



Cricut: A GETTING STARTED GUIDE

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CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2 VS. CRICUT MAKER

WHICH MACHINE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

		
	CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2	CRICUT MAKER
Bluetooth Wireless Technology	✓	✓
Cuts 100+ materials from vellum to thin leather	✓	✓
Cuts 250+ materials from fabric to balsa wood		✓
Double tool holder	✓	✓
User friendly software	✓	✓
Knife blade for thicker materials		✓
Access to hundreds of digital sewing patterns		✓
Rotary blade for fabrics		✓
Adaptive tool system		✓
Access to images	60,000+	60,000+

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2



Cricut Explore Air 2 Machine



Power Cord



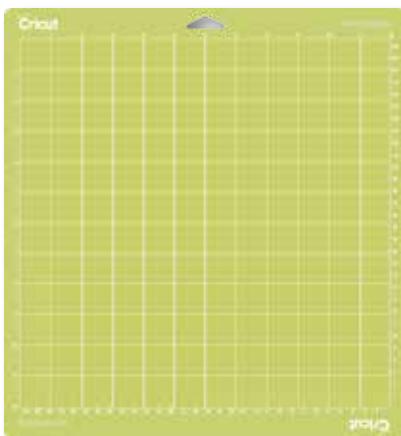
USB Cord



Blade and Housing
(pre-installed)



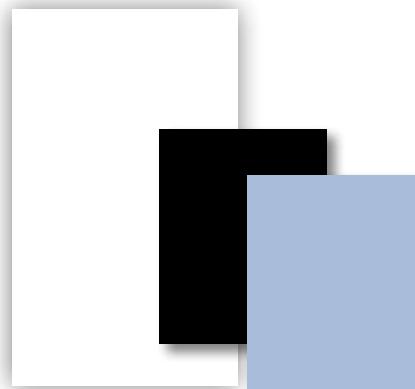
Pen



12" x 12" StandardGrip
Cutting Mat



Cricut | Explore Air 2



Cardstock Samples

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2



UNBOXING YOUR MACHINE

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2

NOTE

There may be some variation in what you see in the box. Our warehouse may open the box to include bundle components and what is included in the box may also change. Please contact us with any questions.

1



1. Your machine will come in a brown shipping box with a white Cricut box snug inside. Both boxes will say Cricut on them.

2



2. Separate the two boxes, bundle components may be in between them. I recommend holding onto both boxes, just in case you need to return the machine for repairs, or if you need to move or store your machine.

3



3. Inside the white box, the machine will be held in place with some packaging materials. The machine may be inside a white Styrofoam sheet and the cutting mat should be on top of the machine.

4. After removing the machine and mat from the box, you will see the power cord, USB cord, sketch pen and a clear plastic envelope.

5



4



5. The clear plastic envelope includes a "getting started guide," sample materials to make your first card (white, black and blue cardstock pieces), warranty information, "Learn more," and Iron-on instructions.

UNBOXING YOUR MACHINE

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2

6

6. Unwrap the machine and ensure to take off all the packing materials including the clear plastic wrap on each end of the machine and the gray tab going from the top lid to the bottom tray.



7



7. Push the open button on the front left of the machine to open the lid. Let the machine open naturally. Inside the machine, there is one last piece of packing material to remove, it is found under the blade carriage.

You'll notice at this point that the white accessory holder is pre-installed in Clamp A (for Accessories) and the blade with blade housing is installed in Clamp B (for Blades).

8. You are now ready to plug in your machine and hook it up to your computer. Locate the power and USB cords.

The power cord has two pieces that should come preassembled. If the two pieces are not attached, simply plug one end into the other. The round end of the power cord plugs into the back of the machine on the right-hand side.

The other end of the power cord has a standard, 2 prong, US power supply cord. Plug it into an outlet or a power strip.

The USB cord will have a square end, plug that into the back of your machine on the left-hand side. Now that you are all unboxed and plugged in, the next step is to set up a Design Space Account (see page 13).

8



Note: The Explore Air 2 is Bluetooth compatible, but you'll need to connect via USB cord to get it all set up.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

CRICUT MAKER

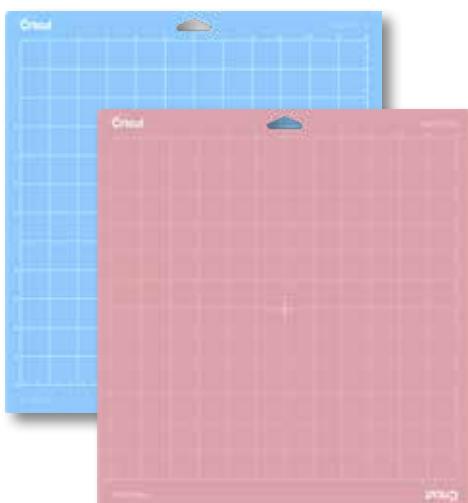


Cricut Maker Machine

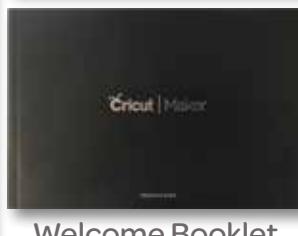
Power Cord



Fine Point
Blade &
Housing



12" x 12" LightGrip Mat (Blue)
12" x 12" FabricGrip Mat (Pink)



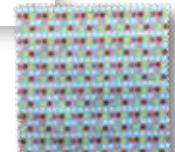
Welcome Booklet



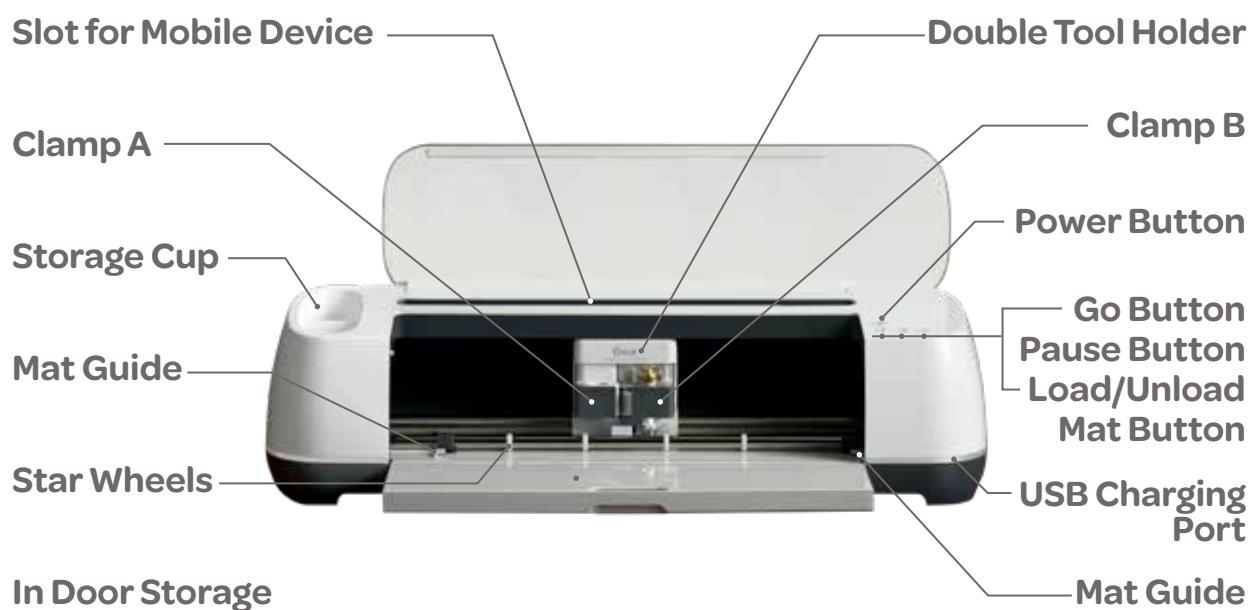
Rotary USB
Blade Cord



First Project
Materials
(*Fabric pattern may vary)



CRICUT MAKER



UNBOXING YOUR MACHINE

CRICUT MAKER

NOTE

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1



- Your machine will come in a brown shipping box with a black Cricut box snug inside. Both boxes will say Cricut on them.

2

Separate the two boxes, bundle components may be in between them. I recommend holding onto both boxes, just in case you need to return the machine for repairs, or if you need to move or store your machine.

2



3



- The first thing you will see when you open the box is the "Let's get started" box. Inside this box you will find:
 - Materials for your first project
 - Cardstock (white & blue)
 - Fabric Square (*pattern may vary)
 - Rotary Blade
 - USB Cord
 - Pen
 - Warranty Information



- Once you remove the packaging and "Let's get started" box, you'll find the Maker machine. Take the machine out of the box and you'll find the power cord in the bottom of the box. The LightGrip Cutting Mat (blue) and FabricGrip Cutting Mat (pink) will be under the bottom piece of the box. Note, the mats may be slightly bent. They will flatten with time and are completely usable until they do so.

4



UNBOXING YOUR MACHINE

CRICUT MAKER

5



6



5. Remove the white foam sheet and then remove the shrink wrapped plastic from around the outside of the machine.
6. To open, lift the lid, no buttons are necessary. Let the front of the machine open naturally. Inside the machine, there is one last piece of packing material to remove, it is found under the blade carriage.

You'll notice at this point that the white accessory holder is pre-installed in Clamp A (for [Accessories](#)) and the blade with blade housing is installed in Clamp B (for [Blades](#)).

7. You are now ready to plug in your machine and hook it up to your computer. Locate the power and USB cords.

The USB cord will have a square end, plug that into the back of your machine on the left-hand side. The Cricut Logo will point downwards.

The power cord has two pieces that should come preassembled. If the two pieces are not attached, simply plug one end into the other. The round end of the power cord plugs into the back of the machine on the right-hand side.

The other end of the power cord has a standard, 2 prong, US power supply cord. Plug it into an outlet or a power strip. Now that you are all plugged in to your computer, you can continue on to set up a Design Space Account.

7



Note: The Maker is Bluetooth compatible, but you'll need to connect via USB cord to get it all set up.

1. To use your machine, you will need to create a free account with Cricut. Design Space is the name of Cricut's software program that is used to create and design files your machine will understand.

Creating an account will give you access to your saved designs, projects, payment information and linked cartridges.

Go to <https://design.cricut.com/#/setup>

Click "Get Started."



2

Create a Cricut ID

Your Cricut ID is your sign-in for everything you do with Cricut.

Important: Please make sure you create the account as the owner of the new machine.

First Name	Email / Cricut ID
Last Name	Retype Email / Cricut ID
Country	Password
Please Select	

I accept the [Cricut Terms of Use](#)

Send me Cricut tutorials, inspiration, and deals via email

Already have a Cricut ID?

[Sign In](#)

2. First you will need to create a Cricut ID. Fill out the form with your information. Select your country (United States, Canada, United Kingdom) from the drop down. If you are not in one of those countries, select the closest option. Read and review the Cricut terms of use and check the box indicating that you have done so.

Before submitting the information, consider the "Send me Cricut Tutorials, Inspiration and Deals via email" box. Cricut will send you emails about once a week sharing sales, new releases, inspiration and more. If you would not like to receive these types of emails, you can uncheck the box. If you check the box and later change your mind, you can always unsubscribe at the bottom of the email.

3

Account created

Your Cricut ID can be used to sign into Design Space, Cricut.com or any other Cricut application.



You have successfully created a Cricut ID!

[Continue](#)

3. Once you have that all set up, click Create User ID. You will see confirmation that your new account has been created, click Continue.

4. On the next screen, there are a few questions that Cricut asks to get to know you better.

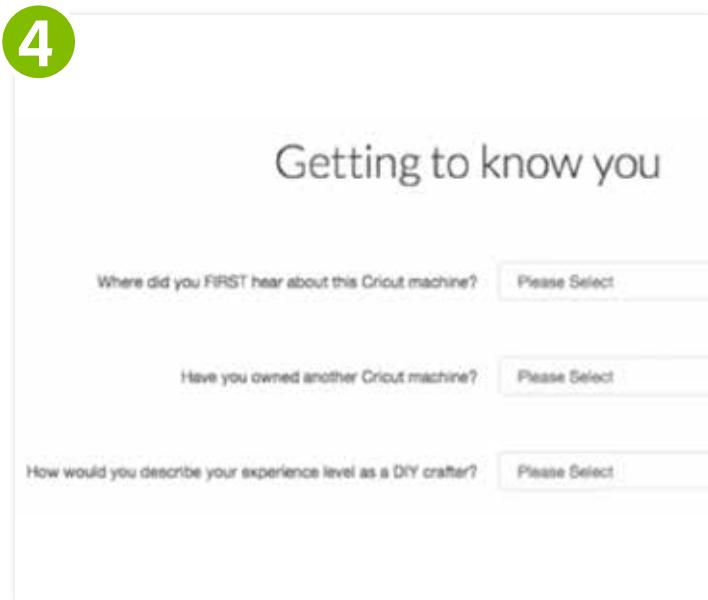
These are simply questions to help Cricut know who their user base is.

5. Next, install the Cricut Design Space plugin. Click the download button to start.

6. A setup wizard will pop up and take you through all the setup steps. Click Next.

7. Read and accept the terms of use agreement then click the "I accept the agreement" radio button. You have to accept the terms of use to download, but I would strongly recommend reading the terms before checking that you accept it. Click "Install >"

4



5



6



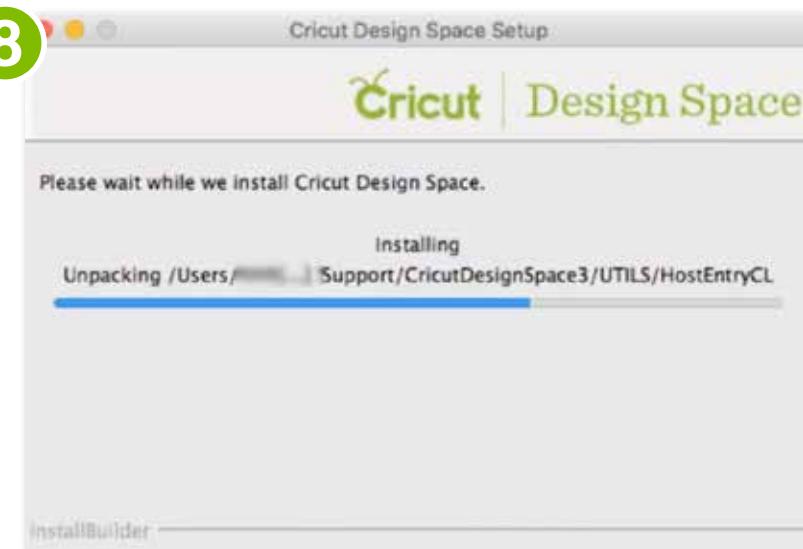
7



15

CREATING A CRICUT ACCOUNT

8



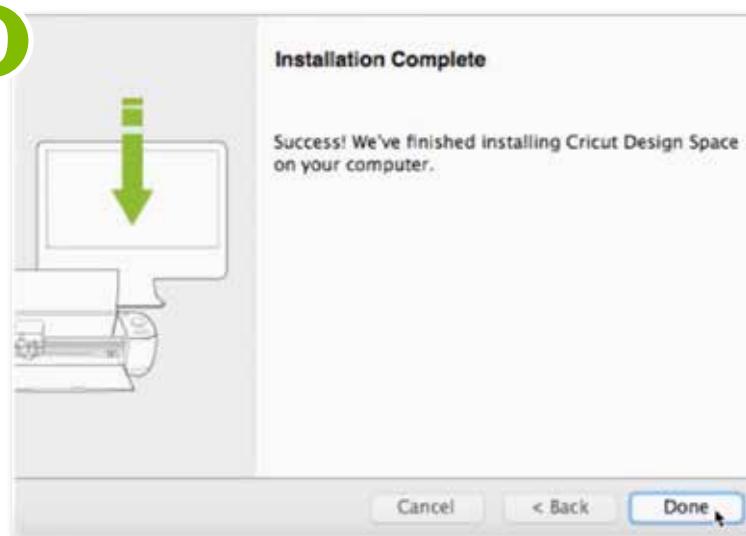
8. Design Space will then begin installing on your computer.

9. The plugin will finish installing and you'll see a confirmation screen. Click "Done".

10. A final confirmation screen will show up, click continue.

11. Now you are ready to turn on the machine. Press the power button to turn it on.

9



10

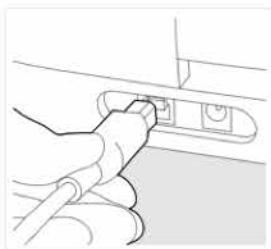
Cricut Design Space plugin installed



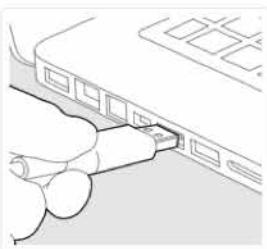
11

Connect machine

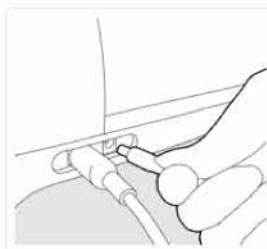
Connect your Cricut machine to your computer with the USB cable and power it on.



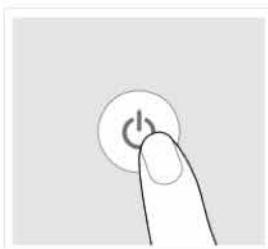
Plug square end of USB cable into back of machine.



Plug rectangular end of USB into computer.



Plug power cable into back of machine and power outlet.



Press Power button on the machine.

16

CREATING A CRICUT ACCOUNT

12. Once you are connected, click the Continue Button in the bottom right corner. Cricut will then check to see if you need to update your firmware on your machine. Press continue.

The next screen will say "Get your free gifts" and let you activate your Cricut Access free trial subscription.

TIP

If you want to delay activating the free trial until you know a little more, you can activate later.

12



13. Now that you have created a Cricut ID, downloaded the software and updated your firmware, you can choose to start making the sample project.

When you go to log into your Cricut account in the future, go to <https://design.cricut.com/#/sign-in> and enter your email and password.

13 Sign In with your Cricut ID

Use your Cricut ID for everything you do with Cricut.

Email/Cricut ID

Password
 Please enter your password

[Forgot?](#)

Remember Me

Don't have an account yet?
[Create A Cricut ID](#)

14. If you are on a public or shared computer, make sure to uncheck the "remember me" box. Checking remember me will have your email address in the Email/Cricut ID box. If you are on a shared computer, and you do not want your email address potentially jeopardized, you would want to uncheck the box. If you are on your own computer, this box can save you from typing out your email address each time you access your account.

If you would like to sign out from your account, you can go to the main menu and select "Sign Out".

14

Manage Custom Materials

[Update Firmware](#)

[Account Details](#)

[Link Cartridges](#)

[Cricut Access](#)

[Settings](#)

[Legal](#)

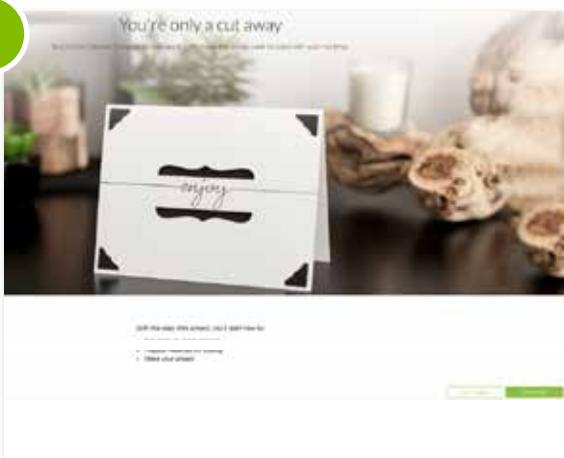
[New Features](#)

[United States ▾](#)

[Help](#)

[Sign Out](#)

1



- Once you have set up your account, updated your firmware and downloaded the DesignSpace plugin, Cricut will direct you to do a test project.

The pieces for this sample project are included in your box with your machine.

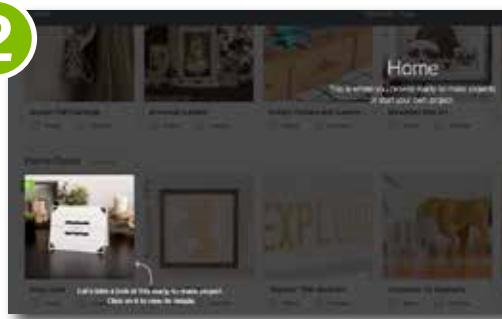
At the end of the registration process, the screen to do your test project will appear. Click continue to make the card.

- Cricut will walk you through the exact steps, but I found that it's very easy to just click through the steps and not really pay

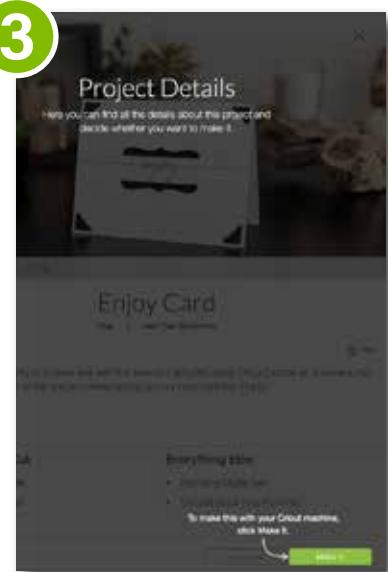
attention to what you're clicking on, so it's hard to remember what you did later on when you're "flying on your own."

Design Space will auto navigate you to the Home screen and scroll down to where the card is located. Click on the design as prompted.

2



3



on the "Make It" button at the bottom.

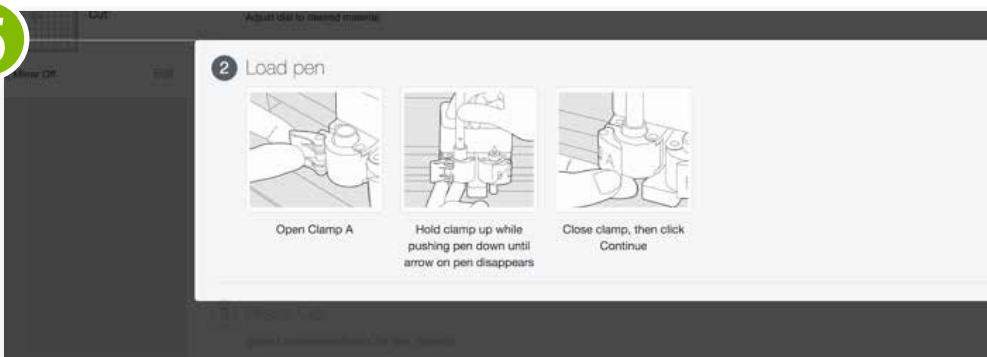
4



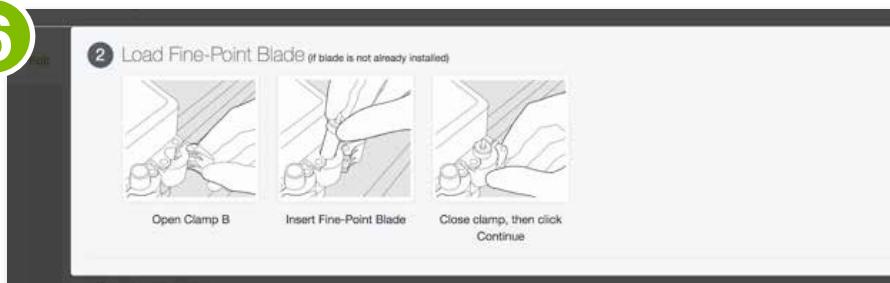
4. Cricut will automatically sort the project by colors. Prepare your mat as instructed on the screen. For this card example, there is only one mat to work with.

5. Next it will give you instructions on how to load the pen.

5



6



6. It will then instruct you to load your cutting blade. If you never took your cutting blade out from when you opened the machine, the blade should already be properly installed.

TIP

You do NOT need to unload and reload the blade every time, if your fine point blade is in there, just click "Continue".

7

7. Next, add your material to your cutting mat in the upper left-hand corner, as shown in the instructions.

8. Load the cutting mat into the machine. Butt the mat against the rollers, between the mat guards, and press the load mat button.



8



9

- ② Tools and mat loaded

Tools: Midnight pen, Fine-Point Blade

- ③ Press Go

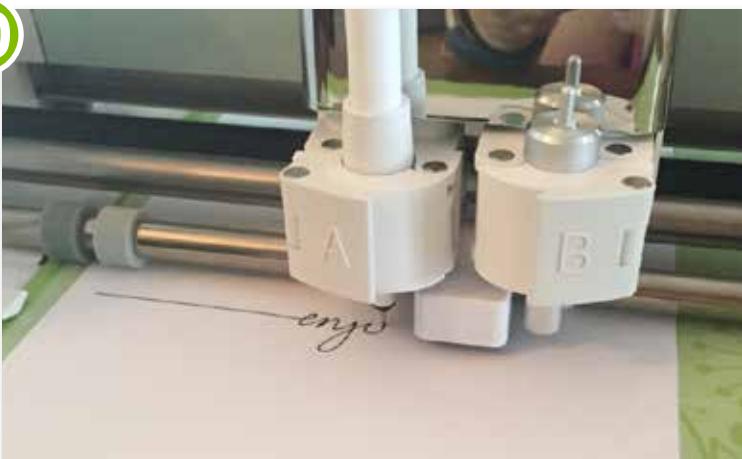
Speed automatically set for this material

Press flashing Go button

9. When loading, the machine will then draw the mat in slightly. If the mat did not load properly, or you need to unload the mat for any reason, click the load button again and the machine will unload the mat. When you have loaded properly, click the flashing Cricut symbol, "Go".



10

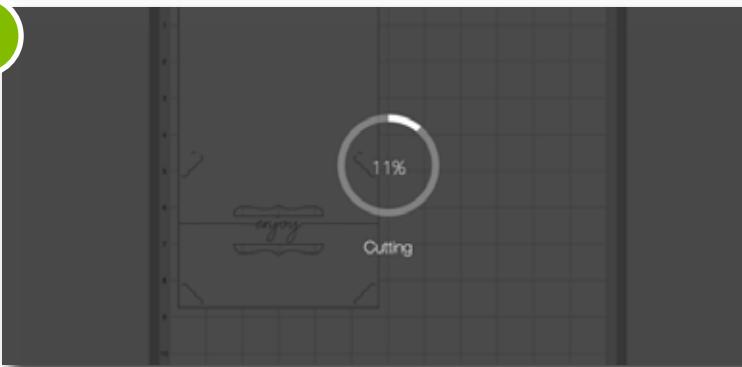


10. The machine will first use the pen to draw the sentiment on the card.

TIP

11. As your design progresses, you will see an estimate on how long the project will take.

11



12. Next the machine will use the blade to cut the card shape and other embellishments.

12



13. Once the machine has finished drawing and cutting, the unload button will flash indicating your project is complete.

14. Remove the mat from the machine then gently pull off the excess material from around the card.

13

Unload pen and mat



Press Load/Unload button to unload mat



Open Clamp A, remove pen, and close clamp



To remove cardstock without curling, gently bend mat until one edge releases



Flip mat, press cardstock against flat surface, then slowly pull mat away

14

**TIP**

When you are done writing with the pen, make sure to unload it and put the cap back on to prevent the pen from drying out.

15



15. To remove the card from the cutting mat, flip your mat sticky side down and peel the mat away from the cardstock. Removing the mat from the cardstock instead of removing the cardstock from the mat will help keep the paper from curling up and will result in smooth cardstock.

16. You can work on assembling the card next.

16

Assemble project



17



17. First fold the card in half and crease the edge.

TIP

A bone folder is a helpful tool to achieve a crisp folded edge!

18. Next, insert the black piece of cardstock on the inside, feed the corners into the corner slits.

The card is now complete!

18



21

HOW TO EMBELLISH THE TEST PROJECT

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2

1

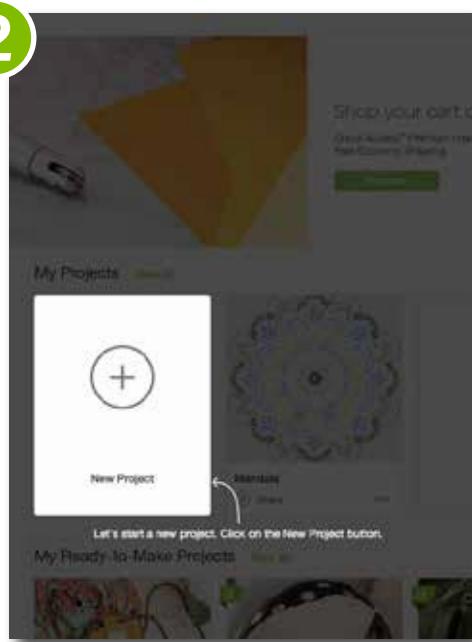
1. While you could stop your card project right there, you could also take it a little further to make it extra special. Cricut will show you how to personalize your project a little further in the next steps. This is one example of taking your basic project and customizing it to your liking. To embellish the card, follow the steps.

Embellish your card

Let's add some details to your card. We'll teach you some additional skills.

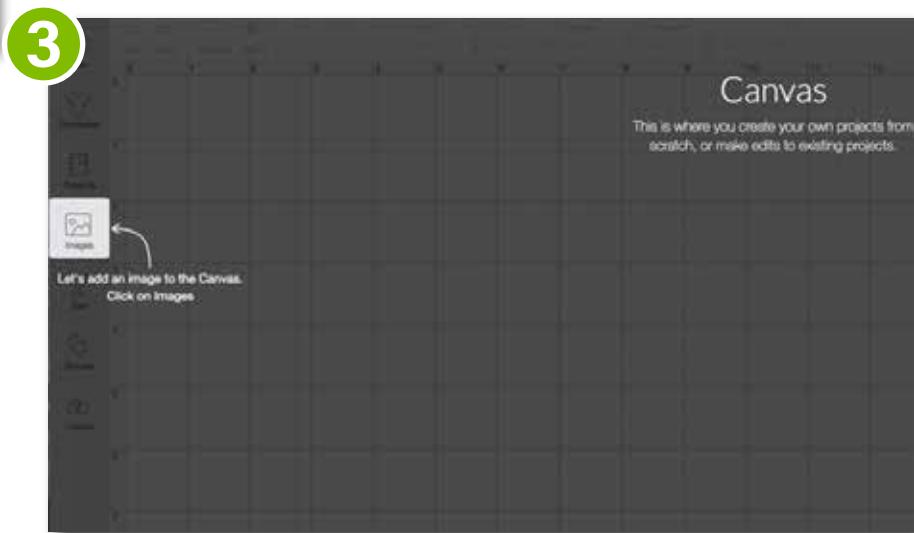


2



2. Click on the New Project box from the home screen.

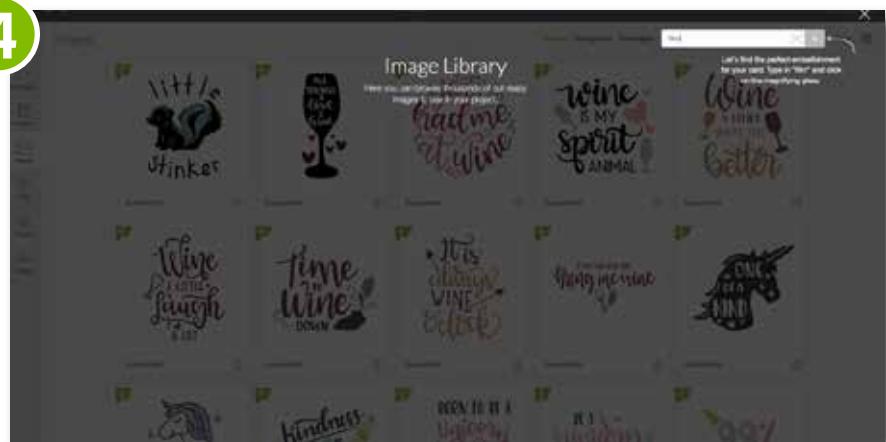
3



3. To find the image to embellish your card, click on Images:

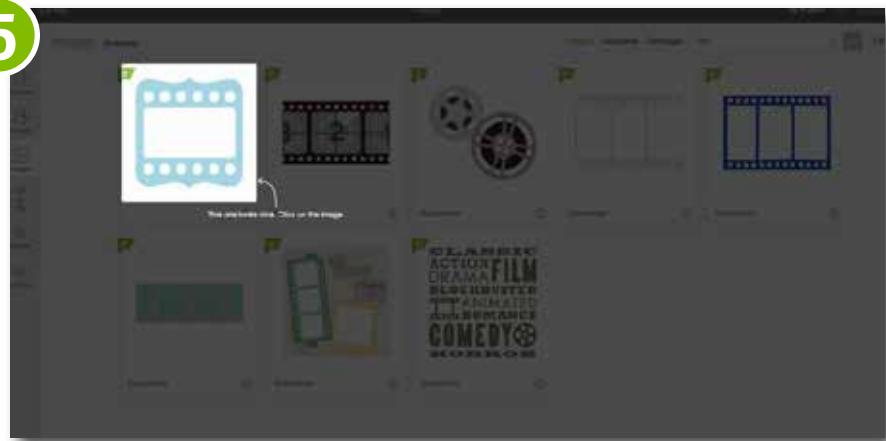
4. Search for "Film" in the search box in the upper right-hand corner.

4



5. Select the blue film roll shape as indicated.

5



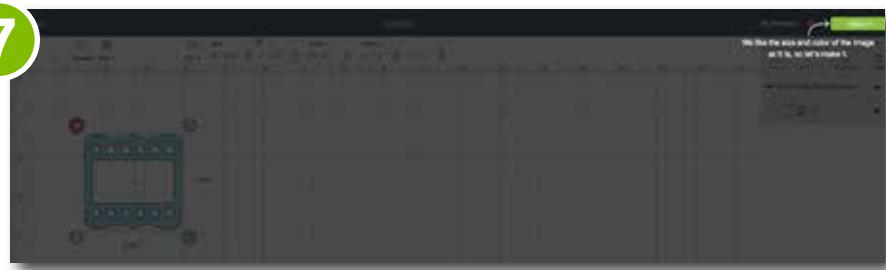
6. Click "Insert Images" to add the image into your project.

6



7. You can resize or distort images before cutting the shape, if desired. In the sample card, the shape is already sized correctly, so you can click "Make it" in the upper right-hand corner to continue.

7

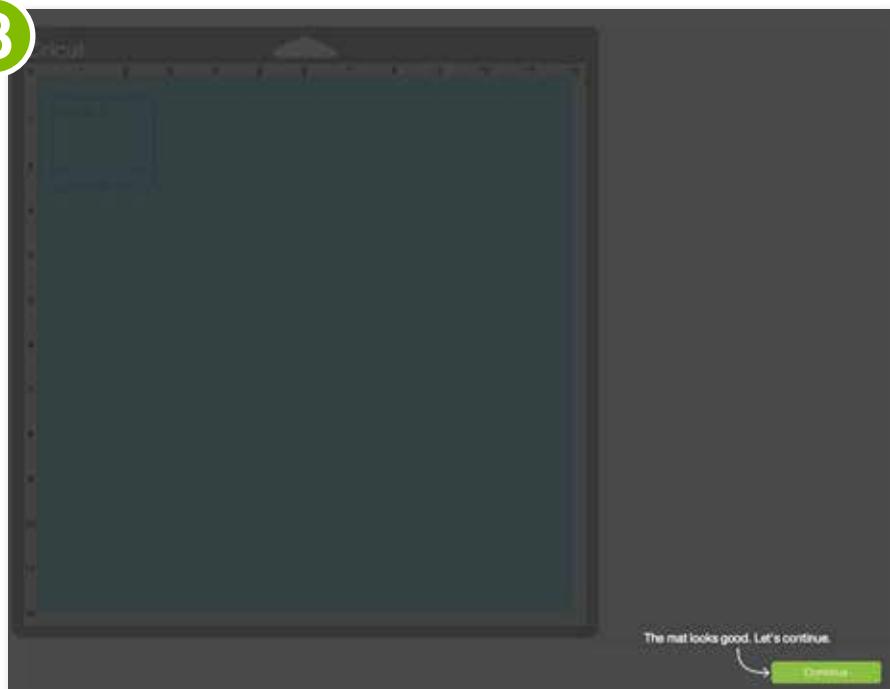


23

HOW TO EMBELLISH THE TEST PROJECT

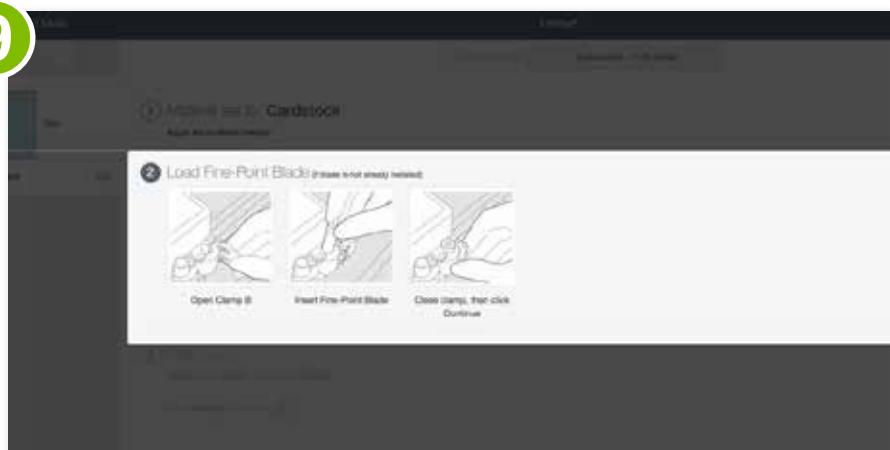
CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2

8



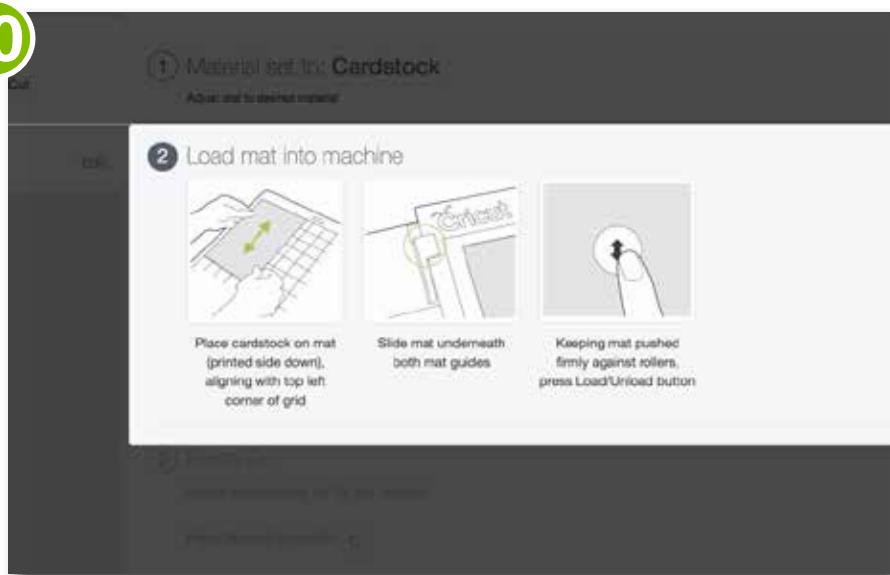
8. Cricut will divide the images into mats for you, click Continue.

9



9. Next, you'll be instructed to load the fine-point blade and blade housing. If you already have the blade installed, you can click Continue.

10



10. Stick the blue cardstock sample to the upper left-hand corner of your cutting mat. Butt the cutting mat against the rollers, within the mat guides, and press the load mat button.

24

HOW TO EMBELLISH THE TEST PROJECT

CRICUT EXPLORE AIR 2

11

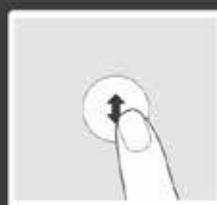


11. The machine will then cut the design from the material.

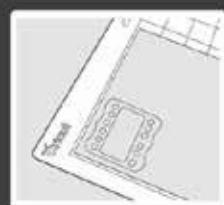
12. When it is finished cutting, click the unload mat button.

12

Unload mat



Press Load/Unload button
to unload mat



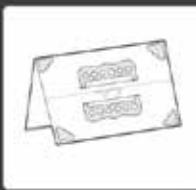
Peel image off mat

13

Assemble project



Slide image into card



Way to go!



13. Carefully remove the design from the mat. To assemble the pieces, slide the blue frame inside the cut out brackets on the card.



- Once you have set up your account, updated your firmware and downloaded the DesignSpace plugin, Cricut will direct you to do a test project.

The pieces for this sample project are included in your box with your machine, in the "Let's get started" box.

At the end of the registration process, the screen to do your test project will appear. Click continue to make the card.

- Cricut will walk you through the exact steps, but I found that it's very easy to just click through the steps and not really pay attention to what you're clicking on, so it's hard to remember

what you did later on
you're "flying on your own."

Design Space will auto navigate you to the Home screen and scroll down to where the card is located. Click on the design as prompted.

- Next a project details box will pop up.

On the Project Details page, you can find more information about the project and decide if you want to make it. Click on the "Make It" button at the bottom.

Two screenshots of the Cricut Design Space software. The left screenshot shows the "Project Details" page for a "Smile Card" project, displaying various details and options. The right screenshot shows the "Make It" button highlighted at the bottom of the same page. Green circles with the numbers "2" and "3" are placed above each screenshot.

- Cricut will automatically sort the project by colors. Prepare your mat as instructed on the screen. For this card example, there is only one mat to work with in this step.



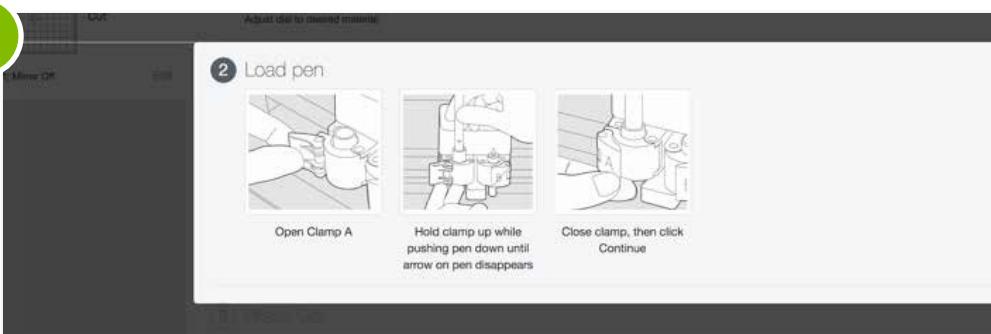
- From this screen you can select what material you are cutting. Select "Medium Cartstock - 80 lb" as instructed.



DOING THE FIRST TEST PROJECT

CRICUT MAKER

6



6. Next it will give you instructions on how to load the pen.



7



7. Remove the cover sheet from the mat, add your material to the blue LightGrip cutting mat in the upper left-hand corner, as shown in the instructions. Load the mat into the machine by butting the mat against the rollers, under the mat guards and pressing the load mat button.



8



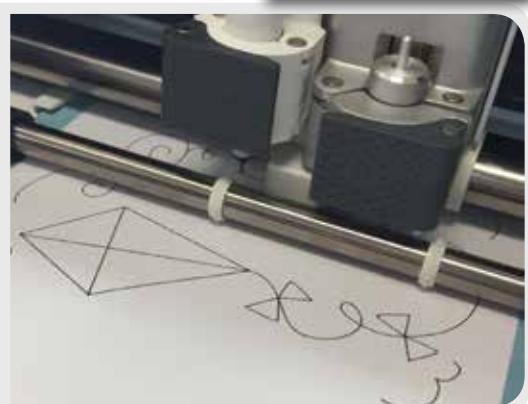
8. Press the go button and the Maker will begin to draw the design. As the machine progresses with the design, Design Space will display a percentage that it has completed so you know how much longer it will be for the machine to complete the task.



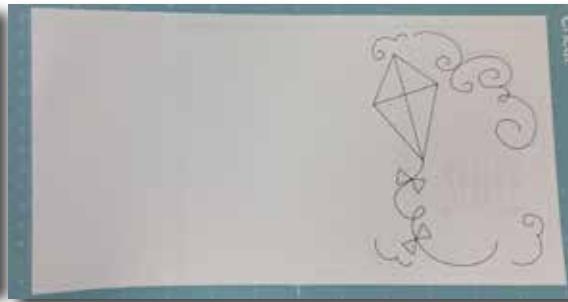
9



9. Once the Maker has finished drawing the design, the carriage will go to the far right of the machine to detect which blade is currently installed. If you didn't take the blade out of the machine when you opened the box, the fine point blade is already installed. The machine will then begin to cut the design.



10



10. When drawing and cutting have completed, Design Space will prompt you to unload the pen and mat. Make sure to cap the pen to keep it from drying out.

11

Assemble project



11. Carefully remove the project from the mat. To assemble the card, locate the two little slits indicating where the middle of the card is. Press firmly to crease the card in half. When the card is folded in half, open the card and carefully insert the blue piece of cardstock into the corner slots from the inside of the card.

Use a scraper tool to remove any pieces of the card left behind on the cutting mat.

12. The card is now complete! Way to go!

12



EMBELLISH YOUR CARD

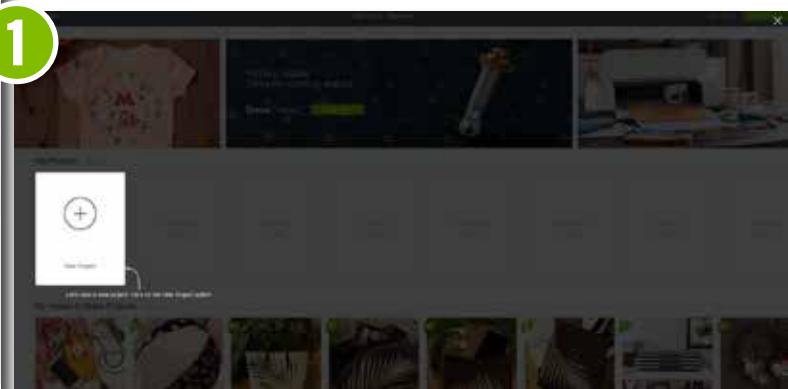
Embellish your card

Let's add some details to your card. We'll teach you some additional skills.



While you could be complete with your card, you could take it one step further to embellish your card and make it look more complete, plus you get to try out the Rotary Blade!

1



1. Cricut will automatically prompt to you to further embellish your card. Click on the New Project icon on the Home menu as indicated.

