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**Subject:** Projects We Love: Wild Card  
**Date:** Thu, 19 Jan 2012 20:23:55 +0000

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**JANUARY 19, 2012**

Not everything is as it seems this week: an average guy doubles as a comical troll, that "We're Open!" sign is, ahem, open to change, and your pack of classic playing cards takes some distinctly unexpected shapes.

 [Skallops: Build Big!](#)

**Skallops: Build Big!**

by Michael Woods

 **Category** Product Design

 **Location** Menlo Park, CA

### **An ace up your sleeve**

The makers of the [Trebuchette](#) have developed a new laser-cut toy that clips standard playing cards together into almost anything you can imagine: towering columns, rolling wheels, blimps, even whole cars. The Starter Pack will get you going, but ambitious builders will want to try the aptly named Architect Pack. Only the sky (or at least the ceiling) is the limit.

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## VALUCO Font Design

### VALUCO Font Design

by Aesthetic Apparatus



Category Graphic Design

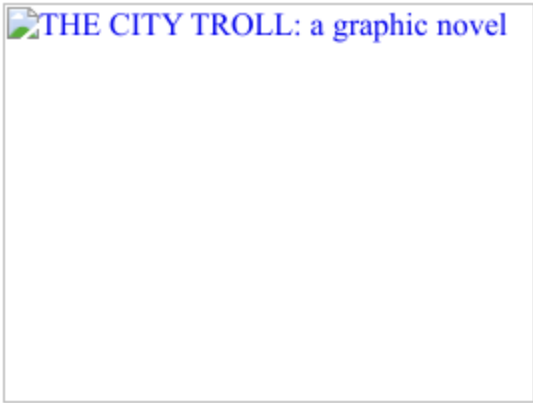


Location Minneapolis, MN

## The right type

Minneapolis-based design studio Aesthetic Apparatus originally created the VALUCO font as part of a project parodying the classic "OPEN" sign seen in store windows. After scoring a hit with hilarious alternate signage like "Sorry, we're DRUNK," they're ready to bring this stylish font to the people. Yes, we're EXCITED!

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## THE CITY TROLL: a graphic novel

### THE CITY TROLL: a graphic novel

by Aaron Whitaker



Category Comics



Location Austin, TX

## A lovable monster

To the protagonist of graphic novel *The City Troll*, all we have to say is this: dude, we've totally been there. Paul is an everyday guy with *extremely* low self-esteem, who sees himself as a weird-and-wacky monster every time he looks in the mirror. The story follows him as he navigates the pits and prat-falls of life, like love triangles, jealousy, self-deprecation, and hippie Dads. Who *can't* relate to that?!

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