# DESIGN SPACE ULTIMATE GUIDE

## Learn How To Use Design Space From Start To Finish With Step By Step Instructions For Every Feature

**Crafty Club**

# Welcome

**Hi, I'm Louise!**

Welcome to Design Space Ultimate Guide - The ultimate guide to learning how to use Design Space, start to finish.

I'm really excited to share this guide with you because when I was getting started, I always used to get stuck because I didn't know how to use Design Space.

I would get excited to recreate a project I'd seen online, open up Design Space and get to work. But sooner or later I'd encounter a problem and I just wouldn't be able to figure out how to resolve it.

I'd begin to lose momentum and then more often than not I'd end up giving up, which was a huge disappointment.

It all changed for me when I committed to learning how to properly use Design Space. Not just what all of the features do, but troubleshooting problems too.

Over the course of a couple of months I got really good with Design Space, and both the quality and quantity of my creations soared.

My aim with this guide is to help you shortcut the months of learning that it took me to get to grips with Design Space.

By putting everything together in one place, it makes it easy to refer back to a specific feature and remind yourself how it works.

This is the guide I wish I had when I started because it would have saved me countless hours! I hope it does just that for you!
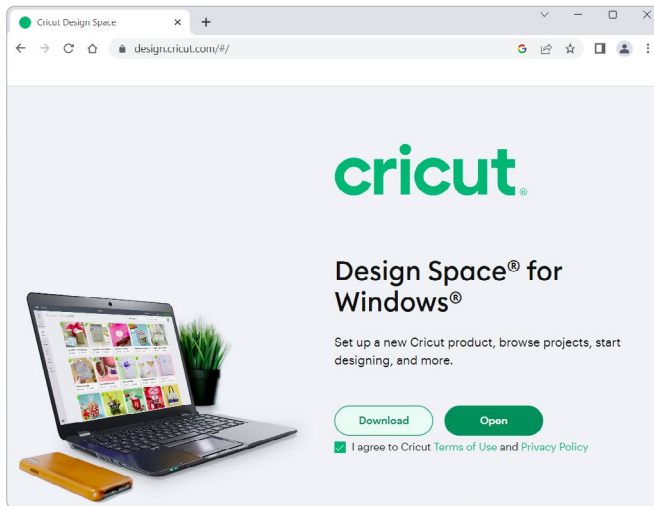
Happy crafting,
Louise

# Contents

# Installing Design Space for Windows

Design Space is the software you'll use to design your projects. Then once your design is finished, you'll send it to your Cricut to be cut out. Learning how to use Design Space is critical to becoming a great crafter, and the first step is installing the app on your PC. Let's get started!
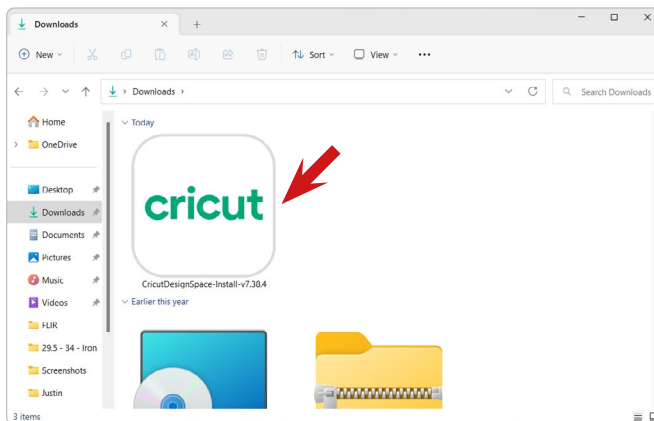
**Step 1** Click the link below to be taken to the Download page for Design Space: **https://design.cricut.com/**

**Step 2** Tick the checkbox and click the Download button.

The browser may ask you where you want to download the app to. I recommend your Downloads folder so it's easy to locate in the next step. The app will then begin downloading.

**Step 3** Once downloaded, navigate to your Downloads folder. You should see a new file called something like: "CricutDesignSpace-Install-v8.3.52". Double click on it to begin the installation process.
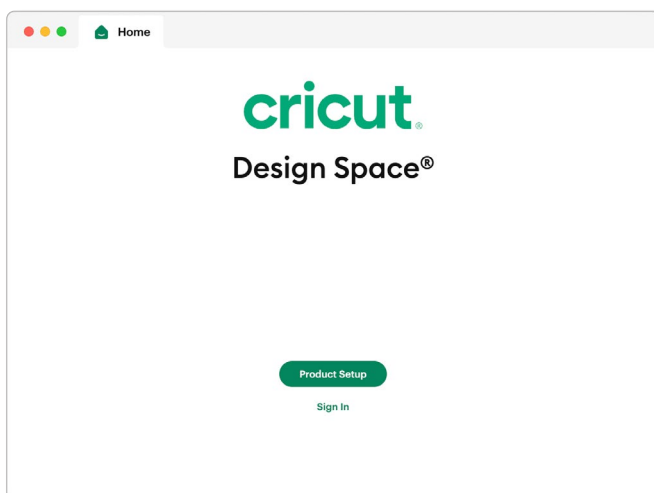
The app will install itself and then eventually open. Great work! Design Space is now installed on your PC!

The next step is to open Design Space for the first time and set up your Cricut ID, which is your profile and the logins you'll use to access Design Space.

# Installing Design Space for Mac

The first step on your Cricut journey is installing the Design Space app on your Mac.
It can be confusing, but we're going to break down each step so it's easy to follow along.
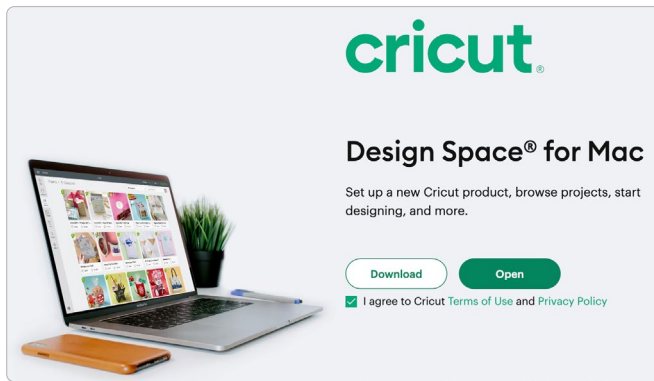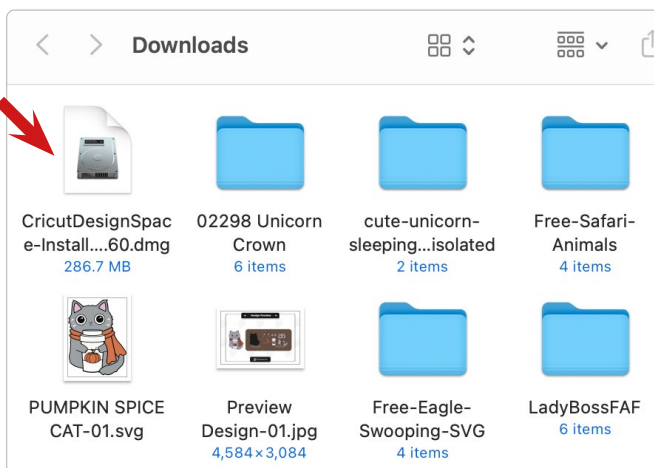Let's get started!

**Step 1**  Click the link below to be taken to the Download page for Design Space: **https://design.cricut.com/**

**Step 2**  Tick the checkbox and click the Download button.

The browser may ask you where you want to download the app to. I recommend your Downloads folder so it's easy to locate in the next step. The app will then begin downloading.

**Step 3**  Once complete, navigate to your Downloads folder. You should see a new file called something like: "CricutDesignSpace-Install-v8.3.52". Double click on it to begin the installation process.

**Step 4**  A new window will open. Click, hold and drag the Cricut Design Space icon into your Applications and folder and then let go of your mouse to drop it.
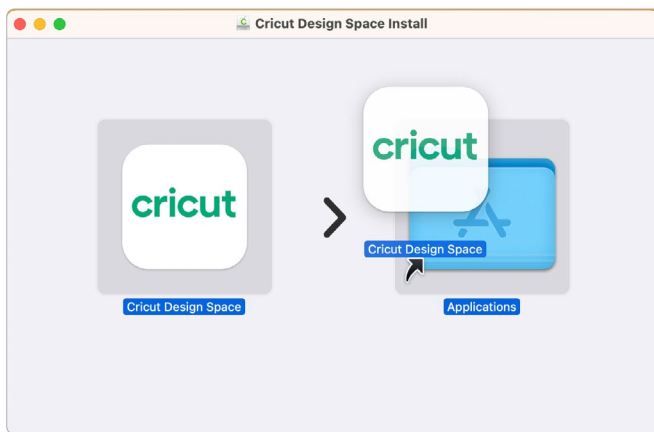
Great work! Design Space is now installed on your Mac!

The next step involves launching Design Space and creating your Cricut ID, which is the profile and logins you'll use to access the software. Go to the next page to see how.

# Create Your Cricut ID

Now that you've installed Design Space you need to create a login for it. On this page we'll run through the steps to open Design Space and create your Cricut ID. If you ever use Design Space on another device then you'll need to use the same logins that you create here.
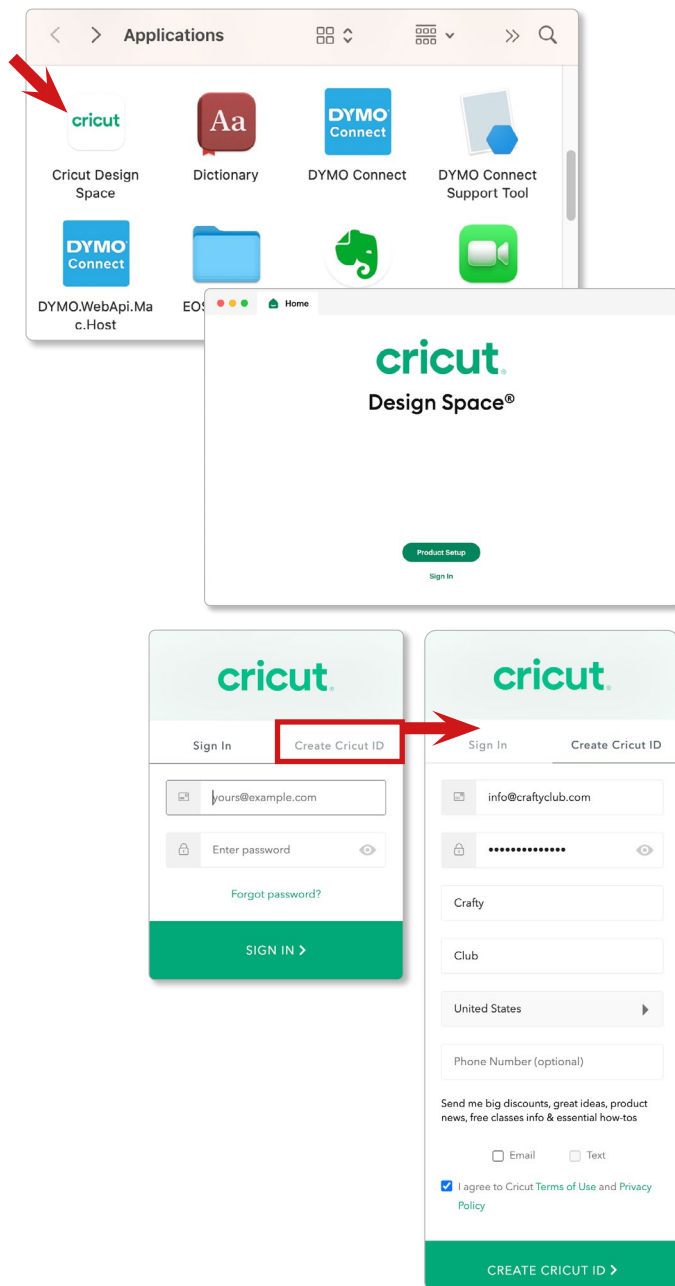
**Step 1** Open Design Space by navigating to your Applications folder and double clicking the Design Space icon.

**Note** This is how you will open Design Space in the future.

You may get a warning window: "Cricut Design Space" is an app downloaded from the internet. Are you sure you want to open it?". Click **Open**.

**Step 2** Design Space will open. On the screen it will ask you if you want to do a Product Setup, or Sign In. Click **Sign In**.

**Step 3** On the next page, if you already have a Cricut ID then enter your email and password. If not, click on the '**Create Cricut ID**' tab.

**Step 4** Fill out the form with your details. Decide if you want to receive discounts etc. or not, and tick the checkbox at the bottom. Now click **CREATE CRICUT ID**.

Great work, you've now installed Design Space and you've set up your Cricut ID!

**Note** The first time you open Design Space (and occasionally afterwards), you'll be asked if you want to subscribe to Cricut Access, which is $10 per month. It's not necessary but it is helpful, so it's up to you. You can always sign up at a later stage.

The next step is to set up Design Space for your specific Cricut model and then connect your Cricut to your computer so it can receive instructions from Design Space.

# Setting Up & Connecting Your Cricut

When you open Design Space for the first time you want to make sure it's set up correctly for your Cricut model and your preferences. We're going to do that together now.
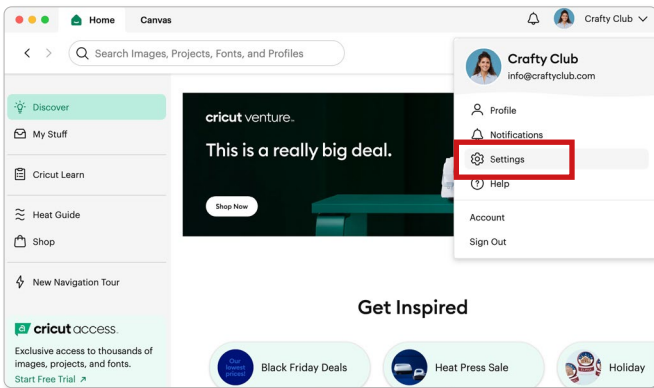


**Step 1** In the top right of the Design Space Home page click on your name. A dropdown menu will appear. Click on Settings.

**Step 2** In the new window click on the second tab 'Machines', and click the Start button next to New Product Setup.
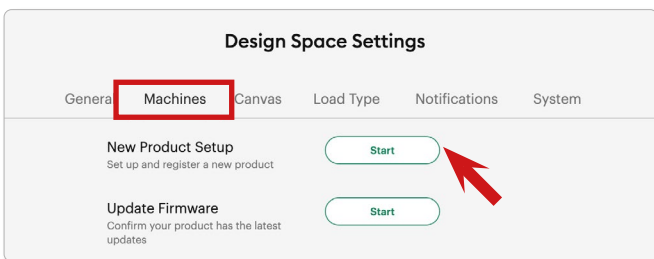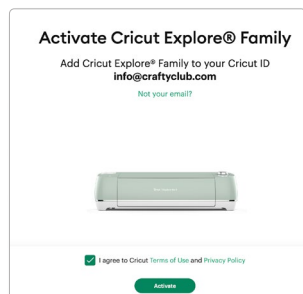
**Step 3** Select your Cricut model and then follow the on-screen instructions to set it up.

Once your Cricut is plugged in and turned on, the next step is to connect it to your computer. If you have a Maker 3 you will be given the choice between Bluetooth and USB, we recommend using USB.
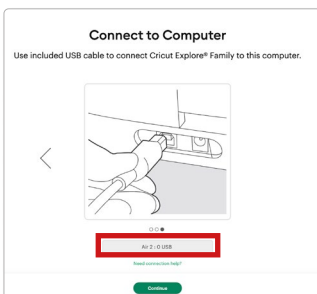
**Step 4** Plug the USB cable into your Cricut (next to the power inlet), and plug the other end into your computer.

**Step 5** Locate your Cricut from the drop-down menu, then click Continue.

**Step 6** Tick the checkbox and click Activate.

**Step 7** Setup is now complete. Click Next. On the next screen you can choose if you want to subscribe to Cricut Access. You don't need to, and can always choose to at a later point.
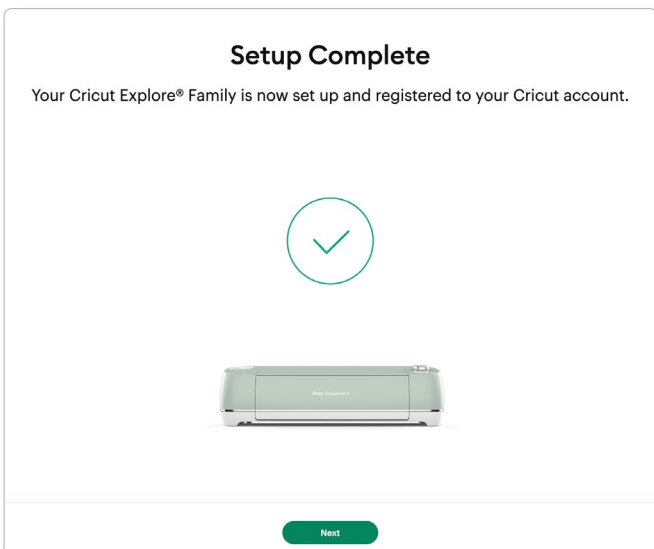
**Next** Design Space will suggest doing a test cut. We recommend going ahead with it. Learn how on the next page.

# Perform A Test Cut

After you've set up and connected your Cricut it's a good idea to perform a test cut to check everything is working correctly. For this you'll just need some cardstock.



**Let's Test Your Machine**

To make sure your machine is working perfectly, we'll cut this image. To get started, select Next.

**cricut**





**Prepare for Cut**

Step 4. Press the flashing load/unload button on the machine.

**Press Go**

When you're ready to start the cut, press the flashing Go button.





**Step 1**  Carrying on from the previous page, you should see this screen. Click Next.

**Note**  If you don't see this screen just go through the New Product Setup instructions from the previous page.
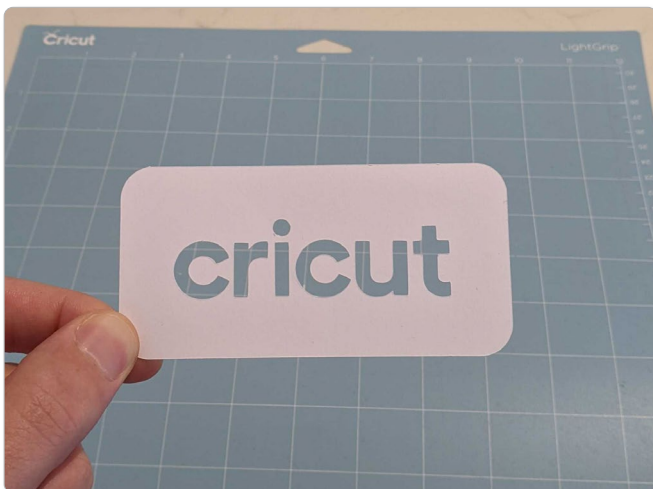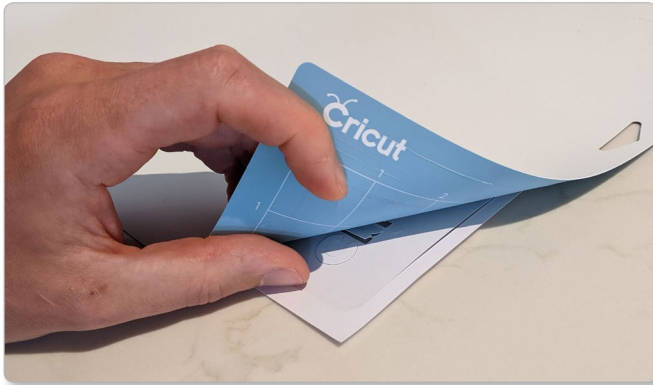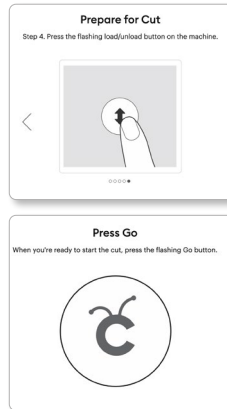
**Step 2**  Now follow the instructions on the screen. For clarity, here's what you need to do with your mat and cardstock.

**Step 3**  Take a blue LightGrip mat and remove the protective plastic sheet layer. (A green Standard Grip mat is also ok.)

**Step 4**  Place a piece of cardstock in the top left hand corner of your mat, and press it down to make sure it's attached properly.

Click through the steps in Design Space and you will get to the 'Prepare for Cut' screen. Load your mat into your Cricut, under the guides, toward the rollers.

**Step 5**  Lightly push the mat into your Cricut and press the flashing load button. Your Cricut should draw the mat in.

**Step 6**  Once the Cricut has finished moving, press the Go button. Your Cricut will begin cutting the design. Once it's done, press the flashing Unload button.

