






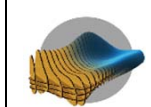
	<p><b>Adobe Illustrator</b></p>	<p>Adobe Illustrator is one of the most versatile tools you can find, and will let you work with vector graphics. As such, it enables you to easily create SVG files suitable for laser cutting. You will need some time to learn to use it and to handle its tools, but all the artistic opportunities it gives you are worth the time.</p> <p>You can also use Illustrator with other software, to check and repair other files (SVG or other formats).</p> <p>Overall, one of the best software to work with for laser cutting. Grab a license whenever you get the chance, and give it a try!</p>
 <p><a href="http://www.cutla">http://www.cutla</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Inkscape</a></p>	<p>The free and open-source alternative to Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape offers you the same possibilities. Whether you want to create a new design from scratch, or repair an existing one, all the tools are there to make the task easier.</p> <p>As with Illustrator, you will need some time to learn to use the software to its fullest. Even if a lot of functionalities are common to Inkscape and Illustrator, some of them have different names and uses. So beware of any confusion between the tools when using both.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Sketchup</a></p>	<p>SketchUp is one of the easiest software to get and to use, as a lot of the tools are intuitive, and the magnetism helps you do neat designs without any efforts. Furthermore, thanks to some plugins, you can get access to even more functionalities, making SketchUp one of the most interesting software, especially when you have a precise idea of what you want to do, and the necessary plugins to do it. It is thanks to one of those that you will be able to export SVG files from SketchUp. However, be careful, as SketchUp can't handle spheres and circles, and will transform them into polygons. As such, avoid this software for any curvy design, but jump on it for anything else!</p>
	<p><b>SolidWorks</b></p>	<p>Another big name of 3D modeling software, SolidWorks is based on the use of sketches to create models. This is why going from a 3D model to a 2D design with it is an easy task, and allows for neat and cohesive results.</p> <p>It provides a lot of tools, whether it is for architectural plans or products' designs. You will need to go through some trials before handling all the options properly. Though, when it is done, you should be able to tackle any project without any real problem.</p> <p>You need to know that you can't export any SVG file from a SolidWorks design. To get a viable file, you need first to "Make Drawings" from your object (you can do so through the SW toolbar). Export the drawings with a format such as IA, and open the files in Adobe Illustrator or Inkscape (mentioned above), to convert them into SVG.</p>
	<p><b>AutoCAD</b></p>	<p>If we talk about SketchUp and SolidWorks, we must also look at AutoCAD. It provides as many tools as the latter for architectural plans and mechanical parts, so you should find everything you need to make good designs, ready to be brought to reality.</p> <p>This time, you will need to export your file to the DXF format again, before going through Illustrator/Inkscape to export an SVG file.</p>
	<p><a href="#">OnShape</a></p>	<p>This software is a viable alternative if you don't have any SolidWorks or AutoCAD license available. It provides as many tools as those two, and will, like them, require some time to get used to. You will also need an Internet connection to work on it and to download your design. Another interesting point is that OnShape is available for tablets and smartphones too, so you can work on your models wherever you go!</p> <p>Again, you can't export any SVG files from an OnShape design, so you will need to go through Illustrator/Inkscape to get a proper file for laser cutting.</p>
	<p><a href="#">SolveSpace</a></p>	<p>This one is a bit tricky when you first look at it. This free and open-source software doesn't look appealing, as its user interface is quite minimalist. However, when you take the time to become familiar with the software, you realize how many functionalities it can offer you. Indeed, it has nearly nothing to envy to SolidWorks nor OnShape, from basic forms to fully functional constraints. Furthermore, it's free and very fast to download (less than 10 MB).</p> <p>You can also export your design directly into SVG from SolveSpace.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Solid Edge 2D</a></p>	<p>Solid Edge 2D, developed by Siemens. Again, a very versatile software, you can also get a free version easily (you just need to sign up and answer a survey). All the tools are available to make the first plans of your product, then modify them in order to make them realizable. You will need to export your file into a DXF format, after selecting the faces you want to export. Again, go through Illustrator or Inkscape to finalize the design for laser cutting.</p>
	<p><a href="#">DraftSight</a></p>	<p>DraftSight is a professional-grade 2D design and drafting solution that lets you create, edit, view and markup any kind of 2D drawing. A familiar user interface and a minimal learning curve facilitates an easy transition from your current CAD application.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Coreldraw</a></p>	<p>Our best just got better – CorelDRAW® Graphics Suite 2017 is our latest and most innovative graphic design program yet! Get all of our industry-acclaimed tools found in CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X8, plus so much more. Skip sketching and scanning from paper, and go right to our amazing new LiveSketch™ tool to capture your ideas the instant that creativity strikes. Our suite comes with cutting-edge features to help you create beautiful designs, graphics, photos, and websites with both ease and confidence.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Guide</a></p>	<p>Online guide for creating vector files (SVG, DXF) for laser cutting</p>
	<p><a href="#">Autodesk Inventor Guide</a></p>	<p>Laser cutting is a very versatile and practical technique to produce 2D parts or even 3D parts by bending 2D sheets. Some companies that offer laser cutting accept dxf-files of individual parts which can be readily exported using 'Export Face As...'. However, some manufacturers (e.g. <a href="http://www.ponoko.com/">http://www.ponoko.com/</a>, <a href="http://www.formulor.de">http://www.formulor.de</a>) accept a file for cutting several parts at once but require .svg or .eps as format. This poses the problem of how to make a 2D cutting template from several Inventor parts and how to export these as svg. I made several attempts that failed (see below). Here is the final attempt that succeeded. In overview I combined the involved parts into a cutting template as an ids-drawing, exported that as .pdf, imported it in Inkscape doing some post processing and then saved the final .svg.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Slicer for Fusion 360</a></p>	<p>Slicer for Autodesk® Fusion 360™ is a tool to turn your digital 3D models into appealing artefacts. It slices and converts 3D models into 2D patterns that you can cut out of any flat material. Slicer for Fusion 360 also creates 3D instructions you can interact with, to help build a model. Create a model in Fusion 360 and with a few clicks you can send your model to Slicer for Fusion 360. Apply various slicing techniques to your model and create 2d plans in EPS, DXF or PDF formats that you can cut using Laser cutter or CNC machine.  Slicer for Fusion 360 can be used as standalone or as an add-in for Fusion, and lets you use different construction techniques to build your model based on 2D slices and animated assembly instructions.</p>