Interlock Signmaker's State Park Template Instructions

Effective June 2026

Review full instructions prior to use for important safety information. Always check Rockler.com to confirm that you are using the most recent version of instructions for your product.



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GENERAL SAFETY WARNINGS

This product is designed only for specific applications as defined in the instructions and should not be modified or used for any manner not described in these instructions. Use only recommended accessories. Before using the Interlock Signmaker's State Park Template: **READ, UNDERSTAND** and **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY WARNINGS. KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS READILY AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

> Always confirm that you are using the most recent version of the instructions and safety warnings for your product (see the instructions link on the product page at Rockler.com).

> Before using another tool with this product, always read, understand and follow the instructions and safety warnings in the owner's manual for that tool. If you do not have the owner's manual, obtain one from the tool's manufacturer before using it with this product.

> Before using any chemical with this product, always read, understand and follow all safety warnings and guidelines in the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (SDS; formerly called "MSDS"), especially regarding:
  - How to safely use the chemical, including potential hazards and recommended first aid measures;
  - Personal safety equipment required to safely use the chemical (e.g. gloves, eye protection, mask/respirator, etc.);
  - Proper and safe handling, storage and disposal of the chemical.

> Before using this product, review and verify that all tools to be used with it have safety equipment installed and are in proper working order as defined by the tool's owner's manual.

> Do not use this product until you have read and are confident you understand:
  - Product Specific Warnings (p. 4);
  - Map Out Your Sign (p. 5);
  - Single-Template Letters (p. 6);
  - Two-Template Letters (pp. 6-7);
  - Optional Letter Kerning (pp. 8-9);
  - Sample Sign (pp. 10-11).

> The user assumes all risk and responsibility for the proper and safe use of this product and for ensuring product suitability for the intended application.

> It is the sole responsibility of the purchaser of this product to ensure that anyone you allow to use this product reads and complies with all instructions and safety precautions outlined in this manual prior to use.

> Follow all standard shop safety practices, including:
  - Keep children and bystanders away from the tool operating area;
  - Do **NOT** use power tools in explosive environments, or in the presence of flammable liquids, fumes or dust;
  - **TURN OFF AND UNPLUG** all power tools **BEFORE** making any adjustments or changing accessories;
  - Remain alert and use good judgment. Do not use this product if you are in any way impaired by medications, alcohol, drugs or fatigue;
  - Keep your work area well lit and clean;
  - Dress appropriately. Secure loose clothing, remove all jewelry and tie up long hair before using this product;
  - **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses, hearing protection and respiratory protection that complies with NIOSH/OSHA/ANSI safety standards;
  - Use dust collection tools and dust face masks to reduce exposure to dust;
  - Use safety equipment such as featherboards, push sticks and push blocks, etc., when appropriate;
  - Maintain proper footing at all times and do not overreach;
  - Do **NOT** force woodworking tools.

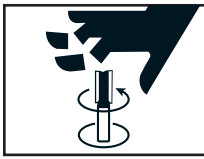
> These warnings and instructions do **NOT** represent the total of all information available regarding tool safety, use and technique. Always seek out opportunities to learn more and improve your skills and knowledge.

⚠ CA WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

SAFETY WARNING KEY

⚠DANGER	Danger indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.
⚠WARNING	Warning indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.
⚠CAUTION	Caution indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury or property damage.
NOTICE	Notice indicates important or helpful information and/or user tips.

PRODUCT SPECIFIC SAFETY WARNINGS



⚠DANGER

> To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.

⚠CAUTION

> Use Interlock Signmaker's Templates **ONLY** with a plunge router outfitted with a baseplate that can accept the included center guide bushing and retaining ring. Use of the templates with a fixed-base router is likely to result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always use the recommended size of router bit and guide bushing for your template set. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always secure the templates to your workpiece and your workpiece to the work surface. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always allow the plunge mechanism on your router to fully retract the bit at the completion of a letter before moving the router to the template of the next letter. Failure to do so could result in damage to the template.

