

The image features a collection of colorful Silhouette sketch pens in various colors (pink, purple, green, orange, silver) arranged in a semi-circle on a light blue brick wall. Below the pens, a white Silhouette cutting machine is shown with a pen inserted into its holder. The machine is resting on a white surface with a black line-art pattern. A white banner with rounded corners is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "how to use SKETCH PENS with silhouette". The words "SKETCH PENS" are in a large, bold, pink, sans-serif font, while the other words are in a black, cursive font.

how to use
SKETCH PENS
with silhouette

Not only can your Silhouette cutting machine cut, it can also sketch using pens! Instead of placing a blade in the carriage, a Silhouette Sketch pen or a pen in a pen holder can be used to draw out a shape or text as opposed to cutting.



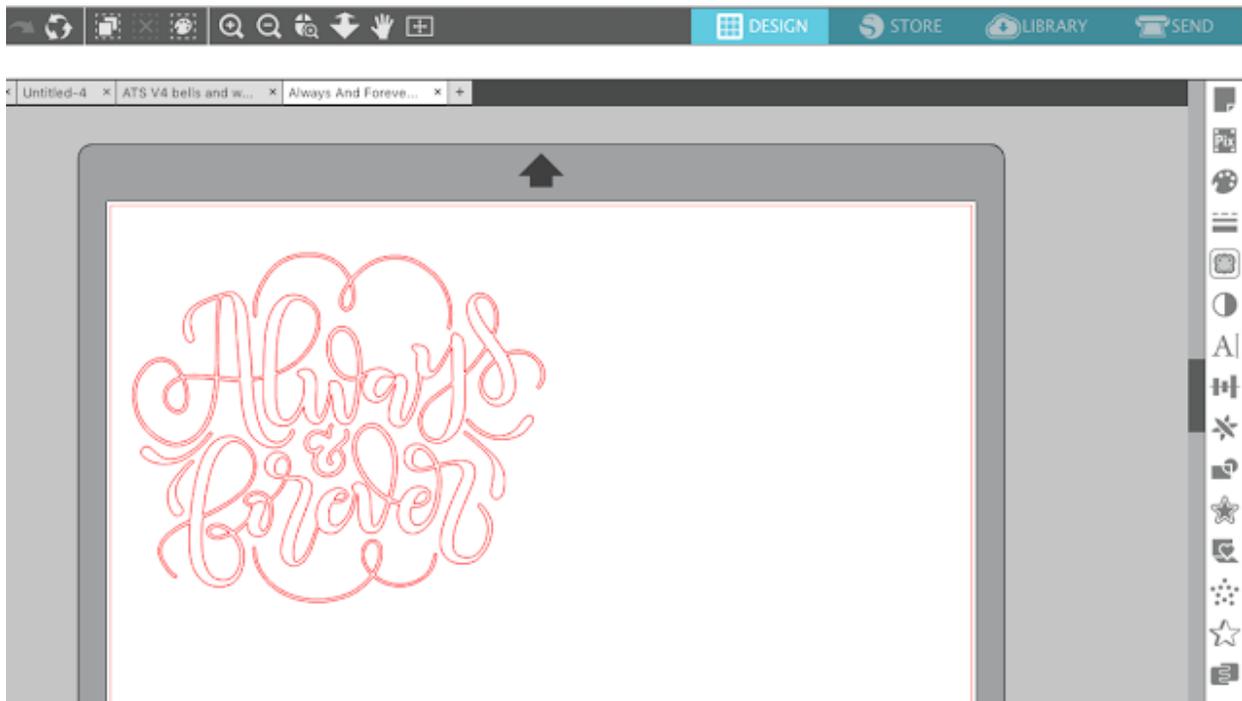
It's best to think of a [Silhouette sketch pen](#) just like the auto blade or ratchet blade as far as how it will draw. Instead of cutting however, when a pen is in the carriage, the machine will sketch.

To use Silhouette Sketch pens for the first time, start in Silhouette Studio by opening your design in the Silhouette design space aka work area. Pretty much any design that can be cut can be sketched.

To practice, find a design from your Silhouette Studio library that you want to sketch with a single color

sketch pen.