Now remove the mat, turn it upside down and peel the mat away from the cardstock. Congratulations, you've completed your first cut! Don't forget to re-apply the protective plastic sheet to your mat once you're done

# Introduction to the Canvas

The Canvas is where your creativity takes shape and ideas come to life. It's where you'll spend most of your time, arranging, customizing, and preparing your designs which your Cricut willturn into reality. On this page we're going to take a quick tour of this creative workspace and understand its key components.



**Edit Bar**

**Header**

**Design Panel**

**Canvas Area**

**Action Panel**

**Layers & Color Sync Panel**
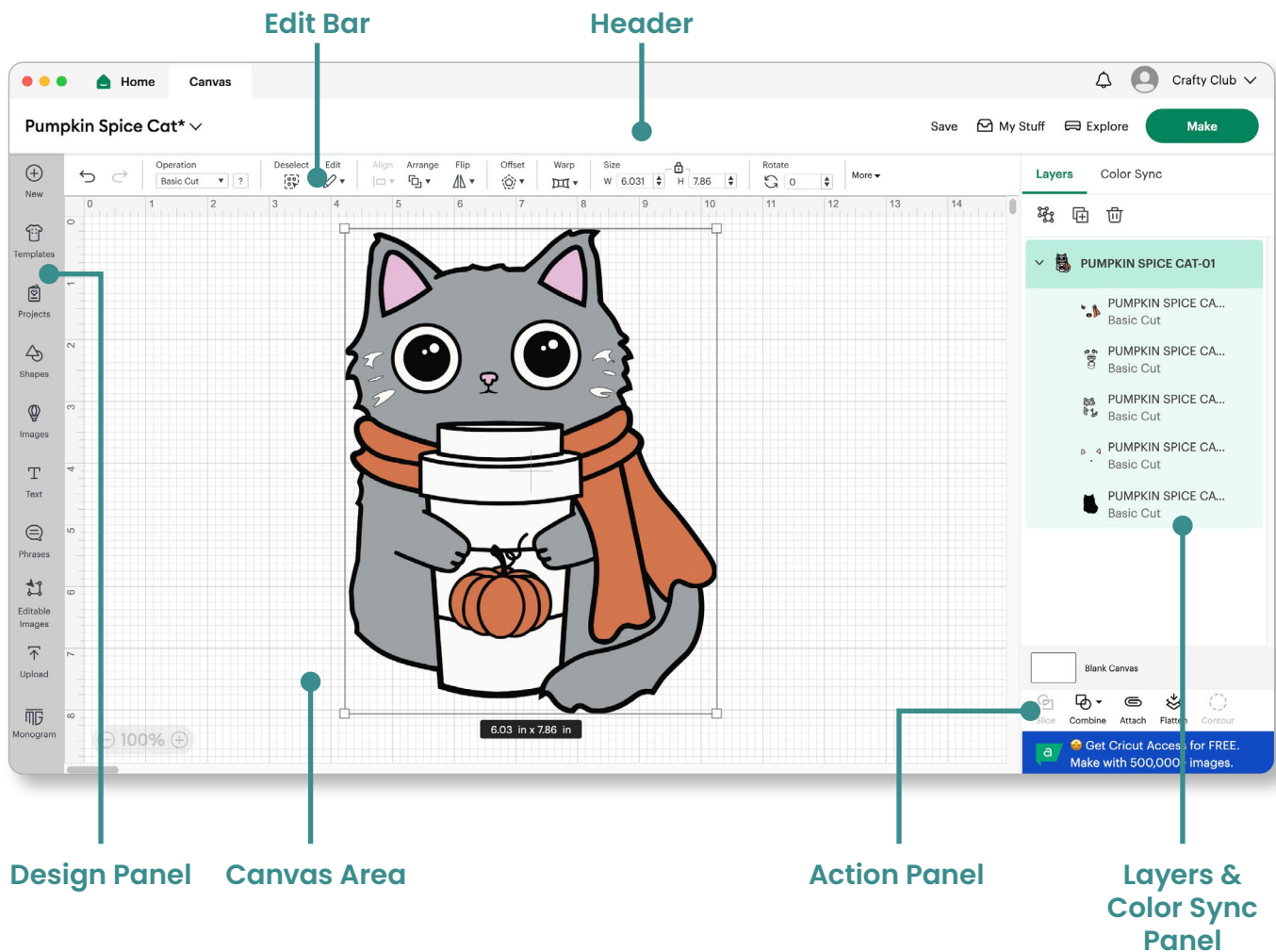
With these powerful panels and tools at your disposal, the canvas is your creative playground. Here, you can bring together all kinds of elements to create projects that are not only unique but are also perfectly sized and prepared for your Cricut machine to bring to life.

# Canvas Settings, Zoom & Scroll

Before getting started with a design, there's just one more thing we need to set up correctly, and those are the Canvas Settings.
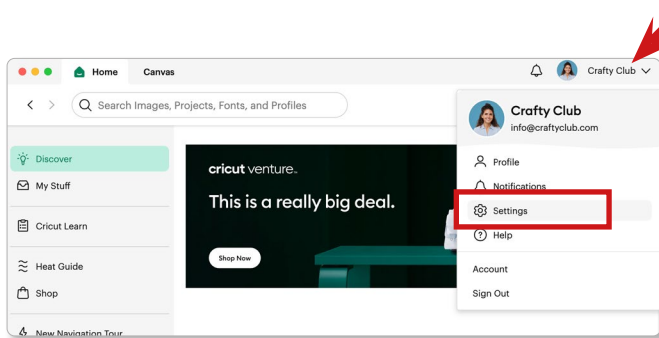
**Step 1** Click on your name in the top right of your screen. A dropdown menu will appear. Click on **Settings**.

**Step 2** Click on the third tab '**Canvas**'. For now I recommend the following options (you can always change them later):

 - Canvas Grid: Full Grid
 - Units: Up to you
 - Operation Type: Yes

**Step 3** Click **Done** in the bottom right. Great work! That's it for the canvas settings.
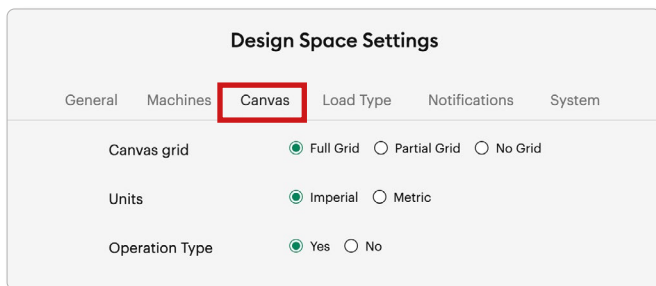
Here's three handy tips you should be aware of:
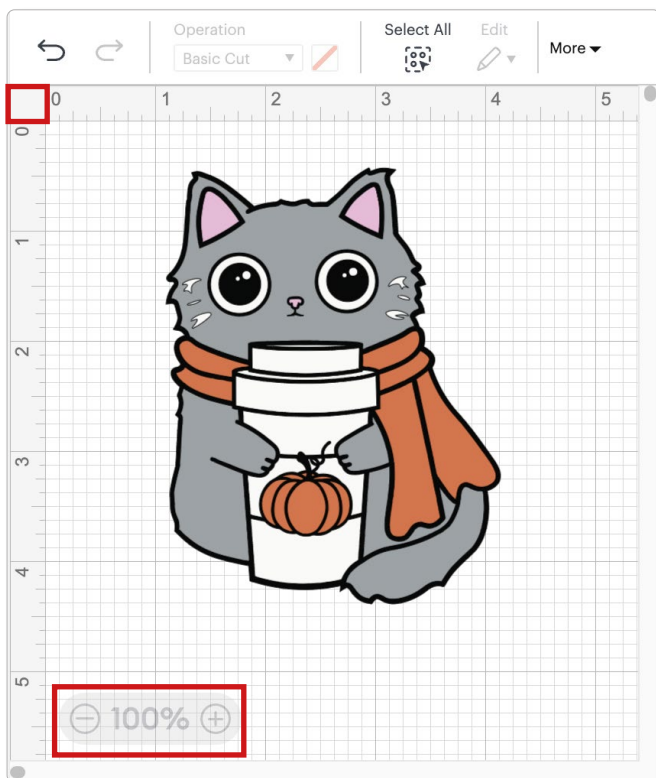
**Tip 1** To quickly cycle through the gridline settings, click on the very top left of the grid. This will switch the settings for the canvas grid between Full Grid, Partial Grid and No Grid.

**Tip 2** In the bottom left of your screen is the Zoom toggle. You can use it to zoom in and out on designs.

**Tip 3** Lastly, to scroll on your canvas there are three ways. Firstly, if you're using a Mac touchpad then you can scroll up, down, left and right just like you do normally (using two fingers). Secondly, with a mouse you can use the scroll wheel. Thirdly, there are scroll bars at the bottom and right of the canvas. Click hold and drag to scroll.

# The Top Bar

The Top Bar is located right at the top of Design Space regardless of whether you're on the Home page or the Canvas. It gives you quick access to your Home, the canvas, and your profile settings.
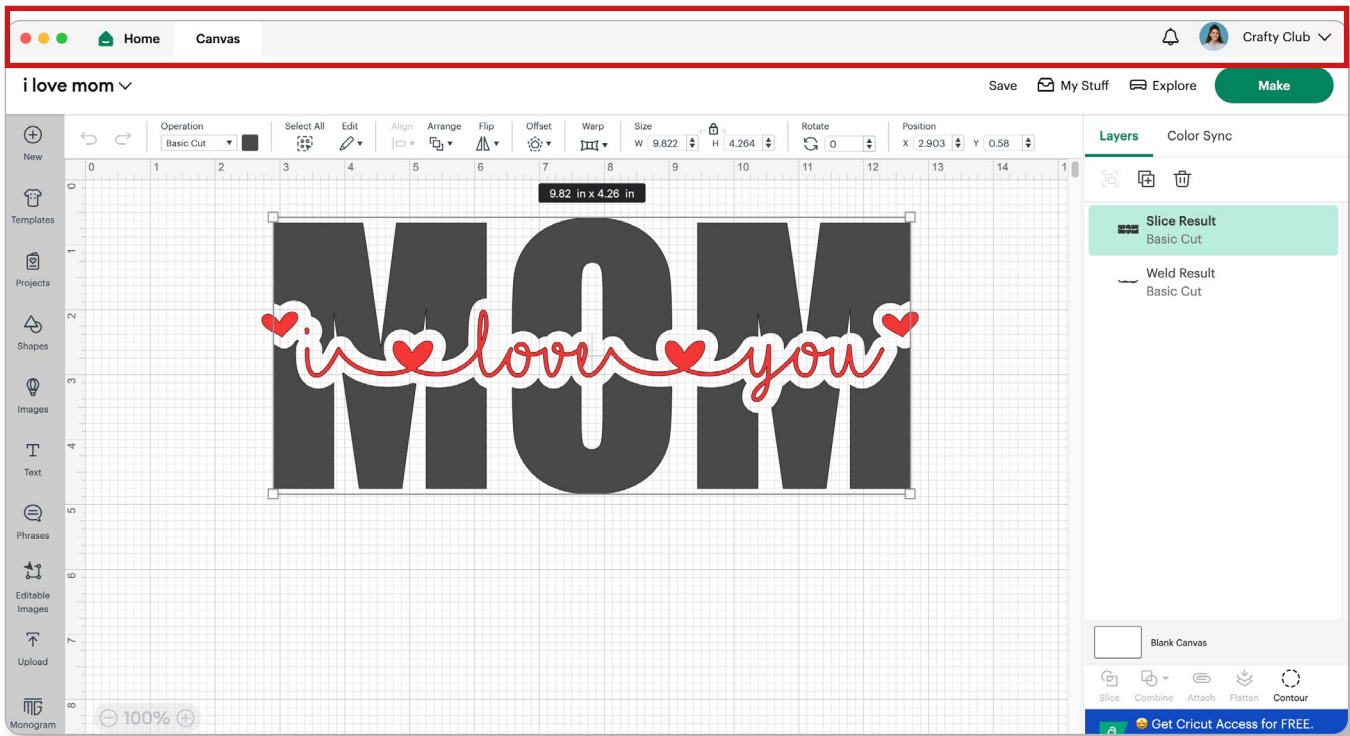




## Home & Canvas

With the latest version of Design Space on Desktop, it's now easy to swap between the Home page of Design Space and your canvas using the two tabs at the top.
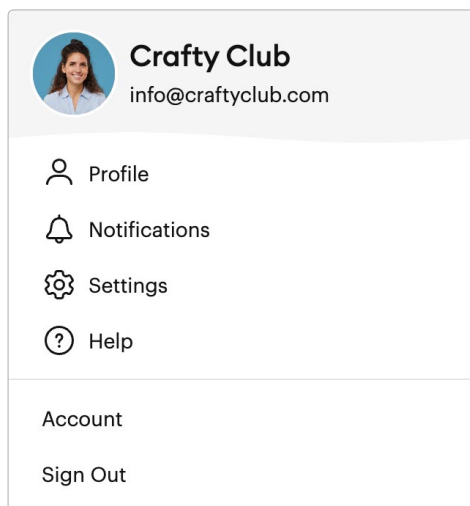


## Profile Settings

We've already set up both your Profile and the Design Space settings correctly, so in general you won't need to access this menu very often.

# The Header Bar

The Header Bar is located at the top of the window when you're on the canvas.
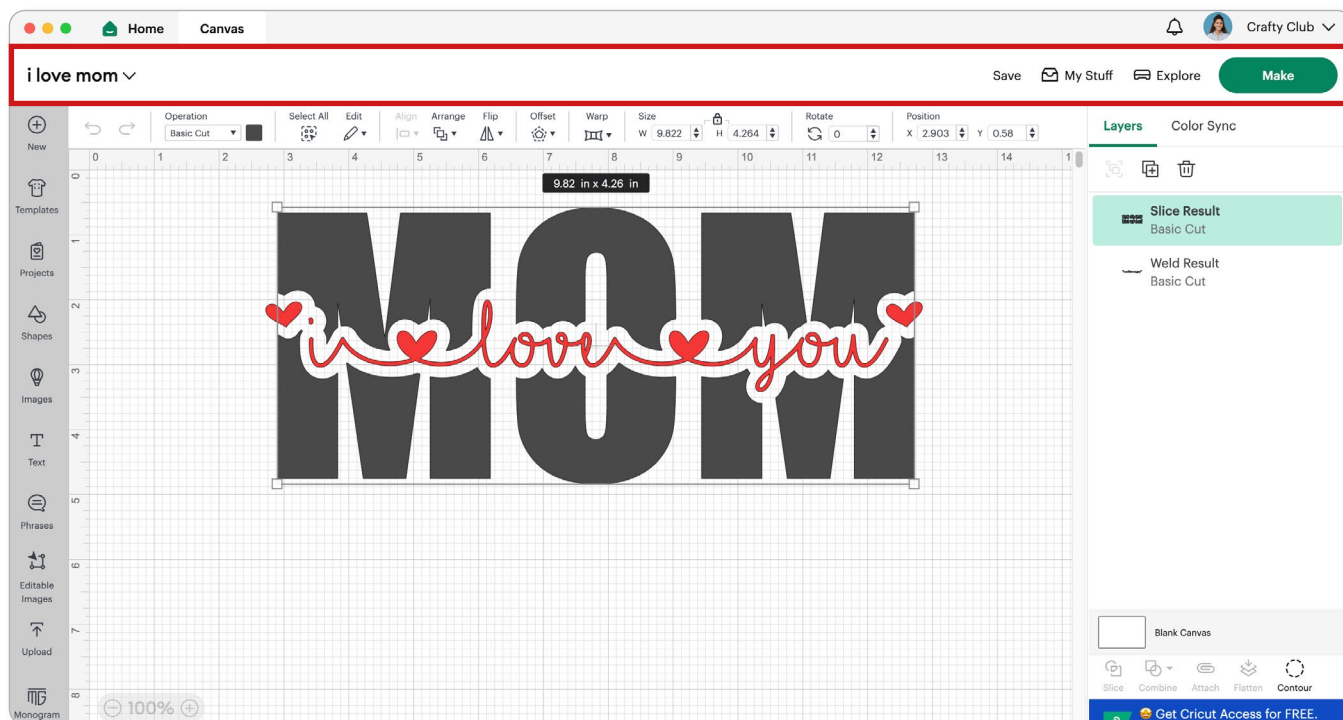


## Project Name

In the center of the Header Bar is your project name. By default, when you start a new project it's named 'Untitled'. Once you've saved your project it will update accordingly. If your project name has an asterisk * next to it, it means changes have been made to it since it was last saved, so remember to save before exiting!

## My Stuff

This takes you to a new window where you can find all the Projects and Images that you have saved to your Cricut profile.

Projects are sorted by My Projects, Bookmarked, and All.
Images are sorted by Bookmarked, Purchased, Uploaded and All.

You can also find your Collections, which are Projects and Images that you've pre-saved into different Collections.

My Stuff is useful for finding images you've already uploaded and adding them to canvas.
Or if you want to Customize or Make a saved project, this is one way to access them.

# The Header Bar cont.
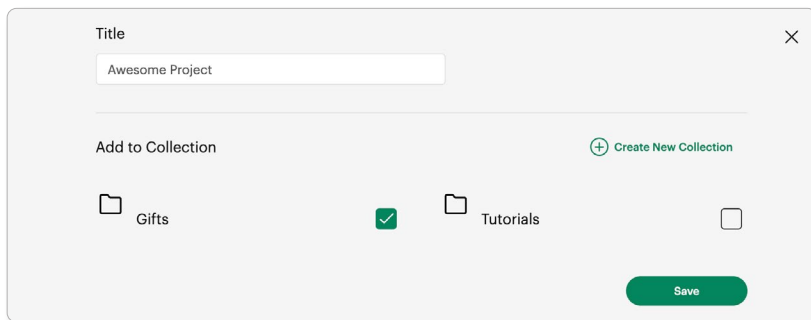
### Save
Whenever you start a new Project you should always save it straight away. Click the Save button and a new window will appear.

Give your project a descriptive name. You can then decide if you want to add it to a collection. Click Save when done.

### Machine Selection
You can easily swap to a different Cricut model and Design Space will adapt the experience to optimize it for that model. Unless you have more than 1 Cricut you won't need to use this.

### Make It
My favorite button! When your design is finished and you're ready to turn it into reality, use the Make It button to go from the canvas to Project Preview, where you can see how your project will be cut out.

# Design Panel

The Design Panel, located on the left of your screen, is your main toolbox for adding objects to the canvas. It includes the following features:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **New** | | This immediately opens up a new blank canvas to work on. Remember to save your work beforehand, otherwise it will be deleted. |
| **Templates** | | Add guides to your canvas tohelp you with positioning and sizing your projects correctly. |
| **Projects** | | Find ready-to-make projects created by other crafters. Useful for inspiration. |
| **Shapes** | | Add all kinds of different shapes to your canvas for use in designs. |
| **Images** | | Browse, select, and insert a variety of pre-made graphics into your projects. |
| **Text** | | Lets you add and edit a variety of fonts and text styles to your designs. |
| **Phrases** | | Provides a selection of pre-designed word art that you can add to your projects. |
| **Editable Images** | | Allows you to customize layers, colors, and parts of selected images within your projects. |
| **Upload** | | Lets you import your own images and designs to personalize your projects. |
| **Monogram** | | Gives you a simpler way to create hundreds of personalized monograms (requires Cricut Access). |

Each feature opens a new suite of options to choose from, allowing you to incorporate diverse elements into your project. We'll go through each of these features in detail in the upcoming pages.

# Templates


Templates

Templates are guides you can add to the canvas to help you visualize how your design will look on different items or materials. For example, when you're creating a custom T-shirt, it's often difficult to imagine the size and placement of the design without a point of reference. By using the Template function you can add a T-Shirt guide to the canvas so you can design with more accuracy. Let's run through an example using a T-Shirt.
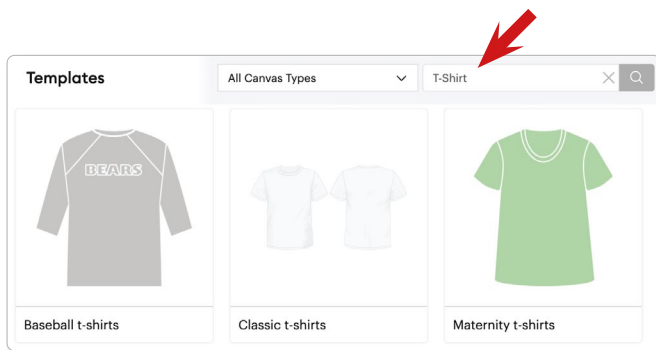


**Step 1** Click on the Templates icon. It will open a new window with lots of different Template options. In the search bar in the top right type in 'T-Shirt' and press Enter.