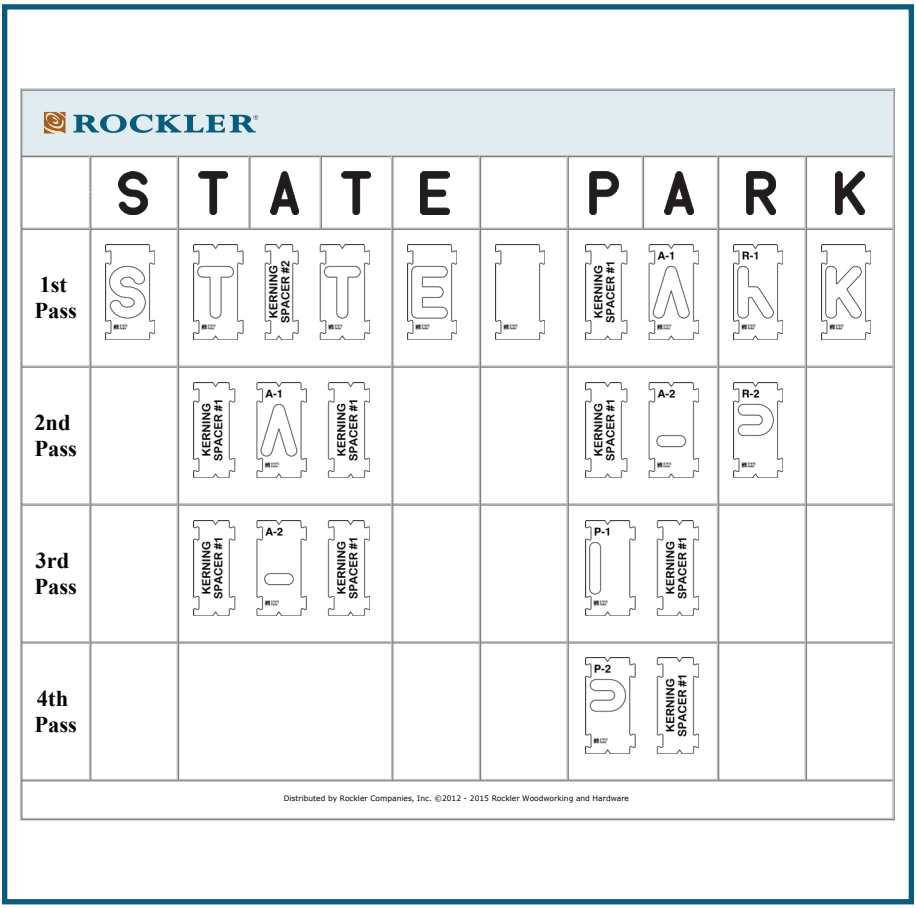


Fig. 1

Map Out Your Sign

The Interlock State Park Font Signmaker's Templates use a unique two-template system for some letters to create whole letters without splits, leaving center sections perfectly routed. Two-template letters are A, B, D, G, O, P, Q, R, 4, 6, 8, 9, 0, #, & and @. For these letters, one template is used for routing the first pass; then a second template is substituted to complete the letter on a second pass.

Additionally, the State Park Font template kits include kerning spacers that allow letters with top- or bottom-heavy shapes to overlap each other's space, enabling you to achieve more natural-looking spacing between these letters. Additional information about letter combinations that look better if kerning spacers are used (and how to use them) is included in Optional Letter Kerning (pg. 8).

To make it easy to plan your sign, Rockler has created a free online Signmaking Wizard. Just go to signmaking.rockler.com and type in your particular word or phrase. The wizard will generate a custom routing plan that includes a visual guide to the sequence of templates with proper kerning and the number of passes required to rout the letters. You can email the guide, save it as a PDF or print a hard copy. **Fig. 1.**

Once you have your plan, you're ready to start making your sign. We'll cover the process for routing single-template letters first and then two-template letters.

THESE WARNINGS PERTAIN TO ALL REMAINING STEPS FOR SINGLE AND TWO-LETTER SETS:

⚠DANGER

> To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.



