Hi-Tech Lettering Stencils

The custom toy truck shown was built for a customer and intended as a family heirloom. The customer needed her son's name on it for posterity. Rather than chip carve the name, I decided to wood burn the lettering, but finding the appropriate size and style lettering for the truck proved impossible.

That night in bed it struck me that my computer has a gazillion lettering styles, and any size could be tried until just the right combination was found. It worked like a charm. I found the size and style I wanted, printed out the name and used carbon paper to transfer the letters to the truck. Then I burned the name in.

The project was complete, and I had added another trick to my bag that I'll use over and over again.

James A. Leach
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Two Shorts Make a Long
And yet another oft-repeated trick.

Ever need a 36" clamp, but you only own a pair of 24" clamps? Put the two together to make a temporary 48" clamp. This math works for any sized clamps and, except for the possibility of some minor bowing across the length, makes an economical solution to never having enough clamps.

Patrick Curran
Durham, North Carolina

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