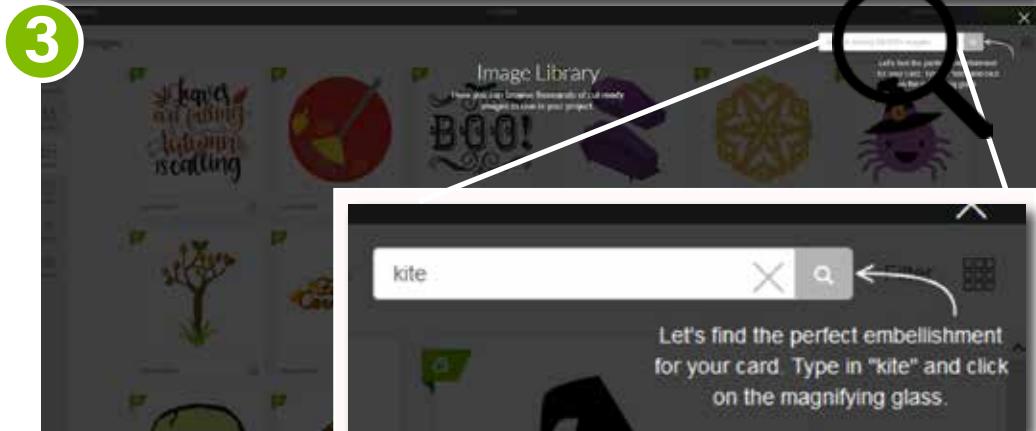
New skills introduced

- Starting a new project
- Adding images to your project
- Changing your blade

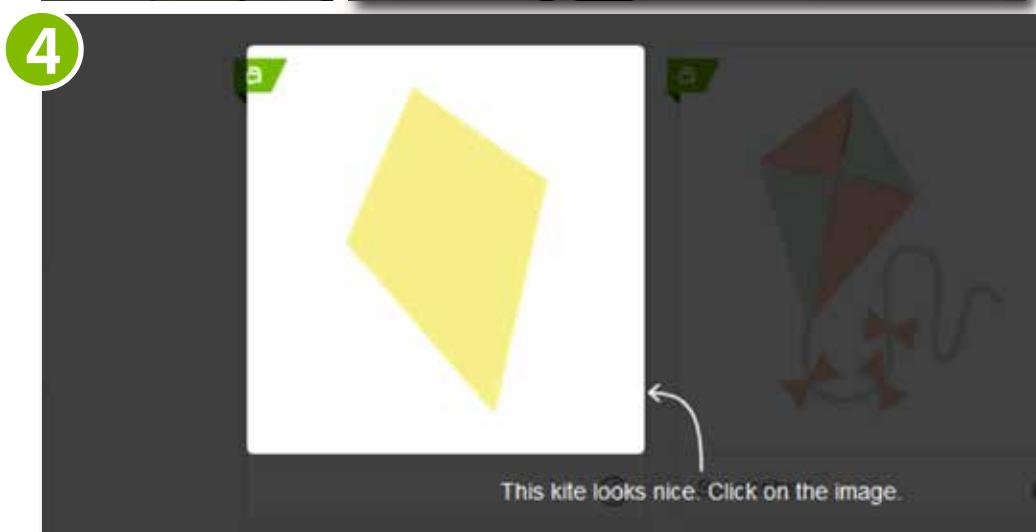
2. Design Space will navigate you to the Canvas page and indicate to add an image by clicking "Image" from the left-hand toolbar.



3. Within the image library you can search for images to add to your project. Use the search bar in the upper right-hand corner and search "Kite."



4. When Design Space brings up the available kite options, select the yellow kite shape indicated.



5. Click "Insert Images" to add the image into your project.



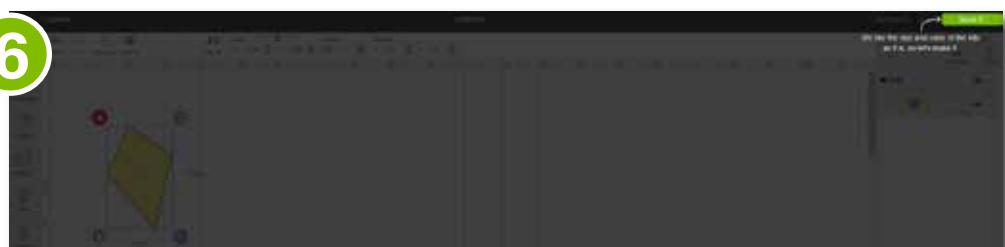
29

HOW TO EMBELLISH THE TEST PROJECT

CRICUT MAKER

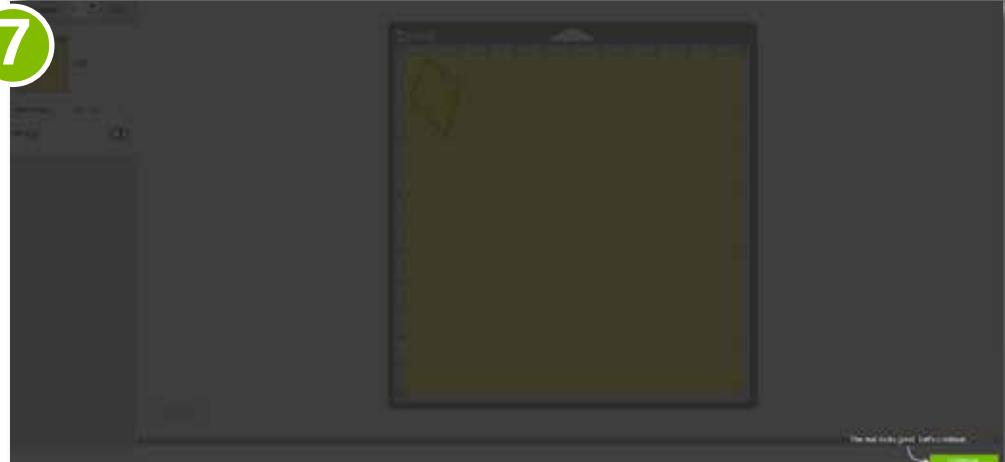
6. You can resize or distort images before cutting the shape, if desired. In the sample card, the shape is already sized correctly, so you can click "Make it" to continue.

6



7. Design Space will automatically split up your design into multiple mats, if necessary. In this case, there is only one mat so you can click Continue.

7



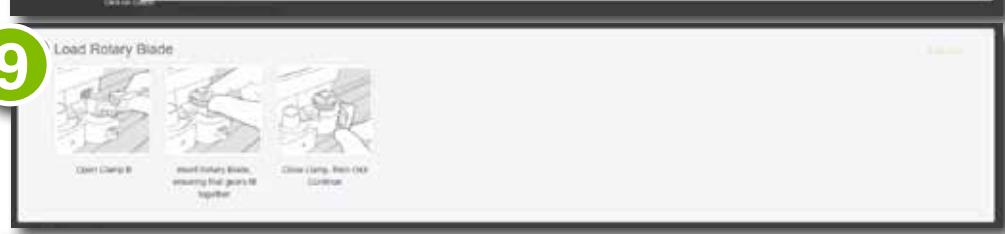
8. On this screen, you can select what kind of material you are cutting. Select Cotton for this project.

8



9. Remove the fine point blade from the machine and insert the rotary blade. **Leave the clear plastic piece on the rotary blade in tact, do not remove.**

9



10. Stick the fabric onto the cutting mat in the upper left-hand corner. My mat was a little bent from being in the box, but you can load it just the same.

10



11



11. Butt the mat against the rollers, between the mat guides and click the flashing Go button. The machine will draw the mat in and send the carriage all the way over the right-hand side to detect which blade is in Clamp B. There will be a little bit of nosie as the machine turns the blade around and detects the blade and blade direction.



12. Once the machine detects what blade is installed, it will begin cutting the fabric. This is a simple shape to cut, so it will not take very long to cut it out.

13. When the machine has finished cutting, click the Load button to unload the mat. Carefully remove the excess fabric from around the shape. Go slowly in case there are any threads that didn't cut. Once the excess fabric has been removed, carefully remove the shape from the mat.

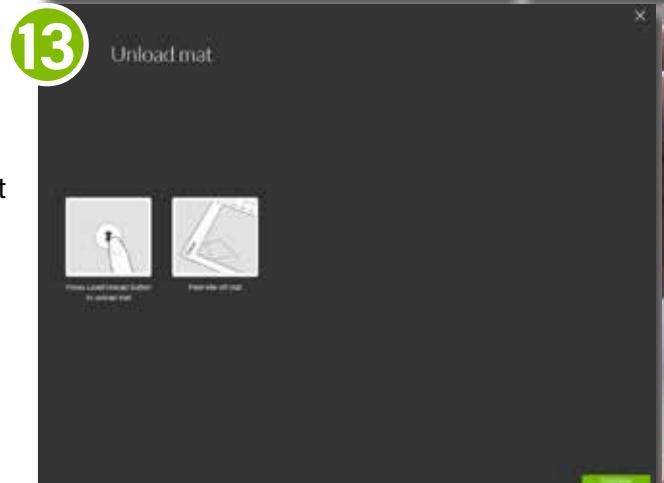
14. Finish up your project by assembling the card. Adhere the fabric shape to the card with liquid glue or a glue tape.

15. Now that you've worked through the sample project with your Maker, you're all set! Click "Start Designing" and Design Space will take you back to the Canvas to start your next project! Let the fun begin!

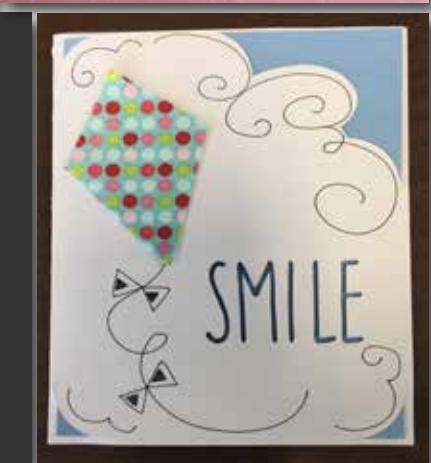
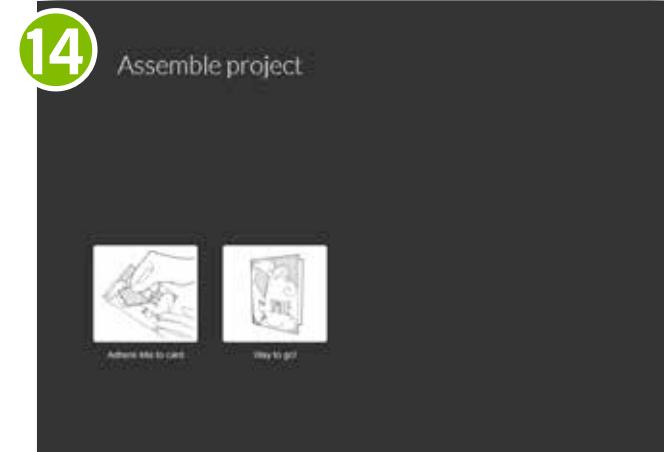
12



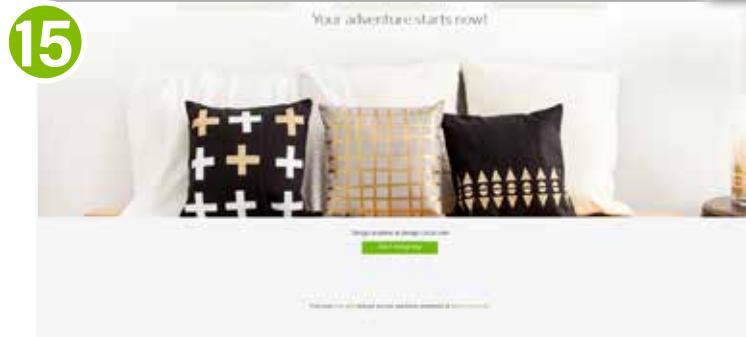
13



14



15



31

HOW TO EMBELLISH THE TEST PROJECT

CRICUT MAKER

14

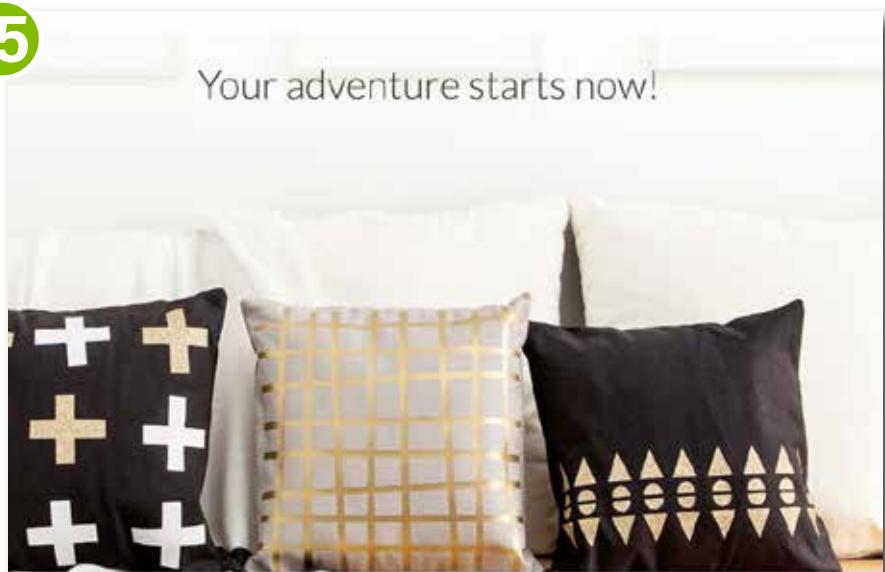


14. Now the card is embellished.

15

Your adventure starts now!

15. Now that you have completed the sample project, Cricut will direct you back to the home page to start a new project.



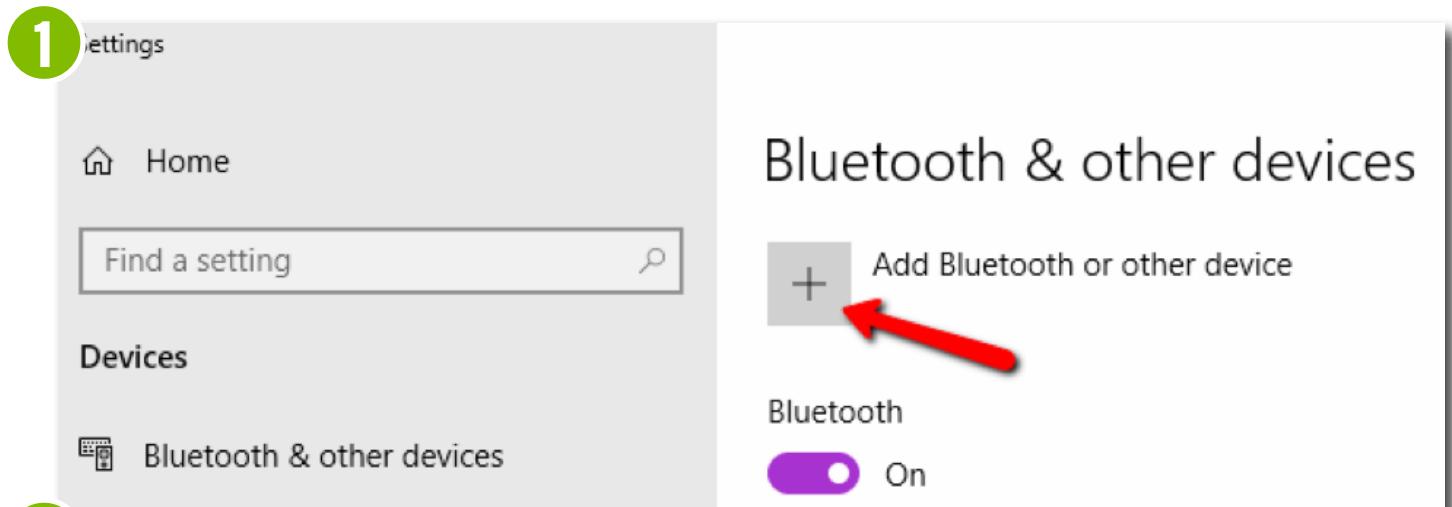
Design anytime at design.cricut.com

[Start Designing](#)

HOW TO PAIR YOUR MACHINE WITH BLUETOOTH

The Cricut Explore Air 2 and Cricut Maker machines are both Bluetooth compatible. To use Bluetooth with your machine, you simply need to pair your machine with your computer.

1. Open your Bluetooth & Other Devices. Make sure your Bluetooth on your computer is turned on and then click "+ Add Bluetooth or other device".



2 Add a device

Choose the kind of device you want to add.

Bluetooth
Mice, keyboards, pens, or audio and other kinds of Bluetooth devices

Wireless display or dock
Wireless monitors, TVs, or PCs that use Miracast, or wireless docks

Everything else
Xbox controllers with Wireless Adapter, DLNA, and more

2. Select Bluetooth.

3. Make sure the Cricut machine is turned on and relatively close to your computer (10-15 feet away at most). Your computer will display devices available to connect. Select your machine from the list. Note the numbers after your Cricut may vary from what is displayed in this example.

3 Add a device

Make sure your device is turned on and discoverable. Select a device below to connect.

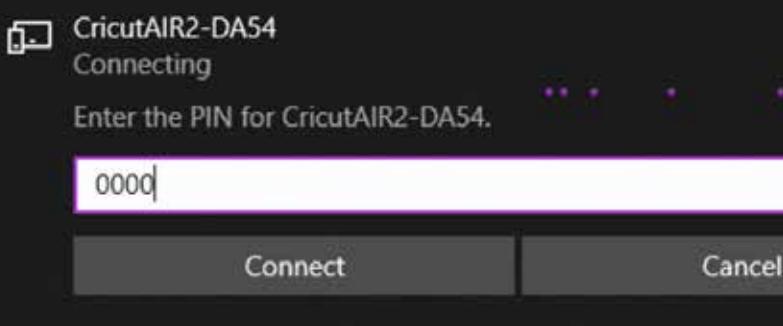
CricutAIR2-DAS4
Connecting

HOW TO PAIR YOUR MACHINE WITH BLUETOOTH

4

Add a device

Make sure your device is turned on and discoverable. Select a device below to connect.

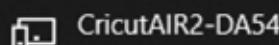


4. Your computer may ask for a PIN number. Enter in 0000 then click connect.

5

5

Your device is ready to go!



5. Your device should now be connected to your computer.

6



6. Once your machine is connected via Bluetooth, the power button light on the machine will turn from white to blue.

NOTE

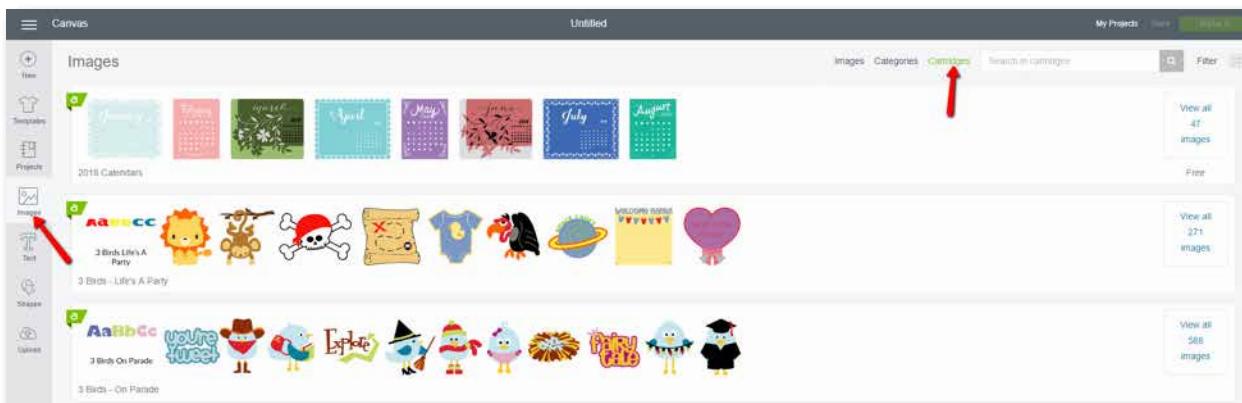
How to connect your machine via Bluetooth may vary depending on the computer you have and what operating system you are using. For more information, check out Cricut's site: <https://help.cricut.com/help/explore-bluetooth-pairing>

USING, LINKING AND ACCESSING CRICUT CARTRIDGES

Cricut identifies sets of designs as "cartridges." Cartridges are digital image sets, but physical plastic cartridges may also be available.

DIGITAL CARTRIDGES

Digital cartridges can be purchased straight from Cricut in your Design Space account and are online based. While nothing is physically mailed to you, you get access to your digital content instantly from anywhere you can access your account. Browse digital cartridges and designs in Design Space by going to Images and click on Cartridges tab at the top.

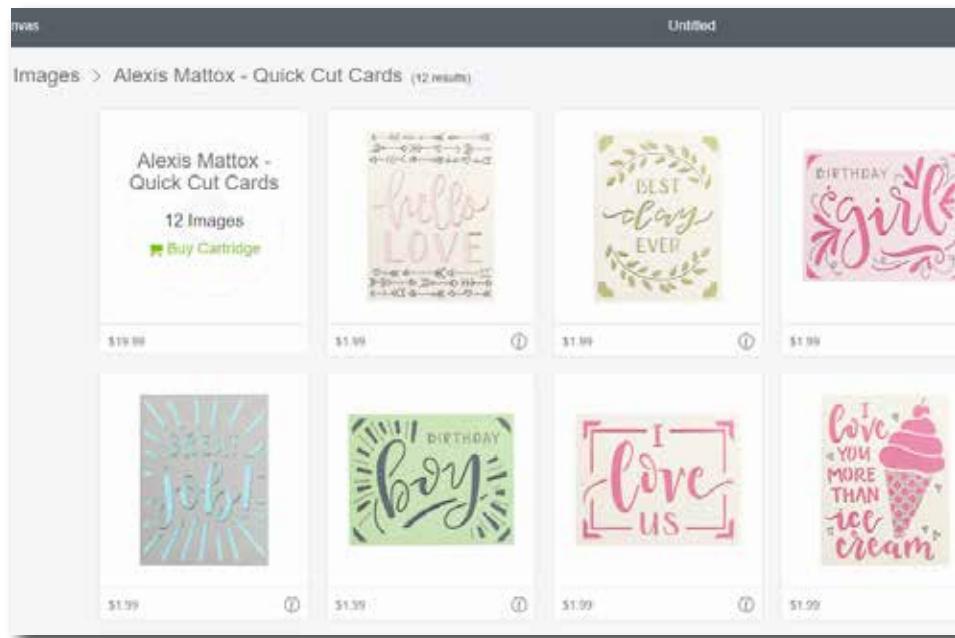


Using the search bar, you can search for cartridges or designs including Cricut Access cartridges, cartridges available for purchase and cartridges you have linked to your account.

Cricut Access Cartridges are cartridges you have available to you when you have a Cricut Access Subscription. Look for the green "a" in the corner of the cartridge denoting that the cartridge is included with your Cricut Access subscription. These designs are available for use while your Cricut Access subscription is current, but will no longer be available if you cancel your subscription.

Cartridges available for purchase can be purchased as a whole or you can purchase individual designs.

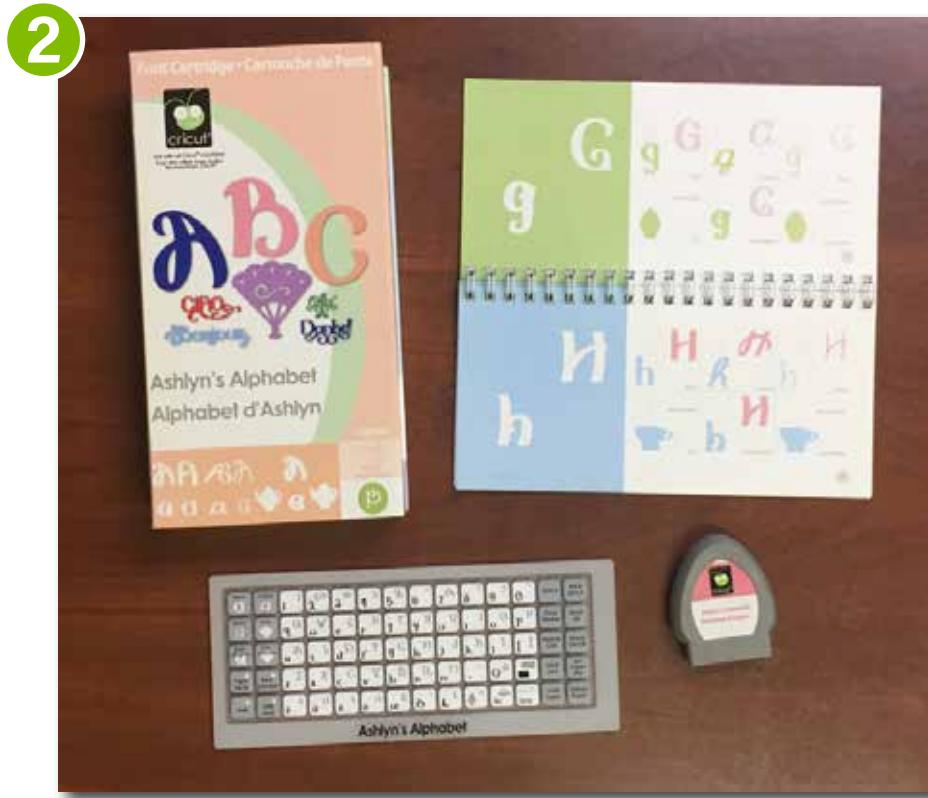
It is usually more economical to purchase the entire cartridge over each individual design, but if you are only really interested in one specific design, you have the freedom to purchase just that one without having to buy the whole cartridge. Once you purchase a design, it will be available in your account instantly and will be accessible forever. Even if you have a Cricut Access account that expires or is closed, purchased designs remain yours.



USING, LINKING AND ACCESSING CRICUT CARTRIDGES

PHYSICAL CARTRIDGES

- Linked cartridges are physical cartridges you have uploaded to your Design Space for access. Physical cartridges are plastic and contain a specific set of designs. While they are no longer being produced, you may have access to them or have some in your collection.
- Cartridges were made for machines that required physical cartridges, before Design Space (and Cricut Craftroom) were created. Older machines, such as the Cricut Expression machine, were independent from a computer and had a port for the cartridge to go in. Each cartridge also included a custom keypad overlay so you could tell the machine which design to cut. Cartridges came in large cases which included the keyboard overlay and a book with all the designs on that particular cartridge.



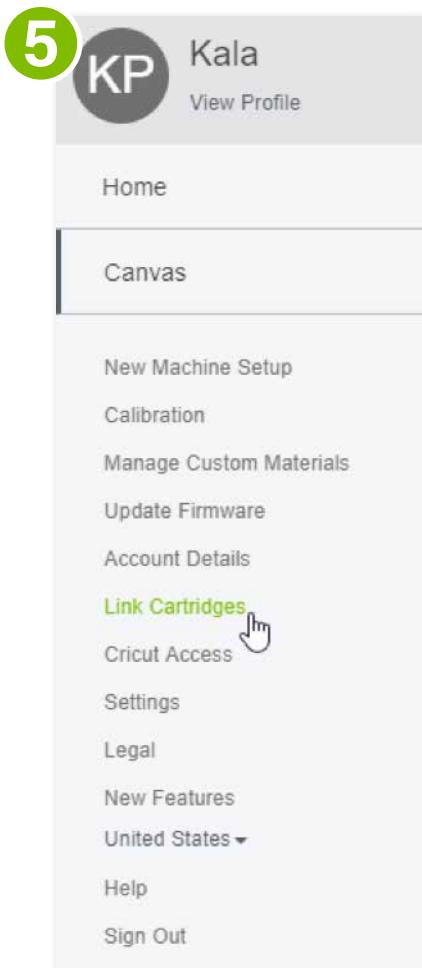
- As cartridges evolved, the cartridge case got smaller and Cricut switched to a universal keypad overlay that had numbered buttons instead of graphics of the design choices. Universal keypad overlays could be used with any cartridge, making it less cumbersome to keep track of specific keypad overlays for every individual cartridge you wanted to use.



USING, LINKING AND ACCESSING CRICUT CARTRIDGES

Thanks to computer-based software and digital content, you do not need cartridges to use your Explore Air 2 machine, but if you have cartridges in your collection that you would like to still use, you can link the cartridge to your Design Space account.

4. Like previous Cricut machines, the Explore Air 2 machine has a cartridge port.
5. To link your cartridges to your Design Space account, sign into Design Space and go to the hamburger menu  in the upper left-hand corner. Click on Link Cartridges. (See more about the hamburger menu on page 33.)



6. Insert your physical cartridge into the slot in your machine, on the top left-hand side. Make sure to press down firmly to ensure the cartridge is fully installed in the machine.



7. The software will show a link cartridge window and will detect if your cartridge can be linked. Physical cartridges can only be linked to one account, one time. If it had already been linked to another account in the past, you will get an error message at the bottom of the screen.

If you see this error message, this cartridge has already been linked. If you have not linked the cartridge and it was new when you purchased it, it's possible it is an unsupported cartridge. Contact Cricut for assistance and options.



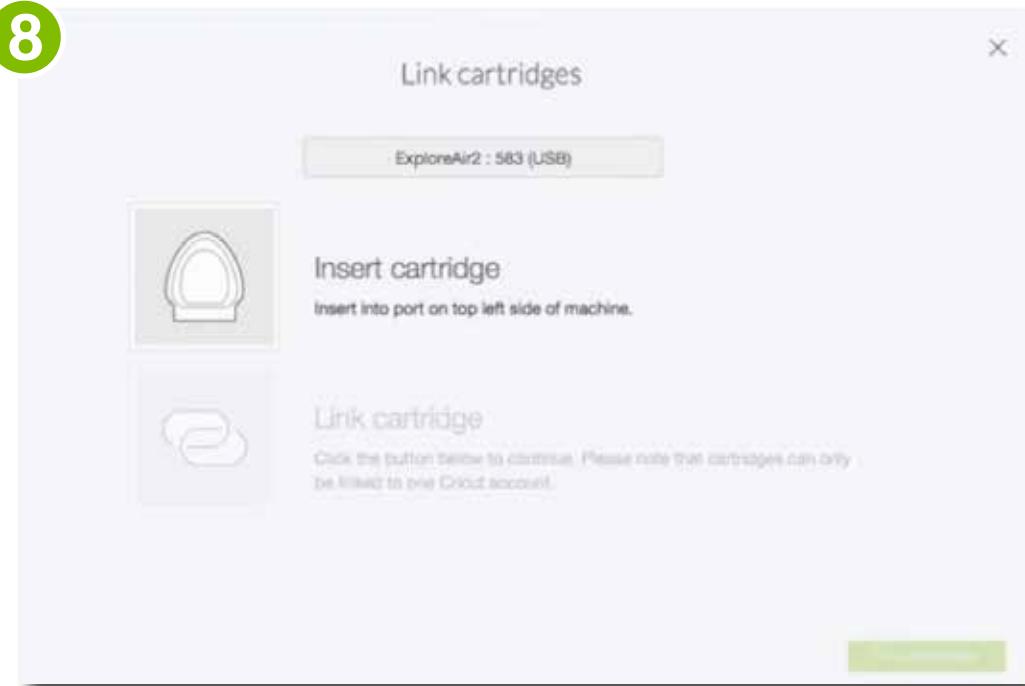
USING, LINKING AND ACCESSING CRICUT CARTRIDGES

8. If the Link Cartridge button becomes selectable, click on it and Design Space will link your cartridge to your account.

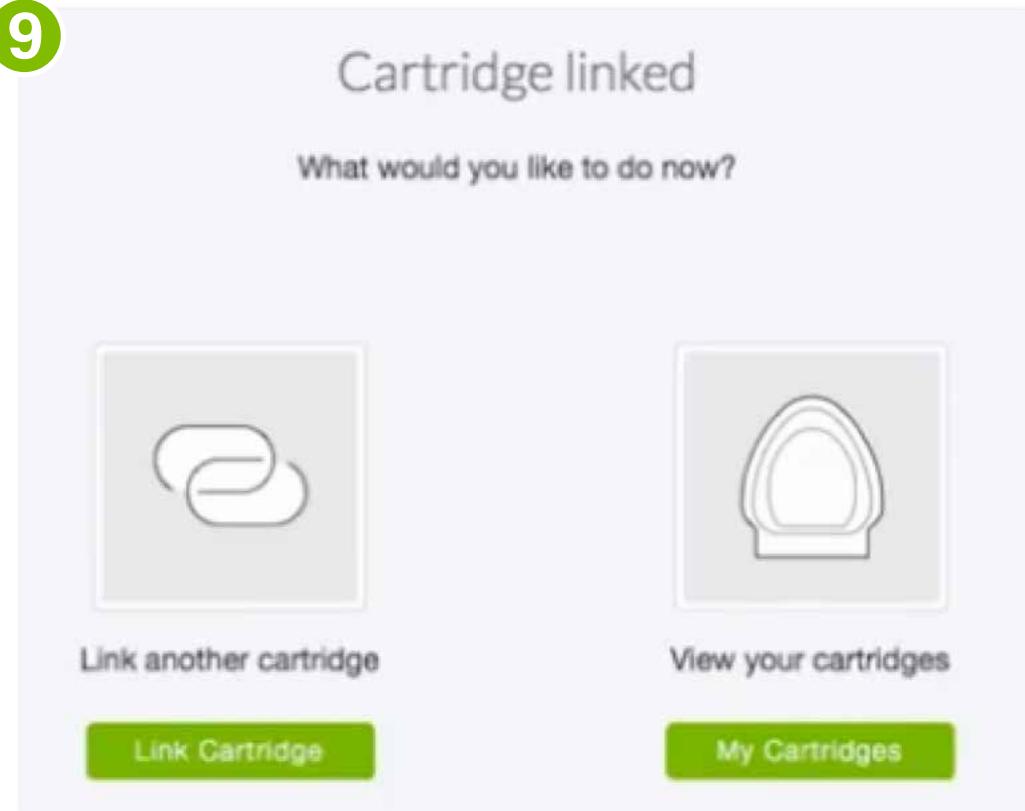
9. Once your cartridge has been linked, Design Space will give you the option to Link additional cartridges or to view your cartridges.

To see the designs from your cartridges, go to Images from the left-hand toolbar. All of your linked cartridges will be stored in your account for you to access the designs. Once you have linked the cartridge, you do not need the physical cartridge anymore. You can store it or give it to someone who has an older machine such as a Cricut Expression. Unfortunately, once you link the cartridge, you don't have much use for the cartridge so it becomes obsolete unless you have an older machine. If you ever lose access to your Cricut Design Space account, you won't be able to relink to a new account. You cannot use a physical cartridge with the Explore Air 2 or Maker machine without linking it to your account.

8



9



Cricut Maker



The Cricut Maker does not have a cartridge port to link cartridges with. If you happen to have cartridges to link with a Maker, you will need to purchase a Cricut Cartridge Adapter. To link cartridges using the adapter, simply plug the adapter into the USB port on your computer, plug in your cartridge and then follow the steps to link the cartridge to your Design Space account.

Design Space is the program that you will use to make files and projects that you can create with your Cricut machine.

To access Design Space, go to <https://design.cricut.com/#/sign-in> and sign in.

If you do not already have an account, take the steps to set one up (see "How to Set up a Design Space account").

TIP

If you are on a shared computer, uncheck the "Remember Me" box **before** clicking to sign in.

Once you are logged in, you will be taken to the Home page. The Home page is dynamic and changes periodically. The Home page can be divided into four sections:

Sign In with your Cricut ID

Use your Cricut ID for everything you do with Cricut.

Email/Cricut ID

Password

Please enter your password

[Forgot?](#)

Remember Me

[Create A Cricut ID](#)

[Don't have an account yet?](#)

Section 1

Home

Welcome, Kels

My Projects

New Project

My Ready-to-Make Projects

Top Video Tutorials

Cards

Section 2

10% off everything. With your Cricut Access® Standard or Premium membership. [Shop Now](#)

Removable Premium Vinyl™. You'll always be welcome with vinyl. [Shop Now](#)

Quilt something cozy. [Shop Now](#)

Section 3

New Project

View Future Project

Section 4

Create - Embroidered Large P... [View All](#)

Fabric Bin [View All](#)

Golden Palm Party Tote [View All](#)

Cricut - Golden Palm Dopp Bag [View All](#)

Golden Palm Belt Pouch [View All](#)

Golden Palm Backpack [View All](#)

Cricut - Laser Dust Cover [View All](#)

Floral Wreath [View All](#)

Make This Scoring Wheel Project [View All](#)

Design Space Fundamentals [View All](#)

Let's Work With Images [View All](#)

More Image Essentials [View All](#)

Get to Know Knife Blade [View All](#)

Mother's Day Cards [View All](#)

Birthday Cards [View All](#)

Holiday Cards [View All](#)

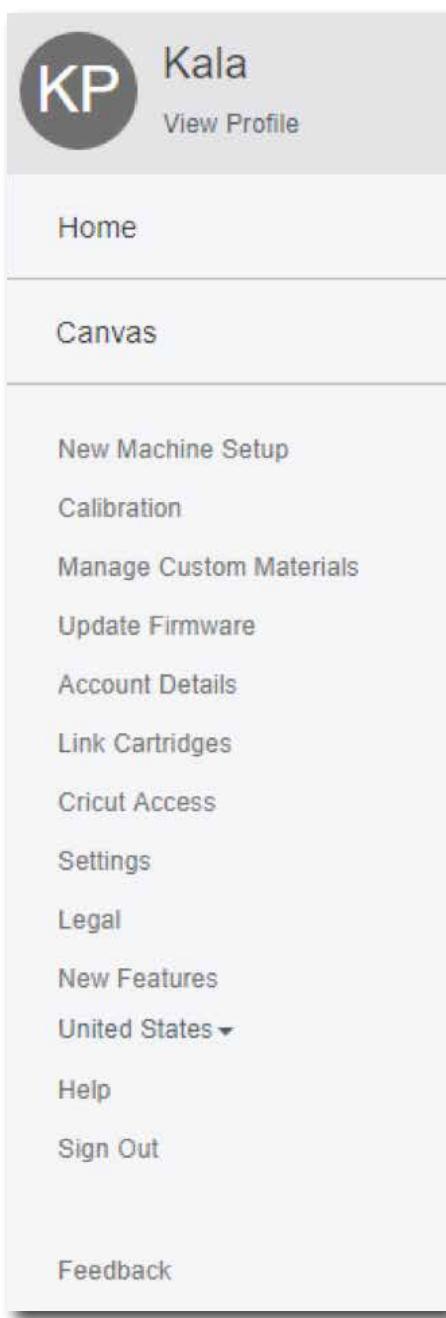
Seasonal Cards [View All](#)

SECTION 1



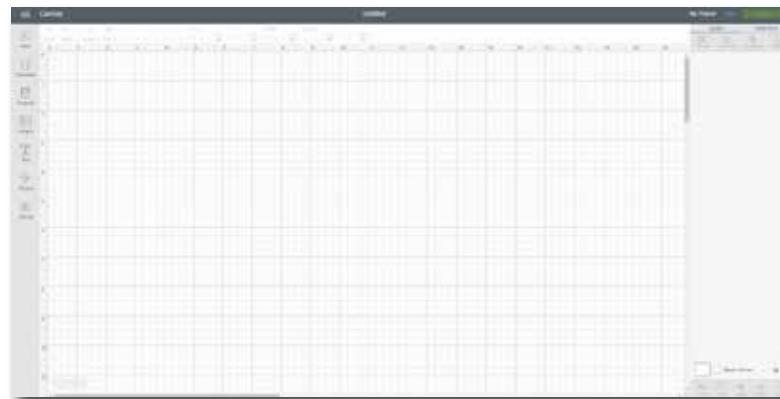
The header has the hamburger menu (a), a page title to indicate where you are currently located (in this case, we are on the Home page) (b), a welcome message you can check to ensure you're signed in to your account correctly (c), a shortcut link to your projects to open a project you've recently saved (d) and the "New Project" button for fast access to the Canvas to start a new project (e).

The hamburger menu is available in the upper left-hand corner throughout Design Space. When you click on it, it will expand:



HOME: Home will bring you back to the Home page.

CANVAS: Canvas will take you to the Design Space Canvas. This is the where you create your design:

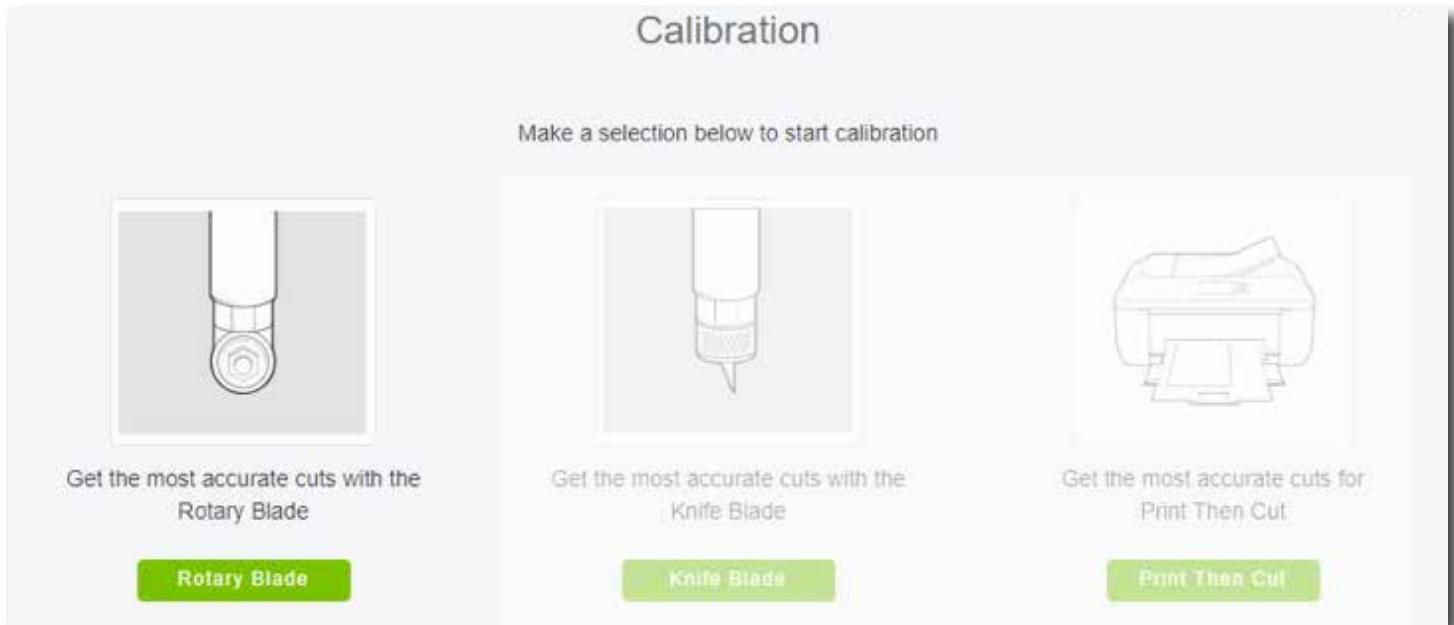


NEW MACHINE SETUP: New Machine Setup will take you through registering and setting up your new machine. See how to "Register and Set up your Machine" for more details on how to set up your machine.

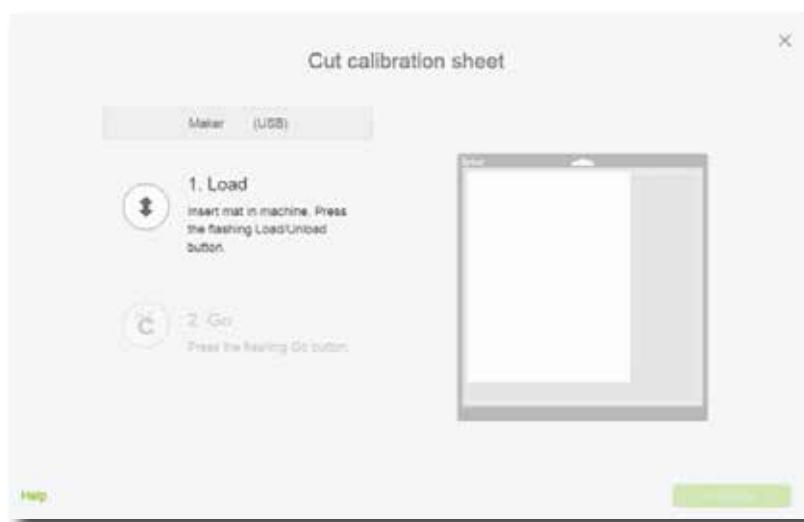
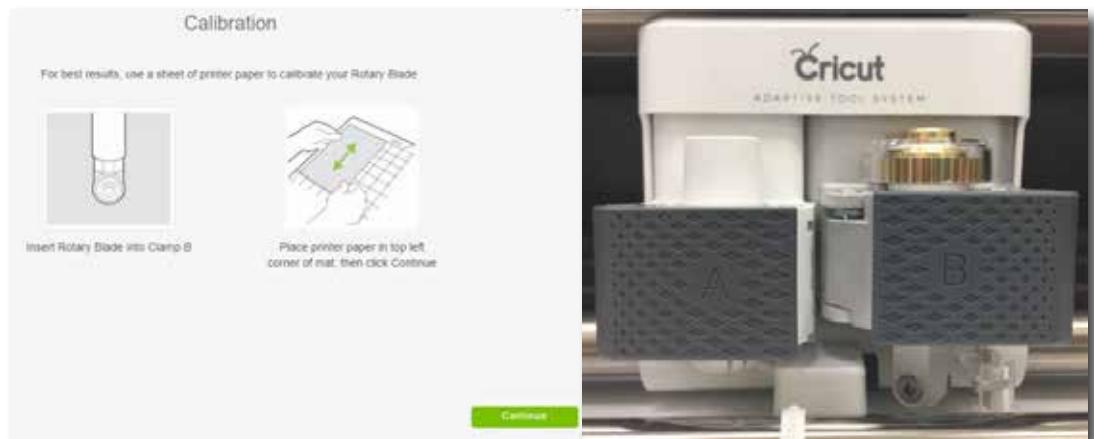
CALIBRATION: Calibration will give you steps on how to properly calibrate your rotary blade (Maker), knife blade (Maker) or print then cut designs (Explore Air 2 and Maker):



Rotary Blade Calibration: Whenever you install a new rotary blade, it is important to calibrate it before using it with your Cricut Maker. Click on Calibration from the hamburger menu in the upper left-hand corner  and select rotary blade.