**Step 2** Now select a template that closely resembles the T-Shirt you'll be using. In this case we're opting for 'Classic t-shirts'.
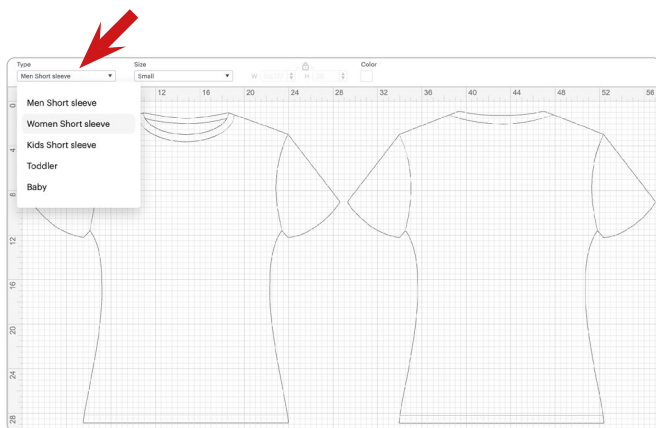
**Step 3** In the top left of the canvas options will appear for the Template to help you get the right size and shape. eg Women's Medium size.

**Step 4** Add your design and adjust the size to fit the T-Shirt template.
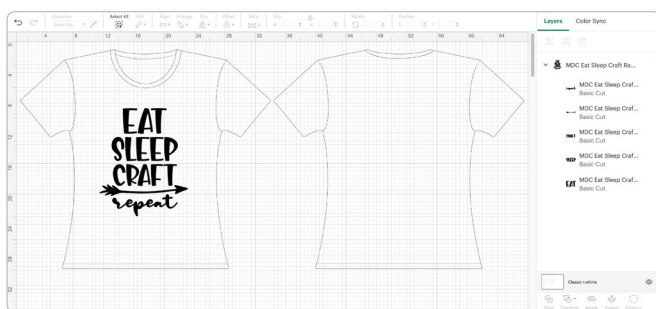
**Note 1** The template itself won't get cut or printed, it's purely a visual aid to help with the placement and sizing of your design elements.

**Note 2** You can only have one template at a time. If you add another, it will replace the first one.

**Tip** If you want to hide your guide, you can do so using this visibility button in the bottom right.

# Projects



The Projects feature allows you to browse all sorts of projects, from ones you've created and saved, to Community projects that you can customize and make yourself. Whether you're looking for a quick project to complete in an afternoon or planning a complex design, the 'Projects' section is a valuable resource for inspiration and ideas.
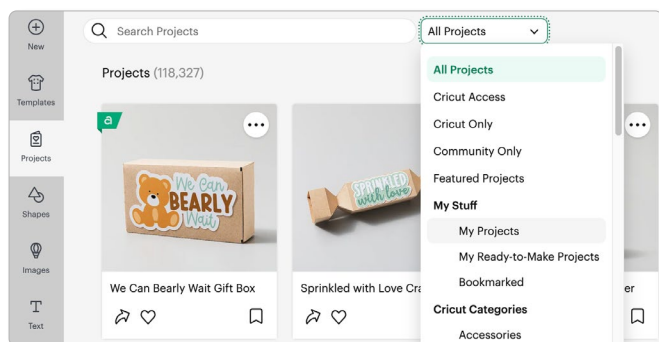






To access the Projects, simply click the Projects icon in the Design Panel. A new window will open.

You can then either search all projects available in Design Space using the search bar, or you can narrow it down by category.

For example you can choose to view only your own projects using the dropdown menu and selecting 'My Projects'.
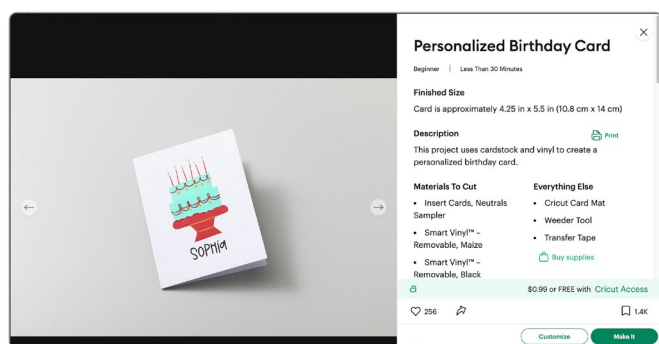
Alternatively, use the search bar to find a project you like the look of.

Once you've found an eye-catching project, click on it and you'll be given more information about it. You can see the difficulty (beginner), what materials and tools you need, and how long it will take to make.
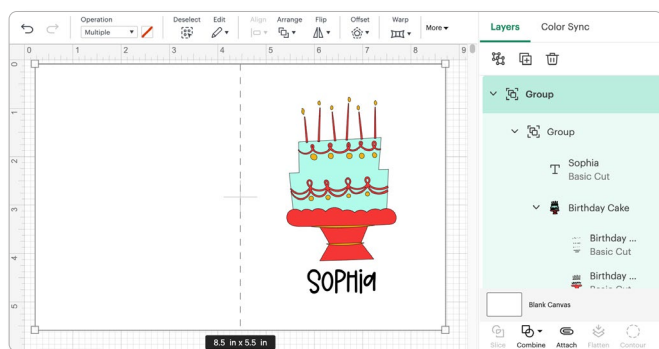
You can then choose to either Customize it, which imports it to your canvas so you can modify it. Or you can go straight to making it, just as it is.

You can see when we opt to customize the project it gets imported with all the different layers. This is helpful if you're interested to see how a project is actually designed.

**Note:** Making other people's projects is not always free. In fact, most of the time you'll need to either pay to use particular elements from the project (e.g. fonts), or you can get them for free as part of a Cricut Access membership.

# Shapes


Shapes

The Shapes feature allows users to add all sorts of shapes into your canvas. It's essential and useful for both simple and complex design creations because it can also help with creating frames, borders, score lines and much more.
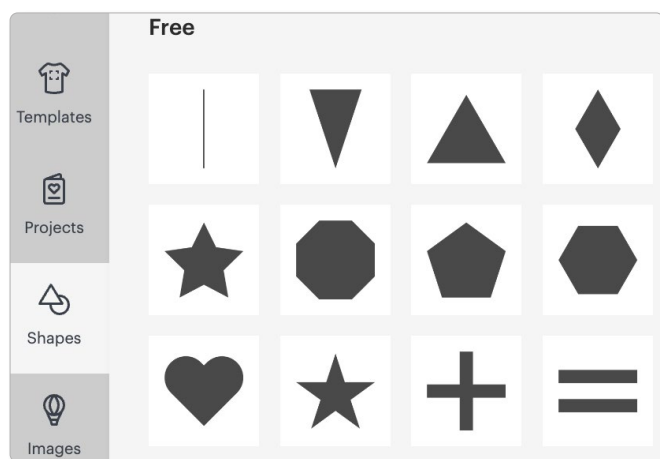


To access the shapes options, click on the Shapes icon in the Design Panel.

A new window will open with all the different shape options you have available. Select one and it will be added to the canvas. You can then adjust the size, position, color etc.

Shapes are useful on their own, but can also be used to create frames and borders. When you know how to use the Slice and Combine functions, which we'll cover later in the book, then using shapes becomes a powerful way to make your projects more sophisticated.
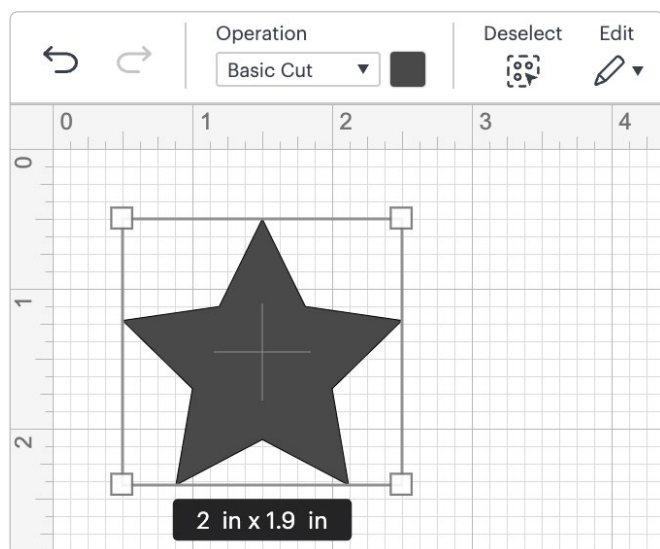
The Shapes function also includes a 'Score Line' shape (first option, top left), which is essential for projects that require folding, such as cards or 3D objects. This score line tells your Cricut where to create a crease which then makes it easy for precise folding.

**Note:** Not all shapes are free. As you can see on the left some are only included for free when you have a Cricut Access membership. If you don't have Cricut Access then you'll need to pay to use them.

# Images, Phrases & Editable Images
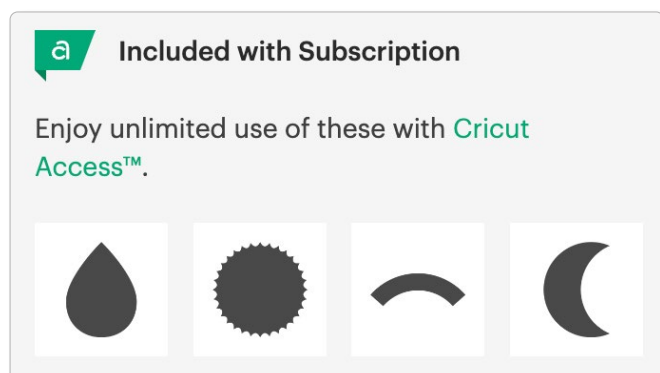

Images


Phrases


Editable Images

The Images feature gives you access to a vast library of pre-made illustrations and designs which you can easily import and add to your projects. Phrases and Editable Images are specific subsets of all the Images that are available.
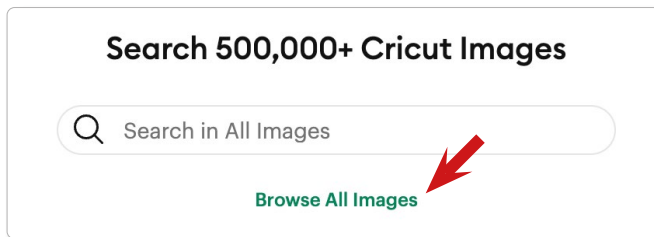


**Step 1** Click on the Images icon in the Design Panel. A new window will open with a search bar. Type in what you're looking for. Alternatively click **Browse All Images** to get access to more filters.
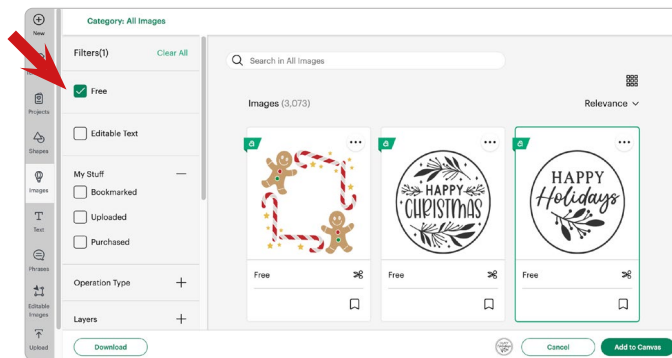


**Step 2** If you don't have Cricut Access then you can filter the images by Free. Once you've found an image you like, select it and then click **Add to Canvas** in the bottom right.

**Step 3** The image will be added to your canvas and you can then resize, reposition etc.
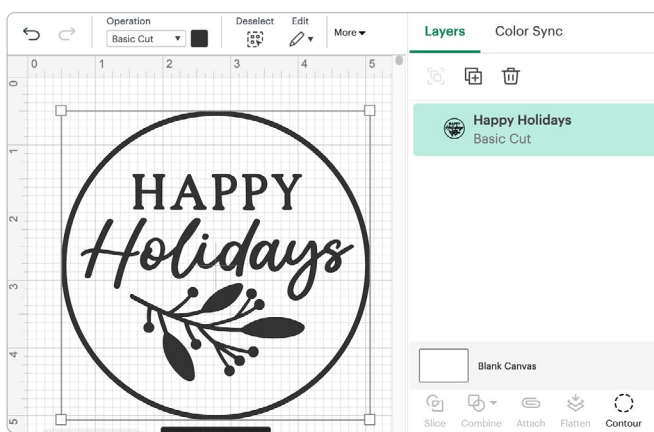


The Images feature includes robust filter options, which you can use to find images based on category, keyword, license type (free, purchased, subscription), layer complexity, and other criteria.

Editable Images are designs with customization in mind. They offer a lot of flexibility to modify the design exactly how you want.

Phrases are designs that tend to be based around a quote or sentiment. In general they are not as adaptable as Editable Images, but there are lots to choose from so you can usually find one that works well for your needs.

**Note:** If you're subscribed to Cricut Access then you'll have access to hundreds of thousands of images, whereas there are only a few thousand if you're not. It's still not necessary to have Cricut Access, but it does give you a lot more freedom and flexibility.

# Text

The Text function allows you to add text and writing to your projects. It's a key component for personalizing and creating custom designs. There are lots of advanced features when it comes to editing Text, and we'll explore them in detail in a later chapter. For now all you need to know is how to add text to your canvas and do basic editing.
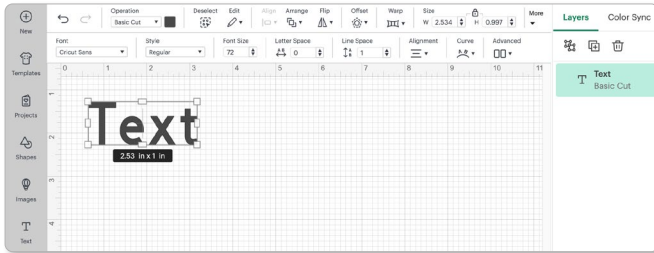
To add text to your canvas simply click on the Text icon in the Design Panel. A new text layer will appear on the canvas.

You can edit the text itself by double-clicking on it to select the text, and then click a third time to place your cursor.
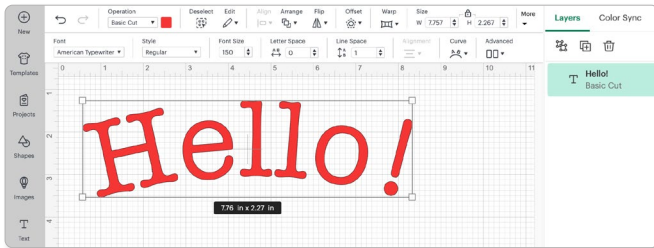
When text is selected new options appear below the main Edit Bar, including options such as Font, Style and Font Size, making it very easy to adjust the text settings.

We have a dedicated chapter which runs through all the different text-specific features:

- **Fonts**
- **Font Style**
- **Font Size**
- **Letter Spacing**
- **Line Spacing**
- **Alignment**
- **Curve Text**
- **Manipulate letters individually**

The Text function provides a lot of creative freedom within Cricut Design Space, whether you're creating vinyl decals, custom apparel, personalized greeting cards, or any other project that could be enhanced with textual content.

# Upload - SVGs

Upload gives you the ability to import your own images and designs to Design Space. Once an image is uploaded you can access it and use it in any of your projects. Below we cover the steps to upload SVG files.
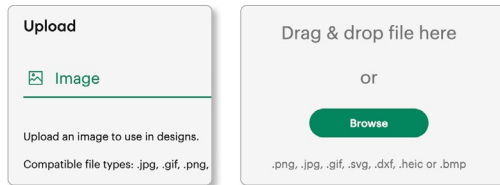
SVG stands for Scalable Vector Graphics. What this means is that your image can be scaled up infinitely while still having excellent resolution.

Another feature of SVGs is that they can be imported with multiple layers, which is useful for creating more complex designs.

**Step 1**    Click on Upload in the Design Panel. Click Upload Image, then click 'Browse' in the new window click Browse.

**Step 2**    Locate your SVG file, select it and then click Open.

**Step 3**    Design Space will import the file into Design Space. Make sure to name it properly, and then click Upload in the bottom right.

**Step 4**    Your SVG file is now uploaded to your Design Space. The next step is to select it and then click Add to Canvas.

**Step 5**    Your SVG file has now been added to the canvas. In this case you can see in the Layers Panel all the different layers that make up the image.
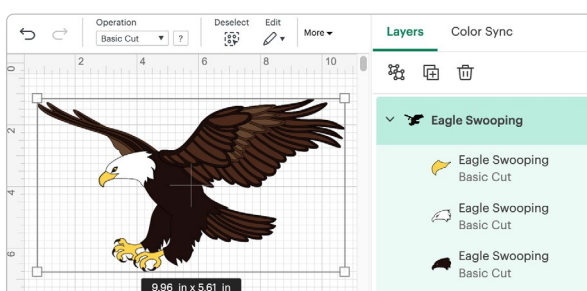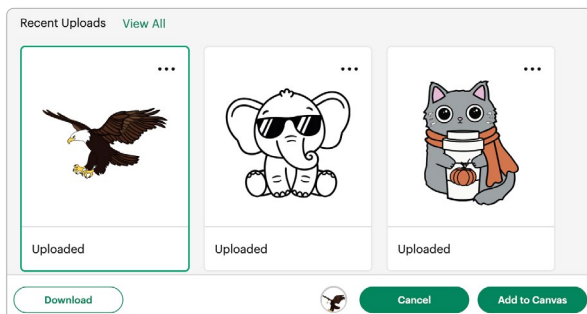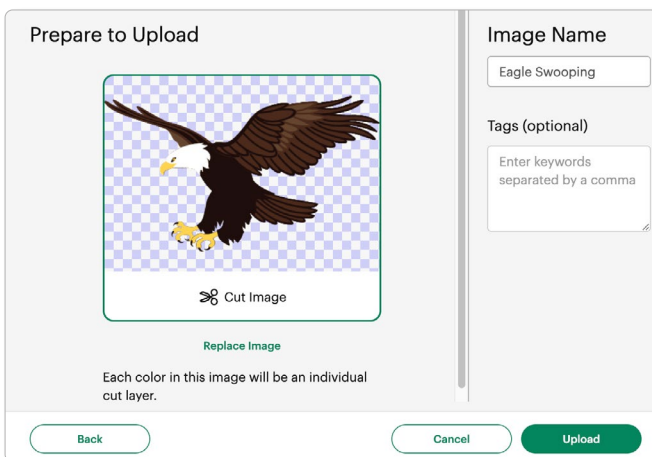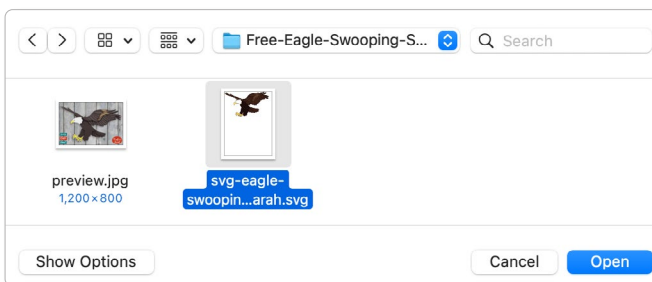
# Upload - JPGs & PNGs

Upload gives you the ability to import your own images and designs to Design Space. Once an image is uploaded you can access it and use it in any of your projects. Below we cover the steps to upload JPG and PNG images.
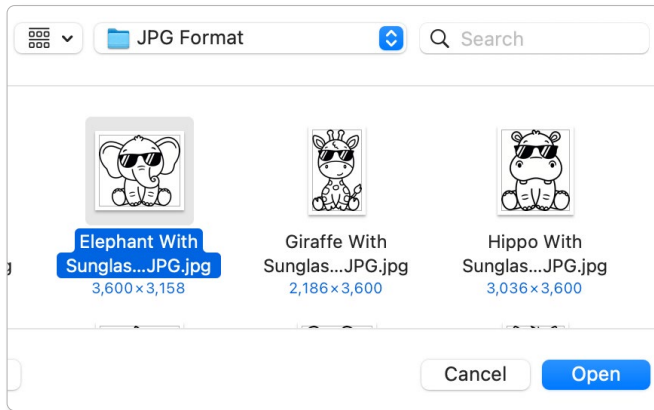
When you upload a JPG or PNG it's uploaded as a single layer. This means that you'll only be able to use these images as an outline, or for Print Then Cut projects.

