Super Simple Settlers of Catan Board

by **solobo** on March 29, 2014

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Intro: Super Simple Settlers of Catan Board

Settlers of Catan is arguably one of the most awesome board games you will ever play. The problem is, the game will run you about $40. Want an expansion pack? Another $20-$40.

It's worth it, of course. But if you happen to be one of the few people on this planet who A) wants to settle the beautiful land of Catan , B) doesn't want to spend $40, and C) has access to a laser cutter, then this instructable is for you.

About the board:

I have tried to make this a bare-bones version. The tiles are standard size (3 1/8" edge to edge). All of the graphics are vector-type, so they will be scored, not rastered. This makes the laser operation very fast (15 minutes or so with 1/8" thick MDF from home depot).

In the future I plan to try some fancier stuff, but if you just want to get settling as quickly as possible, this is the way to go.

Note: This instructable is for the board only.

I plan to come up with an easy way to make nice cards and gamepieces as well, and will be posting more instructables as I do so, but for now, stick with your sharpie-marked playing cards and pennies. Or, as I have done, go to a craft store, pick up some little wood pieces and card stock, and go to town with some paint and home-made stencils.

I made it at Techshop (techshop.ws)

Step 1: Hit "Go"

That's basically all you have to do. Choose your material (card stock, plywood, or 1/8" MDF from home depot) and tell your laser to cut. If you're familiar with laser cutters, all you need to know is:

1. The files are attached
2. Size is 17.9" high, 20.7" wide
3. Score the red lines
4. Cut the black lines

If you're less familiar with lasers, here is a more detailed explanation:

There are three files attached. They are all in PDF form (which can be opened with just about any vector based program used to perform laser cuts). They are all vector files, which means they can be cut with a laser.
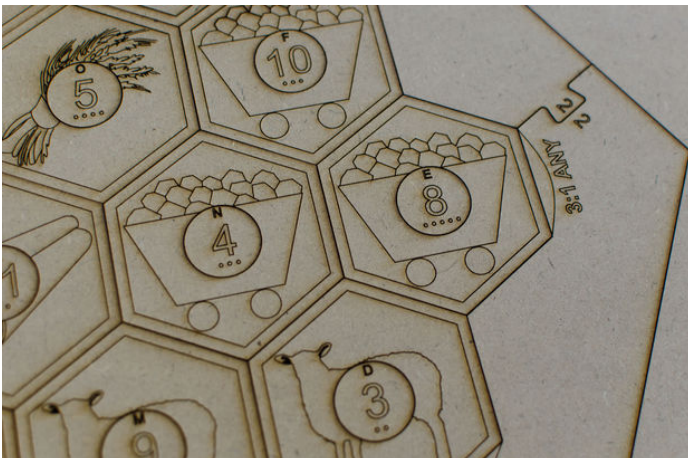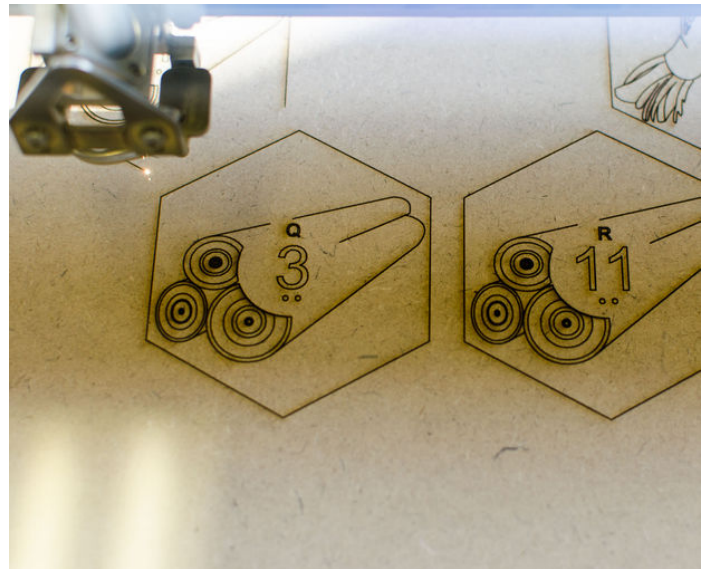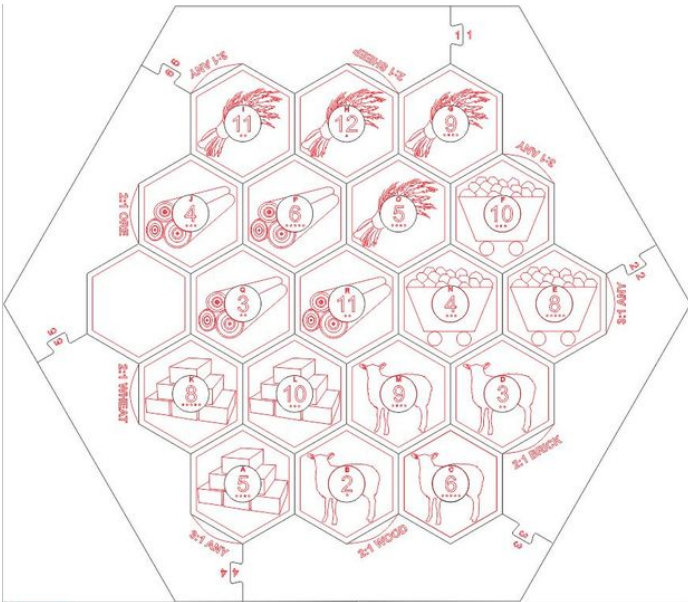
- "Catan-Cuts&Scores" (contains both red and black lines)
- "Catan-CutsOnly" (contains only the black lines)
- "Catan-ScoresOnly" (contains only the red lines)

