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Self-Paced Tutorial

Hand-Written Vinyl

Topic Area:

General Interest

Duration:

30-60 minutes

Difficulty Level:

Easy

Materials:

- Cricut Maker 3
- Fine-point blade
- StandardGrip mat
- Copy paper
- Thick/bold markers
- Vinyl
- Material cutter

Creating the Original Image:

1. Using thick or bold markers, draw or write text on plain copy paper. Make sure any marks are solid. These show up better than marks that are not completely filled in. Creations where text and drawings are crowded or touching will not transfer well.





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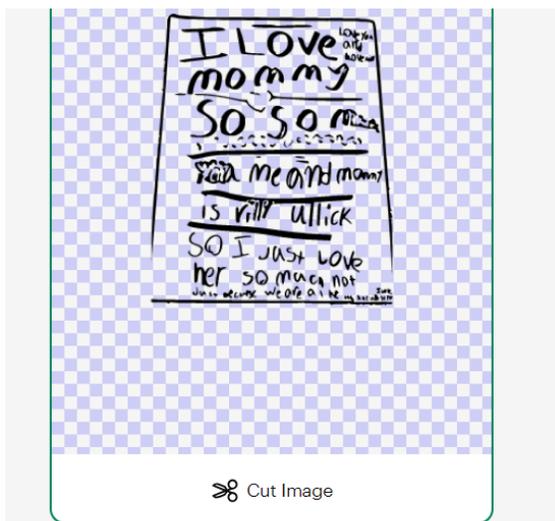
2. When everything is complete, take a photograph of the original artwork in good lighting or scan the image.

Editing in Design Space:

1. Convert the creation to an svg using a file converter [website](#). Play around with the outline settings until you get the most solid lines. When you are satisfied with the svg, download the file.
2. In Cricut Design Space, create a new project. Click the upload icon on the far left menu, then “upload image,” and select the photograph of your artwork.



3. You should be left with a cut image.





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4. Then, select the image to add to the canvas.
5. Because the image is an svg, you can delete parts of the image. Double click on each part of the image that you don't want to isolate and delete. Be mindful of parts of the image that are connected and unable to be separated. You can also click on the downward facing carrot in the layers menu to see all the individual parts of the image and delete these layers.

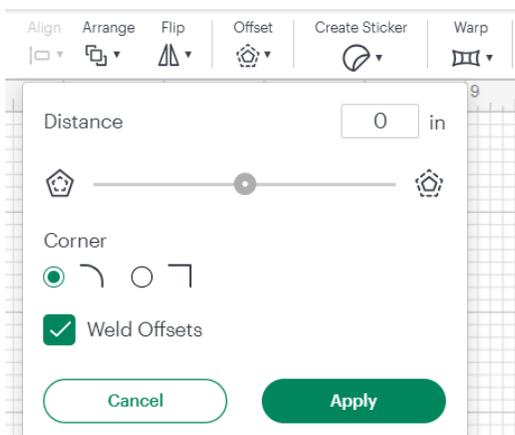
Layers

Color Sync



- ▼ abby2
 - abby2
Basic Cut
 - abby2
Basic Cut

6. Make any changes that are needed like spacing out, re-sizing, re-coloring, etc. Verify that the image is set to the operation "basic cut."
7. Click on the item and select "offset from the top menu." Change the offset to 0 and make sure that you have selected curved edges and weld offsets. Then, click apply.





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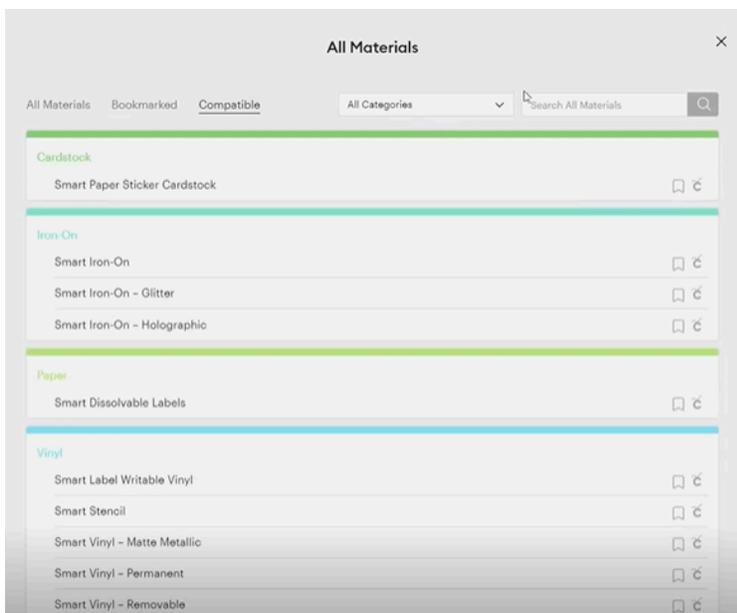
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8. Drag the offset away from the original design. Then, either delete or hide the original design.



Cutting Your Design

1. Once the design has been finalized, select “Make” and confirm that the design will be created on the mat or without the mat if you are using Smart materials.
2. Select the number of project copies you will need.
3. If you are using heat transfer vinyl, be sure to mirror your design.
4. Gather your mat (if using) and vinyl. If adding vinyl to the mat, use the material cutter to cut the desired size of vinyl and firmly adhere to the mat.
5. When materials are ready to go and all details have been confirmed, click “Continue.”
6. Select the material type. You will need to search for and choose the appropriate level of vinyl. Be sure to choose the correct one so that the settings on the machine are correct and to reduce the chance of damage to the machine.





7. Place the mat or the smart vinyl, within the material guides, and press the flashing load/unload button. The machine will take up the material and measure the mat/material length.
8. When scanning is complete, press the flashing go button. If using multiple mats or materials, you will be prompted when it is time to switch.
9. After the operations are completed, unload the mat/material by pressing the flashing load/unload button.

Weeding the Design

1. If you have multiple mats, you can begin this process while you are cutting to make down time more productive.
2. Do a first major weed by lifting and pulling off the excess. Then, take the weeding tool and remove the more intricate pieces.
3. When all the unwanted vinyl has been removed, cut a piece of transfer tape about the size of the design. Remove the paper backing and place the sticky side over the design. Use the scraper tool and scrape the transfer tape over the design. Then, flip the design over and scrape that side to firmly adhere the design.



4. Then, carefully peel the transfer tape, making sure that your design vinyl is attached securely to the transfer tape.



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Attaching the Design

1. Take the material you will be attaching your design to. Use a lint roller, tape, or lint free cloth and clean the item to remove any debris.
2. Determine where the design is going to be placed and carefully place the vinyl attached to the transfer tape onto the design. Use your fingers to smooth out any bubbles. If the material has curved surfaces, you may want to try modifying the technique, such as cutting the design into smaller pieces to line up and apply, etc.
3. Once your design is complete, show off and enjoy this special piece!