The difference between a JPG and a PNG is that a PNG has the background removed, whereas a JPG requires you to manually remove the background. Let's see this in action.
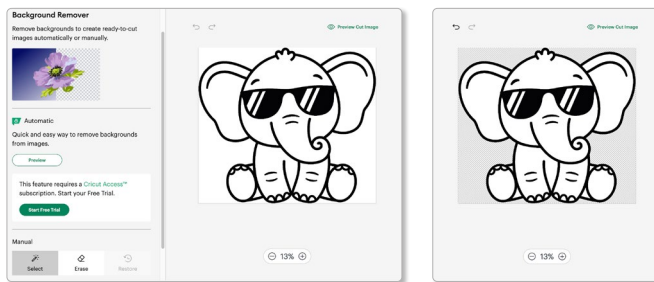
**Step 1** Click on **Upload** in the Design Panel. In the new window click **Upload Image**, and then **Browse** (see previous page for screenshots).

**Step 2** Locate your PNG/JPG file, select it then click **Open**.
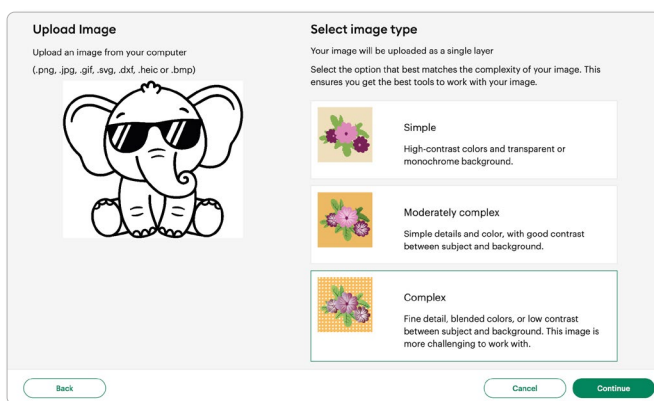
**Step 3** Design Space will prompt you to remove the background manually. To do so, click your mouse on the parts of the image that are background. These areas will change from white to checkered. Once finished, click **Apply & Continue**.

**Step 4** Select your image type. I recommend switching between all 3 to see which produces the best result then click **Continue**.

# Upload - JPGs & PNGs cont.
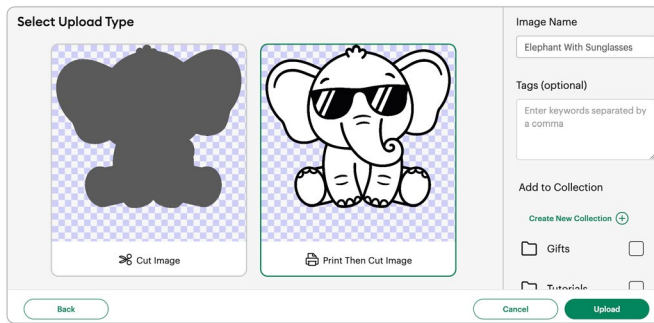

Upload







**Step 5**   Now decide which image type you want to upload it as.

## Cut Image
Your Cricut will cut around the outline of the image. This means you do not get any of the inner detail.

## Print Then Cut
Your image retains all of the details, but it can only be used for Print Then Cut.

We recommend opting for Print Then Cut because then the image keeps the details. You can also convert the image to Basic Cut once you've added it to the canvas, but you can't convert it the other way.
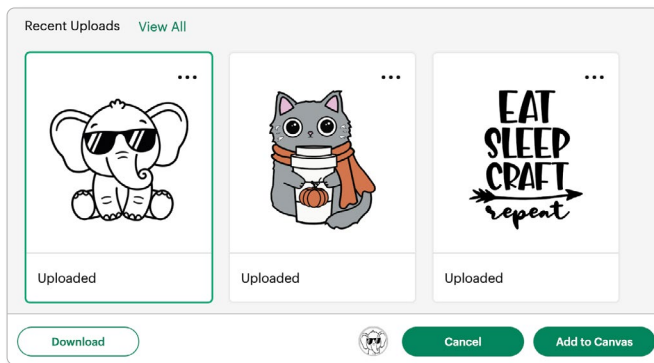
**Step 6**   Your image is uploaded, now select it and click **Add to Canvas**.

**Step 7**   Your image has now been added to the canvas. Note that it is one single Print Then Cut layer.
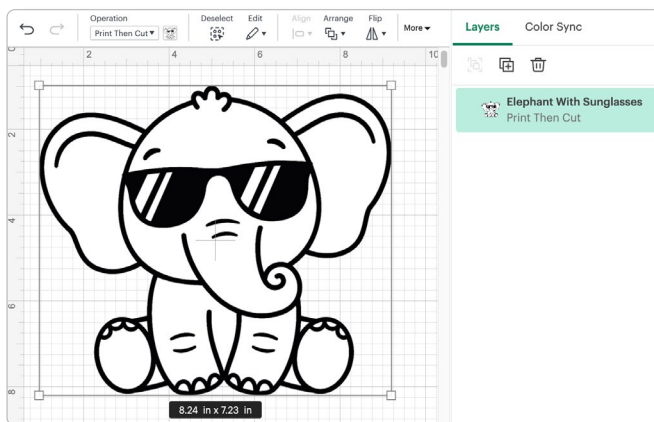
# Monogram



Create hundreds of personalized monogram designs from your canvas. There are many customizations available, from classic themes (Modern, Elegant, Handwritten and Vintage) to Thematic (Botanical, Decorative, Occasions, Interests and Sports).

To get started, click the **Monogram** icon in the Design Panel. A new window will open and you can begin to play around with the almost endless options available to you.

Note that Cricut Access is required to use a Monogram in your project. However, even if you don't have Cricut Access you can still test out different options, you just won't be able to Make them. Once you're happy with a design, click **Add to Canvas** in the bottom right.
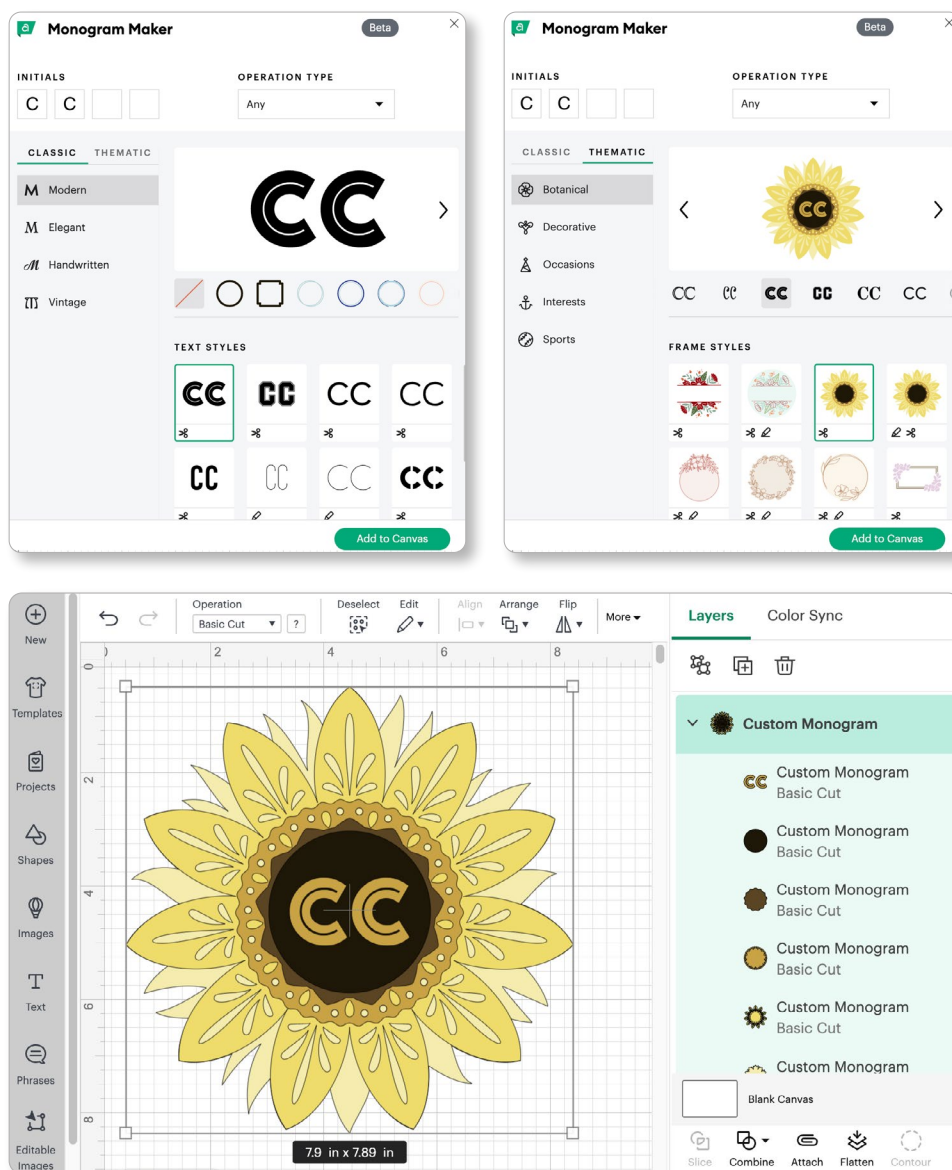
# The Layers & Color Sync Panels

On the right side of the Canvas are the Layers Panel and the Color Sync Panel.
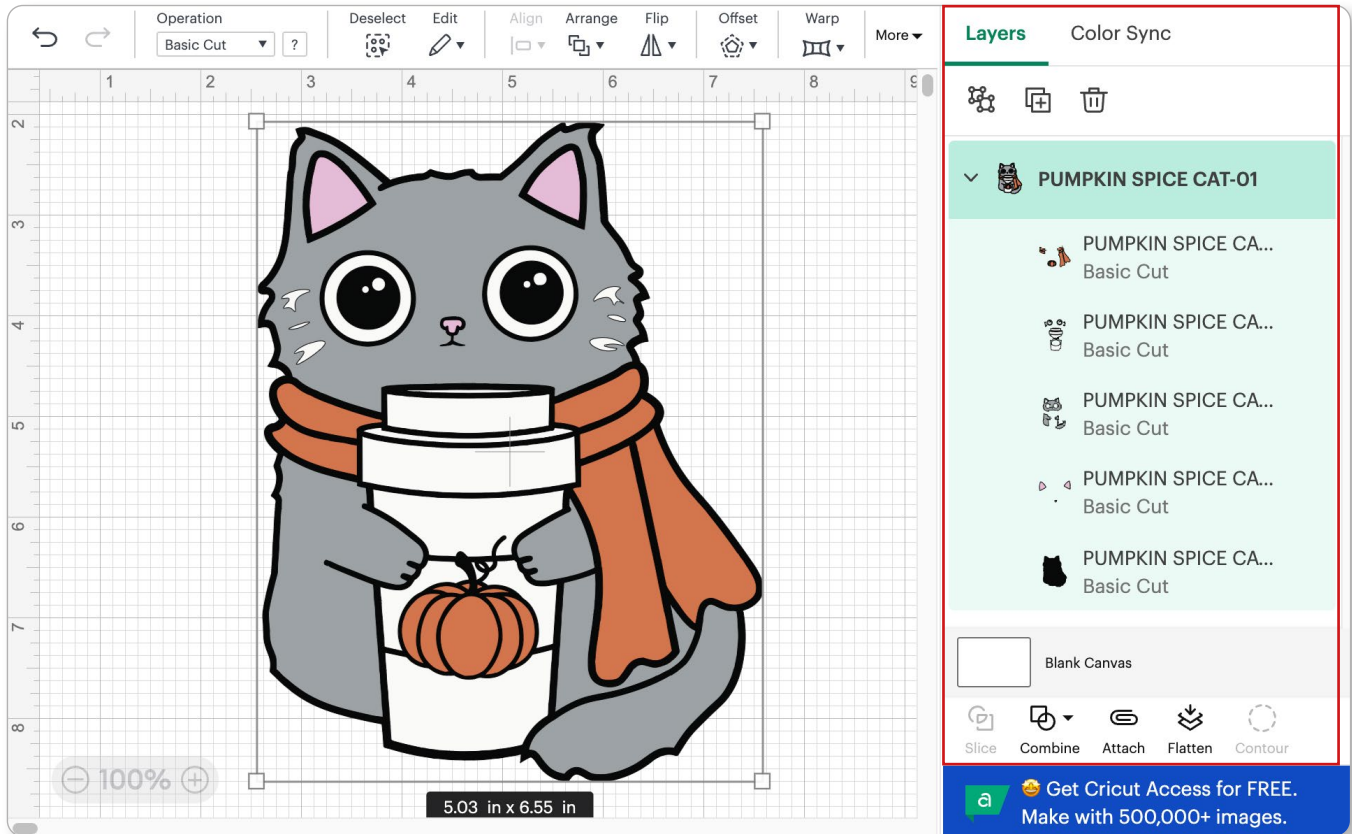


In the Layers Panel you can see all of the individual layers that make up your design. Here you also have access to the Group, Duplicate and Delete functions at the top, and the Slice, Combine, Attach, Flatten and Contour functions at the bottom.

The second tab is the Color Sync Panel. It's important to note that, in Design Space, each different color represents a different mat. So if your design has lots of different colors then Design Space will sort them into their respective mats, which can be time consuming and expensive to cut out. To reduce the number of colors (and therefore mats) we use Color Sync, which helps us consolidate different colors into one.

# Group & Ungroup
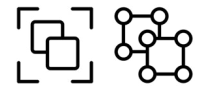
When we group elements it means that they stick together as one unit on the canvas. A group of elements is treated as one larger element. Instead of having to select all sub-elements each time you want to move them you can edit them as one.

Here we have 3 balloons which are each made of multiple parts. To move a balloon you need to select all of the individual parts, otherwise it only moves the one part you've selected.
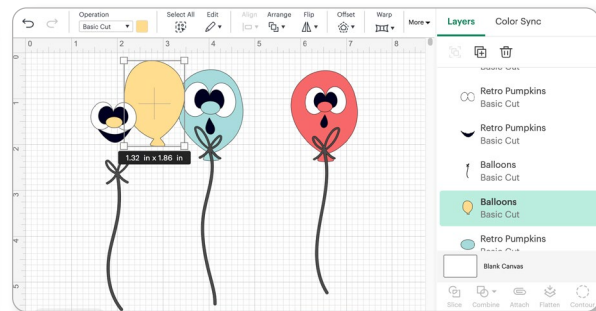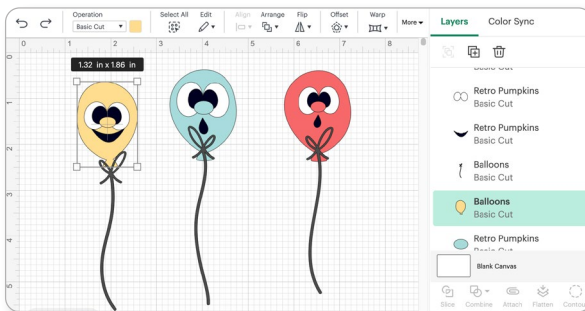


To streamline this we use the Group feature, which makes all parts of the balloon into one unit.
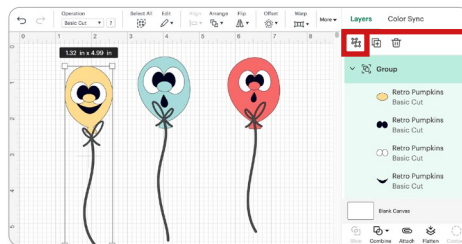


## HOW TO GROUP

**Step 1**   Select all of the elements of one balloon by clicking the mouse, dragging it over all the elements and then releasing.
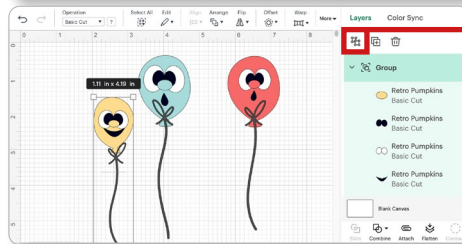
**Step 2**   With all the elements selected, as you can see in the Layers Panel, click the Group button.
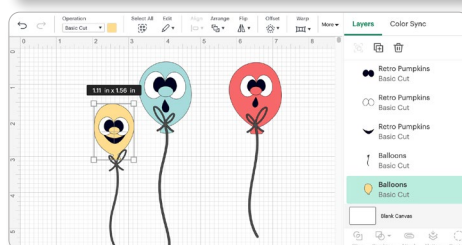
**Step 3**   Your elements are now grouped together so you can easily move them around or resize them as one single unit.

## HOW TO UNGROUP

To ungroup, select the Group from the layers panel, and then click the Ungroup button (same position as Group button). You can then edit the individual layers one by

**Tip**   When it comes to actually making your project, you may find the items you grouped together are being completely rearranged in Project Preview. To ensure the elements stick as one in Project Preview, as well as the canvas, you need to use the Attach feature, which we cover on page 26.

# Duplicate & Delete
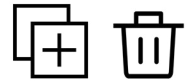
Duplicate and Delete are fundamental tools for quickly editing and managing your elements on the canvas. These functions provide a straightforward way to remove unwanted items or to create copies of existing elements, speeding up your workflow.
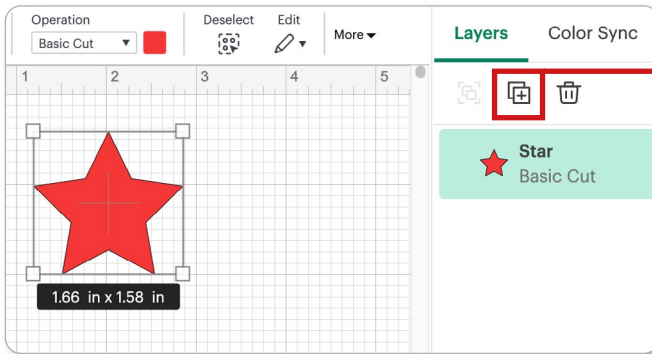
## HOW TO DUPLICATE

**Step 1**  Select the element on the canvas that you wish to Duplicate.

**Step 2**  Click the Duplicate button at the top of the Layers Panel.

**Step 3**  An identical copy will appear on the canvas.
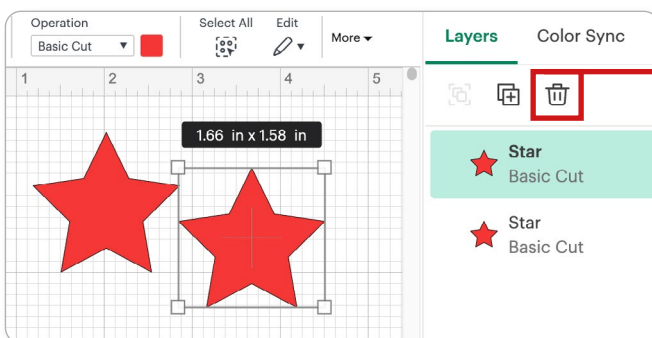
## HOW TO DELETE

**Step 1**  Select the element on the canvas that you wish to Delete.

**Step 2**  Click the Delete button at the top right of the Layers Panel.

**Step 3**  Your element will be erased from the canvas. Great work!
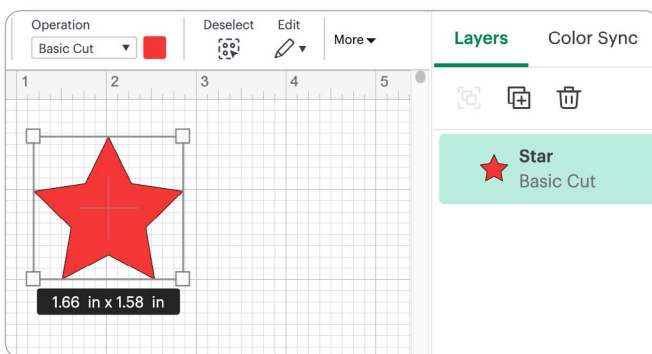
**Tip**  Once you get used to Duplicating and Deleting, you can begin using keyboard shortcuts.

For Duplicate, the keyboard shortcut on PC is Ctrl + D. On Mac it's Command + D

For Delete simply press the Backspace button on your keyboard.

# Slice

The Slice tool is a powerful feature that allows you to cut overlapping images or text to create new custom shapes and designs. It's essentially a way to create a "cookie-cutter" effect where one shape cuts through another resulting in unique cut-out effects.
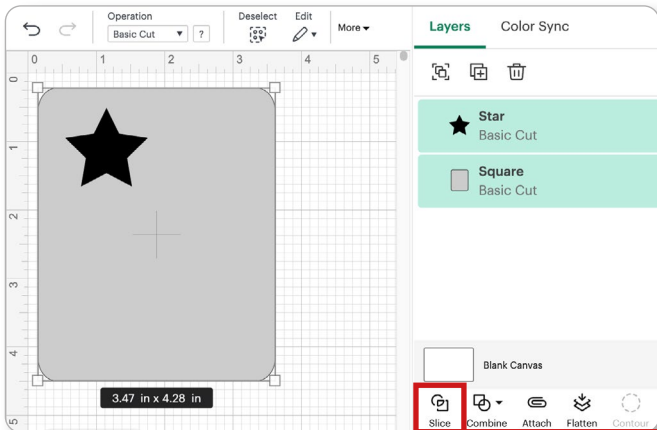


The way the Slice feature works is that it cuts one shape out of another.