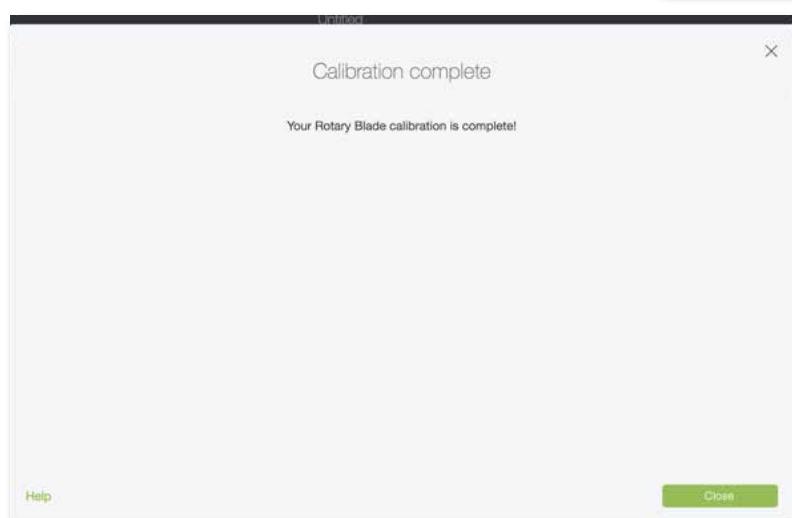
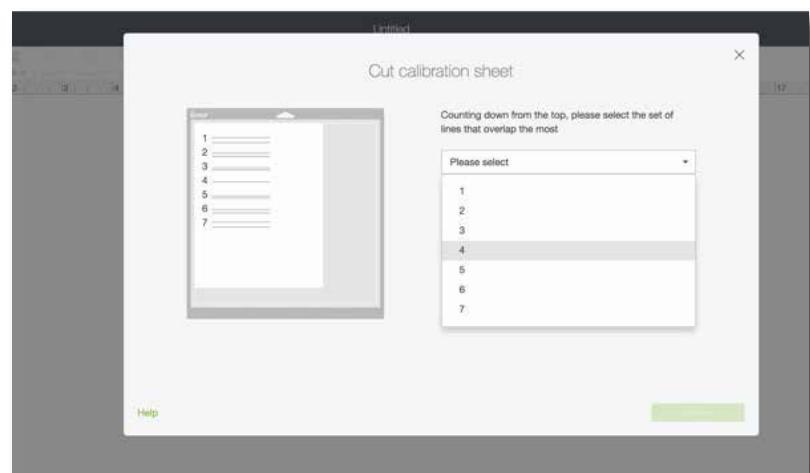


Install your rotary blade into your Maker's Clamp B. Place a piece of printer paper in the upper left-hand corner of your cutting mat then click Continue.



Load the cutting mat into your machine and then click the flashing Go button on the machine.

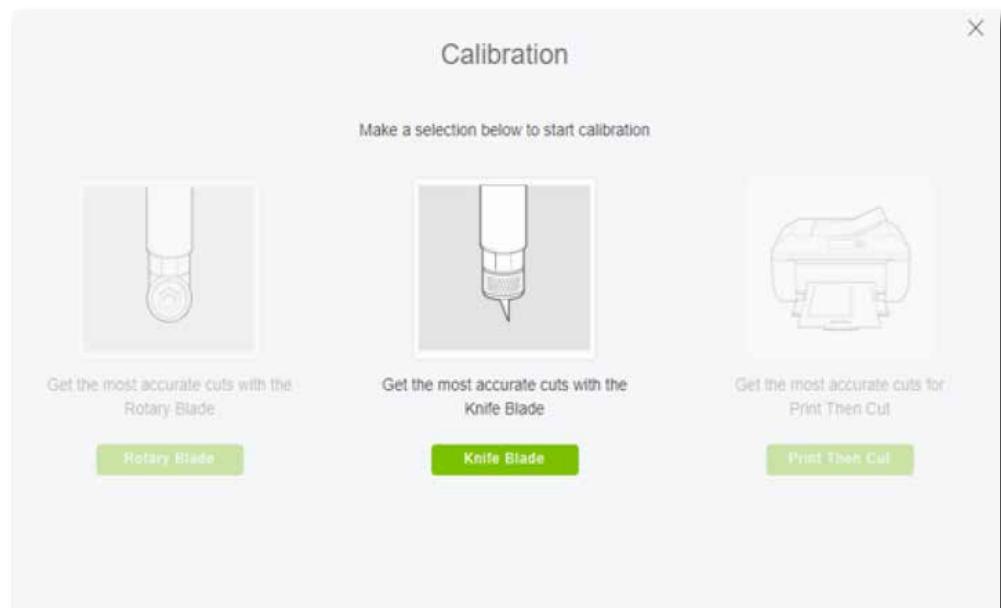
The machine will cut a set of lines with the rotary blade. When it is done cutting, remove the cutting mat from the machine and take a look at the cuts. Decide which set of lines overlap the most and select the set from the drop down menu.

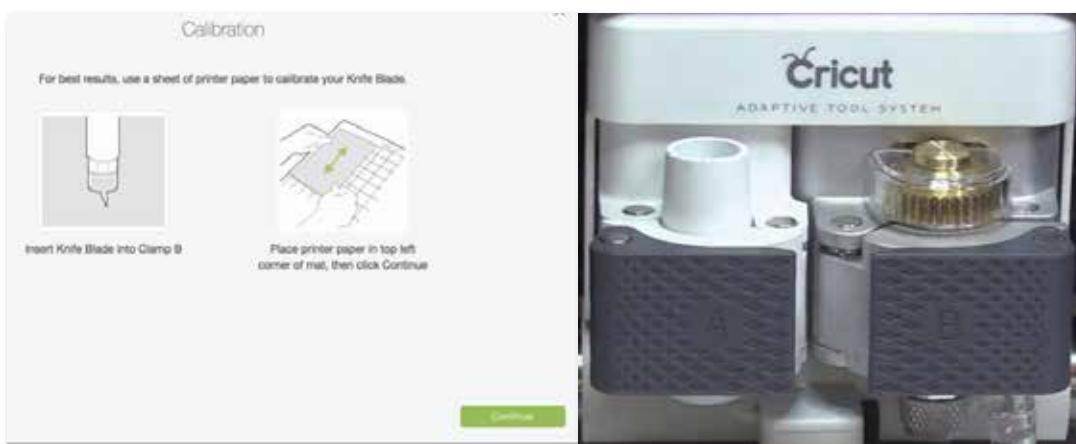


Click continue and your screen will confirm that the calibration is complete. You can now continue with your rotary blade project.

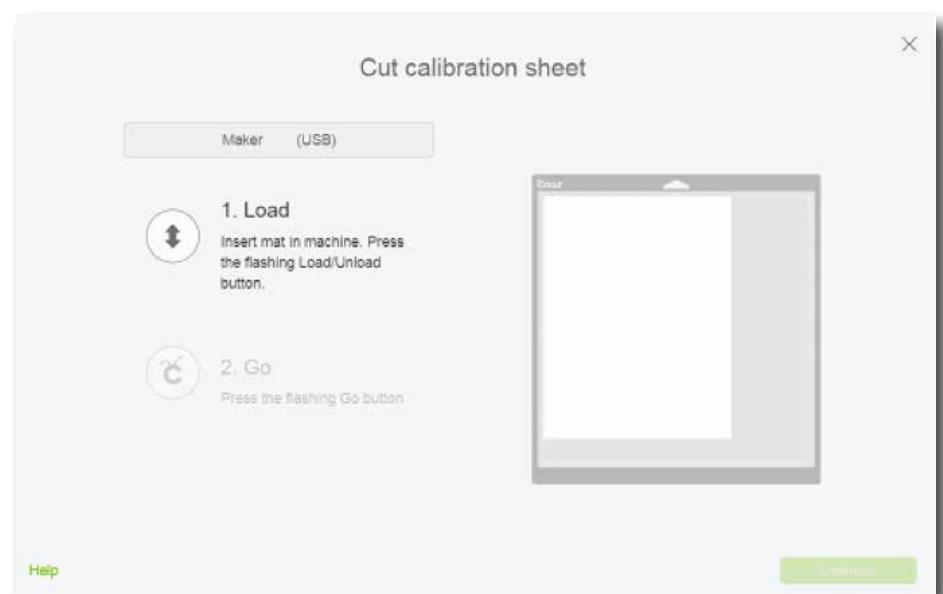
Knife Blade Calibration:

When you use the knife blade for the first time, or if you need to replace the knife blade, you'll want to calibrate it first. Click on Calibration from the hamburger menu in the upper left-hand corner of Design Space  and select knife blade.

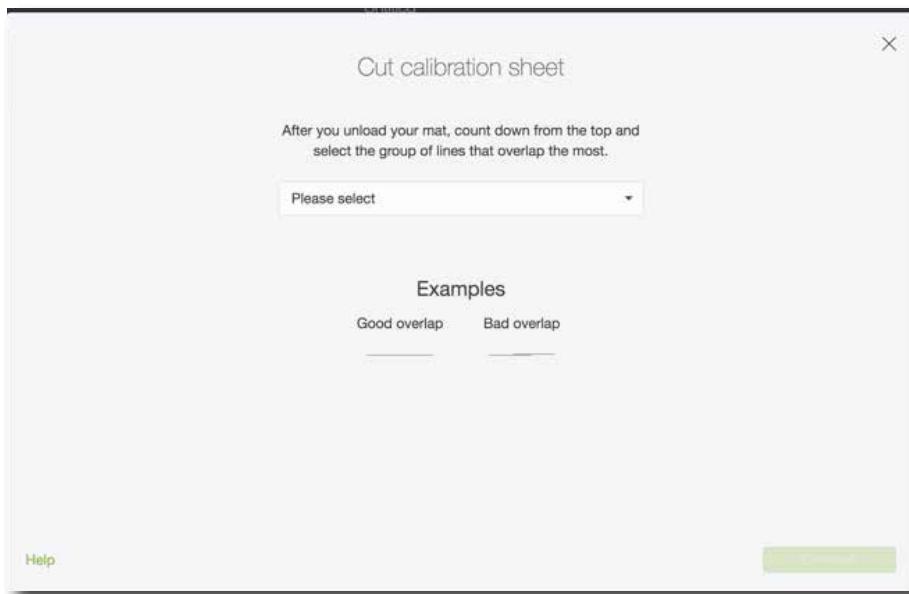




Install the knife blade into your Maker's Clamp B. Place a piece of printer paper in the upper left-hand corner of your cutting mat and then click Continue.

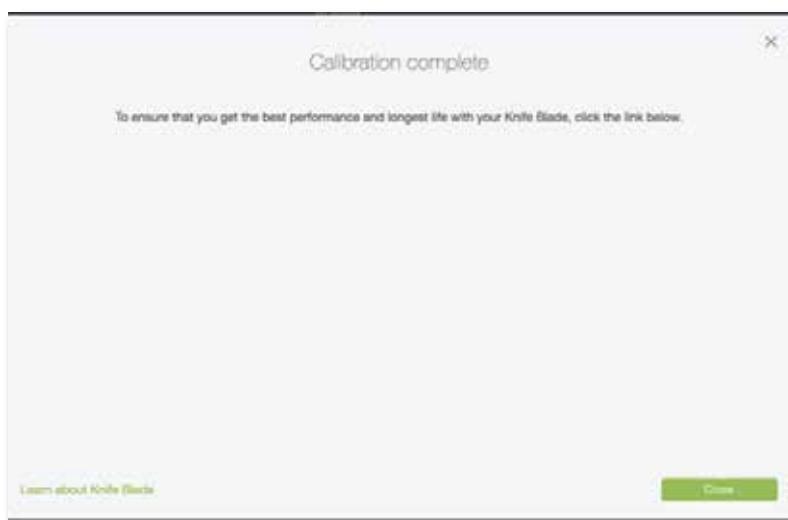


Load the cutting mat into your machine and then click the flashing Go button.



The machine will then cut seven sets of lines. One set of the lines will cut from left to right, the other set from right to left. The lines will overlap in the middle. When the machine is done cutting, unload the cutting mat and determine which set of lines best overlap.

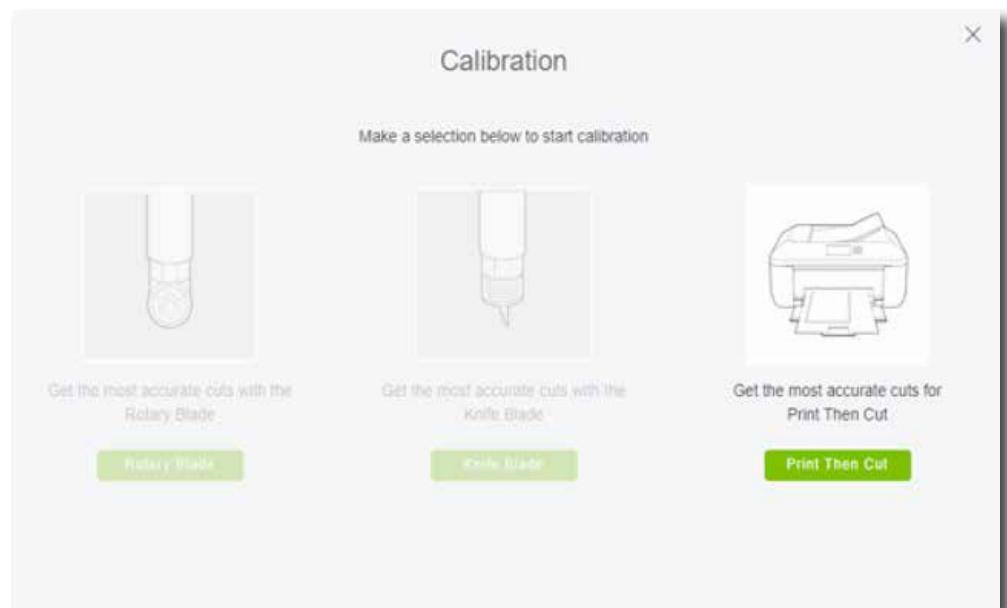
Select the best pair from the dropdown menu then click continue.

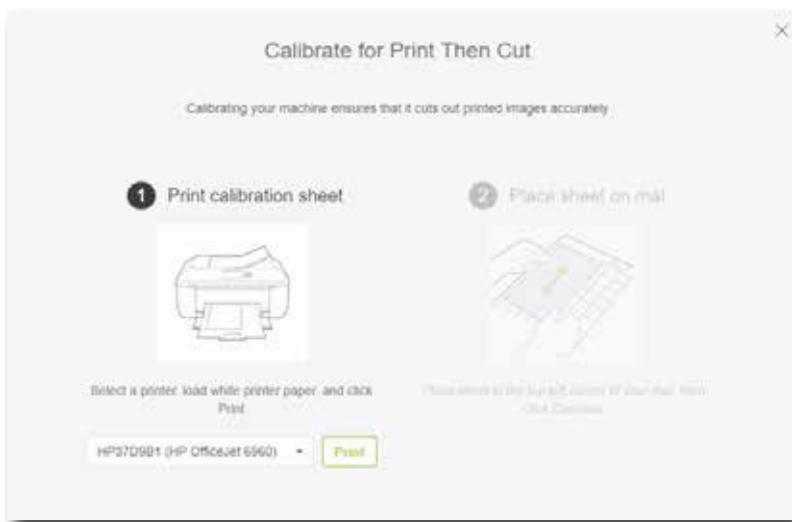


Click continue and your screen will confirm that the calibration is complete.

Print Then Cut Calibration:

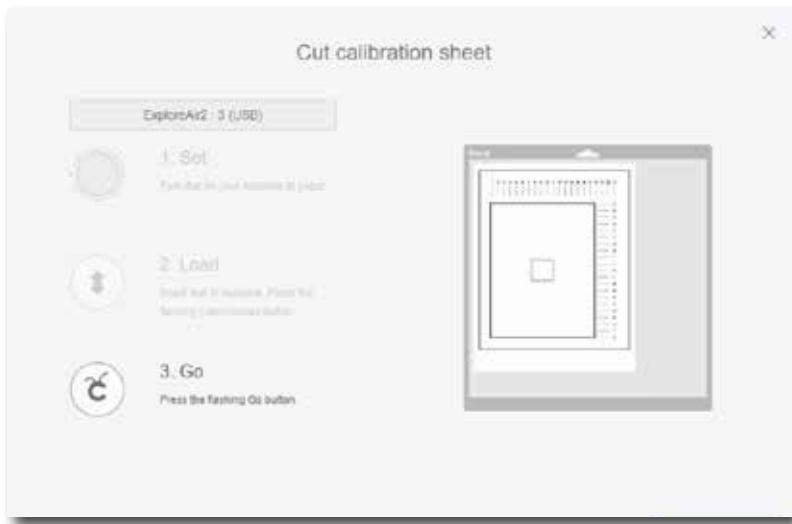
Calibrating your machine for print then cut designs is vital to project success. Click on Calibration from the hamburger menu in the upper left-hand corner of Design Space  and select Print Then Cut.



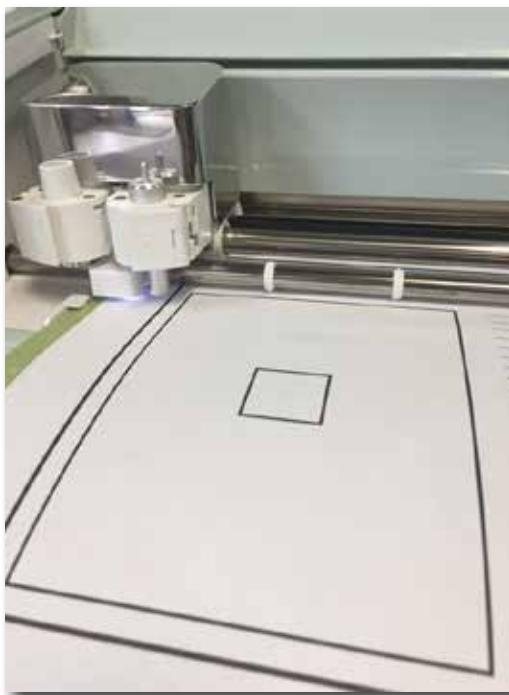


Print the calibration sheet.

Place your calibration sheet on the cutting mat in the upper left-hand corner and click Continue. Load your fine point blade into the machine in Clamp B.



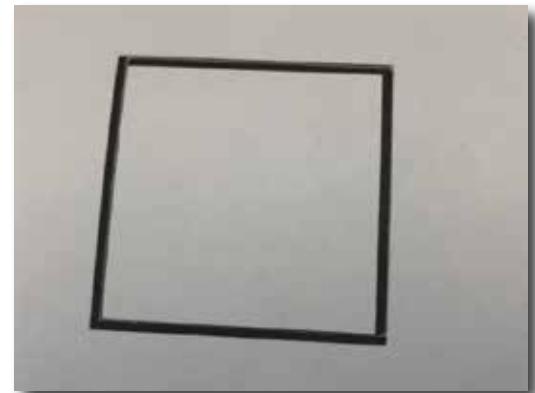
Select your machine from the dropdown, load your cutting mat, then click the flashing Go Button on the machine



The machine will scan a bunch of lines on the page. A light will turn on under the blade carriage which will allow the Cricut to check the calibration marks on the test sheet. Once it has determined it can find enough calibration points, it will proceed to cut out the smallest square in the middle of the page.



Without unloading the cutting mat, take a look and see if the cut line touches all around the square.

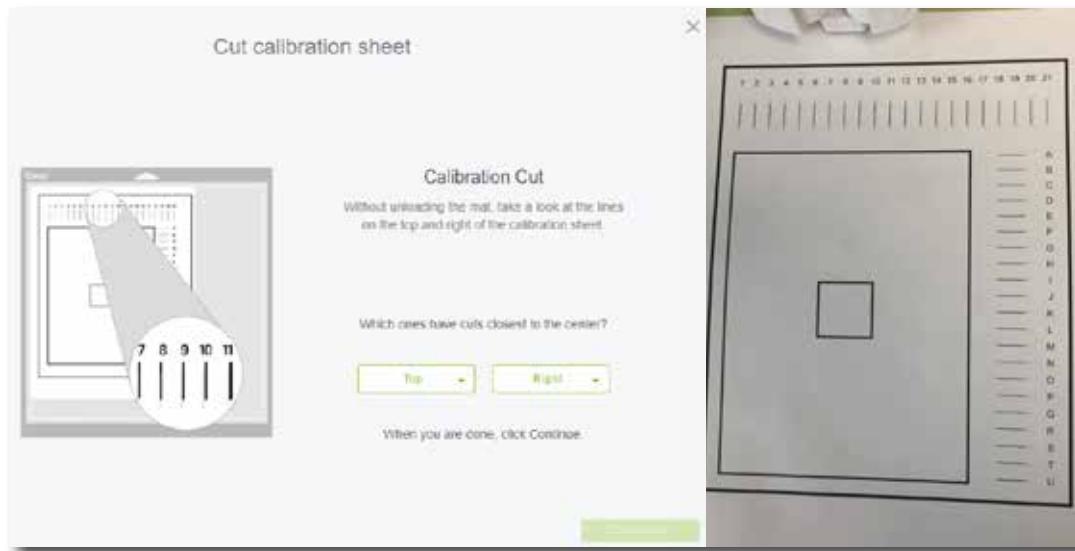


If the lines touch all the way around, select Yes from the options and then click continue.

NOTE

If your lines are off and you select No, Design Space will go to the next step to help get a closer cut.

The machine will begin cutting the numbered and lettered lines around the outside of the calibration sheet.



Once it has cut all the lines, Design Space will ask you to examine the cut lines and pick the two that best overlap the printed lines. Look at the top line (1-21) and the right-hand lines (A-U). Select the most spot on cuts from the drop down.

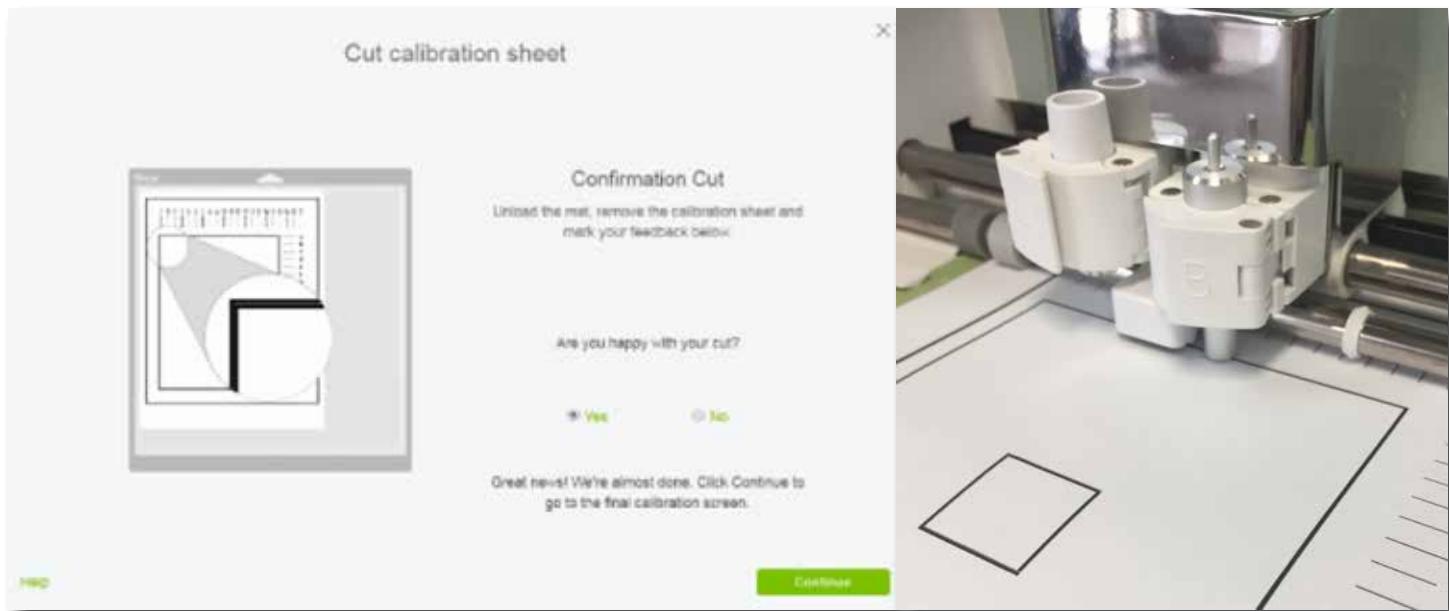
In my example, the top line # 7 and right line O were the closest to down the middle of the printed line.

NOTE

Your results may be different, examine your sheet to pick the best match for your machine.

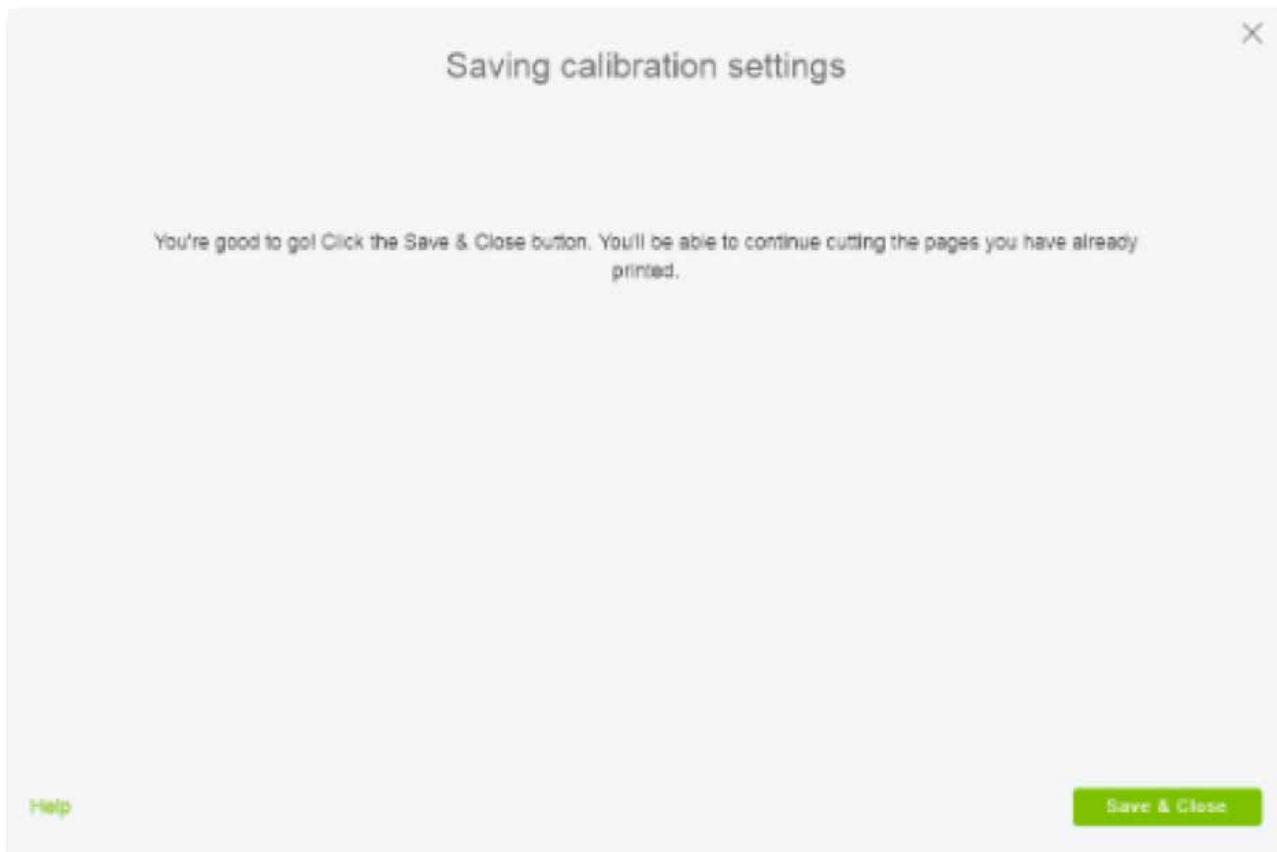


The machine will do one more calibration cut and will then cut out the larger rectangle.



Once the machine is done cutting, unload the cutting mat and examine the cut results. If you are happy with the calibration, click Yes and click Continue.

If you are not happy with the calibration, you can go through the steps again to get a better cut result.



Manage Custom Materials:

Add your own custom material settings here. This is great for your favorite paper, or vinyl that doesn't cut quite right under standard settings.

Update Firmware:

Update Firmware will check to see if you need to update the firmware on your machine. Follow the prompts as needed to update your firmware if necessary. Note: you likely will not need to update the firmware frequently, but you should check periodically.

Account Details:

Account Details will give you an account overview that you can edit and update as necessary. Make sure to keep your account up to date. Update your email address, name, shipping & billing address and sign up for the Cricut newsletter.

Link Cartridges:

Link Cartridges will walk you through steps on how to link a cartridge to your Design Space account. If you have physical Cricut cartridges that you want to use with your Explore Air 2 machine, you can click [here](#) to link them with Design Space. If you have a Cricut Maker machine, you'll need a cartridge adapter. See "How to link cartridges."

Cricut Access:

[Click here](#) to manage your Cricut Access account. Cricut Access is a subscription service that allows you unlimited access to 50,000+ images, 1000's of projects and fonts. There are three different levels to choose from. Each level can be paid for on a monthly or yearly subscription (the yearly having a lower rate over monthly payments).

Monthly Membership:

With the Monthly Membership you get access to over 400 fonts that are ready to be used with your Cricut machine, access to the Priority Member care line for faster help when you need it, unlimited use of over 30,000 Cricut images, including exclusive designs, 10% savings on all licensed fonts, images and ready-to-make projects, and 10% off all product purchases on Cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials and more.

Annual Membership:

The next step up for membership is the Annual Membership. The Annual Membership is the same as the monthly only it is paid on an annual basis at a discounted rate. With the Annual Membership you get access to over 400 fonts that are ready to be used with your Cricut machine, access to the Priority Member care line for faster help when you need it, unlimited use of over 30,000 Cricut images, including exclusive designs, 10% savings on all licensed fonts, images and ready-to-make projects, and 10% off all product purchases on Cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials and more.

Premium Membership:

The highest level of Cricut Access available is the Premium Membership. Premium Membership gives you access to over 400 fonts that are ready to be used with your Cricut machine, access to the Priority Membership care line for faster help when you need it, unlimited use of over 30,000 Cricut images, including exclusive designs, 10% savings on all licensed fonts, images and ready-to-make projects, and 10% off all product purchases on Cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials and more, up to 50% off savings on designer fonts, images and ready-to make projects and free economy shipping on orders over \$50 on Cricut.com.

Monthly Membership	Annual Membership	Premium Membership
The perfect starter plan	Big-time benefits	The best value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unlimited access to over 400 beautiful fonts ✓ Unlimited use of over 50,000 covet-worthy, cut-ready premium Cricut images ✓ 10% savings on all product purchases on cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials, and more – including sale items!* ✓ 10% savings on premium licensed fonts, images, and ready-to-make projects from brands like Disney, Simplicity, and Anna Griffin** ✓ Priority Member Care line (50% less wait time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unlimited access to over 400 beautiful fonts ✓ Unlimited use of over 50,000 covet-worthy, cut-ready premium Cricut images ✓ 10% savings on all product purchases on cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials, and more – including sale items!* ✓ 10% savings on premium licensed fonts, images, and ready-to-make projects from brands like Disney, Simplicity, and Anna Griffin** ✓ Priority Member Care line (50% less wait time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unlimited access to over 400 beautiful fonts ✓ Unlimited use of over 50,000 covet-worthy, cut-ready premium Cricut images ✓ 10% savings on all product purchases on cricut.com, including machines, accessories, materials, and more – including sale items!* ✓ 10% savings on premium licensed fonts, images, and ready-to-make projects from brands like Disney, Simplicity, and Anna Griffin** ✓ Up to 50% savings on licensed fonts, images, and ready-to-make projects** ✓ Free economy shipping on orders over \$50 ✓ Priority Member Care line (50% less wait time)

* 10% discount off the current price applies to physical products available on [shop.cricut.com](#), including all Cricut smart cutting machines, machine supplies (mats, blades, etc.), cartridges, accessories, materials, Cricut EasyPress™, and Cricut storage.

** Discounts on licensed premium content vary by licensor. Maximum 50% discount for Cricut Access Premium members not available for images, fonts, or cartridges from the following licensors: Walt Disney Company® (Disney Consumer Products, Inc.), Sesame Workshop™, Sanrio®, Hello Kitty®, Boy Scouts of America®, Anna Griffin®, Lia Griffith™, and Simplicity®. Discounts cannot be combined with other deals, promotions, or promotion codes (including Cricut Circle promotions). Discounts cannot be used on iOS or Android™ in-app purchases. Cricut® reserves the right to modify the terms of this discount offer at any time.

CRICUT ACCESS FAQ

What's the difference between Cricut Access and Cricut Design Space?

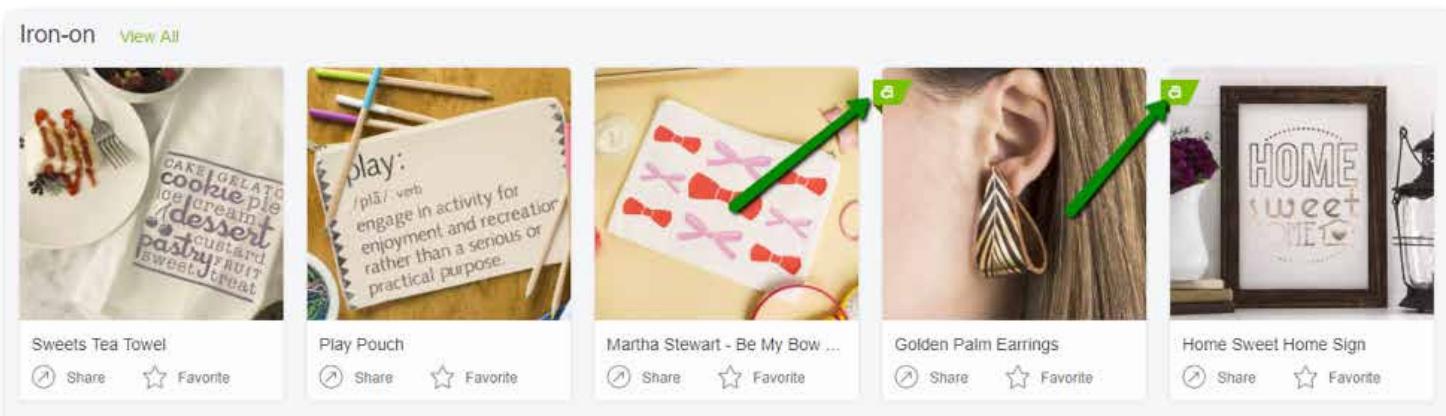
Cricut Access and Cricut Design Space are two separate things. Design Space is the program you use to design your project. Cricut Access is a subscription that gives you access to additional designs within Design Space (and other perks).

Do you need Cricut Access?

If you plan to purchase more than a few designs a month, or if you order products from Cricut's website on a regular basis, you'll want to pick up a Standard or Premium membership.

How to tell if the item is included in your Cricut Access subscription:

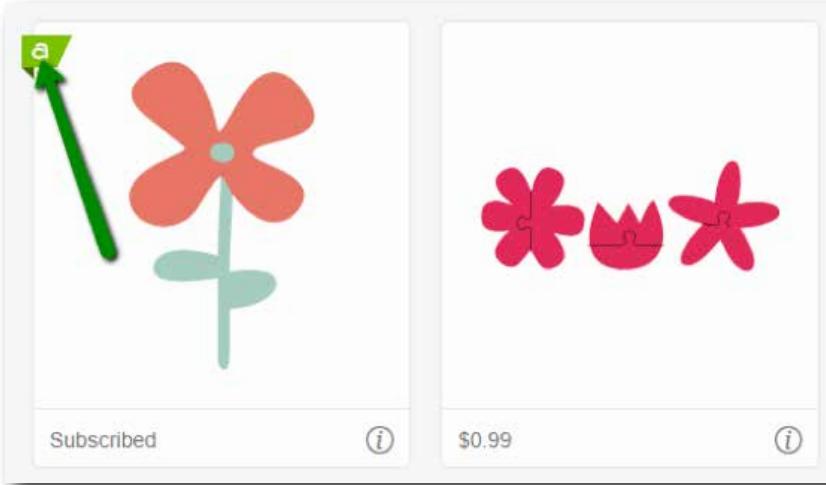
If an image, project or font is included with a Cricut Access subscription, it will have a green "a" at the top corner.



Fonts

All System Cricut Search Fonts Filter

Font Name	Sample Text
10thCentury Single-Layer Cutting	The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
3 Birds Life's A Party	THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG. 1234567890-=!@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
3 Birds On Parade	The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. 1234567890-=!@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
A Frightful Affair	THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG. 1234567890-=!@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
A Frightful Affair - Crack	THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG. 1234567890-=!@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
A Perfect Day	The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?
AR BB CLEV Single-Layer Cutting	The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+=[]{};/<>?



The green Cricut Access banner will appear whether you have a Cricut Access account or not. You will see that it says "Subscribed" and you can use it without paying anything extra, if you have an Access account. If you do not have an Access account, you can still purchase the designs, but it will be a separate charge.

What happens if your subscription expires?

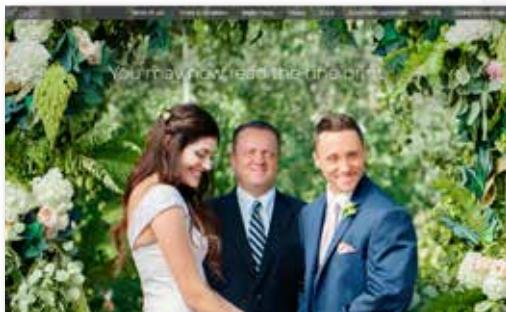
If your Cricut Access subscription expires, and you don't choose to renew, all the Cricut Access images will no longer be available for access in your account. However, any images, fonts or projects that you have purchased, even if you got the Cricut Access Discount, will remain in your account. Cricut Access auto renews, so if you do not want to automatically renew your order, make sure to contact Cricut or cancel it through your Cricut account.

TIP

The Cricut Access discount can be stacked on top of sale prices or other coupon codes you may have access to.

SETTINGS: Change your settings for the canvas grid and unit measurements here.

LEGAL: All sites have fine print, Terms of Use, Terms & Conditions, Cricut is a little tongue in cheek with it.



Design Space settings

Keyboard shortcuts

Access anywhere by pressing the key on your keyboard.

Canvas grid

Full Grid

Partial Grid

No Grid

Units

Inch

Centimeter

NEW FEATURES: Check this out periodically as new exciting features may have been released recently, click here for details.

UNITED STATES▼: Select your country from the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom. This helps Cricut know their customer base. If you are outside of the countries listed in the drop down, you can select a random country or just use the United States as that is where the machine came from.



HELP: If you're stuck or just looking for more information on a topic, the Help page can assist you in finding what you are looking for. Search by your topic or click on topics to help narrow down your search.

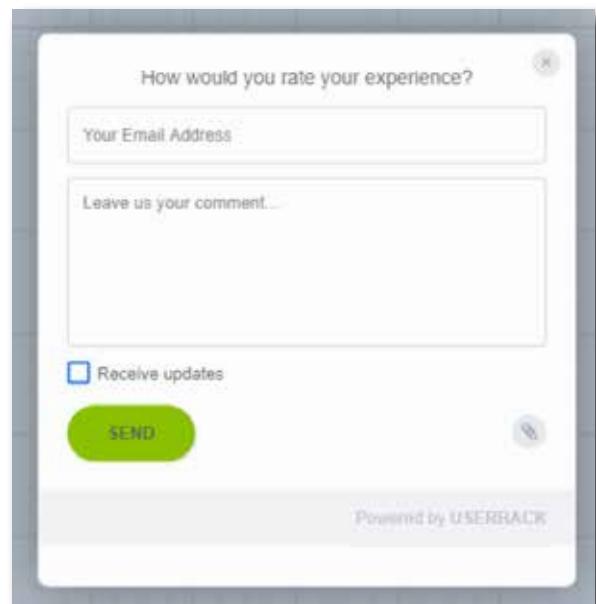
Let's say you are interested in cutting leather. Search "Leather" in the search box and articles will pop up with helpful information.

Search results for "leather"

- [Which materials can I cut with my Cricut Explore and Maker machine?](#)
- [From something as delicate as notebook paper to thick leather, these amazing machines can do it all. ... Off Fine-Point Blade Shimmer Leather - 1mm 254 3x Fine-Point Blade , Off Fine-Point Blade Genuine Leather 260 3x Deep-Point Blade ...](#)
- [Cricut Maker: Cutting leather with knife blade](#)
- [Cricut Maker: Cutting leather with knife blade Cricut Knife Blade can be used to cut both garment leather and tooling leather. To view information and recommendations for cutting ...](#)
- [Cricut Genuine Leather: Cutting instructions](#)
- [Cricut Genuine Leather: Cutting instructions Easily cut custom designs for unique leather creations with Cricut Genuine Leather. Ideal for fashion, accessories, jewelry, home ...](#)
- [Cricut EasyPress: Recommended settings](#)
- [Cricut Flex: Leather 255°F / 125°C ... sec. \(use light pressure to avoid leaving an impression in leather\) Cold Peel 340°F / ... sec \(use light pressure to avoid leaving an impression in leather\) Warm Peel 340°F / ...](#)
- [Cricut Metallic leather: Cutting instructions](#)
- [Cricut Metallic Leather: Cutting instructions Easily cut custom designs for unique leather creations with Cricut Metallic Leather. Ideal for fashion, accessories, jewelry, home ...](#)

SIGN OUT: When you are done working in Design Space, it is recommended that you Sign Out if you are not on a private computer.

FEEDBACK: If you'd like to send Cricut some feedback on your experience with your machine or software, drop Cricut a note through the feedback option. Fill out the simple form and check the box if you'd like to receive updates. You may also add attachments, if desired.



SECTION 2



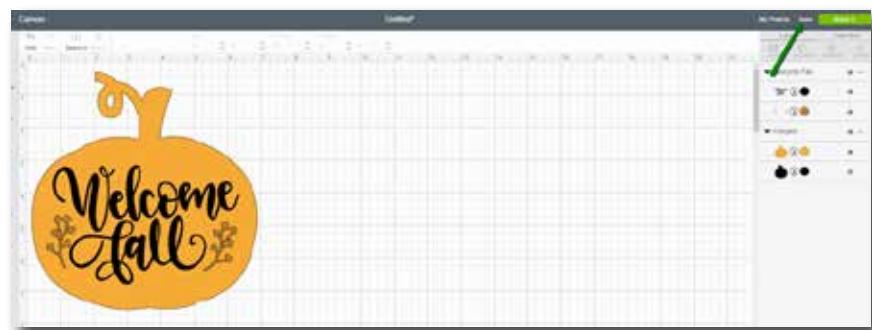
Section 2 has current ads and promotions. Cricut may post specials here, new features or tools. This is the highlight roll of what's going on in Cricut and it will change periodically.

SECTION 3



This section holds your projects. When you work on a project and save it, you'll be able to quickly find it in your projects.

When you create and save a new project, they will appear in your new projects list. Create your project and click on save.



Save your file.



And then you will be able to access your project within this section of the home page.

My Projects [View All](#)



Welcome Fall

[Share](#)

600

SECTION 4

Section 4

My Ready-to-Make Projects [View All](#)

- Cricut - Christmas Large P... [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Faux Fur Fabric Ball [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Golden Palm Tiny Tote [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Cricut - Golden Palm Clutch Bag [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Golden Palm Bell Pouch [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Golden Palm Backpack [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Cricut Maker Coat Cover [View](#) [Favorite](#)
- Felt Flower Wreath [View](#) [Favorite](#)

Top Video Tutorials [View All Top Tutorials](#)

- Make This Spring Wheel Project
- Design Space Fundamentals
- Let's Work With Images
- More Image Options
- Get to Know: Vinyl Works

Cards [View All](#)

- Sunflower Card
- Elephant Card
- Floral Card
- Castle Card
- Thank You Card
- Cupcake Card
- Blank Card
- Floral Card

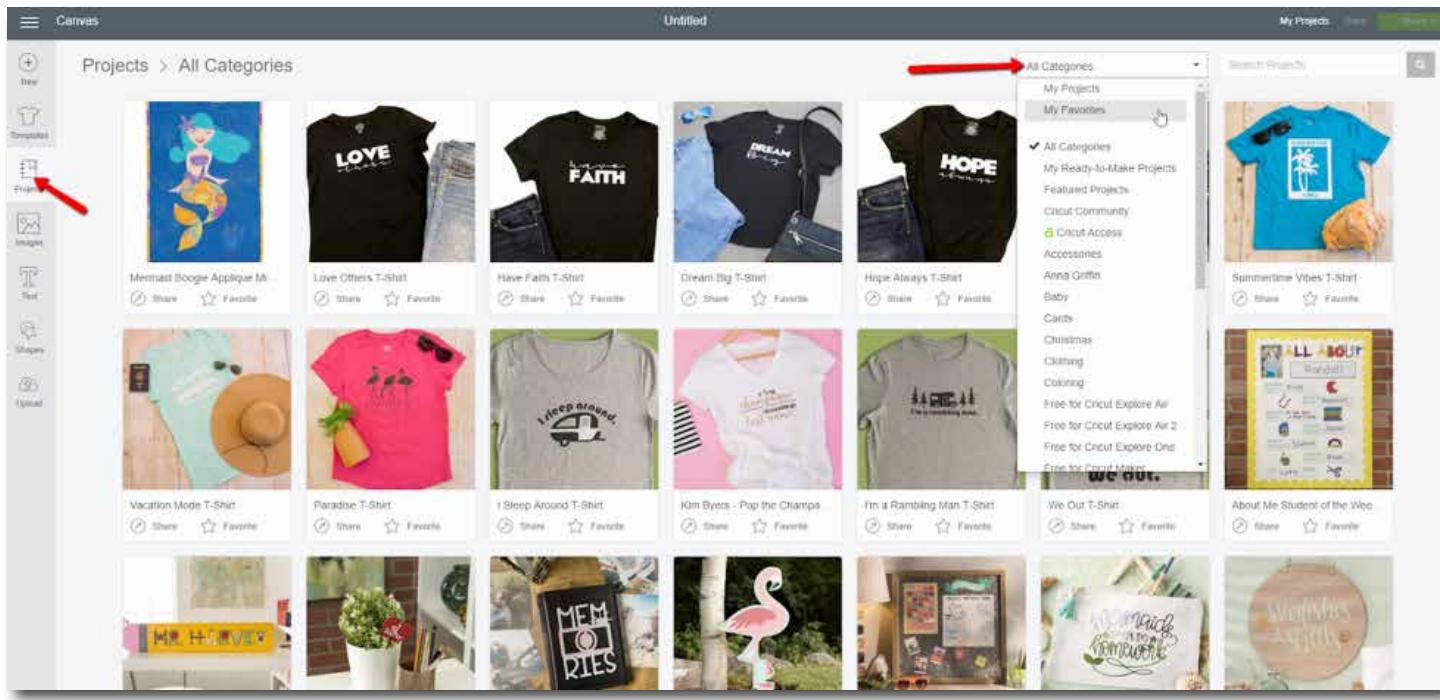
Section 4 is not only the largest section on the Home page, it is also arguably the most fun! This section is full of project inspiration by theme, season, material, project type and more. This section changes frequently so you'll always find fresh inspiration.

