TEMPLATES 101

CREATING THE PERFECT TEMPLATE

When creating a template for curved components, there are a few important things to keep in mind. One of the first, and most important steps is choosing the right substrate to create your template!

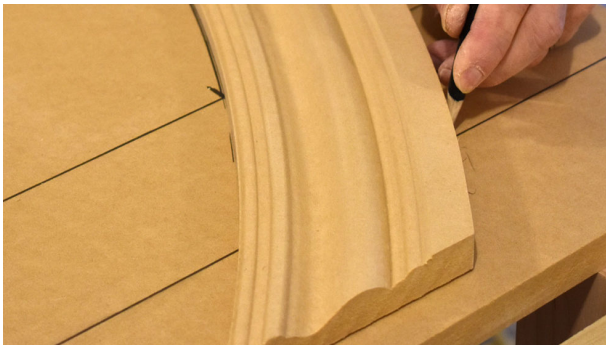
Here are some simple tips and suggestions when it comes to the do's and don'ts of creating the perfect template!

RED ROSIN PAPER

This durable paper is great to use for making templates! It rolls easily and is readily available online and at most home improvement stores.

TIPS:

- Use a **lumber crayon, pencil or fine point marker** to create your template line.
- If you are going to create a "crease" for your template line, **always use a lumber crayon so the crease is clearly visible,**
- Always roll your finished template - please don't fold!
- If you need to splice your template, always apply the tape to **both** sides.

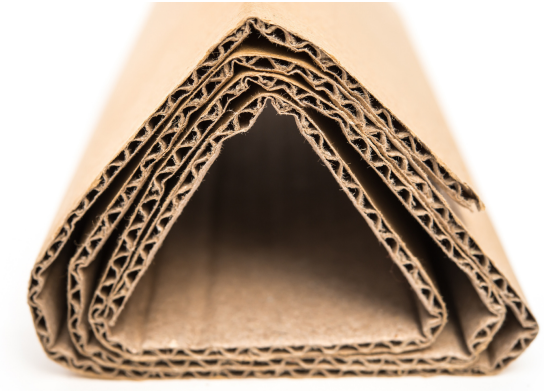


PLYWOOD

Plywood or hardboard also works well and it can be easier to work with when making templates for large openings.

TIP:

Regardless of what is used to make your template, **it is always best to leave the template "square",** without cutting out the shape along the template line.

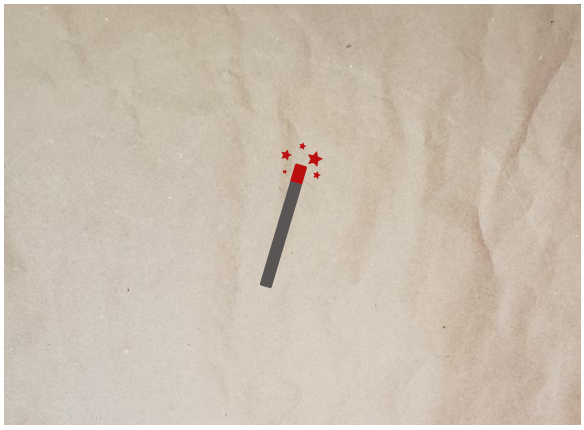


CARDBOARD

Cardboard can work well for making templates, BUT - when corrugated cardboard templates are folded for transport. they develop deep creases which are virtually impossible to smooth out.

Each and every bend in the cardboard will contribute to the loss of measurement accuracy.

TIP: When using corrugated cardboard, **please do not fold your template.**



TEMPLATE LINES

Now you see it, now you don't!

Believe it or not, there actually is a line on the template shown above - but you have to look very hard to see it!

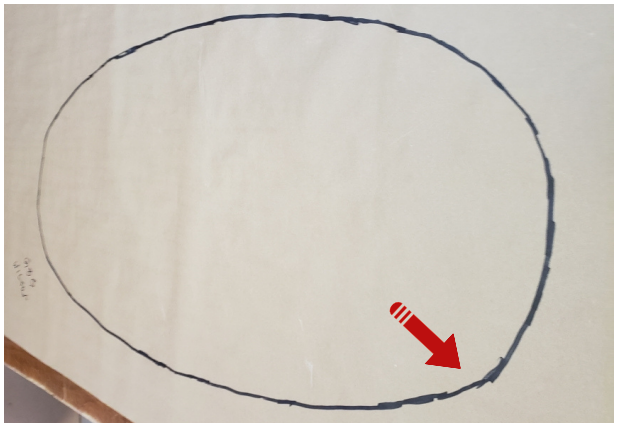
TIPS: Be sure your **lines are clearly visible.** Always use a l**umber crayon, pencil or fine point marker** to create your template line.

No matter what substrate you use, be sure to note your **company name, PO# profile, specie, and any other pertinent information** on the face (line side) of the template.

PLASTIC SHEETING

This is one type of material that should never be used for template making. Did you know that plastic sheeting or drop cloths will expand and shrink when exposed to extreme temperatures? This will frequently result in a size variation in the final product.

TIP: Please leave the plastic for the painters!



LARGE MARKERS

Large tip markers are great for visibility, but they are not so great when it comes to creating an accurate template line.

The line shown on this template was created with a large marker. As you can see, the edges are very thick and jagged and the arch is not symmetrical from side to side. The variance in measurements created by large markers (and/or jagged lines) can be 1/4" or more, which could ultimately result in your arch not fitting the opening properly.

TIPS: Did you know that most ovals are not 100% symmetrical? When creating an oval template, **be sure to mark which end is the "top**". The finished pieces will be labeled accordingly, and your installer will thank you!