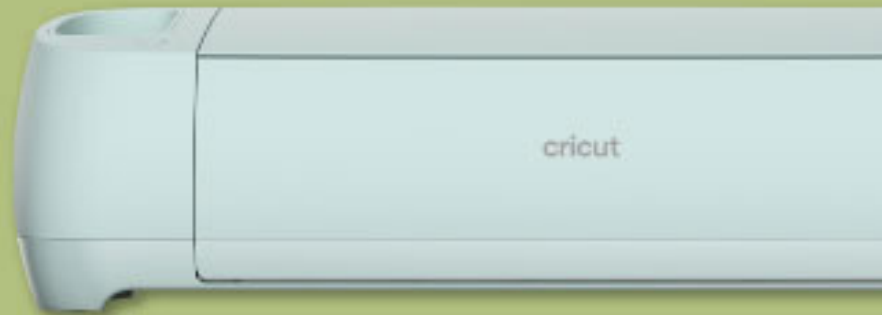
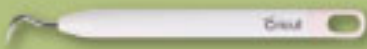


GETTING STARTED

WITH CRICUT EXPLORE 3





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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Cricut Explore 3! We are so excited for you to unpack the possibilities that lie with Cricut Explore 3. You can cut, draw, score and more with jaw-dropping speed and precision. Cricut Explore 3 is compatible with Cricut Smart Materials for super-easy, super-long cuts up to 12 feet long, all without a cutting mat. Cricut Explore 3 works with six different tools for cutting and embellishing 100+ materials, including cardstock, vinyl, iron-on, glitter paper, cork, bonded fabric and more. Your creativity is about to skyrocket with this DIY dream machine!

With so many possibilities of what to create, we know it can be overwhelming sometimes to get started with your machine. We are here to help! We are Craft-e-Corner, a family-owned online craft store and Cricut retailer. We are so grateful that you chose to purchase your machine through us! We are here to help you get started with your new Cricut Explore 3. In this eBook, we'll walk through everything you need to know to get started — from unboxing your machine and getting it set-up, all the way to making your first project. Let's get started!



CUTS 100+ MATERIALS

Cricut Explore 3 can cut over 100+ materials, ranging from cardstock, vinyl, and iron-on to glitter paper and bonded fabric. There are so many possibilities of what you can create! To see all of the compatible materials, head to cricut.com/materials

WORKS WITH SMART MATERIALS

Cricut Explore 3 is now compatible with all-new Smart Materials for super-long, super-precise cuts up to 12 feet long all without a cutting mat. We will cover Smart Materials later on in the book if you'd like to learn more about them and how to use them with your Cricut Explore 3.

COMPATIBLE WITH 6 TOOLS

Your machine can work with six tools and blades for cutting, writing, foiling and more (sold separately). It works with the Fine-Point blade for cutting a wide variety of popular craft materials, the Foil Transfer Tool to add pro-level foil embellishments and more.

UP TO 2X FASTER

If you're looking for speed, Cricut Explore 3 has got it. It works up to 2x faster than its predecessor when you're working with Smart Materials.

FEATURES OF Cricut Explore 3





Let's get started by simply unboxing Cricut Explore 3 and checking out what comes inside. Before we get started, we wanted to mention that if you purchased a bundle from Craft-e-Corner, those items will be in addition to what you see here. Everything that is listed below is simply what comes in the original Cricut Explore 3 box.

UNBOXING

Cricut Explore 3

ENVELOPE

The first item you'll find is a white envelope. As you open it up, you'll find a few helpful items inside. This is a great place to get started so let's go over the contents inside.



Let's get started.

Activate your machine
cricut.com/setup
For tutorials & troubleshooting,
visit cricut.com/more

Allons-y.

Activer votre machine
cricut.com/setup
Pour des tutoriels et le dépannage,
consultez cricut.com/more

Empecemos.

Activa tu máquina
cricut.com/setup
Para tutoriales y resolución de problemas,
visita cricut.com/more

LET'S GET STARTED

Follow the instructions on this card to activate your machine. We will go over this in a later chapter if you'd like to learn how to set up your machine.

Warranty/FCC Statement
Garantie/Déclaration de la FCC
Garantía/Declaración de la FCC

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Your Cricut machine comes with a one-year warranty. Hold on to this pamphlet in case you need to access this information in the future!

Important Safety Instructions


Please read this entire document prior to setting up, operating, and servicing your Cricut® smart cutting machine. Please follow the enclosed instructions, safety instructions, and other official Cricut instructional materials. For more safety and compliance information, go to cricut.com/safety. In these instructions the term "Machine" means Cricut Maker® 3.



WARNING: Risk of Injury, Fire, and Electric Shock.
Operating Machine in a manner not described in the enclosed instructions, online instructions, and other official Cricut materials may result in damage to the Machine, property, damage, injury, or even death.



Please note the following safety-related symbols appear on the Machine and Power Supply.

 **For Indoor Use Only.** Machine is to be used in dry indoor locations only.

INDOOR USE ONLY. MACHINE IS INTENDED FOR INDOOR USE IN DRY LOCATIONS ONLY. DO NOT USE IN OR NEAR WATER. DO NOT IMMERGE IN WATER OR ANY OTHER LIQUID.
Machine is intended to be operated by an adult only. Not intended for use by children 12 years or under. Always supervise children around Machine.

Use Machine only for the intended cutting purpose.
Machine is not intended for use by persons with reduced physical, sensory, or cognitive capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they are supervised by a person responsible for their safety and familiar with the safe operation of Machine.

Disconnect the electrical power when not in use by unplugging cord from outlet.
Disconnect the electrical power by unplugging cord from the outlet before servicing or cleaning.

Do not expose Machine to temperatures above 100°C (212°F).
Only clean Machine with a soft cloth dampened with glass cleaner or water. Never use any kind of flammable liquid to clean Machine. Do not use solvents such as acetone or nail polish remover to clean Machine as these will permanently damage Machine's surfaces.

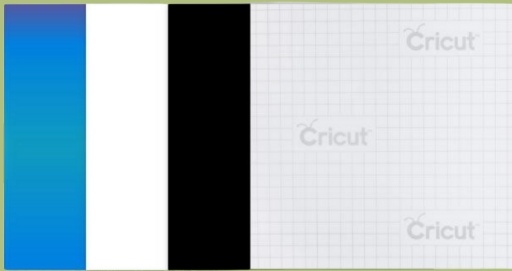
Always unplug Machine before replacing the cutting blade. Blades are extremely sharp and should be handled with caution and extreme care. Presses sharp contact with hands and leads to avoid injury. Do not allow children to handle blades. Blades and other sharp parts are moving parts and should be kept and stored away from children.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Included in this pamphlet are some helpful safety instructions when you're using your machine.

SMART VINYL SAMPLE

When you are setting up your machine, Design Space will walk you through how to make a vinyl sticker. You'll use this piece of Smart Vinyl to make your sticker.



SMART MATERIALS

You will also find a pack of Smart Materials. You'll receive a 13x13" sheet of Smart Iron-On, Smart Vinyl, Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock and then a sheet of Transfer Tape.



POWER CORD

The power cord will be at the bottom of your box. It will specifically say "Cricut Explore 3" on it. This is to be used only with the Explore 3.



USB CORD

You can connect your Cricut Explore 3 to your computer using this USB adapter. You'll need to connect to your computer with this during setup but after that, you can connect to your computer with Bluetooth if you prefer.

Note: If you have a Mac computer, make sure you have a USB port. If not, you will need to purchase a USB-C to USB adapter.



CRICUT EXPLORE 3

Last, but certainly not least, you'll find your machine! The Fine-Point blade comes preinstalled in the machine as well.



MACHINE TOUR

STORAGE

You will find two storage compartments on the left-hand side of the machine. These are perfect for storing hand tools, pens and more.

OPEN

To open your machine, select this button.

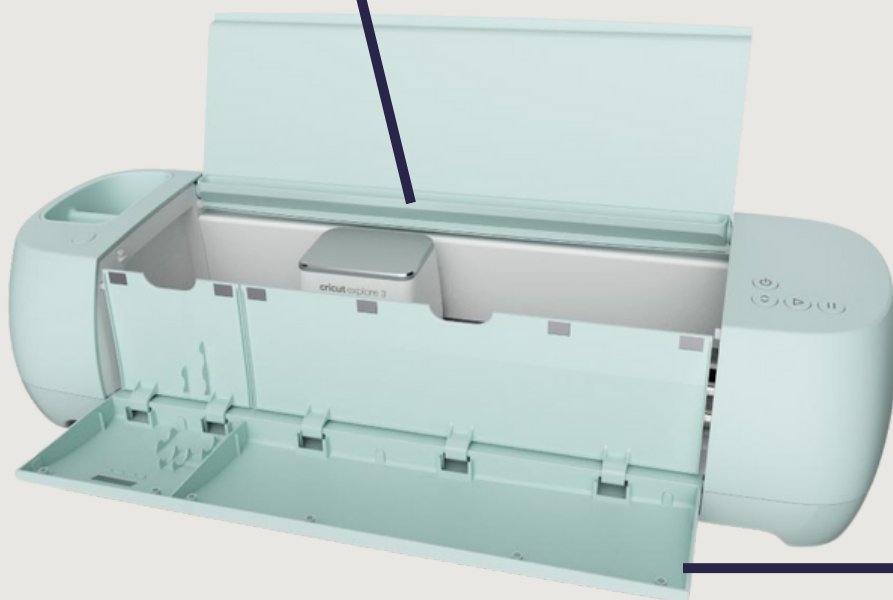
SLOT

There is a slot here to hold your phone or tablet.



LID

To open your machine, lift this lid. You will notice the doors will then open automatically after pressing the open button.



ADDITIONAL STORAGE

When you lift the bottom tray open, you'll find tons of storage underneath! This is great for housing blades and tools.

SENSORS

These sensors help load your mats and Smart Materials.

GUIDES

There are two guides to help load in your mat or Smart Materials. One on the left here and then another on the right.

STAR WHEELS

These white wheels are called "Star Wheels". You can move these when you don't want them to roll over your materials during cutting.

USB

If you need to charge your phone or tablet while you're crafting, you can plug it in here!

POWER

This will turn your machine on and off.

LOAD/ UNLOAD

This button will load and unload mats and Smart Materials.

GO

This will flash when your machine is ready to cut.

PAUSE

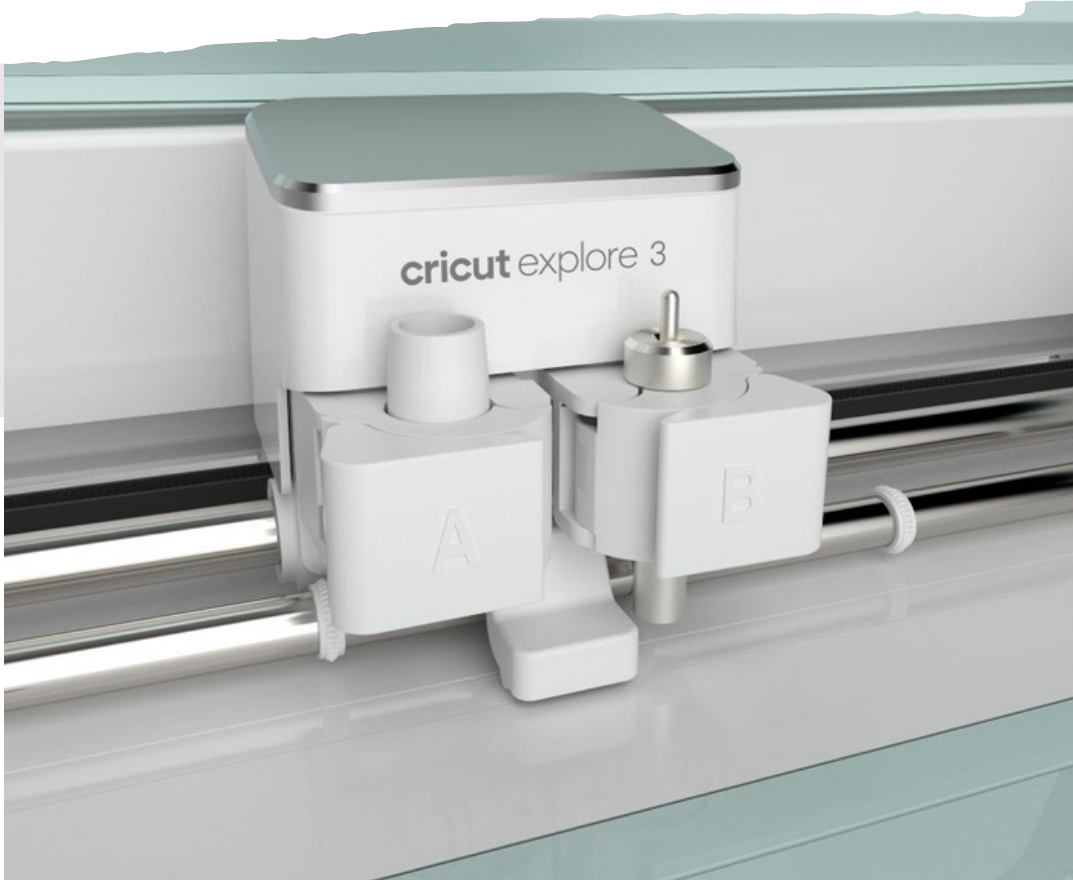
This button will come in handy if you ever need to pause your machine during a cut.

ROLLER

This is what your material feeds under as it's cutting. When you're loading your mats or Smart Materials, you'll push your materials up against here.

TOOL HOLDER

This piece below is called the Tool Holder and it does probably what you would imagine, holds your blades and tools! There are two slots: A and B. To open them, simply undo the clamp.



"A" IS FOR ACCESSORY

In this slot, you will place all of your accessory tools. This would be the Scoring Stylus and pens. Tip: When you're placing accessories in, make sure you listen for a click, then you'll know it's installed correctly.

"B" IS FOR BLADE

All of your blades will go in this slot, such as the Fine-Point Blade, Deep Cut Blade, Foil Transfer Tool, and more. To install these, simply place them in the holder and close the clamp.

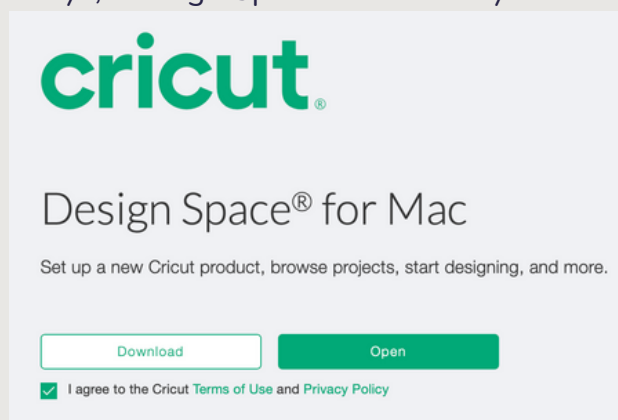
SETTING UP

Now let's get your machine set-up on a computer! You will need these supplies to get started:

- Cricut Explore 3
- USB Cord
 - Note: If your computer does not have a USB port (a lot of Macs do not), you will need to purchase a USB-C to USB cord. You can find them at places like Best Buy, Target or Amazon.
- Power Cord
- Computer
- Sample of Smart Vinyl

Step One: Download Design Space

Design Space is the design software that works with your Cricut machine. Essentially, it communicates with your Cricut to tell it what you want it to do. We will delve more into Design Space later on. For now, start by downloading it at www.cricut.com/setup. You will have to select the "I Agree" box in order to download Design Space. Once you do that, you will be able to select "Download". Then follow the prompts on the screen to finish downloading. Note: Ours says, "Design Space for Mac". If you are using a PC, it will say PC.



Step Two: Select "Product Setup" and Create Cricut ID

The first thing you'll need to do is create a Cricut ID. If you already have one, select "Sign In" and follow the prompts from there. If you do not have a Cricut ID, you can create one here by entering an e-mail address, password, name, and country. You can also opt-in to Cricut's emails here if you would like emails from them. Then select, "Create Cricut ID". You will use this ID every time you log into Design Space. And, as you'll see here in a second, your machine will be registered to your Cricut ID as well.

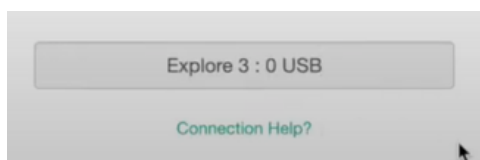
Step Two: Select "Smart Cutting Machine" and then "Cricut Explore 3"



Step Three: Plug in Your Machine

You'll want to make sure you are working on a sturdy surface with your Cricut Explore 3. You will also need to clear at least ten inches of space behind your machine. This is to allow your mats or Smart Materials to feed through your machine without hitting a wall.

