

## Tutorial 6: Distance sign with split lines:



### SignCAD Analysis

*The sign above is a distance sign created in the Texas standard. It contains nested rows and columns, where objects are placed into the sign in a specific order that demonstrates how the arrangement is built. There are three rows: the top row is Everhart Rd 1/4; the second row contains the split lines and the bottom row contains everything else, and are arranged as follows: The bottom row contains two columns. The right column is the 1 1/4. The left column contains two rows: Weber Rd FM43, and Carroll Ln.*

*The 1 1/4 miles refers to both Weber Rd and Carroll Ln, and is centered vertically on them.*

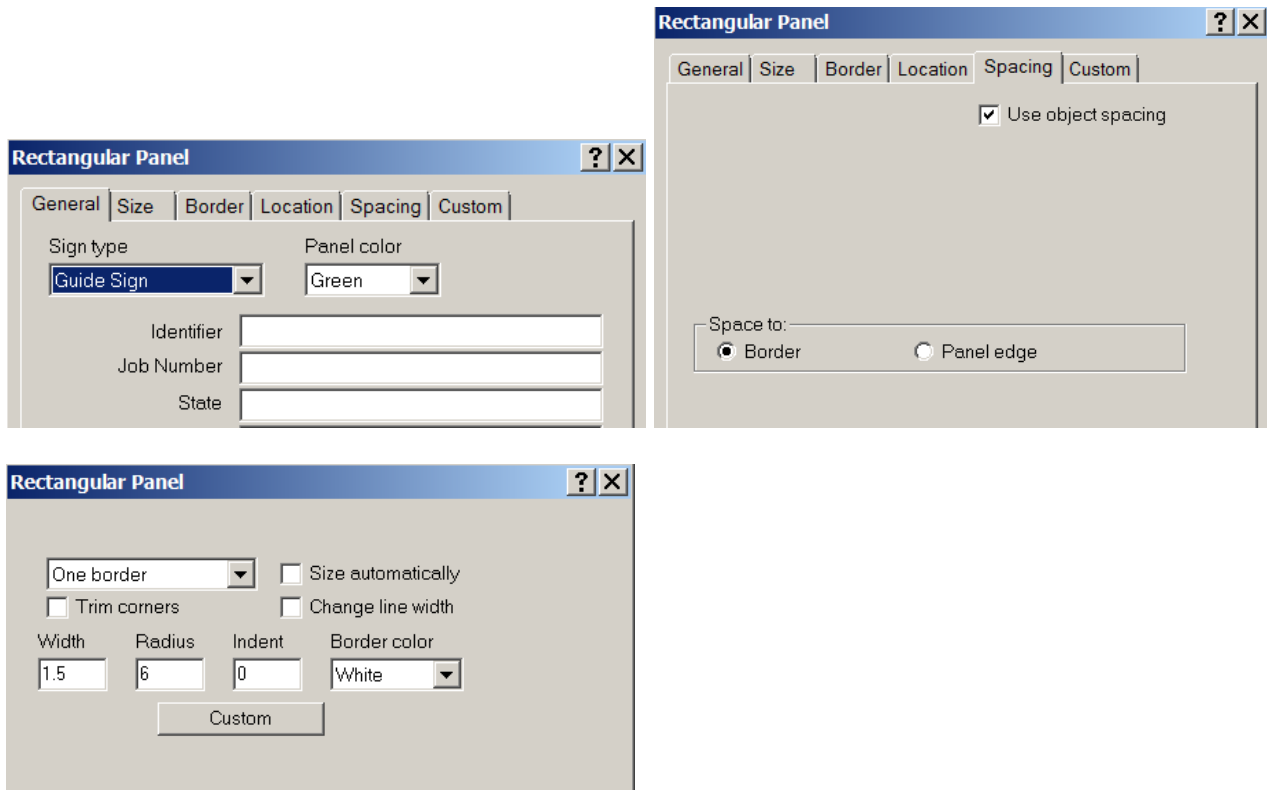
Select Preferences>Text Font ClearviewHwy-5-W-R, and Preferences>Text Size 8”

Type the legends and distances separated by the <enter>key, creating 5 text objects.

Type the 1/4 mile by typing <space>1/4<space><enter>, the space before and after the 1/4 stacks the fraction. Delete the two space characters.

