

What do I need to purchase as a base (substrate) for my record board kit?

You have two good choices.

1). Our record boards have always used **melamine-coated hardboard** (1/8" thick) as a substrate. It is similar to dry-erase marker board and comes in 4' x 8' panels which can be purchased at any Home Depot or Lowes.

Home Depot:

96 in. x 48 in. Hardboard Thrifty White Tile Board
\$19.98

- Pre-finished white so that no painting is required
- 4 ft. x 8 ft. to cover 32 sq. ft. of your wall
- Perfect for functional spaces such as utility, bathroom, and laundry rooms.

Lowes:

48-in x 96-in Smooth White Hardboard
Marker Board Wall Panel
Item #16605
\$19.98

Finish: White

(Both prices as of 1/8/24)

Melamine coated hardboard is suitable for almost all installations if spacing (furring strips, strapping or 2x4's) is used between the board material and the pool wall. This prevents condensation from affecting the substrate if the pool area is very humid with little HVAC present. It is easily cut with a table saw or hand-held circular saw. Our record boards using the 4" blanks need the 4x8 panels cut down to size. (See instructions and the accompanying video.) Record boards using the 2" size use the full 4 x 8 size and do not need cutting.

Note: We no longer manufacture and ship complete, finished boards due to the cost of packing and shipping such large items. Our kits allow customers to purchase the substrate panels locally and save hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to obtain a quality, long-lasting display board.

2). The other material that can be used as a substrate is more expensive and is used for outdoor signage, so it holds up in a very humid pool with dripping water and/or heavy condensation. Aluminum composite material (**ACM**) is a three-layer sandwich panel consisting of two pre-painted aluminum sheets bonded to a polyethylene (PE) core. It is also called **ACP**, for Aluminum Composite Panel. **Either a 3mm or 1/8" thickness (semi-gloss WHITE) is what should be used.**

These panels are an excellent material for indoor or outdoor applications that require good dimensional stability, low weight, and durability. It can be used "as-is" for the 2" DuraTrack boards as it comes in 4x8 sheets. Panels to make a 4" DuraTrack board will need cutting to size and require a finer blade for the circular or table saw.

The cost of ACM or ACP panels ranges from \$65 to \$100 per 4x8 sheet, depending on the local supplier and how many panels they purchase per year from the manufacturer.

You can purchase ACM or ACP panels in the 4x8 size from most large sign companies or distributors of sign products. Do an internet search using terms such as "ACM Panels", "ACP sign panels", "Sign Panels", or "Local Signs" to find local companies that carry them. Manufacturers sell them to sign companies across the U.S. and may even have distribution centers located near your location. A larger sign company in your area may receive low-cost shipments throughout the year and you can possibly add your needed sheets to that order if they don't stock the 3mm or 1/8" thickness in the 4x8 size.

Our video, instructions and included templates will make the application of your tracking easy. All you need is a flat table 4' x 8' in size to press the track in place.

If you choose to use the standard melamine panels, your local Lowes or Home Depot will carry the melamine-coated hardboard.

Be sure to view the video on making your board to see how easy it will be to save a significant amount of money for your motivational display. Your swimmers will love it !