Now let's get the machine plugged in. Plug in the USB cord to your machine and then to your computer. Next, plug the power adapter into the Cricut and also into your electrical outlet. When that's finished, go ahead and turn your Explore on. Then your computer should automatically detect your machine. You'll know it's connected to your computer when you can click on the "Continue" button. Now click continue to move on to the next step.



Step Four: Update, Register and Cricut Access

Once you're all connected, the first thing Design Space will do is ensure your machine is up-to-date with the newest software for your machine. Click on "Update" to see if there are any updates. If so, it will automatically download and install them to your machine. This took about a minute for us, but it may vary for you. Once it's finished, you'll be able to select the "Next" button.

Next, register your machine to your Cricut ID. Confirm the email address is correct and then select the box to click on "Continue". Note: if you would like to read Cricut's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, you will be able to do that here.

Lastly, you can choose to opt-in for Cricut Access at this point if you would like to. This is a subscription-based design program from Cricut. It includes over 100,000+ images, 500+ fonts, exclusive features, discounts on licensed content and more. You can read all about it on your screen. Included with your Explore 3 purchase was one-month free of Cricut Access. If you would like to start your free trial, you can select "Start Free Trial" and follow the prompts from there. After your free month, it is \$9.99/month.

It is important to note: you can start your free trial at any time. We recommend not starting it until you are more comfortable with your machine so you can take full advantage of it. If you are not interested, or if you would like to wait to start your trial, you can select, "No Thanks".

Step Five: Project Time! Make a Sticker

It's time to make your first project! Choose one of the designs on the screen that you would like for your sticker. You will also want to grab your sample sheet of Smart Vinyl because we will be using that to make the sticker.

Before we make our project, let's make sure our machine is ready to cut. If you remember from earlier, the Fine-Point blade will come pre-installed in your machine. We highly recommend still taking the blade out and installing it on your own, just to ensure that it is secured. To do this, undo Clamp B, remove your blade and then place it back in and secure the clamp. It's super easy to change out your blades!

Next, insert your Smart Vinyl under the guides and lead it up to the roller. Then while you're pushing it up against the roller, press the flashing Load/Unload button. From here, it will load your material into the machine. And then the moment we are all waiting for — hit the flashing "Go" button to cut! When your test cut is complete, your screen will prompt you to unload the material. Do this by pressing on the flashing Load/Unload button.

Now you can carefully remove your sticker from the sheet with your fingers and apply it to a surface of your choice. Make sure you go nice and slow when you are removing your sticker from the paper backing. And just like that, your very first project with your Cricut Explore 3 is complete! Now we can select, "Start Designing" on our computer. Now that you are all set up, the sky is the limit for your projects!

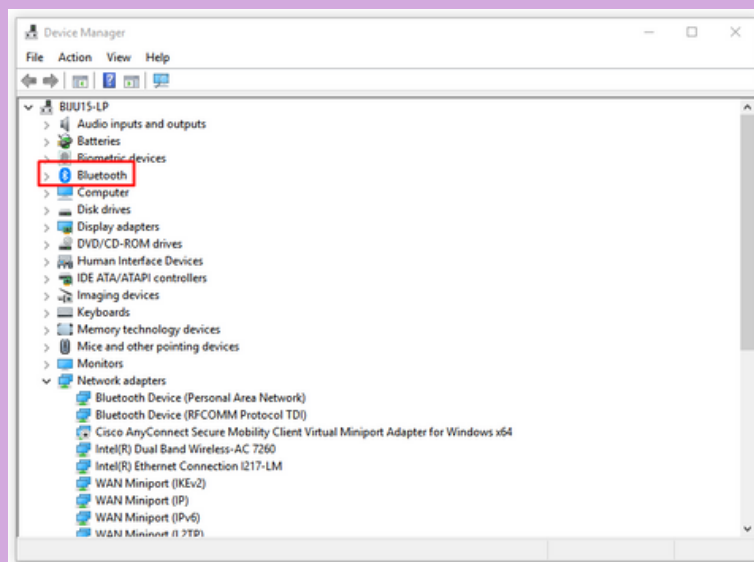
CONNECTING TO BLUETOOTH *windows*

When you are working with your Cricut Explore 3, you can connect to Design Space a few different ways. You can connect to your computer with the USB cord, like we just did during set-up, or you can connect to your phone, computer or tablet over Bluetooth. If you are wanting to use a phone or tablet, you will need to download the Design Space application.

Over the next few pages, we are going to walk through how to pair your Explore machine via Bluetooth on Windows, Mac, iOS and Android. Simply find your computer or phone to learn how to pair via Bluetooth.

WINDOWS

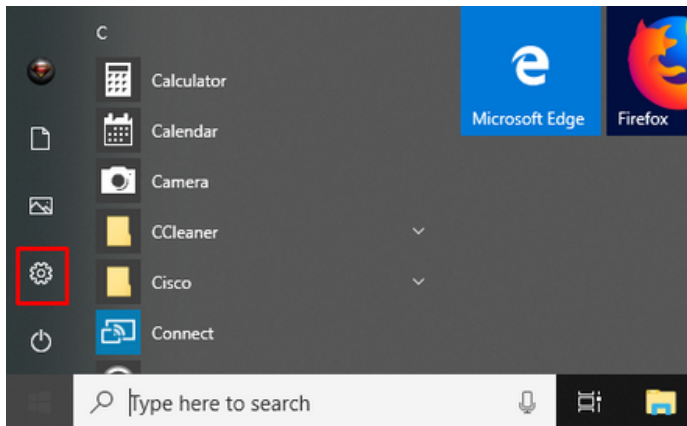
1. Ensure your Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machine is powered on and within 10-15 feet of your computer.
2. Most computers are Bluetooth enabled. However, to determine whether your computer is Bluetooth enabled, right click on the Start button and select **Device Manager**.
3. If Bluetooth is listed, your computer is Bluetooth enabled. If not, you will need to purchase a USB device called a **Bluetooth Dongle** to enable your computer to talk to other Bluetooth devices.



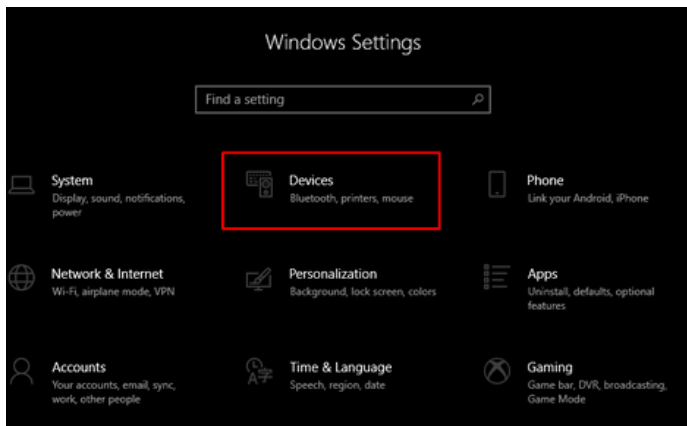
Note: We have learned that CSR (Cambridge Silicone Radio) Bluetooth Dongles do not work with Cricut machines. If you need a Bluetooth dongle for your computer, we suggest acquiring one that supports audio devices. We cannot guarantee that all dongles will pair with Cricut machines, but those that support audio devices are often able to pair successfully.

4. Close **Device Manager**.

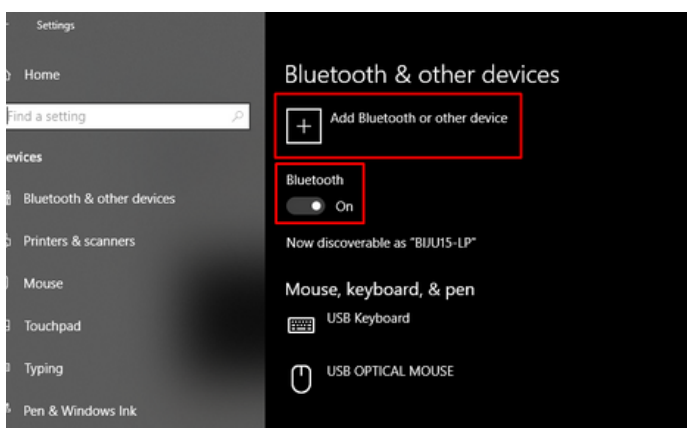
5. Open the **Start** menu and select **Settings**.



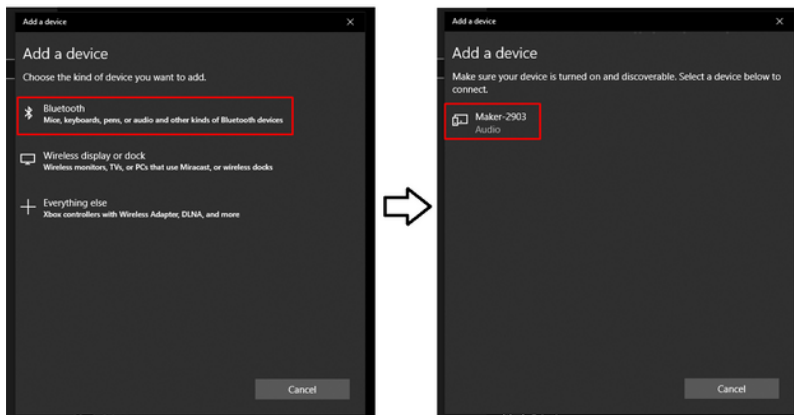
6. Open the **Devices** option.



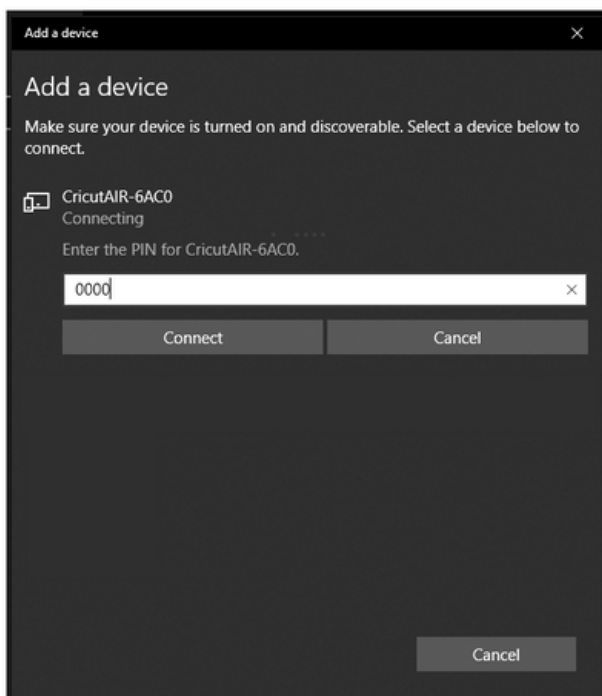
7. Ensure that Bluetooth is on and click "**Add Bluetooth or other device**".



8. Select **Bluetooth** and wait for the computer to detect your Cricut machine. Select your machine from the list.



9. If you're prompted to enter a PIN, type **0000**. Then select **Connect**. You shouldn't need to enter a pin, but just in case — we wanted to let you know.

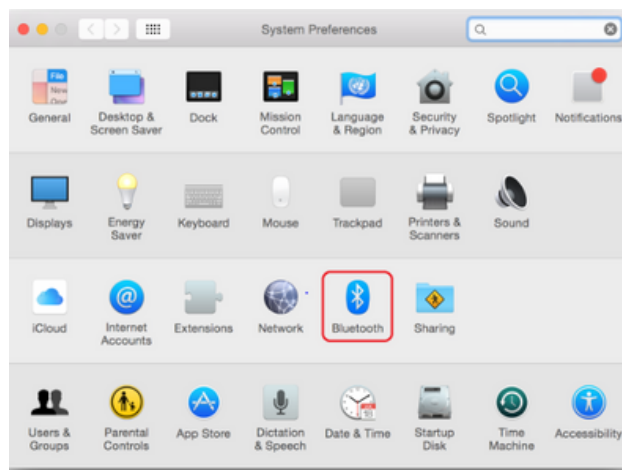


10. Your Cricut Explore 3 is now paired with your Windows computer!

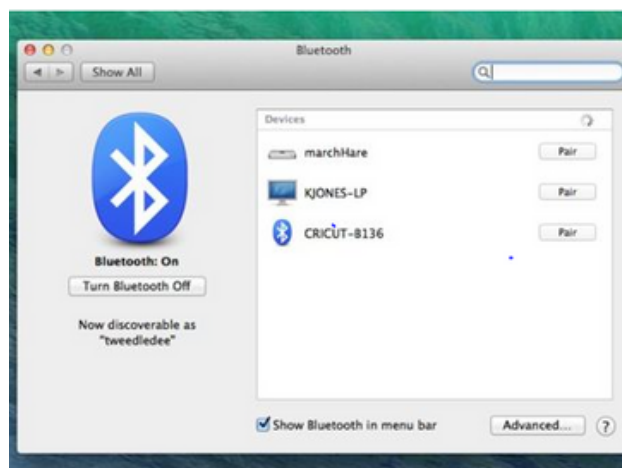
CONNECTING TO BLUETOOTH *mac*

MAC

1. Ensure your Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machine is powered on and within 10-15 feet of your computer.
2. Most computers are Bluetooth enabled. However, to determine whether your computer is **Bluetooth** enabled, open **Apple Menu > System Preferences** and look for the Bluetooth option.



3. Open the Bluetooth window. If Bluetooth is off, click the button to turn it on. Select your adapter/Bluetooth module name from the list.
4. Select Pair. If you're prompted to enter a PIN, type **0000**. Then select **Connect**. You shouldn't need to enter a pin, but just in case — we wanted to let you know.



5. Pairing is now complete.

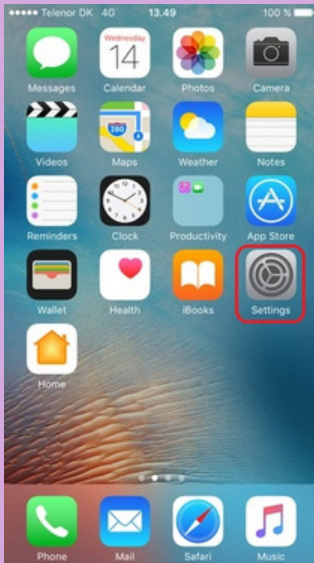
Note: The Mac computer will not always show "Connected" unless the program is communicating with the machine during a cut.

Tip: It is normal for Cricut machines to show up as Audio in the list. If you have multiple Cricut machines, you can identify the one you want to pair using its device code. This can be found on the bottom of the machine on the serial number tag.



CONNECTING TO BLUETOOTH *iOS*

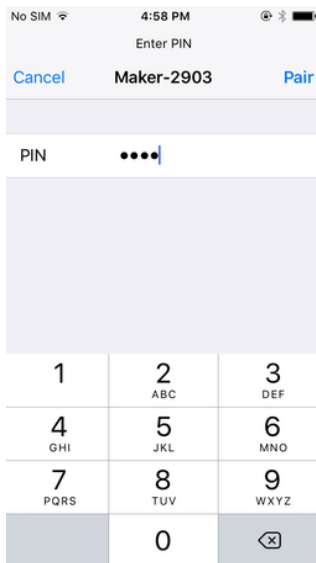
1. Ensure your Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machine is powered on and within 10-15 feet of your mobile device.
2. Open **Settings > Bluetooth**.



3. If Bluetooth is off, tap it to turn it on. The button will be green when it's on.
4. Select your adapter/Bluetooth module name from the list (You will find the name of your adapter in your packaging materials.)