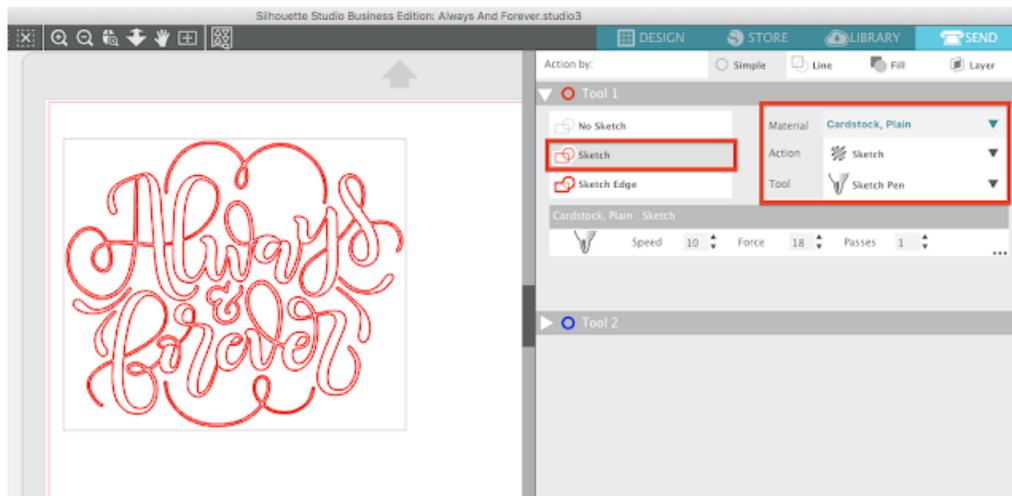
With the design open, size it, and position it on the virtual cutting mat so it's in an area that will be covered by paper on your actual cutting mat.



When you're ready, click the Send button along the top of Silhouette Studio to open the Send panel.

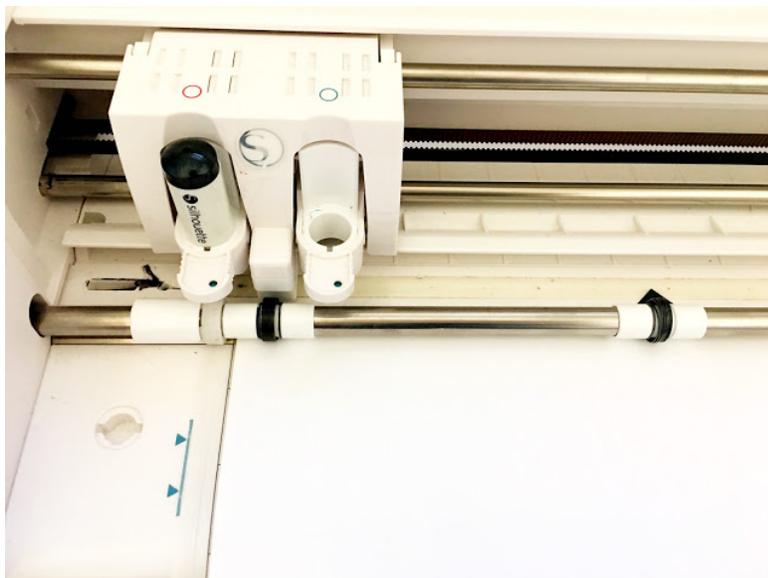
From the material list pick Cardstock or another type of paper.

In the same panel under Tool Type select "Sketch Pen." This will automatically change the Action by: "Cut", "No Cut" and "Cut Edge" to "Sketch", "No Sketch", and Sketch Edge". Make sure "Sketch" is selected so the sketch lines are turned on which is indicated by bold red lines.



In Silhouette Studio, the design will look the same as if you were going to cut it.

Take your sketch pen and place it into the left tool carriage on your Silhouette CAMEO 3, Portrait 2 or Curio. If you have a Silhouette cutting machine with just a single carriage, place the pen in there.



Sketch pens can be used in all of the Silhouette CAMEOs, Silhouette Portraits, and Curio.

Press the pen down so it falls completely into the carriage and then lock it into place by pressing the locking mechanism on the tool holder fully in.

Place your paper on the Silhouette cutting mat and load it into the Silhouette Cameo or other cutting machine. Remember, to load the mat you want to gently line up the top edge of the mat next to the rollers

while the left edge of the mat is lined up with the line/arrows on the left side of the front of the machine. Then press Load or Load Mat on the touch screen depending on which Silhouette machine you have.

Back in Silhouette Studio, still in the Send panel, click "Send" and your machine will begin sketching immediately.



