



NOTE: Eyes, Nose & Mouth are add on balloons.



ABOVE: Photo of 6' tall, double layer Soldier.

FAR LEFT: Locations of Split Aperture Clusters on Banner Grid

NEAR LEFT: Layout of all balloons on Banner Grid

BASIC DIRECTIONS

Layout - Layout your design on RMS, honeycomb graph paper. You may download the graph paper from <http://www.rouseinternational.com/downloads/pdf/bnr.2.graph.pdf>. You may use your own design instead your ours if you like.,

Our design uses one RMS-2 Banner (two, half Banners come in a package) for a single layer soldier. Use two Banners for a double layer Soldier.

Basic Directions - For a single layer Soldier, simply follow the basic directions that come with the RMS -2 Banners. Just arrange the balloon colors to match your design. You may download a copy of those basic instructions from <http://www.rouseinternational.com/downloads/pdf/RMS-2BannerBuilderDir6.6.00.pdf>

If your design includes many details, as ours does, then you will want to load more than one balloon into some openings (apertures) in the framework. There are several possible techniques for this. Download our suggestions from <http://www.rouseinternational.com/ra/is.2003/04/pdf/split.aperture.recipe.02.pdf> The location of Split Aperture Clusters of balloons is shown to the far left above.

Shape - Cut away the excess Matrix with scissors once you have loaded the balloons for your design. This will give you the overall shape you want.

Support - Usually, a simple base plate with a vertical pipe on the back side of the soldier will be satisfactory support. Wrap a cable tie around the pipe and around a section of Matrix strap.

Tighten the cable tie until the balloon is snug against the pipe. DO NOT force the pipe directly against the strap. This will usually knock one or more balloons out of position in the Matrix. Attach the pipe to the Matrix several places along the height of the Soldier.

DOUBLE LAYER DESIGN

Increased Impact - You can greatly increase the impact and the physical strength of your soldier by making it in twin layers. You will double the balloons and the Matrix framework, but still need only one base and pipe to make a Soldier that people may walk around and view from both sides. You will also gain freedom in placing the Soldier at your venue.

Reorient Balloons - You still use doublets of balloons for a double layer design. In this case, however, the doublets are normally made up of balloons of the same color and are oriented to stand out perpendicular to the Matrix rather than lie down parallel to the framework.

Insert the first balloon of the doublet into the Matrix with the neck of the balloon in the air rather than against a Matrix strap. The second balloon of the pair may flop over for now, but that is OK.

Download this file <http://www.rouseinternational.com/ra/pdf/DoubleHeartRecipe.pdf> for a closer look at a double layer arrangement.

Close The Sandwich - Once you have loaded a number of balloons, take the second Matrix and press it down onto the several second balloons. Just make sure that the second Matrix is oriented the same way as the first and is positioned directly in front (or above) the first. You may do just a few doublets before adding the second Matrix or wait until you have loaded all the doublets into the first framework.

Shape - Cut away the excess Matrix with scissors once you have loaded the balloons for your design. This will give you the overall shape you want.

Support - A simple base plate with a vertical pipe is all you should need for support. Just slide the pipe up the center of the design between the layers of balloons.

TRIM

Camouflage - You can make the Matrix straps on the outside of your design practically disappear with camouflage. If the outside balloons are white then the semitransparent white Matrix will hide on its own. You may paint the Matrix to match balloons or cover the Matrix with balloon matching ribbon, colored tape, fabric, etc.

Feature - You can make the Matrix straps on the outside of your design stand out as a featured element. Choose a color and texture that coordinate with other elements of your soldier or with other elements of your room decor. You may paint the Matrix to match or cover it with matching ribbon, colored tape, fabric, etc.

Icing - What will you see between the layers of your double thick Soldier? It is a little like an Oreo cookie; usually, we would like some sweet icing in the middle. Just trimming the excess latex from around the knots in the doublets can help.

You may want to try wrapping the knots of the outside row of doublets with # 260 or # 160 balloons. This is a popular way to deal with it. Download this file for one example and instructions: <http://www.rouseinternational.com/ra/pdf/DoubleHeartRecipe.pdf>
You might also use ribbons or strips of fabric or plastic.

SCALE

Up Scale -You may create a larger Soldier by using a larger RMS framework and larger balloons. For instance, if you used RMS Builders instead of Banners you could use the same number of balloons (but inflated 8" instead of 4") and create a 12' tall Soldier instead of 6'. If you used RMS Super Builders, the same number of balloons would produce a Soldier 21' tall.

Down Scale -You may create a smaller Soldier by using a smaller RMS framework and smaller balloons. For instance, if you used a custom RMS framework for # 350 balloons and followed the same design, it would produce a Soldier about 3' tall. If you drop down to a custom RMS framework for # 260 balloons the result would be about 2', and a #160 version would be about 1' tall.

These RMS Mini-Matrix versions use bubbles twisted from long balloons rather than placing individual balloons in apertures. You can check them out further in the RMS Custom Catalog at: <http://rouseinternational.com/catalogs/gen.cat.panels.honey.htm>

You may download sample instructions for using RMS Mini-Matrix from <http://rouseinternational.com/downloads/pdf/RMS.Twistie.Matrix.Dir.01.pdf>