Find a project or design that you'd like to save for later? Add items to your favorites to easily find them when you need them.

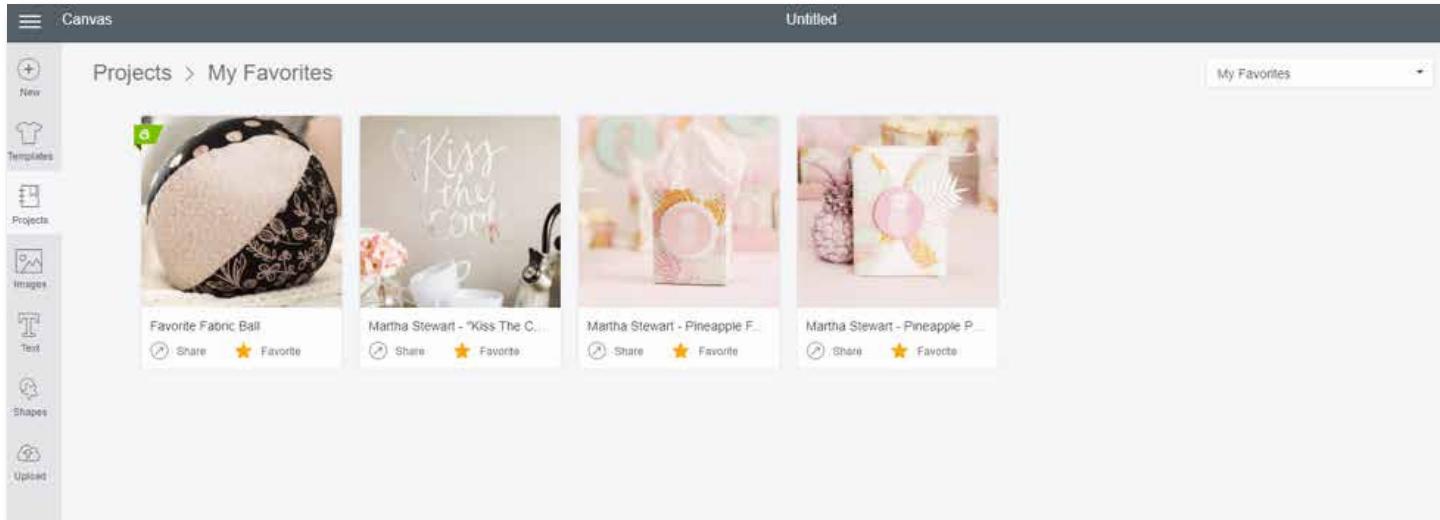
To favorite a project, simply click the star under the project from the home screen.



To view your list of favorite designs, go to the Canvas and click on Projects from the left-hand menu. From there, in the upper right-hand corner, you can sort by categories. Choose My Favorites from the dropdown menu:



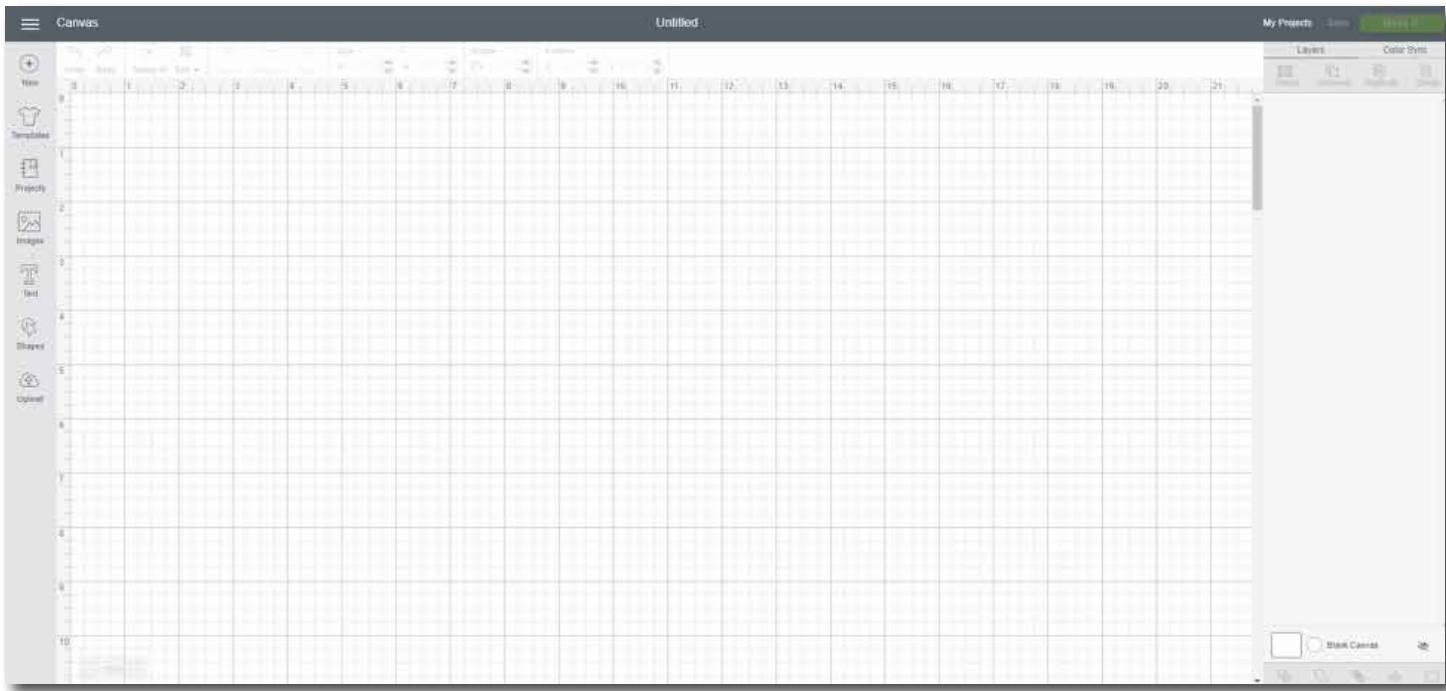
Only your favorited designs will show:



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

Cricut Design Space Canvas is where you go to create and design your Cricut projects. You must have internet connection to access Design Space, but since it is cloud based, you can use it on more than one computer and access your designs from anywhere you have internet access.

Design Space has a gridded work space and several toolbars.



HEADER: The Header is across the top of the page.

Canvas The hamburger menu at the top of the Canvas page is the same as what can be accessed from the Home page. See more in Section 1 of Getting to Know Design Space: Home Page.

fall pumpkin stack On the Canvas page, any words you see in the middle of the toolbar are the name of your file. If you have not saved/named your file it will say "untitled*".

My Projects Clicking on My Projects will take you straight to your saved projects.

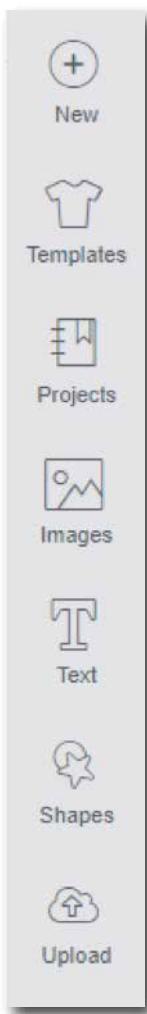
Save Save your project to your account so you can access it later, or open it on other devices. Select Save As to change the name of your project.

Make It When you are ready to make your project, click Make It and Cricut will prepare your mats and send your project to your machine.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

DESIGN PANEL: The Design Panel is located on the left-hand side of the Canvas.



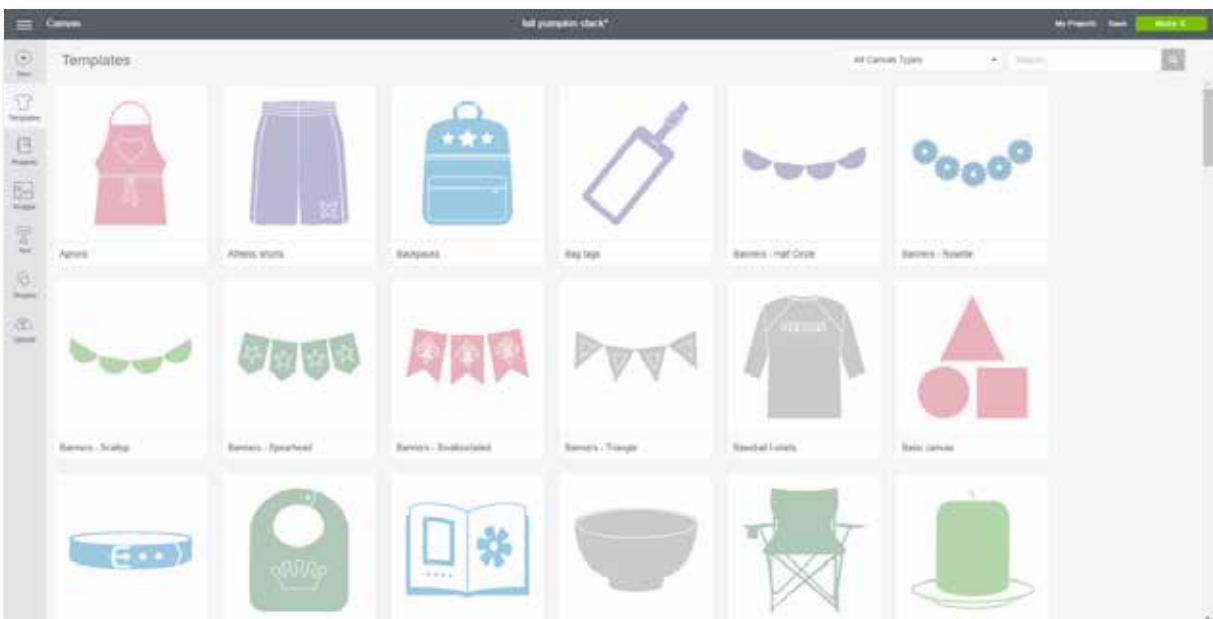
NEW Clicking on New will open a new project. If you have an unsaved project currently on your screen, you will get a warning message asking if you would like to save, replace or cancel the action:



If you want to start a new project, without saving or replacing your current project, open a new tab on your browser and log into Design Space again.



TEMPLATES Templates are a series of common project surfaces to give you a general sizing guideline. There are shirts, backpacks, glasses, candles and more. The template won't cut, but it is there for a visual reference.

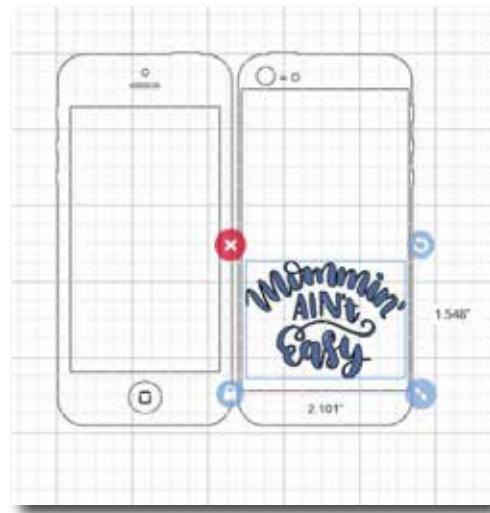


To use a template, select a template from the available images. Add and size your designs to fit the template.

Click "Make It" and your Cricut will prep your mats to cut.

TIP

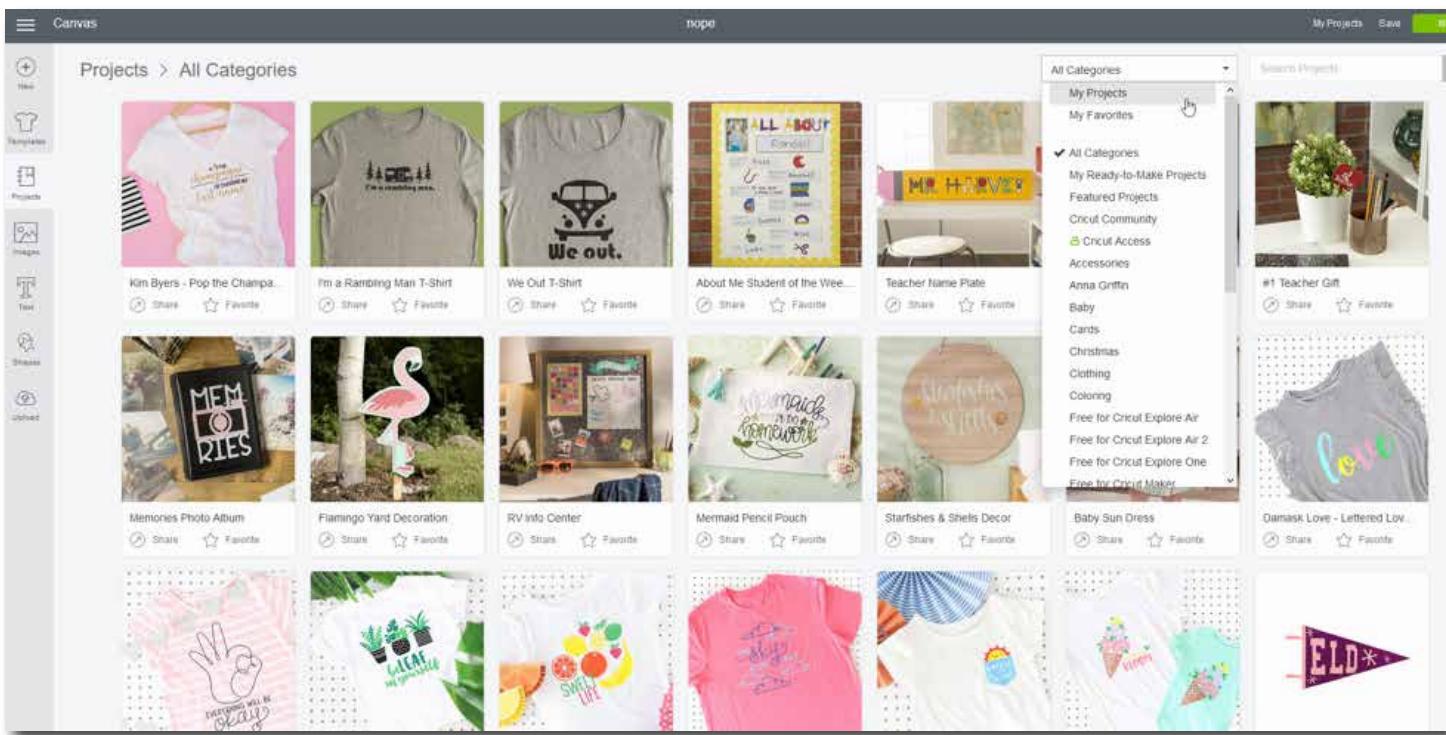
Check the template you choose and compare it to your project surface. Cell phones, for example, may vary in size and shape. Templates are a nice starting point, but always double check your actual project to make sure your design will fit!



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



PROJECTS Click on the projects tab to browse premade project designs. Search by categories, narrow it down to your saved projects or view your favorites using the dropdown menu in the upper right hand corner.



NOTE

Some projects have a cost, some are included with your Cricut Access subscription and some are free. To find out the price of a project, click on the project and scroll down to the bottom. If a project has a fee associated with it, you can still bring it into Design Space and manipulate it if desired, but you won't be able to actually cut or print the project until you purchase the file.

Share ★ 658

Dreaming Tree - Santa Jingle Bell Ornament

Intermediate | 1 – 2 Hours

Description

Ring in the holidays with this adorable Santa jingle bell ornament!

Finished Size

Approx. 4" x 3" x 3" (10.2 cm x 7.6 cm x 7.6 cm)

Materials To Cut	Everything Else
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardstock, Rouge • Cardstock, Shrimp • Glitter Paper, White • Bazzill Diamond Sheet, White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricut® 12x12 LightGrip Adhesive Cutting Mat • Cricut Scoring Wheel or Double Scoring Wheel (depending on material) • 3/4" (1.9 cm) Diameter White

\$3.99

Customize Make It

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

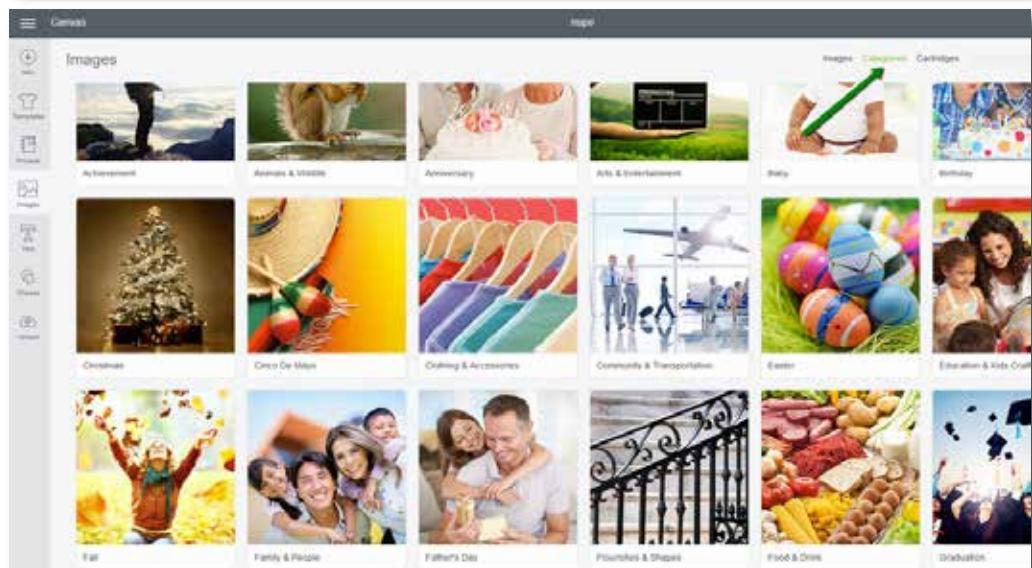


IMAGES Similar to Projects, click on Images tab to search for images to use.

Search by images:



Search by categories:



Search by cartridges:



— NOTE —

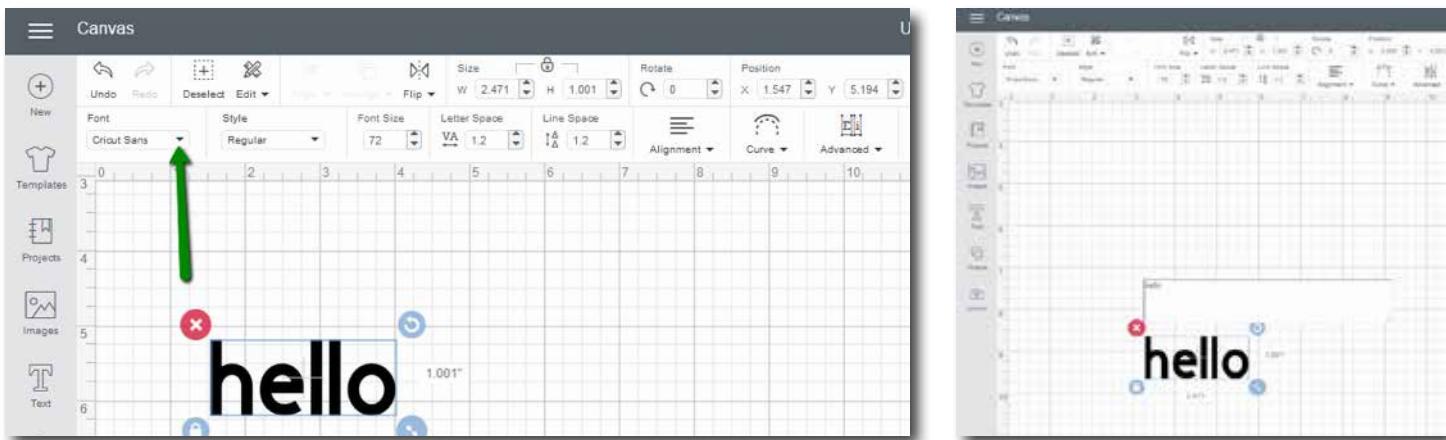
Cartridges are collections of images. Read more about cartridges in the "Using, Linking and Accessing Cricut Cartridges" section on page 28.

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

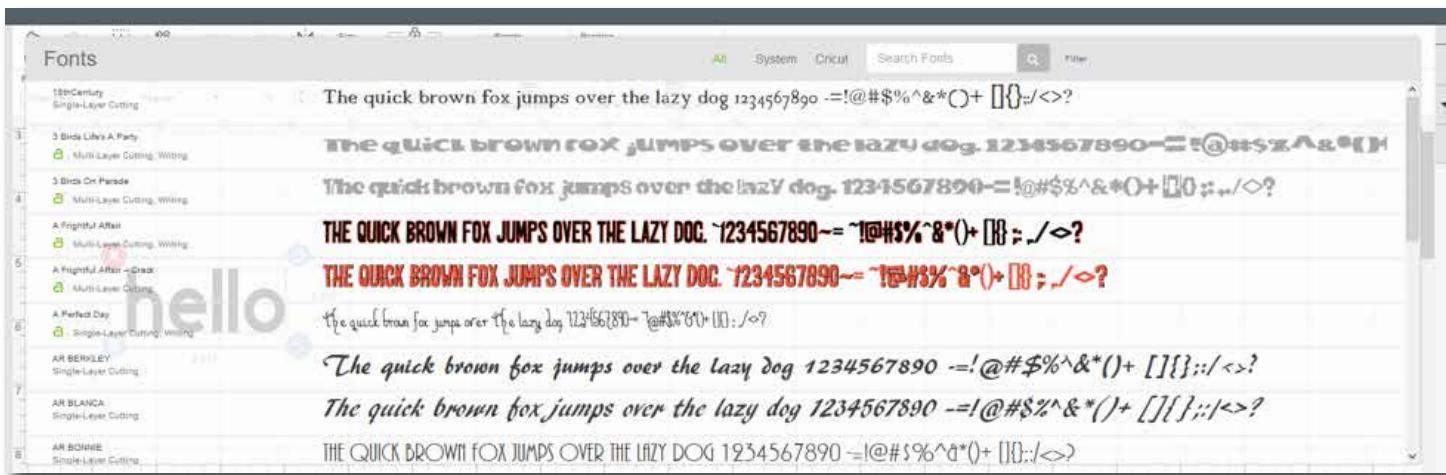


TEXT Adding text to your project is very simple. Click the Text button and type your words into the text box.

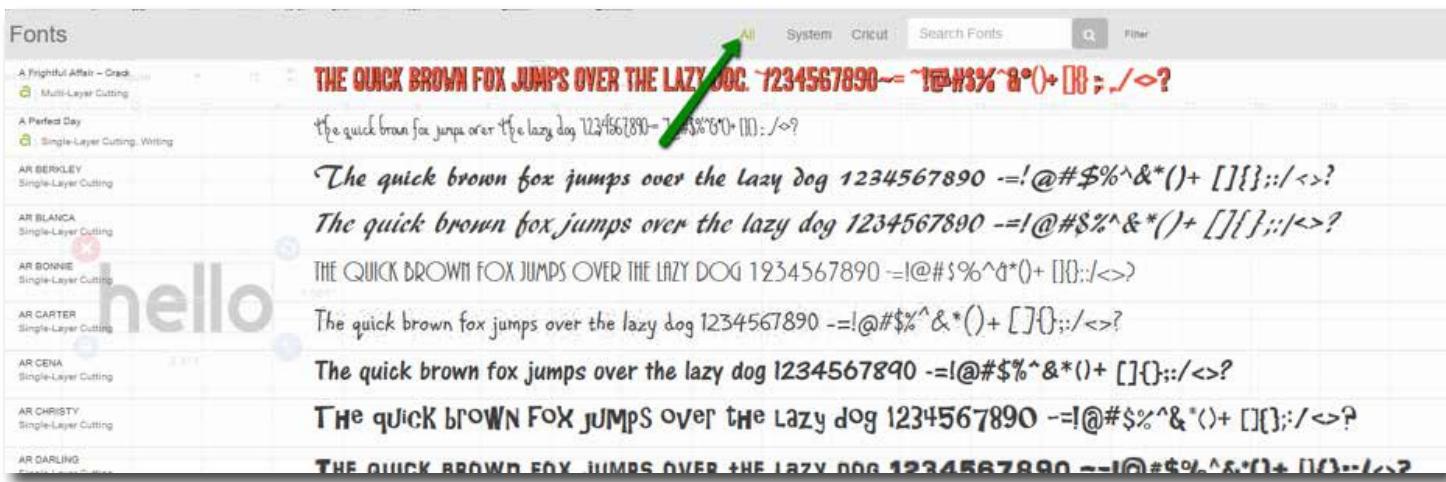
To change the font, click on the word, then click on Font in the upper left corner.



The Fonts Selection Panel will appear. Scroll through the fonts and click on the font you wish to use.



View all fonts available by clicking on All.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

Show only fonts that are on your computer by clicking on *System*.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

THE QUICK bROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

Show fonts available from Cricut specifically by clicking on *Cricut*. This will include generally available fonts and fonts only available if you have a Cricut Access subscription.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567890 -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. ^1234567890= -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. ^1234567890= -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. ^1234567890= -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. ^1234567890= -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. ^1234567890= -!=@#\$%^&*()+ []{};/<>?

FUN FACT

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" is a pangram, which means it uses every letter in the English alphabet at least once. It was originally used to test typewriters, to ensure all the keys worked, but it is also used with fonts so you can see all the letters.

If you know the specific name of the font you're looking for, you can search the font name by typing it into the search field.

Search Fonts

Clear Filters

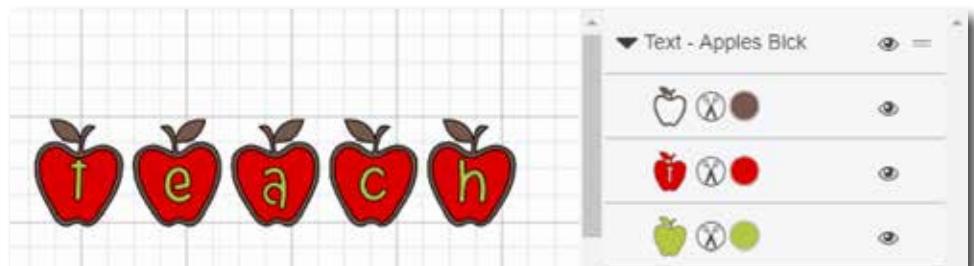
- My Fonts
- Multi-Layer
- Single-Layer
- Writing

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

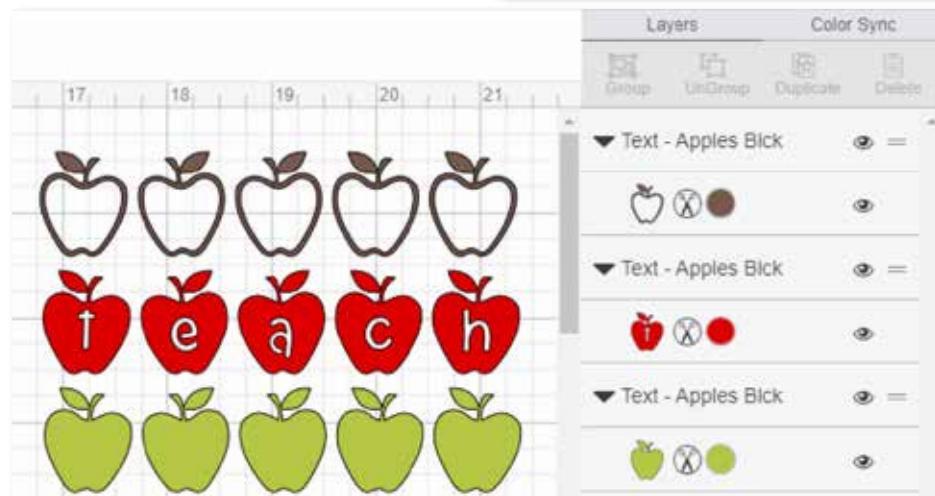
My Fonts: My Fonts are any fonts that are available for you to use on your computer.

Multi-Layer Fonts: Multi-Layer

Fonts are fonts that have more than one layer. For example, Apples Blck is a Cricut font with 3 layers.

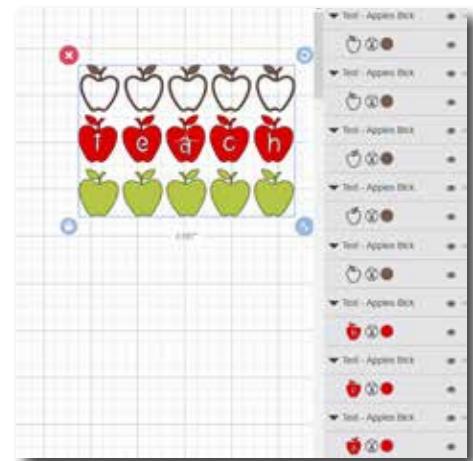


You can use the font as is, or you can customize each layer to suit your project. Click ungroup in the upper right-hand corner to separate the layers.

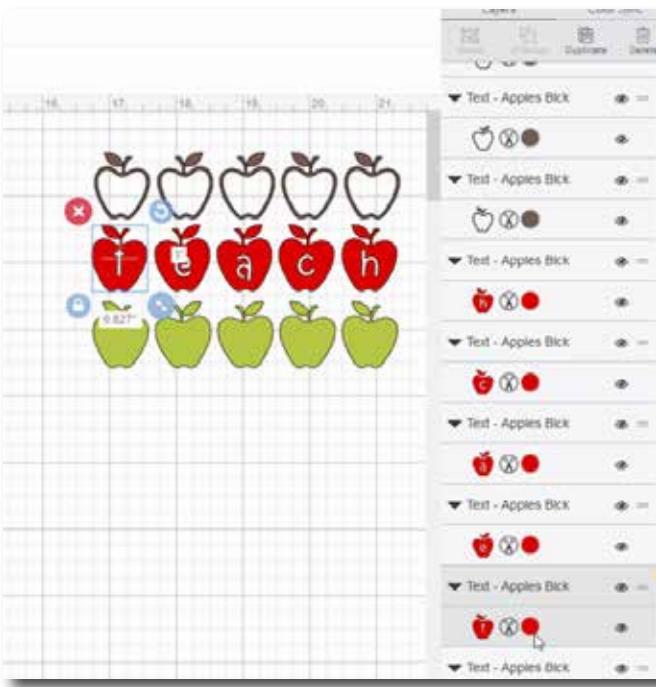


Once the layers are ungrouped, you can drag each layer away from each other.

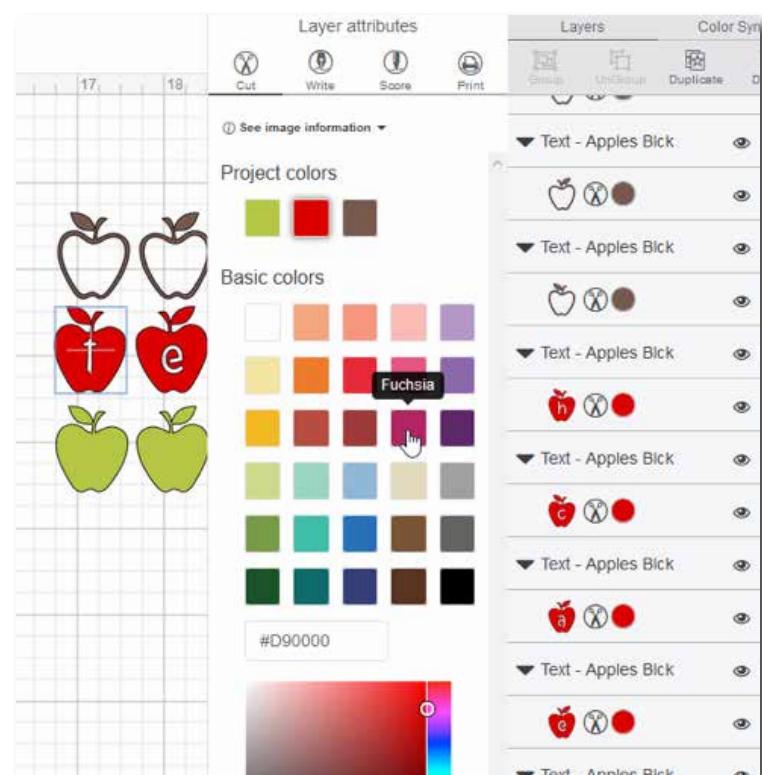
You can cut a single layer (for example, just the outline of the apples) or you can ungroup again to customize the layers further.



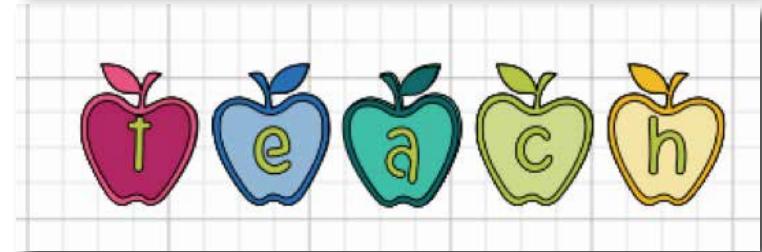
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Once all the pieces are separated, you can change the color of the individual piece by clicking on the color selection next to the layer.



Pick a color from the color menu, or drag the color selector around to find your favorite shade.



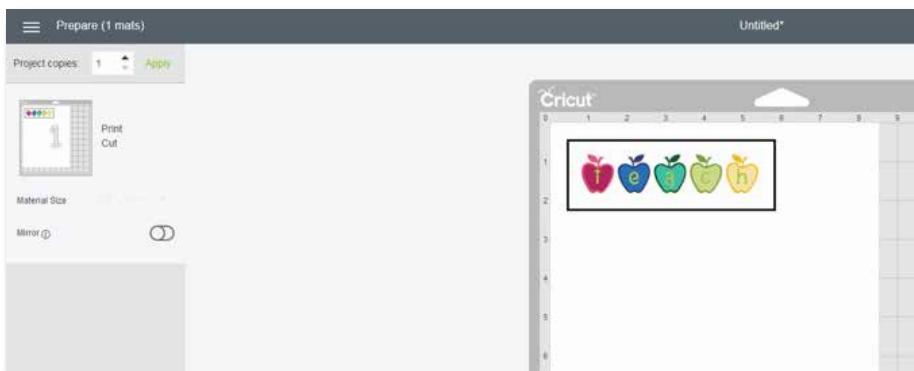
NOTE

If you click "Make It" with a colorful multi-layer font project like this, your Cricut will automatically sort the project into mats.

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

Instead of cutting all the layers and then assembling them individually, you could simplify the process and do a Print then Cut. To change your design from cut to print then cut, stack the layers on top of each other, click and drag a box around all the layers, then right click and select Flatten.

Flattening the project will make your design read as one layer instead of multiple layers. It will also change it from a cut file to a print file.



When you click "Make It" now, Cricut will prep the project to do a print then cut.

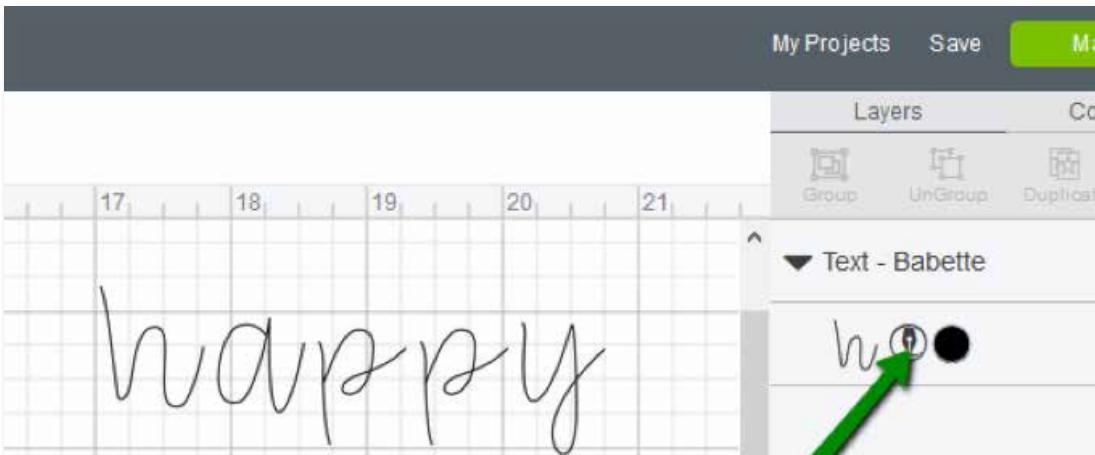
For Print then Cut projects, you will print the image, then put the printed project on the cutting mat and your Cricut will cut it out.

Single Layer Fonts: Single-Layer Fonts are fonts with only one layer.



These fonts are desirable for cutting projects since they are only one layer.

Writing Fonts: Writing Fonts are fonts designed to be written with a pen. When you select a Written font, the icon next to the letter will show it is to write:



Cutting a Writing Font will only result in slits in the paper, so you would not want to cut a written font.

NOTE

You can choose to write a non-writing font as well, but you will only get an outline of a font. For example, if you were to write a single-layer font, you would get an outline like this -->



If you were to print the font, you'll get a filled in letter, but writing it will just give you the outline.

THIS IS A MULTI-LAYER FONT
this is a single-layer font
this is a writing font

Adding a new font:

If you want to work with a new font, download and install the font to your computer. If you are already logged into Design Space, log out and log back in again. When you log back in, the new font will show up in your fonts for use. There is no need to import the font into Design Space directly.

⚠ Caution

Use discretion when downloading anything from the internet, including fonts. Choose a reputable source and make sure you backup your computer before downloading anything, just in case you end up accidentally downloading a virus. When selecting a font to download, it's important to check the available licenses for that font. If a font is marked as "For Personal Use Only," you cannot use that font on a project you intend to sell. You may be able to purchase a commercial use license. If you are in doubt on how you can use the font legally, contact the artist and ask before you get yourself into trouble.

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

Text Edit Toolbar:



When working with fonts, there are several tools you can use to edit your project. They can be found at the top of Design Space Canvas, below the regular Edit Toolbar. This toolbar will only appear when you have selected a text box.



Font: Click here to scroll through and select different fonts you have available.



Style: Some fonts have multiple styles available. Click here to see if the font you like has other options to best fit your project.



Font Size: Change the font size by typing in a number, using the arrows or by dragging the scale arrows at the bottom right-hand corner.



Letter Space: Letter spacing refers to how much space is between each letter in a word. Letters that are too close or too far away can really ruin the end results of a project.



These letters could connect if they were a little closer. Use the Letter Spacing to move them on in:



You can also use your keyboard arrow keys to move letters, though it is hard to achieve fine movements.

TIP

Hold the shift key and use your mouse to move text around. You can achieve much finer movements with the mouse. Holding the shift key will keep the letters aligned with the rest of your text, so everything lines up nicely.

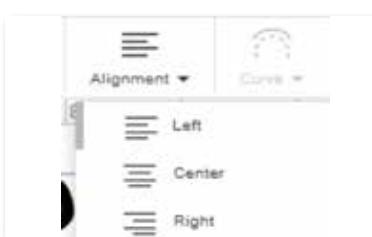


Line Space: Line spacing is helpful if you have multiple lines of text. While some fonts align multiple lines perfectly, some fonts have large character spacing which causes a larger than desired gap between lines. For example:

LOVE is Patient.

Use the Line Space option to move the lines together for less of a gap:

LOVE is Patient.
LOVE is Kind.



Left:

If you can't stop thinking about it,
don't stop working for it.

Centered:

If you can't stop thinking about it,
don't stop working for it.

Right:

If you can't stop thinking about it,
don't stop working for it.



Curve: Curve allows you to curve a single line of text.

Type your words out then click on curve. Sliding the dot to the right will curve the letters down:



Slide the dot to the left and your text will curve up:



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

The further left or right you slide the dot, the tighter the curve will get. If you slide the dot all the way one way or the other, your letters will form a complete circle.

NOTE

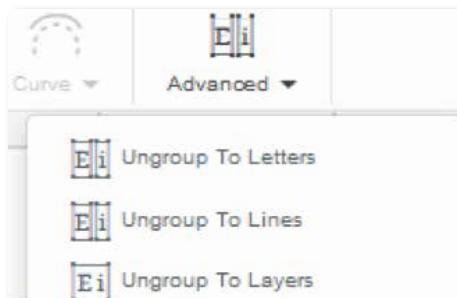
The far left and far right number that you see when you move the dot around will vary depending on how long the word(s) are that you are curving. The longer the word, the higher (or lower) the number. To straighten your line back out again, type in 0.



Advanced: Advanced will give you more options on how to group/ungroup a text box. There are three options, ungroup to letters, ungroup to lines and ungroup to layers:

NOTE

If you do not have multiple lines of text or a multi-layer font, some of the options may be grayed out and not available for use.



Ungroup to Letters:



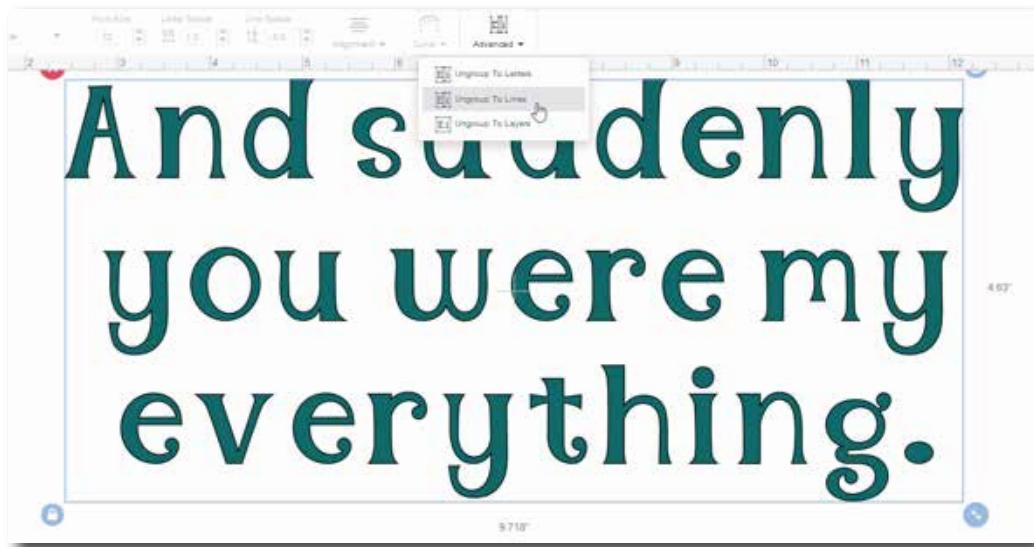
Clicking Ungroup to Letters will break the text box apart by individual letters. This will make each individual letter, with all its associated layers (if applicable) into their own text box. This will allow you to move or change individual letters, one by one.



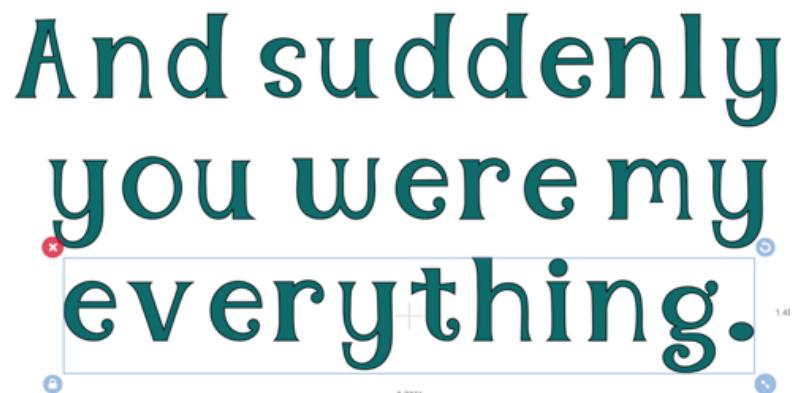
This can be helpful if you want to exchange a letter or even if you just want to change the color of a specific letter, etc. To regroup the letters, select everything you want to group. You can then either right click and go to Group, or click Group in the upper right-hand corner in the Layers Panel.



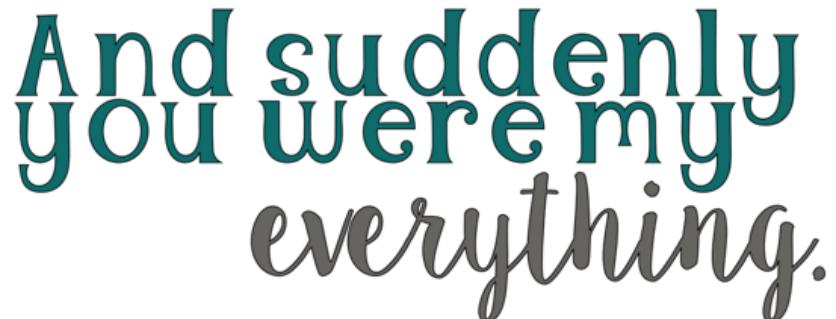
Ungroup to Lines:



If you have more than one line of text, Ungroup to Lines will break your multi line text box up by individual lines.

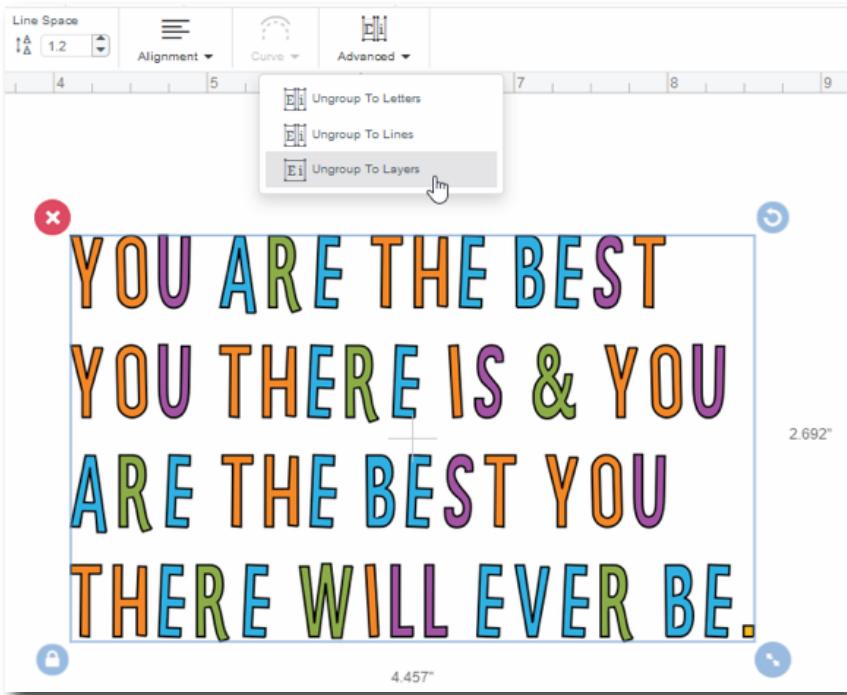


Ungroup by Line allows you to change each line of text without having to change each individual letter.