Getting a Better Sketch

If your sketch pens are skipping, there are a few ways to get a better sketch when using [Silhouette Sketch pens](#) with your Silhouette CAMEO or Portrait.

Scribble with Sketch Pens

Before you even put your Silhouette sketch pen into your cutting machine, scribble with it on a piece of paper. This will help get the ink flowing just like a regular pen.



Change the Force

If you're getting skipping, adjust the default sketch pen settings to increase or decrease the Force.

Not enough force means the pen isn't hitting the paper hard enough but too much force can also prevent the ink from flowing properly because the pen is being pressed down too much. Adjusting the force in either direction can help avoid skipping.

Increase the Number of Passes

It's not uncommon for the [Silhouette Sketch Pens](#) to occasionally skip in places. But you can fill in any skipped areas by doing more than one pass. If the pen skips a small area on the first pass, it should fill it in on the second pass.

You can set the number of Passes in the Send panel.



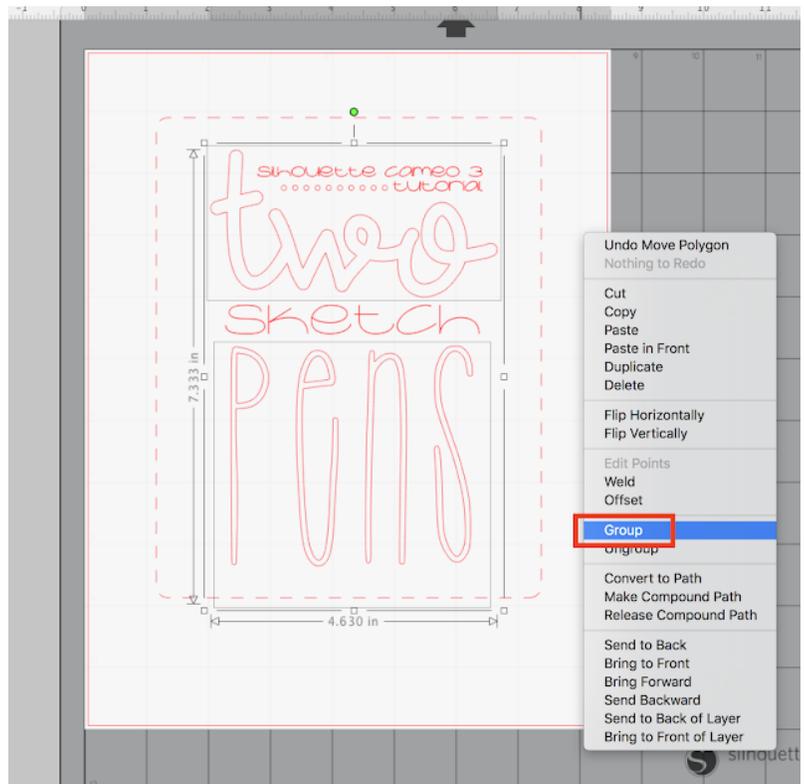
Using Two Sketch Pens in CAMEO 3

Thanks to the dual carriage, the Silhouette CAMEO 3 makes it easy to use two tools at the same time - including sketch pens.

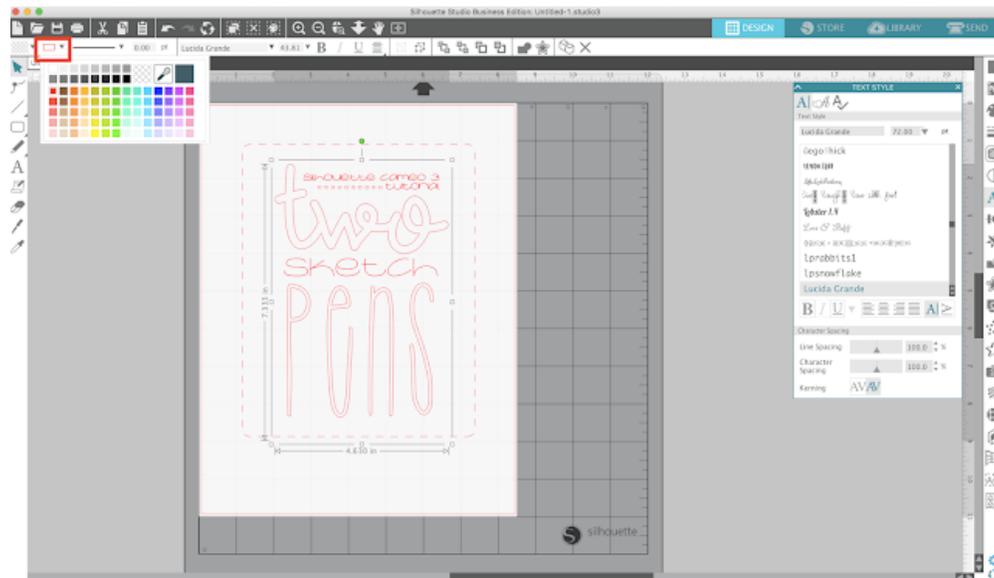
Using two different color [sketch pens](#) takes a little set up in Silhouette Studio.

