

## AlphaDisc Lettering System

The Cool Tools AlphaDisc makes it possible to quickly stamp out your message in any type of soft clay.

### Use the AlphaDisc with these types of clay:

- Ceramic clay
- Polymer clay
- Silver clay
- Bronze clay
- Copper clay
- Glass clay

Our Lettering System is easy to use. Choose a type style from the Font Pak. Peel the strip off the carrier sheet and place it around the outside of the disc. The strip sticks to the edge of the disc and stays put until you peel it off. The font strips are washable and reusable.

### Font Packs

Each Font Pak includes five different typefaces, including numbers 0-9 that are labeled so you can quickly choose your desired typeface and size. Font Paks are shipped with a thin, protective sheet over the letters. Do not discard this sheet. It is made of a special material and protects the Font Paks during storage. Always replace the protective sheet before storing the Font Paks in their envelope. The sheet of cream paper allows you to easily read the Font Pak labels and should be saved.

### AlphaDiscs

AlphaDiscs are packaged in sets of 2 discs. Each set contains one disc for letters and one disc for numbers and special characters. Each AlphaDisc is labeled and easy to identify. Additional discs can be purchased separately.

### Installing Fonts on the Alphabet Disc

Lay the AlphaDisc on a table with the letters reading correctly and the letter "A" at the 12 o'clock position. Peel a type strip from the Font Pak. Line up the dot on the disc corresponding to the letter "A" with the center of the "A" on the strip, with the excess strip to the left. Press on the "A" to adhere it. Turn the disc to allow the strip to roll onto the disc edge; all the letters will fall exactly into place. Keep the strip lined up even with the edge of the disc for best results. The strip will self-adhere to the plastic. Do not stretch the strip as you apply it.

### Installing Fonts on the Numbers Disc

Lay the AlphaDisc Numbers Disc on a table with the letters reading correctly and the number "1" at the 12 o'clock position. Peel a type strip from the Font Pak. Line up the dot on the disc corresponding to the number "1" with the center of the "1" on the strip, with the excess strip to the left. Press on the "1" to adhere it. Turn the disc to allow the strip to roll onto the disc edge; all the characters will fall exactly into place. Keep the strip lined up even with the edge of the disc for best results. The strip will self-adhere to the plastic. Do not stretch the strip as you apply it.

If one of the ends pulls away from the disc, simply press it back down, or clean the font if it persists.

### Lettering Ring

Clay slabs to be lettered are draped on the Lettering Ring. The curved surface allows easy sight of the lettering process and allows a range of depth.



## AlphaDisc Lettering System cont.

Place the Lettering Ring on the table like a wheel. Secure the Ring in place with a snake of polymer clay left and right of where it meets the table. Arrange for the surface of the clay to be level with your eyes by lowering your chair or raising the work surface. A straight line of sight allows you to see the letters as they impress the clay and control the depth and placement very easily.

If the clay piece is too large for the Lettering Ring, you can use a jar or other curved surface or a flat surface.

### Freeform Lettering

Hold the AlphaDisc lightly with 2 hands, with the label reading correctly. Tilt the disc slightly towards you as you impress. It will appear to your eye that you are holding it straight when you are actually holding it slightly away from you. Practice will overcome this tendency.

When lettering, watch the point at which the character you are impressing and the clay meet. You will see the impression taking place. Practice lettering on polymer clay to get the hang of the tool.

Write normally, from left to right.

### Flat Lettering

The AlphaDisc can also be laid on a flat surface and impressed into a clay strip that is placed vertically. Lay the clay strip on the Lettering Ring, lay the lettering ring on its side. Place the AlphaDisc on a flat surface, elevated to the proper height for the placement of your letters on the Lettering Ring. The Clayboard works very well for this since the font strips do not stick to the Teflon and slide easily.

To letter, line up the clay and the desired letter and move the AlphaDisc forward to impress the clay. Pull back, rotate to the next letter on the disc and rotate the clay to the next letter position and impress again. This is a great way to control the depth since you can clearly see how deep you are going and the depth is guaranteed because the AlphaDisc is level. Some characters are centered by height, so a perfectly straight baseline is not possible with flat lettering. If the AlphaDisc is placed with the label facing up, your letters will be impressed upside down and you should write backwards (which is a lot easier to do than it sounds). If the AlphaDisc is placed with the label facing down, then writing is done normally, but the letters are impressed upside down.

### Removing Fonts from the AlphaDisc

Peel the font strip off the disc and place back on the carrier. Keep the protective plastic sheet that covers the strips. This sheet will keep your fonts clean and avoid damaging them. Keep the Font Pak in its envelope when storing.

### Cleaning Font Strips

When the font strips resist sticking to the AlphaDisc, rinse in cool water. Run your fingers over the strip to loosen and remove any grime or dust. Place the strip, type side down, on a counter or laminate surface and allow to dry. Then place the dry strip back in its place on the Font Pak sheet for storage.