Vinyl cutter to T-shirt manual
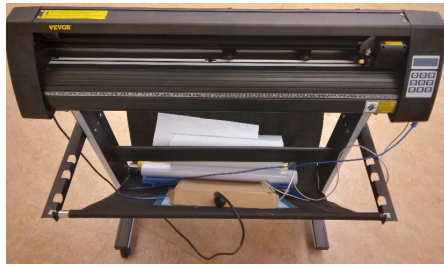
Our Vevor vinyl cutter from the front	Our Vevor vinyl cutter from an isometric perspective

Manual for using the Vevor vinyl cutter to create a T-shirt

Procedure:

1. Install Inkcut
2. Setup Inkcut
3. Connect the vinyl cutter
4. Find suitable foil
5. Place foil of vinyl cutter
6. Set up Inkcut connection
7. Use Inkcut
8. Transfer vinyl to T-shirt

1. Install Inkcut

- See Install Inkcut notes for the notes behind this

Install the Debian packages:

```
apt-get install python3-pip python3-pyqt5 python3-setuptools libcups2-dev python3-pyqt5.qtsv
```

Create a (mandatory!) virtual environment for Inkcut:

```
python3 -m venv ~/inkcut_venv
```

Install the Inkcut and PyQt5 Python packages in the virtual environment"

```
~/inkcut_venv/bin/pip install inkcut PyQt5
```

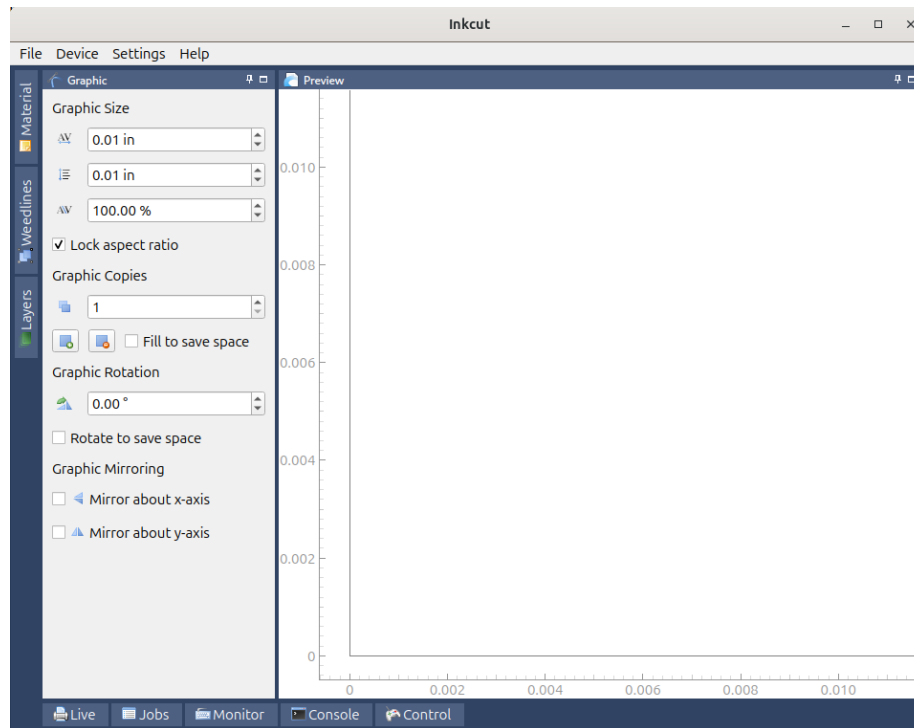Now you can start `inkcut` with:

```
~/inkcut_venv/bin/inkcut
```


Figure 1: inkcut in action

2. Setup Inkcut

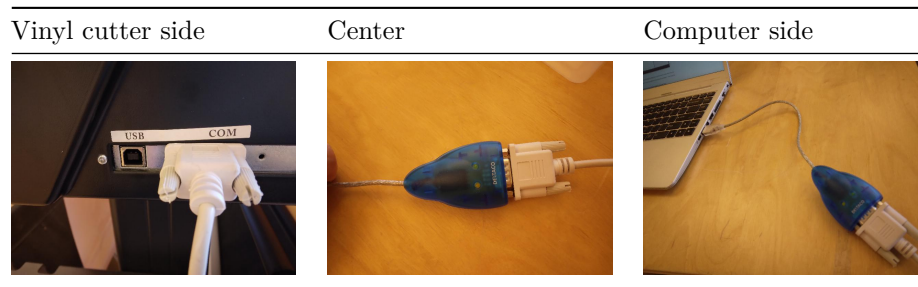- See Setup Inkcut notes for the notes behind this

Add yourself to the `dialout` group:

```
sudo usermod -a -G dialout "$USER"
```

Restart (yes, a cold boot!).

