How to use Cricut

to make T-Shirts

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What is Cricut?

Cricut is a brand of cutting machines for homecraft, DIY, and designing.

It is able to cut, draw, score, and engrave paper, felt, vinyl, leather, and wood.

This tutorial will use:

- Cricut Explore 3
- EasyPress 2, EasyPress Mat, Fine Point Blade
- 2 colors of Smart Iron-On vinyl material.
- A safety knife

This Tutorial will Help you Design a T-Shirt

Getting Situated

1. Gather your equipment:
   a. Cricut Explore 3, EasyPress 2, press mat, and safety knife.
2. Gather your materials:
   a. Smart Iron-On Vinyl sheets, and t-shirts
3. Open your web browser.
4. Download Cricut Design Space at https://design.cricut.com/
5. Search for your Cricut machine(s) (Cricut Explore 3 and Easy Press 2).
6. Select your machine and begin a download of the Design Space platform.
7. Open the Cricut Design Space.
8. Open Canvas.
   a. A blank page with grids should open.

1st Method – Creating your Design in Canvas

1. Click on the "Text" tab from the vertical menu on the left.
2. Type 2 separate lines: " Youth Leadership Institute" and "Use Your Voice"
3. Change the font if necessary.
4. Resize the 1st block of text to be 15cm wide.
5. Resize the 2nd block of text to be slightly smaller.
6. Position the 2 blocks of text strategically.
   a. If applicable, select both of them and click "Weld" on the bottom right of the screen.

(15 cm)   *(9cm)*

[Youth Leadership Institute]   +   [Use Your Voice]

2nd Method – Incorporating Outside Media

1. Click on the "Upload" tab from the vertical menu on the left.
2. Click on "Upload an Image"
3. Select a .png of the yli icon.
4. Select Simple, Moderately Complex, or Complex
   a. If you are unsure which one, choose complex
5. Remove the image's background if needed or applicable.
6. Resize the image as needed per centimeter.

15 cm

15 cm

3rd Method – Using Premade Cricut Designs

1. Click on the "Images" tab from the vertical menu on the left.
2. Utilize the search bar or filters to find a design that speaks to you.
3. Select an image to place onto your grid.
   a. Simple shapes and designs are sometimes easier to find than to make from scratch.
4. Click and drag the bottom right corner of the image to resize it.
   a. Size the image to fit your needs, 10cm should be suitable.
5. Repeat this process if additional designs are desired.

Printing the Design

1. Press "Make It" on the top right of the screen.
2. Select "Without Mat" or "On Mat"
3. Review your image, before it gets printed, and mirror the image if needed.
   a. Mirroring is important because you don't want text to be backwards!
4. Select your Base Material: Smart Iron-On
   a. Pressure can be set at Default
5. Load the Fine-Point Blade into clamp B if necessary.
6. Load materials and press the "Load/Unload" button
7. Press "Go" on the Cricut Machine
8. Cut off the extra vinyl material once the machine has finished printing.

Pressing the Design onto a T-Shirt

1. Remove the opaque vinyl layer from the transparent designed layer.
2. Set the EasyPress aside, set the temperature to 145°C and timer to 30 sec.
   a. The EasyPress will beep once the temperature is ready.
3. Use the heated press to smoothen out the shirt before moving forward.
4. Set the transparent piece of vinyl, with the design facing down, onto the shirt.
5. Set the EasyPress onto the design.
6. Start the 30 second timer by pressing the Cricut button.
   a. The EasyPress will beep once the timer has finished.
7. Flip the shirt onto its other side
8. Continue on next slide.

Pressing the Design onto a T-Shirt cont.

9. Place the EasyPress onto the flipped side of the shirt.
10. Decrease the timer to 15 sec.
11. Press the Cricut button and wait for the beep.
12. Remove the EasyPress and flip the shirt back to its design side.
13. Peel off the transparent film, leaving the design on the fabric.
14. Repeat this process with other designs.
15. You have successfully pressed a design onto a t-shirt using Cricut!