably exists commercially. And it's probably over-priced. Yes, the [G.R.L.](#), [Barry McGee](#), and [Citizens Against Ugly Street Spam](#) have made similar tools. Yes, it's not challenging to make and hardly requires instructions. Yes, it doesn't take a genius to think of this and you probably would have come up with it yourself.

BUT, if this is what you need, it's an awesome tool that you can make for *at most* \$6.

Also, at \$6 it can get lost or become disposable in a pinch.

Once you know this tool exists and how to use it, hopefully you will be compelled to make one to paint over hard to reach advertising and beautify your neighborhood like someone I might have heard about maybe did one time. It's quick, easy, and fun.

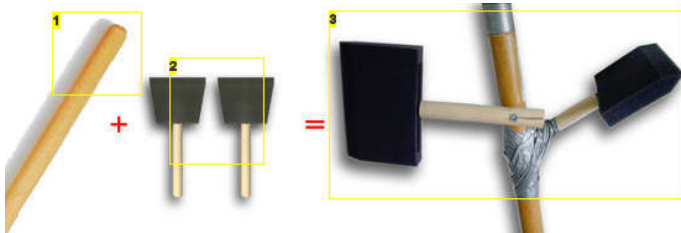


Image Notes

1. this is a stick.
2. these are foam brushes
3. this is the result (note: screws and tape were left out of the equation for simplicity's sake.)

step 1: get your materials

Everything you need can be bought at a hardware store, though some should be in most garages or workshops.

1. A wood broom/paint stick. Or any stick you can drill into. The one I found was about 5 feet long and \$3.99. Perfect for what I needed it for.
2. Foam brushes. Found in the paint section. I hear foam brushes are good if one was to often walk around painting out advertising and couldn't always clean their brush. Each one costs around \$.75 and I try to use them a few times. Get the ones with wood handles, not plastic.
3. 2 screws
4. A small can of black house paint.

Bonus:

1. Duct tape. This can help support the brush and keep it from moving. Especially if you shear the head of the screw because you didn't pre-drill.
2. a drill bit to pre-drill your holes. I didn't have one handy, so I drove the screw straight in, cracked the handle, and sheared the head of the screw. Not ideal, but it *is* called the "Quick and Dirty Low-Tech Ad Buffer" isn't it?

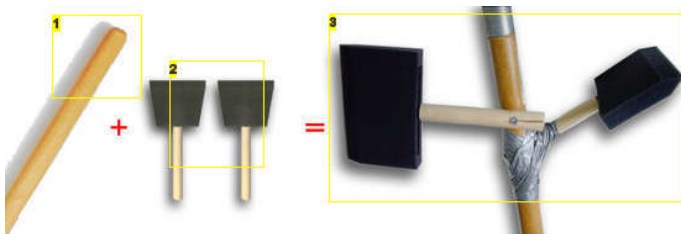


Image Notes

1. this is a stick.
2. these are foam brushes
3. this is the result (note: screws and tape were left out of the equation for simplicity's sake.)

step 2: Attach the brushes

1. Pre drill a hole through the brush handle and into the broom/paint stick. About 3 inches from the top of the stick.
2. Drive a screw through the hole you drilled.

Orient one brush horizontally and the other vertically. This way you can draw horizontal and vertical stripes.

Note that each brush is NOT perpendicular to the broom/paint stick. It's set at an angle so when you lean the stick against the wall the facing edge of the brush and the wall will be parallel.

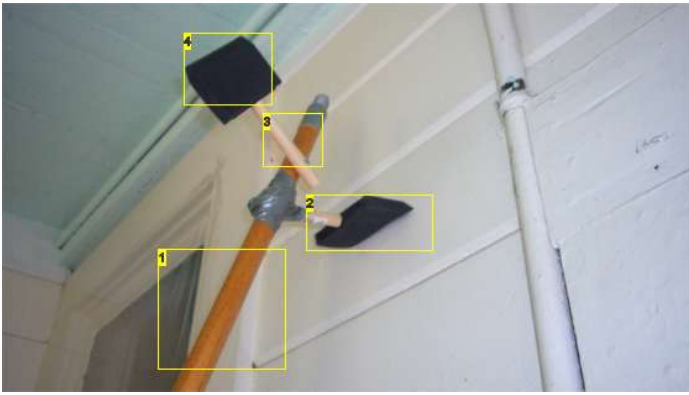


Image Notes

1. the stick is at an angle
2. the brush handle is 90 deg from the wall. Also, oriented this way, the brush will paint vertical lines.
3. note that the brush handle and the broom/paint stick are not 90deg from each other.
4. spin the handle and your ready to paint horizontal lines.