Here is how to use them:

1. Open the "Catan-ScoresOnly" file. Set your laser settings such that they will only cut partway through your material. If the recommended settings for your material say to use a speed of 35 and a power of 90, for example, you could either change your speed to 90 (so that the laser moves faster and thus doesn't have time to cut as deep) or change your power to 35 (so that the laser doesn't cut as deep as it moves). Start the laser. Scoring took my laser 5-10 minutes on 1/8" MDF.
2. Open the "Catan-CutsOnly" file. Set your laser settings such that they will cut all the way through the material. In my case, I used the same settings as I did for scoring, but repeated the cuts twice in order to cut all the way through. Cutting took my laser 10-15 minutes on 1/8" MDF.

Optionally, some laser cutters allow you to set different speed and power settings based on color. If you want to do this, use the "Catan-Cuts&Scores" file.

That's it. Stay tuned for more instructables on making cards, game pieces, and a better box to hold everything. Have fun!

File Downloads

Catan-Cuts&Scores.pdf (473 KB)
[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'Catan-Cuts&Scores.pdf']

Catan-CutsOnly.pdf (380 KB)
[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'Catan-CutsOnly.pdf']

Catan-ScoresOnly.pdf (469 KB)
[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'Catan-ScoresOnly.pdf']

Related Instructables

Paint on acrylic laser etched Settlers of Catan game by michiexile
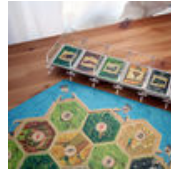

Custom Catan Frame and Tiles by sjbrown

Custom Laser Cut Catan Board (Photos) by scoochmaroo

Laser Cut Settler's board by mattlapaglia

Settlers of Catan card holder (Photos) by scoochmaroo

Settlers of Catan playing board by lakazdi

Comments

4 comments   **Add Comment**

NEIN says:
Very nice, but I don't see any vector files attached?

Apr 4, 2014. 3:19 PM **REPLY**

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solobo says:
Neither do I! I've tried uploading them again, and it looks like I was successful this time. Let me know if they still don't show up. Sorry about that.

Apr 7, 2014. 8:53 PM **REPLY**

Danger is my middle name says:
Nice, I like how it all fits together so nicely!

Mar 31, 2014. 4:27 PM **REPLY**

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solobo says:
thanks!

Apr 1, 2014. 5:19 AM **REPLY**