Type the 1 <space> 1/4 <space> to create the 1 1/4. Delete the trailing space character.

Select the rectangular panel tool, picking Guide sign for Sign type in the General tab and Space to Border in the Spacing tab. In the Border tab uncheck Change Line Width. Pick OK.

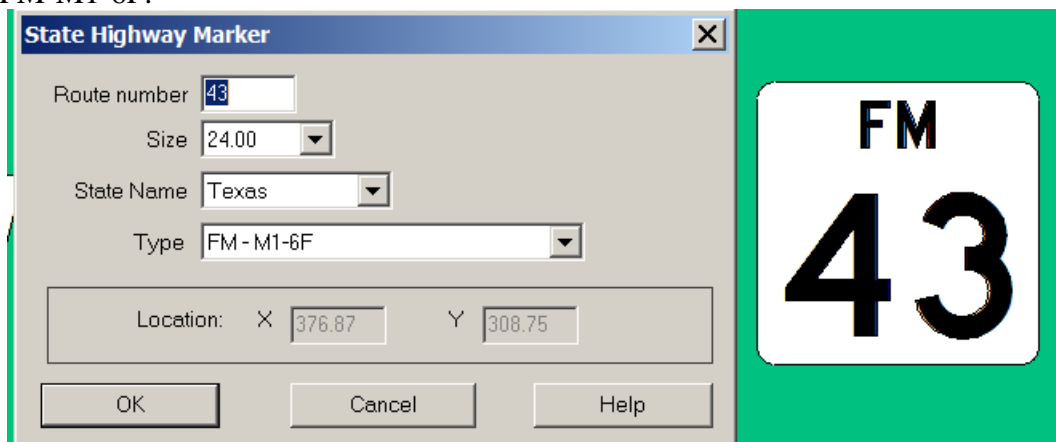


Use the Select tool to drag objects one at a time into the panel. The 1 1/4 will be in a separate column center aligned on two lines of legend. The Everhart Rd will be in its own row above the two columns. The order of placing the objects creates the nested rows and columns of objects.

The objects are placed on the panel order from the top down:

Drag Weber Rd onto the panel,

Place the the State marker using the State Highway marker tool and entering 43 size 24, and type FM-M1-6F.



Drag Carroll Ln in below the row.

Select and drag the 1 1/4 into a new column to the right of the two rows.

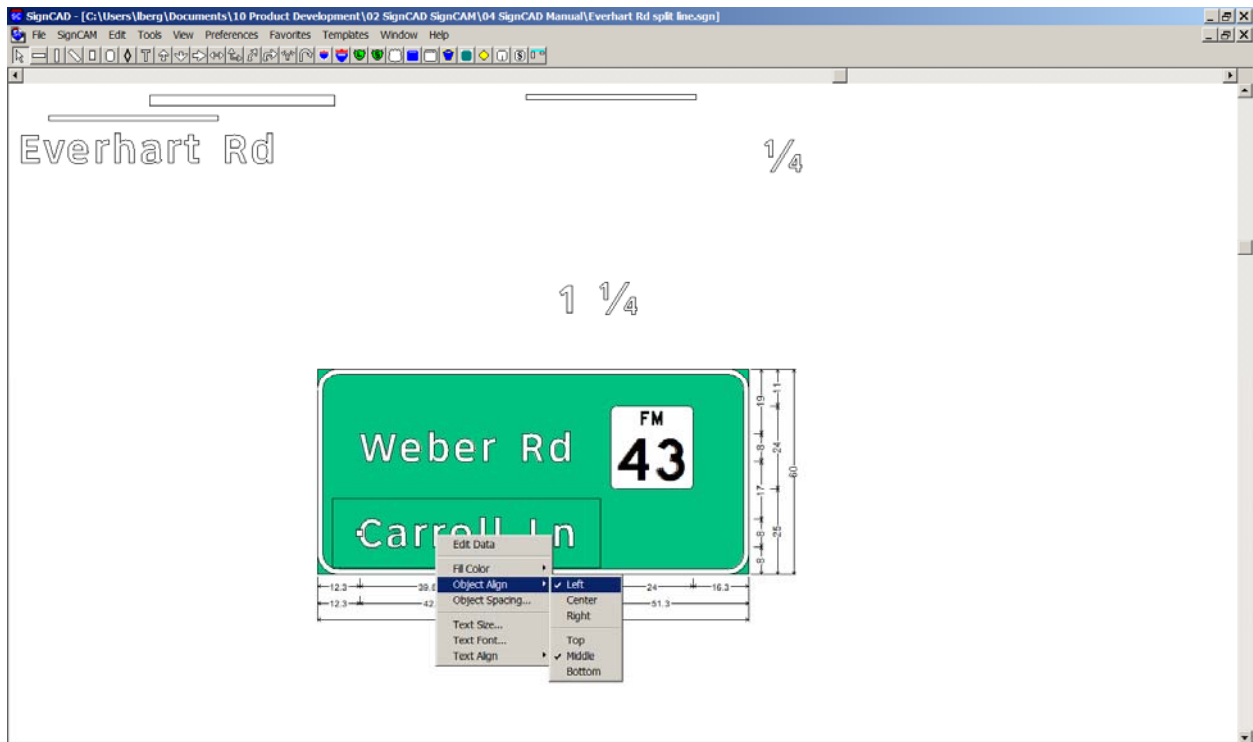
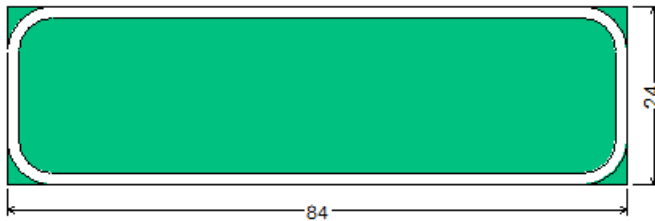
It will center vertically on the two lines, and the entire arrangement is now two columns.

