



## Warren Sign Company Scores Big with Record Breaking Scoreboard

**Product Spotlight:**  
Gerber ADVANTAGE™ Router  
400/600

**Warren Sign Company**  
Arnold, MO

“Since we're a custom sign shop, we do something unprecedented every day.” This statement from Tim Bernaix, router department head, pretty well sums up a typical day at Warren Sign Company in Arnold, Mo. Much of the work the shop does is one-of-a-kind.

For example, Warren Sign recently designed, built, and installed their first and only scoreboard, purported to be the largest standing manually-operated scoreboard in the world. The entire job, except for painting, was completed using Gerber equipment from start to finish.



The 265-foot long scoreboard was designed for scoring baseball games at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Mo. However, the deadline was so tight that the sign shop staff probably wished they had extra innings.

Bernaix recalled, “We had to have the scoreboard ready for the opening game, and we were busy moving to a larger facility at the same time. From the drawing table to the stadium, we had about two and a half months to complete the project.”

When working with so many first-time jobs and fast-approaching deadlines, it's important to have the right tools. Warren Sign doesn't ever need to worry about that. The shop operates three routers from Gerber Scientific Products – an ADVANTAGE™ Router 400 and two ADVANTAGE™ Router 600's.

In addition to its routers, Warren's winning roster of Gerber equipment includes: five Gerber OMEGA™ design stations, a GERBER EDGE® digital color imaging system, a SuperSprint™ automated lettering system, an EmbossTrack™ 48-inch friction-feed plotter, a GS 15™ 15-inch sprocket plotter, and an HS 750™ 30-inch sprocket plotter.

When it was time for Warren Sign to step up to the plate and begin work on the scoreboard, the graphic designers used Gerber design software to create and output all the original drawings.

There are four internally illuminated flexface ad panels on the sides of the scoreboard. Each 256-

square foot flexface bears vinyl graphics which were cut on the EmbossTrack. The numbers on the inserts which are manually slid into the scoreboard are also cut from vinyl.

The center section of the board is for the game in progress. On the left is the American League insignia, and on the right is the National League logo. The board can keep track of eight American League and eight National League games while the home game is in progress, if that many games are being played.

Then the project reached the routing department, which performed extensive neon work and letter mount patterns on it. All the neon and patterns were laid out using Gerber design software and output on the 48-inch plotter.

Doorways and fabricated aluminum letters were routed. Several sheets of aluminum that were put on the router table were transformed into the scoreboard itself. Gridwork was routed from flat aluminum to simulate a network of structural support beams.

“Using the router and Gerber OMEGA design software makes it easier to rout fancier shapes, so everything isn't so square. We can create just about any shape and rout it accurately without adding more labor like we would have had to before we had this equipment,” observed Bernaix.



All three routers run concurrently about 75% of the time. The two larger routers are ideal for handling Warren Sign's high volume of large letter work.

“Once a router is set up, you can walk away while it's running and work on another project,” Bernaix commented. “Even if two routers are running, I can leave them both to go do something else.”

He has found a lot to love about the features and options of his Gerber routers.

In his own words, “You're able to save money on material usage with the nesting capabilities of ART Path™ router software, which comes with each router. I've also noticed that if you're doing routed faces that you're going to back with acrylic, there is less chance of damaging or miscutting the face, which wastes material.”

“The T-Vac system is new for us, and it's a big plus. It has taken our material savings to a new level, especially with plastics. We're able to get our nesting even tighter and have eliminated sacrificial sheets.”

Bernaix especially appreciates the limit switches which keep the machine from bumping, so that the home position can be easily obtained in the event of a power failure or mechanical error.

“Whatever happens, you can always find that start position by using the limit switches. With my older machines not having these, there were many times when I bumped in the middle of a

job because I got distracted as I was scrolling the machine toward myself to change the bit.”

When a router bumps, it can run right off the edge of the table and ruin a job. With limit switches, the machine knows where it is in relation to the rest of the table so that as soon as it hits its limit switch, it will stop and not bump.

Bernaix explained, “If I don't set up a job at the zero position on this new machine, and I'm pushing the limit by trying to run a job that's already to the full dimensions of the machine, it'll prompt me right away to adjust my start position.”

Bernaix has been a Gerber devotee for more than a decade; and as Gerber upgraded, so did he, for example upgrading from the original GRAPHIX ADVANTAGE® design software to Gerber OMEGA design software.

“Warren Sign Company has grown because it puts out a good product. The routers have maintained, and improved, quality while speeding things up,” he stated. “I can't imagine cutting the thicker plate materials without a Gerber router. I've become dependent on the equipment now.”

He concluded, “With each upgrade, the computers are becoming more and more powerful and easy to use. One of the biggest reasons that we've stayed with Gerber is that we don't have any downtime. We've had good luck so far, so why change? You could say we 'hit a home run' with Gerber.”

Visit the Warren Sign Company web site at: [www.warrensign.com](http://www.warrensign.com) or contact:

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