In this example, we're going to use the Star shape and the Slice function to cut out the star shape from the card multiple times.

## HOW TO SLICE

**Step 1**   Select both shapes, making sure they are positioned correctly for the Slice.

**Step 2**   Click the Slice button in the bottom left of the panel.

**Step 3**   The Star has been sliced out of the card. You can see the new layers in the Layers Panel. It's clearer what's happened if we move the stars to the side.

**Step 4**   To complete the pattern, move the black star into a new position, use the Slice feature and then repeat multiple times and delete everything but the card.
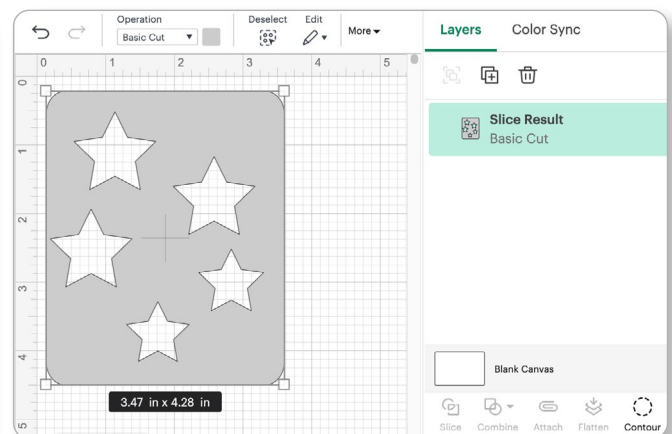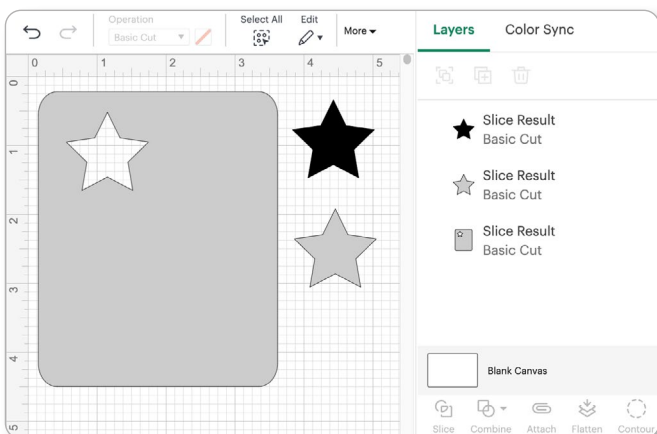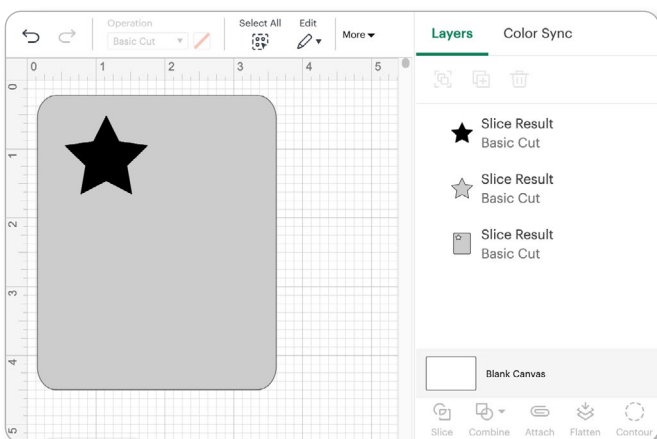
# Combine

The Combine tool allows you to combine objects in Design Space to make completely new shapes. There are 4 reversible actions - Unite, Subtract, Intersect, and Exclude – which keep all shapes in the group completely editable and can be adjusted or undone at any stage. Weld is the 5th option. It's similar to Unite but cannot be adjusted or undone afterwards.
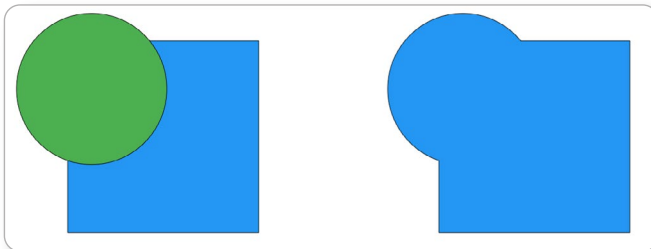
### Weld
The two shapes are merged together into one single layer. This cannot be undone other than undoing the action immediately afterwards.
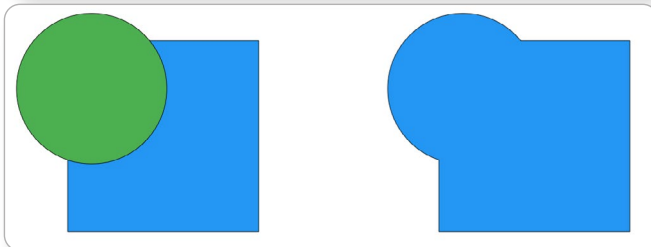
### Unite
Similar to Weld, Unite merges the two shapes together. The difference is that it's possible to undo the Unite action at a later stage, which generally makes it better to use Unite instead of Weld.
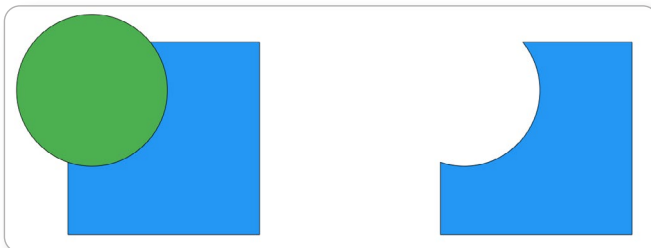
### Subtract
Subtracting removes the top shape from the bottom shape, leaving only what wasn't being covered. You can undo this action at a later stage via the Undo Subtract button.
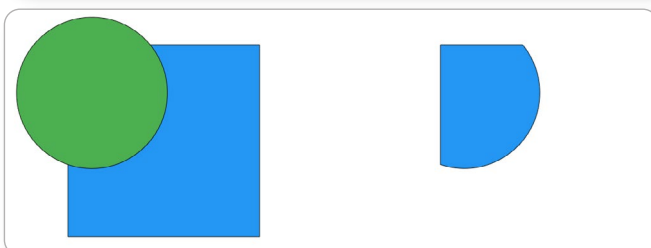
### Intersect
This function leaves only the parts where the two shapes intersect and overlap. You can undo this via the Undo Intersect button.
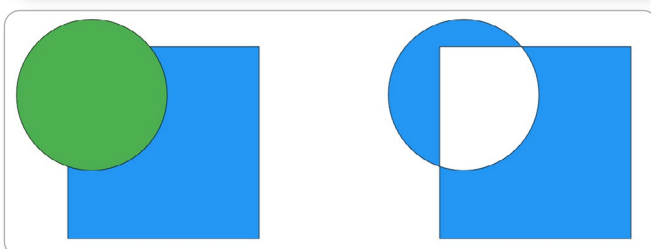
### Exclude
Excluding is essentially the opposite of Intersect. It leaves only the parts that weren't overlapping. You can undo this via the Undo Exclude button.

# Attach

The Attach feature locks elements together so that how they're positioned on the canvas is how they'll be cut out by your Cricut. This is crucial for designs where elements overlap to create cut lines and is a feature you'll be using a lot.
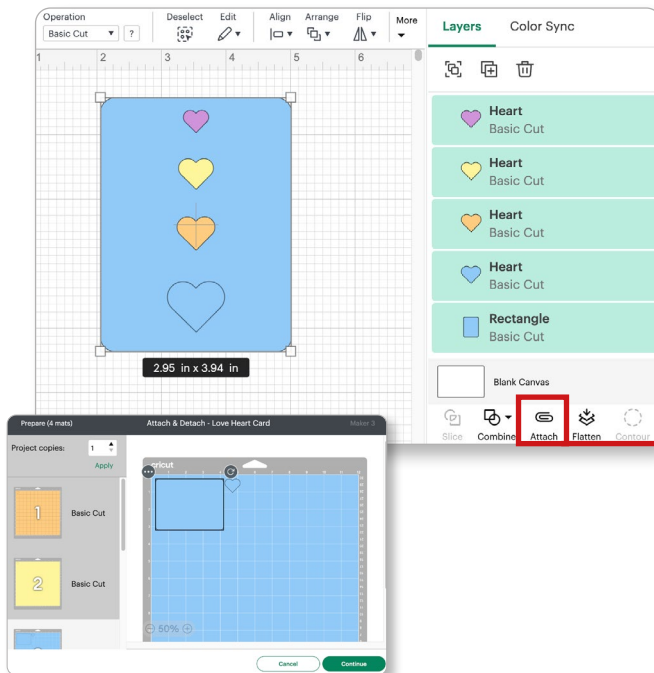


## WHEN TO USE ATTACH

In this example below, the elements are different colors and are not attached together. When we click **Make It**, you can see that Project Preview has generated 4 mats (1 for each color), and even on the blue mat, the heart and card are not positioned correctly.

To make sure the hearts are cut from the card in the correct positions, we need to Attach the hearts and the card together. This tells Design Space to lock their relative positions and cut them from one piece of material.

## HOW TO ATTACH

**Step 1** Select all of your elements and click the **Attach** button.

**Step 2** All the elements are now nested as one Attach unit in the Layers Panel. Design Space also consolidated them into 1 color to represent the 1 mat they'll be cut from. When we click **Make It** and go to Project Preview we can see the hearts are now positioned correctly.
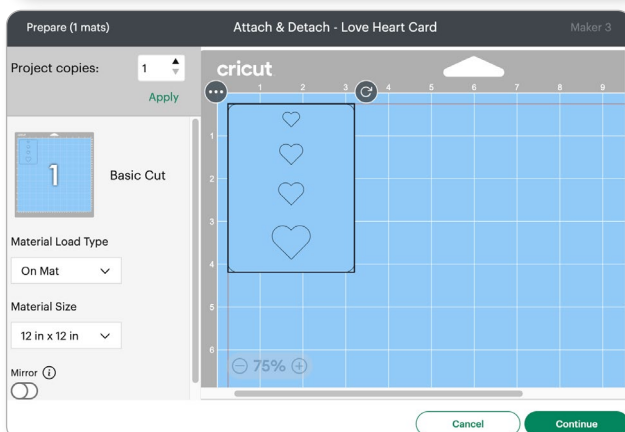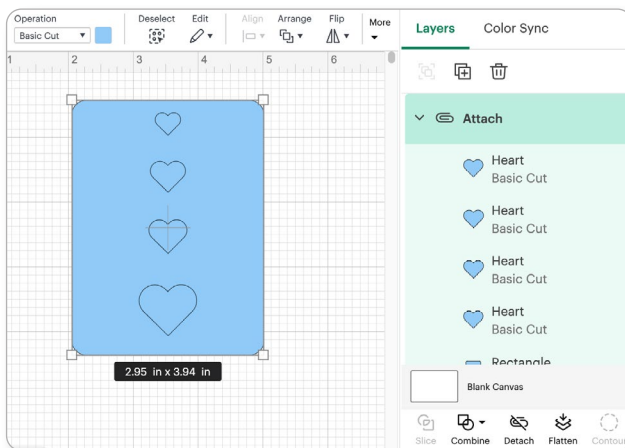
You can still edit individual elements by clicking on them in the layers panel. If you no longer want them locked as one unit then you can Detach the elements to free them up.

# Flatten

The Flatten feature is the tool we use to create Print-Then-Cut projects, such as multi-colored stickers or decals. Flatten converts multi-layered images and text into a single printable image that is printed out before loading it into Cricut to cut it out.

Design Space's default mode is to follow the cut lines of the elements on our canvas. We use Flatten when we want to switch from Cut to Print-Then-Cut. The way Print Then Cut works is that first you print your design on a normal printer, then you load it into your Cricut which cuts around the edges.
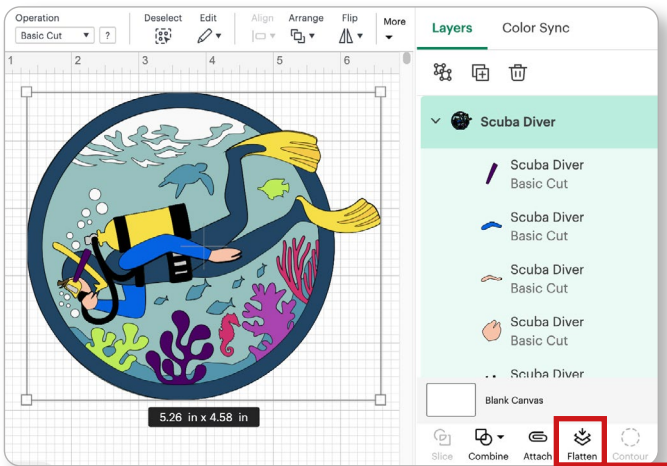
**HOW TO FLATTEN**

**Step 1**   Select all your elements you wish to make into a single layer image.

**Step 2**   Click the **Flatten** button in the bottom right of the Layers Panel.

**Step 3**   All of the layers have been 'flattened' into one single Print-Then-Cut layer.

Now when you click **Make It**, you'll be prompted to print the design using a normal printer, rather than making it on your Cricut.
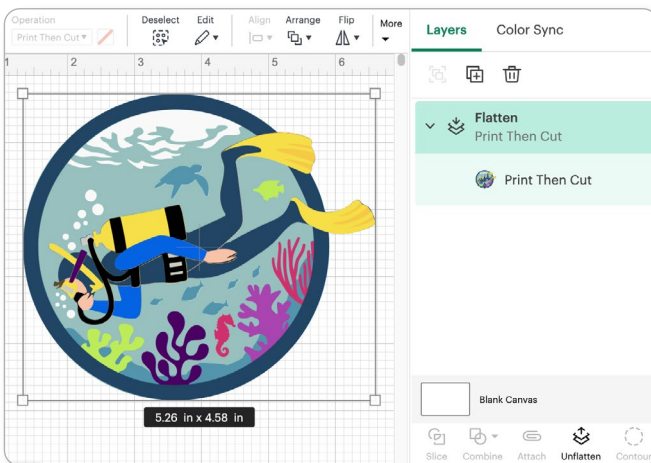
Conversely, 'Unflatten' reverses this action, separating the single layer back into its original layers. This is useful if you need to make edits to individual parts of your design after you've flattened them, allowing for adjustments before finalizing your Print-Then-Cut project.

Don't worry if this is still a bit confusing. We have a dedicated guide on how to Print-Then-Cut on Page 53.

# Contour

Contour gives you the ability to modify the internal cut lines of an image or design. Essentially, it lets you remove unwanted parts of an image without altering the original shape. This feature is particularly handy for customizing designs, simplifying complex images, or creating new patterns from existing shapes.

In this example, we have a single-layer Butterfly design on our canvas.
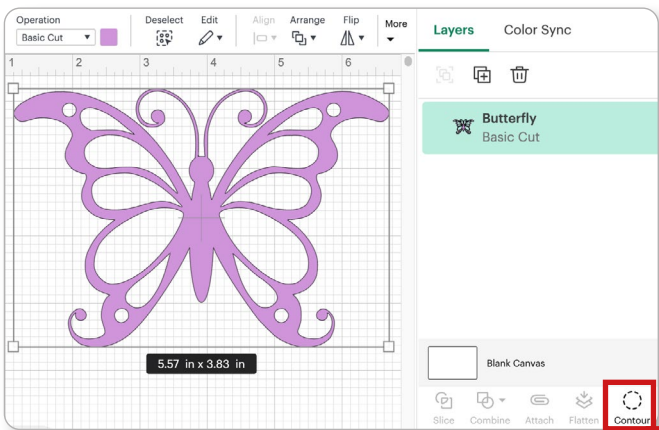


### HOW TO CONTOUR

**Step 1** With the Butterfly selected, click the Contour button in the bottom right.

A new window will open providing options for the Contour. Note that the outer area of the design is medium gray and internal areas that are marked as being cut out are dark gray.

**Step 2** Click on the internal areas to remove the cut lines so they're no longer cut out. When this happens the area changes from dark gray to light gray. In the third image we have removed all the internal cut lines.

**Step 3** To return to the canvas click the X icon in the top right.

Back on the canvas we can see that all the internal cut lines have been removed and the Butterfly is filled in. Use Contour to remove or add back whichever internal areas you like.
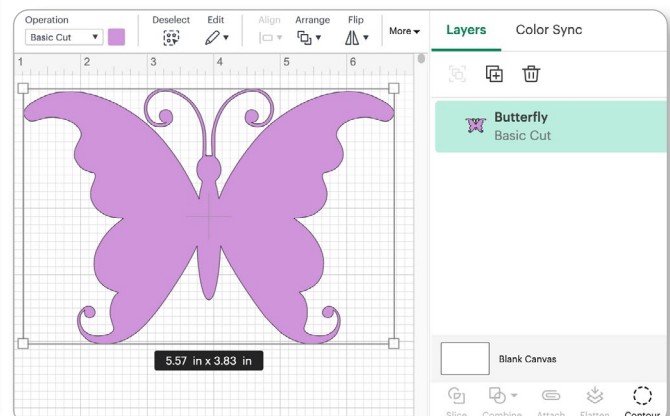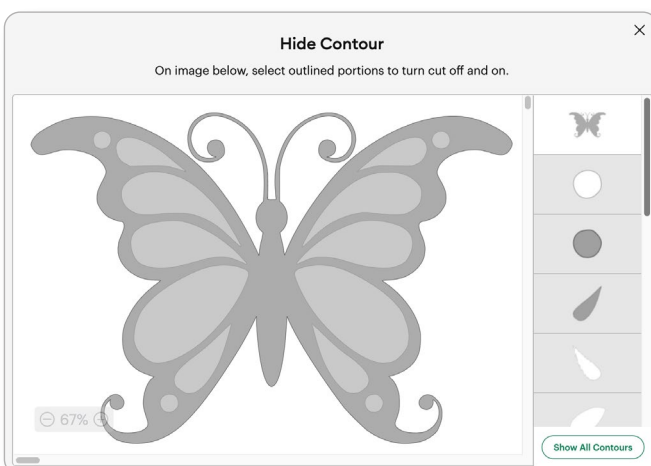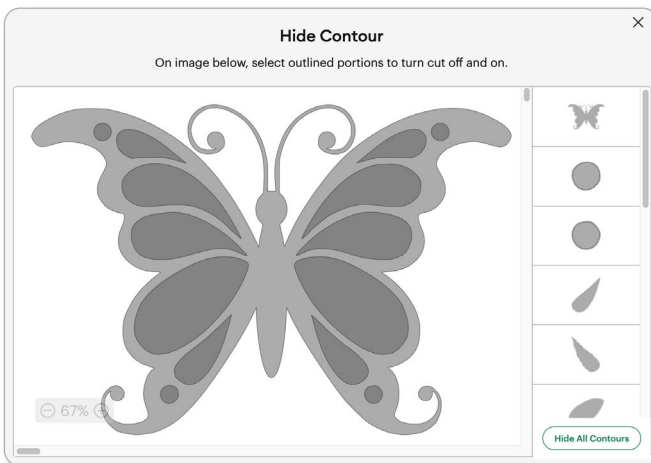
# Hide & Show

By default all layers are visible on the canvas. However, if you want to quickly hide, but not delete a layer, then you can use the Show/Hide button next to each layer on the canvas. Note that a hidden layer will not be cut, drawn, scored, or printed.
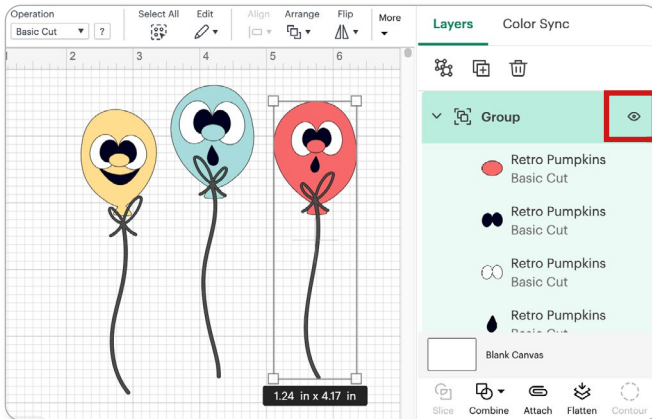


**Step 1** Select the layer you want to hide. In this case we're going to hide the red balloon, which is a Group of layers.