5. If prompted to enter a pin, type pin 0000, then tap Pair.



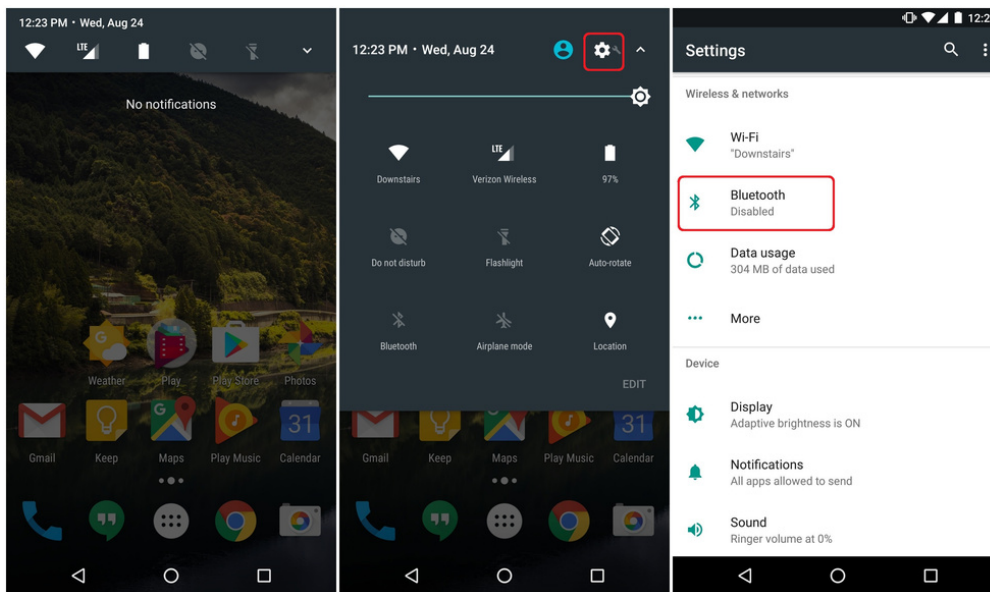
6. Pairing is now complete.

Tip: It is normal for Cricut Maker or Cricut Explore machines to show up as Audio in the list. If you have multiple Cricut machines, you can identify the one you want to pair using its device code. This can be found on the bottom of the machine on the serial number tag.

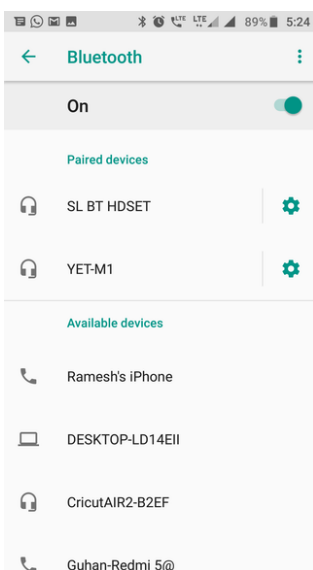


CONNECTING TO BLUETOOTH *android*

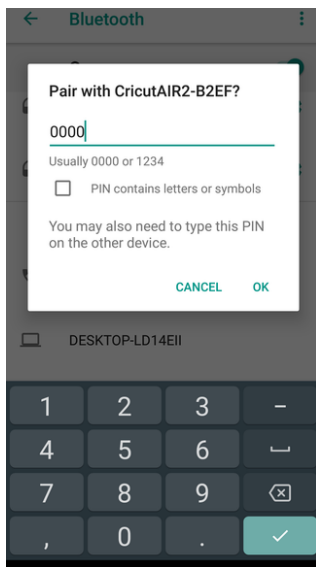
1. Ensure your Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machine is powered on and within 10-15 feet of your mobile device.
2. Open **Settings > Bluetooth**.



3. If Bluetooth is off, tap it to turn it on.
4. Select your adapter/Bluetooth module name from the list (you will find the name of your adapter in your packaging materials).



5. If prompted to enter a pin, type pin 0000, then select OK.



6. Pairing is now complete.

Note: The menu navigation may vary based on your Android device's manufacturer and Android version. Please refer to your Android device manual for more help or contact our Member Care team through one of the options below.

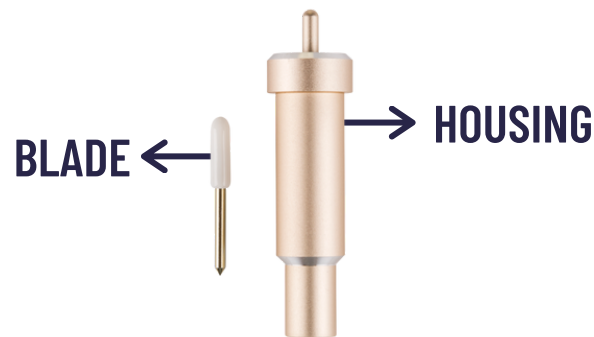
Tip: It is normal for Cricut Maker or Cricut Explore machines to show up as Audio in the list. If you have multiple Cricut machines, you can identify the one you want to pair using its device code. This can be found on the bottom of the machine on the serial number tag.



BLADES + TOOLS

THERE ARE 6 COMPATIBLE BLADES AND TOOLS

to use with the Cricut Explore 3. Over the next few pages, we will introduce you to each blade and also share what kinds of materials you would want to use them for. Before we get there, let's familiarize you with some of the terminology of these blades.



Housing: Your blade or tip resides inside the housing unit. The housing, with the blade installed, is what gets inserted into your machine. When you go to replace your blade in the future, you will replace the blade and continue using your housing.

Blade: This is where the magic happens! The blades are what do the cutting, foiling, or whatever else you may be doing. You may also see this referred to as "tip" or "tool", depending on what the blade is. For example, there is an Engraving Tip and the Foil Transfer Tool. It's the same thing, just different names occasionally.

COMPATIBLE BLADES + TOOLS



Fine-Point Blade

The Fine-Point blade is used for your everyday materials, like paper, cardstock, poster board, vinyl, iron-on, infusible ink, and more. It's the most popular blade to use with Cricut machines.



Deep Point Blade

The Deep Point blade has a steeper blade angle and harder, more durable steel which allows you to cut thicker materials such as magnet, stiffened felt, cardboard and more.



Bonded-Fabric Blade

This blade is recommended for more intricate cuts on bonded fabrics or fabrics with an iron-on backer.



Foil Transfer Tool

This tool is used with Foil Transfer Sheets to add foil effects to projects on a variety of materials. It comes with three interchangeable tips: fine, medium and bold - perfect for simple outlines to intricate designs.



Scoring Stylus

The Scoring Stylus lets you use your Cricut machine to score fold lines for cards, envelopes, boxes, 3D projects and more.

COMPATIBLE BLADES + TOOLS



Roll Holder

Cricut Roll Holder works with Cricut Explore 3 to manage rolls of Smart Materials and keep them perfectly aligned during cutting. It also features a trimmer to cut your material when finished.



COMPATIBLE MATS



12"x24"

There are four different mats available to use with your Cricut Explore 3. Each mat serves a different purpose and is made to be used with different materials. As you can see, all of the mats are available in two sizes: 12"x12" and 12"x24". You can easily identify each of the mats by their color.

LightGrip Mat (Blue): This mat is ideal for your light-weight materials, such as cardstock paper, scrapbook paper, vellum and adhesive vinyl. This mat will firmly hold your materials in place, yet still allow for easy removal of these lighter weight materials.

StandardGrip Mat (Green): This mat is perfect for a wide range of medium-weight materials, such as cardstock, iron-on/HTV, Infusible Ink, kraft board and more. This may be the most widely used mat.

StrongGrip Mat (Purple): If you're working with materials like chipboard, mat board, leather or basswood, you'll need the StrongGrip Mat. It's engineered for heavyweight materials.

FabricGrip Mat (Pink): This mat is perfect for all fabrics, including bonded fabrics and unbacked fabrics. It has a light adhesive that was designed specifically to secure your fabrics with easy release.



12"x12"





SMART MATERIALS 101

Smart Materials are clever crafting materials that work without a cutting mat, so you can just load the material directly into your Cricut Explore 3 machine and go. Smart Materials come in a variety of types, including Smart Vinyl, Smart Iron-On, and Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock.

When working with Smart Materials, Cricut Explore 3 can cut a single image or repeated cuts up to 11.7 inches wide and 12 feet long. For all other materials, the size of your mat would limit the size of your design.

Smart Materials come adhered to a special backer that can feed through the Cricut Explore 3 without the need for a cutting mat. The software will prompt you when it's time to load your Smart Materials and will tell you how much you need. Once the

material is loaded, your machine will measure it to ensure there is enough material for your project.

Your machine leaves a small allowance of material above and below your design for the rollers to grip and load the material, for the sensor to sense that enough material is loaded, and to feed materials back and forth through the machine. The software takes this allowance into account when estimating the amount of Smart Materials needed for your project. To ensure you have enough Smart Materials for your design, wait to trim them until after your cut is complete.

Smart Materials come ready to load into your machine. Align them with the left guide and push them up against the roller, then feed them in and get cutting!

SMART VINYL

Let's look a little closer at each of the Smart Materials available to use with your Cricut Explore 3. The first is **Smart Vinyl**. Smart Vinyl is available in both permanent and removable finishes.

Removable Smart Vinyl is durable, yet removes without residue. It's perfect for those projects that you may want to switch out often, or maybe you're looking to do a removable wallpaper and don't want residue left on your walls.

Permanent Smart Vinyl is made to last for years on your surfaces and blanks. It's weather and fade resistant and also dishwasher friendly. Both finishes come in a variety of colors, and effects. You can also purchase them in a variety of lengths: 3 feet, 12 feet, 21 feet and 75 feet.

Tips for Working with Smart Vinyl:

- Wait to trim material until cut is complete.
- Make sure to select the Smart Vinyl setting that applies to your specific material (i.e., Smart Vinyl Removable, Smart Vinyl Permanent, Smart Vinyl

Shimmer, etc.).

- Guide vinyl into a roll as it feeds out the back of your machine while being measured to keep your workspace tidy
- Smart Materials must be at least 6 inches (15.24 cm) long to use without a cutting mat. You can still use shorter pieces by placing them on a cutting mat
- Regular Transfer Tape works for most vinyl types. Use StrongGrip Transfer Tape for vinyls with a textured finish, like Shimmer. StrongGrip Transfer Tape is too strong for other vinyl types.
- Transfer Tape is available in 12-foot, 21-foot, and 75-foot rolls for applying long designs.
- For easier application, cut your finished design into smaller sections before applying Transfer Tape.
- For best results burnish front and back after applying Transfer Tape.

With Smart Vinyl, you can custom decals, wood signs, banners, wallpaper and so much power. The possibilities for creating are endless!





SMART PAPER STICKER CARDSTOCK

Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock is an adhesive-backed, smooth, medium weight paper. Now you can make cardstock stickers and skip the glue! Since it's a Smart Material, you can use Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock without a cutting mat. Simply load and go! To work with this paper, simply cut, peel, and stick to create fun cards, bold banners, attractive posters and layered paper projects of all sorts. Each piece of the paper is 13x13".

Tips for Working with Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock:

- Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock can be applied to a variety of non-textured paper stock, such as Deluxe Paper, Kraft Paper, and smooth cardstock. It is not recommended for use on glass, plastics, or textured papers.
- Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock is not compatible with Transfer Tape; Transfer Tape may damage the paper surface.
- Wait to trim material until cut is complete.
- Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock may be repositioned within a few seconds if applied lightly
- Allow ink to dry before handling
- Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock is compatible with all Cricut Explore & Cricut Maker pens & markers



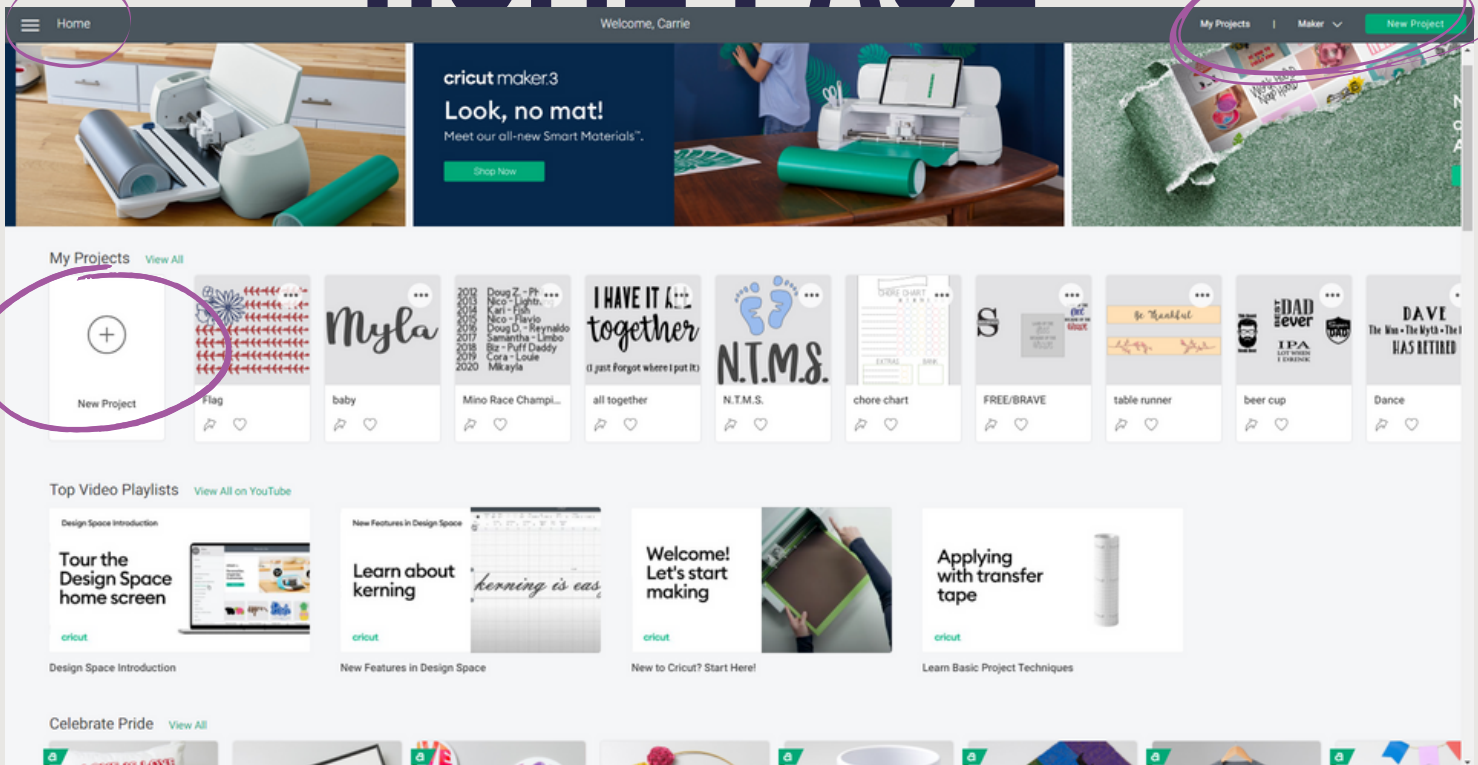


Over the next few chapters, we will be unpacking the basics of Design Space. Design Space is Cricut's design software that pairs with your machine. If you remember when you were setting up your machine, you downloaded Design Space to your computer to set-up your machine. Now you will use Design Space to design your projects and bring your creations to life with your Cricut!

To use your Cricut, you will have to learn Design Space. We think it's helpful for beginners to start by learning the basics of Design Space and that's exactly what we are going to focus on over the next several pages. There is so much to learn in Design Space that it can be easy to get overwhelmed. We are going to break down the basics for you and tell you everything you need to know. Our hope is that we can help you get started designing your projects and using your Cricut. Our biggest tip: learn one part at a time. Try to focus on the trees and not the entire forest. You'll be a professional in no time — let's get started!

DESIGN SPACE

HOME PAGE



Once you get logged into Design Space with your Cricut ID and password, you'll be brought to this main page as you can see above. We'll call it the "Home Page". The Home Page is dynamic and changes periodically. You'll notice there are several rows that pan across the home page. You can scroll through here to view your projects, check out video tutorials from Cricut and find project inspiration. There is a lot going on, but we think there are a few helpful buttons that are the most important to know — we circled them in purple so you can easily identify them.

Starting at the grey bar at the top of the screen, you'll see three lines and the word "Home" in the top left-hand corner. If you click on the lines, a new window will pop-up that has a ton of different links for you. From here, you can access your canvas,

set up new machines, calibrate your blades, manage your Cricut Access plan, and more. This grey bar will always appear no matter where you are working in Design Space.