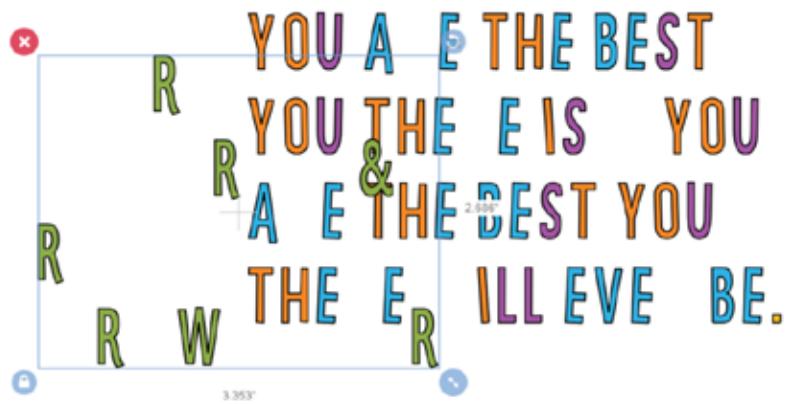


GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

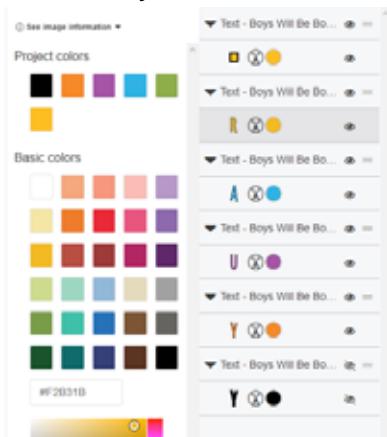
Ungroup to Layers: If you have a multi-layer font, you can Ungroup to Layers to change specific layers all at once. Click on Advanced then select Ungroup to Layers:



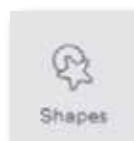
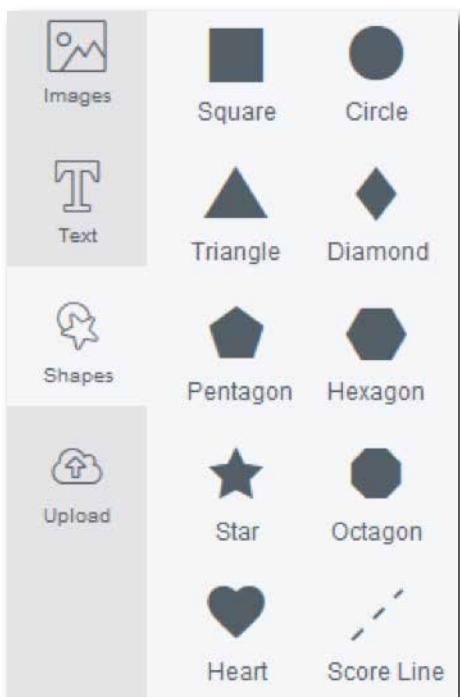
For example, in this font, the letters automatically type out in specific colors. Those layers are grouped so you can change them all at the same time, if desired. If I wanted to change the color of this layer, for example, ungrouping by layers will make that very quick and easy.



Instead of picking out all the green letters and changing them one by one, as I would need to do if I ungrouped by letters. Ungrouping by layer makes each layer its own layer in the Layer Panel. Click on the layer and make the adjustments desired, the changes will reflect to all the letters on that same layer.

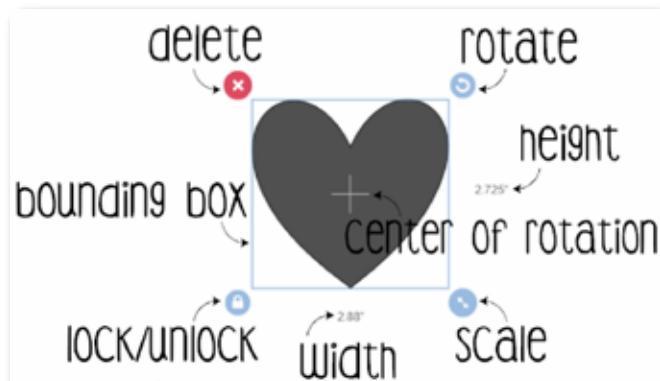


GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



SHAPES Click on Shapes to find basic shapes like octagons, squares, circles, etc. Select a shape to add into your project. You can also select score lines from the Shapes menu.

When you insert a shape, Design Space will insert the gray shape outlined with a blue box. The blue box is called a bounding box. The bounding box is surrounded by helpful tools and information.

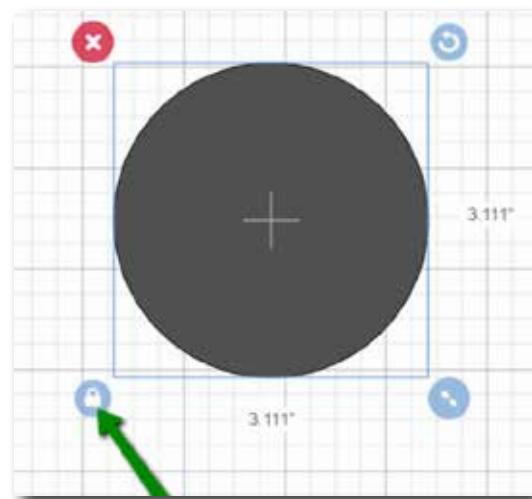
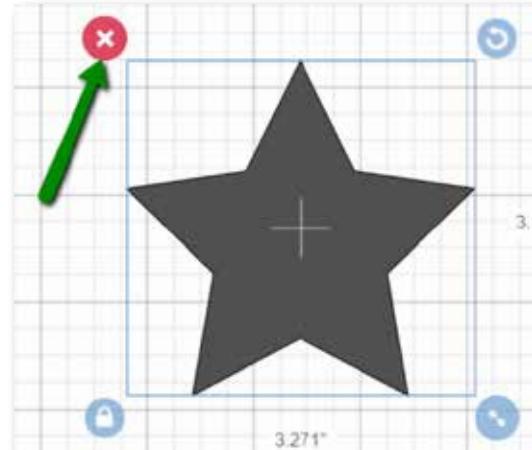


The bounding box shows the edges of the selected object. It can be dragged to transform, rotate or scale the object and only displays when the object is selected.

Bounding Box Tools: The bounding box is surrounded by different symbols which represent different tool functions.

Delete: *Location:* Upper left corner. *Function:* Click to remove the object from the Canvas.

Rotate: *Location:* Upper right corner. *Function:* Click and hold to move the object left or right. When you release the rotation button, the bounding box will automatically adjust itself to again be orientated flush with the grid lines with and at the top and and at the bottom:



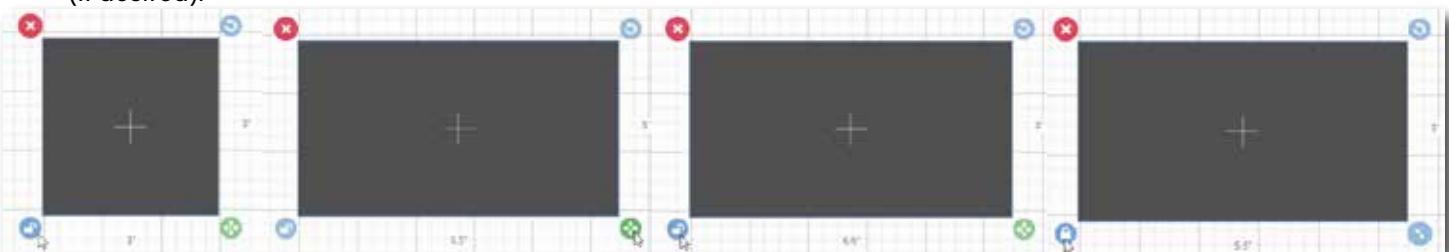
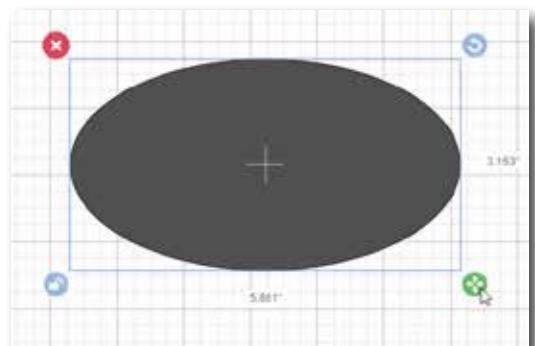
Lock/Unlock: *Location:* Lower left corner. *Function:* Locks the aspect ratio of the shape. You can make the object larger or smaller, but you cannot change the width independent of the height.

To transform a shape into another shape, such as a circle into an oval, for example, click on the lock to unlock the shape which will change the symbol to .

Once unlocked, you can change the height and width independent of each other using the scale tool.



Scale: *Location:* Bottom right corner. *Function:* Make an object larger or smaller. When the blue double arrow symbol is displayed, the object is locked and it will scale proportionally (the height will change the same amount as the width). When an object is unlocked, the symbol will change to a green four pointed arrow. This will allow you to change the length and the height independently from one another (and turn a square into a rectangle, for example). When you have completed adjusting the shape, you can lock it again so you can scale it without throwing off the proportions (if desired).

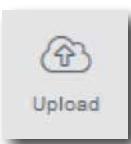


Glossary

Aspect Ratio: The relation of the height to the width of an object. Maintaining an aspect ratio means to keep the height and width relative to each other, if one goes up, the other goes up by the same amount.

Center of Rotation: The center of rotation is where your object will rotate from. It will reorient when you rotate the object and be back in the middle of the shape.

Transform: To scale, rotate, distort or skew a shape. Changing the aspect ratio is a common transform function, changing one shape into another shape. For example, changing a circle into an oval.



UPLOAD Click on the Upload button to bring your own images into Design Space. When you click on Upload, you can decide if you are bringing in an Image or if you are bringing in a Pattern Fill (See page 70 for more on Pattern Fills):

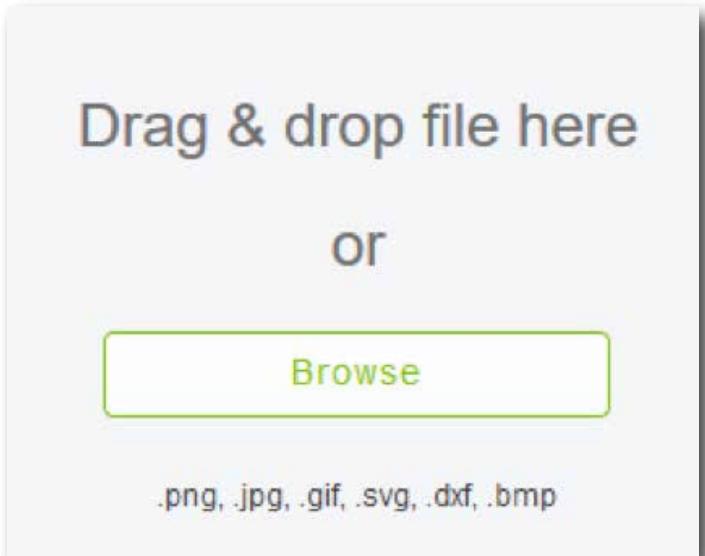


IMPORTING IMAGES

To upload an image or design, click "Upload Image."



Click on Browse to find your image.



Locate your image and then click Open.

You can bring in images that are .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp, .svg or .dxf files. The most frequently used file formats are .jpg, .png and .svg files. The next steps will vary depending on what file type you bring into Design Space.

.jpg files and .png files are essentially pictures of your design. You'll have to take a few extra steps to tell your Cricut what parts of the design are important (such as the design elements) and which parts to ignore (such as the background).

First decide if your image is simple, moderately complex or complex. Which option you pick will depend on the image you are opening. If you have a very simple image, choose simple. If your image has a lot of detail and the background is busy too, pick complex. I've never noticed any negative side effects to picking complex for even simple images, so I frequently pick complex.

Upload image

Upload an image from your computer (.jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp, .svg or .dxf)



Replace image

Select image type

Your image will be uploaded as a single layer.

How complex is your image? Select an option below that best matches its complexity. This ensures you get the best tools to work with your image.

	Simple Image with high-contrast colors and a transparent or monochrome background.
	Moderately complex Simple details and color, with good contrast between subject and background.
	Complex Images with fine details, blended colors, or low contrast between subject and background. These are more challenging to work with.



Simple

Image with high-contrast colors and a transparent or monochrome background.



Moderately complex

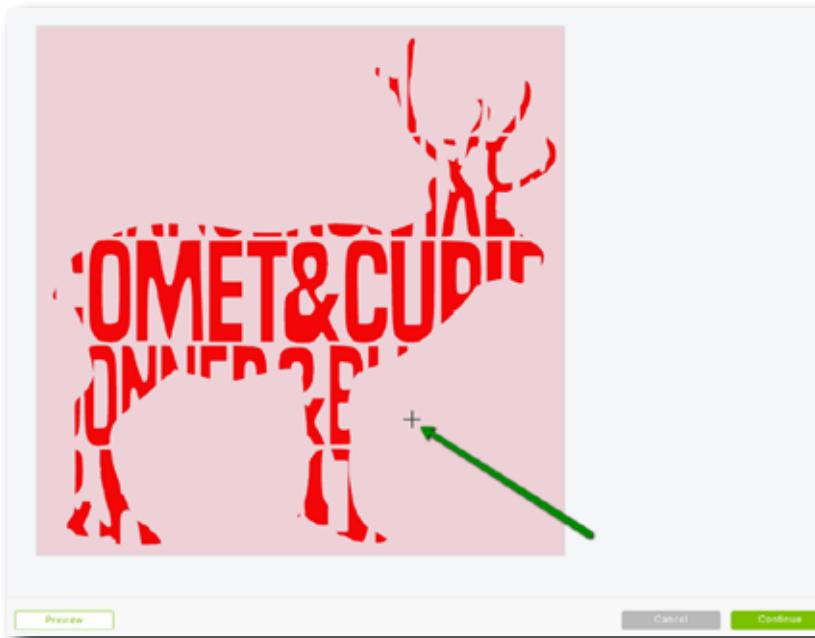
Simple details and color, with good contrast between subject and background.



Complex

Images with fine details, blended colors, or low contrast between subject and background. These are more challenging to work with.

For our reindeer example though, we will select "Simple" since the image is a solid color with a white background.



The next step is to remove the background. A crosshair will appear. Click on the background to remove it.

TIP

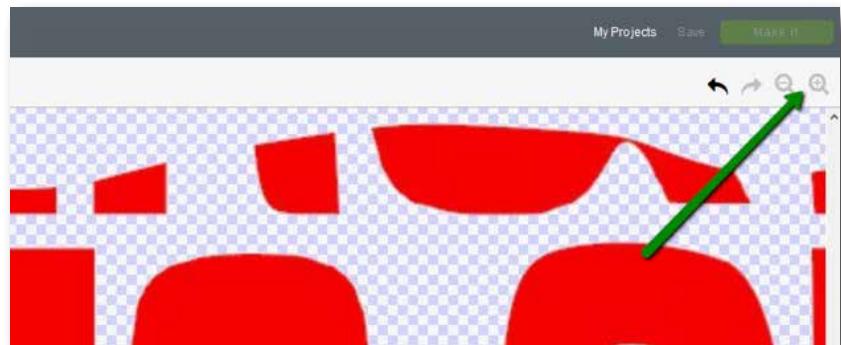
If you accidentally click the wrong section and need to undo your action, click the back button at the top-right of the screen. For example, I accidentally deleted a letter in error, all I need to do is click the back button to bring it back.



Once you click on the design background, you'll see the checked background indicating that the background has been removed or is transparent. Note that the interiors of closed letters or shapes will also need to be clicked to remove the background from those spaces. If you do not click all the spaces, the spaces will be filled in the next step for cut files.

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

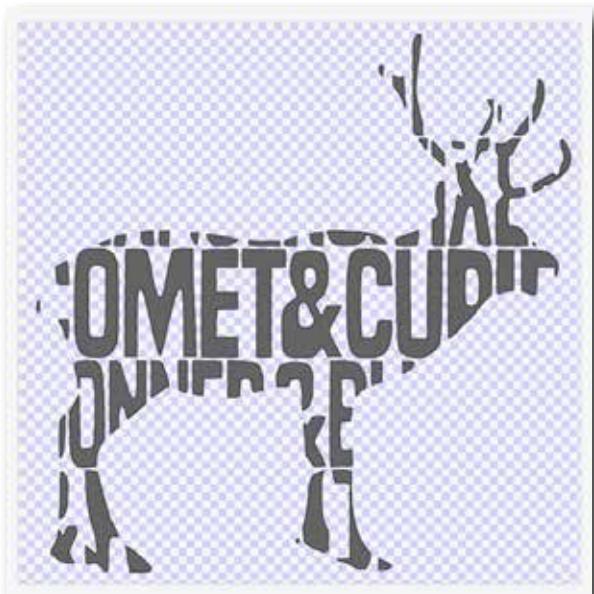
If you need to zoom in or out to be more precise in the areas you are deleting, you can utilize the zoom buttons in the upper right-hand corner as well.



Once all of the background is removed, you should have just your design left.



To double check, click on the Preview button at the bottom:



You should be able to see the checkered background everywhere that is NOT design. Once you are satisfied that you have prepared your image, click Continue.

Next, you can decide if you want to save your image as a print then cut image (left) or save it as a cut image (right). Name your image and add in tags. Tags are words that you search by to find a design later on. Think of things that relate to the image, why you might use the image or material type. In this example, I named my cut file "Interior Cut Red Reindeer" and added tags "christmas, knockout, reindeer, HTV".

Save as a print then cut image

Save as a cut image

Name & tag image
 Giving the image with a name and a tag will make it easier to find when you need it.

Image name (required)

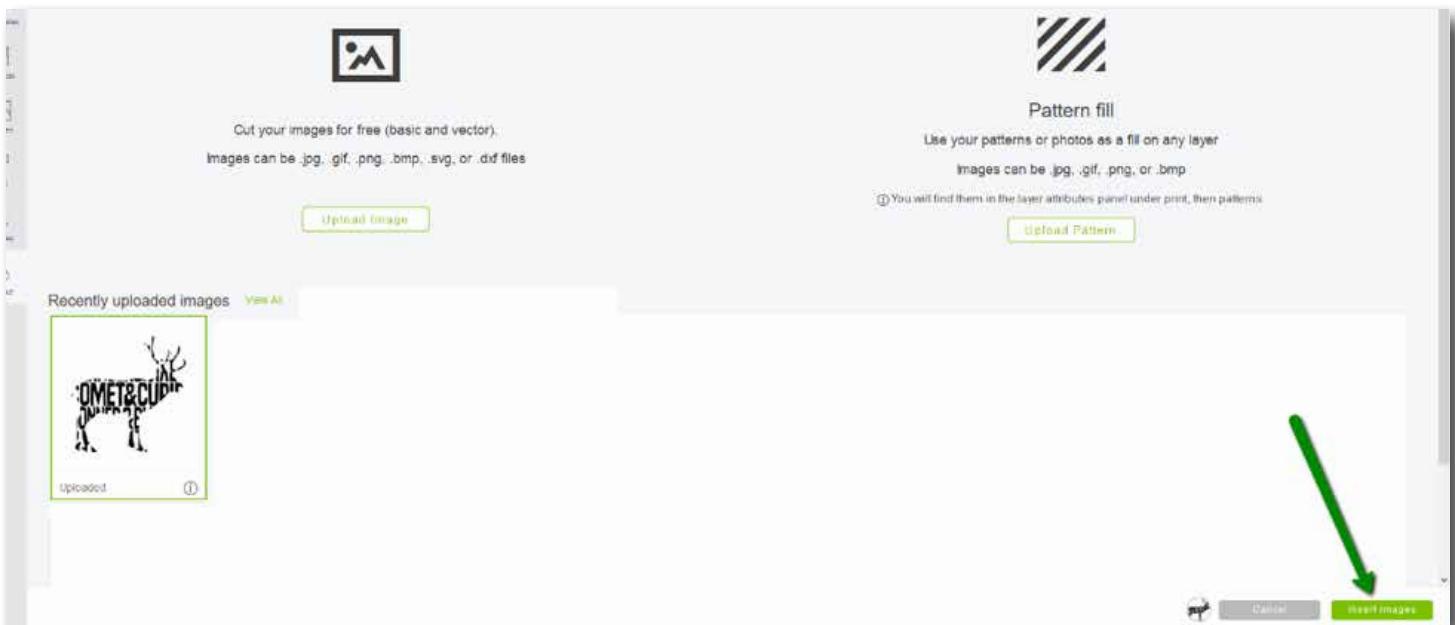
Interior cut red reindeer

Tags (recommended)

christmas, knockout, reindeer, HTV

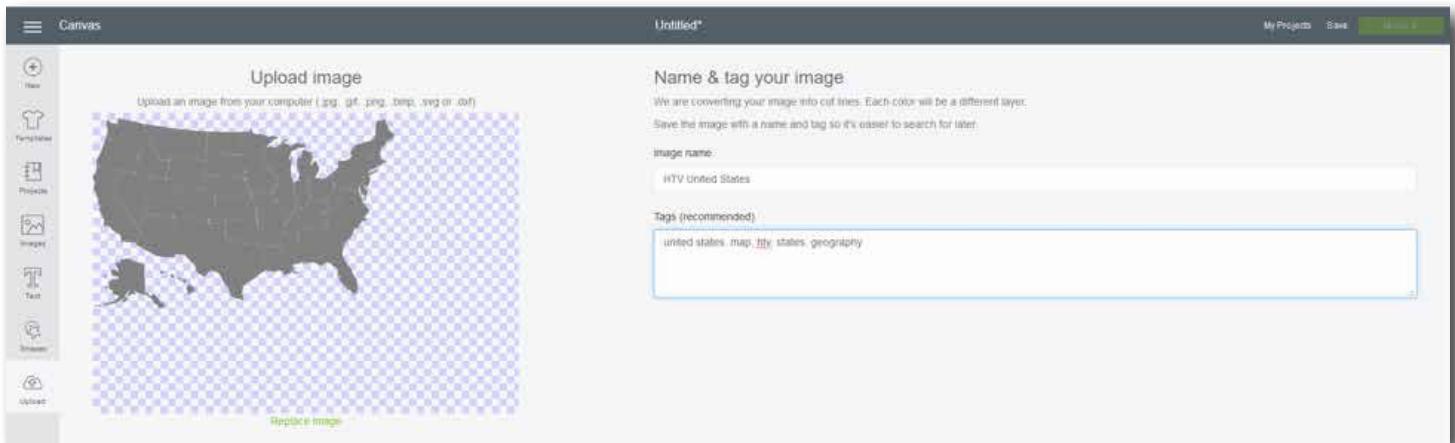
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

Once you have uploaded your image, you can insert it into Design Space to work with it by clicking on the image then selecting Insert Images from the bottom right-hand corner:



Importing an .SVG file: .SVG files are scalable vector graphics. This means that as you make the image larger or smaller, you will not lose the definition of the image and your edges won't get blurry like they would if you were to resize a .jpg, for example.

When importing an .SVG file, you don't need to go through the step of telling Cricut how complex your image is, you can simply select the image, add tags and save the file.



To bring the file into Design Space, click on the file and click Insert Image. .SVG files should be all set to cut once you import, they are much easier to work with than other file types.

When your image uploads, you'll find it in the Recently Uploaded Images. Click on the *i* in the lower right-hand corner of the image to show more information about that image. The top line is the title of your design, followed by a Cricut Image ID number.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

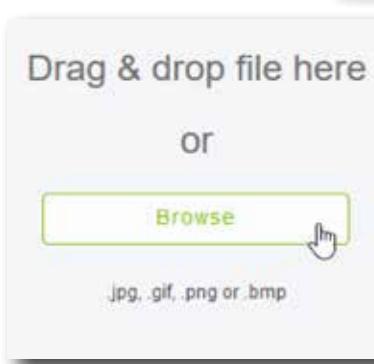
Every image or design that is imported into Design Space will have a Cricut Image ID number automatically assigned to it. This number helps Cricut if you have issues with your design and need assistance. If your file becomes corrupt, for example, Cricut's programming team can use the project or image number to try to retrieve the project for you.

Sadly, if you accidentally delete the image, having the image number won't help bring it back. Also, due to potential licensing/copyrighted information, you can't give the number to someone else for them to search and download it either. The number is only helpful if you have issues and need Cricut's assistance.

IMPORTING PATTERN FILLS

Patterns can be used to fill or color in a shape or layer.

To bring in a pattern, click on Upload and then select Upload Pattern on the right:



Patterns can be uploaded as .jpg, .gif, .png or .bmp files only.

When you upload your pattern, the Name & Tag page has a few more recommendations than the screen that appears when uploading images.

Upload pattern
Upload a pattern from your computer (.jpg, .gif, .png, or .bmp)

Name & tag pattern
Giving the pattern a name and tag will make it easier to find when you need it.

Pattern name (required)
pineapple pattern

Themes (recommended)

Animals & Wildlife	Thanksgiving	Arts & Entertainment	Theme Park	Birthday	Winter	Halloween	Sports & Recreation	St. Patrick's Day
Alphabet & Numbers	Summer	Beach/Pool	Wedding	Food & Drink	Christmas	New Years	Disney	Miscellaneous
Religious	Patrice	Fall	Baby	Travel	Spring	Photos	Easter	Love
								Nature

Styles (recommended)

Lace	Plaids & Argyles	Stripes	Distressed	Geometric	Juvenile	Sophisticated	Seamless	Textures	Vintage	Contemporary
Polka Dots	Floral									

Colors (recommended)

Black	Pink	Yellow	White	Green	Red	Orange	Grey	Magenta	Cyan	Blue	Dark Grey	Light Grey

Buttons

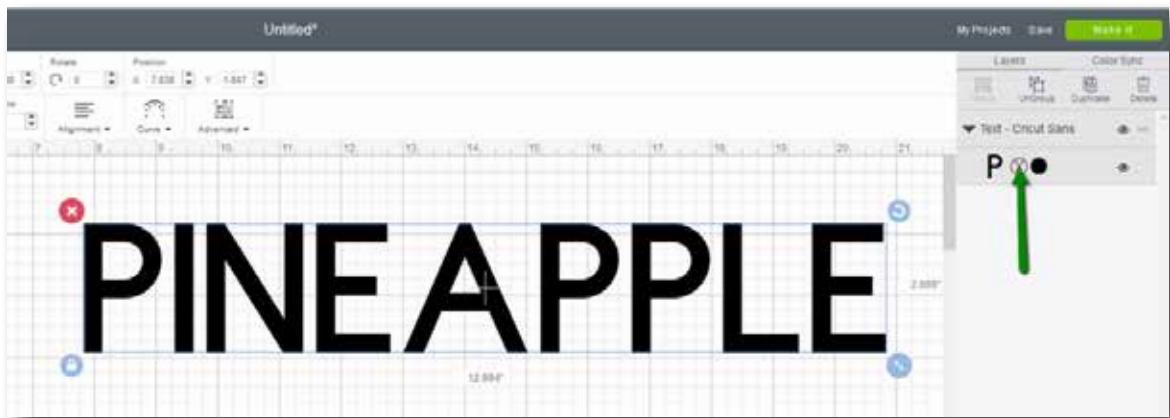
- Replace image
- Cancel
- Next

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

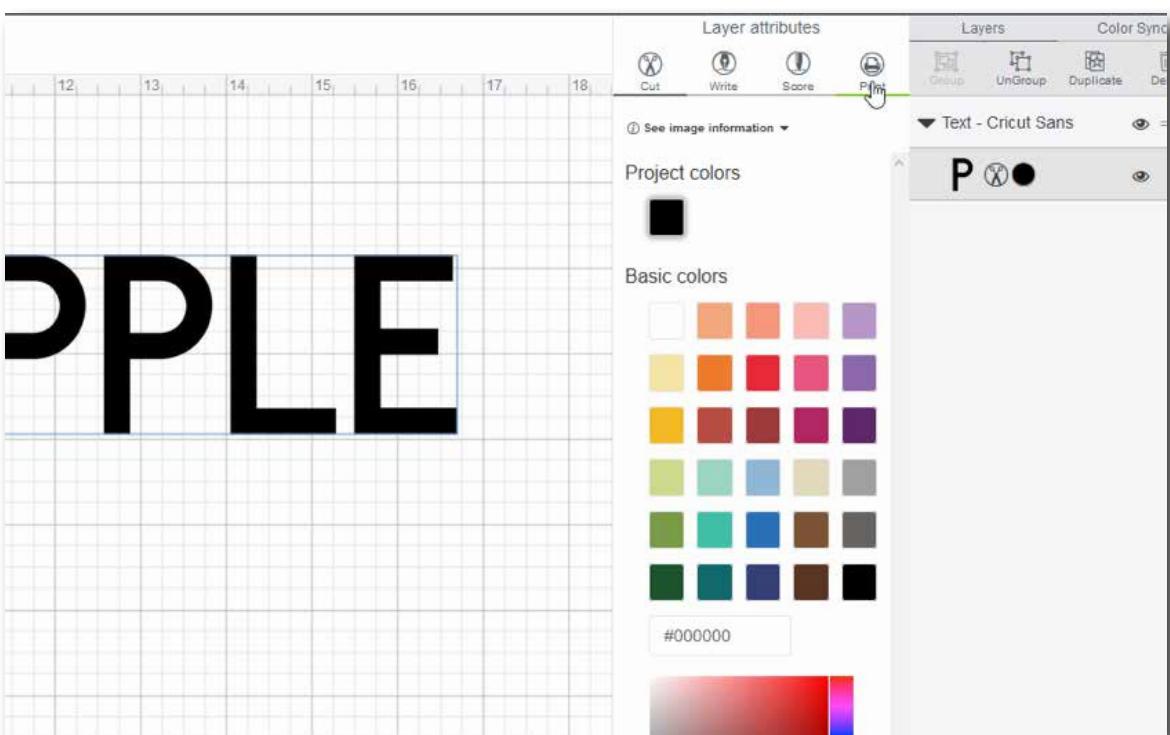
Click Save. Depending on the pattern, it may take a few moments. As soon as it has uploaded, a blue border will appear confirming that your pattern was successfully uploaded.



To use your pattern, create a shape or word to fill. Select the shape then go to the Layers Panel and click on the Cut Icon.

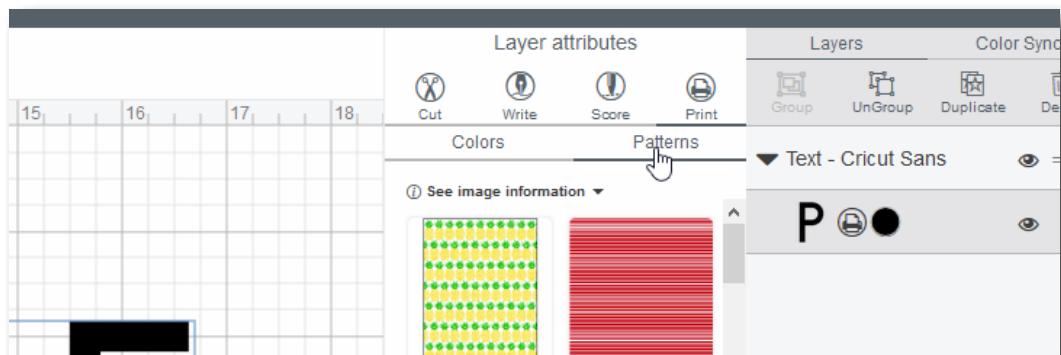


Click on Print from the top of the Layer Attributes.

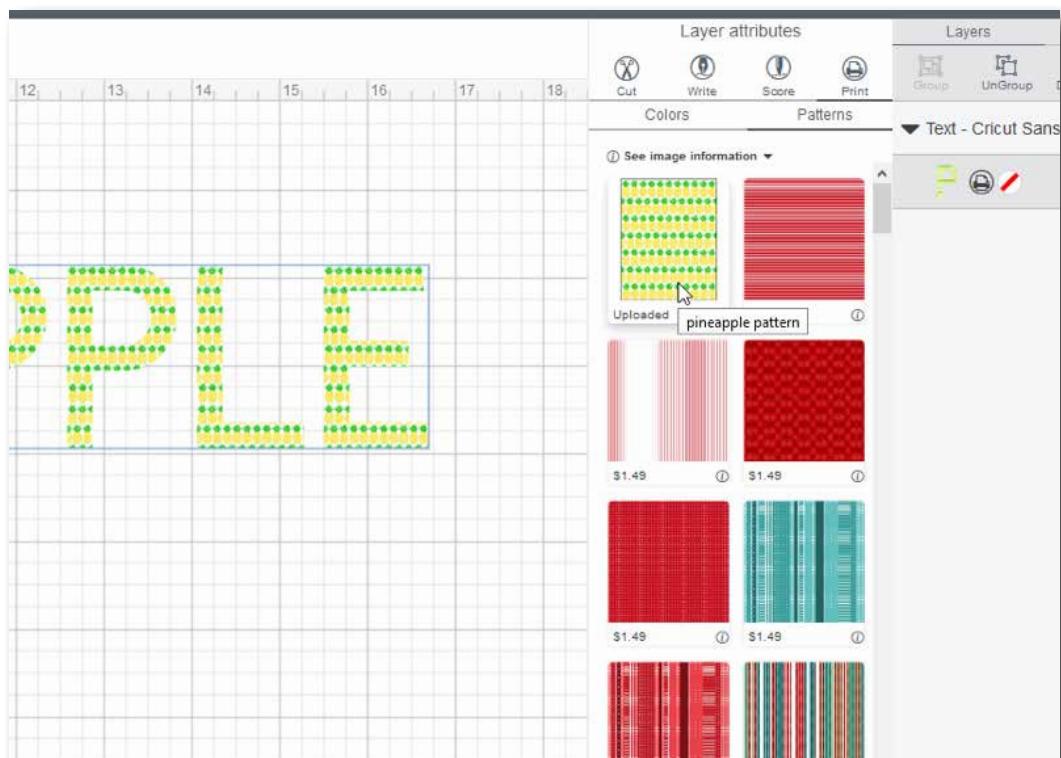


GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

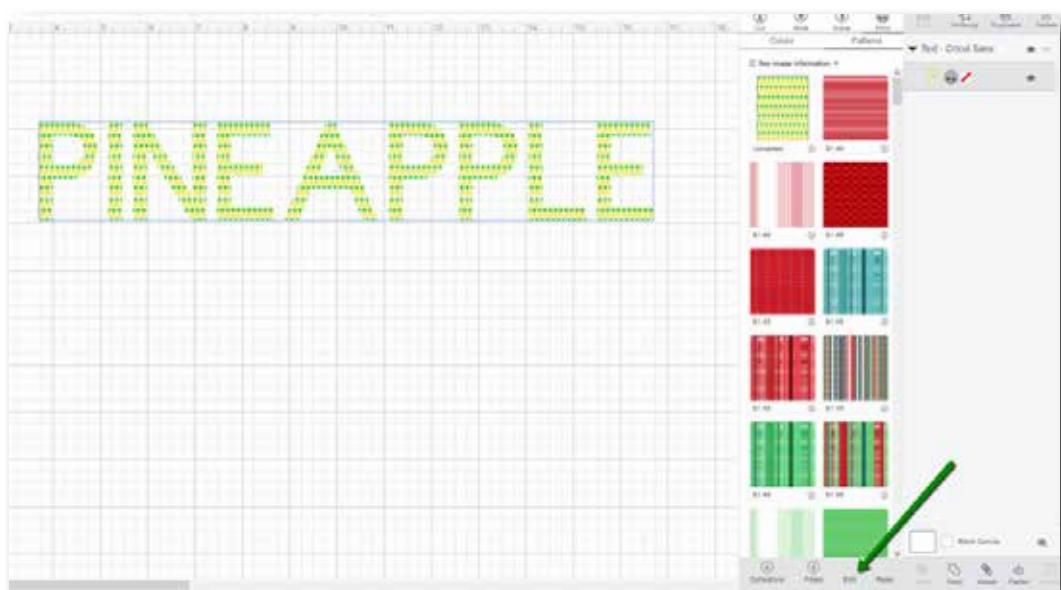
Click on the Patterns tab at the top right of the Layer Attribute Panel.



Select your pattern from the available options.

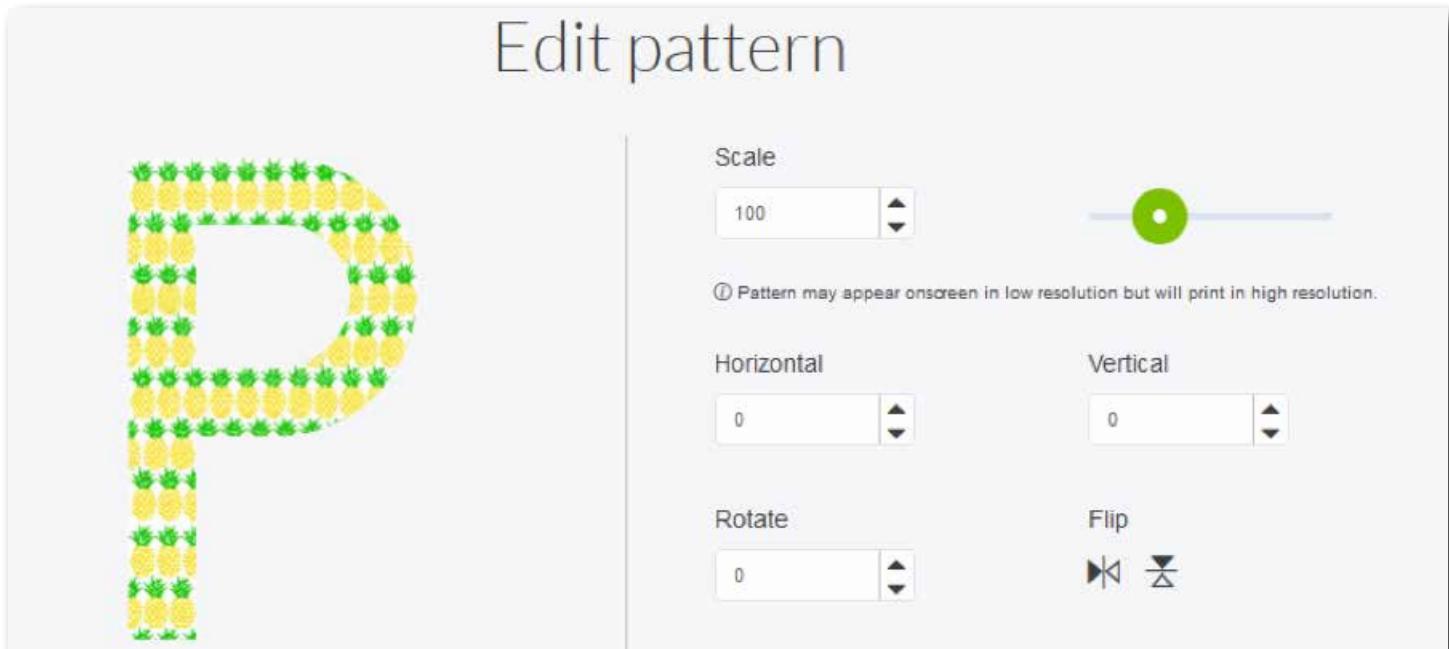


If you'd like to adjust your pattern, such as making your pattern larger or smaller, rotating the pattern or moving the pattern one way or the other, click edit at the bottom.

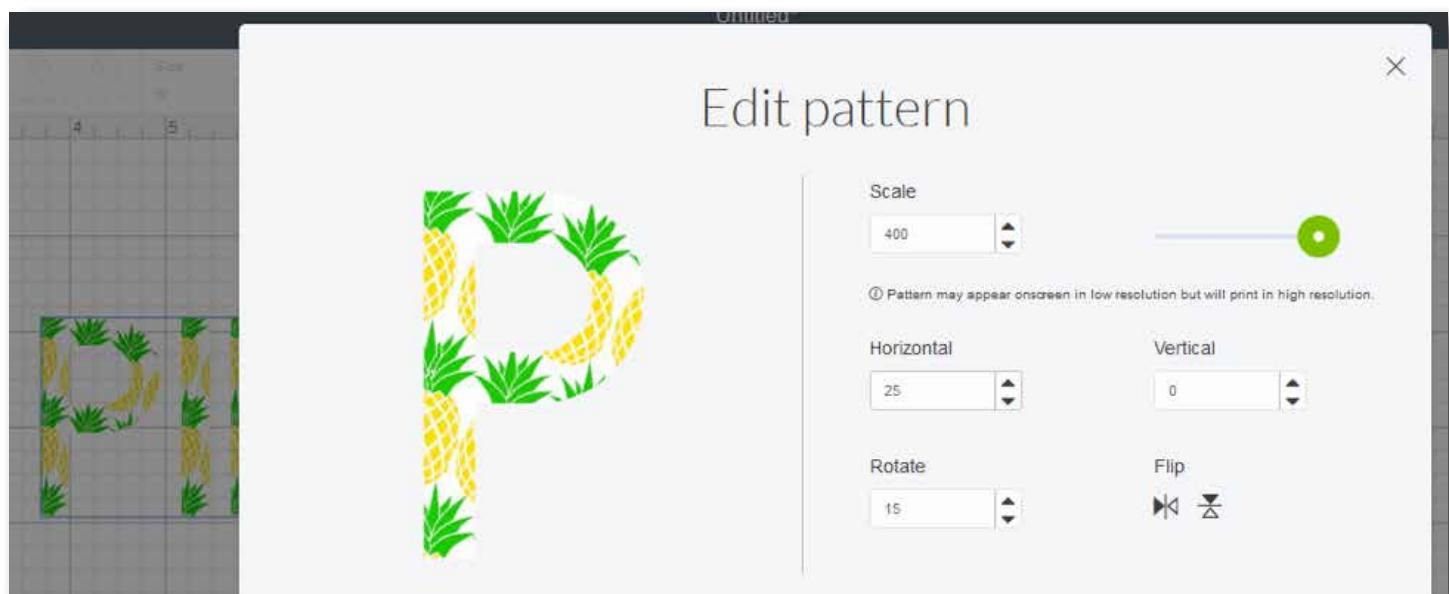


GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

When you click on Edit, an Edit Pattern box will appear and give you some options on how to change your pattern.



The example on the left will show a preview of your changes. You can also see the changes occurring in the background on the Canvas.



Once you are satisfied with your changes you can click the X in the upper right-hand corner to see your completed design.



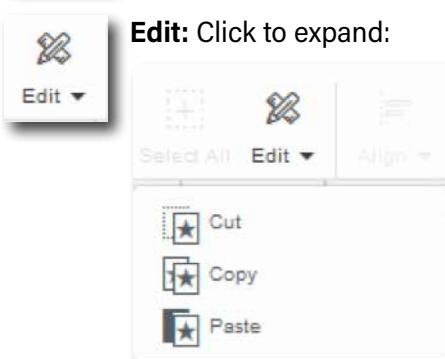
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

EDIT TOOLBAR

The Edit Toolbar can be found along the top edge of the Canvas.



- Undo:** Click to reverse the last action taken. Think of it as going backward a step. Keyboard shortcut: Ctrl Z
- Redo:** Click to do something again that was already undone. Think of it as going forward a step that you already went backward on. Keyboard shortcut: Shift Ctrl Z
- Select All:** Click to select everything you have on the Canvas.

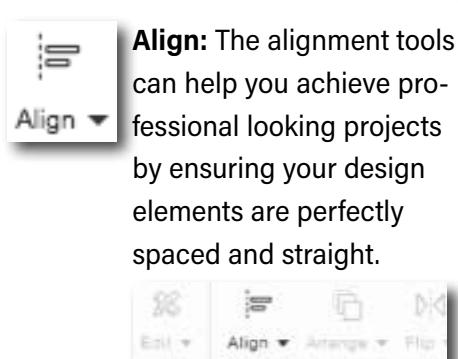


Edit: Click to expand:

Cut: Removes the selected object from the Canvas to be pasted again later. Keyboard Shortcut: Ctrl X

Copy:Duplicates the selected object to be pasted while keeping the original. Keyboard Shortcut: Ctrl C

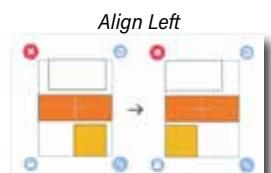
Paste: Insert something that was previously cut or copied. Keyboard Shortcut: Ctrl V



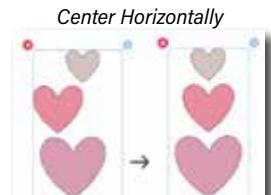
Align: The alignment tools can help you achieve professional looking projects by ensuring your design elements are perfectly spaced and straight.



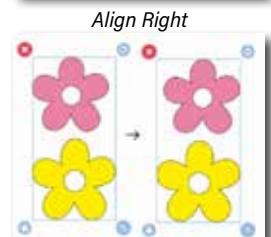
Align Left: Align Left will take all the pieces and align them by the furthest left point on each selected shape.



Center Horizontally: Center Horizontally will take all the pieces and align them down the middle of each selected shape.



Align Right: Align Right will take all the pieces and align them by the furthest right point on each selected shape.



Align Top: Align Top will take all the pieces and align them by the very top point on each selected shape.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Center Vertically: Center Vertically will take all the pieces and align them by the middle of each selected shape.



Align Bottom: Align Bottom will take all the pieces and align them by the very bottom point on each selected shape.

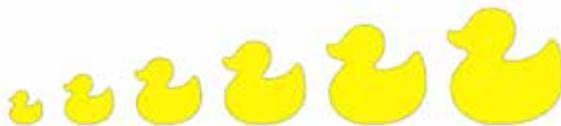


Center: Center will take all the selected pieces and align them by the center point on each shape, stacking all the layers on the same middle point. This is a very practical function especially if you have pieces of one design that need to line up with one another. Instead of trying to get them perfectly aligned by hand, use Center and it will line up perfectly, no guessing required.

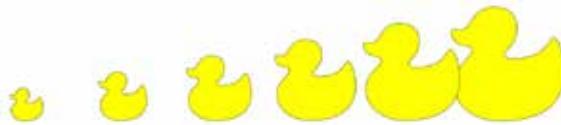


Distribute Horizontally: Distribute Horizontally will equally space the selected shapes from left to right, without moving the first or last shape in the selection. The distance between the first and last shape in the selection becomes the space available to distribute the shapes. If your shapes are the same size and shape, this functions quite as expected.