⚠CAUTION

> Use Interlock Signmaker's Templates **ONLY** with a plunge router outfitted with a baseplate that can accept the included center guide bushing and retaining ring. Use of the templates with a fixed-base router is likely to result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always use the recommended size of router bit and guide bushing for your template set. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always secure the templates to your workpiece and your workpiece to the work surface. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.

> Always allow the plunge mechanism on your router to fully retract the bit at the completion of a letter before moving the router to the template of the next letter. Failure to do so could result in damage to the template.

Single-Template Letters

1. Connect all the letters, numbers, spacers or symbols together to form your custom sign template.

2. Place the assembled template on your wood workpiece, making sure it is aligned as you want it. Hold it in place by securing the top and bottom corners with painter's or masking tape (or use adhesive disks or double-sided tape on the underside of all individual templates). **Fig. 2.**

3. With the appropriate guide bushing and router bit for your template set installed in your plunge router, rout out each individual letter. For deeper cuts, it is best to make multiple passes, increasing the depth each time. This will eliminate dust buildup and clogging and will also prolong the life of your router bits.

4. To finish your sign, seal it first with a sanding sealer. To highlight the letters, paint them with a contrasting color. Allow to dry and then belt sand any overlapping paint outside the letters. Finish with a Spar Varnish, urethane or oil.

Two-Template Letters

Letters requiring two templates are A, B, D, G, O, P, Q, R, 4, 6, 8, 9, 0, #, & and @.

NOTICE Place a strip of painter's or masking tape on your workpiece, under the top and bottom edges of the assembled templates, to avoid writing on the sign surface when marking the notch locations. **Fig. 3.**

1. Connect the necessary templates to make your sign. The two-part templates are clearly labeled in the upper left corner (for example: A-1 and A-2). In this example, we will route "LODGE." O-1, D-1 and G-1 will be used in the first pass. **Fig. 3.**

2. Place the assembled template on your wood workpiece, making sure it is aligned as you want it. Hold it in place by securing the top



Fig. 2

and bottom corners with painter's or masking tape (or use adhesive disks or double-sided tape on the underside). Mark the locations of the individual templates by using the notches in the templates. This helps preserve proper alignment when you are removing and replacing templates.

3. With the appropriate guide bushing and router bit for your template set installed in your plunge router, rout the first pass on each. For deeper cuts, it is best to make multiple passes, increasing the depth each time. This will eliminate dust buildup and clogging and will also prolong the life of your router bits.

4. For the two-template letters in your sign, replace the first template with the second. (In our example, we'll switch out templates O-1, D-1 and G-1 with O-2, D-2 and G-2.) **Fig. 4.**

5. Rout the second pass, completing the two-template letters (for example, O, D and G).

6. To finish your sign, seal it first with a sanding sealer. To highlight the letters, paint them with a contrasting color. Allow to dry and then belt sand any overlapping paint outside the letters. Finish with a Spar Varnish, urethane or oil.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Two-Letter Combos					
AT	AY	FJ	LV	PA	TA
VA	YA	AV	FA	LT	LY
PJ	TJ	VJ	YJ		

Two-Letter Combos: Replace the first letter with Kerning Spacer #1 for 1st pass

Three-Letter Combos				
ATA	ATJ	AVA	AYJ	AYA
AYJ	FAT	FAV	LTA	LTJ
LVA	LVJ	LYA	LYJ	PAT
PAV	PAY	TAT	TAV	TAY
VAT	VAV	YAT	YAV	YAY

Three-Letter Combos: Replace the middle letter with Kerning Spacer #2 for 1st pass

Four-Letter Combos				
ATAT	ATAV	ATAY	AVAT	AVAV
AVAY	AYAT	AYAV	AYAY	FATA
FATJ	FAVA	FAVJ	LTAT	LTAV
LTAY	LVAT	LVAV	LVAY	LYAT
LYAV	LYAY	PATA	PATJ	PAVA
PAVJ	PAYA	PAYJ	TATA	TATJ
TAVA	TAVJ	TAYA	TAYJ	VATA
VATJ	VAVA	VAVJ	YATA	YATJ
YAVA	YAVJ	YAYA	YAYJ	