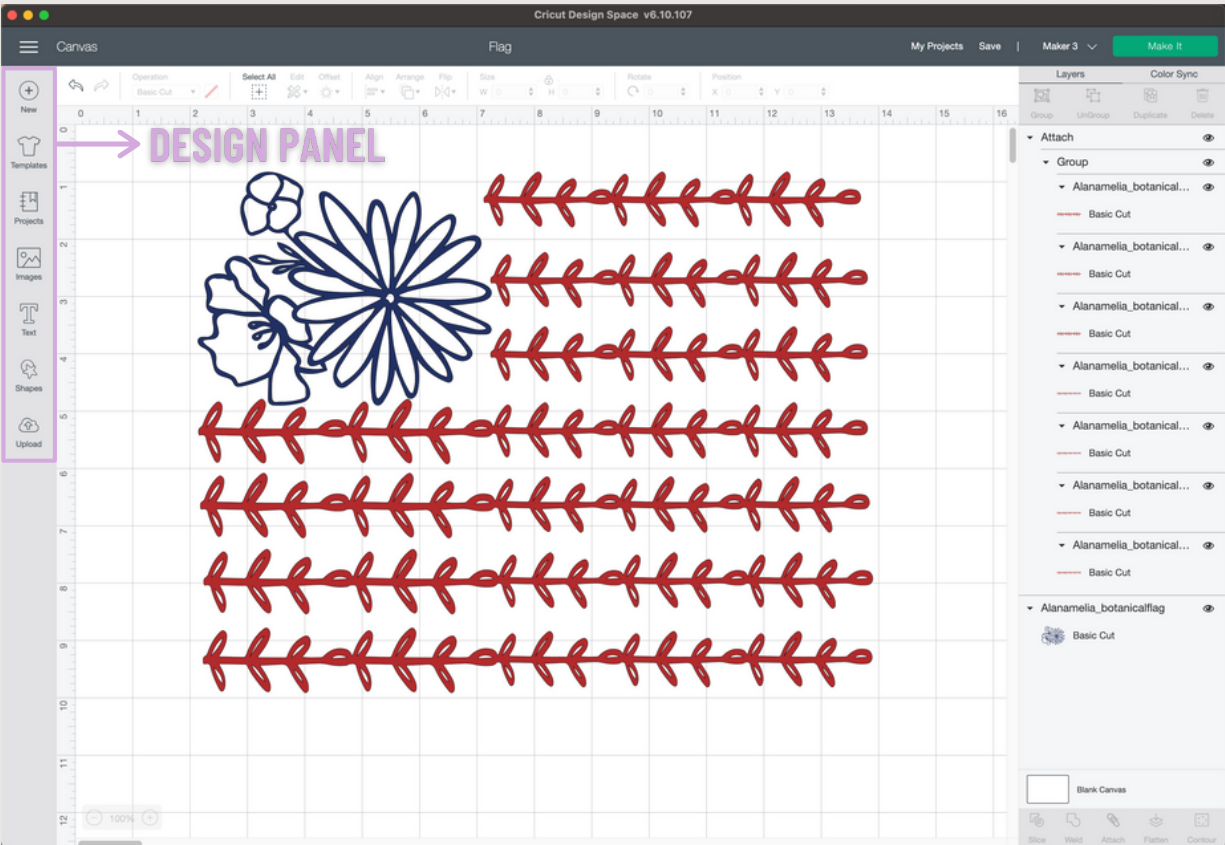
Next, we will move to the right and you'll find **"My Projects, Maker, New Project"**. "My Projects" will take you to all of your saved projects, "New Project" will start a blank canvas for you and "Maker" is actually a drop-down menu. This is where you will select the machine that you are working with. This way, every menu will include just the options applicable for your selected machine.

Lastly, you'll see **"New Project"** circled. This will take you to a blank canvas where you can start designing your projects.

CANVAS 101

Design Panel

The Canvas is where you will design your projects. On the Canvas, you can add and edit projects, text, and images. Over the next few pages, we will be going over the basics of the canvas. Note: the instructions below only apply to Design Space used on a Windows or Mac computer.

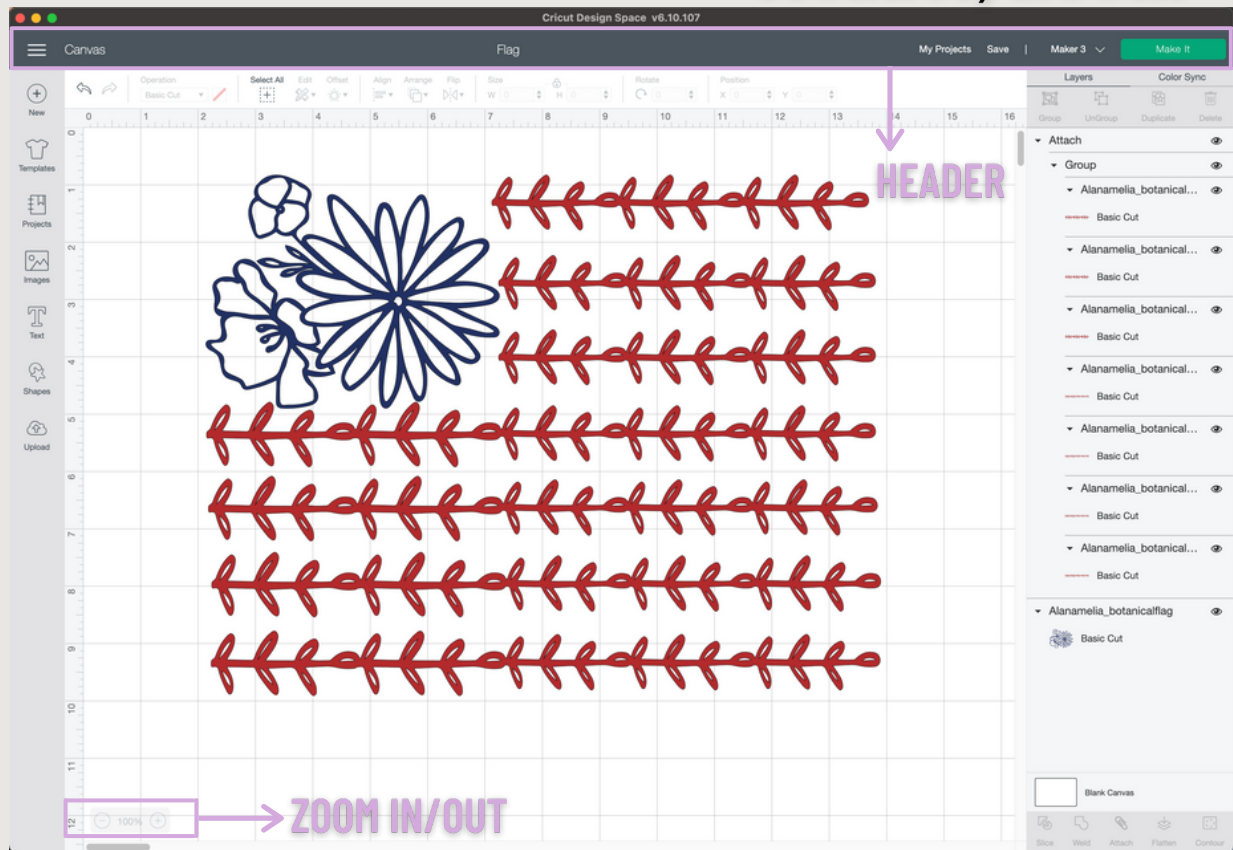


Design Panel

- **New:** Click the New Icon at any time to create a new project from scratch.
- **Templates:** Use a template to help you visualize your finished product.
- **Projects:** Browse pre-made projects from Cricut in this tab.
- **Images:** Browse, select, and insert images from the Cricut Image Library, including your own uploaded images, to the canvas.
- **Text:** Add words and phrases to the Canvas.
- **Shapes:** Add basic shapes like circles, squares, triangles, and score lines to your Canvas.
- **Upload:** You can upload design files to Design Space here, such as .jpg, .png, and .svg files.

CANVAS 101

Header/Zoom



Header

- **Menu (≡):** This allows you to navigate through Design Space. You can get to Home, Canvas, as well as many Design Space features like, New Machine Setup, Link Cartridges, Settings, Help, and Sign Out.
- **Page Title:** Reminds you which page in Design Space you are on, Home or Canvas. You can also close an open tab by clicking on the Page Title.
- **Project Name:** The name of your project will appear here. If you have not yet saved your project, it will say "Untitled". As you can see, ours says, "Flag".
- **Save:** Save a project to your account, making it accessible from Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android. "Save As" will rename your project.
- **Make It:** Prepare your mats and send your project to your Cricut machine.

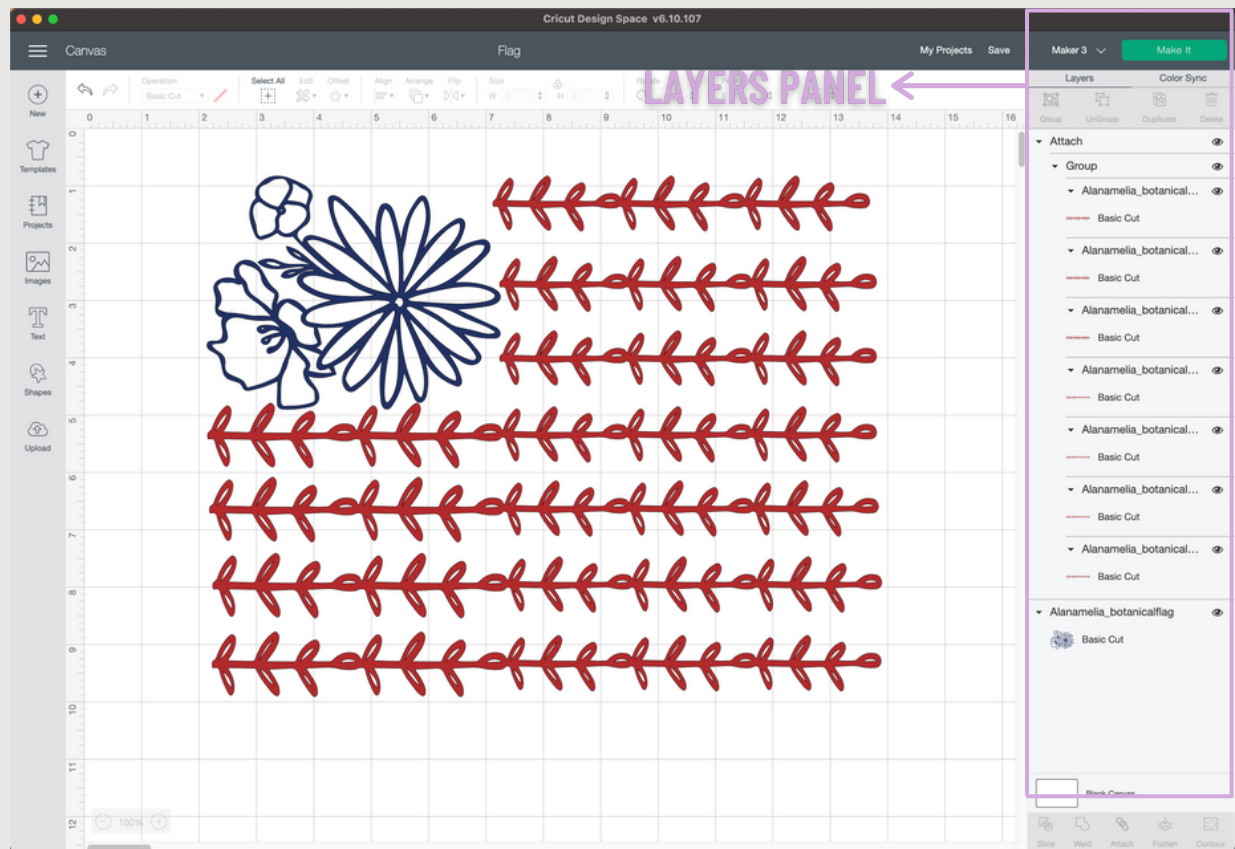
Zoom

- **Zoom In:** Zoom in to get a closer look at your project.
- **Zoom Out:** Zoom out to get a better overview of your project.

CANVAS 101

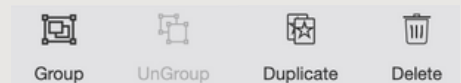
Layers Panel

Design Space has many tools to help you customize your images and text. The **Layers Panel** gives you access to features such as Group, Ungroup, Duplicate, Delete, Slice, Weld, Attach, Flatten and Contour.



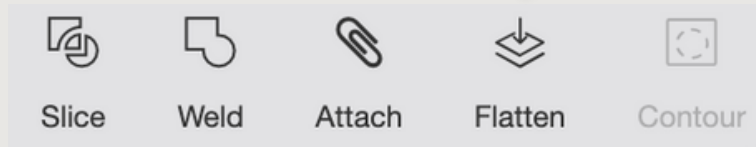
Functions Available in the Layers Panel

- **Group/Ungroup:** Group multiple layers, images, or text together so that they move and size together on the Canvas. This will not affect how images are laid out on the cutting mats. Ungroup a set of layers, images, or text so that they move and size independently from one another on the Canvas. For text, selecting "Ungroup" once allows you to move and resize each layer of text independently, but keeps the letters grouped together. Selecting "Ungroup" on a single layer of text will allow you to move and resize each letter of text independently.
- **Duplicate:** Copy and paste an object in one step to create multiples of the same object.
- **Delete:** Remove selected object from the Canvas.



CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Weld



At the bottom of the layers panel, you'll notice five buttons: **Slice**, **Weld**, **Attach**, **Flatten**, and **Contour**. Slice, Weld, Attach, and Contour are going to be some of your most used tools, so let's unpack those features a bit more.

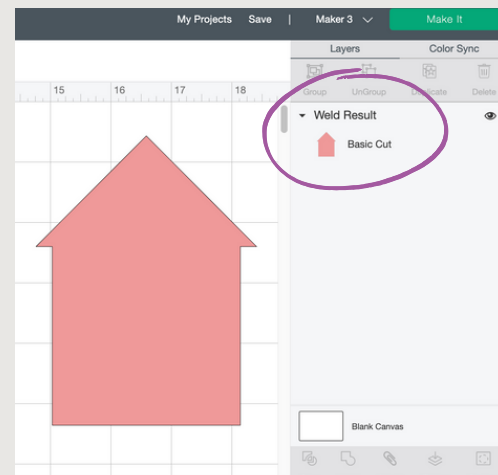
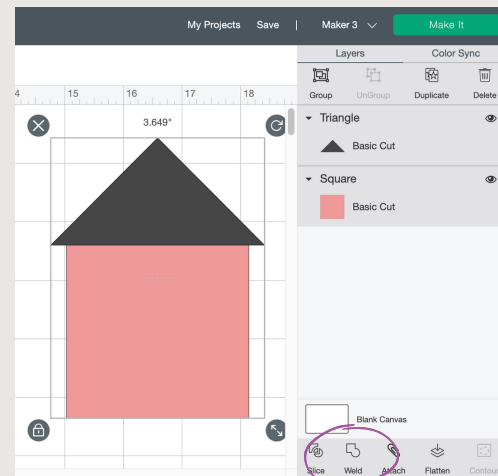
The **Weld tool** allows you to join shapes to create a single customized image by removing any overlapping cut lines. This can be a great way to simplify a design, keep the letters of a word connected, or combine shapes to create new designs. There are a few simple steps to make this work.

1. Make sure the images you would like to weld overlap with each other.

2. Select all images that will be welded together. Once two or more layers are selected, the Weld tool will become active.

3. On a computer, click **Weld** in the Layers panel to merge the selected images. Wherever cut paths have intersected, only the exterior cut path will remain.

4. You will know that your images are welded when they change to the same color and the new image appears in the Layers panel. If needed, arrange your layers back to their original position.



CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Slice

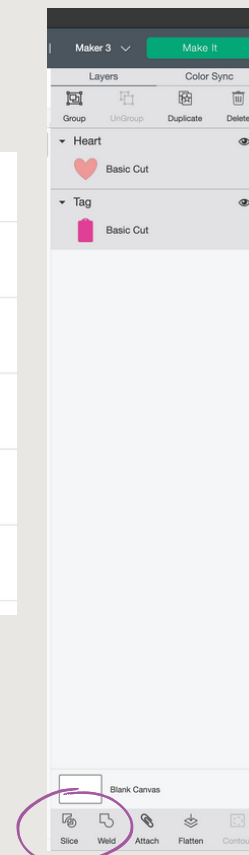
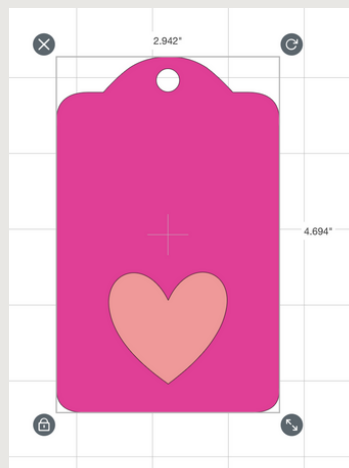
The **Slice** tool splits two overlapping images or text into different parts. Slice creates new cut paths from two images, resulting in three or more completely new shapes. Each of the new shapes will show up in the Layers panel as an individual layer.

