

## Magic Wall Recipe

### Ingredients:

- ▶ One 8-to 14-foot-long piece of rip-stop nylon from a fabric store. Heavier weight looks sharper and is a bit easier to work with; lighter weight folds into a smaller package, but can get baggy.
- ▶ One full can of 3M Artist's Spray Mount - Artist's Adhesive (#6065) (black, white & red can). There are no known satisfactory substitutes.
- ▶ Markers - use dark, cool colors for text (blue, black, green, brown, purple) and hot colors for accents and highlights (red, yellow, orange).
- ▶ Paper - half-sheets save paper, encourage brevity, and allows you to post twice the comments. Color paper as well as white allows you to distinguish among different questions and activities. I use a triangular architect's or engineer's scale as a straightedge to rip sheets in half, five or six at a time.
- ▶ Blue painter's masking tape, or push pins to hang the wall. For an even better chance that you will leave no trace, use more expensive white "artist masking tape."

### Directions:

- ▶ Lay the fabric on newspaper-covered floor with stupendous ventilation, but out of the wind (a garage with open doors works well). I'm not kidding about the ventilation; this stuff is bad for your brain.
- ▶ With sheets of paper, mask about 6 by 6 inches in each corner and along the sides where you expect to hang the wall with masking tape (because the spray mount tends to dissolve the masking tape adhesive).
- ▶ Spray to cover the fabric completely, though lightly, with back-and-forth motion on one axis (say, lengthwise) and then in the other (say, crosswise). Spray in random patterns until the can runs out. Breathe as little as possible. A single can will cover about 4 by 6 feet thoroughly. Apply a second can if your wall is bigger than that.
- ▶ Get out of there and let it dry for three or four hours, or overnight.
- ▶ Fold it up, sticky side in to keep dirt and hair from attaching to the fabric. Continue to air out a new wall for a week before using it for the first time. The smell dissipates greatly after that.

## Set-up & Show Time!

- ▶ Don't be timid when pulling the wall open (it sticks to itself with great determination); it's rip-stop, so you won't hurt it. You'll probably need a colleague to help you pull it open and tape, or pin, it onto the wall.
- ▶ As you set up, distribute black markers at each place, along with a short stack of white and color paper half-sheets as needed.
- ▶ Making use of the Wall's flexibility is up to you and your imagination.

### Hints:

- ▶ Take digital images before you strip down each set of sheets so you have a permanent record of what was said and how it was arranged.
- ▶ When you pull sheets off the wall, keep them grouped by topic with a cover sheet showing the agenda item, or topic, they relate to; this makes transcription a breeze – especially compared to bulky flip charts.
- ▶ If you are having a multiple-day meeting, walls mounted with tape may fall during the night. Consider dismounting them for the night so you don't have to reconstruct a mess in the morning.

### Care and Storage:

- ▶ At the end of each meeting, remove all the paper from the wall (paper left on for more than a day or two may stick permanently). Always fold the Wall sticky side in.
- ▶ Cleaning & renewing the wall. Your wall can be used many times before needing a new coat of spray mount. Throw it in the washing machine with hot water and detergent, then a dryer; reapply spray mount as before.