

SPIKE MARKS

Here at the high school I've tried cloth half inch spike tape but that seems to curl up and come off when the dancers dance on it. What works best for us is two inch masking tape. Dancing and non-castered moving sets doesn't seem to bother it because it just tears out chunks of tape rather than pull up the entire piece. It is difficult to remove however. I haven't tried gaffers tape cause it seems a bit expensive for that use.

The cloth spike tape *is* gaffers' tape. I hate it, for exactly the reason you cite. I find the best spike tape to be colored electrical tape (available at your local hardware store or Home Depot). The important thing to remember is that it must be cut with a scissors or knife; if you tear it by hand, it puckers up and won't stay down.

Half in spike tape, covered with 2 inch clear packing tape.

We use the half in gaff then cover it with the clear dance floor tape.

I've used both half-inch spike tape and colored electric tape with great success. I generally try and get a color reasonably close to the floor color, just in case the audience sees it. Whichever you use, cover it with some clear packing tape, or it'll pick up on performer's feet before opening night. I absolutely *hate* masking tape.

Half inch spike (of the vinyl variety), with clear dance tape, or J-Lar tape (someone in film correct me if I'm wrong here, same or no?!!) seems to work best on Marley floors. No peeling, and very little to no stickys. Not to shoot down Daniel or Matthew's comments, but packing tape doesn't always peel nicely, and IMHO tends to leave a residue. Otherwise, half inch spike (gaff/cloth).

Yes, packing tape doesn't always peel up nicely, but it's a lot better than dealing with masking tape IMO. It's also a lot easier if one makes certain to leave a courtesy tab.

This approach makes painting your stage floor a bit of an easier process as well, because you don't need to pull up your spikes to do your show painting (and then have to respice all your furniture). Go with care, and you can just wipe the fresh paint off the packing tape as you go.

Even if you don't use the packing tape over spike tape, it is HIGHLY recommended to do so when you're relying on glow tape...

Paint markers. Nothing to pull up. If you spike the wrong place, just paint over and start again. I've found that you can also make little notes (letters mainly) that remind people of what is where on the floor. And, they come in a variety of colors, so multi scene shows are easy to handle, as is blending the mark into the floor treatment, should that be needed.