- You can use the Slice tool to cut out a shape from another shape, cut overlapping shapes from one another, or to cut text from a shape.
- When using Slice with images, you can only work with two layers at one time.
- If you are using a multilayered image, you can either hide or ungroup the other layers to activate the Slice tool.
- When the Slice function is performed with hidden layers, all hidden layers will be removed from the design screen and the Layers panel.
- If you would like to use those image layers with your project, ungroup before using the Slice tool.

Note: Text works a little differently with the Slice tool. If the text is multilayered and one layer is hidden, you can use the Slice tool. However, if you ungroup text from its shadow layer, it becomes an image and will no longer work with the Slice tool unless the text is ungrouped to individual letters.

Step 1: Arrange the images so that they are overlapping.

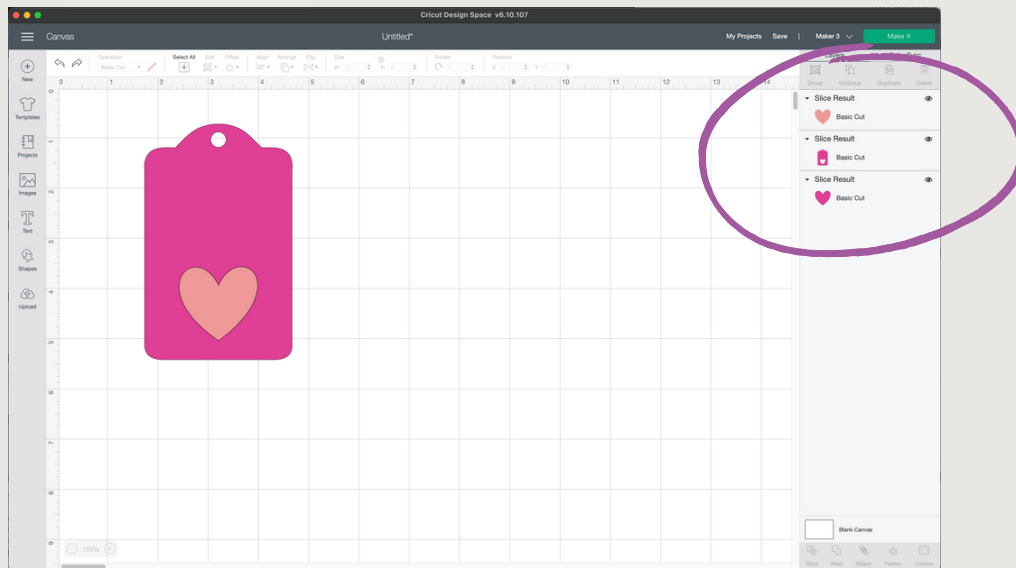
Step 2: Select both images by holding the Shift or the Ctrl key on your keyboard while clicking on each layer. A bounding box will appear around both images, and the individual layers will be highlighted in the Layers panel. Once two layers are selected, the Slice tool will become active.



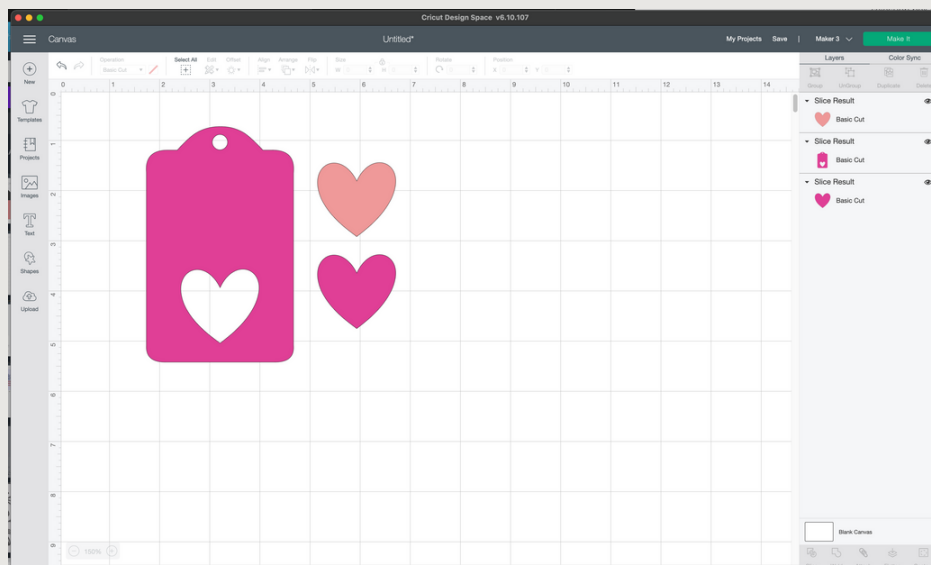
CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Slice

Step 3: Click “Slice” at the bottom of the Layers Panel if using a computer, or in the Actions menu at the bottom of the screen in the iOS and Android app. The new images will be reflected in the Layers panel as sliced images. Any hidden layers will be removed from the Layers panel.



Step 4: Separate the layers to review your new shapes. When using Design Space on a computer, there will be duplicates of the sliced sections — a cutout from each layer. When using the iOS or Android app, the sliced sections will not be duplicated. Edit or delete the images individually. From here you can continue to layer and slice the images until you reach your desired design.



CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Attach

The **Attach tool** has two functions in Design Space. First, it helps to hold your cuts in the same position relative to each other on the cutting mat as in the Canvas. It also fastens other Linetype selections, such as Draw, Score, or Foil, to a Cut layer.

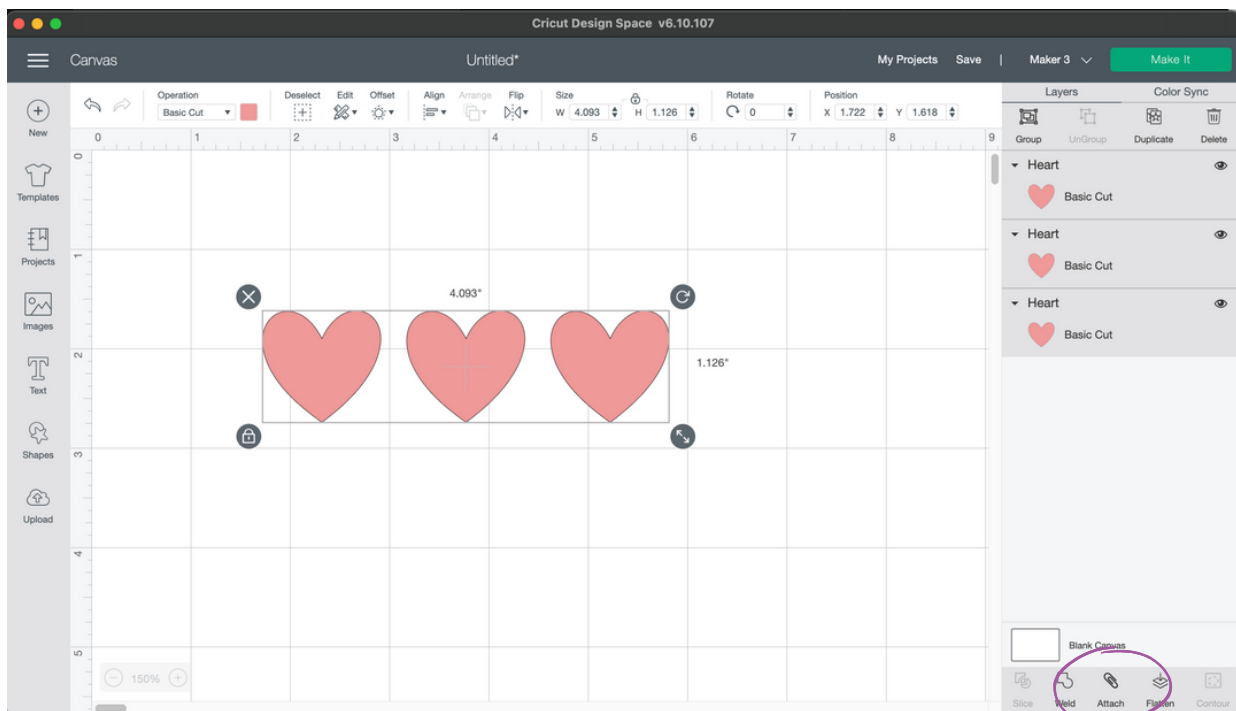
Attaching to Hold Cut Placement

In general, projects are cut in material saver mode, so images are automatically placed on the cutting mat as close together as possible to conserve material. Attach holds your cuts in position relative to one another so that images on the cutting mat are positioned exactly as arranged on the Canvas.

Step One: Add images and text to the project and arrange as desired.

Step Two: Select the images you would like to cut in a specific arrangement. You will want to attach by layer or color. In the example below, we are going to attach all of the hearts together.

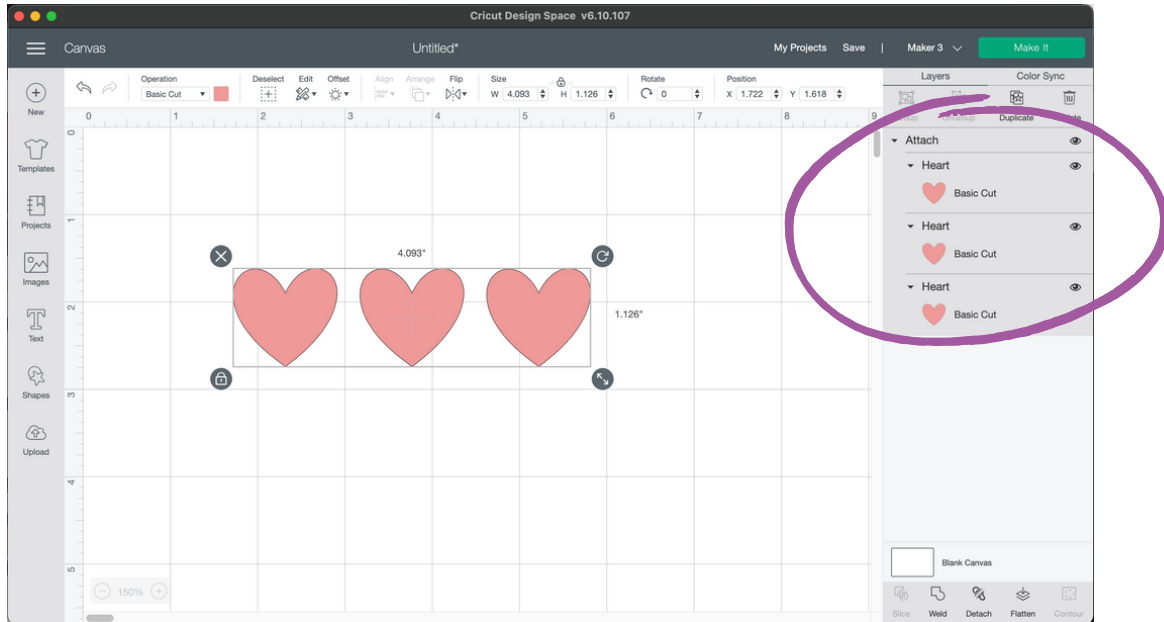
Step Three: Click Attach in the Layers panel.



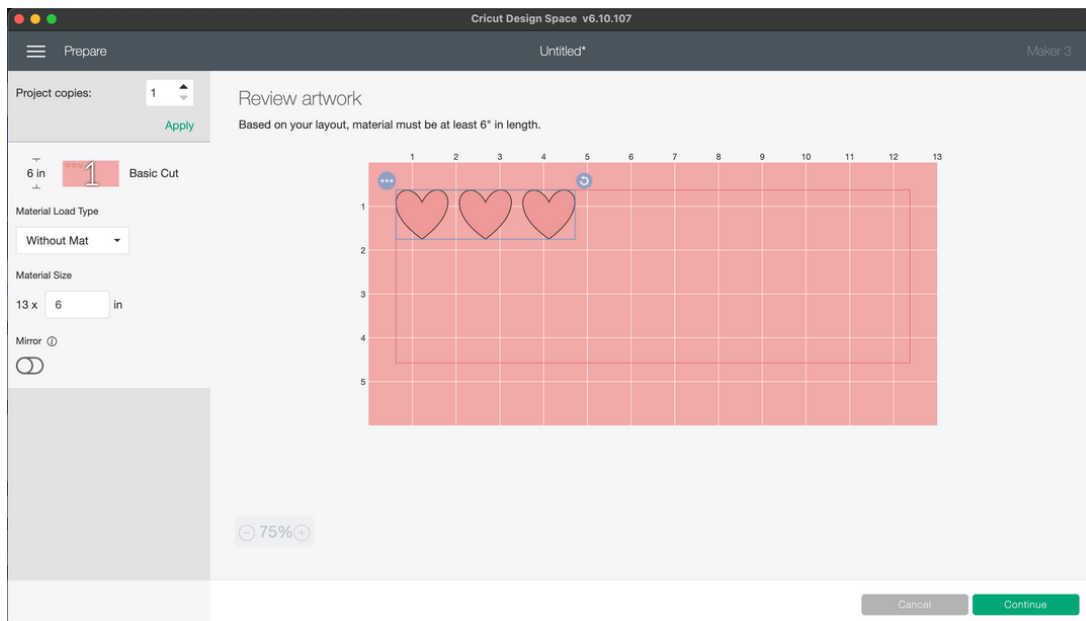
CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Attach

Step Four: You'll know your images are attached because they are now labeled **Attach** in the Layers panel. When you are ready to begin cutting, click **Make It**.



Step Five: Images appear on the project preview exactly as you have them arranged on the Canvas. Select **Continue** and follow the on-screen prompts to cut your project.



CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Attach

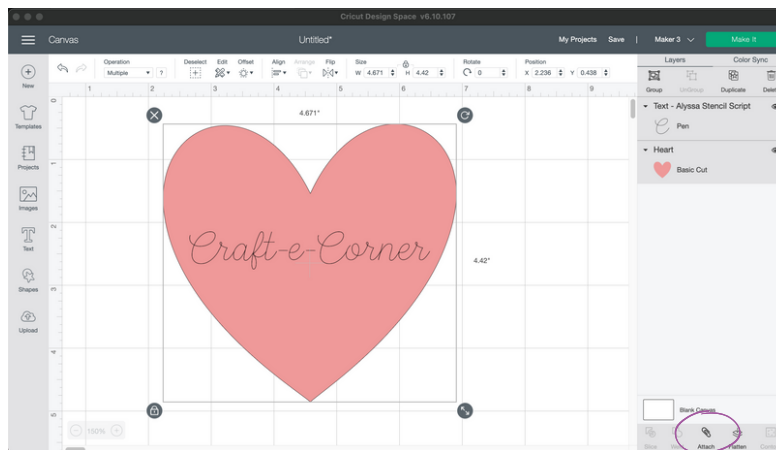
Attaching To Fasten Other Linetype Selections to a Cut Layer

Note: For multi-layered images, ungroup the multi-layered image first to avoid attaching all the layers together. Text containing a Draw layer does not need to be ungrouped before attaching.

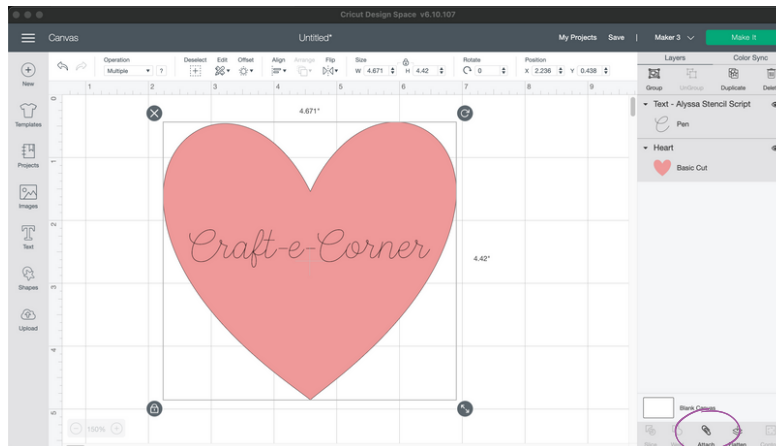
Step One: Design your project as desired. In this example below, we want to cut the heart and draw the words "Craft-e-Corner" on top of the heart with a Cricut pen.

Step Two: Select the Draw, Score, Foil, Engrave, or Deboss operation and the layer you would like it placed on. We are using the Draw operation.

Step Three: Select Attach on the Layers panel.