Weber Rd

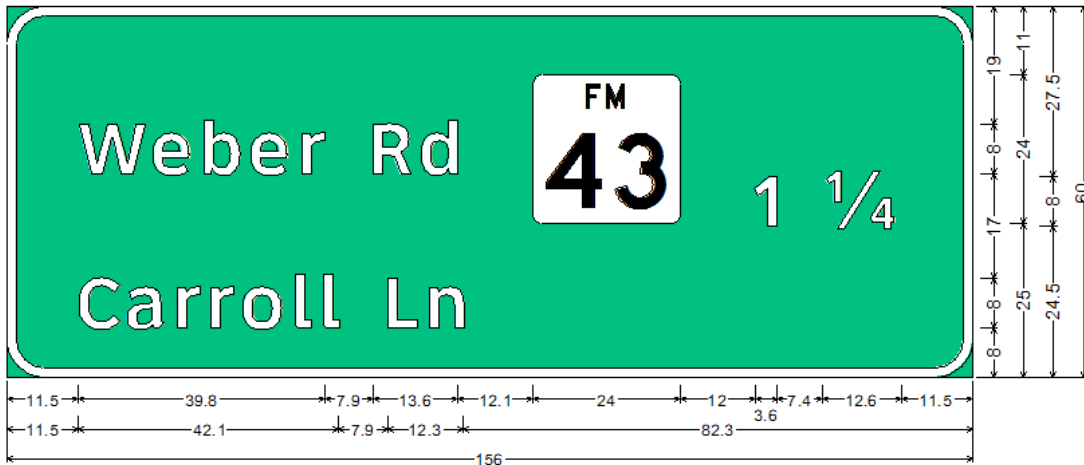


Carroll Ln

1 1/4



Right click on Carroll Ln and pick Object Align Left.



Select and drag Everhart Rd into the panel to make a whole new row above the arrangement, then drag the 1/4 into the same row. Right click on the fraction to object align it to the right.

The resulting sign will contain two rows of objects: the top row is Everhart Rd 1/4. The bottom row contains two columns, the left column is two rows and the right column is the mileage centered on the two rows.

Check the Preference menu>Object Align is set to Center.

Place a horizontal line into a new row between the two existing ones. The split lines are created by placing two horizontal lines end to end into the row and placing a placeholder between them.

To make it easier to find the line endpoints right click on the line after you first place it into the panel and set its width to a large value, such as 6.