3. Connect the vinyl cutter

Plug in the correct USB cable from the vinyl cutter to your computer:

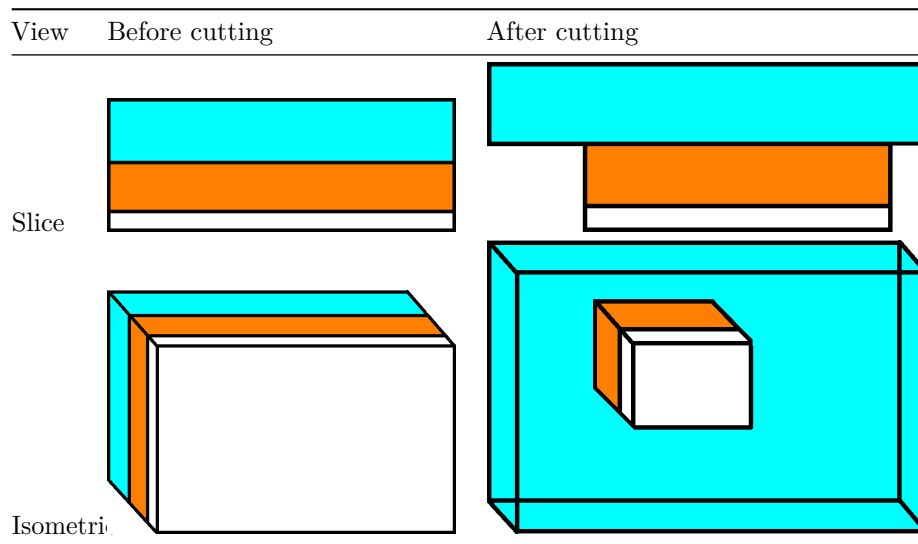| Vinyl cutter side	Center	Computer side

4. Find suitable foil

Suitable foil looks like this:

- The foil feels smoother than a sticker
- The foil is shinier than a sticker

5. Place foil of vinyl cutter

Place the foil on the vinyl cutter, with the white side up.

View	Before cutting	After cutting
Slice		
Isometric		

Structure of the foil and what will be cut away. Light-blue: thick, transparent layer, do not cut, can be separated from orange layer by hand. Orange: the color of the print. White: the glue connecting the print to the T-shirt

The knife cuts the white and colored layer only. The thick and transparent layer needs to remain intact.

Figure 2: Transfer foil ready for transfer

6. Set up Inkcut connection

Go to the 'Configure device | Connection':

- Type: Serial port
- Port: `ttyUSB0`. If you cannot select `ttyUSB0`, you've used the wrong USB cable coming out of the vinyl cutter :-)
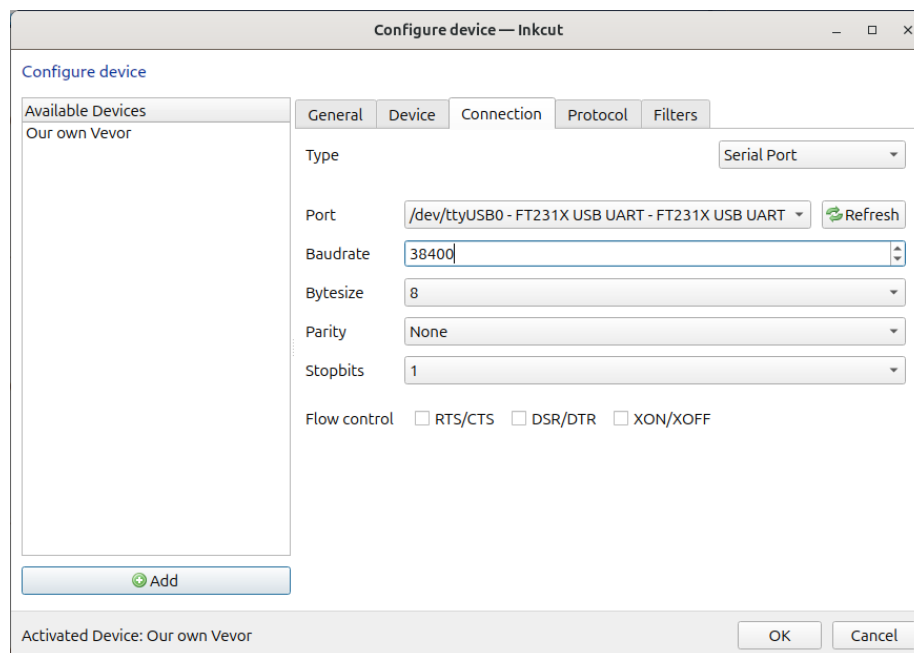- Baudrate: 38400