Start by opening up your work area. Open a design or create one like your normally would. I used a combination of regular and sketch fonts for this design. Keep in mind, regular fonts will NOT be filled in which is why single line fonts are so awesome!

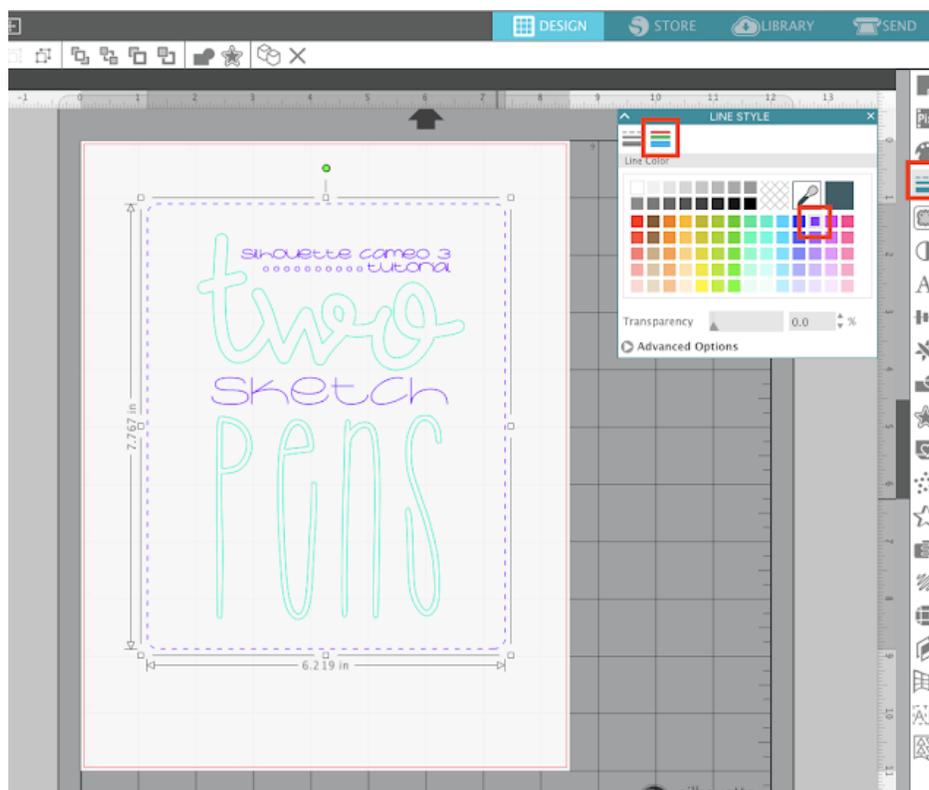
Select parts of the design that will be sketched by the same color pen and group them together. To keep things simple you should only have two groups since we're using two different color pens for this project.



