

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

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FORM S-8  
Registration Statement  
Under the Securities Act of 1933  
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Acme United Corporation  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Connecticut  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

06-0236700  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

60 Round Hill Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Acme United Corporation 2012 Employee Stock Option Plan  
(Full Title of the Plan)  
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Paul Driscoll  
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,  
Secretary and Treasurer  
60 Round Hill Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824  
(Name and address of agent for service  
(203) 254-6060

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

copy to:  
Merritt A. Cole, Esq.  
White and Williams LLP  
1650 Market Street Suite 1800

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7395  
Phone (215) 864-7000  
Fax (215) 864-7123  
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Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one).  
Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller Reporting Company

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock	1,000 (2)	\$ 10.35 (3)	\$ 10,350	
	130,500 (4)	\$ 10.64 (5)	1,388,520	
	<u>38,500 (6)</u>	<u>\$ 10.59 (7)</u>	<u>407,715</u>	
Total	170,000		\$ 1,806,585	\$ 207.03

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement covers, in addition to the number of shares stated herein, any additional shares of the Company's common stock that become issuable under the Acme United Corporation 2012 Employee Stock Option Plan ("2012 Employee Plan") by reason of any stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Represents shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of options granted in June 2012 under the 2012 Employee Plan.

(3) Exercise price of options granted in June 2012.

(4) Represents shares of the Common Stock of the Company issuable upon exercise of options granted in July 2012 under the 2012 Employee Plan.

(5) Exercise price of options granted in July 2012.

(6) Represents additional shares of the Common Stock of the Company issuable upon exercise of options which may be granted under the 2012 Employee Plan.

(7) Estimated pursuant to Rules 457 (c) and 457 (h)(1) under the Securities Act, solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee, based upon the average of the high and low prices for shares of the Company's common stock (the "Common Stock") reported on the NYSE MKT on August 10, 2012.

### Explanatory Note.

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is being filed for the purpose of registering:

- (i) 170,000 shares of Common Stock, par value \$2.50 per share, of the Company (the "Common Stock") which may be issued pursuant to the Acme United Corporation 2012 Employee Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") and,
- (ii) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), an indeterminate amount of additional shares of Common Stock, which may become issuable pursuant to the anti-dilution or other adjustment provisions of the 2012 Employee Plan are also being registered hereunder.

#### Part I

##### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) promulgated under the Securities Act. Such documents need not be filed with the Commission either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424. These documents and the documents incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act (the "Prospectus").

#### Part II

##### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

###### Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents previously filed with the Commission are incorporated by reference and made a part of this prospectus:

- (a) our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on March 7, 2012;
- (b)(i) our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012, filed on May 14, 2012 and August 14, 2012, respectively.
- (ii) our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 23, March 1, April 11, April 20, April 26 and July 20, 2012.
- (c) the description of our Common Stock contained in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 8, 2005, including any amendment to that form that we may file in the future, for the purpose of updating the description of our Common Stock.

All documents we have filed pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered by this prospectus have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be a part of this prospectus from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein or in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Registration Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable, because the Common Stock is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Item 5. Interest of Named Experts and Counsel.

None.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS") Sections 33-771 through 33-778 provide for mandatory, permissive and court-ordered indemnification of directors who are parties to a proceeding. For purposes of these indemnification statutes a "proceeding" is defined as any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative and whether formal or informal.

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Company shall indemnify an individual who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director or officer of the corporation against liability in the proceeding if:

(1)(A) he conducted himself in good faith; (B) he reasonably believed (i) in the case of conduct in his official capacity, that his conduct was in the best interests of the corporation; and (ii) in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and (C) in the case of any criminal proceeding, he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful; or

(2) such liability arises from any action taken, or any failure to take any action, as a director or officer, except liability that (A) involved a knowing and culpable violation of law by the director or officer; (B) enabled the director, officer or an associate (as defined in the CGS) to receive an improper personal gain; (C) showed a lack of good faith and a conscious disregard for the duty of the director or officer to the corporation under circumstances in which the director or officer was aware that his conduct or omission created an unjustifiable risk of serious injury to the corporation; (D) constituted a sustained and unexcused pattern of inattention that amounted to an abdication of the director's or officer's duty to the corporation; or (E) created liability under the CGS for the illegal payment of dividends.