**Step 2** Click the eyeball icon to hide the layers.

**Step 3** The group of layers is now hidden from the canvas.

To have the group of layers show again, click the closed eyeball icon.
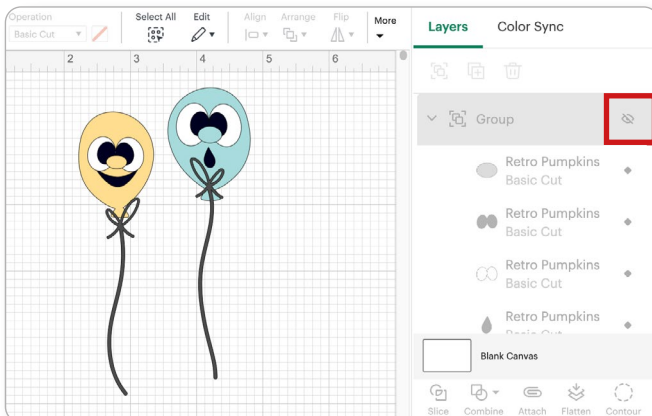
**Note** You can hide individual layers, even if they are in a group, which you can see in the bottom image with the eyes of the red balloon.
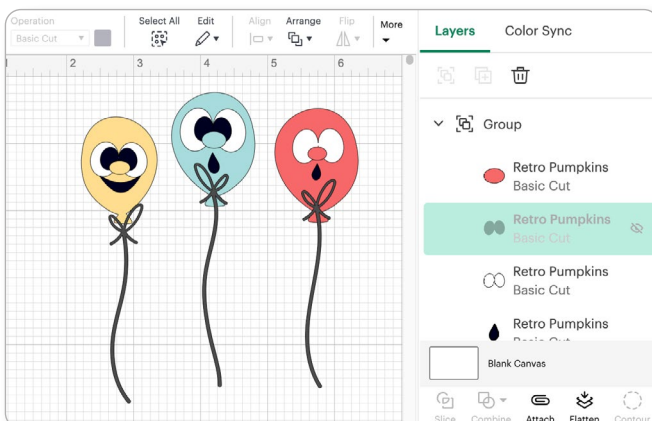
# Color Sync

Sometimes when you import an SVG or pre-made project it will use lots of different colors. Since each color requires a different mat, you may want to reduce the total number of colors (and therefore how many different materials you need). To do this we use the Color Sync panel.
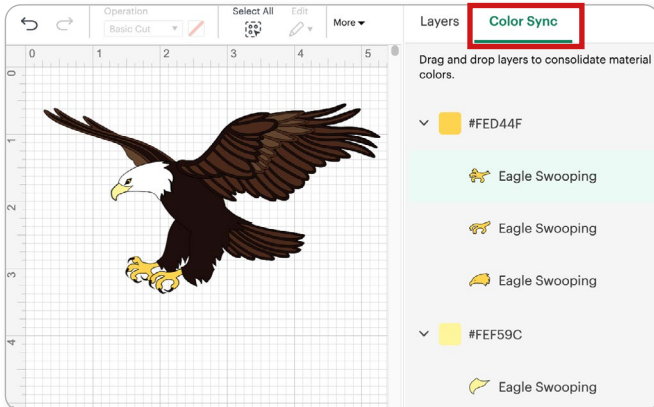


**Step 1**   Add your SVG image to the canvas and then click on **Color Sync** next to the Layers panel.

**Step 2**   To sync one set of colors with another, drag and drop the layer to the group of layers with the desired color.

In this case we will change the lighter yellow layer to darker yellow by dragging it to the section above.
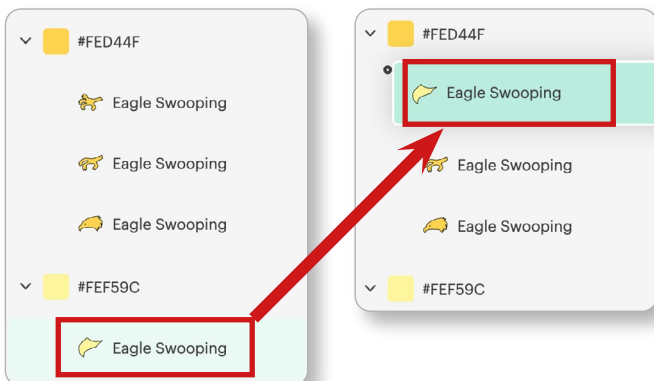
**Step 3**   The layer you moved will now be color synced to the color of the group you moved it to. The canvas will also update with the new color.
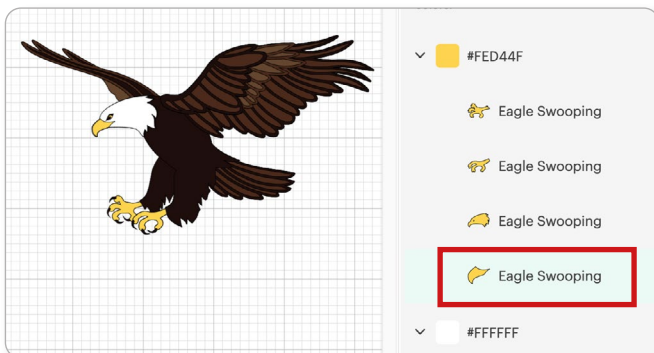
# The Edit Bar

Right above the canvas, the Edit Bar offers quick editing options, such as Align, Arrange, Offset and Rotate. This is where you will be making most of your fine-tuning and adjustments. Let's dive in!
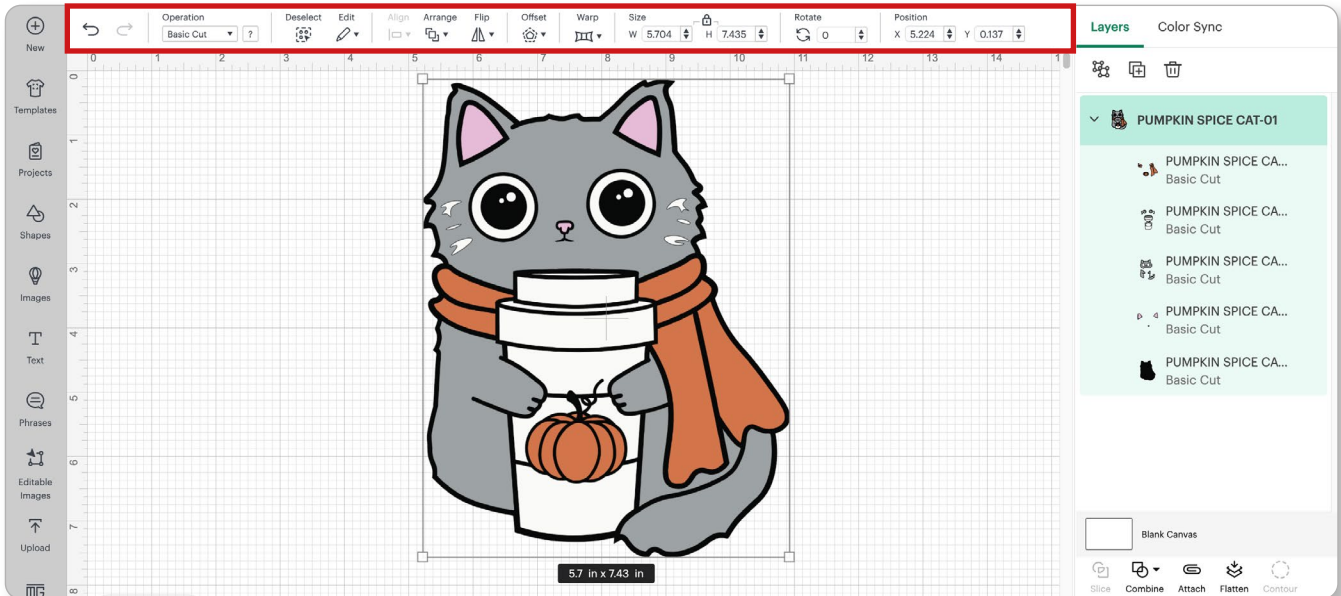
# Undo & Redo

The Undo button is one of the most frequently used features. It allows you to reverse your last actions, step by step. Whether you've moved an item unintentionally, made an incorrect cut line, or simply don't like your last design choice, clicking Undo will take you back one step at a time, all the way to the beginning of your current session if needed.
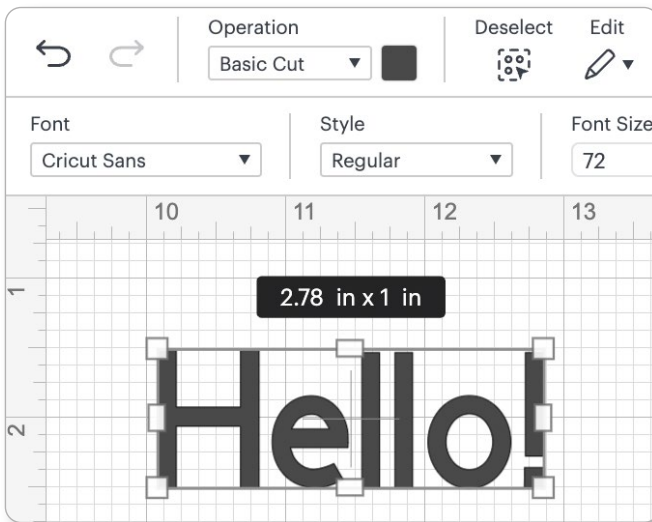
In this example we've accidentally changed the Operation from basic Cut to Pen.

To reverse this action we can use the Undo button in the top left of the Edit Bar.

Each time we use it, we move back one step. After you've used it, if you decide you want to reverse that Undo, you can use the Redo button, which re-does the original action.

**Tip** A quicker way to Undo an action is to use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl + Z (or Command + Z on Mac) instead of clicking the button.
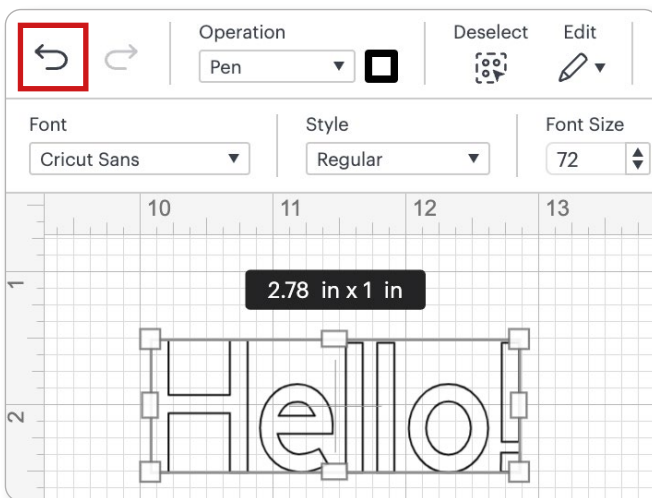
# Operation

The Operation defines what tool your Cricut will use to make each layer of your design. There are many different options, and they depend on which model you have.

These are the Operations available with each type of machine.

**Cricut Joy:** Cut, Draw, Foil
**Cricut Explore (all versions):** Cut, Draw, Score, Foil
**Cricut Maker:** Cut, Draw, Score, Engrave, Deboss, Wave, Perf, Foil

By modifying the Operation for each of your elements, you tell your Cricut whether you want them to be cut, scored, engraved, drawn, etc. The Operation menu is also where you can customize the color of the elements. This can help represent the color of your material to visualize your project.
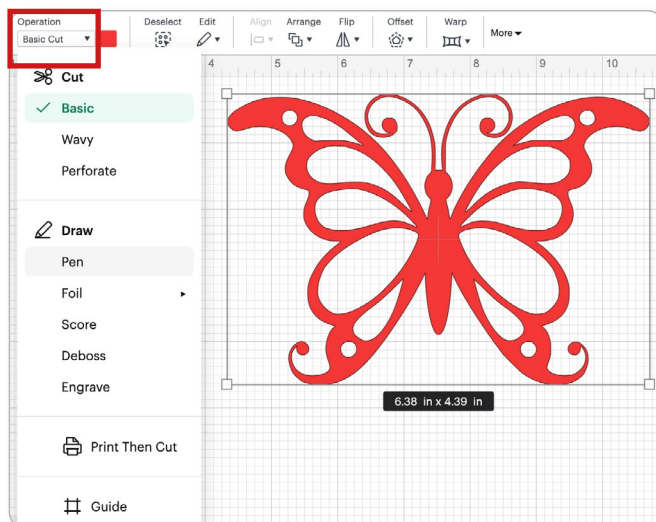


## HOW TO CHANGE OPERATION

Select a layer, then click the Operation dropdown. In the new menu choose your desired Operation. In this example, we're changing from Basic Cut to Pen.

Design Space has outlined the image so that instead of cutting out the design on paper or card your Cricut will draw around it with a pen.

There are a lot of different Operation options. If you're not sure what each Operation does then take a look at Page 56 which explains all the different Operation Types and Tools.
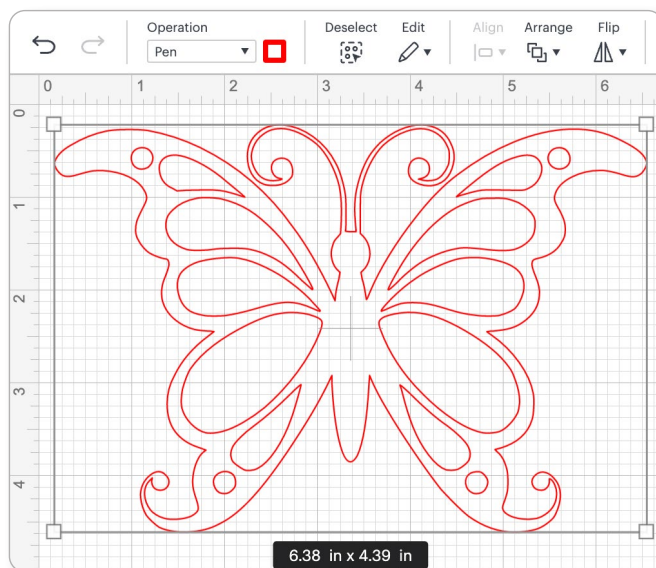
# Colors & Patterns

In Design Space, each different color represents a different mat that your design will be cut from. So using the same color for different parts of the design means those parts will be cut on the same mat. For simple projects you can quickly alter the colors of layers using the color swatch in the Edit Bar. For more complex projects, it's best to use Color Sync (see Page 30). For Print-Then-Cut projects, you're free to use as many colors as you like.
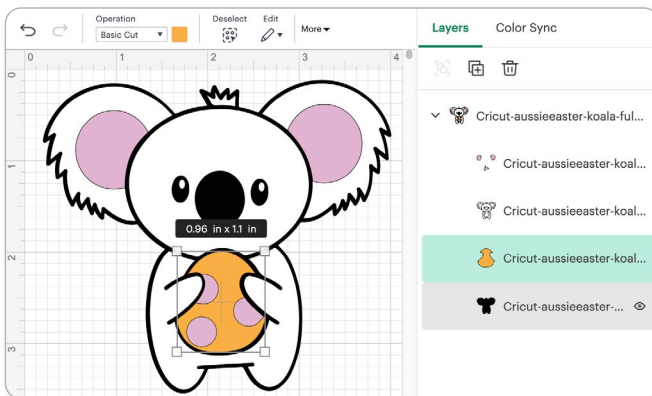
## HOW TO CHANGE COLOURS

**Step 1**   Add your images or elements to the canvas. Select the layer from the Layers panel that you want to change the color of.

**Step 2**   Click on the Color square next to Operation. You can choose from preset colors, or click on Advanced to choose an exact color. Once happy, just click on the canvas to hide the Color Window and the layer will change to the new color.
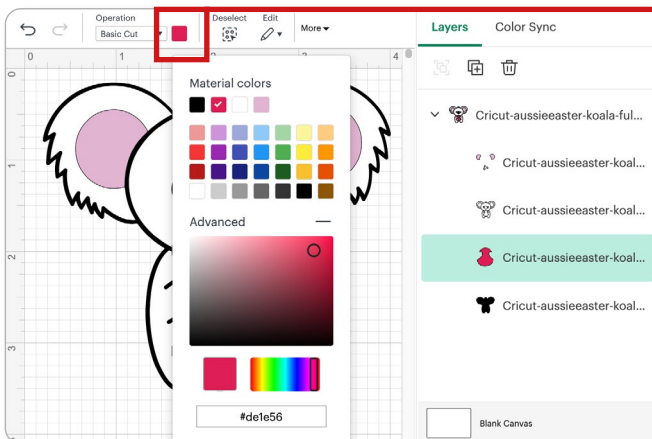
## HOW TO CHANGE PATTERNS

For Print-Then-Cut projects, you have the additional option to use Pattern fills.

**Step 1**   Make sure your layer is Print-Then-Cut. Then click on the color swatch square. In the drop down, change the Print type to Pattern, and then select the pattern of your choice.
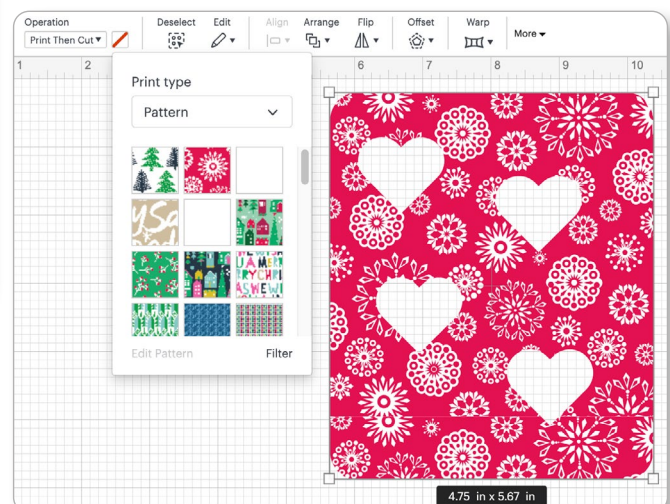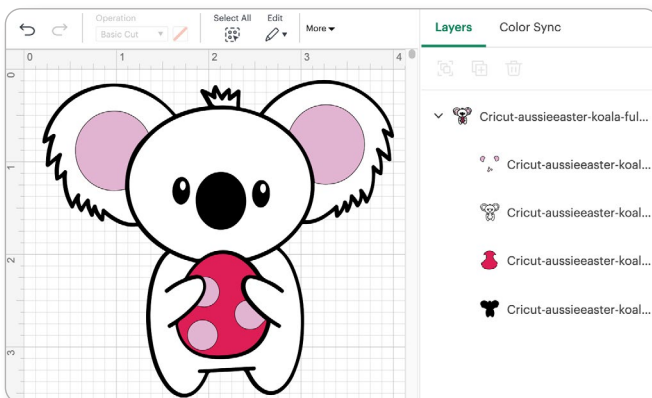
# Select All & Edit
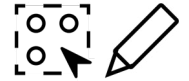
The Select All and Edit features are handy tools for speeding up your workflow, helping you to complete projects in record time!
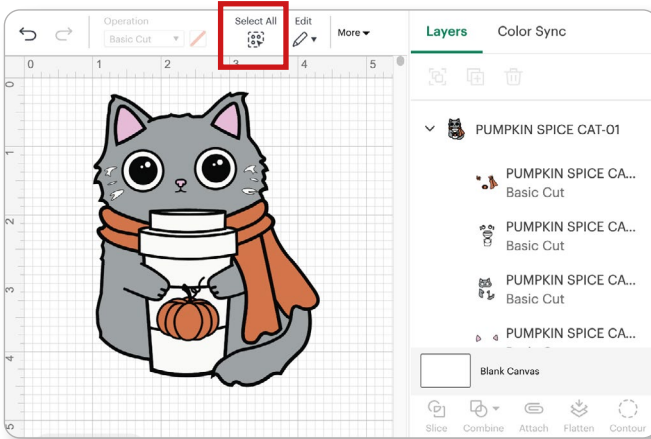


Select All allows you to quickly select every element on your canvas in one go. This is useful when you're applying global changes to your design, such as resizing, rotating, or changing the color of all elements at once.

Conversely, when you have everything selected and you need to deselect everything quickly, then use the Deselect button, which will be in the same place as the Select All button.
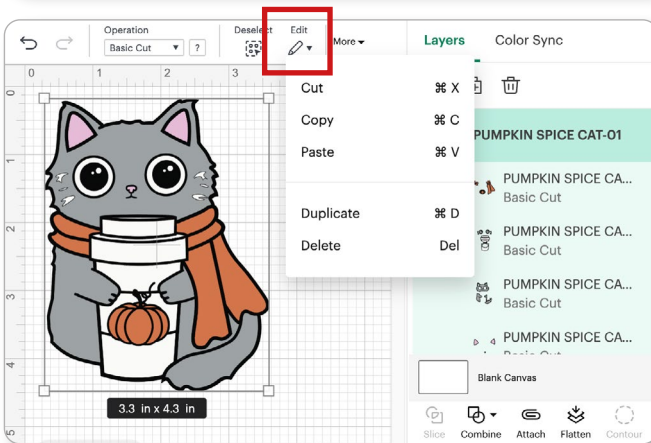
**Tip**     An alternative way to Select All is to use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl + A (or Command + A on Mac) instead of clicking the button.

