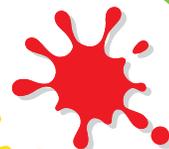




# Paintertainment



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## Line Control on the Cheap!

by Gretchen Fleener

Line control is a challenge that has plagued face painters since the beginning of time. I mean, let's face it...when we get to work we just want to create beautiful art, not referee fights over who is next in line! In my 26 years in this business, I've only on very rare occasions been successful in convincing clients to provide line control stanchions. This year I finally decided to no longer rely on others to provide such a vital piece of equipment for large events.

I set out on a mission to create the cheapest and most portable solution possible. I've only used these at one event so far, and that was enough to identify a couple things to fix, but they worked great and I am excited to share this idea with you!

In order to get the most line control for my money, I set out to scour my local dollar store for supplies.

For each stanchion made, I picked up one pie pan, one broom handle, and one broom handle attachment...in this case, I chose the swiffer knockoff. It doesn't matter so much which attachment you pick...you will only need the threaded piece that the broom handle attaches to.

Some of the

other supplies I used included a dremel tool, sander, E6000 glue, a bag of cement mix (like \$5 for a big bag), some cheap fabric remnants from the fabric store, and a hot glue gun.

I started by popping off the sweeper attachment piece (A), the part the handle screws into. I cut off the excess with a dremel cutting wheel (B), and then sanded it down smooth and flat on my sanding belt.

Next, I glued that piece to the center of the pie pan with some E6000 (C). Once it had dried, I mixed up some cement and filled the pie pan (D), being careful not to get any cement inside this threaded piece!!

I tried painting the cement black, but it did look a little beaten up and started to crumble on the edges after a gig of kids putting their feet on them. So, I ran

to my fabric store and found a glittery, velvet fabric remnant super cheap. I cut circles larger than the pie pans (E), hot glued the bottom of the pan to the fabric, and then wrapped the fabric up and around the pan, gluing it as I went around, to create a nice cover for the bases (F).

I wanted to shorten my broom handles just a bit, so I was able to pop the plastic cap off the end, cut it on a miter saw, and then put the cap back on! These broom handles had a nice cap with a loop, so it was easy to thread some garland or rope through (G). You can also put some carabiners in them or attach your own loops. For my first gig I used garland, also from the dollar store...but kids picked at it and made a huge mess! I've since switched to this sturdier sequin rope garland in the photo. You can use any garland or rope you like!

So far these stanchions work great. They aren't super heavy, and they disassemble in seconds for transport. I now tow a collapsible wagon for gear, and these fit in it easily. The poles slip right into my director's chair bag!

While I did have some tools & supplies already on hand, I'd say these cost me maybe \$5 in materials each. That's an astronomical savings if you've ever shopped for stanchions, and the portability can't be beat!

Even if you aren't able to find these exact supplies, I hope that this helps spark an idea to create your own simple, cheap stanchions! Honestly, I'm wondering why I didn't try this decades ago...they would have saved me SO many headaches! I wish you a wonderful and busy holiday gig season, filled with orderly, well-behaved lines! 🌟



Simply unscrew the broom handles for transport!

# What's News?

## Midwest Artists Xtravaganza 2022

Take your party to the Max



### Conventions are BACK!

Check out the Midwest Artists Xtravaganza, coming to St Louis next April!



### Holiday Window Painting!

Check out our Facebook page to see photos & time lapse videos of our latest window paintings!



### Wet Paint Magazine

Our winter issue is now live! Check out [wetpaintmagazine.com](http://wetpaintmagazine.com) to order, and sign up to receive email alerts when we are looking for submissions!



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