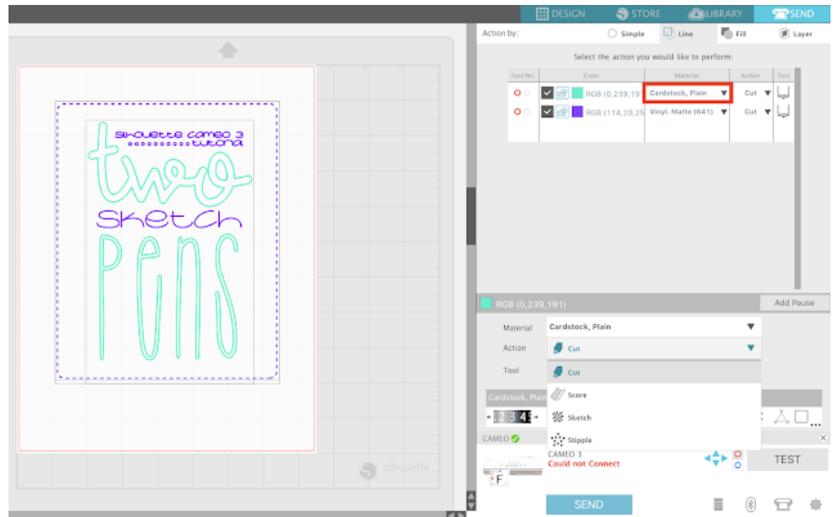
Now select one group and change the line color. The line color can be changed from the Quick Access tool bar or from the Line Style panel.



Select the second group and change the line color of that group to match the second sketch pen color. This does two things - it gives a visual of what the sketched design will look like and it will also help when we get to the next step.



Click the Send tab at the top. Select the option set up the sketch settings by using the Action by: Line Color options. This is why we gave each group a line color. Now you can see both those line colors show up at swatches in the Action By Line Color panel.



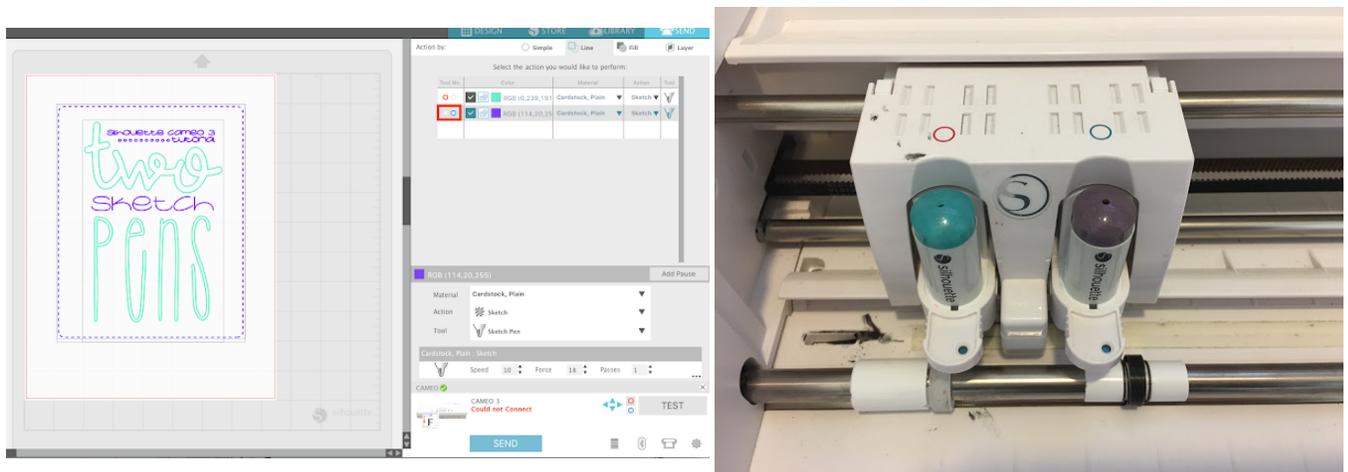
In order to have "Sketch" as an Action option (as opposed to Cut), you'll need to first change the Material type to something like cardstock or paper. Do this for both color swatches.

Also change the Action from "Cut" to "Sketch" for both.

For just one of the swatch colors, change the tool by clicking the blue circle to the left of the color swatch. This is what tells the machine to cut everything that color with the tool that's in the blue carriage.

Grab your [Silhouette sketch pens](#) and put one in each carriage making sure that the pen color that matches the line color goes in the correct carriage.

Here the teal pen (teal line) goes in the red carriage and the purple pen (purple line) goes in the blue tool housing.



Load your Silhouette cutting mat - I prefer a [light hold Silhouette cutting mat](#) for paper so it doesn't curl when it's removed - into the Silhouette CAMEO 3. In Silhouette Studio click "Send"

to begin the sketching. The pen in the red tool carriage will sketch first followed by the second pen.

Need some Silhouette sketch pen ideas? Check out this post on Silhouette School Blog



Looking for more Silhouette tutorials, tips, reviews, project ideas and troubleshooting? Be sure to check out [Silhouette School Blog](#)!



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