Cheap Signs

Working on a project tonight that I thought others might be interested in. For the "Wander Indiana / Conclave 2000 Tour" event I wanted a version of a classic rally participant sign to put on the cars while traveling and be a souvenir of the event. For those of you who are involved with running regional events you know how expensive it can be to get small runs of signs printed so here is an option.

Since our club is cheaper than most I had a limited budget. I Talked a Print Shop owner/Healey owner out of Bumper sticker material on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets. I could not find any at a computer store and he explained that the material is cheap enough but when it was sold for home use people used it in Laser Printers and copiers and the heat loosened the adhesive and jammed the machines.

I then went to a sign company and bought quality magnetic sign material in white. That was expensive, $4 per square foot.

I designed a graphic in Publisher and printed it on the Bumper sticker material using my computers inkjet printer. I used several colors and graphics and they all printed well. Load each sheet one at a time. inspect the backside first to make sure none of the adhesive is showing that could cause it to get caught in the printer. (Printers Tip) I then mounted a test sticker on the magnetic stock. I soon learned the image would smear as I handled it. So first I painted my stickers with a clear coat of lacquer which sealed the ink. (I had planned on doing that as a final step after mounting)

Mounted the painted stickers on the magnetic stock. Cut them out with scissors and they look great! Tested them in simulated rain (kitchen sink) and no runs or color changes.

I had tried the magnetic stock material that office supply stores sell that works in your printer but I found the magnet was not strong enough to stick to a car. It worked on a test on my old truck but as soon as it hit the finely polished surfaces of the Healey it slid right off! So we made club logo refrigerator magnets with that material.