How to use a laser cutter

A laser cutter is a machine that uses the power of a laser to engrave materials. You can use these machines to make industrial things, but also in small businesses and for personal use. It will take a bit of practice to use a laser cutter. Here you will find the necessary steps to learn how to use a laser cutter.

STEPS

Create an image that you want to cut.

Can be selected from a camera, a drawing or an image. You must upload it to your computer and then load it into a program that is compatible with the laser cutter. Most of them use a program called Corel Draw or in AutoCAD.

Choose the material you are going to use.

There are many different materials with which a laser cutter can work. You can use wood, acrylic and laser plastic to cut or engrave them. Aluminum and glass can also be engraved with a laser cutter. Metals should not be used because they can damage our laser cutter.

Enient the machine and get ready to cut.

Turn on the machine and wait for it to warm up before starting to cut. Go to your computer and in the program you are using click on "File" and then "Print". There should be a preferences menu that allows you to choose the cutting method. Most machines will have two methods: "raster" and "vector". The "raster" method is used when you want to record something and "vector" when you want to cut pieces of the material.

Set the width of the line and the speed of the cut and then cut your image.

You should establish the cut line according to the material you have, but you should also take into account that wider lines take more time to cut and may result with uneven edges. You should also set the speed of the cut according to the material you are going to cut, but it also depends on whether you are going to cross the material or if you are only going to make marks on it. Once your options are determined, you can start cutting your image.

Warning

Never cut PVC or vinyl. These materials will produce a chlorine gas that will suffocate you and damage your machine.