

HOW TO MAKE A SPOKE CARD

by Cris Noble of [@barf.bike](#)



In today's digital ephemeral world, a real life piece of paper to commemorate your grassroots race is more valuable than ever. The B.A.R.F. crew in San Diego have created quite a few spoke cards for alley cats and races, and tried their best to document the process to manufacture these little pieces of history. You don't need to get fancy. All you need to do is design, print, and laminate the cards.

The scientifically tested best size for the printed cards is 3.5" x 5". These will be big enough to bridge the gap between spokes while staying small enough that you can print and laminate 4 at a time.

PHASE 1: DESIGN

Plan what you want on the front and what you want on the back. If you have sponsors for your event, slap some logos on there. If you don't think you are a good designer, text your friend who has a job that pays for Adobe programs or the one who is so into the early 2000s internet culture that they still have a cracked copy of Photoshop on an ancient macbook.

Give them your plan and explain that you want it to look super duper cool and will be printing it on front and back. If they claim they are "not a designer" tell them they are really talented (designers love a good ego boost), offer to buy them beer or weed or any other substance they may partake in, and as a last resort, threaten them with using AI to get it done.

If you have no friends, then you should look into your local library to see if they have Adobe programs available, but please don't actually use AI. Assuming you found someone who knows how to use InDesign, you can point them at <https://barf.bike/stuff/spoke-card-templates> for some ready made files they can drop artwork into. The goal here is to get a print-ready pdf of 8.5" x 11", or in some cases 11" x 17".

Chase Buc... More flames? Try this:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6qklatrgcbj4lwObtqkbc/4x.pdf?rlkey=4x.pdf>

Shared with Dropbox
www.dropbox.com

Hell yeah. Can I also use your printer?

No

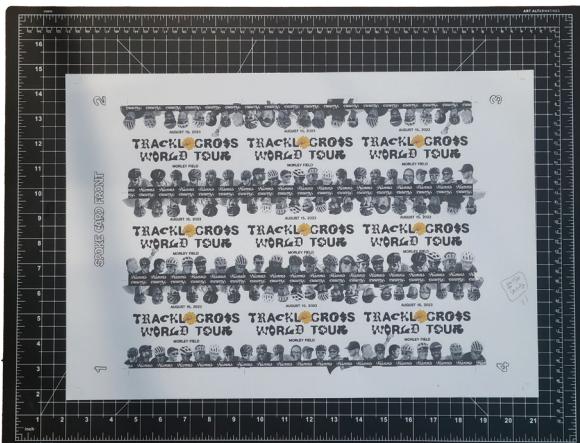


PHASE 2: PRINTING

With a sick-ass pdf of the design secured, it is time to move to phase 2: printing. Try to use the thickest paper you can get your hands on. The cards will be stiffer, and you won't see the ink bleed through as much on your double sided print.

Find a friend who has access to their office printer and give them a stack of your cardstock paper to print your designs on. Standard office paper is way too thin, don't skimp on this part, especially if you are already finagling free printing*.

Most printers don't print double sided, so be ready to catch them as they come out and re-load the printer with the same sheets to print the backside. Be sure to get all of your fancy paper out of the printer when you are done, no one wants to explain to their boss's boss why the first two pages of their TPS report printed on your fancy cardstock, and that yes it was for a bike race, no they can't register for it on bike reg, and no you don't want to go to their 6 a.m. Zumba class either.

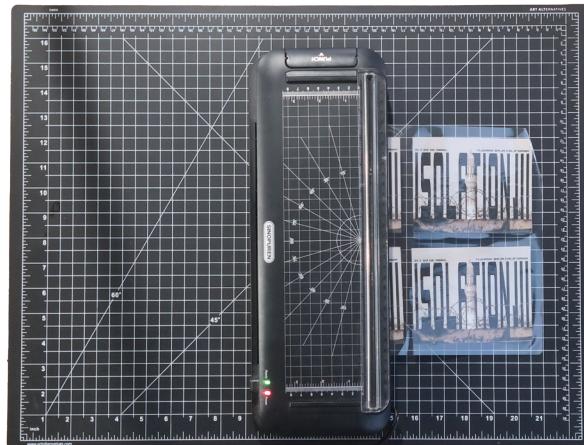


If you did find a designer friend, they may have access to an 11"x17" printer, in which case you can print 9 at a time instead of 4 at a time with 8.5"x11" paper. No matter how many cards you are printing per page, you need to cut them down to size. For efficiency sake, use your xacto knife, but obviously scissors will work here. A large paper cutter would be even better. No matter the tool you choose, watch your fingers. Although the blood spray from your index finger might add a bit of originality to your design, it could also be used in court to prove you had something to do with the crazy bike race that terrorized downtown for a few hours.

*Printing at work is not a crime.

PHASE 3: LAMINATION

You're in the home stretch. Space out 4 cards per 8.5" x 11" lamination sheet, and feed them into your laminator.



This is a calming and meditative process where you can cycle through your anxieties like what if no one comes to the race and is 24 cards enough and what if someone calls the cops and why would someone ever call the cops at all and should I quit drinking and so forth.

Now we have 8.5" x 11" laminated sheets that need to be broken down one final time into their spoke cards. Don't cut them out too close to the edge of the cards or the lamination will start to pull apart.

Cut 'em out, bag 'em up, hand 'em out.