Four-Letter Combos: Replace the 2nd letter with Kerning Spacer #2 and replace the 3rd letter with Kerning Spacer #1 for 1st pass

Kerning Spacer Charts

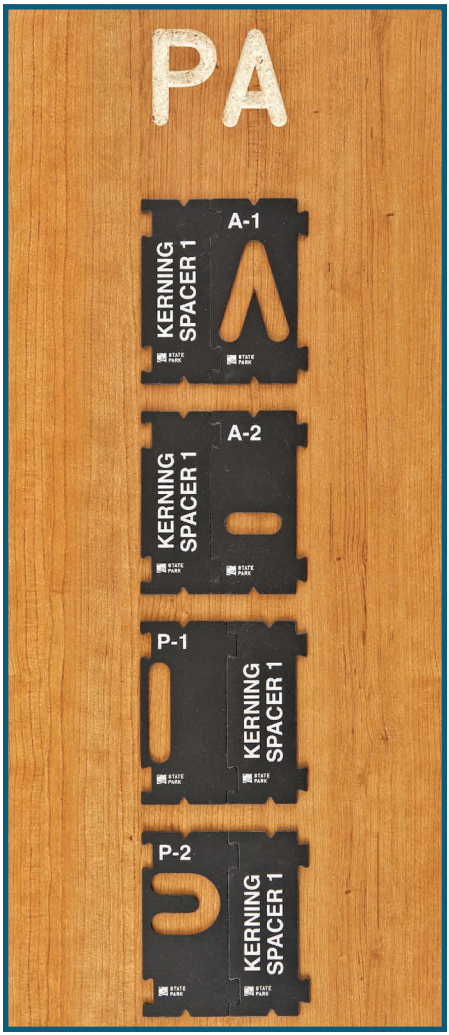


Fig. 5 - Two-Letter Combos

Optional Letter Kerning

Kerning is the term for spacing between letters. Interlock State Park Font Signmaker's Templates allow you to adjust the space between certain letter combinations giving your sign the proper kerning and a professional look.

Again, we strongly recommend you to take advantage of the Signmaking Wizard at signmaking.rockler.com. Type in your particular word or phrase and the wizard will create a custom routing plan including a visual guide to the sequence of templates with proper kerning and the number of passes required to rout the letters.

If you don't have access to the online wizard, refer to the **Kerning Charts**. If your sign involves the 2, 3 or 4 letter combinations listed in the chart, adjust your templates for proper alignment.