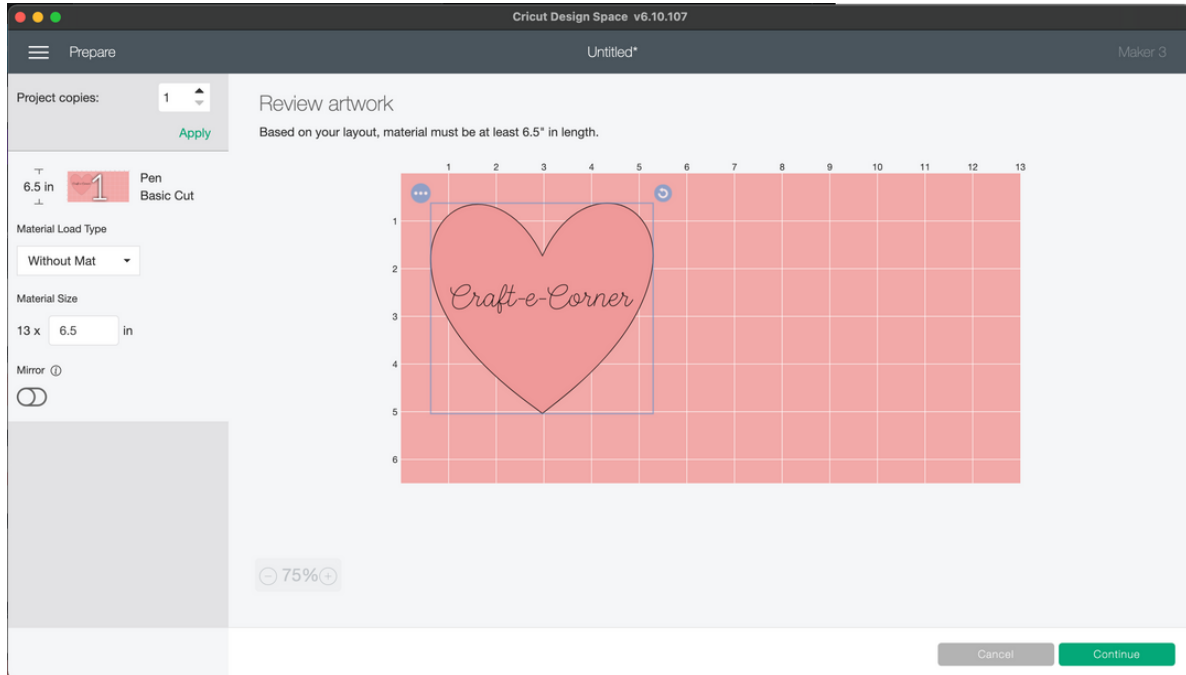
Step Four: Your layers will be fastened together and labeled Attach in the Layers panel. Select Make It to send the project to your machine.



CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Attach

Step Five: The attached layers appear together in the project preview screen exactly as arranged on the Canvas.



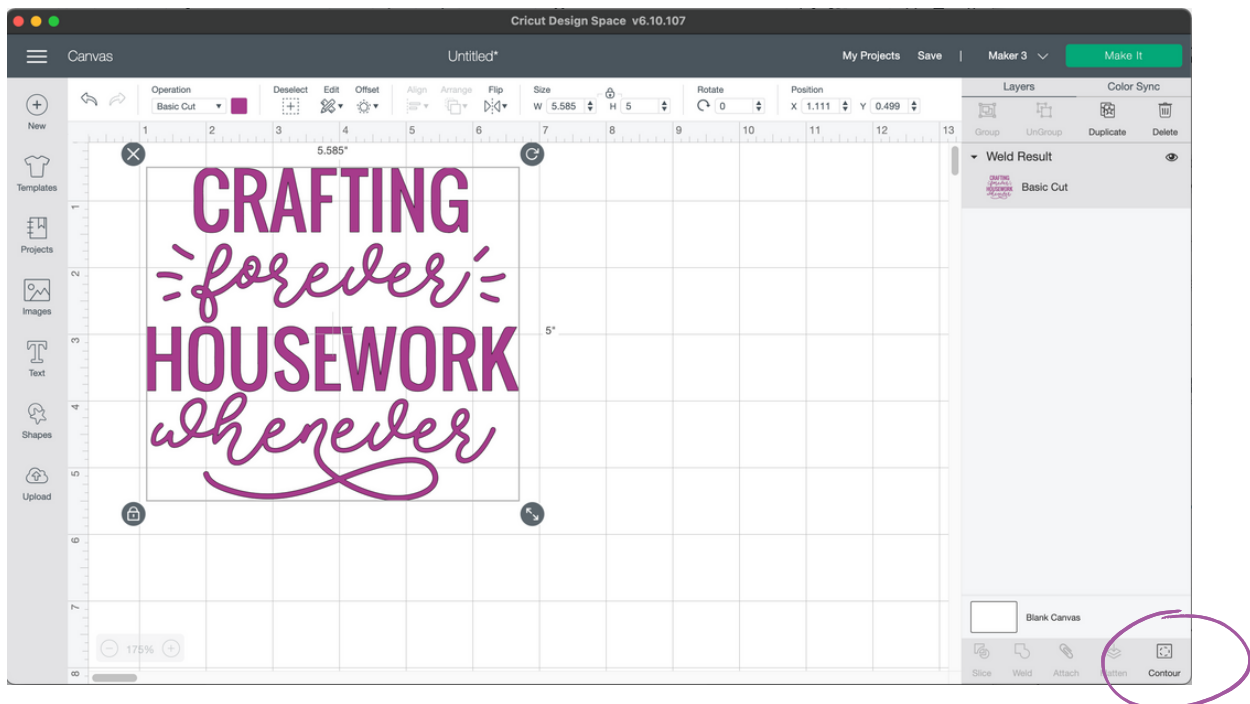
CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Contour

The Contour tool allows you to hide a portion of an image layer by removing any unwanted cut lines. Follow the detailed steps below to use the Contour function.

Step One: Select your design. Note: you will need to ungroup an image first if it has multiple layers. If this is the case, select the image and then click Ungroup at the top of the Layers panel.

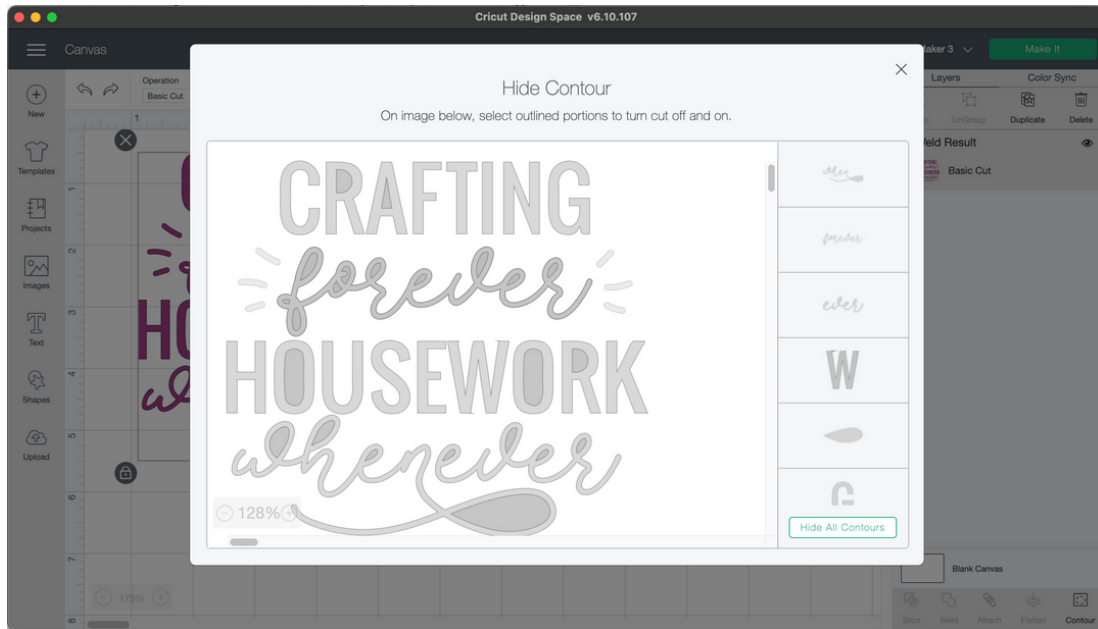
Step Two: Click **Contour** in the layers panel.



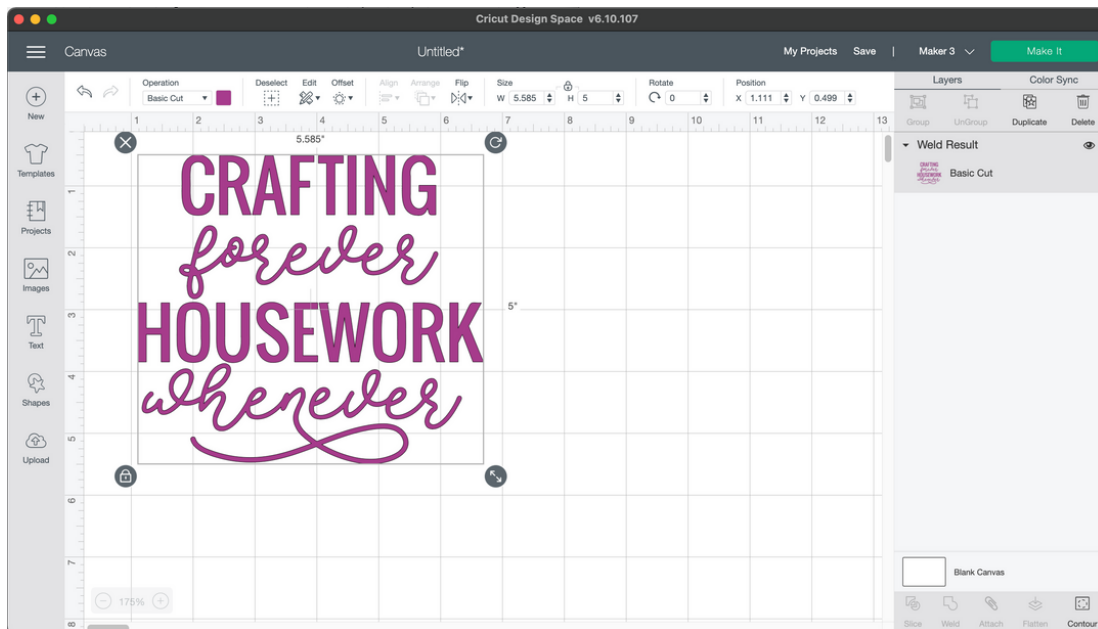
Step Three: A window will pop open. The lines on the image represent individual cut lines. Click on the cut line you wish to hide on the image itself, or select the contour to be hidden from the menu at the right of the window. The hidden contour will change to a lighter shade indicating that it will no longer show as part of the image and will not cut. Repeat with other cut lines, if desired. In our example, we are going to be hiding the lines to the left and right of the word "forever".

CANVAS 101

Layers Panel: Contour



Step Four: When you are finished hiding image cut lines, close the Hide Contour window, or click outside of the window to dismiss it (in the mobile app tap Hide Contour again). The hidden contours no longer appear as part of the image.



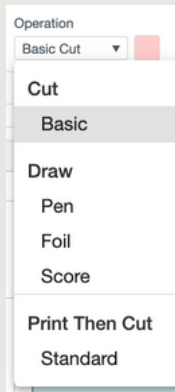
Tip: If you wish to restore a hidden contour, repeat the process and click on the hidden cut lines to restore them. The contour will reappear on the Canvas.

CANVAS 101

Edit Bar



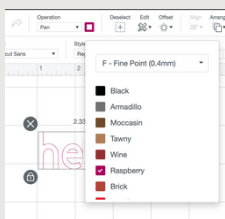
Next, the **Edit** bar in Design Space gives you access to features for editing images such as Operation, Size, Rotate, Mirror, Offset and more. Additionally, it gives options for editings text such as line spacing, font style and more.



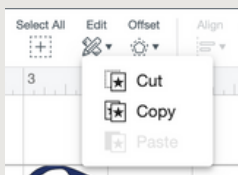
Let's start with **Operation**. Operation determines how the machine will interact with your material on the mat. In other words, this is how you are going to tell your Cricut what you want it to do. For example, if you want it to do a basic cut, you would choose "Basic". Or let's say you want to draw with your Cricut, then you'd choose, "Pen". As you can see, there are five different operations available for the Cricut Explore 3. By default, your operation will automatically be selected as "Basic Cut". If you need to change your operation, select this drop-down menu and choose your operation.



To the right of Operation, you'll see a **colored square** — ours is red in this example. Click on this box to change the color of your designs. The swatch will appear solid when Cut is selected, as an outline when Draw is selected, and a / will appear through the swatch when Score is selected.



When the **Draw Pen operation** is selected, you are able to select what pen you are using and a list of colors available to use as well. Choose your pen from the drop-down menu that says "F - Fine Point (0.4mm)" and scroll through the colors to find your color.



Next, we have **Select All** and **Edit**. Select All will highlight everything on your canvas. With Edit, you can click the menu to show three features: cut, copy and paste. Alternatively, you can also use your keyboard shortcuts for these as well.

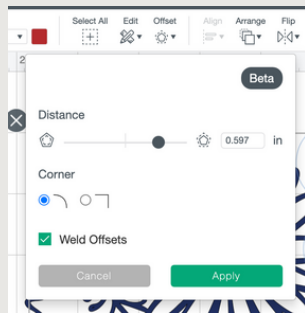
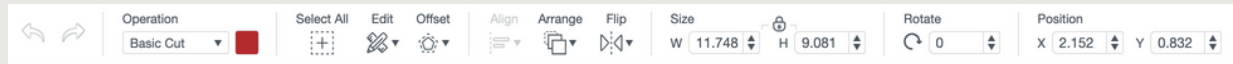
Copy: Ctrl + C (Windows) or Command + C (Mac)

Paste: Ctrl + V (Windows) or Command + V (Mac)

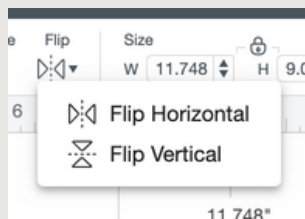
Select All: Ctrl + A (Windows) or Command + A (Mac)

CANVAS 101

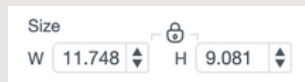
Edit Bar



Offset creates an offset layer, almost like a shadow, behind your images and text. To use it, select your image or text and click on the offset menu. You'll see this window appear. Use the slider to choose offset size or enter specific measurement in the field. A line appears on the Canvas around your image or text to help you visualize the size and shape of the offset. You can also choose a corner style for your offset.



Flip allows you to flip an object horizontally or vertically at the center of the object.



To adjust the width or height of an object, use the **Size** tool. You can type in an exact value here or click the stepper to adjust the size by 0.1 at a time.

Note: Adjusting the size of the width or height will proportionally adjust the other variable if the size is locked. simply click the **Lock icon** to unlock the image aspect ratio. Then you can freely adjust the width or height independently.



Rotate: Adjust the angle of your object by typing in an exact degree or use the stepper to adjust the angle by 1 degree at a time.

Position: Adjust the position of your object by typing in an exact distance from the top left corner of the Canvas or use the stepper to adjust the distance by 0.1 at a time.

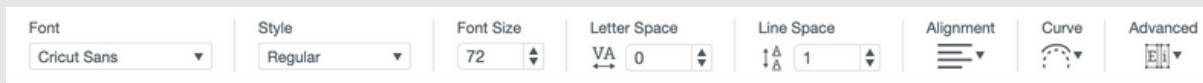
CANVAS 101

Adding Text

Design Space makes it easy to personalize your project using text and different fonts. You can use Cricut fonts as well as any system font installed on your computer, iOS device, or Android device.

Adding Text

1. Insert text onto the Canvas by selecting the Text tool from the panel on the left side of the Canvas. The Text Edit bar and a text box will appear.
2. Select the font you wish to use. Then type your text in the text box. Use the "Return" key (Mac) or "Enter" key (Windows) after a line of text if you want to create a new line of text in the same text box. On a Windows/Mac computer, you can type your text before selecting a font. The text will render on the Canvas in a default font.
3. Select an area outside the text box to close it. Now you can move, size, and rotate the text.
4. To edit your text, simply double-click or double-tap on the text. The text box will open. Options to change the font, font style, font size, letter spacing, line spacing, etc. are accessed through the Edit bar at the top of the Canvas.



When you're working with your text, the above toolbar will appear when you have it selected. This works very similarly to the Edit toolbar that we just walked through on the last page.

- **Font:** Select your font by clicking on the menu.
- **Style:** Choose from bold, italic and writing.
- **Font Size:** Adjust the size of your font by typing in a number or using the arrow to increase or decrease the size.
- **Letter Space:** If you would like to adjust the space between your letters, you can use the arrows to increase or decrease the space.
- **Line Space:** If you want to adjust the space between your lines, you can use the arrows to increase or decrease the space.
- **Alignment:** Adjust your text to the left, center, or right.
- **Curve:** Add some curve to your text.
- **Advanced:** This allows you to group or ungroup letters, lines, and layers.