If you have different shapes, different sized shapes or irregular shapes, you may expect your shapes to have equal space between them like this:



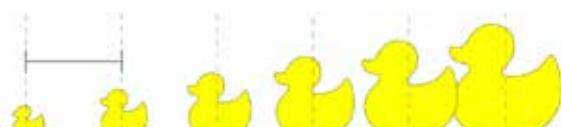
You may be surprised when your shapes line up more like this in Design Space:



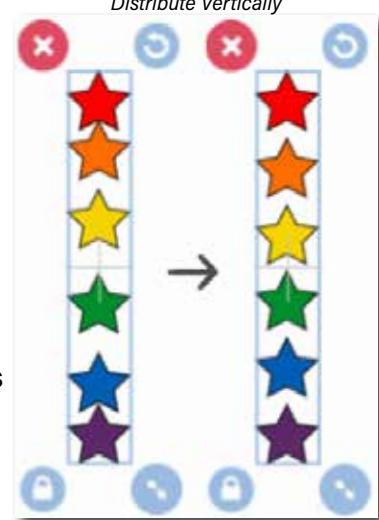
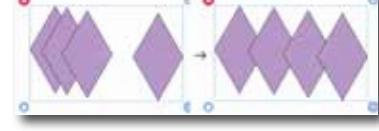
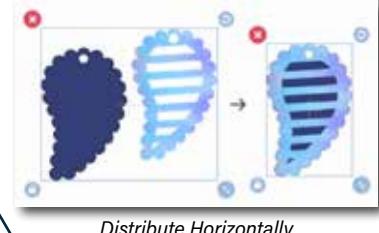
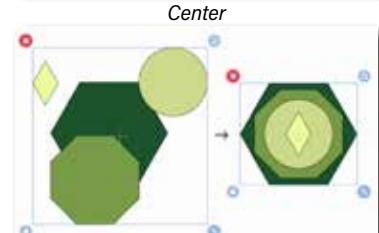
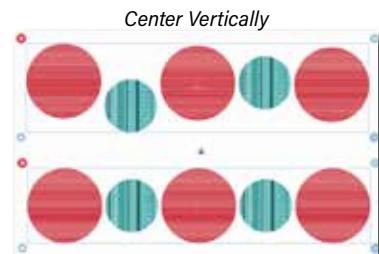
In most graphics editing programs, such as Adobe Illustrator, shapes are distributed equally based on the edges of the shapes:



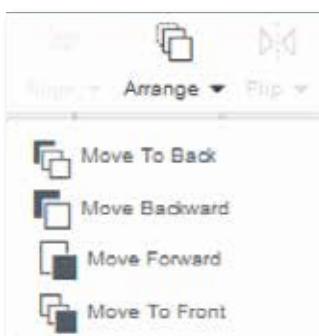
Design Space looks at the space between the center of the shapes, regardless of the edges of the shapes, giving you spacing that looks like this:



Distribute Vertically: Distribute Vertically functions the same as Distribute Horizontally, only from top to bottom rather than left to right. You will run into similar spacing issues as Distribute Horizontally if you have different shapes, different sized shapes or irregular shapes.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



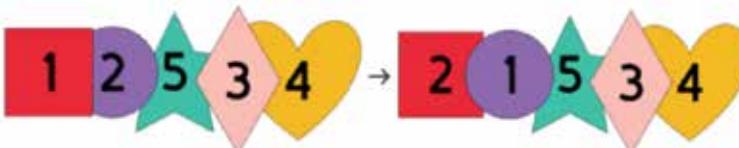
Arrange: Arrange is helpful when you have multiple objects in Canvas on different layers. It is useful to think of layers like a stack of cards. Each layer is its own card and they are all stacked on top of each other in the deck. The object, in this case colorful shapes, stays on its specific layer unless you flatten it to another layer (similar to gluing cards together). The order in which the layers are displayed or arranged are indicated in our example by numbers (1 being the first layer displayed, which will be on top of all other layers and 5 being the last layer displayed, which will be behind everything else). We start out with the objects stacked one on top of the other, displaying starting at the top and going to the bottom. Layers that are on the bottom will be covered by layers that are on top of them.



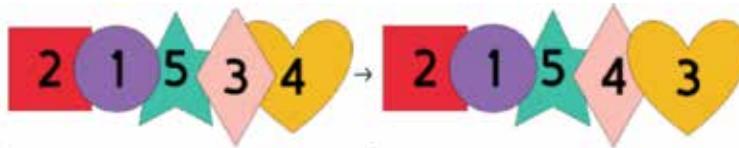
Move to Back: Move to Back takes the selected layer and moves it all the way to the bottom of the pile, no matter which layer the object started out in. For example, if we select the green star layer and click Move to Back, Design Space will take that layer and put it all the way to the bottom of the stack, behind everything else making the green star now the bottom layer, or displaying 5th:



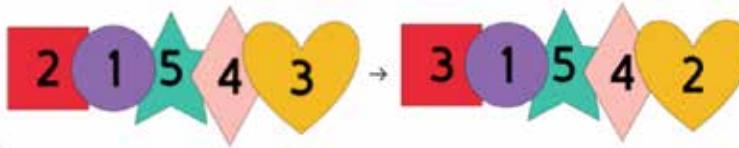
Move Backward: Move Backward is a little different than Move to Back. Instead of sending the layer all the way to the bottom of the pile, Move Backward moves the layer back one from where it currently is. For example, the red square layer is currently displaying on top at 1. If we click Move Backwards, it will move that layer behind the one that is directly behind it. In this case, the purple circle on layer 2 is behind the red square on layer 1. The red square layer would now be the 2nd layer to display and the original 2nd layer, the purple circle, would be the new top layer:



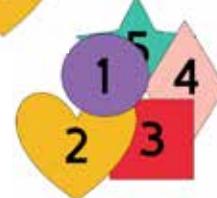
Move Forward: Move Forward will move a layer forward one step. For example, if we wanted to move heart forward, it would become layer 3 and the diamond would become the new layer 4:



Clicking Move Forward on the heart again will move it up to the 2nd layer, and move the red square down to the 3rd layer:

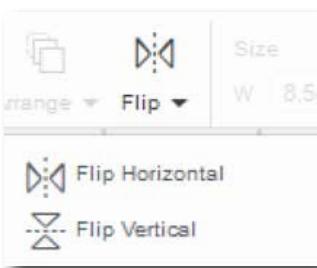
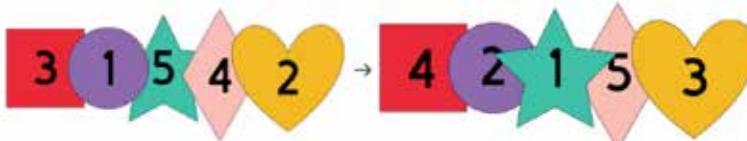


If I were to rearrange the shapes a little, the only thing that will be on top of the heart is the circle:





Move to Front: Move to Front takes the selected layer and moves it all the way to the front of the pile, no matter which order the object started out in. For example, if you select the green star again and click Move to Front, Design Space will take that layer and put it all the way to the top of the stack, in front of everything else making the green star now the top layer, or displaying 1st:



Flip: Flip will change the direction of your selected object providing a mirror image. Which flip option to use depends on the image you are flipping and your desired end results.



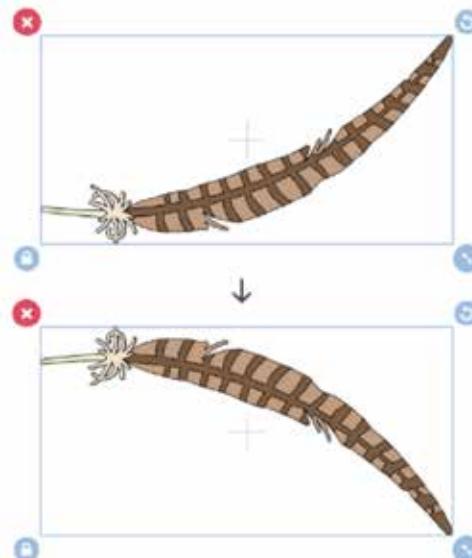
Flip Horizontal: Flip Horizontal will mirror the image from left to right, based on the center of the objects. The shape won't move, but it will show the mirror image:



This is helpful if your design would work better in your project oriented the other direction. Flip Horizontal can also be utilized if you are working with a material such as iron-on that requires the design to be reversed.



Flip Vertical: Flip Vertical will mirror the image from top to bottom, based on the center of the object:



TIP

When working with Iron On material, select Iron On from the Smart Set dial (Air 2) or materials list (Maker) and Design Space will know to automatically mirror the image for you. Make sure "Mirror" is turned on before cutting.



Size: To set the dimensions of a selected object, you can use the scale button in the lower right-hand corner of the shape and drag the shape to size. To achieve specific dimensions, you can use the Size box at the top of Design Space. Type in the Width (W) and the Height (H). You can use the arrows to adjust the size by 0.1 at a time as well.

If the size is locked, the Width and Height will adjust proportionally. To unlock the shape, click the lock button at the top, this will change the icon to an unlocked lock and allow you to change the dimensions independently.



Rotate: Use Rotate to adjust the angle of your object. Type in the exact angle desired, or use the arrow keys to adjust the degree 1 degree at a time.



Position: Position tells you exactly where the selected item is located on the Canvas. X and Y are points on a graph. The X is the horizontal point or location (left to right) and Y is the vertical point or location (top to bottom). Type in a value desired or use the arrow keys to change the position 0.1 at a time. As you move an image around Canvas, the position will automatically change to reflect its new location on the Canvas.



LAYERS PANEL

The Layers Panel is located on the right-hand side of the Canvas. Within the Layers Panel, you'll be able to move, group and delete layers, and do functions such as weld, attach and flatten (plus more.)



Group: When you have more than one object that you want to remain together while designing, select all objects and click the Group button. Grouping is especially helpful if you have many layers and many objects in Canvas. Grouping layers together will help move and identify pieces, without moving everything else in the process. For example, if you have several layered images on screen.



NOTE

Grouping an object to another object will not change how Design Space splits up the mats for cutting. Each object will cut as individual pieces regardless of grouping.

TIP

You can group groups together. For example, you could group all of the cat pieces together as one unit, then take that group and select the tag and group it to the tag. Grouping within a group helps keep pieces together as a whole.

Each tag, and each piece of the design on the tags, are all separate layers. Grouping the tag and the picture on top of the tag together will make it easier to work with individual tags.



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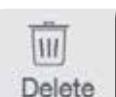
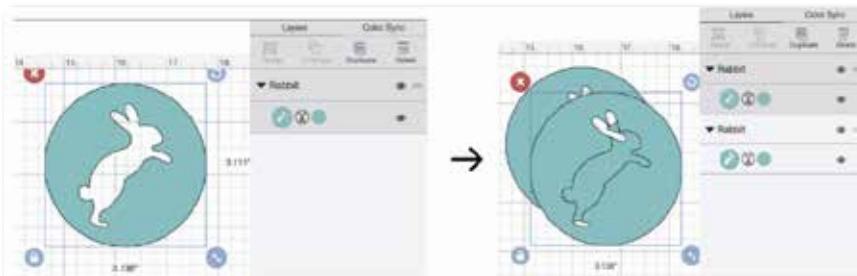


Ungroup: Ungroup is the opposite of group. This design came already grouped into layers.

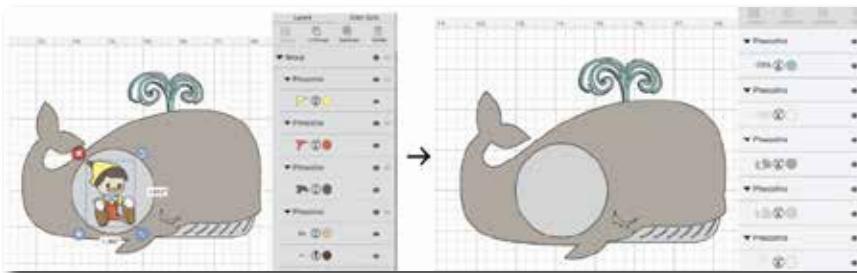
If I want to change a layer, I can ungroup the image and change or move individual layers without affecting the other layers.



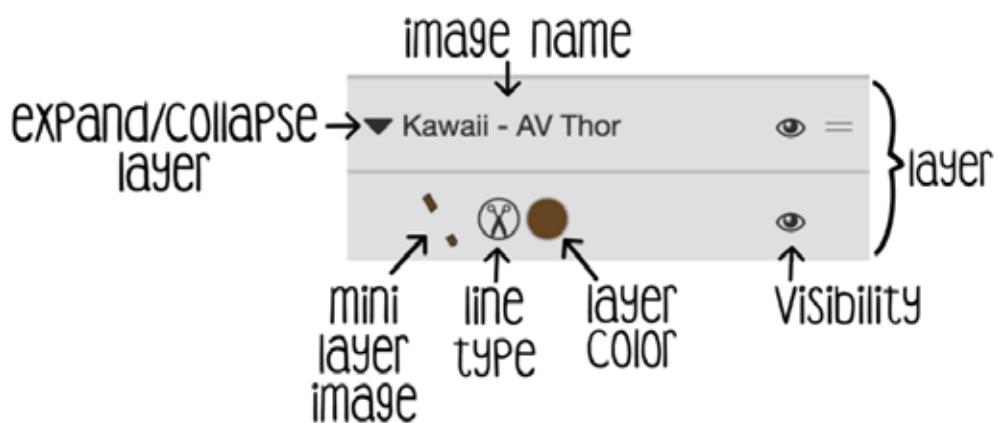
Duplicate: Duplicate copies the selected object and pastes it automatically on a new layer.



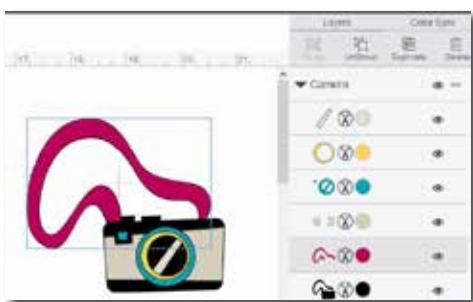
Delete: Delete removes the select layer, object or group from the Canvas.



LAYERS Let's look at individual layers a little closer. Layers are like a deck of cards. Each layer can be considered a clear card with something printed on it. Layers are stacked on top of each other with top layers being listed first in the layers panel.



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When you click on any piece of an image, or on any layer from the layers panel, the individual layer will turn darker gray to show it has been selected and the piece of the image will be surrounded by a blue bounding box.

Expanding/Collapsing: Expanding or collapsing a layer can help make layers easier to manage. Collapsing a layer will simply make the space that is taken up on the layers panel smaller. The layer will still appear and function as normal and you can expand it again whenever desired.

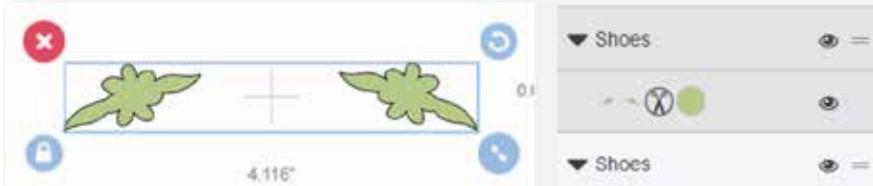


Chicken

Image Name: The image name will appear above all layers for a single image. If you have multiple images on canvas, this will help you determine which layers belong to which images.



Mini Layer Image: The mini layer image shows you a miniature version of the layer itself.



Line Type: Line Type tells your Cricut what to do with the lines for the image you have selected. Clicking on the Line Type will bring up the Layer Attribute panel.

From here you can change the line type, see image information and change the color of the selected layer.



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LINE TYPES

There are four different options for Line Type: Cut, Write, Score and Print:



Cut



Write



Score



Print

Cut: Most objects in design space will default have a line type of Cut.



Cut



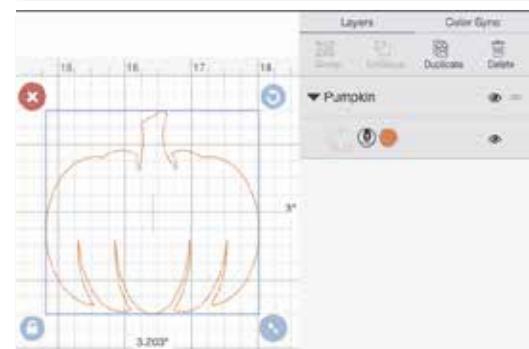
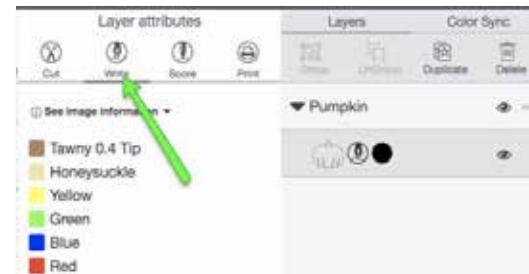
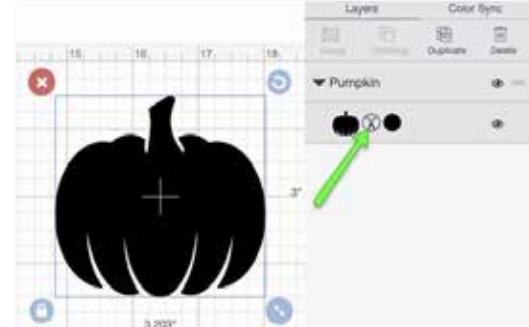
Write

Write: To have your machine write the layer with a pen instead of cut, click the write icon. For example, if I wanted to draw this pumpkin instead of cut it, click the Line Type button.

Next click on Write.

A list of pen colors will come up. You can choose the pen color that most closely matches the pen you are using, or you can select any colored pen and just remember which color pen you used in the software.

The layer panel will then show the write icon and your Cricut will write the image instead of cutting it out.



Score: Score is useful when making something that needs to be folded. For example, in this envelope, I really need the middle lines to be scored. Select the box, click on the Line Type then select Score. It will change the solid lines into score lines

NOTE

The score lines are not as obvious as shown in the picture below, they were enhanced so you can see them.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Print: Print is very useful if you have a detailed project or if you don't have the right color paper for your project.

This owl is really cute, and you can cut it out of paper, layer by layer, and then assemble it, but printing the image would be easier.



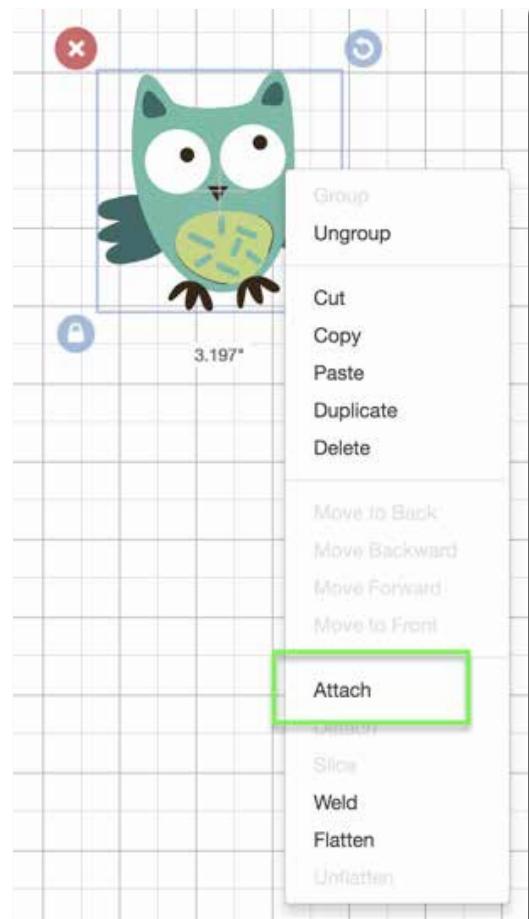
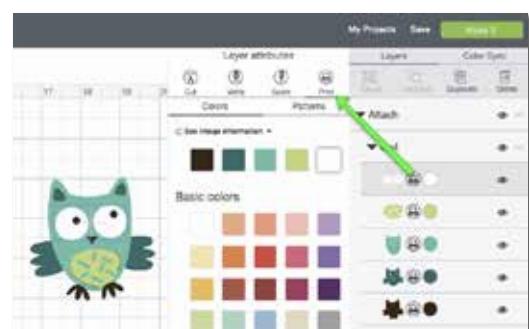
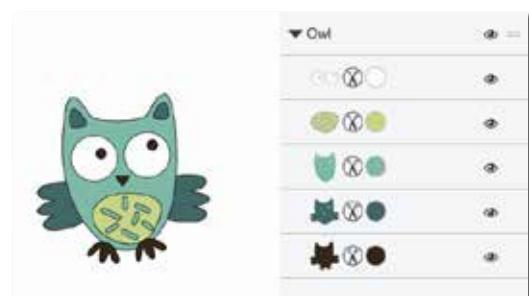
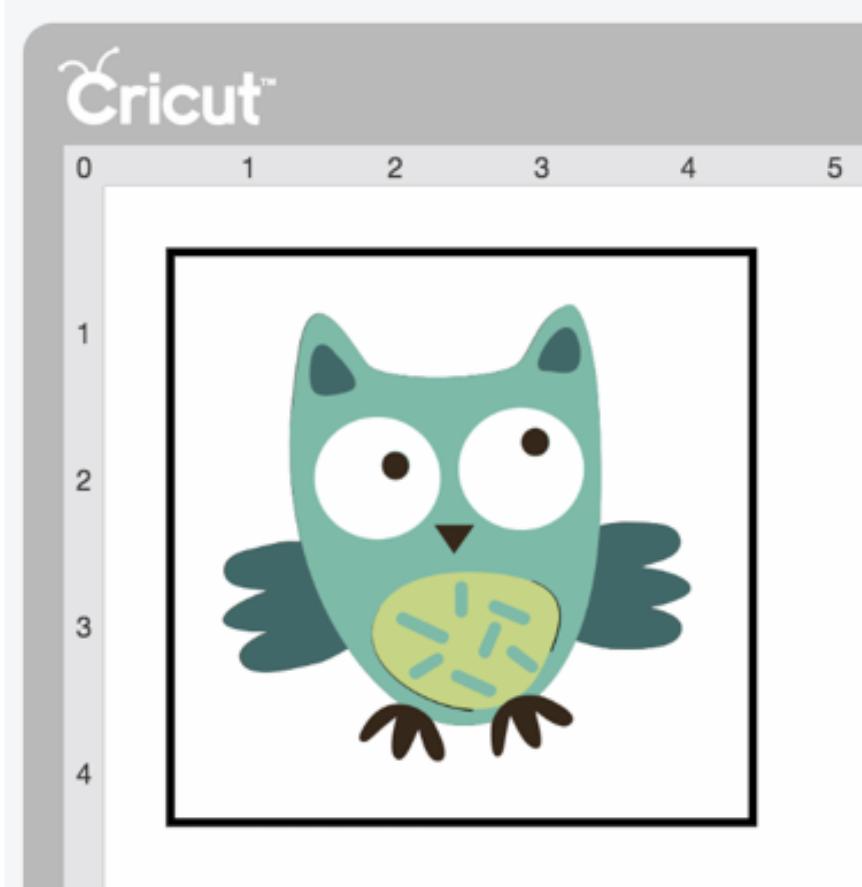
To have your machine print, click on the Line Type icon and change all the cuts to print.

If you click "Make It" now, Cricut will tell your printer to print the individual pieces and then will cut each one out.

This might be what you would like to do, to still get the layered look, but if you wanted to just print the owl and have it not be layered, you can take

one further step. Select all the layers at once, right click and then select "Attach".

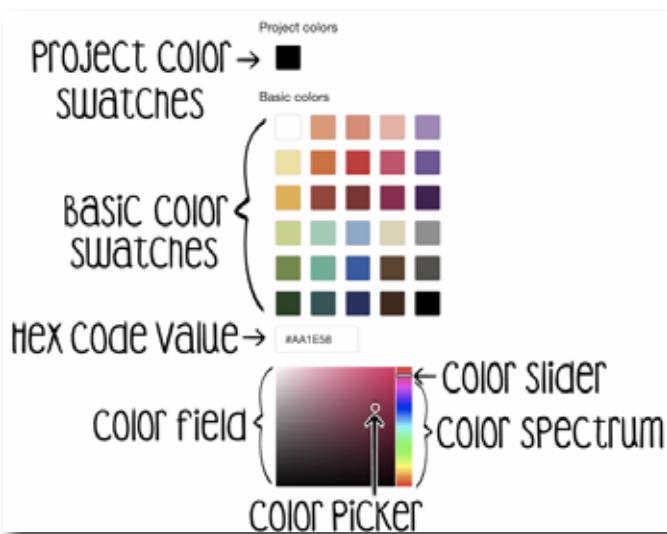
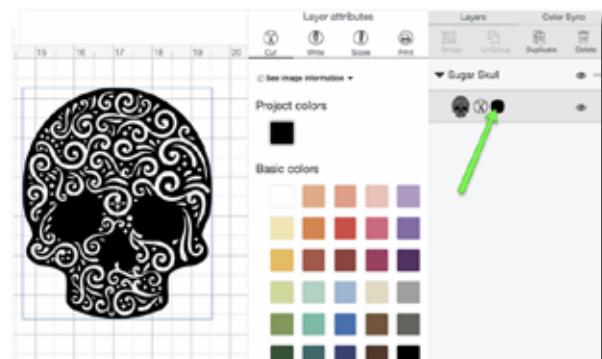
Now Cricut understands that you want to print the entire design and then cut it out.



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Layer Color: To change the color of a layer, click on the Layer Color. This will expand the Layer Attribute window so you can pick a new color.



Within the color selection layer attribute area, you'll be able to pick from:

Project Colors: All the colors that are currently being used in your project will be shown in project colors. This is great if you have multiple objects in your project and want to quickly select the same colors for other elements in the project.

Basic Colors: Pick a color from the preselected color swatches.

Hex Code: The Hex Code tells your computer the specific color you're looking for within a Red Green Blue (RGB) color space. Codes are read as #RRGGBB and can contain letters or numbers. White for example is #FFFFFF, Black #000000. Where do you find Hex Codes to use? You can search online, or Design Space will fill in the codes as you move the color picker around or select colors from the swatches.

Color Field: The color field provides a hue of colors surrounding the selected color. Move the color picker around with your mouse to select a color within the field.

Color Picker: Move this small circle around on the color field to choose a different color within the color field.

Color Spectrum: The color spectrum bar allows you to scroll through the entire rainbow of colors available.

Color Slider: The color slider is a little line within the color spectrum that moves up and down the spectrum. This changes the color field palette.



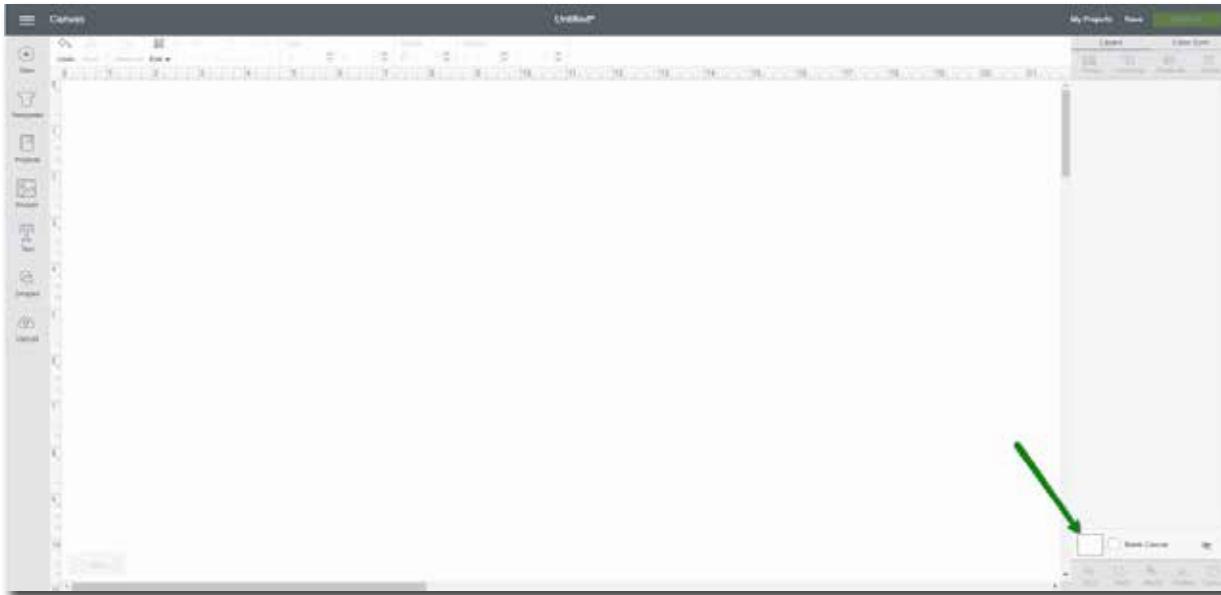
Visibility: Hide or display a layer by clicking on visibility. Hidden layers will be ignored by Cricut. They will not print, cut or draw.



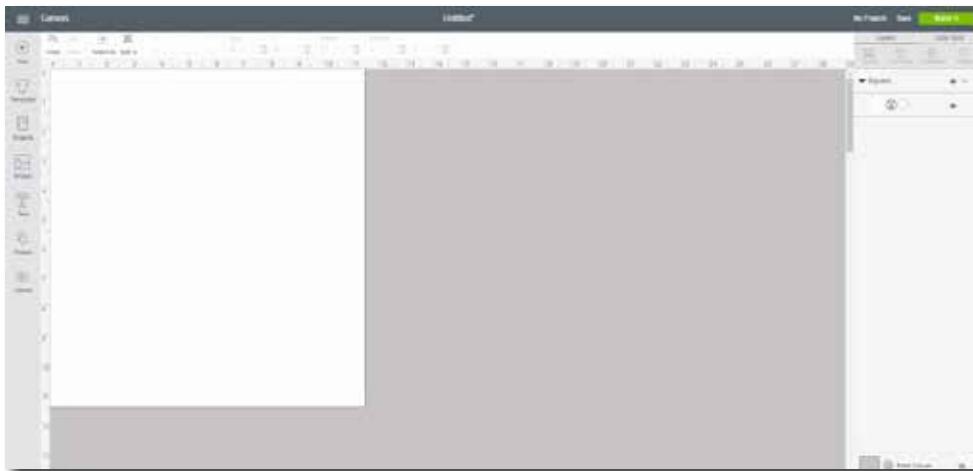
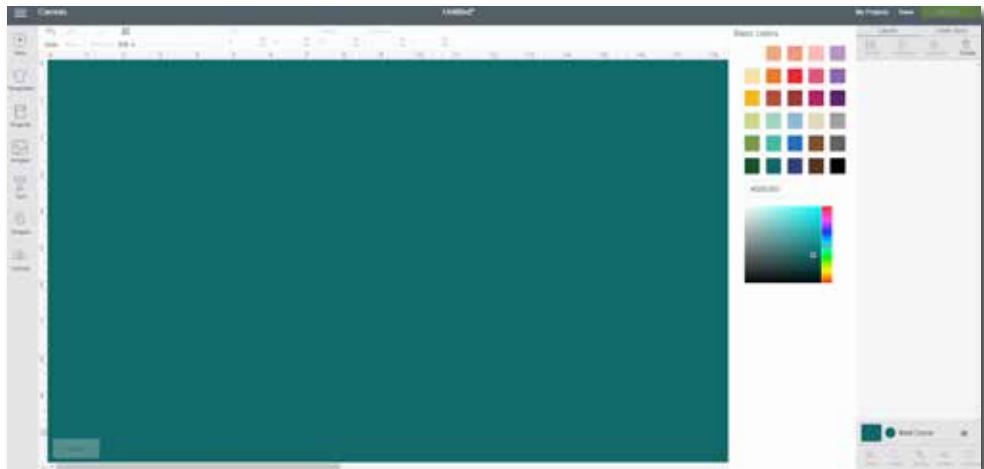
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Blank Canvas: Blank Canvas is in the bottom right corner, at the bottom of the layers panel.



This button changes the background of your Canvas. To change the color, click on the color dot and the color selector window will come up. Pick a new color from the options and your canvas will change to whatever color you pick.

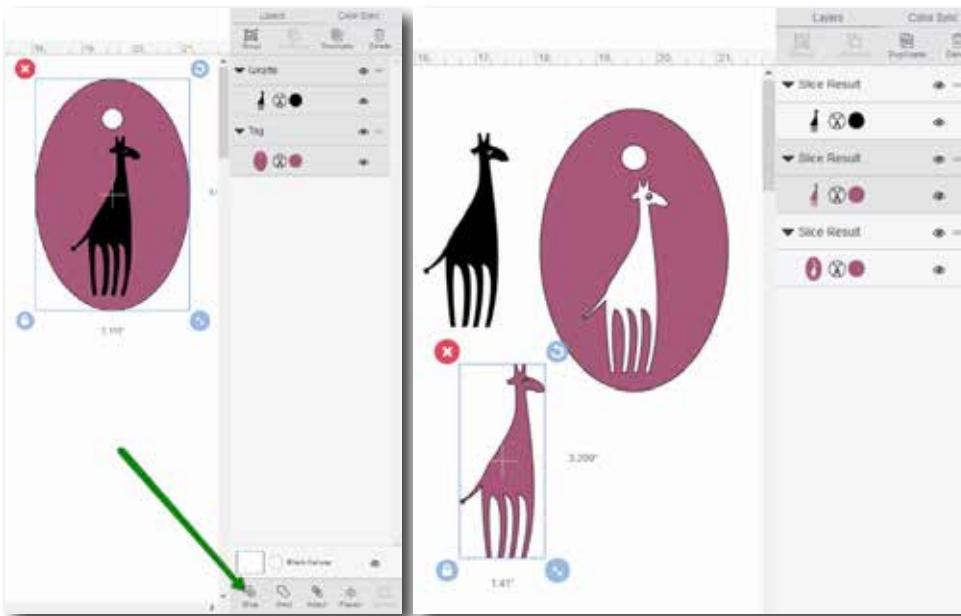
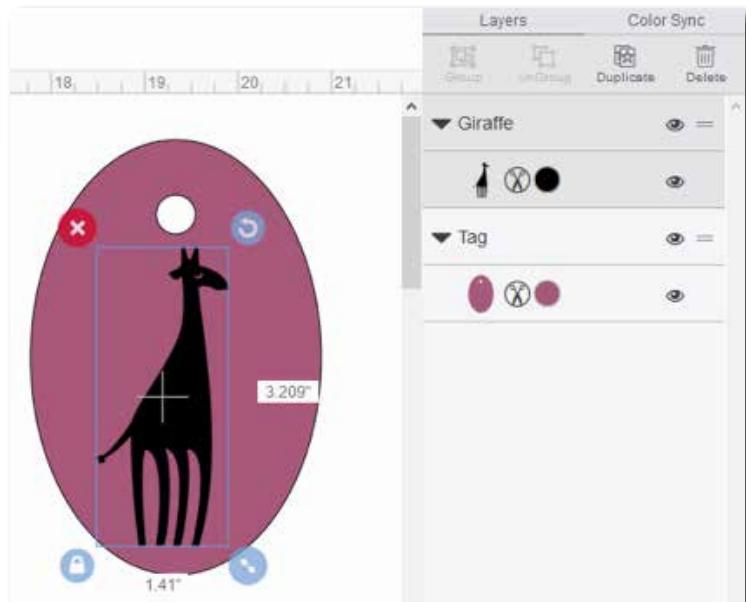


If you're a highly visual person like me, this can be used to give you an idea of what is available space to design in and what is "extra" space. For this example, I picked a light gray color as the "extra" space color and inserted a white square the size of my cutting area (11.5 inches square). This helps me visually see how big can I make my designs and how much space I have available to fill up.

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Slice: Slice will split two overlapping images into separate images. It is very similar in function to a cookie cutter. Arrange the images so they overlap (it does not matter which object is on top, though I find it easier to align if the smaller image is on the top).

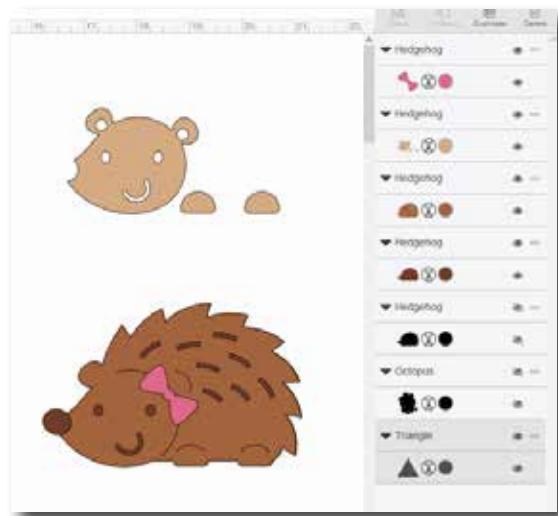


Select both images at once and then click Slice.

The end result of Slice will give you three layers. The original giraffe (black), the giraffe cut out of the tag like a cookie cutter (mauve) and the tag with the giraffe shape cut out of it.

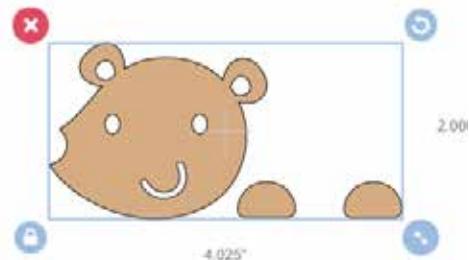
SLICING TO CUSTOMIZE DESIGNS

There are a lot of uses for the Slice feature. If you have an image where there are multiple parts on one layer and you find that you can't ungroup, the slice feature can help. For example, the face and feet of this hedgehog are on the same layer and I can't ungroup them to change the color of the feet.



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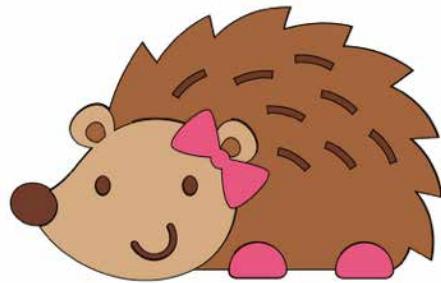
The bounding box shows they are all on the same layer.



To separate the feet from the face, draw a box large enough to cover the feet (you can also cover the entire design, either way works). I added in a triangle and overlapped it with the feet then clicked Slice. I now have the triangle with the feet cut out of it, a gray pair of feet and the original feet that are now separate from the face.

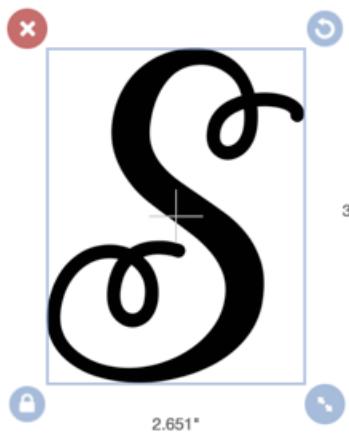


Now that the feet are separate from the face, I can change the pieces to whatever color I'd like.



SPLIT LAYER SHAPES & MONOGRAMS

One more example of using the Slice feature is to make Split images for monograms. Start out with your shape or letter. In this case, let's use the letter S.



1. Click on shapes from the left-hand menu and add a square to your canvas. Unlock the shape to turn it into a long skinny rectangle.



2. Select both shapes and then right click and select weld. Weld will make the rectangle and the letter all one piece.



3. Add another square and unlock it to make a longer skinnier rectangle. Layer that on top of the shape and pay attention to how much space on top and bottom, center it over the first rectangle. You don't need to worry about centering left to right.

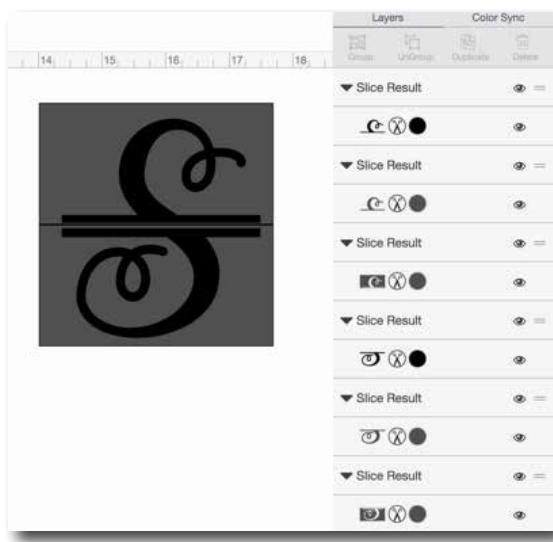


4. Select both shapes then click Slice. You can now drag the left over pieces of the smaller box away (green), the inside of the smaller box (green) and the original shapes inside piece. (black)

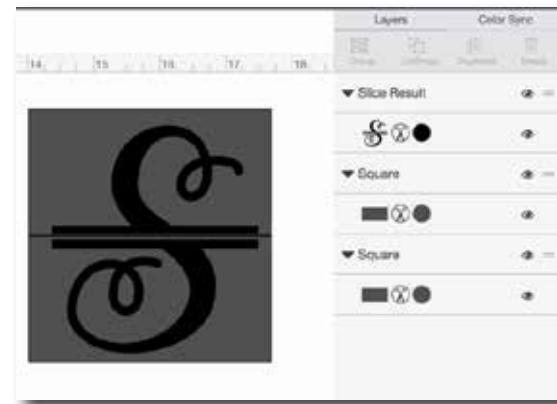
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

5. Delete the extra pieces you just moved out of the way.

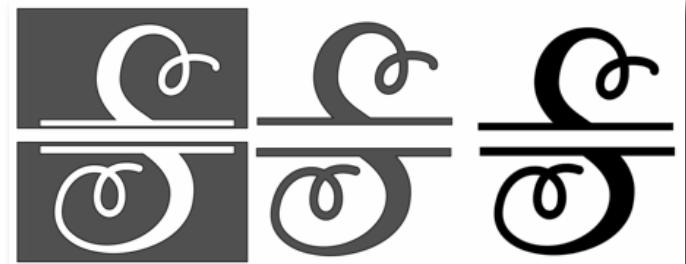
Next, add two more squares and overlap the shape. Add one square at the top, and one at the bottom, butt them up against each other in the middle.



7. You can now drag the slice results away from the original.



6. You can only Slice two items at a time. Select the top square and the letter and click Slice. Next select the bottom square and the letter and click Slice again.



8. The top and bottom of the monogram can now be moved independently. Add some space between the two halves of the letter, delete the extra slice pieces that you don't need and add in some text.

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Weld: Weld joins multiple layers into one shape and removes any overlapping lines. This is especially important to do when you have a font that overlaps.



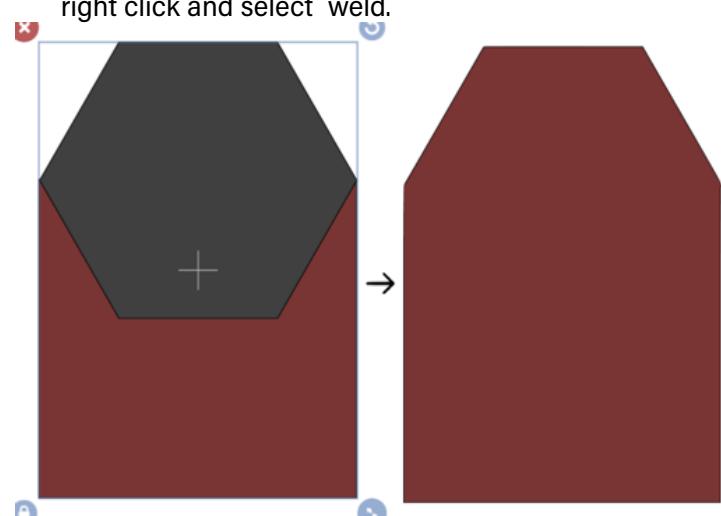
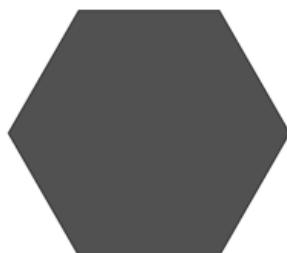
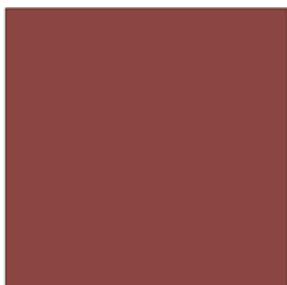
While it might look like the letters are one piece, if you were to look at the letters as an outline, you'd see that the letters are still separate and if you cut this out, you would get little pieces cutting where the letters overlap.



Your machine will cut everywhere that there are lines, even if you can't see the lines because the letters are filled in all black. To prevent this, select all the letters and click weld. All the interior lines have been removed and your piece will cut without all the little pieces in between.



This can also be demonstrated further simply by putting two shapes together. For example, if we have a square and an octagon and we want to put them together to make a new shape.



TIP

It does not matter which shape is on top, though putting the smaller shape on top typically makes it easier to line up the shapes.

GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Attach: Attach holds objects in position so when you go to "Make It," so that your machine does not automatically sort the objects for you. For example, if I have this design:



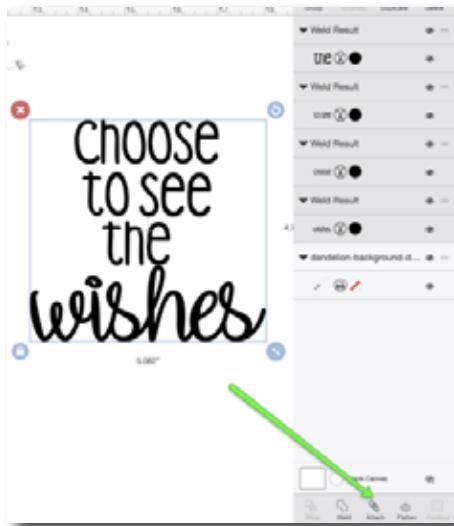
If I do nothing to this design and try to cut it, the dandelions will print and Cricut will prepare your mat and try to save you as much materials as possible by rearranging the letters like this.



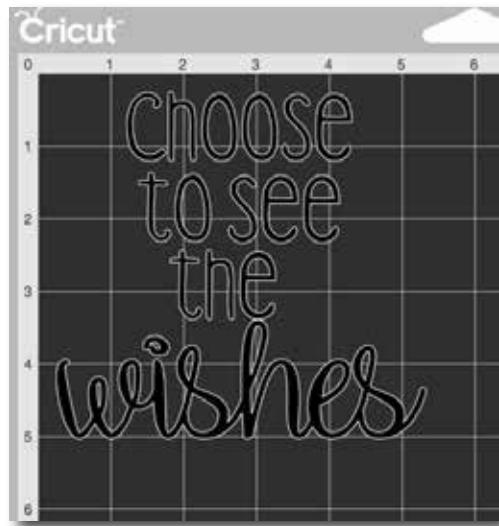
If you remember to weld your words together, you'll get this instead.