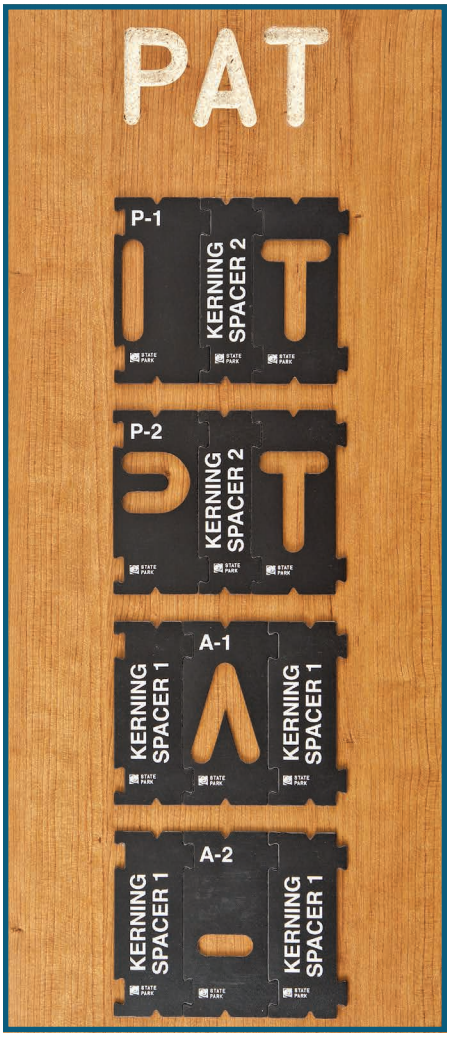


Fig. 6 - Three-Letter Combos

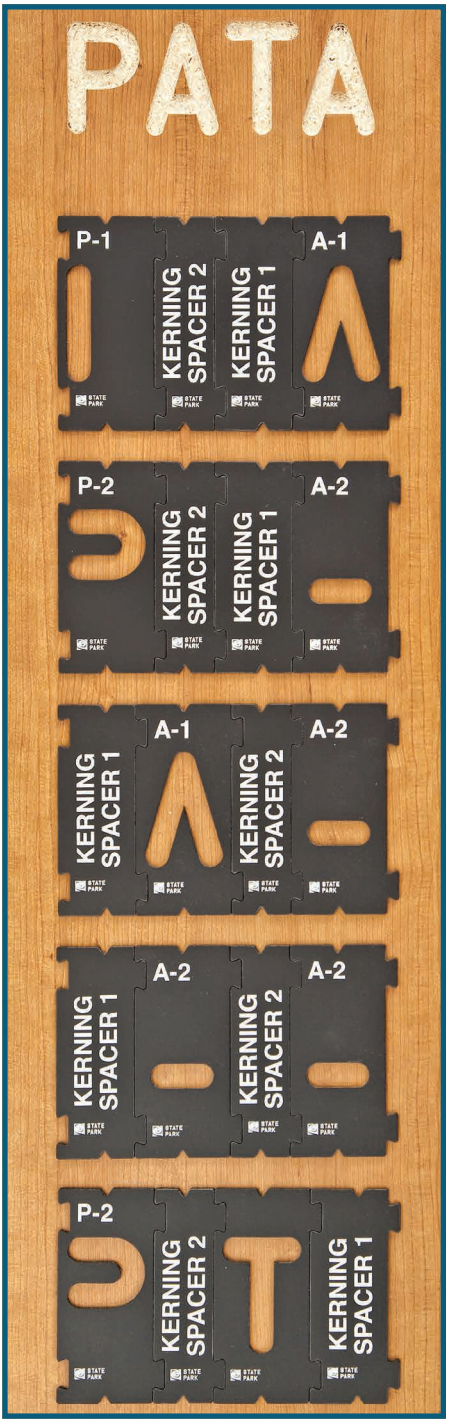


Fig. 7 - Four-Letter Combos

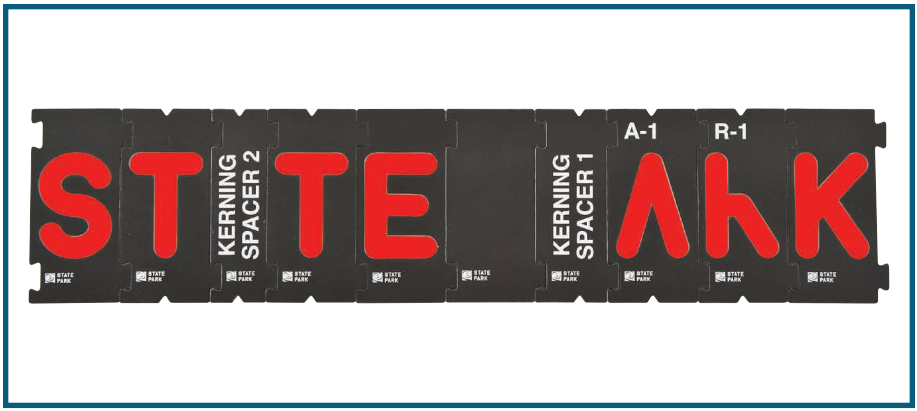
NOTICE

The notches in the letters are simply alignment guides. If the letter before or after the kerning sequence is removed, the notches can be used to align the letters in each step.