The Registrant has obtained directors' and officers' reimbursement and liability insurance against certain liabilities.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit No.	Identification of Exhibit
<a href="#">5.1</a>	Opinion of Brody Wilkinson PC
10.1*	2012 Employee Stock Option Plan
<a href="#">23.1</a>	Consent of Marcum LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
23.3	Consent of Brody Wilkinson PC (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of attorney (included on signature page of this Registration Statement)

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\* Previously filed in the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(a) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(b) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of a prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(c) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(5) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Town of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, on the 16th day of August, 2012.

ACME UNITED CORPORATION

By: /s/ Walter C. Johnsen  
Walter C. Johnsen, Chairman and Chief  
Executive Officer

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KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Walter C. Johnsen and Paul Driscoll, or either of them, as true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign the Registration Statement filed herewith and any or all amendments to said Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agents the full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the foregoing, as to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on the 16th day of August, 2012:

Signature	Title
<u>/s/ Walter C. Johnsen</u> Walter C. Johnsen	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and Director

s/ Brian S. Olschan  
Brian S. Olschan

President, Chief Operating Officer and Director

s/ Paul Driscoll  
Paul Driscoll

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer

s/ Rex L. Davidson  
Rex L. Davidson

Director

s/ Richmond Y. Holden, Jr.  
Richmond Y. Holden, Jr.

Director

s/ Susan H. Murphy  
Susan H. Murphy

Director

s/ Stevenson E. Ward III  
Stevenson E. Ward III

Director

Exhibit Index

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\* Previously filed in the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.



As of August 15, 2012

Board of Directors  
Acme United Corporation  
60 Round Hill Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are corporate general counsel for Acme United Corporation (the "Company"). We are delivering this opinion in connection with the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on or about the date hereof of a Form S-8 Registration Statement (the "Registration Statement") relating to shares of Common Stock, par value \$2.50 per share, of the Company (the "Shares") to be offered as follows: 170,000 Shares pursuant to the Acme United Corporation 2012 Employee Stock Option Plan (the "Plan").

We have examined and are familiar with (i) the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company as presently in effect; (ii) a Certificate of Existence issued by the Connecticut Secretary of the State dated August 14, 2012; (iii) the corporate proceedings approving the Plan; (iv) the Plan; (v) a form of the option grant agreements; and (vi) such other documents and instruments as we have considered necessary for the purposes of the opinions hereinafter set forth.

In our examination of the aforesaid documents, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of all natural persons, the accuracy and completeness of all documents submitted to us, the authenticity of all original documents, and the conformity to authentic original documents of all submitted to us as copies (including telecopies). This opinion letter is given, and all statements herein are made, in the context of the foregoing.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Company has been duly incorporated and is a validly existing corporation under the laws of the State of Connecticut.

2. Upon issuance and delivery of the Shares pursuant to the Plan and the relevant option agreements thereunder after the date hereof, and payment to the Company of the required option price for the Shares, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable.

This opinion letter is provided to you for your benefit solely with regard to the Registration Statement, may be relied upon by you only in connection with the Registration Statement, and may not be relied upon by any other person or for any other purpose without our prior written consent.

We are members of the Bar of the State of Connecticut and some of us are members of other jurisdictions not relevant herein. In connection herewith, we express no opinion on the laws of any jurisdiction other than the laws of the State of Connecticut.

We hereby consent to the use of this opinion and our names in connection with the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

BRODY WILKINSON PC

By:

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James E. Rice, Vice President and Secretary

**Consent of Marcum LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of Acme United Corporation on Form S-8 of our report dated March 7, 2012, with respect to our audits of the consolidated financial statements of Acme United Corporation as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Acme United Corporation for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

/s/ Marcum LLP  
Marcum LLP  
New Haven, Connecticut  
August 16, 2012

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