Figure 3: Use the serial port with a baudrate of 38400

Use the serial port with a baudrate of 38400. If you cannot select `ttyUSB0`, you've used the wrong USB cable coming out of the vinyl cutter

7. Use Inkcut

Inkcut in action

8. Transfer vinyl to T-shirt

Put the remainder of the foil on the T-shirt, with the colorful side up.

Press not yet ready. It shoud say `T=160/160C`. A temperature from 155 to 165 degrees Celcius would also be fine.
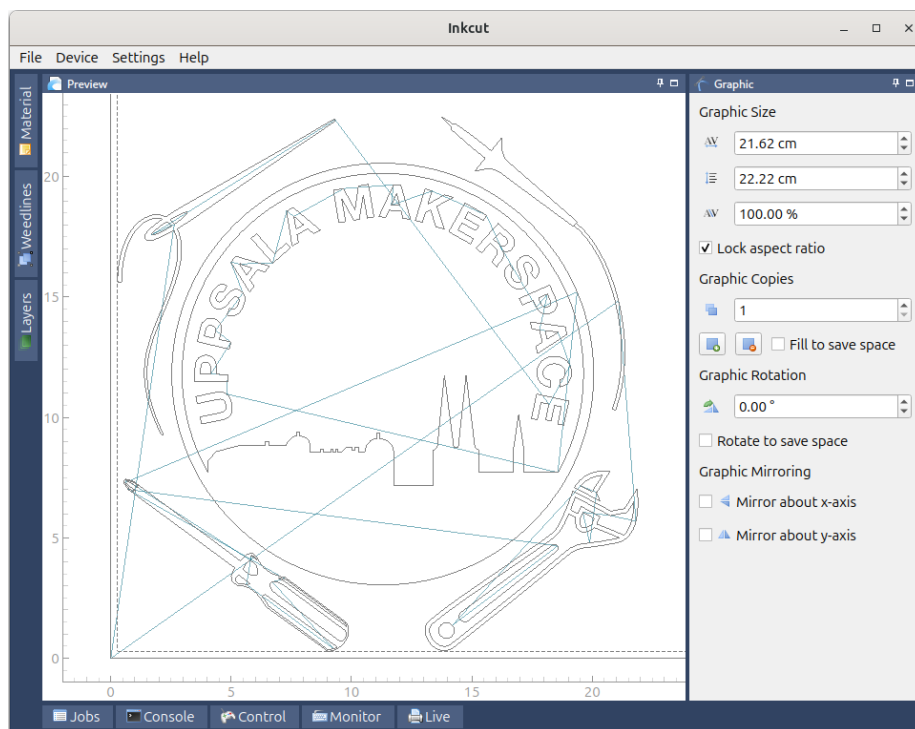
Heat up the heat press, this takes about 15 minutes.

Figure 4: Inkcut in action

Figure 5: Press not yet ready

Place the T-shirt under the press, with the foil at the right spot.

When the heat press is warmed up, lower the press. After around 20 seconds, the press will start to beep. Raise the press again.

Wait for the print to cool off.

Carefully peel off the transparent layer from the shirt.

Done!

Troubleshooting

The vinyl cutter is confused

Figure 6: The vinyl cutter is confused

This may happen when you send multiple prints at the same time. Press reset, close Inkcut, press reset, start Inkcut and try again