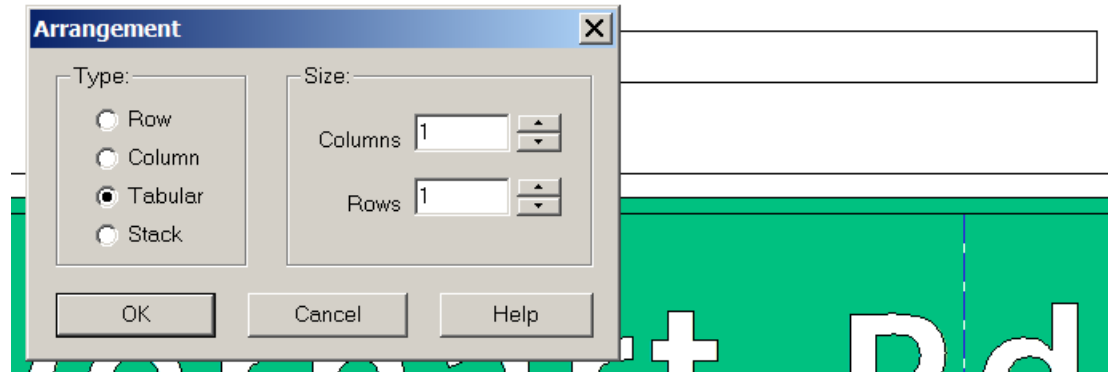


Select the line and from the edit menu pick Edit>Duplicate (<Ctrl>Q shortcut), and drag the duplicated line into the same row as the first line. A small blinking line at the right end will show that the panel recognizes the line and will place it end to end with the first one, and will show as above.

The reason to set a large width is to make it easier to find the blinking line at the ends of the horizontal lines. With experience finding the blinking line you can skip the step to set the line width.

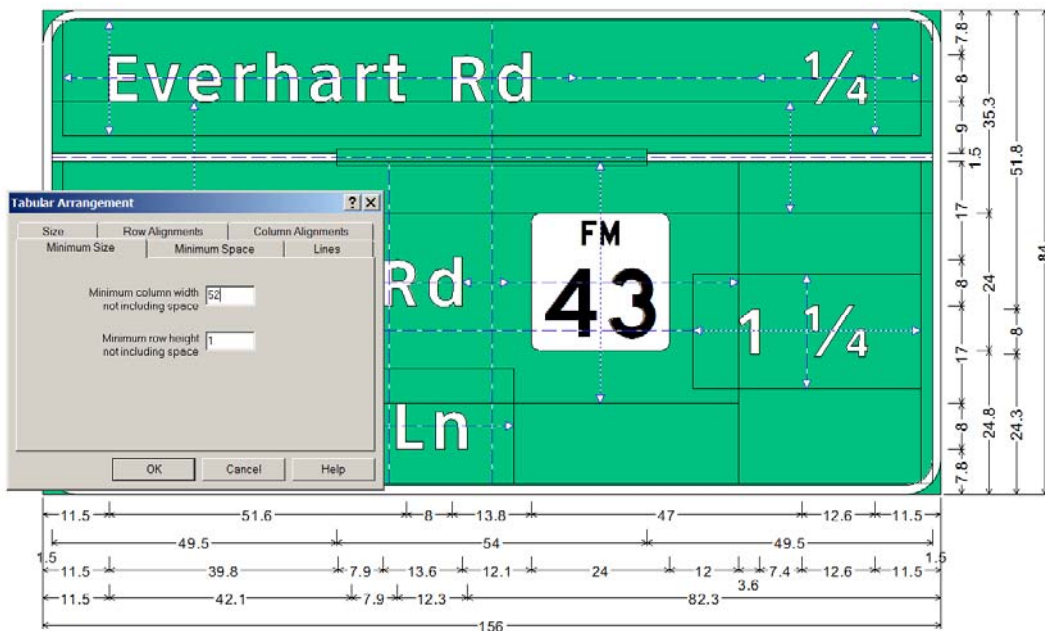
A split line usually has dimensions equal to  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> the width of the panel. Once the panel is sized with objects arranged and spaced, then the panel width divided by 3 will be the width of the gap between the two lines.

To create the gap, pick the arrange tool and pick a point on the screen to create a 1x1 tabular arrangement which will act as a virtual object and the space between the lines.



Once the Tabular is checked, pick OK, then right click on the box that was created. The tabular Minimum Size and Minimum Space tabs will be edited as follows: Set the minimum width to  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> the width of the panel. Set minimum height to 1. Set minimum spaces to 1. Pick OK.