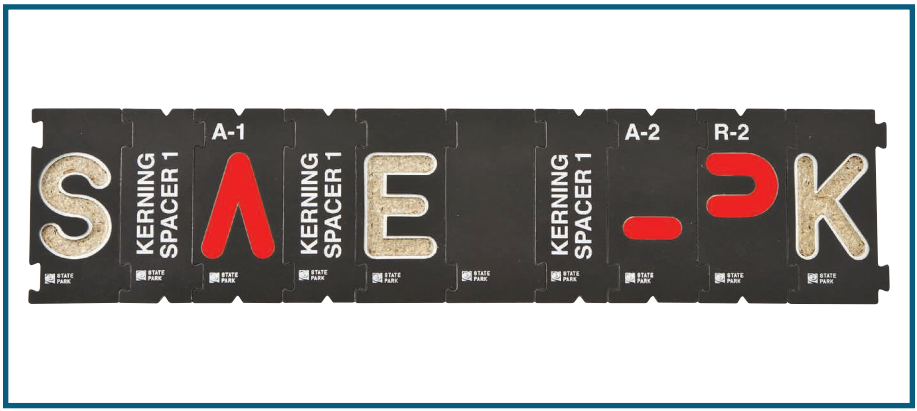
The following examples are for two-, three- and four- letter kerning combinations. These examples also include two-template letters "P" and "A." **Fig. 5-7.**

Sample Sign

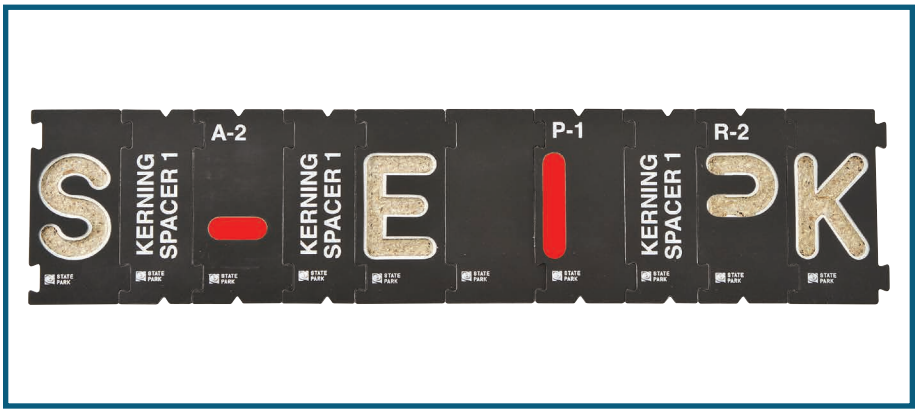
The images below detail the required steps to complete a STATE PARK sign. The highlighted red letters are routed in each pass.



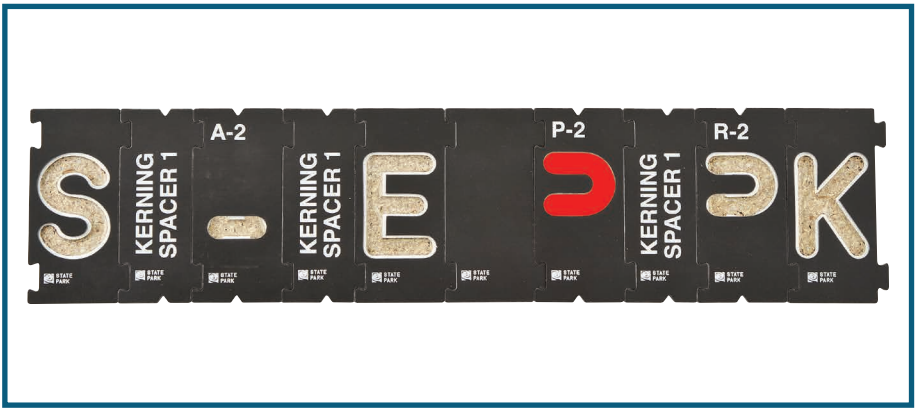
First Pass



Second Pass



Third Pass



Fourth Pass



Finished Signs

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Rev 0926

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