Edit provides quick access to 5 actions: Cut, Copy, Paste, Duplicate and Delete.

You can also see the associated keyboard shortcuts for each action. It's worth trying to learn them because it will drastically speed up your design workflow.

# Align & Distribute

The Align tool arranges all selected elements into a straight line
The Distribute tool makes the elements equally spaced (vertically or horizontally).
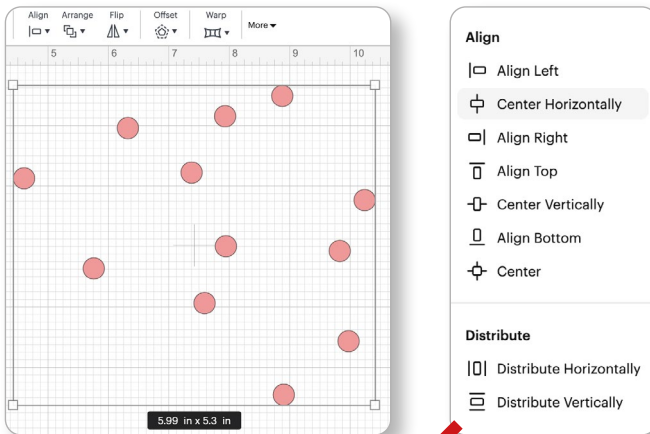
## HOW TO ALIGN

**Step 1**  Select all the elements you wish to Align.

**Step 2**  Click on the Align icon, then select the type of alignment. In this case we're opting for Center Horizontally. The selected elements will jump position to align on a single horizontal point.

They look neat, but they aren't evenly spaced. So to tidy them up further we use the Distribute tool.
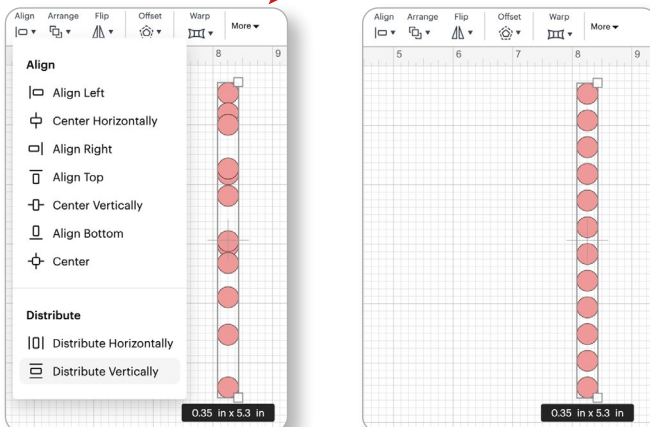
## HOW TO DISTRIBUTE

**Step 1**  Select all of your elements.

**Step 2**  Click the Align icon. This time choose one of the Distribute options at the bottom of the menu. In this case we're going to opt for Distribute Vertically because we want the vertical spacing between the elements to be even.

The elements are now neatly distributed evenly.

# Arrange

The Arrange tool lets you choose the order of the elements on the canvas, from front to back.
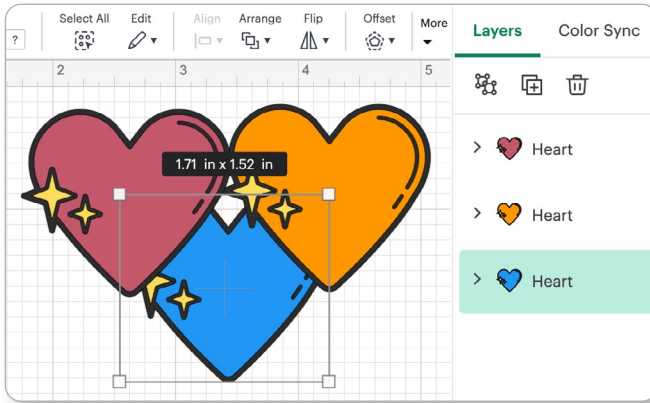
**Step 1**  Select the layer(s) which you wish to move. In this case the blue heart is at the back of the canvas and we're going to move it to the front.

**Step 2**  Click the Arrange button to bring up the arrangement options. Select **Bring to Front**.

**Step 3**  The blue heart is now at the front of the canvas (in front of all other elements). You can also see the blue heart is at the top of the Layers Panel, indicating it's the top layer.
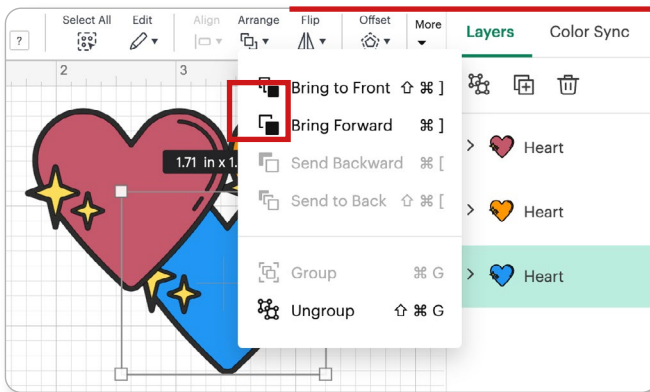
There are lots of different options when it comes to arranging layers. For example, we could have selected Bring Forward, which would have made the blue heart the middle layer layer.
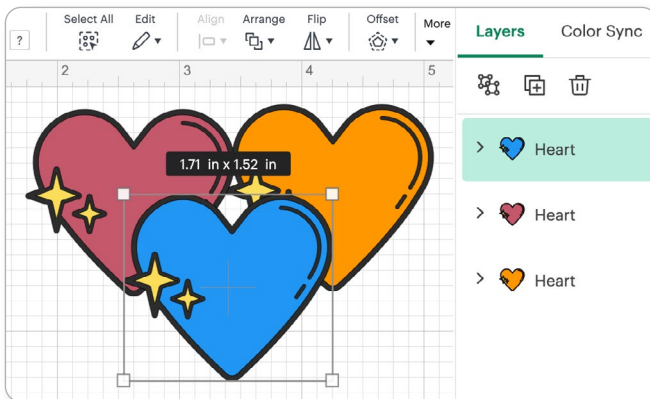
**Tip**  Another way to arrange layers is by selecting them in the Layers Panel and then dragging them up or down.

# Flip

The Flip tool is used to reflect a layer vertically (upside down) or left to right (mirroring).
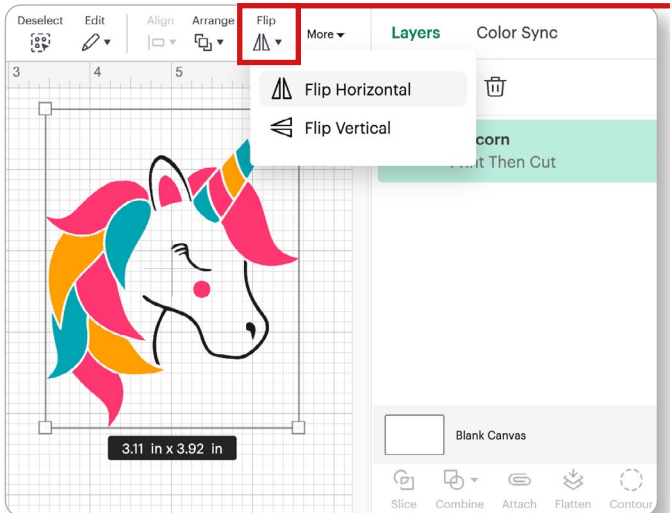
**Step 1** With your element selected, click on the Flip icon.

**Step 2** A dropdown menu will open. In this case we're going to opt for Flip Horizontal, which mirrors the object.

The other option - Flip Vertical - turns the object upside down.

**Note** If your object has multiple layers, make sure they are all selected first.
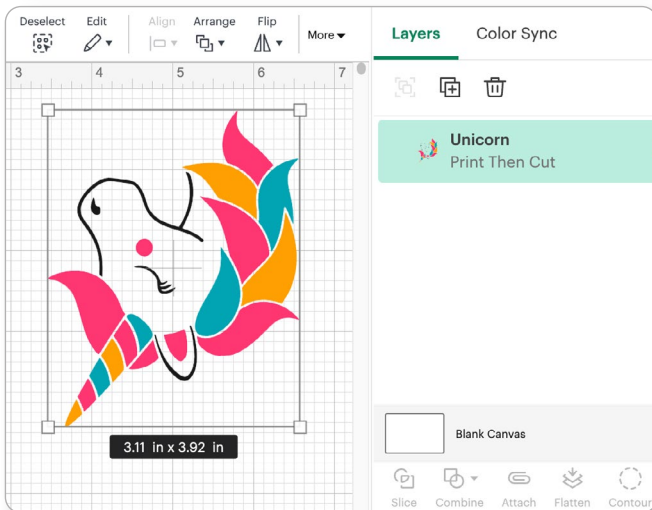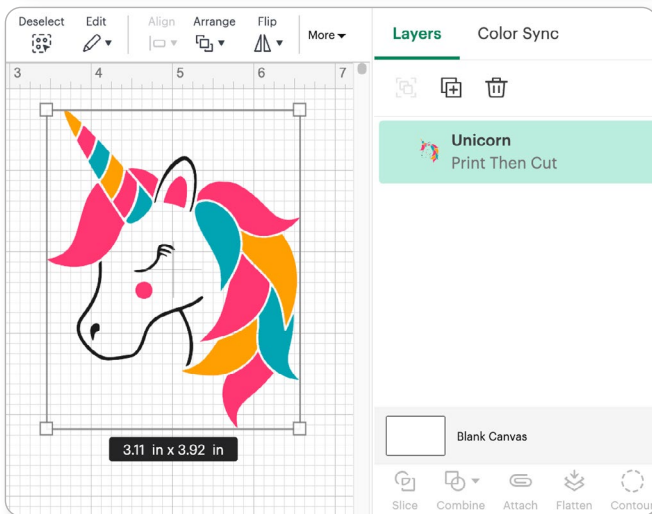
# Offset

The Offset feature allows you to make a smaller or larger outline of your text or image. It's great for adding depth and dimension to your designs.
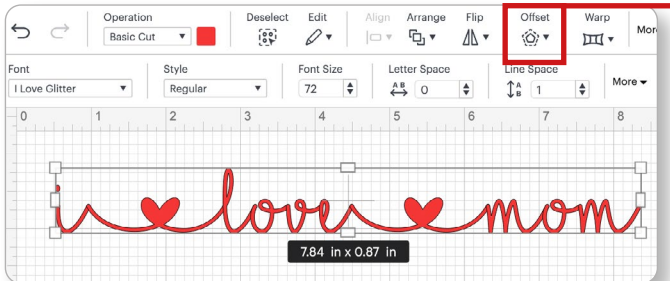


**Step 1** Select your element. In this case we've added text to the canvas and we're using a font called 'I Love Glitter'.

**Step 2** Click the Offset icon.
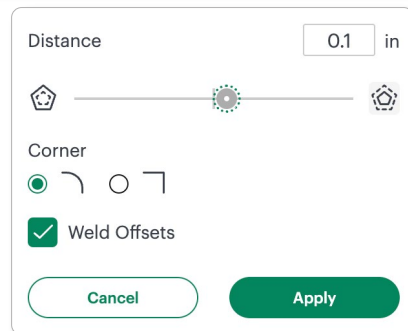


**Step 3** The Offset panel will appear, allowing you to adjust the offset distance. Use the slider or input a specific value to control the size of the offset. When happy with the result, tap Done.

**Note** In general, you want to make sure that 'Weld Offsets' is toggled on. If not, each individual letter/ element will have its own unique offset image.
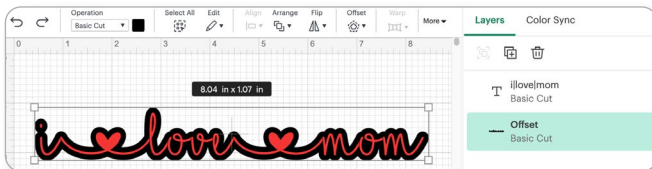
**Step 4** The offset has been added in black as a new layer.
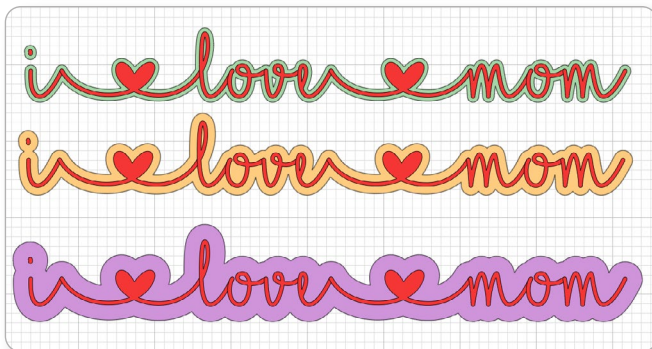
**Step 5** Change the color and/or experiment with the offset length! The top offset is 0.05, the middle is 0.1, and the bottom is 0.2.

# Resize

When you're making a project it can be helpful to resize individual elements or even your entire project to ensure that they're the correct size.
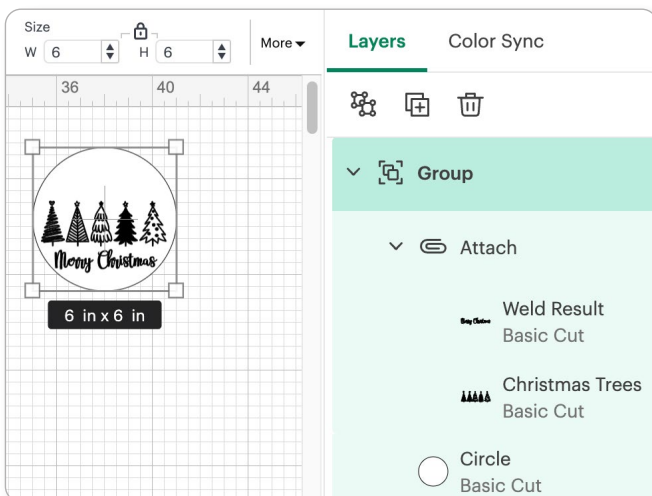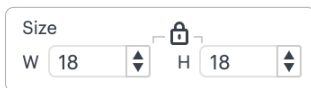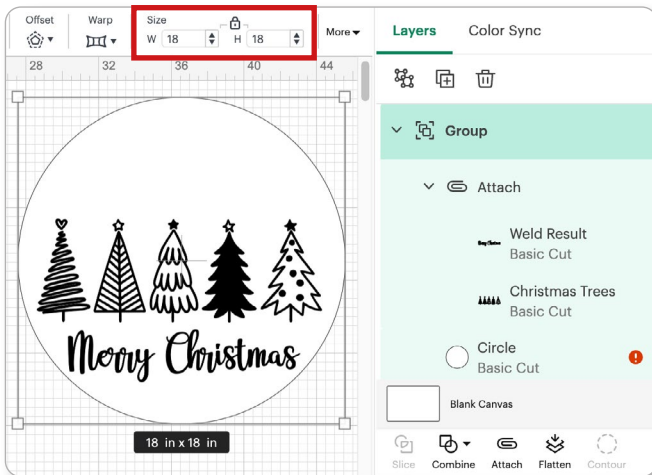


In this example, we've found a project we liked and imported it to the canvas. However, it's too large to make (you can see a warning icon in the Layers Panel). We need to resize it so it's not so big.

**Step 1**  Select all your elements by clicking your mouse and dragging across the entire canvas.

**Step 2**  In the Size panel, enter a new dimension for the height or width. We're going to change the height from 18" to 6".

**Note 1**  The padlock icon is in the locked state which means the proportions are locked. So when we change one dimension, the elements scale proportionally.

**Note 2**  If the padlock is unlocked and we input a new width, the height doesn't automatically change, so the image gets distorted.

# Rotate

You can rotate objects either freely using your mouse or by a set number of degrees via the Edit Bar. We'll show you how to do both methods below.
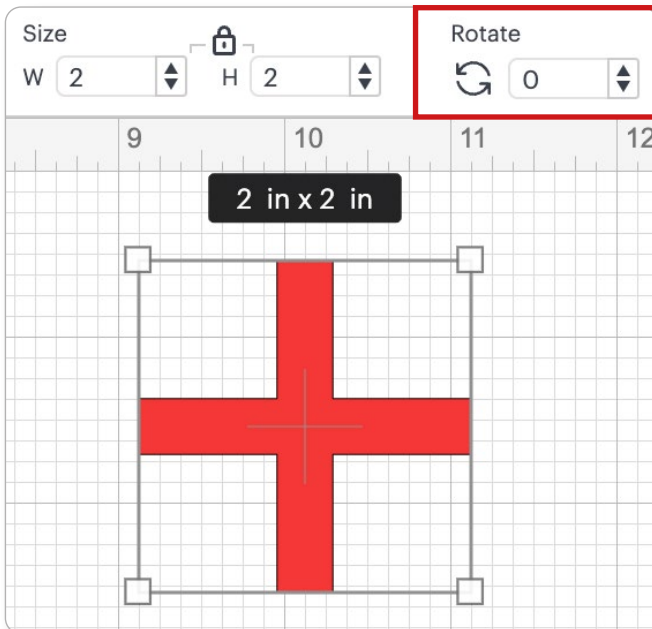


### Option 1

Select your element on the canvas, then enter a specific number of degrees in the Rotation input area. Your element will then rotate clockwise.

### Option 2

Select the element and then hover your mouse just outside one of the edges. A small rotate icon will appear. Click and drag around and it will freely rotate the element. If you want to rotate in 22.5 degree increments, then hold down the Shift key while you rotate.
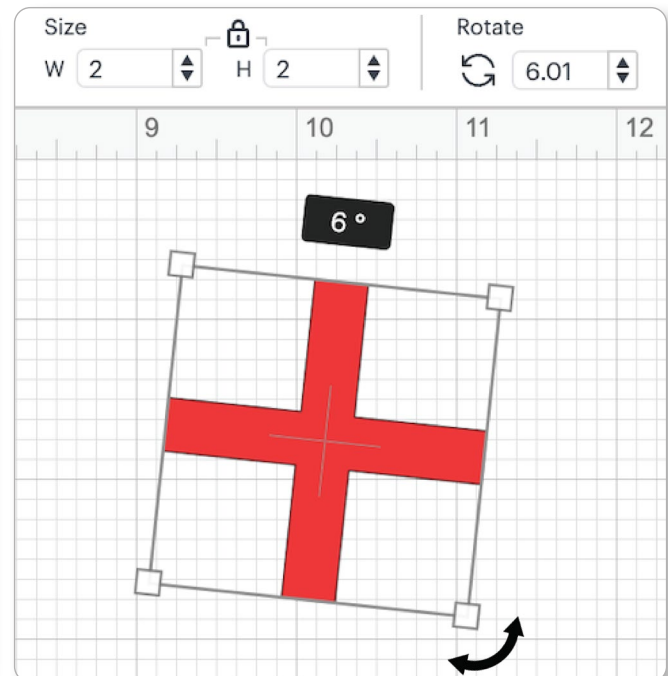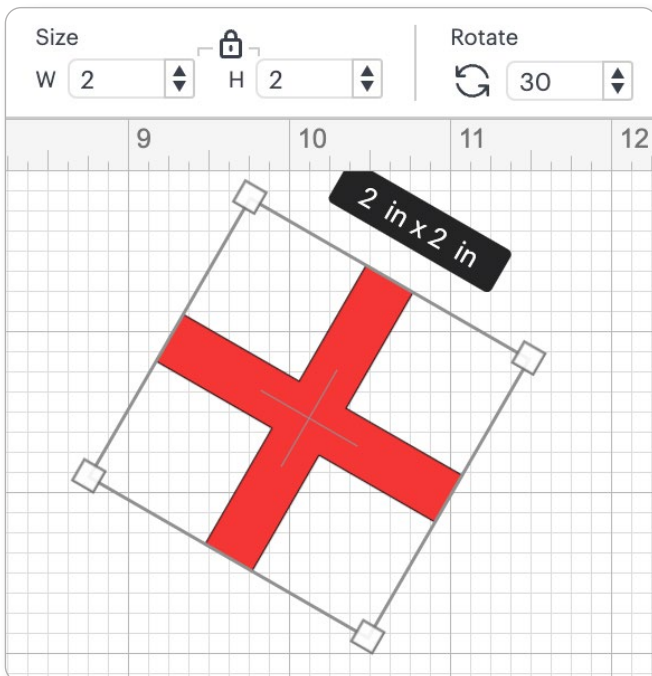
# Position

Whenever you need precise positioning for a project, or if you need to check exactly where an element is positioned, you can use the Position tool.
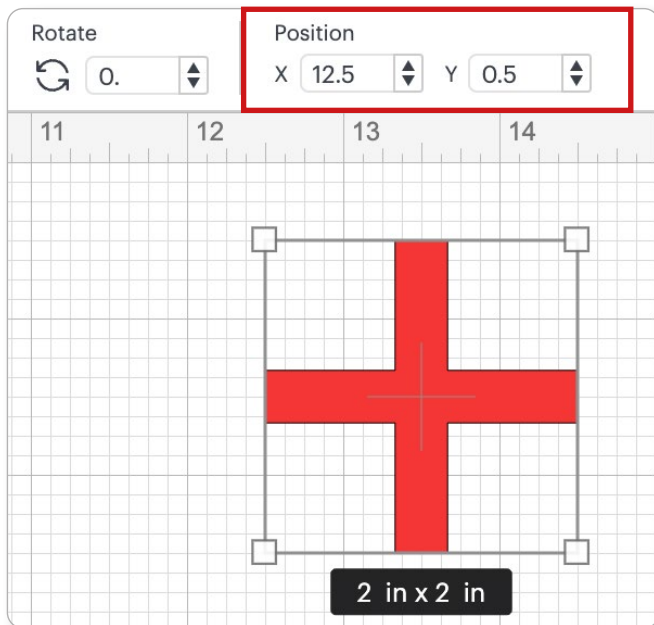


Whenever you have an object selected its X and Y coordinates will be shown in the Position tool.

