

Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?

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- *From:* "Carl Ijames" <carl.ijames@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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> Thanks! That seem to be a good place to get started. I like their
> flame logo on the home page. \$2.50 a pop would blow the budget, even
> half that would. But maybe this can be done somewhere on an automated
> press, especially since precision isn't such a big concern for this
> job.

Your welcome. I know \$2.50 is too much for you, but that was for 50 pieces and punching isn't their real business, diemaking is. I let them do the punching for the convenience. A local rubber company does punching for us on other stuff for about 1/2 that, on much larger gaskets, so I'm sure you could get it well under \$1 with much less than your 10K per year (make the die big enough to do 4-8 lids at a time, for starters, whatever the press will stand). Now that I have the die I'm going to our local company for the next run. We also do some boxes with LED displays where the LEDs are on a PC board behind a hole in a metal box, with a stick on label on the outside. The label has solid color regions, all the lettering, and clear windows over the LEDs. We punch holes for switches to stick through. Sounds great, but, in 100's for a 4"x8" label they are several dollars each which kills your budget. We are okay with it because we want the rugged box and the quantity is so low the cost would be about the same no matter how we made them. Anyway, just a long-winded way of saying that a label is also going to be expensive. Maybe punch a panel and then silk-screen it? That is pretty cheap to do, and easy to set up so long as you only want one color. I've been reading up on building a vacuum forming machine for fun - really doesn't seem too hard and it would be neat to form your own boxes :-). Form the box, punch the lid from sheet, silkscreen it, and glue it on since you don't plan on repairs anyway. Hire some cheap labor and do them yourself until the volume takes off and you can afford to go offshore. Then start offering semi-custom boxes for other people who have the same needs as you do now :-).

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Regards,
Carl Ijames carl.ijames@verizon.net

- **Follow-Ups:**
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Joerg

- **References:**
 - ◆ **Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Joerg
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Tim Wescott
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Rich Grise
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Tim Wescott
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Carl Ijames
 - ◆ **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
 - ◇ From: Joerg

- Prev by Date: **Re: 2sb737 and 2sd786 (was CD or DVD with all datasheets in the world?)**
- Next by Date: **calculating parasitic delay for ratioed circuit**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
- Next by thread: **Re: Very cheap molded enclosures?**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**