Image Notes

1. oriented this way, you are ready to paint horizontal lines.
2. spin the handle and you are ready to paint vertical lines.

step 3: Rock Your System

Now you are ready to beautify the neighborhood. Fill a reused food container with cheap housepaint and hit the streets.

Why a reused food container? If you leave it outside while you catch a drink at a local bar, no one will touch it. Your paint will still be there when you come out to walk home and buff more ads.

Ok, so you're walking around with your stick and your little container of paint. You see an out of reach ad you'd like to buff. Dip your brushes, extend your stick and you'll have that nasty ad covered in no-time. Someone looks at you funny, or you see a cop car pull a u-turn? Drop your stick and walk away - that \$6 isn't worth the hassle.

This can be used to quickly buff billboards, posters, and other forms of outdoor advertising. Sure, it's not practical to cover large areas, but you can black out product names and images so the ad looks more like those self-censored CIA COINTELPRO documents. If you really want to go vigilante style, learn what advertising in your urban locale is illegal. Outdoor advertising usually requires permits, so most wheat-pasted poster advertising applies. Check your local laws.

Oh, and remember, you don't even need the stick to work at street level, so get out there!

See also:

NY Press Article on Illegal Advertising
 Anti-Advertising Agency
 VisitSteve.com

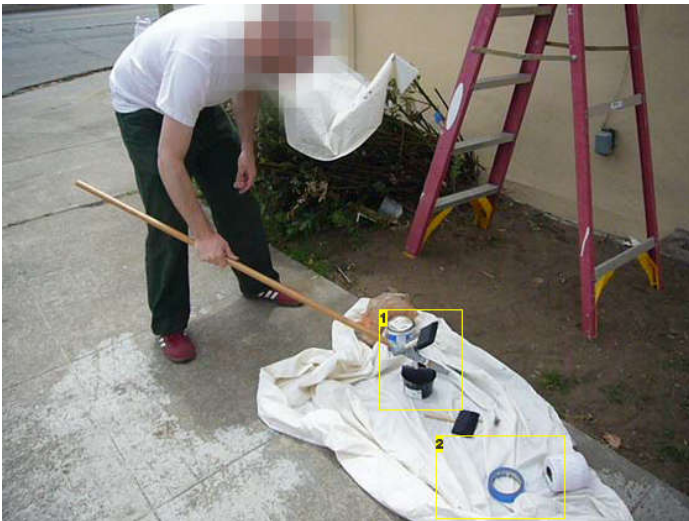


Image Notes

1. dip each brush and you can paint horizontal and vertical lines at the flick of a wrist.
2. drop cloths, ladders, orange cones, etc are great cover if you need to spend some time on site.

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Comments

11 comments [Add Comment](#)



zzoe says:

I love how big the gap between ethical and legal can be. Keep up the good work.

Apr 11, 2009. 11:03 PM [REPLY](#)



Johnsons on fire says:

Whats this do? I'm confused...

Oct 17, 2007. 2:00 PM [REPLY](#)



WriotE says:

its a stick with one or more fom brushes on it. You use the brushes(and paint)to go over annoying advertizements. TA-DA!

Dec 20, 2007. 9:54 PM [REPLY](#)



Johnsons on fire says:

I understood that a couple of months ago when the guy who came up with the instructable replied.

Dec 21, 2007. 8:11 AM [REPLY](#)



digitalenigma says:

raarh dang dude he was just trying to help you out, the creators response was not posted for others to see so it was an honest mistake, how come everyone on the net wants to make everybody feel like a dumbass?

Aug 7, 2008. 7:29 PM [REPLY](#)



Johnsons on fire says:

it's fun... but I see your point, sorry.

Aug 27, 2008. 6:32 AM [REPLY](#)



WriotE says:

oh, okay---sorry -.

Dec 29, 2007. 7:35 PM [REPLY](#)



slambert says:

check out all the pictures and read through. Basically it makes it easy to quickly paint horizontal and vertical lines and block letters up to 5 feet higher than you could normally reach.

Oct 17, 2007. 2:06 PM [REPLY](#)



nkk07 says:

arnet the brushes a bit small.+ can i use a stick i found at the park?

Mar 14, 2008. 4:36 AM [REPLY](#)



pixelhustler says:

Damn, thats ghetto... but hey. If it works!

Aug 6, 2007. 6:27 PM [REPLY](#)



stevolution says:

I like your work slambert, keep it up.

Jul 6, 2007. 4:45 AM [REPLY](#)