But what if you want your letters to just stay where you put them, so you don't have to rearrange the materials once you cut? Like if you were working with vinyl, for example? That is where Attach becomes helpful. Select all your words then click attach.



Now when you click "Make It" the letters will stay as you wanted them.



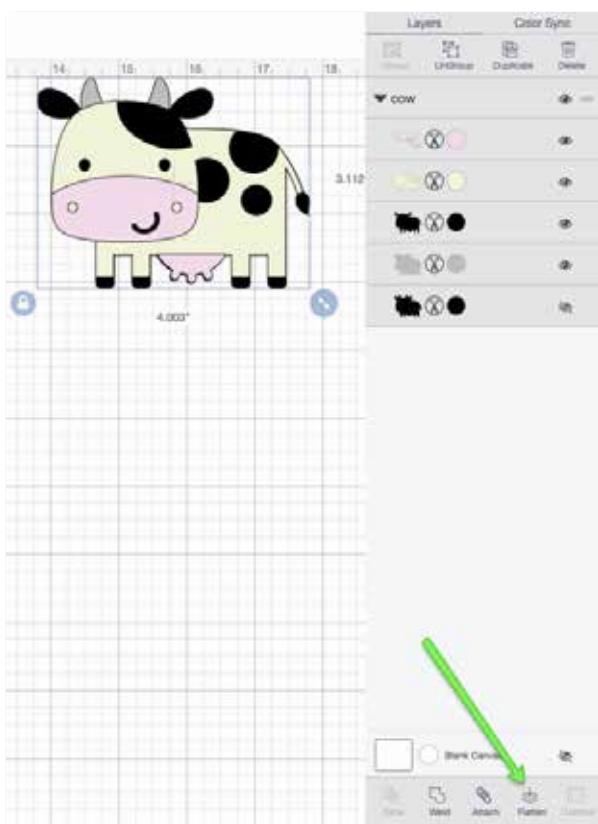
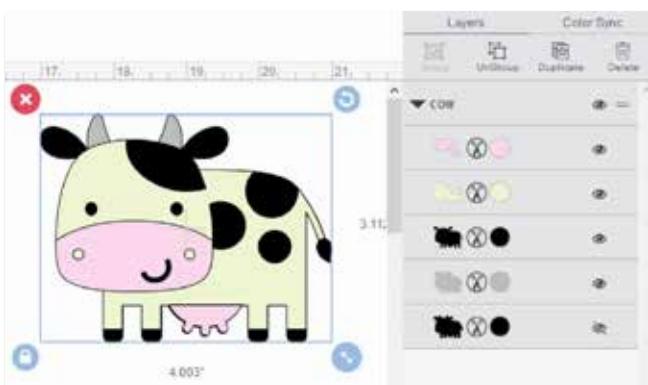
If you decide you need to change something, you can simply click detach to release the layers.

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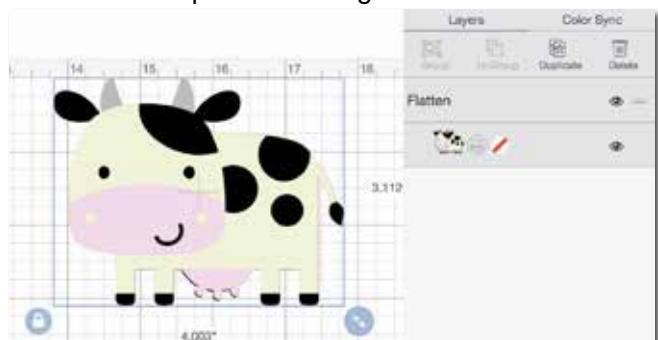


Flatten: If you have multiple cut lines in a file and don't want to assemble individual cut pieces of paper to create the shape, you can use Flatten to merge all the layers down into one printable design. Let's look at this cow for example.

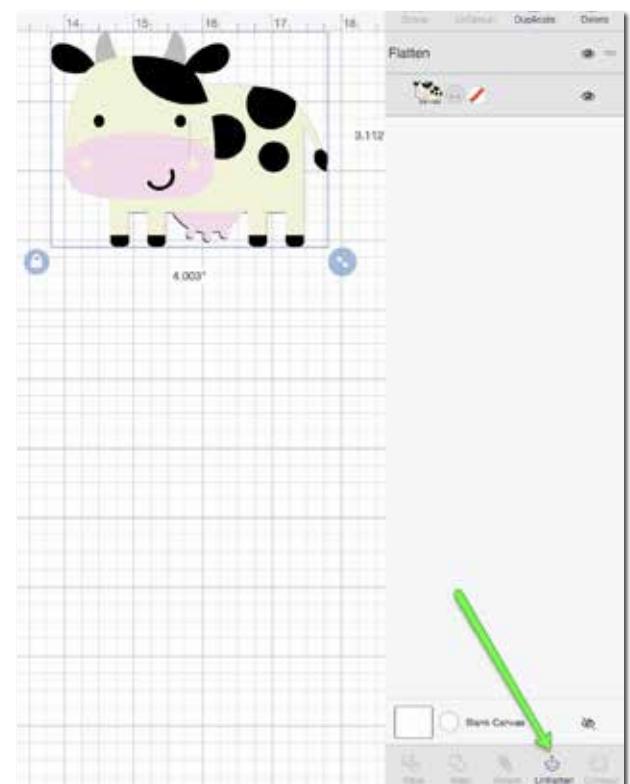
1. There are several layers to the image and each will cut independently and need to be assembled. If you wanted to just print the cow and have the machine cut it out, select all the layers of the cow and click flatten.



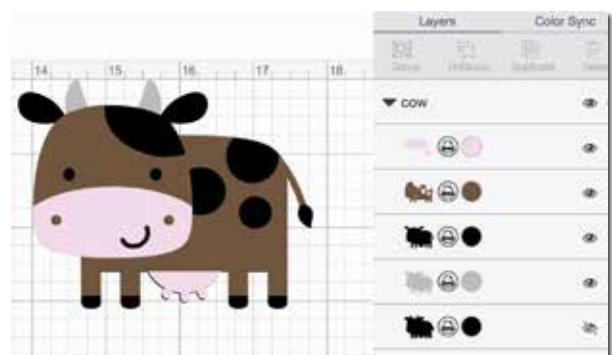
2. Flattening will merge all the layers together to make one printable design.



3. If you decide later that you need to change something, you can unflatten the image.

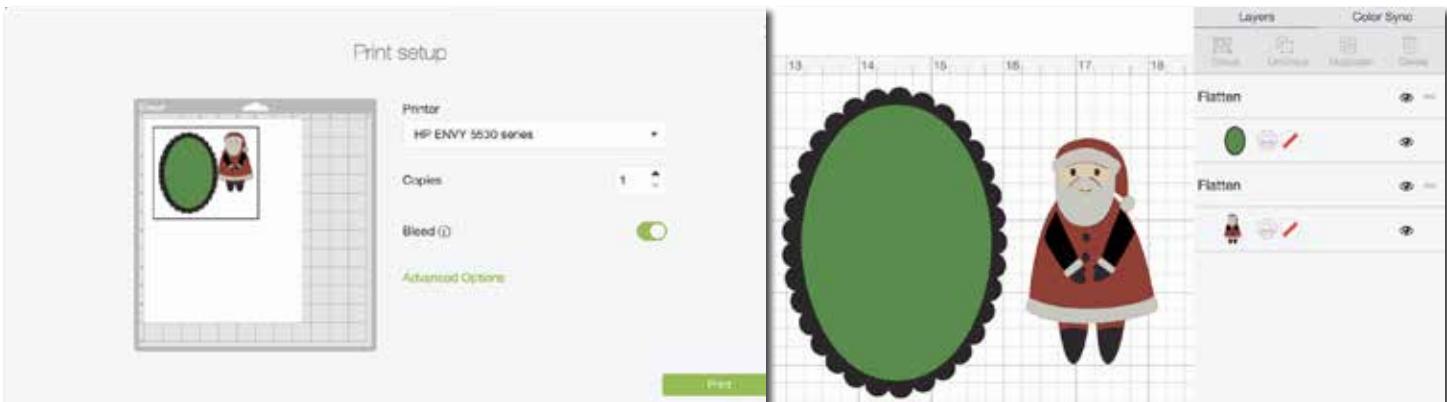


4. Now you can change the layers again as if you had never flattened.



GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

5. You don't have to flatten all the layers in a design. You can flatten just a few layers or all but one. It really depends on what your design is and how you'd like to create it. If you had two elements to a design, and you wanted to print both and then assemble, you could flatten each design then print, cut and assemble them.



Contour: Contour is a fantastic function that allows you to remove things from an image temporarily.

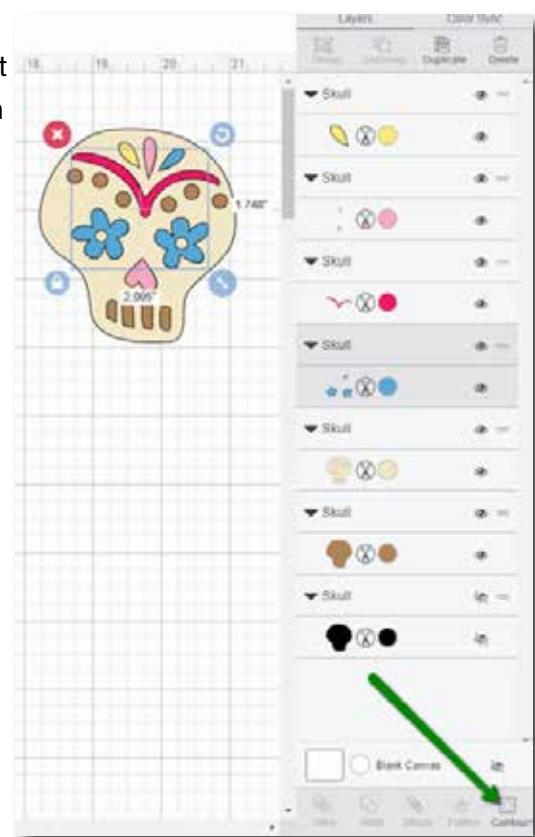
Let's look at this sugar skull for example. I really want to use a different flower for the eyes. I could delete the original eyes, but if I wanted to change the shapes for a single project, while retaining the original shapes, Contour can help me make that temporary change.



1. First thing you need to do is ungroup the image. Select the image and click ungroup in the upper right-hand corner of the Canvas:



2. Click on the layer you want to remove items from, then click on Contour in the lower right-hand corner of the Canvas:

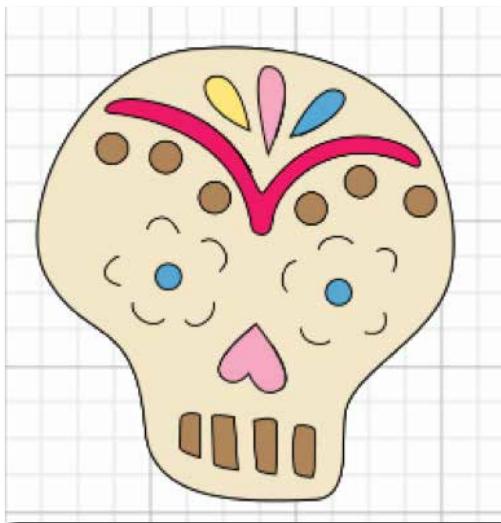


GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE

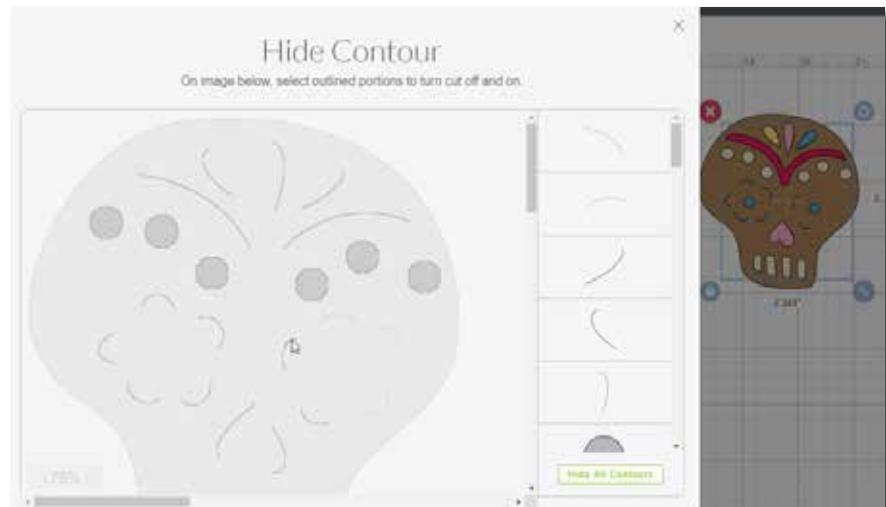
3. Click all the lines that you do not want to cut. I want to get rid of these eyes so I can put new ones in, so I clicked flower parts, leaving the middle holes for eyes. When you've unclicked all the dark gray areas that you want to remove, click the X in the upper right-hand corner, or simply click off that window and back into design space.



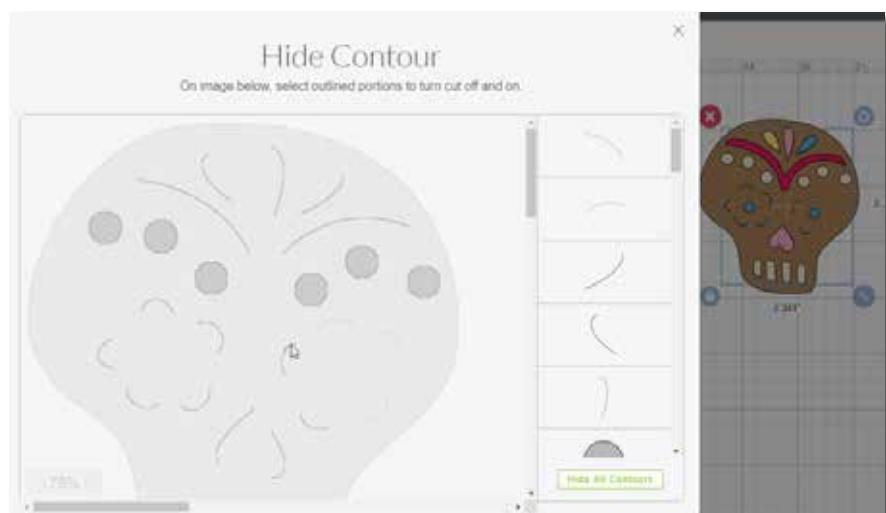
4. For this image, there is another layer that had guide cuts to help you line up the eyes.



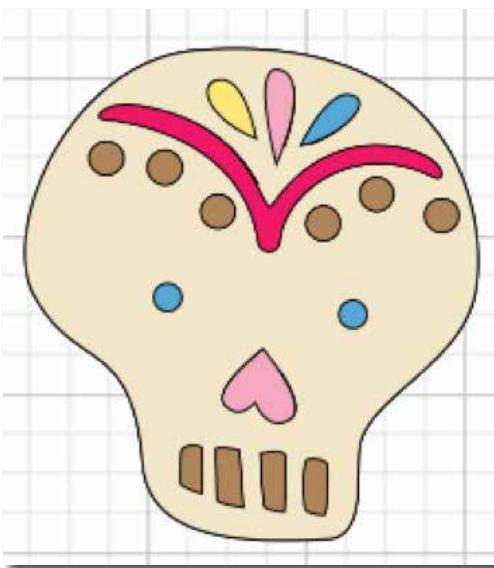
5. To remove the extra lines, click on the cream layer and click Contour again. Select each line to remove them using contour:



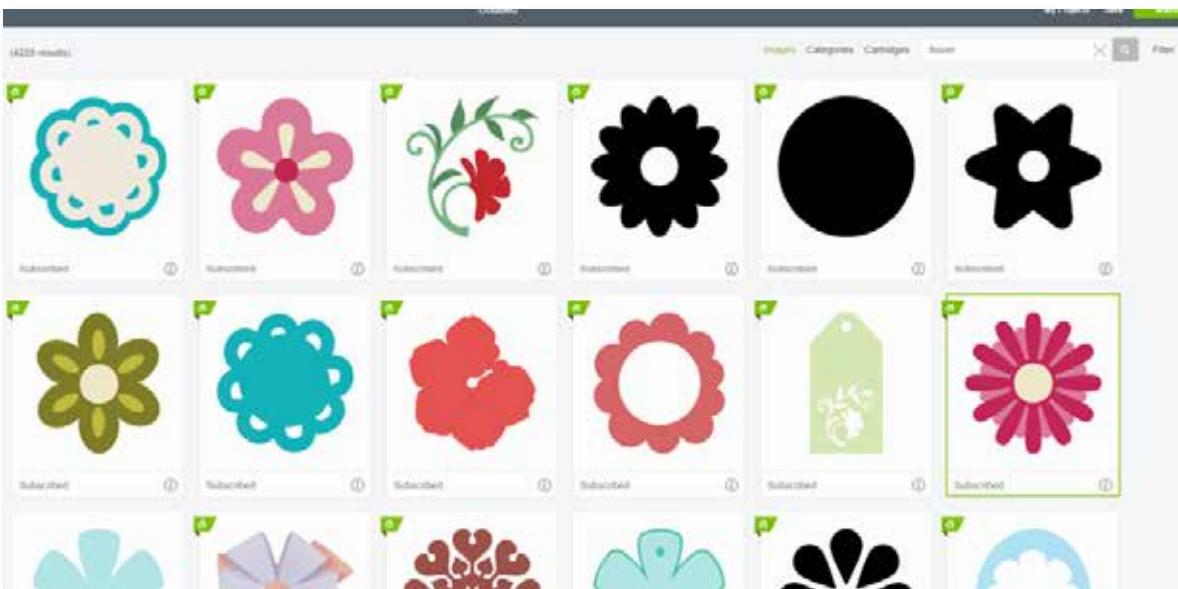
6. If you accidentally click a line that you did not intend to hide, just click it again and it will bring it back. In this example, I clicked the cream layer by mistake, so it hid it. If you click on it again, it will bring the layer back again.



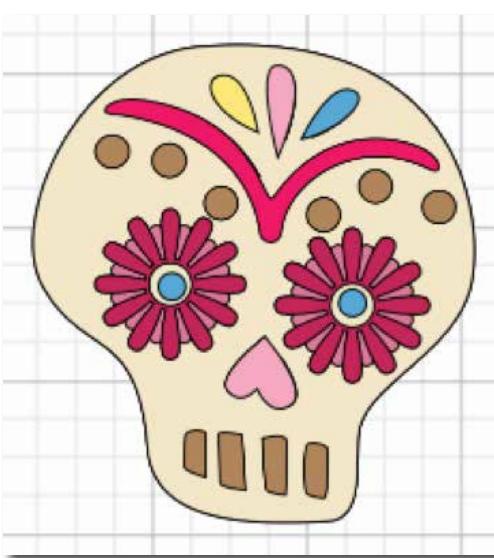
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



7. Click outside of Contour and you can see that the eyes have been hidden from view.



8. We can look for new eyes in the image search. I searched flowers to see what other flower options are available within Design Space images.



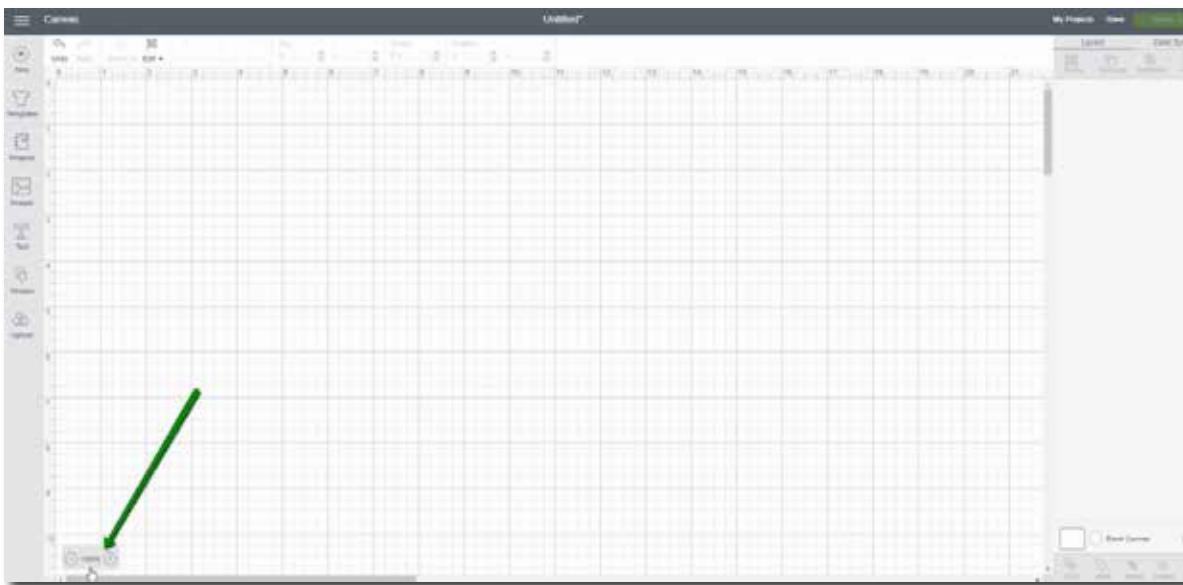
9. Once we find a flower that we like, we can bring it in to the Canvas and manipulate the size and shape to make it fit the design.

Contour helps you customize your designs, while still allowing you to keep the original design in case you want to revert to the original design.

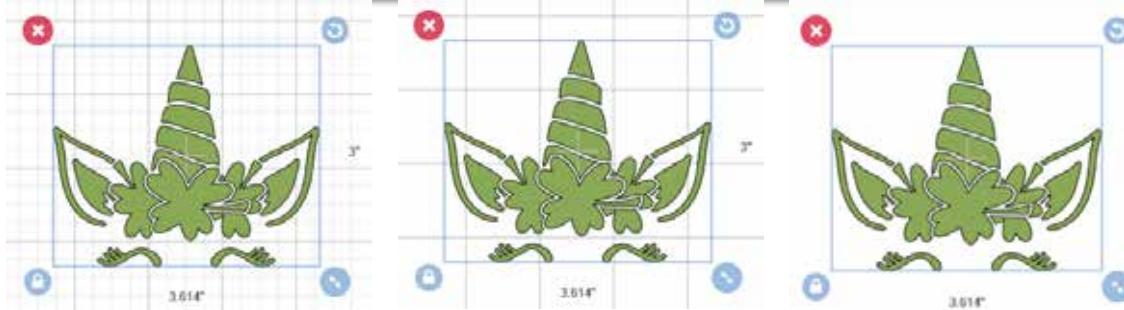
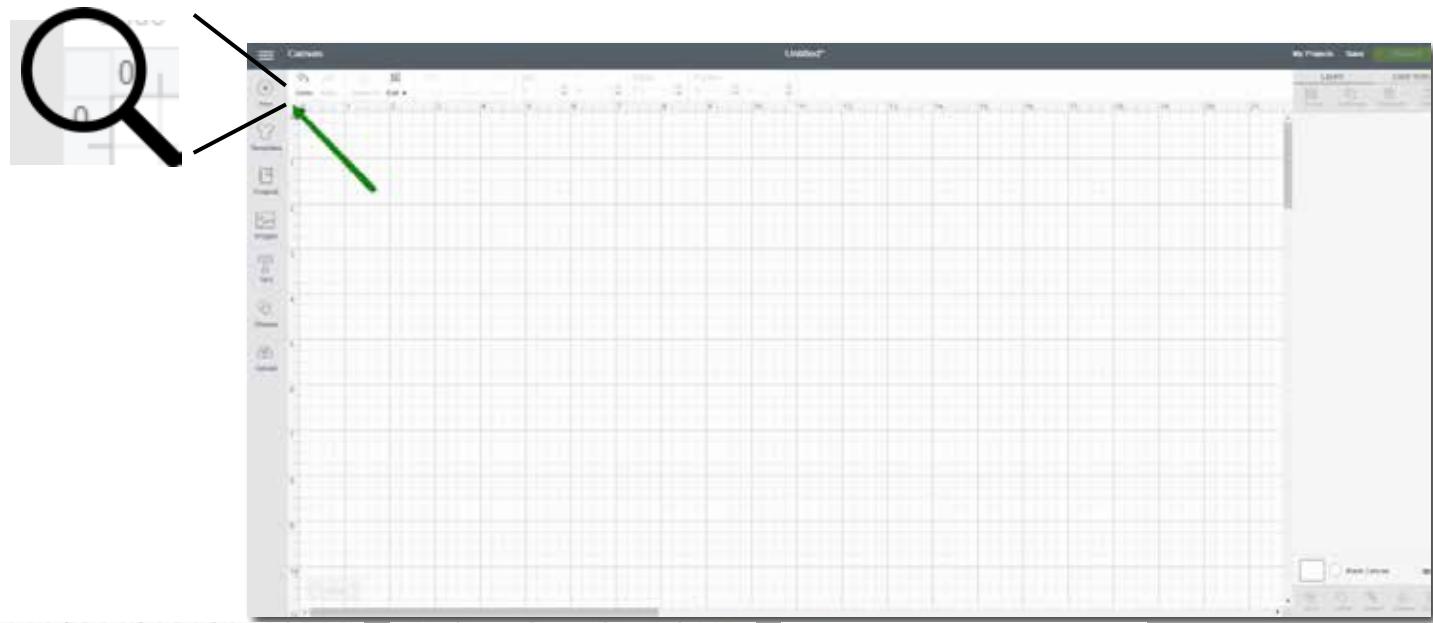
GETTING TO KNOW DESIGN SPACE: CANVAS PAGE



Zoom: To zoom in or out in Design Space, utilize the zoom buttons in the bottom left corner of the screen. The zoom doesn't show unless you hover over it, but it is fixed in the bottom corner.

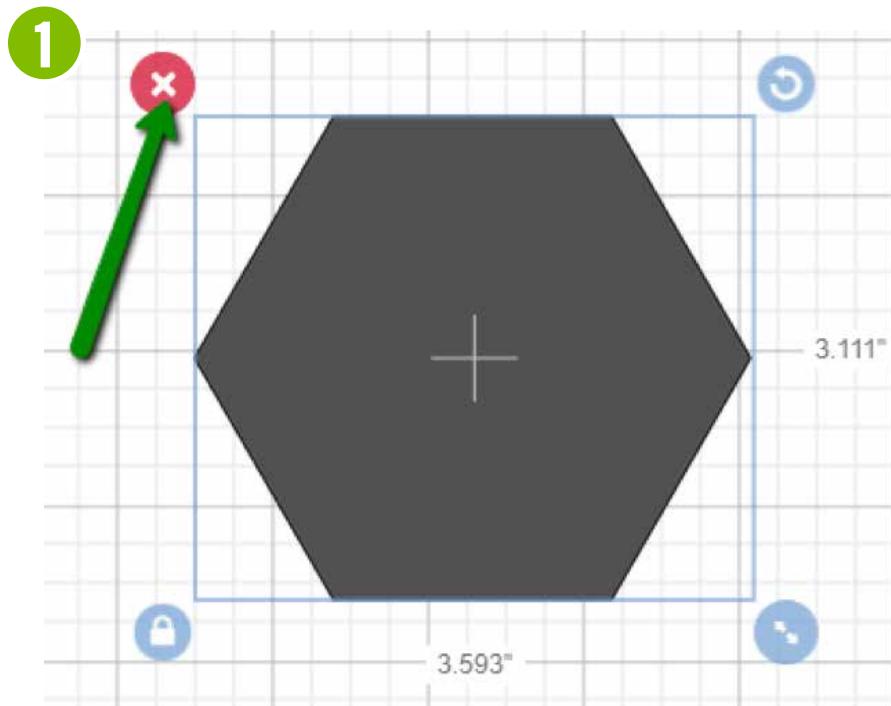


Adjusting the Grid: To quickly change how many gridlines you see, click in the upper left corner of the mat, in the little empty space between the zeros on the rulers.

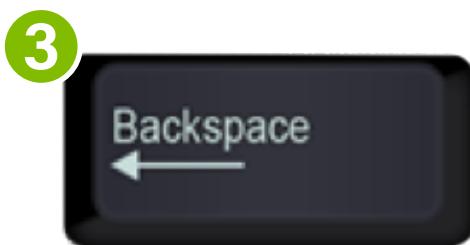


There are three levels of grid lines. You can choose quarter inch, one inch or no divisions.

7 WAYS TO DELETE OBJECTS IN CRICUT DESIGN SPACE



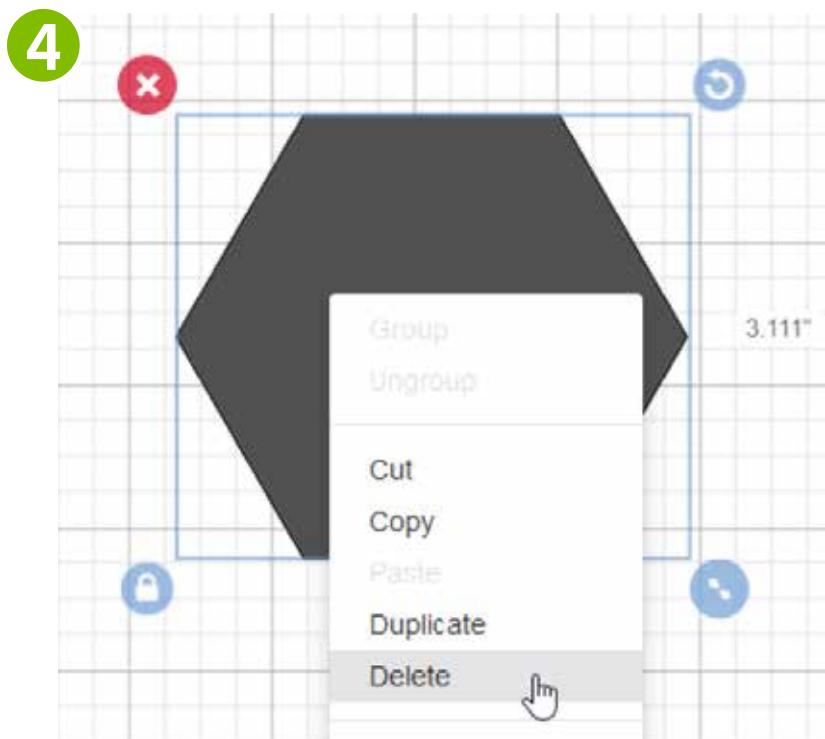
Click the in the upper left-hand corner of the bounding box.



Select the shape and hit backspace on your keyboard.

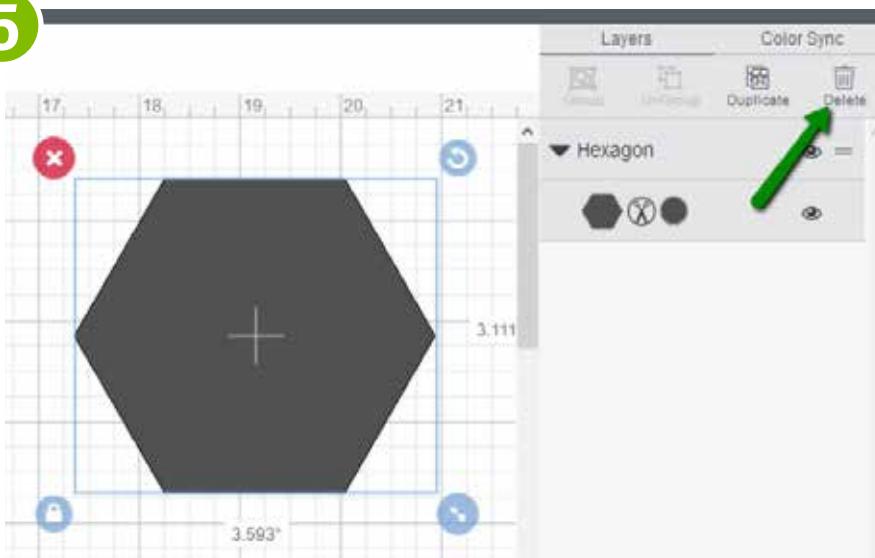


Select the shape and press the delete button on your keyboard.



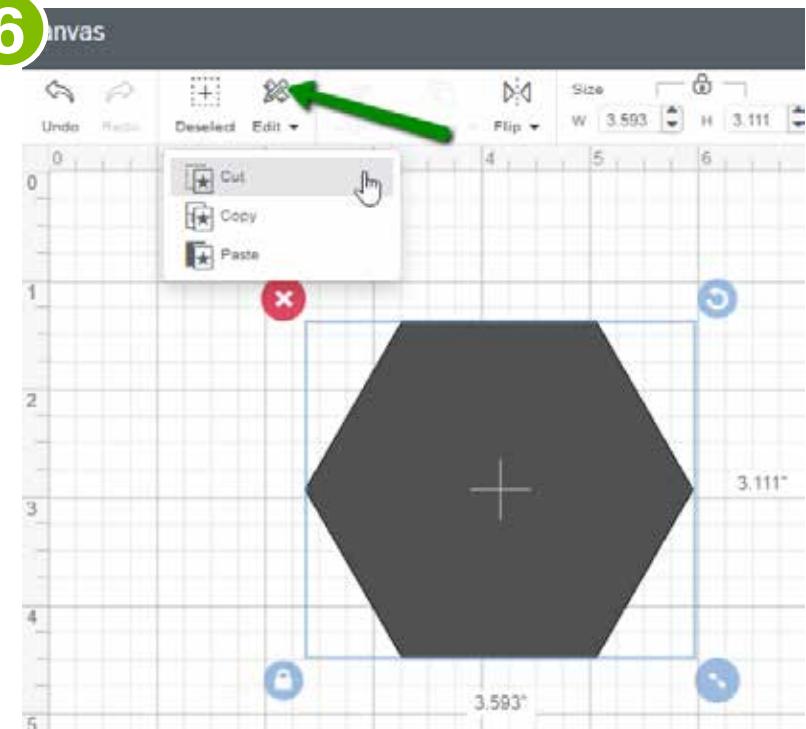
Right click on the shape and select "delete" from the menu.

5



Click "delete" from the layer panel.

6



Select edit from the top menu then click "cut."
Technically this will not delete your image,
as you can still paste it again, but it will remove
it from the canvas as if it were deleted.

7

Ctrl

X

Similar to using Edit>Cut, pressing Ctrl+X on your keyboard
will cut the design and remove it from your Canvas.

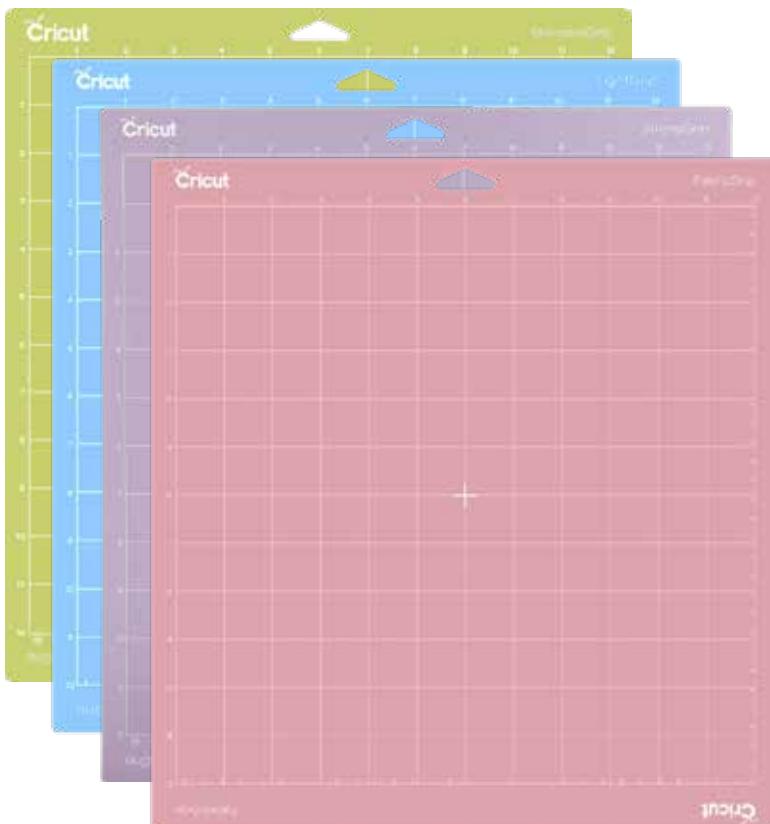
WHICH CRICUT CUTTING MAT SHOULD YOU USE?

The cutting mat is an essential part of your die cutting machine! There is a surprising amount to know about the cutting mat. Whether you are new to the Cricut or a long-time user, you just might learn something new!

The Cricut cutting mat comes in several sizes, colors and adhesive strengths. Each mat has a purpose and will be best suited for certain projects. There are four different types of cutting mats currently available. Each type of mat is colored coded so you can easily tell the difference and select the correct mat for your project. Cricut cutting mats are available in 12"x12" or 12"x24" size and come with a one inch grid printed on it.

To use your cutting mat: Select the material you are cutting from the SmartSet dial then remove the clear plastic cover sheet from the mat and smooth your material onto the cutting mat where your design will be cutting. Note: DesignSpace, by default, will put your cuts will be in the upper left-hand corner of your cutting mat. Continue reading for recommendations on how to prolong the life of your cutting mat. Ensure your material is within the sticky adhesive area of the cutting mat and that it does not overhang the edges of the mat.

To load your cutting mat, place the mat under the mat guides and butt the mat up against the rubber rollers. Hold the mat against the rollers with one hand and press the load/unload button with the other. The machine will then draw the mat into the machine and begin cutting your design.



TIP

With a Sharpie, write "front" on the mat cover sheet before removing it from your cutting mat. This will help ensure that you put the cover sheet back on in the right direction when you are done using the mat. Always replace the cover sheet when you are not using your cutting mat as it will help keep hair and lint from collecting on the sticky surface. It will also help you find the cover sheet!

TYPES OF MATS



StandardGrip (green)

Perfect for:

- Cardstock
- Patterned Paper
- Embossed Cardstock
- Iron-on
- Vinyl

The StandardGrip mat is an all-purpose mat that you will likely use most often. The StandardGrip cutting mat is green in color and is perfect for cutting cardstock, vinyl, iron-on material, etc.



LightGrip (blue)

Perfect for:

- Printer Paper
- Thin Cardstock
- Vellum
- Construction Paper
- Vinyl

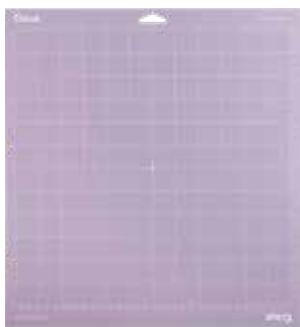
LightGrip mats are the lightest adhesive grip mats available. The LightGrip mat is light blue in color and is perfect for cutting delicate papers and materials such as vellum and printer paper. This mat holds delicate materials in place while cutting. The lighter adhesive allows you to more easily remove the material from the cutting mat, without damaging your project. With delicate materials, a spatula is recommended to help you remove the project from the mat.



TIP

When removing a delicate material from a cutting mat, it is often helpful to turn the cutting mat upside down, so the material you are removing is face down. Remove the cutting mat by gently rolling it away from the material. This will help keep your material flat and help avoid your material curling as you remove it from the mat.

TYPES OF MATS



StrongGrip (purple)

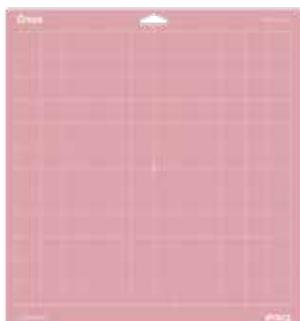
Perfect for:

- Thick Cardstock
- Glitter Cardstock
- Magnet Material
- Chipboard
- Poster Board
- Fabric with stabilizer

TIP

It may be helpful to tape your material to the cutting mat, even when using a StrongGrip cutting mat. Use a removable tape, such as Washi tape or masking tape, to temporarily hold the material in place while the machine is cutting the design.

StrongGrip mats are the highest adhesive mats available. The StrongGrip mat is purple in color and is perfect for cutting heavyweight materials such as glitter cardstock and chipboard. Thick materials can be tricky to keep in place while cutting. The StrongGrip mat has a higher level of adhesive to keep the materials in place while cutting. The StrongGrip mat also features double-life adhesive technology so it can withstand the higher cutting pressure needed for thick materials and will last longer than other cutting mats. Do not stick thin materials, such as printer paper, to the StrongGrip mat. It will be very difficult to get it off. Put only sturdy or easily removed materials on this mat.



FabricGrip (pink)

Perfect for:

- Fabric
- Stabilized/Stiffened Fabric
- Felt
- Leather
- Burlap

FabricGrip mats are unique in that they were created to cut fabric without having to stabilize the fabric first. FabricGrip mats are pink and come with the Cricut Maker machine. They are designed to be stronger and denser than the other styles of cutting mats so they can withstand the cutting pressure associated with using the Cricut Maker Rotary Blade. You can also use the Bonded- Fabric Blade with the FabricGrip mats so you can use with an Explore Air 2 machine as well.

When placing fabric on your mat, put the fabric right-side down. This makes it easier to see washable pen marks if you use the fabric marker to label your fabric pieces. Use a brayer to help evenly stick the fabric to the cutting mat. Once your machine is done cutting your project, remove the excess fabric first. Slowly pull up the fabric and check for any missed threads. Using a spatula tool or flat tweezers to remove your project pieces from the cutting mat will help keep your fabric edges from fraying and prevent any stretching or distortion of the material. Make sure to avoid touching the cutting mat, oils from skin may make the mat less sticky.

NOTE

Cricut does not recommend cleaning the FabricGrip mat or using the scraper tool on it. Stray fibers and lint will eventually accumulate on the mat. You can stick the fabric right over those stray fibers and lint and cut, or use a broad tip tweezers to remove the fibers. Eventually there may be too much build up on the mat and your fabric may not stick well. You can try cleaning the mat before getting a new mat. Use a clean baby wipe in gentle circular motions to help remove the build up of lint or fibers. This will bring back the sticky to your mat, but try to do this sparingly.

PROLONGING THE LIFE OF YOUR CUTTING MAT

Alternating which direction you load the mat will prolong the life of the mat. The cutting mat can be loaded in two ways. You can load from the top of the mat by the cutout hole, or turn your mat around and load it from the bottom. The mat is not square though, so you cannot load it from just any direction, only top or bottom.

Change where you cut on your mat. DesignSpace will automatically put your designs starting in the upper left corner of your cutting mat. If you always cut in the top left corner, this section of your mat will lose its sticky faster. Changing where you are cutting on your mat will help space out the damage to the mat, making it last longer.

Clean your mat. If you have a lot of built up fuzz or have been using high fiber materials such as fabric or handmade paper, gently clean your mat with warm water or a baby wipe. Let it air dry when finished.

Make sure to **store your mat flat, with the cover sheet over the adhesive.** If your mat is bent, use books to help flatten it.

Use tape to hold materials in place. If your mat is beyond its days, you can try using tape to hold your materials in place. This helps with very thick materials as well.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MAT

My mat is too sticky- how can I make it less sticky?

To make a brand-new mat just a little less sticky, use a clean t-shirt. Smooth the fabric over the mat and then remove. It will leave the mat just a little less sticky so your materials do not stick too much. For fragile materials, consider using the LightGrip Mat instead.

My mat isn't sticky enough- how can I make it sticky again?

Try washing your mat with some warm water. Let it air dry. This usually brings some of the sticky back to the mat. If it's not sticky at all, you can try to use some adhesive spray to revive the mat, or use tape to hold your materials in place.

Can I use other brands of mats in my machine?

Using a different brand of mat in your machine can ruin the calibration of your machine and it also voids your manufacturer warranty. Stick to Cricut brand mats and you should be covered!

How long does a mat last?

A cutting mats lifespan will depend a lot on what you cut. Someone who cuts a lot of paper, for example, will need a new cutting mat before someone who cuts vinyl as you're not cutting through the vinyl backing sheet. Having a back up mat on hand is always a good idea though, just in case.

Should there be score lines in my mat after cutting?

Yes, some scoring is expected when cutting with a cutting mat. You are cutting through the material and this will leave marks on your mat. If you are cutting a lot of the same shape, make sure to move the shape around on your mat or rotate your mat to prolong its life.

How do I remove something from my mat without damaging the delicate cut?

Use a spatula tool to help remove your delicate designs or turn your mat upside down and remove the mat from the material.

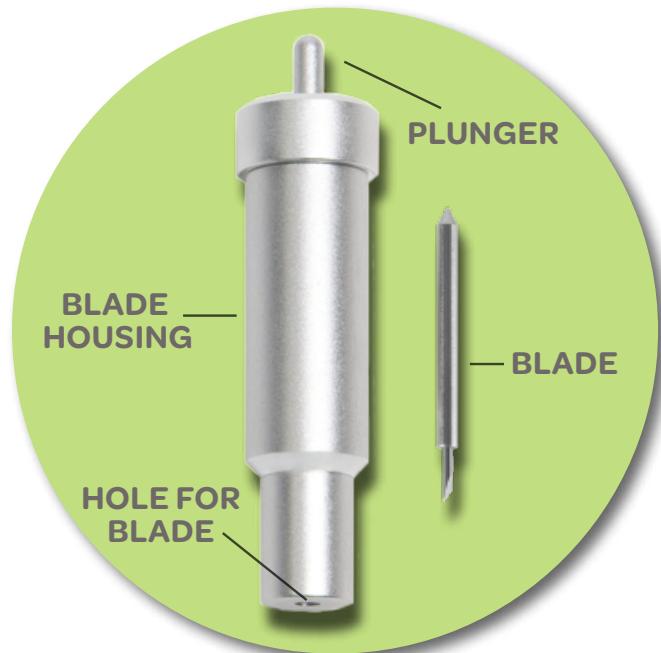
How do I remove stuck on material from my mat?

If you have paper stuck to your mat, soak it in warm water. Make gentle circles with your fingers to work the material off the mat.

HOW TO INSTALL AND CHANGE CRICUT BLADES

The Explore Air 2 and Cricut Maker both come with a double tool holder that can hold two tools at the same time. This allows you to cut and draw, or cut and score, without changing tools between functions. Each side of the tool holder has a clamp to securely hold the tool in place. The left tool holder is labeled A and the right is B. Accessories, such as pens, makers or the scoring stylus, go in Clamp A. All types of cutting tools, including the blades, rotary wheel, and scoring wheel, go in Clamp B. The machines come with a white accessory adapter preinstalled in Clamp A and the blade and blade housing are preinstalled in Clamp B.