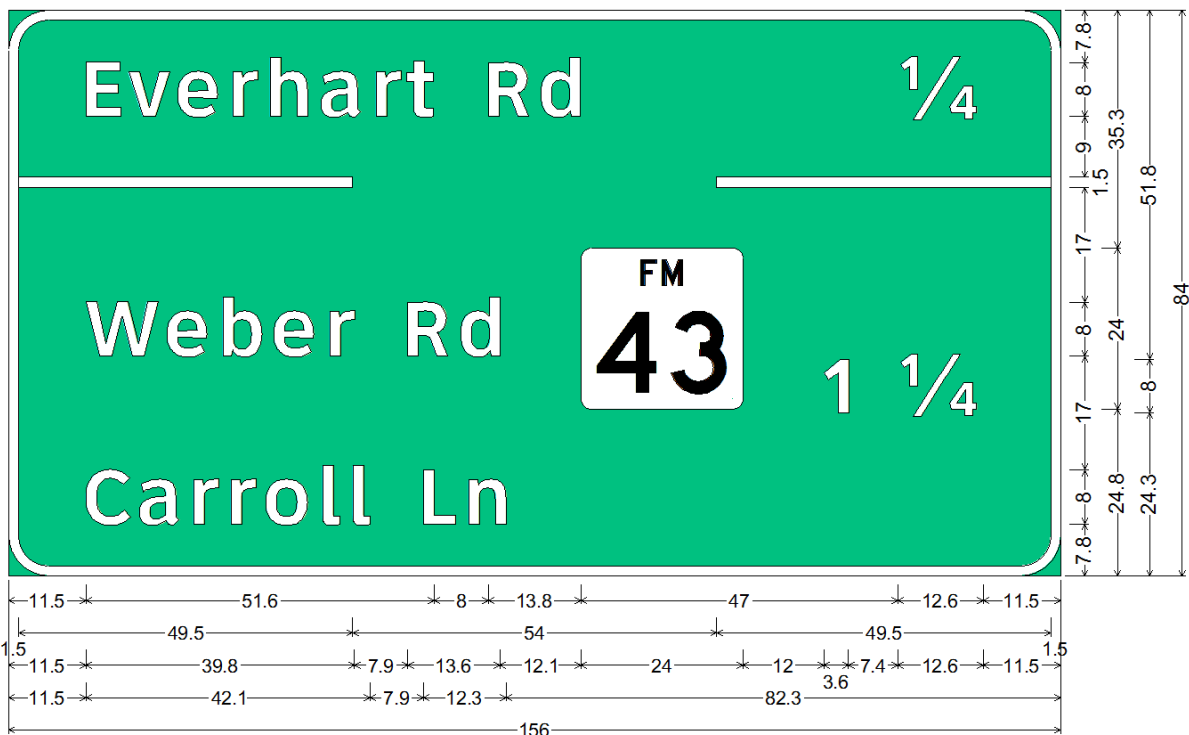
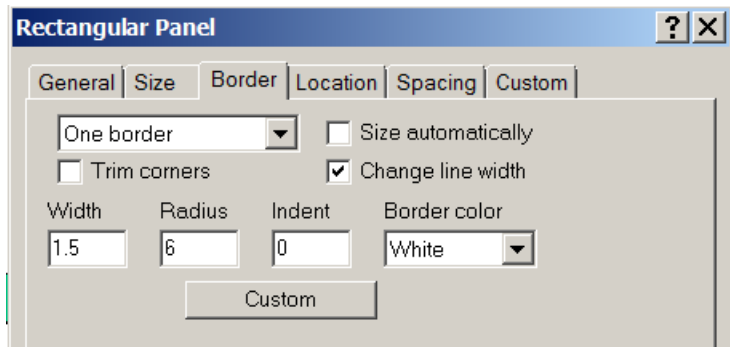
Pick the Select tool and drag the tabular arrangement into the panel between the two lines, looking for the blinking vertical line.



The lines will split apart.



To resize the lines go back to the Rectangular panel dialog by right clicking on the panel with the select tool. In the Border tab recheck Change line width and pick OK. It will lock the line width to the border width.



Adjust the vertical object spacing as needed to set the line spacing.