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## Why Are Trophies And Plaques Important?

By David Sanders

Almost every home in America has a showcase of the family's achievements manifested in trophies and medals. Some people who glorify such achievements even create altar-like tables and cabinets for those medals and trophies which they or a member of their family has won either in an intellectual or a sporting match. There are also trophies garnered from beauty contests.

People will always put a premium on anyone's achievement and the appreciation that goes with it can best be expressed by giving him a plaque or a medal. There are plaques and trophies that are made of gold but most are made of fiberglass, wood or any other not so expensive materials. But no matter what trophies and plaques are made of, they will always be special to those who receive them.

So why do people and organizations give out trophies and plaques? Trophies and plaques are the favorite gifts or tokens for athletes during sporting events. They are also widely used by educational institutions especially during commencement exercises.

However, plaques are the favorite tokens of small companies and even big corporations that want to recognize the achievements of their employees and staff. Plaques are also given to speakers and guest of honors during company or school affairs.

Giving a trophy or a plaque is an acknowledgement of the achievements of the receiver even these are given on account of a good performance in sales and marketing, debate, oration or a simple quiz bee. Some companies give out plaques of appreciation to their loyal clients who have helped them build the company's reputation over the years. The plaque creates good public relations for the company because it shows their clients that they are valued by the company.

Companies or institutions planning to give out trophies during special occasions or milestones should consider the types of people who will be receiving the trophies. Generally there is no standard requirement on the size of the trophies but if it will be given for team activities then size should be a consideration. Trophies for individual star players should be unique no matter what the sizes are.

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Yearly tournaments for bowling or basketball sometimes require roving trophies or trophies that are passed on from the present champions to next year's champions. These kinds of trophies should be bigger and special since the awarding body will only need to have it made once every three or four years.

People who want to order trophies and plaques can do so by visiting specialty stores. If they want the job to be faster and more efficient they can look for companies who accept made to order trophies through the internet. There are various samples and these are shown on the company website so clients can just take their pick or they can send in their own designs and specifications.

Most companies give discounts for wholesale purchases so make sure you order all the trophies you need from one company. Developing a long term relationship with a company that manufactures trophies and plaques will also be more profitable for both the manufacturer and the client because they can already establish a rapport as to the quality of work required by the client.

The author regularly contributes to

<http://www.trophy-shack.com>

where additional tips and information

about trophies and corporate awards is available.

### **Doing Engraved Plaques Right**

**By Paul Graham**

Honor and pride in a plate of metal. That is what engraved plaques are. Years of service or a great accomplishment will never fade away due to these precious mementos. They may not be pricey, but they truly are precious. And they always stand the test of time.

#### 1. Plaque History

Engraved plaques have been around since man put his hand to work on metal sheets. Before paper ever became the common choice for writing, man has always put his history in words. His choice of material was usually stone, papyrus, and metal. Special occasions called for special stationery, and the stationery of that era would always be a special metal. Hence were born the earliest plaques.

The word plaque comes from the 19th century French word that means ornamental plate or tablet. They are often made of thin sheets of semi precious metals and are usually given to appreciate an accomplishment of individuals or groups.

#### 2. What Are Plaques?

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A commemorative plaque is usually a flat, decorative plate that is affixed to a wall. It often marks a significant person or event. In most countries, places with historical significance are often marked by bronze plaques. Most memorials in the United States are marked by plaques that tell the story of the significance of that place. And many of these plaques have been there for countless generations.

These plaques are made using a variety of metals

– Wood – Steel – Anodized aluminum – Brass – Bronze – Acrylic laminate – Other materials

### 3. Plaque Ideas

If you are looking for something to commemorate an achievement, or a special event, look no further than engraved plaques to do the job. These plaques may be for your spouse, your children, or your friends. Engraved plaques are works of art and are a beautiful, beautiful way to celebrate a great occasion. And the kicker is, they are relatively inexpensive! You could even have them mass produced for a group of people or for a company and it still wouldn't take too much time or money.

### 4. Machining Methods

– Hand Engraved This is an exotic art. For generations upon generations, the fine art of hand engraving has been passed down carefully. Today's artisans bear the artistry of many hundreds of years of skill. Hand engraved plaques may be pricey, but they are an authentic and rustic way of commemorating any occasion.

– Machine Engraved The art of hand engraving has been largely replaced by machines. These machines engrave words and images accurately and effortlessly. Nevertheless, these machines still need skilled artisans to operate them. Plaques that result from such are also beautiful works of art

– Laser Engraved Engraving is an old but respected art, but today's customers demand clear detail in the engravings. Using a high-power laser, engraving has now become simple yet beautiful. Laser engraving has truly changed the face of engraved plaques. It allows for the production of beautiful high-definition plaques. This process uses narrow-beam laser that creates high-detail images. The beams in question can be up to 4 millionths of an inch in diameter. This makes laser engraving a precision art and allows the engraver to burn in text, pictures and other high-detail elements on the plaque.

Laser engraving for plaques is suitable for the following plaques

– Academic or sports achievements – Graduation – Signage – Donor's plaques – Building markers – Retirement – Other plaques

For more great plaque related articles and resources check out

<http://www.onlyplaques.com>

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