If you are not achieving the cuts you desire, the blade may be dull and you may need to change it out. Remove the blade housing from the machine by unclamping Clamp B and pulling the blade housing straight up. To remove the blade, depress the plunger at the top of the blade housing and the blade will protrude from the bottom. Carefully remove the blade by pulling it down and out of the blade housing. Caution: the blade is sharp! To put the new blade in, remove the protective cover from the new blade and then carefully drop the new blade, into the blade housing. Ensure the blade end is facing outwards. A magnet inside the blade housing will hold the blade in place. Replace the blade housing in the machine and close the Clamp B.





PREMIUM FINE POINT BLADE

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Maker, Explore Air 2, Explore Air, Explore One, Explore

Included with machine: Yes

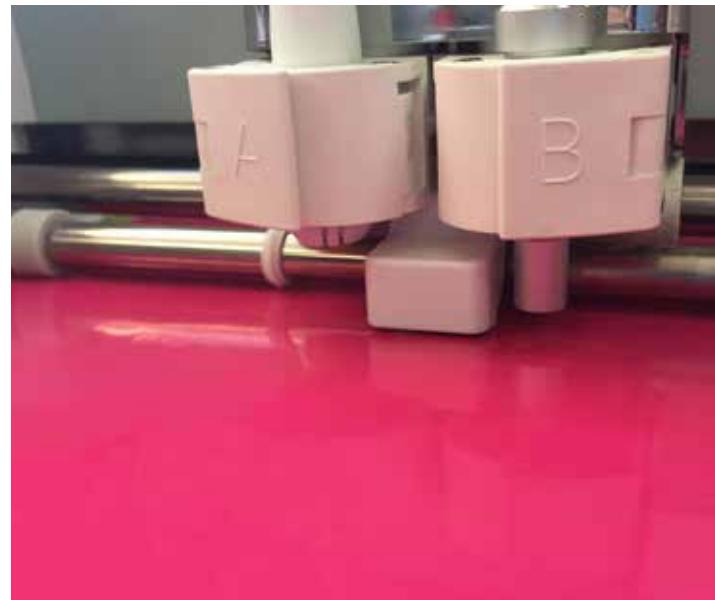
Recommended Materials: Thin to medium-weight materials such as paper, cardstock, poster board, vinyl, iron-on, cardstock

Recommended Mat: StandardGrip

The Premium Fine-Point blade comes stock with the Explore Air 2 and Cricut Maker machines. The blade housing is available either gold or silver in color (both are the same). This blade was previously called the Premium German Carbide blade and is the standard blade to use with your machine. The fine point blade was designed to make intricate cuts on a variety of thin to medium-weight materials such as cardstock, vinyl, iron-on and more. The blade has a 45-degree point and can handle most of your normal cutting needs.

TIP

The blade will come preinstalled in the machine, in clamp B, and is ready to use right away.



DEEP POINT BLADE

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Maker, Explore Air 2, Explore Air, Explore One, Explore

Included with machine: No

Recommended Materials: Thicker materials such as magnet material, chipboard, cardboard

Recommended Mat: StrongGrip

The Deep Point Blade was designed to cut thicker materials such as magnet paper, chipboard and thicker cardboard. This blade has a 60 degree angle and is made of harder, more durable steel than the fine point blade. The Deep Point blade must be used with the Deep Point blade housing and cannot be put in other blade housings.



ROTARY BLADE

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Maker

Included with machine: Yes (Maker only)

Recommended Materials: Soft/delicate materials such as tissue paper, cork, foam

Minimum cut size: $\frac{3}{4}$ " or larger. (Cutting smaller shapes may result in gouging the mat shortening the life of the blade and the mat as well.)

Recommended Mat: FabricGrip

The rotary blade is a mini version of the big rotary blades you use to cut fabric in straight lines with, only this one is fully automated and fully controlled by Maker. The Cricut Maker has complete level control over the new rotary blade. It can move the blade left, right, up, down, clockwise, counter clockwise, and it can even tell what direction the blade is facing at any time.

Have a sharp corner in your design? The Cricut Maker can pick up the blade and adjust to get the perfect corner cut. Cut all kinds of fabrics from delicate fabrics like chiffon to thicker materials like velvet, felt and denim.



The Rotary Blade is included with the Cricut Maker machine and is currently only compatible with the Cricut Maker. The Rotary Blade is unique in that it cuts fabrics without having to stabilize the material first. While the rotary blade is designed to cut a huge variety of material, it is also helpful when cutting difficult materials such as burlap, tissue paper, felt or foam sheets. The rolling action of the blade helps to eliminate a blade pulling on the material as it cuts, giving you cleaner cuts and reducing the chance of the material shifting or tearing while cutting. It can make very precise cuts, even on difficult to cut materials such as unstabilized or stiffened materials like felt, which can be difficult to achieve a clean cut with a standard or Fine Point blade.

TIP

If cutting delicate materials, move the star wheels to the sides to prevent them from scoring or damaging the material.

NOTE

The Rotary blade comes standard with the Cricut Maker machine. It is located inside the "Let's Get Started" box on the top of the machine.

Pair the Rotary Blade with the FabricGrip mat. Cricut designed the FabricGrip Mat to be stronger and denser than the other styles of cutting mats so they can withstand the cutting pressure associated with using the Cricut Maker Rotary Blade. Cutting with the Rotary Blade on a StandardGrip (or other) style mat will result in damage to the mat and blade, decreasing the life of both.

How to Replace a Rotary Blade:

1. If your rotary blade is in need of replacement, use a rotary replacement kit to change out the blade.



2. The replacement rotary blade kit comes with a tiny screwdriver, a protective cap with a new blade and an empty protective cap for the old blade to go into.

3. Place the blade and blade housing into the empty protective cap. Push until you hear it click or the blade is all the way at the bottom of the protective cap.



4. Use the small screwdriver to remove the screw from the blade.



5. Remove the blade housing from the protective cap. The old blade will stay inside the protective cap.

6. Check the blade housing and wipe down the area where the blade sits to clear any debris.

7. Slide the blade housing into the protective cap with the new blade and put the screw back in. Enjoy the shiny new blade.



KNIFE BLADE

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Maker

Included with machine: No

Recommended Materials: Thick materials such as balsa wood, matboard, chipboard, leather

Recommended Mat: StrongGrip

The Knife Blade adds new dimension and possibilities to your Cricut projects. It was designed to cut materials up to 3/32" thick. It can handle thicker materials than the Deep Cut Blade, including materials such as leather, chipboard and even basswood or balsa wood. The Cricut Maker machine is 10x more powerful than Cricut Explore One with 10 kg of force and has full control over the blade.

The Knife Blade works a little differently than other blades you may use with your machine. Instead of doing identical passes to cut through thicker materials, the Maker uses Intelligent Variable Pressure when cutting with the Knife Blade. That sounds fancy- what it means is if you are cutting a thick material that takes multiple passes- the Knife Blade will start with a lighter scoring pass, another heavier pass will get into middle and then, towards the end of the cutting, it will cut lightly again. This helps you get the cleanest cut possible and mimics how you would cut if you were doing the cut by hand. This variable pressure helps to optimize the life of the blade as well.

TIP

When cutting thick material, use the Strong-Grip mat to make sure your materials stay put while cutting. It may also be helpful to tape your material to your mat and move the star wheels to the side to prevent them from scoring or damaging the material.

It is worth noting that the Knife Blade can take much longer to cut a project than other types of blades and projects. Cutting through thick materials may require multiple passes to get a clean cut. Multiple passes takes time! It's important to plan to give the machine the time it needs to cut your selected material. The end results are well worth the wait!



How to Change a Knife Blade:

1. When your knife blade gets dull, you can easily replace the tip using a knife blade replacement kit. The kit comes with a protective cap and a replacement blade in a plastic tube with a foam holder.

1



2



2. Place the protective cap over the end of the blade that needs to be replaced.

3



4



4. Remove the replacement blade from the foam holder and line up the bump on the blade with the bump in the holder.

5



6



6. Place the protective cap back over the top of the blade and twist the collar back on again. Make sure to screw it on all the way to prevent your blade from coming loose.



SCORING WHEEL AND DOUBLE SCORING WHEEL

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Maker

Included with machine: No

Recommended Materials: Paper, coated or heavier materials, poster board, cardboard

Recommended Mat: Project dependent

The Scoring Wheel was made to work exclusively with the Cricut Maker machine. While the Scoring Wheels don't necessarily replace the Scoring Stylus, you may find it works better than the Stylus for your projects.

The Scoring Wheel is actually two tools in one! There are two heads included with the Scoring Wheel: the single scoring wheel and the double scoring wheel. To change between the two wheels, press the plunger on the top of the housing and remove one wheel to replace with the other. Aside from noticing the number of ridges on the wheel itself, you can tell the difference between the two heads by looking at the number engraved on the head near the blade.

Each head has its particular uses. The Single Scoring Wheel is best for delicate or thin materials, such as paper, cardstock and acetate. The Single Scoring Wheel works similar to the Stylus, but results in deeper, more consistent score lines. The Double Scoring Wheel is best for thicker materials, such as chipboard, thicker paper, cardboard or poster board. The Double Sore Wheel creates two score lines parallel to each other. The advantage of two lines right next to each other is that this allows a clean fold between the two lines. This helps prevent cracking or tearing of your material when you fold it.

If you are using a thicker material, put the printed or "top" side of your paper face down. Mirror your design and cut and score it upside down. This will ensure your score lines are on the right side of your material and allow for proper folding.

When your project requires cutting and scoring, you will put in the Scoring Wheel first, the Maker will score your project, then put in the blade to cut. The Maker will direct you to which scoring head to install, depending on the material selected.

While the Scoring wheel is more a tool than a blade, it does install like a blade, so it was included in this section. Depending on your project, you can use any of the cutting mats with the scoring wheel. For delicate projects such as origami, you may want to use the LightGrip Mat. For poster board projects, the StrongGrip mat may work better. The Scoring Wheel works much like the Rotary Blade, in that it rolls and doesn't drag your material, so your only real concern is holding your material in place and using the appropriate mat for cutting that happens after you score the material.



ADDITIONAL BLADES

Machine Compatibility: Cricut Expression, Imagine, Cake, Cake Mini, Personal, Create

From Left to Right: Standard Blade & Housing (green), Deep Cut Blade & Housing (blue), Scoring Blade & Housing (purple), Cricut Cake Blade & Housing (white)

While these blades are less often available, they are worth mentioning. These blades and blade holders were made for the previous models of machines, before the Adaptive Tool System was created. They are not interchangeable with the blades made specifically for the Explore Air 2 or Maker machines. They are both shaped differently and colored different to distinguish them from newer model machine blades. Note that the blades will also not work with more recent version of the machines. Ensure you purchase the correct blade housing and blades for your model of machine.

NOTE

Older style blade housings will not fit the tool holders the newer machines have, such as the Cricut Explore Air 2 or the Cricut Maker machines.



The Cricut BrightPad is a sleek looking light up pad. The BrightPad provides an illuminated work surface that will help you with weeding your vinyl and iron-on projects. By illuminating weeding lines, especially with that pesky glitter vinyl, the BrightPad makes it so much easier to weed your design (and remove the correct bits):

The Cricut BrightPad weighs just over a pound and a half. While it is light weight and super thin, it's very durable. The surface is a scratch resistant, polycarbonate plastic, with a 6H level of hardness. The higher the hardness scale, the more scratch resistant the surface is, and 6H is pretty tough. While you want to be careful while weeding your designs, and you certainly don't want to cut directly on the BrightPad with a utility knife, the screen can be easily cleaned up with a lens cloth like you would with other electronics.



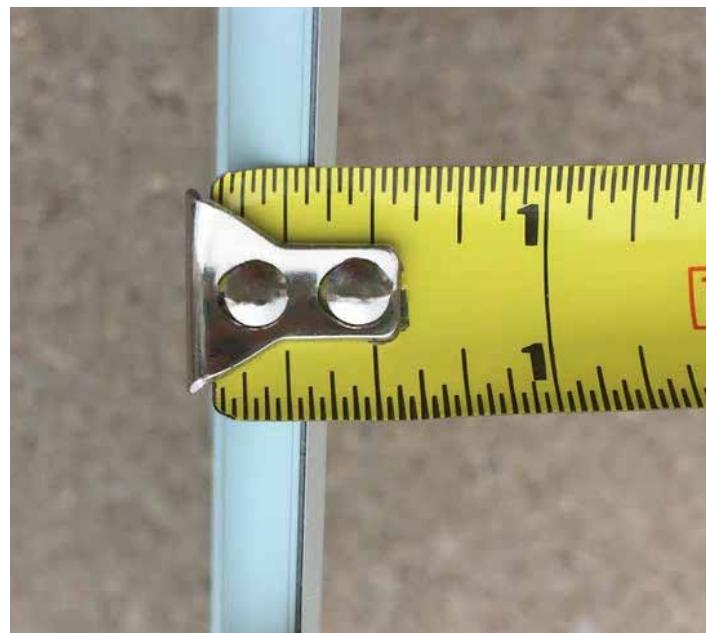
NOTE

"Hardness" refers to a material's resistance to being scratched. The higher the number on the hardness scale, the more scratch-resistant the material. The scale goes from 1-10, with diamonds being a 10! The BrightPad is rated at a 6, which is almost as hard as a steel nail.

At under a half an inch, you won't be pressed to "lug" this pad around.

The BrightPad itself is 13.375 inches long by 10.375 inches wide. The light up surface is slightly smaller, at 9 inches by 11.5 inches.

The BrightPad offers five lighting settings (about 400, 1300, 2200, 3100 and 4000 lumens). At its brightest, it's about equivalent to a 66-Watt light bulb! With a solid uniform LED light, you have a consistent light source with no dark spots. To adjust the brightness, just press the + or - buttons next to the power button. The light emitted by the BrightPad is a brilliant white color, which helps with tracing and paper piecing, and offers more clarity when it comes to details and fine lines.



CRICUT BRIGHTPAD

The BrightPad runs off the included two piece U.S. rated power supply cord which comes curled up nice and snug in the box under the BrightPad:



While there are no internal batteries (you must have it plugged in to operate it) the power cord is SIX feet long, so you don't have to be huddled over by the power outlet when working. The power cord comes in two pieces, a USB cord and a power adapter. You can plug it into the wall, the USB port on your computer or the USB port on the Maker machine. The power cord is flat, so it won't fray or lose its coating or get damaged with use like a traditional round power cord might.

The back of the BrightPad comes with non-slip rubber strips and center dot to help keep your work surface stationary.



Think you only need a BrightPad for weeding your vinyl? Not so! Use the BrightPad for easy tracing, paper pieced quilt patterns or making sure your designs line up before pressing. You can also use it to trace drawings or help give some light to your projects in poor lighting conditions.

The BrightPad comes with a one-year manufacturer warranty, directly from Cricut, protecting you against manufacturer defects.

Bright, Uniform LED Light

Power Button

5 Brightness Settings

Nonslip base



CRICUT EASYPRESS

The Cricut EasyPress combines the speed and consistency of a heat press, with the ease and convenience of an iron.

Simply cut your design from iron-on material, weed the design by removing excess pieces with a weeder tool, place the EasyPress on the fabric, press the go button and, in less than 60 seconds, your design will be transferred! To adjust temperature and time, you can use the on board settings and check the included cheat sheet for best results.

There are two versions of the EasyPress available. The EasyPress and the EasyPress2 series. The EasyPress is light blue in color and comes in the standard 9" x 9" size.



CRICUT EASYPRESS2

The EasyPress2 series sports a Raspberry color and comes in three sizes, 6" x 7", 9" x 9" and 12" x 10":



The petite 6" x 7" press is perfect for small jobs, such as baby outfits, bibs or smaller designs like monograms. It heats up in just over a minute and the smaller size makes it ultra-portable and ideal for travel!

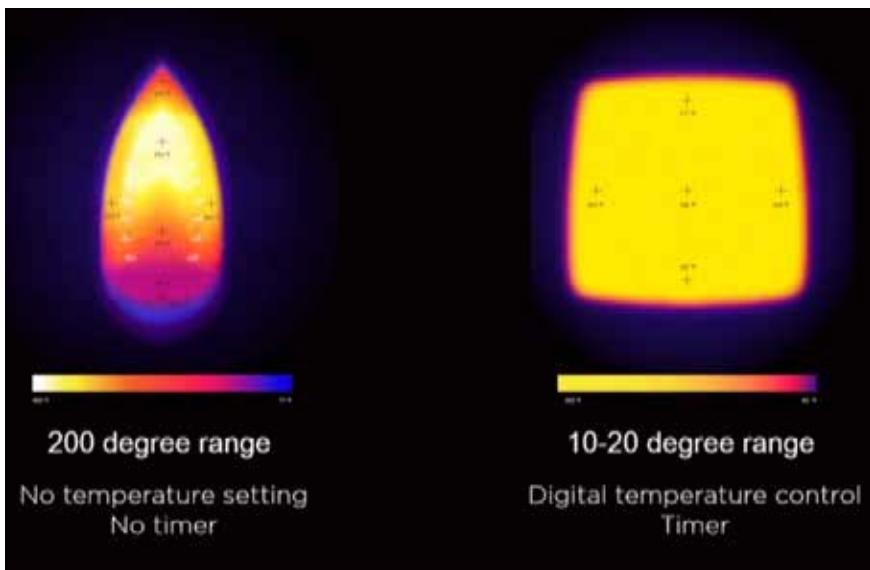
The standard 9" x 9" press heats up in just over two minutes and is the perfect size for shirts, totes and more. It's the perfect size if you like to do a variety of projects, from big to small. If your design is too large to get in one press, you can press section by section until you press the entire design.

The jumbo sized 12" x 10" press gives you full coverage on large designs. It heats up in just over 3 minutes and can press larger t-shirt designs, without having to press multiple times. You can also place several smaller designs under the jumbo press to finish several designs at once.

Cricut is concerned with the safety of traditional heat presses. When you work with a tradition press, you have a huge heating planten that you are putting your hands and arms under to position your shirt and design. One slip up and you end up with a nasty burn! The EasyPress comes with a safety base that it sits in when heating up.

You don't have to guess with time and pressure anymore either. Simply place the EasyPress on the design, set the timer and wait for the beep!

The EasyPress provides a consistent temperature across your entire design, unlike a standard iron which can vary quite a bit. The variation in temperatures of a standard iron can lead to your design peeling up:



The EasyPress gives you precise temperature control up to 400°F and gives you professional iron-on results in just a few moments.

For best results, use your EasyPress with an EasyPress Mat! EasyPress Mats are available in three sizes: 8" x 10", 12" x 12" and 20" x 16". With a cover that eliminates moisture and provides for even heat distribution across your project, you'll achieve great results in less time. Use the EasyPress mat for your sewing and quilting projects as well, it's a lightweight ironing surface!

USING YOUR EASYPRESS

Place the EasyPress in the safety base before plugging it in. Ensure the EasyPress is at room temperature and on a sturdy surface. The EasyPress comes with a standard, three prong, US Power supply cord (120V, 60Hz, 1150W). Plug the cord in and then press the temperature button. Use the + and - buttons until the desired temperature is displayed. Press and hold the temperature button to set. The orange light will indicate that the press is heating and the temperature display will show the temperature increasing. The button will change to green when the temperature has been reached and the EasyPress will beep to indicate that it is ready for use. Use the included Quick Reference Chart for fast access to select iron-on materials and fabric combinations.

While the EasyPress is heating, prepare your work surface. Ensure you have a sturdy, heat proof surface to work on. An EasyPress mat is ideal! Place you project flat on the mat and smooth it out. When the EasyPress is heated, which can take up to three minutes depending on the EasyPress, size and selected temperature, press the surface of your project for 3-5 seconds to remove any moisture and smooth out any wrinkles.

CRICUT EASYPRESS

Place the design in your desired location on your project surface. Make sure the clear liner on the iron-on materials is facing up before pressing.

Place the EasyPress on the design and set the timer. Hold the EasyPress in place and apply gentle pressure until the timer has finished and the press beeps. Once you have pressed on the front of your design, flip the project over and heat from the back as well, using the same settings.

Let the design fully cool before removing



the clear plastic carrier sheet. Start slowly at the corner and test to see if the carrier sheet releases easily. If the iron-on is still stuck to the carrier sheet, reapply heat and add a few more seconds to the time.

Ensure you give your project at least a full 24 hours before washing it. Wash inside-out and tumble dry low, or lay flat to dry. It's recommended to handwash foil iron-on designs.

*For more EasyPress information, check here:
<https://help.cricut.com/easypress-how-to-use>*

CRICUT EASYPRESS

Countdown timer

Precise digital controls

Comfortable handle

9" x 9" evenly heated plate

Safety base

Auto shutoff *Shuts off automatically after 10 minutes*



TOOLS



1

CUTTING RULER (18")

Make fast, clean cuts with a protective safety guard and easy-to-read measurements.



2

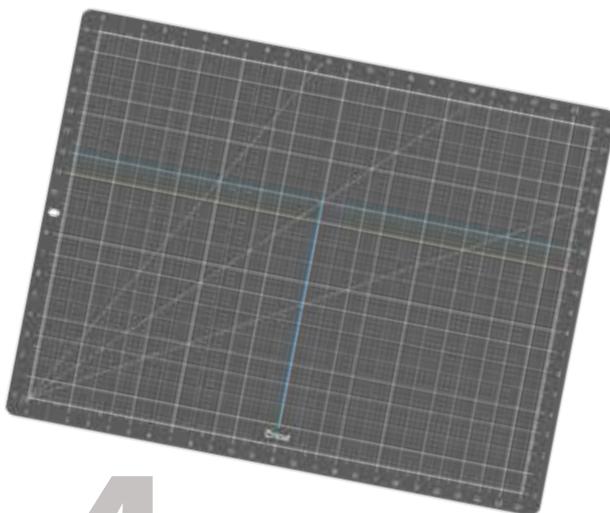
ACRYLIC RULER

Frosted finish with easy-to-see measurements for visibility with light and dark materials. Available in 3" x 18" (pictured), 6" x 26" and 12" x 24".

3

**ROTARY CUTTER**

Cut through multiple layers or thicker materials. Available in 45 mm and 60 mm (pictured).



4

SELF HEALING MAT

Keep cuts clean on a double-sided mat. Available in 18" x 24" and 24" x 36".



8

XL SCRAPER

Jumbo sized scraper ideal for large projects.



9
FINE TWEEZERS
Lift, remove and place material with ease.



10
HOOK TWEEZERS
Lift and secure delicate material.

**WASHABLE FABRIC PEN (1.0 TIP)**

Ideal for fabric crafts.



6

BRAYER

Firmly adhere material to your cutting mat.



7

BROAD-TIP TWEEZERS

Remove fabric from your cutting mat.



11

WEEDER

Remove tiny negative cuts.



12

PIERCING TOOL

Allows accurate placement of fine cuts and embellishments.

13

QUILLING TOOL

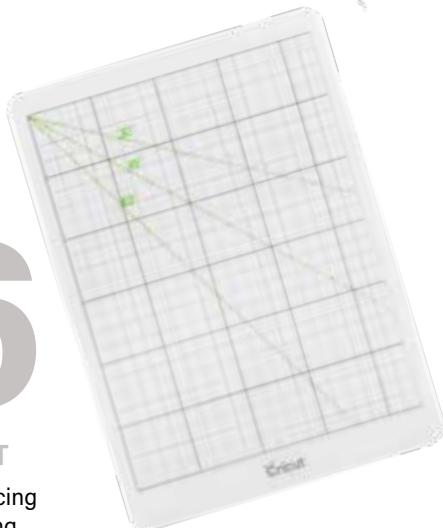
Makes smooth, tight, decorative spirals.



16

CRAFT MAT

Multi-use piercing and self-healing surfaces.



14

HOOK WEEDE

Easily removes tiny cuts and helps separate material from the liner.



15

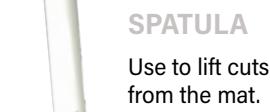
EDGE DISTRESSER

Creates textured edge effect on paper.

17

**MICRO-TIP
ESSENTIAL SCISSORS
WITH PROTECTIVE
COVER**

18

**SPATULA**

Use to lift cuts from the mat.



19

SCRAPER

Burnish material and clean all cutting mats.



20

PORTABLE 12" TRIMMER

Easy-glide blade system for precise, straight cuts with 15" swing-out arm.



21

SCORING STYLUS

Add fold lines to cards and envelopes.



22

ACCESSORY POUCH

Designed to provide organization and storage for your Cricut® tools and pens.

23

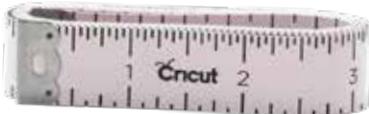
TRUE CONTROL KNIFE

Cut a variety of materials with a hands-free blade changing system.



SEWING KIT TOOLS

3



MEASURING TAPE

Measure curved and flat surfaces

5



THREAD SNIPS

Easily cut threads.

4



PIN CUSHION AND PINS

Store and readily access pins for sewing projects.



6

LEATHER THIMBLE

Protect fingers when hand sewing.



1

SEAM RIPPER

Remove small stitches.



2

FABRIC SHEARS

Cut precisely through leather, denim, and multiple layers of fabric. Available in 5" and 8".

Your machine comes with a pen to write with instead of cut.



SIZES AVAILABLE:

Note: availability may vary

- .03
TIP** Extra-Fine Point Pen
- .4
TIP** Fine Point Pen
- .8
TIP** Glitter Gel Pen
- 1.0
TIP** Medium Point Pen
- 2.0
TIP** Calligraphy Pen

HOW TO INSTALL A PEN IN THE CRICUT ACCESSORY ADAPTER:

To use a Cricut pen with a Cricut machine, remove the pen cap and set the pen into the accessory adapter in Clamp A. It is helpful to have the arrow on the side of the pen facing towards you (A).

Push Clamp A up from the bottom and hold it up with one hand and push the pen into the Accessory Adapter with the other hand. Push the pen down until you hear it click (B).

NOTE

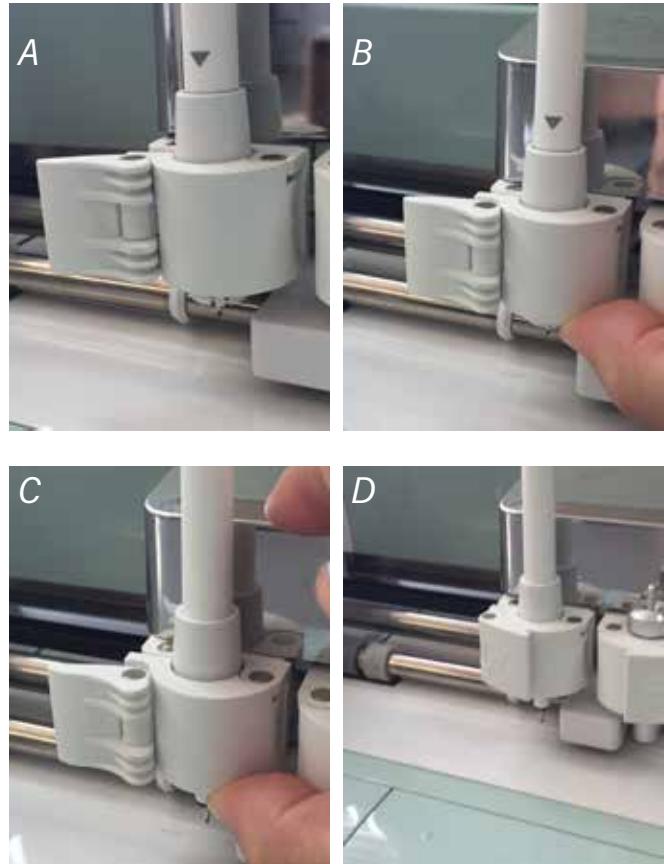
Clamp A will not move up very much. Do not force it.

The arrow on the pen should be JUST inside the top of accessory holder. If you can still see part of the arrow, push it down a little further (C).

Close Clamp A and you are ready to begin drawing with your machine (D).

CAN I USE NON-CRICUT BRAND PENS?

While there is a nice selection of Cricut Pens to choose from, you may still have favorite pens in your collection that you want to use in your Cricut machine. While some other brand pens can be used in the Cricut Accessory Adapter, you will find that many don't fit or don't perform correctly. There are some adapters and other "hacks" to use your favorite pens in the Cricut, of course you do so at your own risk, however. Make sure to test your pen on scrap paper before using.

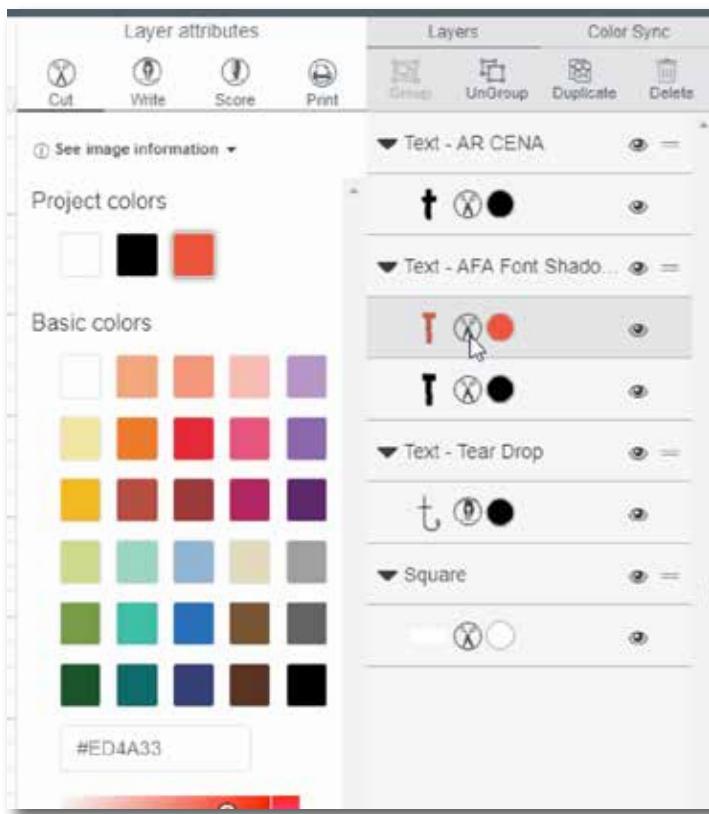


TIPS

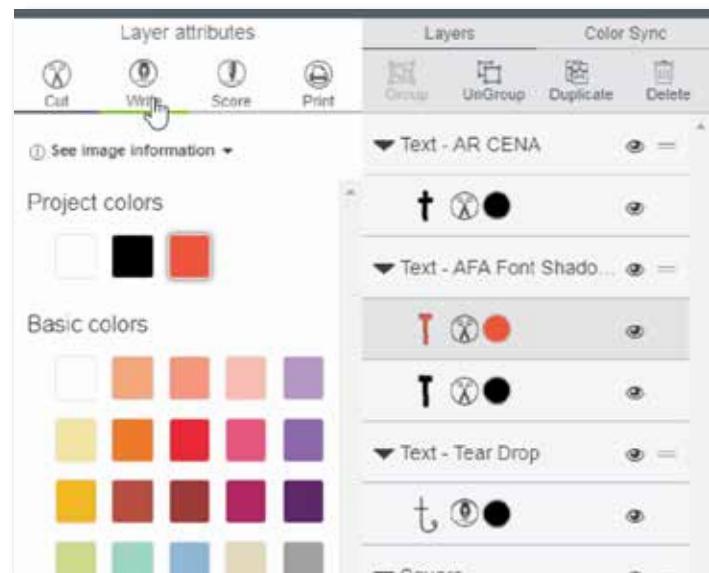
- Put an index card or scrap piece of paper under the sketch pen when loading it into the accessory holder to prevent the pen from putting a dot on the machine or your project where you do not want it to.
- Pens are acid free, non-toxic, and permanent after drying.
- Don't pause your machine when the tip of your pen is down, it may cause ink blotches in your design.
- Don't let your pen sit in the machine for very long without being in use. Replace the pen cap promptly to keep the pen from drying out.
- Store pens point end down.
- The Accessory Adapter can be removed from Clamp A by unlocking the clamp and pushing with one hand from the bottom of the adapter and gently twisting from the top with your other hand as you pull upwards.
- To help prevent losing the cap for your pen, place the pen cap on the end of the pen while cutting.

HOW TO TELL DESIGNSPACE TO WRITE INSTEAD OF CUT

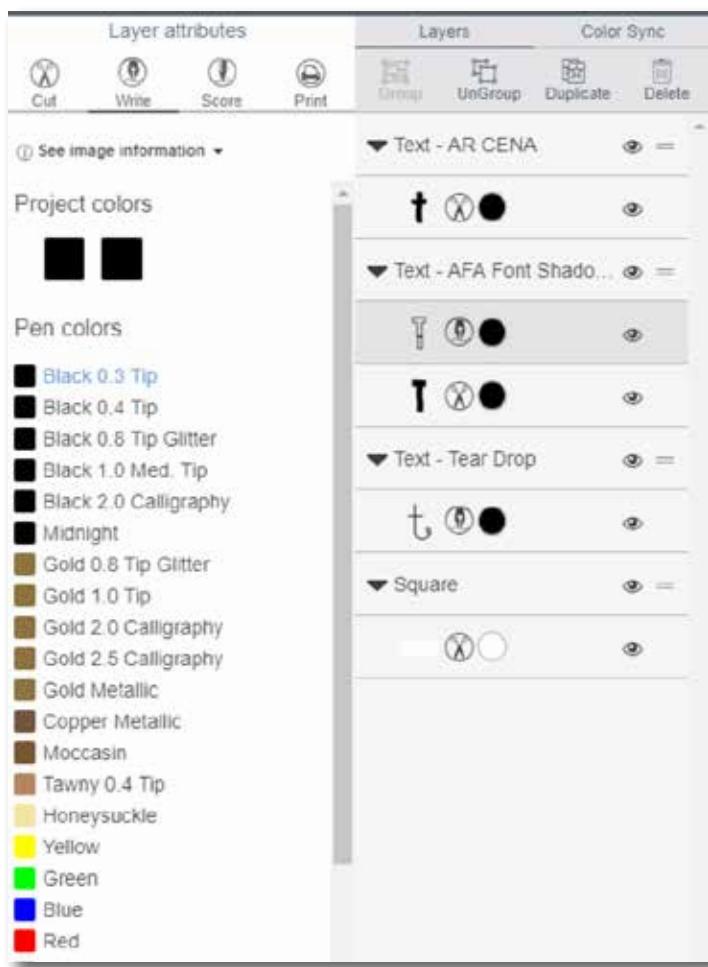
1. To tell DesignSpace to draw your design instead of cut, click on the portion of the design that you want to draw and then click the Layer Attribute icon on the Layers panel:



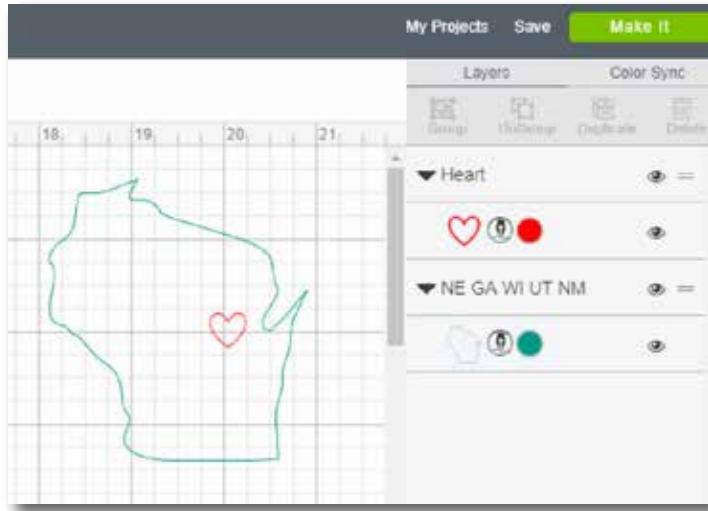
2. The default for layers is to cut, which is represented by a Scissors icon. To change it to Writing, so you can use your Cricut Pens, click the Write Icon in the upper left corner of the Layer Attribute panel:



3. When you change the layer to Write, you will see a list of pens to pick from:

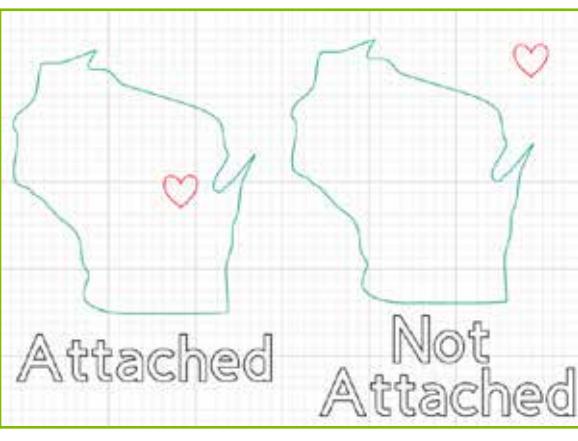
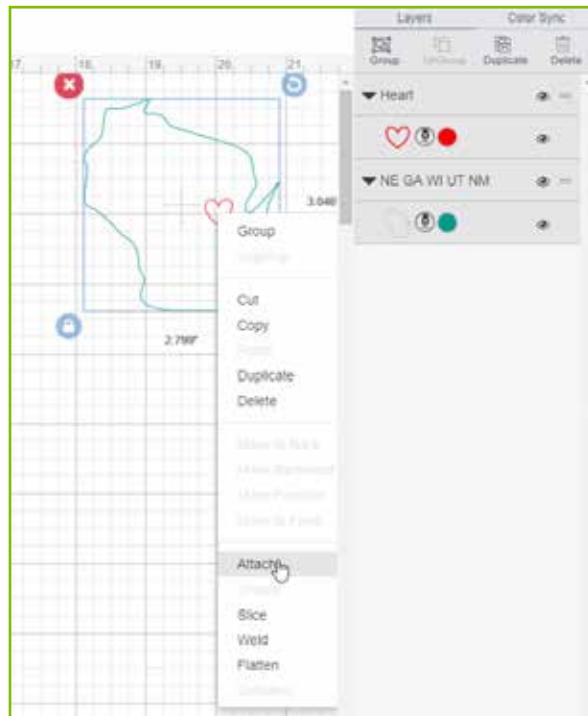


4. These all match up with Cricut sketch pens. If you have multiple colors in your design, color the pieces of your designs to the coordinating colors:



TIP

Before pressing "Make It," make sure to attach your layers so DesignSpace doesn't rearrange your pieces. Select all the pieces of your design, then right click>Attach:



5. Click the "Make It" button. On the mat screen, pay attention to which color pen it expects you to insert first. If you have multiple colors in your design, this will be very important.

① Material set to: Paper

Adjust dial to desired material

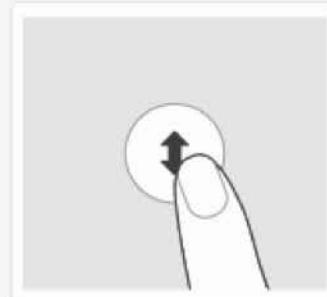
② Load tools and mat



Load Red pen in
Clamp A ⓘ



No tool required in
Clamp B



Load mat and press
Load/Unload button ⓘ

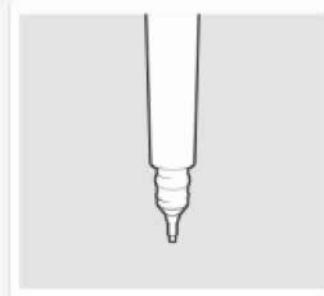
③ Press Go

Speed automatically set for this material

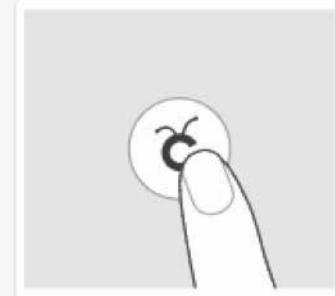
Press flashing Go button ⓘ

6. Click the Go button and the machine will draw the first color in the design. When it has finished that color, a box will pop up on your computer telling you what color to put in next:

Tool change required



Load Turquoise 0.4 Tip in
Clamp A ⓘ



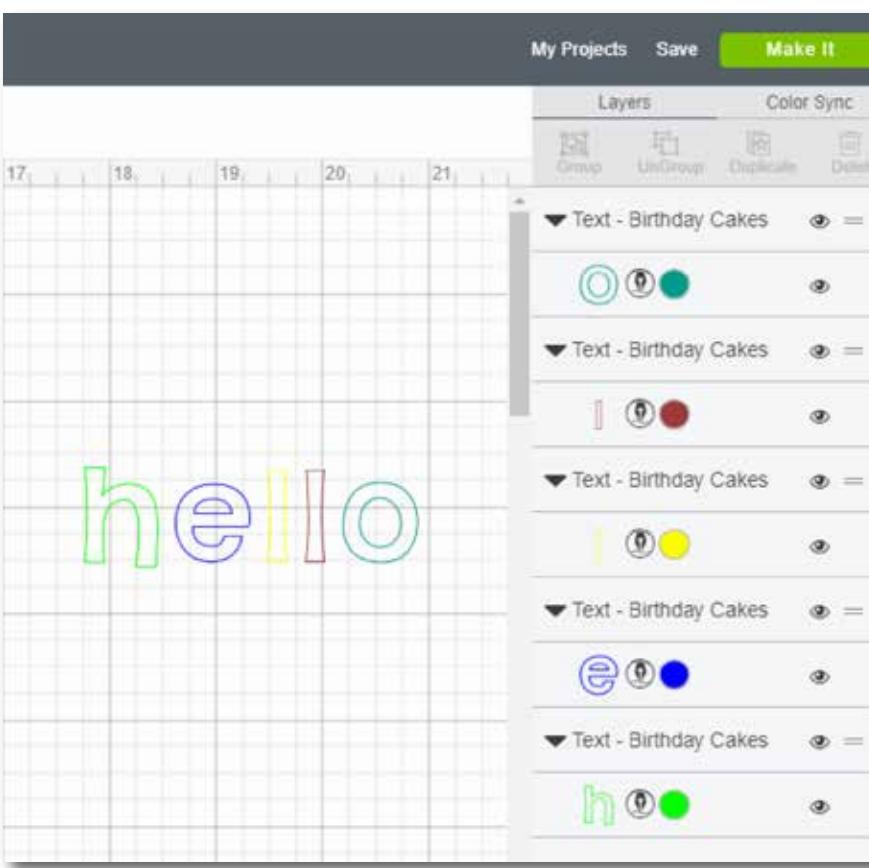
Press the Go button to
resume your cut

7. Swap the pen out then press the Go button on the machine.

Repeat until the design has been completed.

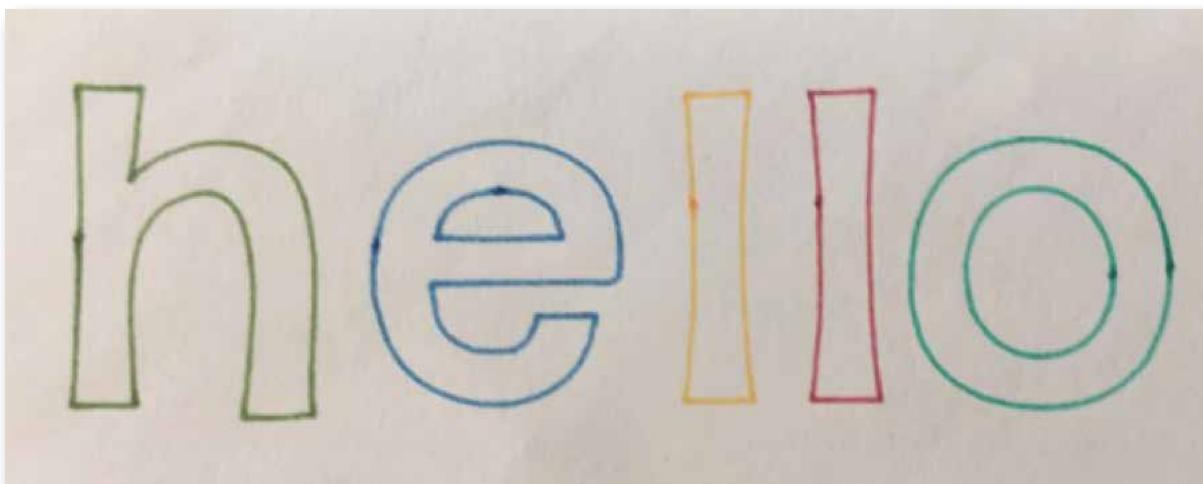
NOTE

The machine does not necessarily draw from left to right, smallest to largest, inside to outside, or in any particular order that I could determine. In the below example, it drew the letters in this order: H L L O E. By assigning colors to the lines, it helped make sure my end project looked how I planned.



NOTE

If you are drawing all in the same color, it doesn't really matter what color you pick from the Layer Attribute, you can leave it as a default of black if you would like. If you're using different colors from what you are picking in the list, just remember what pen you assigned to which color.



1

CRICUT.COM

Find all things Cricut, right on Cricut's website.

EXPLORE AIR 2 RESOURCES

Overview: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-explore-air/overview>

FAQ: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/circut-explore-air>

Accessories: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-explore-air/accessories>

Manuals & Videos: <https://learn.cricut.com/explore-air/manuals>

Setup & Troubleshooting: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-explore-air/setup-and-troubleshooting>

MAKER RESOURCES

Overview: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-maker/overview>

FAQ: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-maker>

Accessories: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-maker/accessories>

Manuals & Videos: <https://learn.cricut.com/maker/manuals>

Setup & Troubleshooting: <http://help.cricut.com/help/machines/cricut-maker/setup-and-troubleshooting>

2

FACEBOOK

Find groups that will help you if you have questions or even if you just want to hang out with people who love their Cricut machines just as much as you do!

Not all groups are created equal. Join a few and try them out for a while. If you're not loving the groups you join, don't be afraid to leave or even start your own! Here are a few groups we recommend:



CRAFT-E-CORNER CRICUT COMMUNITY

tinyurl.com/CricutGroupCEC



CRICUT - THE OFFICIAL PAGE!

<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialCricut/>

3

GET IN CONTACT

Sometimes you just need some help, from a real person. We're here to help!

CRAFT-E-CORNER

Phone: 800-236-3877

Available Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 4 pm Central Time

Text: 920-279-8147

Email: service@craft-e-corner.com

CRICUT

Phone: 877-727-4288

Available Monday-Friday from 9 am - 8 pm Eastern Time

Live Chat: help.cricut.com

Email: support@cricut.com

4

STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES

Need more supplies to keep on crafting? We've got you covered.

Cricut Category: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut

Mats & Blades: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut-Mats-Blades

Tools: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut-Tools

Specialty Media: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut-Specialty-Media

Iron On: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut-Iron-On

Vinyl: tinyurl.com/CEC-Cricut-Vinyl