

Des Moines Modelaire Petromat Runway

The material is \$485/roll. Each roll is 12.5 ft wide x 360 ft long. The product is now called Geotex 600X (when we got ours it was Geotex 315ST). We used 6/2/6 staples that are \$42 for 1000. We used 8-9 thousand for our 4 strips. Staples are installed all the way around each exposed edge next to each other. The strips are overlapped about 6 in. The staples are spaced out about 2 ft on the side that will be under the overlap.

Our contact is John at Quick Supply in Des Moines 515-250-6079. The material also comes in wider widths. But, there are 500 sq. yards per roll so if you get it wider, the length will be shorter. You can look up the product on the Internet to read more about it. Construction or landscaping companies should be able to get it for you.

Staples are pounded in with rubber mallets. The surface just needs to be reasonably smooth. The first time, we just mowed our runway as short as the mower would go. The second time, we used a small disk, harrow and old bed spring to level out some uneven areas. When you lay it, you only have to make it reasonably wrinkle free. The sun will tighten it up in a week or so. Damage can be repaired using roofing tar.

We had to replace ours because some kids got on it with a car and used it for a drag strip. After that, we put up a fence in addition to our gate to make it harder to get onto the field.

The airplanes really like it. As you say, it is cheaper than asphalt. We found clubs that had it down for over 7 years. It makes our field more usable. We don't have to worry so much about keeping the runway mowed short and the field is more usable after rains and in the winter. We do keep a grass runway mowed next to the petromat. Guys like to use the petromat for takeoff and the grass for landings. Planes do roll a lot easier on the petromat. Now with all of the electrics, it is great for them.

Jim Lewis
clone2tb@mchsi.com