CANVAS 101

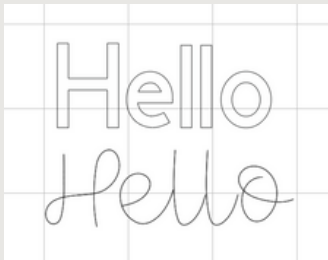
Adding Text



Next, when you have your text selected, **a box will appear around your text**. As you can see, there are four handles in each corner of the box that allow you to edit your text. You can delete, rotate, lock/unlock aspect ratio and re-size.

Writing Fonts

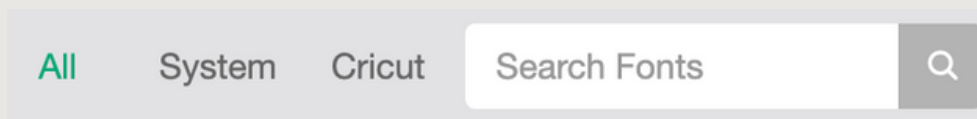
You can use Cricut pens with your Cricut machine to write any font by changing the operation of your text to "Draw/Pen" instead of "Cut". Design Space offers several Cricut fonts specifically designed to be drawn with a pen and not cut. While most fonts will trace the outside of the letters, "writing style" fonts feature letters with single strokes, so they are the most similar to handwritten text. When selecting a font, you can choose a font with a Writing style. Check out the photo below to see an



example of the two styles. The text on top is not a writing font so it created an outline of the text. The Cricut will draw the outline of the font. In the second example, it is a writing font, so it will draw the actual font. Both writing fonts and regular fonts are available in Design Space.

System Fonts

System fonts are fonts that are installed on your computer or mobile device. Design Space automatically accesses your system fonts each time you sign in and allows you to use them in Design Space projects for free. When downloading fonts to your computer or device, follow the instructions on the font site or app to ensure that the font is successfully installed on your computer or device. Because system fonts are installed on a particular device, the available system fonts may vary between devices. As you can see below, when you are searching for fonts, you can view by System Fonts, Cricut Fonts or all fonts.

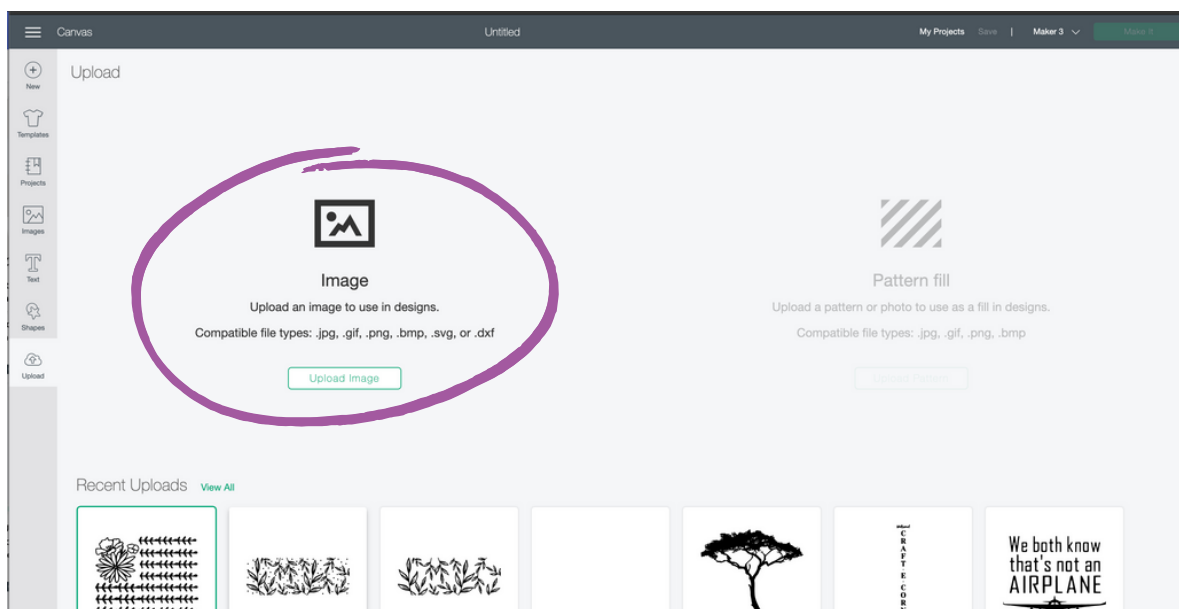


DESIGN SPACE

Uploading Images to Design Space

Design Space gives you the ability to upload your own images and converts them into cuttable shapes. You can **upload images** such as .jpg, .bmp, and .png files. These files are uploaded as a single layer, and you can edit the image during the upload process. You can also upload **vector images** such as .svg and .dxf files. These cut ready images upload as designed. Files designed with layers will automatically be separated into layers after uploading and saving. SVG files are common files that you can upload to Design Space. They are perfect to work with for your projects! Here is how you can upload files to Design Space:

Step 1: Select Upload on the design panel to the left of the Canvas. **Upload Image** allows you to work with basic image types, including .jpg, .bmp, .png, and .gif image files as well as vector images, including .svg and .dxf files. To begin, select **Upload Image**.



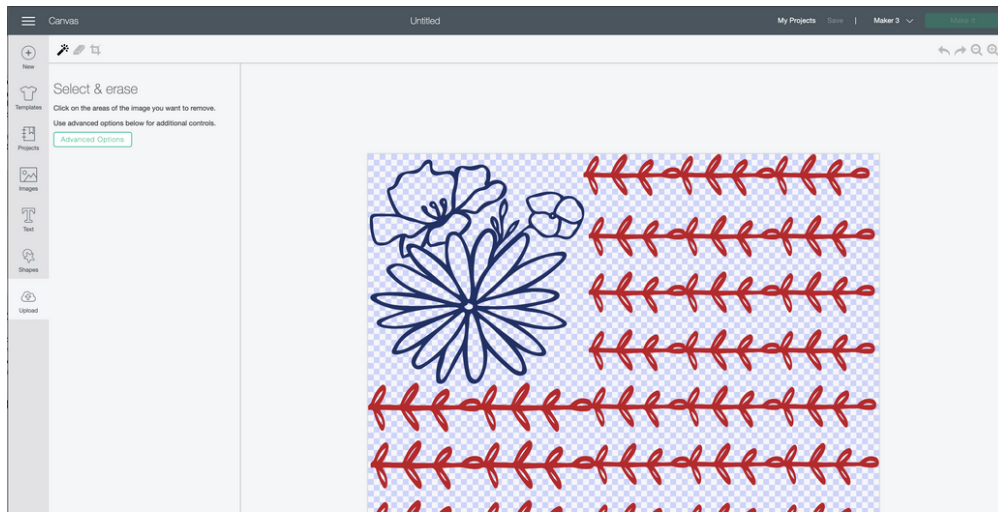
Step 2: Select **Browse** to open the file selector and locate the image you want to use from your computer, or simply drag and drop the file into the upload window. Start by selecting your file and select "Open" in the file selector. Alternatively, you can also drag and drop the file into the Design Space image upload window.

Decide if your image is simple, moderately complex, or complex based on the descriptions found on the screen. Click **Continue**.

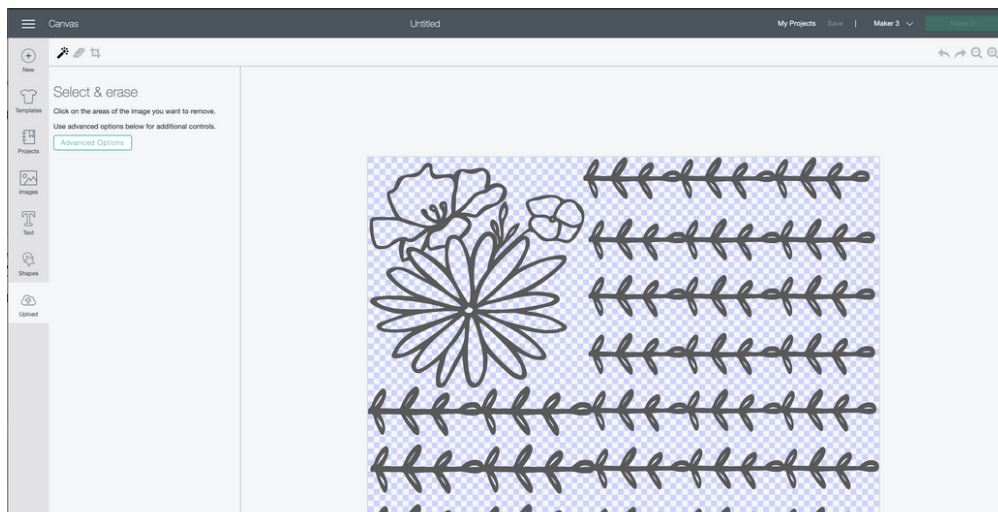
DESIGN SPACE

Uploading Images to Design Space

Step 3: On this next screen, you can clean up your image if you need too. Use the Select, Erase, and Crop tools to remove the unwanted background and other areas from your image. The checkerboard background indicates the areas that have been removed and will not cut. The solid areas represent the image you will use on the design screen.



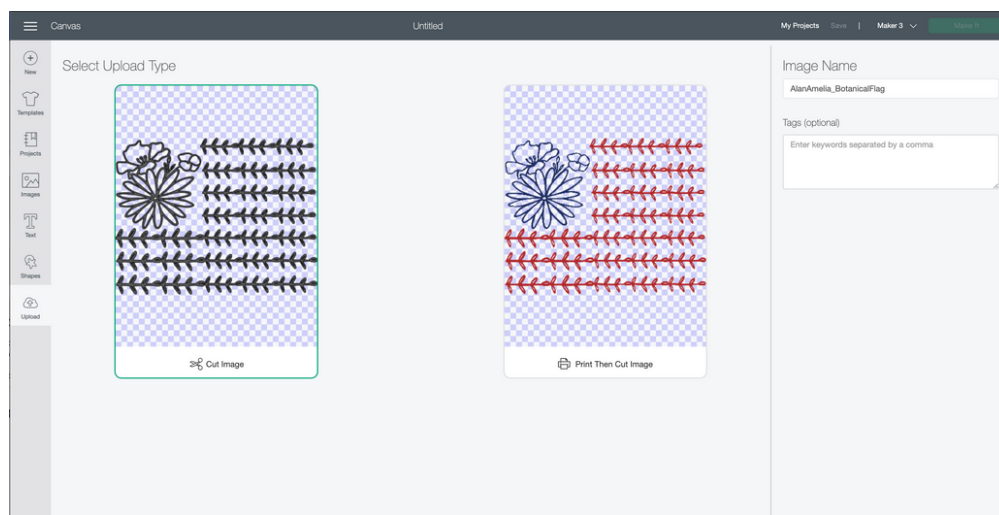
Step 4: Select Preview to view the cut shape of your image. If the image doesn't appear as desired, **Hide preview** and continue editing the image until you are satisfied with the preview. Once the image looks how you want it, select **Continue**.



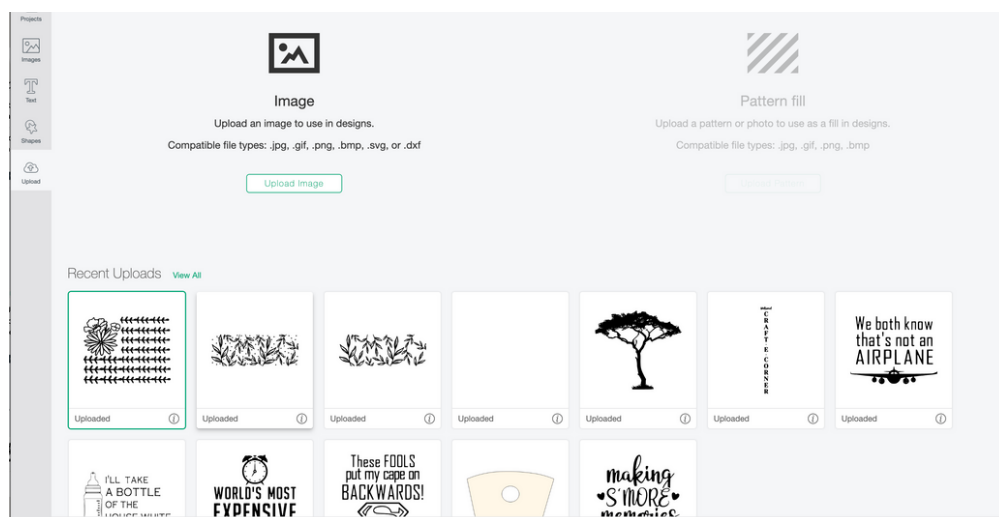
DESIGN SPACE

Uploading Images to Design Space

Step Five: Name your image and tag it for easy searching later, if you'd like. This is optional. Choose to save your image as a Print Then Cut image or as a Cut image. Saving as a Print Then Cut image will preserve the entire image, including internal colors and patterns, and add it to the design screen as a Print Then Cut image. Saving as a Cut image will save the cut shape only (internal patterns and colors will be removed). Then select Upload.



Step Six: You will return to the Upload screen. The new image will appear in the Uploaded Images Library at the bottom of the screen. To add the image to your project, click on the image to select it, then click Insert Images to add it to your design screen.



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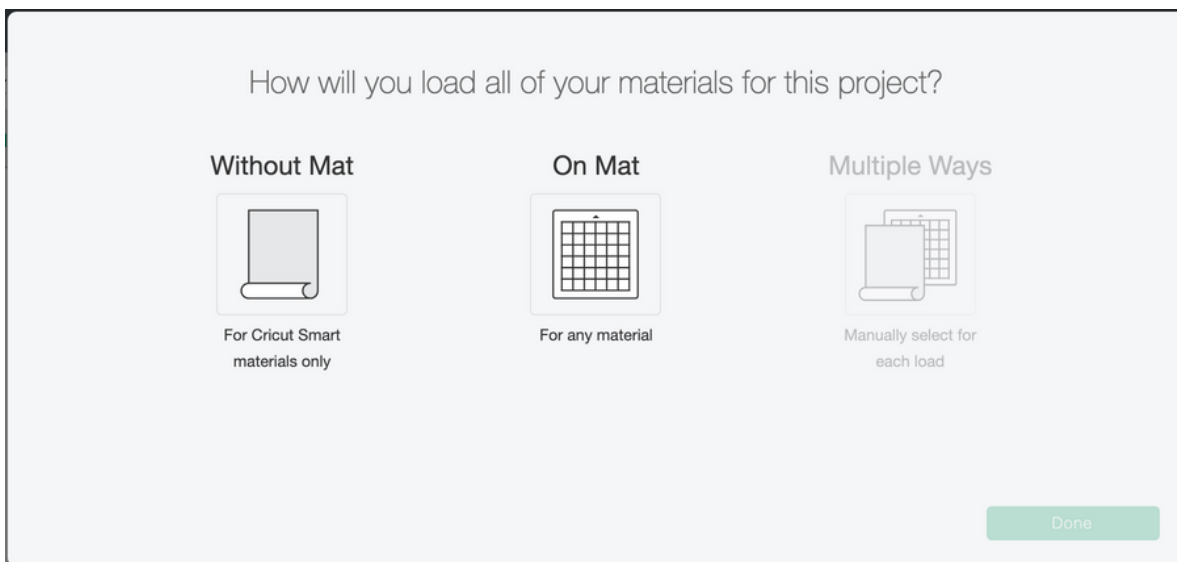
How to Choose On Mat, Without Mat, or Multiple Ways

When you are ready to make a project, you will select **"Make It"** in the top right-hand corner of Design Space. From here, it will take you to the mat preview screen. This will show you what your mat is going to look like before you cut it. You can also make edits to your mat here if you would like to move your designs around.

If you are making smaller cuts, multiple kinds of cuts or cuts that need to go on a cutting mat, the window below will pop-up after you click on "Make It" and ask you how you want to load your materials. As you can see, there are three options:

- **Without Mat:** Use this if you are working with Cricut Smart materials. These materials can be cut without a cutting mat.
- **On Mat:** Use this option for any kind of material, regular and Smart Materials. If you have scrap Smart Materials, you can still use them and place them on a cutting mat.
- **Multiple Ways:** If you are making multiple different cuts, you can manually select how you are cutting for each load — on mat or without mat.

Simply select how you will load your material and then click on "Done".



If you are making long cuts beyond 11.5x23.5", Design Space will automatically know you are working with Smart Materials and will bypass this screen.

