



## SPEAKERS' CORNER TRUST

### MOBILE SPEAKERS' CORNER ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Speakers' Corner Trust's mobile Speakers' Corner is easy to assemble and use but care should be taken to follow these instructions.

Please be aware that a minimum of two people will be required to lift the platform.

#### Assembly & Disassembly

1. **Lay out the text mat** on even ground or flooring. If necessary, place material beneath it to render the surface flat. Be careful to choose which piece of text you would like to display at the front of the platform. The four texts are set out below.



2. **Insert the four small batons** into the appropriate strips at the edges of the mat. Please note that one end is sealed.



3. **Position the platform supports** in two V shapes in the spaces allowed by the text, along the line where the black and white sections of the mat meet. The apex of the Vs should not be touching but should allow enough space for the central rib on the underside of the platform to pass between them. The two handles should be uppermost.



4. **Place the text plates in the appropriate positions** on the frames provided by the platform supports. They are held magnetically.



5. **Unfold the platform and carefully position it** so that the holes at each corner slot over the poles at the end of the platform supports. The serrated planks should be at the front. It is essential that after it



has been positioned the platform is flat and even.

6. **The platform comes with various accessories**, including



- a **lectern**, the height of which can be adjusted as necessary
- a **microphone stand**
- a **blackboard** identifying the platform as a Speakers' Corner and providing space on which information about your event can be provided; if you want to use this, you will need chalk.





Each of these accessories can be slotted through the holes at each corner of the platform and into the poles at the end of the platform supports. The Speakers' Corner blackboard should be hooked onto the large pole provided and positioned at the rear of the platform.



When disassembling the Speakers' Corner, please clean all surfaces with a damp cloth. Particular care should be taken to fold the text map smoothly so that the blank side is on the outside.

### **Dimensions**

The mobile Speakers' Corner's dimensions are as follows:

- platform: 1.3 metres by 1.3 metres (4'3"x4'3")
- height of platform: 42 centimetres (1'5")
- blackboard pole: 2.4 metres (7'9").

Please note that if you transporting the structure, you will require at least a medium sized estate car.

### **Amplification**

Depending on circumstances, you should consider using a microphone and amplification, which are not provided.

Those circumstances will include where you site the mobile Speakers' Corner – for example, is it close to a significant source of ambient noise such as traffic? – and how many people you expect to attract. That number will depend to a large degree on whether passers-by can hear what is being said.

You should also bear in mind the needs and interests of those, perhaps living or working nearby, who may be disturbed by your event. If you choose your site carefully, this should not be an issue.

Consider the need for a power source. Can you plug your amplifier in at the desired site and if so can you lay the cable without causing a hazard? If not, you will need to use a battery operated amplifier.

### **Consents & Cover**

It is your responsibility to ensure that, if necessary, any required authorisations are granted before you use the Speakers' Corner in either public or private space.

You may be liable for any negligence in your use of the Speakers' Corner and should therefore take particular care to minimise any risk to the public, for example by positioning it carefully and assembling it correctly. If in doubt you should check that you have appropriate public liability insurance for your event.

**A Final Tip:** choose a site with good footfall and if you want to gather a big crowd, start with a small one. Ask your friends to gather fairly tightly around the platform. Nothing is more likely to stimulate people's natural curiosity – other than a film camera!

## Text

The text on the mat and side panels should read:

- “Our government is called a democracy because power resides not in a few people but in the majority of our citizens... We reach decisions on public policy only after full discussion, believing that sound judgement, far from being impeded by debate, is arrived at only when full information is considered before a decision is made.”

**Pericles’ Funeral Oration 430 BC**

- (39) No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. (40) To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.

**Magna Carta 1215**

- Article 10: The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may accordingly speak, write and print with freedom but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law.

**Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen 1789**

- Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948**

The quotations which run across the top of the platform are as follows:

- “Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.”  
**John Milton, 1606-1664, British poet**
- “Without free speech no search for truth is possible... no discovery of truth is useful.”  
**Charles Bradlaugh, 1833-1891, British social reformer**
- “Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you’ve got to say, and say it hot”.  
**DH Lawrence, 1885-1930, British novelist, poet and essayist**
- “If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”  
**George Orwell, 1903-1950, British writer**

## Design

The mobile Speakers’ Corner was designed for Speakers’ Corner Trust by Ade Armstrong and built at the Old Vic Theatre, Bristol. Ade can be contacted at [adedesignstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:adedesignstudio@hotmail.com).