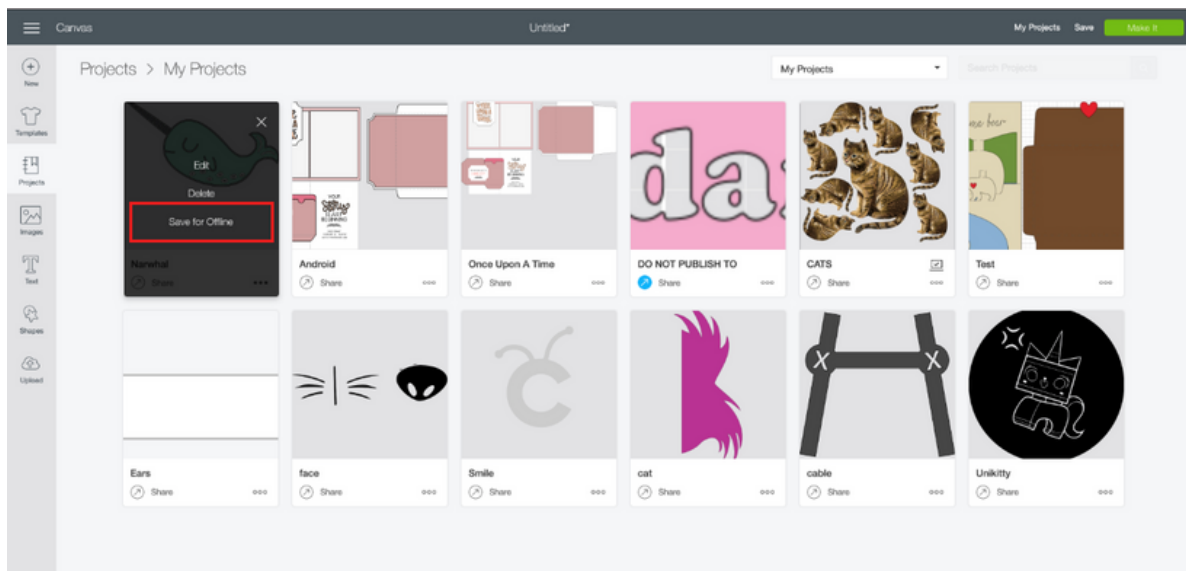
DESIGN SPACE

How to Save for Offline Use: Desktop

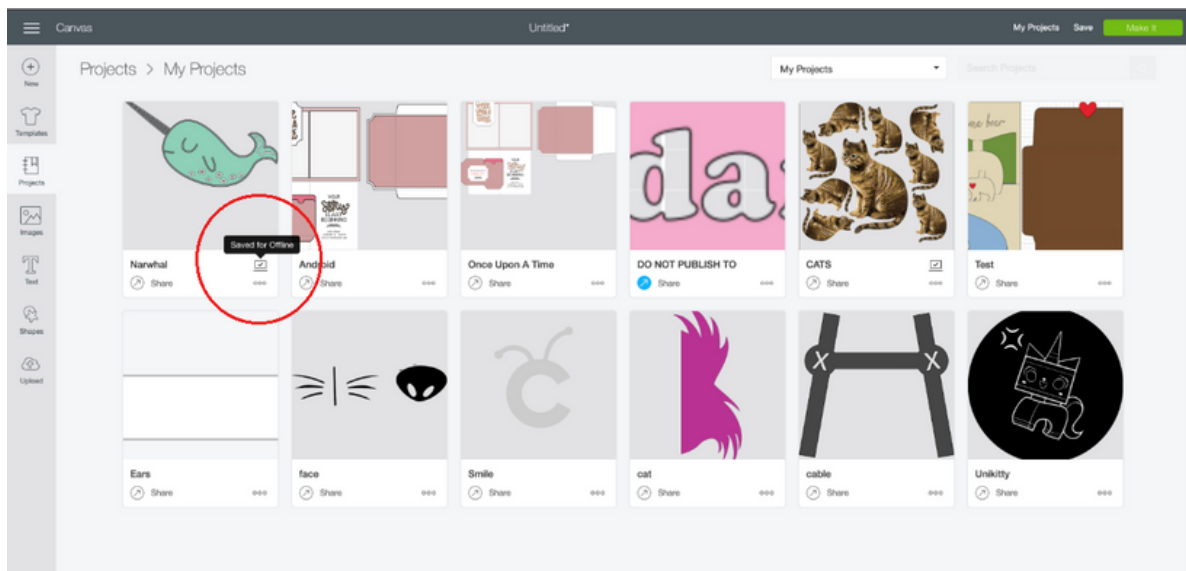
You can save your projects, images and fonts for use while you are offline.

Projects

Step One: Navigate to the My Projects page and select the three dots on the project tile you want to save. Then select **Save for Offline**.



You will see a small computer icon on any of the project tiles that are successfully saved for offline use.



DESIGN SPACE

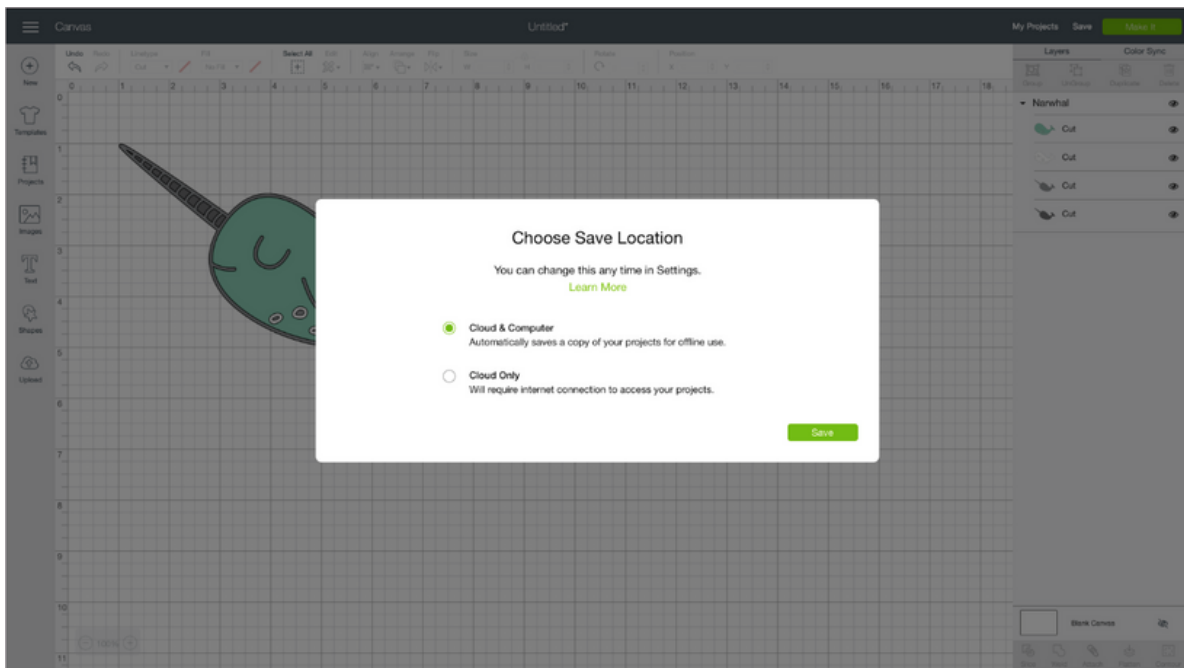
How to Save for Offline Use: Desktop

The first time you save a project in Design Space for Desktop you will be prompted with a save settings dialogue to choose how you would like to save projects from that point forward.

You can choose to:

- Save to **Cloud & Computer** — every project from that point on is saved for offline use by default.
- Save to **Cloud Only** — every project from that point forward is saved only in the cloud and not available by default for offline use.

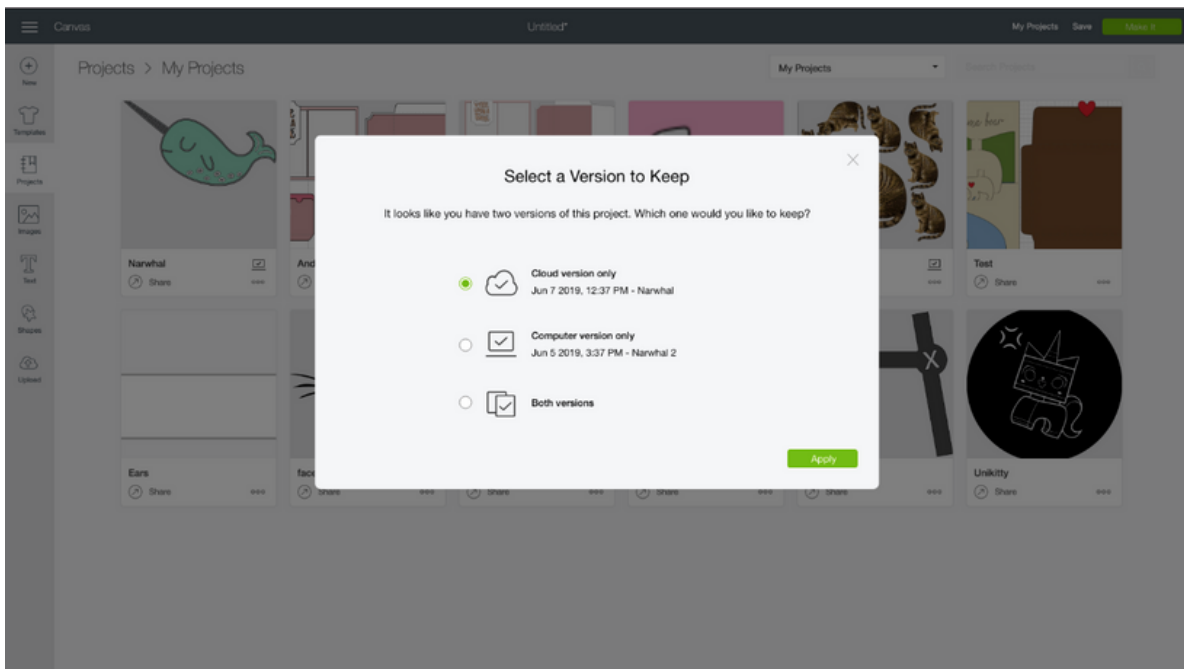
Change these settings at any time through Settings in the Design Space menu.



DESIGN SPACE

How to Save for Offline Use: Desktop

When you open a saved project and there is a conflict between a project saved while offline and a project in the cloud, you will be presented with a dialogue that allows you to select which version you would like to keep.



You can choose to:

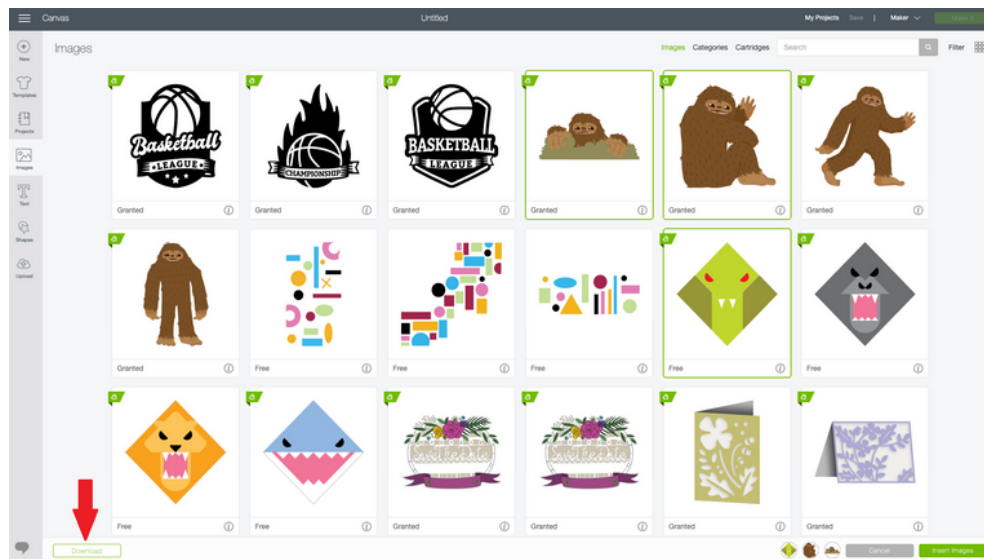
- Save the **Cloud version only** — the cloud version will overwrite the offline copy.
- Save the **Computer version only** — the version on your computer will overwrite the cloud version.
- Save **Both versions** — both copies will be saved to the cloud and to your computer.

DESIGN SPACE

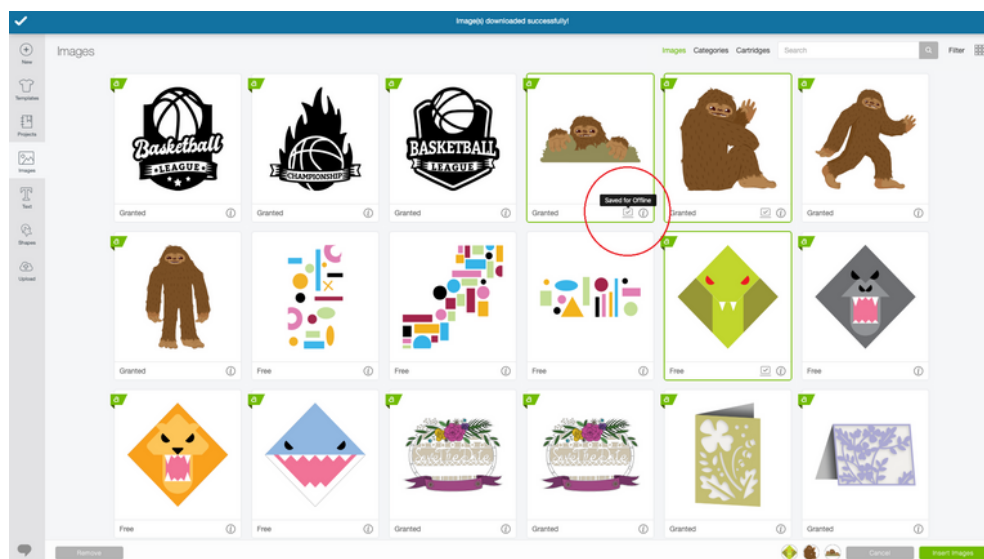
How to Save for Offline Use: Desktop

Images

Save images for offline use by navigating to the Images tab on the Canvas. From there you are free to search and filter for any images you would like. You can download any number of images for offline use by selecting the images, then selecting the Download button in the bottom left corner.



Your images will all download at once and when download is complete, a computer icon will show up on the image tile to show they have successfully downloaded.

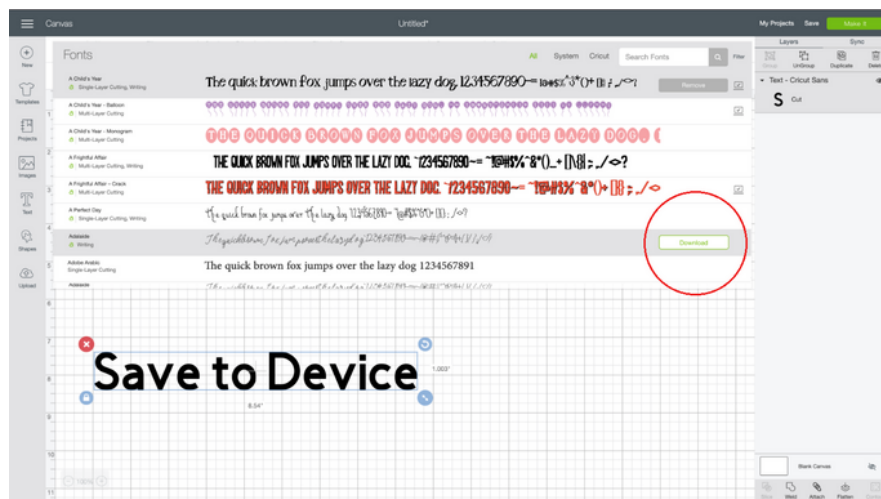


DESIGN SPACE

How to Save for Offline Use: Desktop

Fonts

Lastly, you can also save fonts for offline use. There are two kinds of fonts to use in Design Space: system fonts and Cricut fonts. **System fonts** are fonts that are installed on your computer. You don't have to download them for offline use as they are already on your desktop. Save **Cricut fonts** for offline use by navigating to the fonts menu on the Canvas. From there you can download any font by hovering over the font you want to download and selecting the Download button that will appear to the right side of the font.



You can initiate the download of more than one font at a time. Once your font has successfully downloaded a computer icon will appear to the right side of the font.





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