These are the coordinates of the top left of your element.

You can also input an X or Y coordinate and your object will move to those coordinates.

# The Text Edit Bar

The Text Edit Bar appears just below the Edit Bar as soon as you select a text layer on the canvas. This is where all the tools for editing the text itself are.
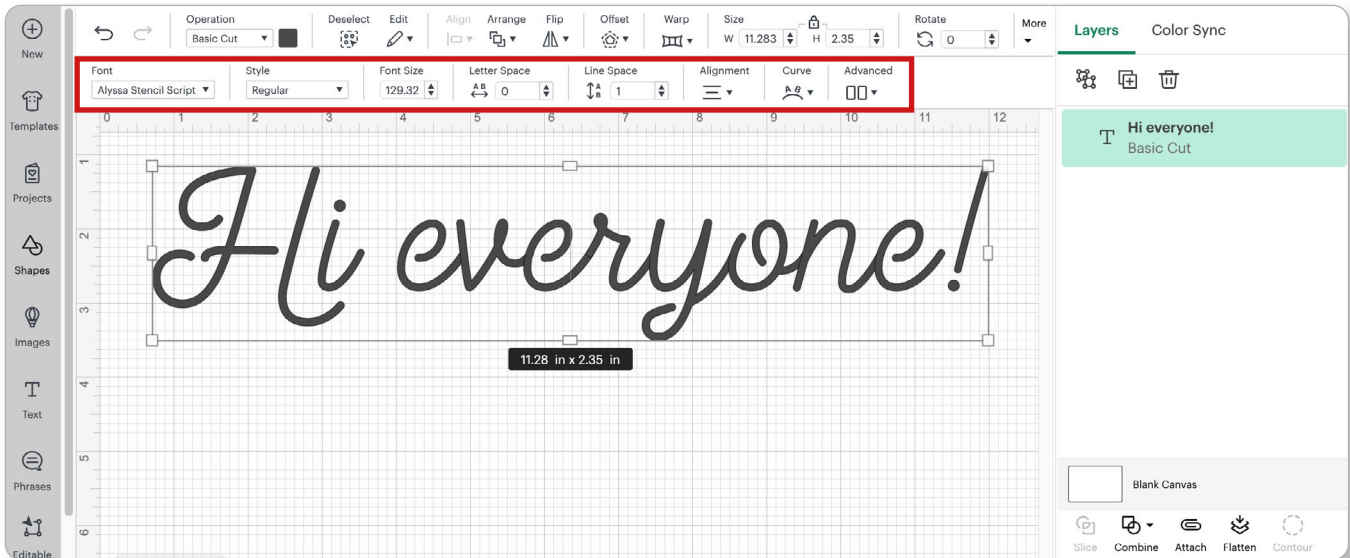


We'll explore how to use all of the individual tools in detail in the upcoming pages.

# Font

Make designs your own by using your favorite fonts! Design Space comes pre-loaded with fonts which you can easily choose between and all the fonts that are already installed on your computer will also be available to use.
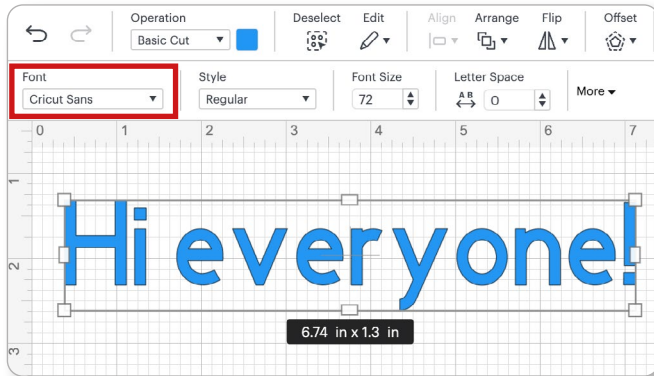


**Step 1**  Select your text layer and click on the Font dropdown menu.

**Step 2**  A new window will appear with all the different font choices. The default font is always 'Cricut Sans'. Choose the font you wish to use. You can search for a specific font by typing it in.
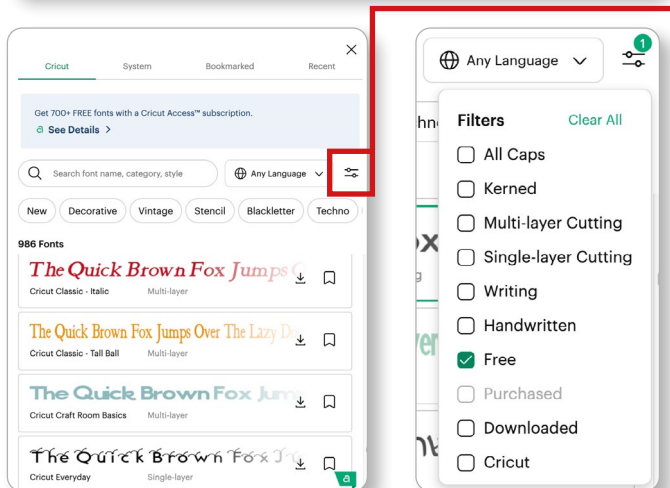
**Note**  Some fonts you have to pay for. To view only fonts that are free click the slider icon and select Free. You can also filter other kinds of fonts from this window.

**Step 3**  Once you've selected your font, click back on to the canvas and your text will automatically update.

**Tip**  Do you have a favorite font? Then bookmarking it will make it easier to find in the future. Just click the little bookmark icon to the right of the font. The icon will change to green, indiciating it's been bookmarked. You can then quickly find it by clicking on the 'Bookmarked' tab at the top of the Font window.

# Style & Font Size

For certain fonts, you can choose a Font Style, such as Regular, Bold, Italic, Bold Italic and Writing. You can also easily adjust the Font Size.

## HOW TO CHANGE FONT STYLE

**Step 1**   Select your text on the canvas and then click on the Style Dropdown menu.

**Step 2**   Select a new style for the font and the text will automatically update.
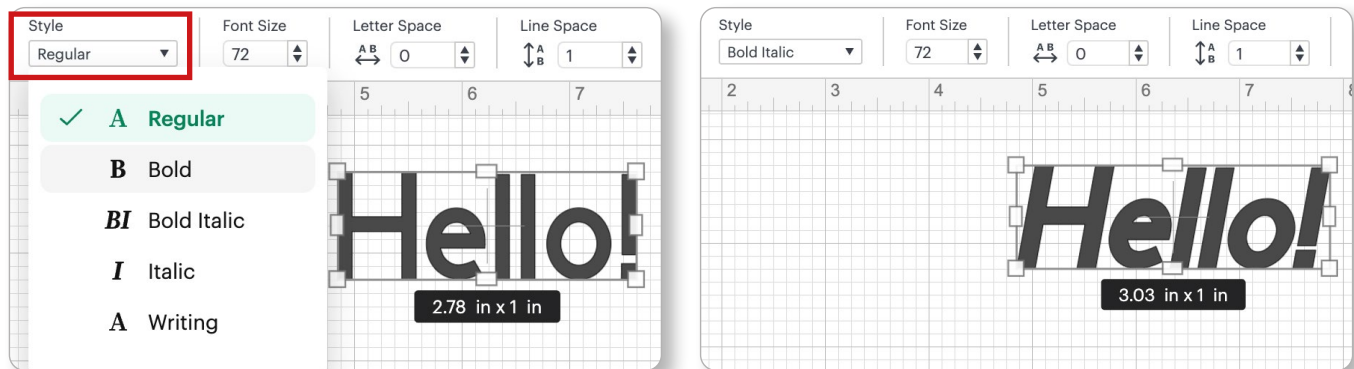
Note that not all fonts have different styles available.

## HOW TO CHANGE FONT SIZE

**Step 1**   Select your text on the canvas.

**Step 2**   Type in a new value for the Font Size and press Enter. Your text will automatically update.
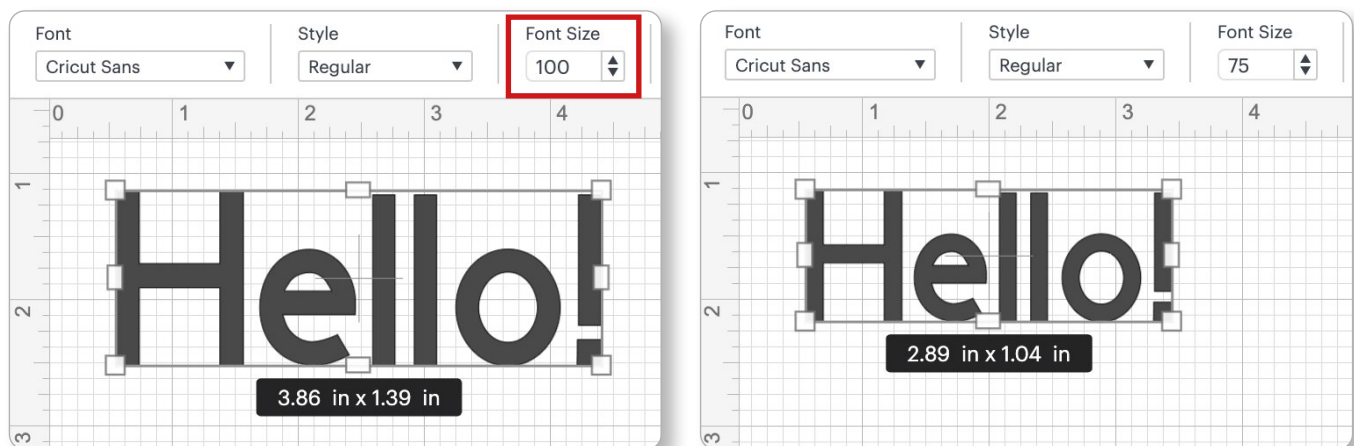
**Tip**   Another way to adjust the Font Size is, with your text selected, click down on one of the edges of the box around the text and drag your mouse. The text size will adjust with your mouse.

# Letter Space & Line Space
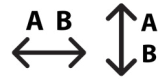
Letter Spacing is the spacing between the individual letters within words and sentences. Line Spacing is the spacing between lines above one another.

### HOW TO CHANGE LETTER SPACING

**A B** With your text selected, enter a new value into the Letter Space input box. Your text will automatically update.

In this example, we've changed from -1 to +1 and you can see the letters are much more spread out.
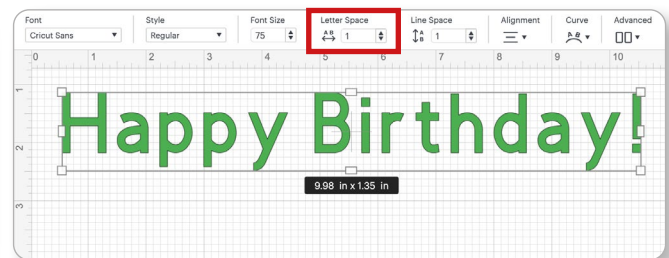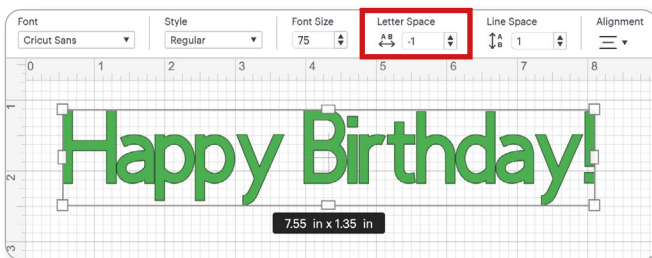
### HOW TO CHANGE LINE SPACING

Select your text on the canvas and enter a new value into the Line Space input box. In this example we've changed from -1 to +5. You can see it adds a lot more spacing between the lines.
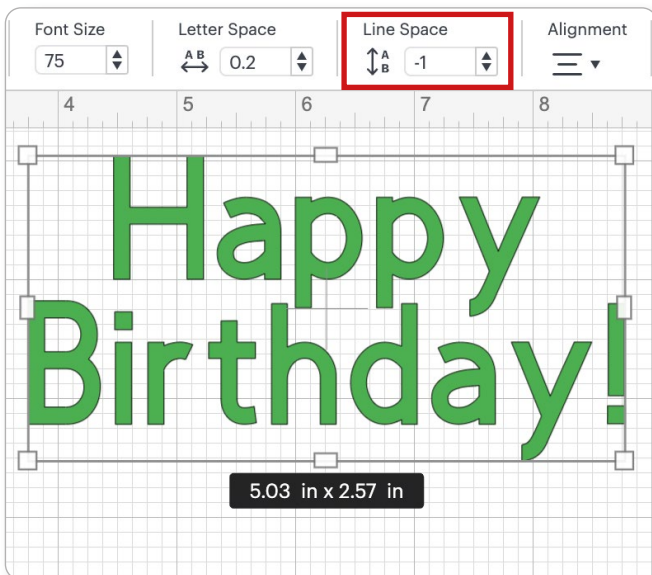
# Font Alignment

There are 3 types of Text Alignment settings. The first aligns your text horizontally (Left, Center, Right). The second aligns your text vertically (Top, Center, Bottom), and the third setting dictates whether your text Wraps within the bounding box or not.

### HOW TO CHANGE HORIZONTAL TEXT ALIGNMENT

In this example we're going to change the Text Alignment from Left to Right. To do so, click the Alignment button and then select Right from the dropdown menu.
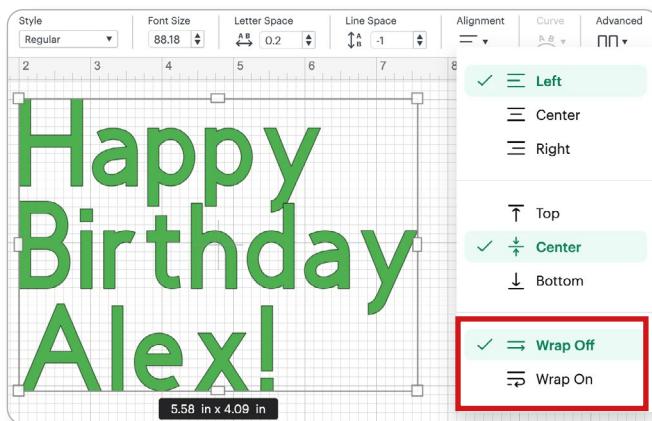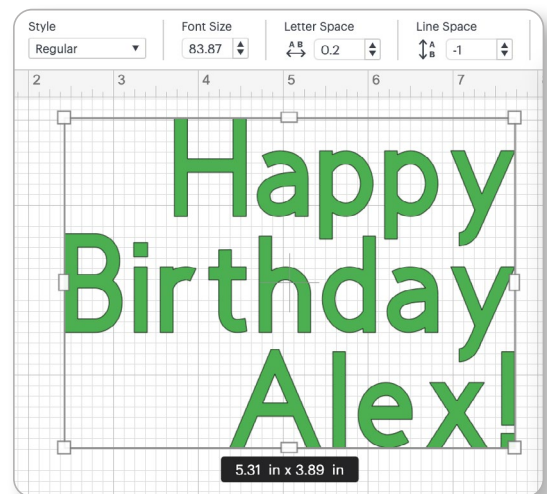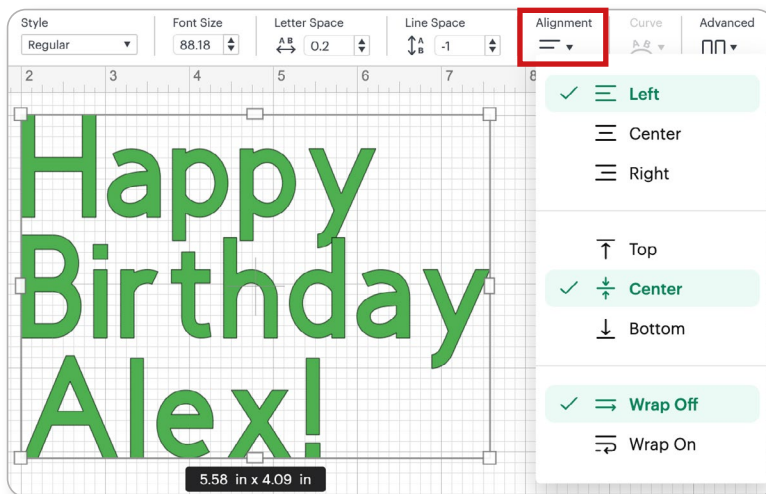




### WRAP OFF vs WRAP ON

By default Wrap is set to Off. This means that when you adjust the size of the box around the text, it adjusts the size of the text with it. When Wrap is set to On, this is no longer the case. Instead it adjusts the size of the box and then the text aligns according to the Horizontal and Vertical alignment settings. In this case we changed Wrap from Off to On and then changed Vertical alignment from Center to Bottom.
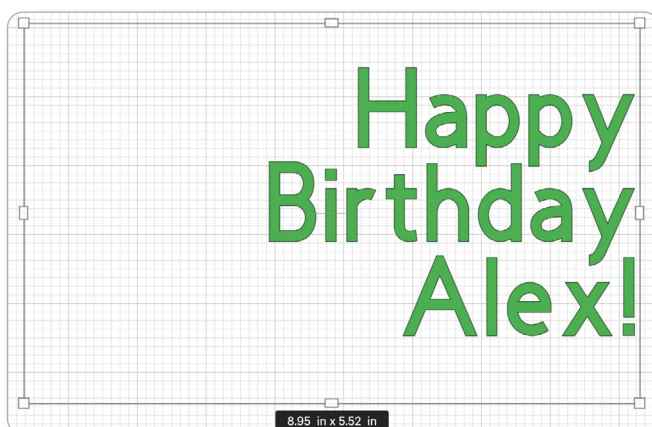
# Curve

The Curve Text tool allows you to bend your text into a curved shape, which is especially useful for creating designs that need text to follow a round object. You can adjust how much the text curves by either entering a number or using a slider. You can have the text curve upwards or downwards, and the higher the number the move it curves.

**Step 1** Select the text you want to adjust and then click on the Curve button in the Text Edit Bar.
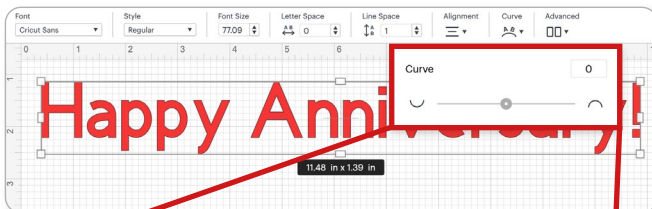
**Step 2** A small window will appear with a slider. Moving the slider to the right will make the text curve downward, while moving it to the left will make it curve upward. The further you move the slider from the center, the more pronounced the curve will be. As you adjust the slider, you'll see the text curve in real time.
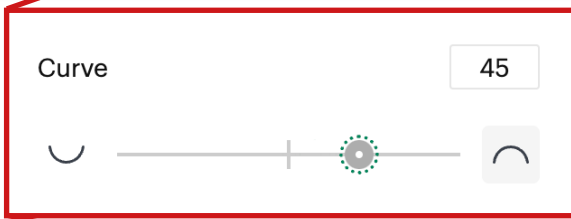
**Step 3** Once you're happy with how your text looks, click back onto the canvas and the curve will be applied.
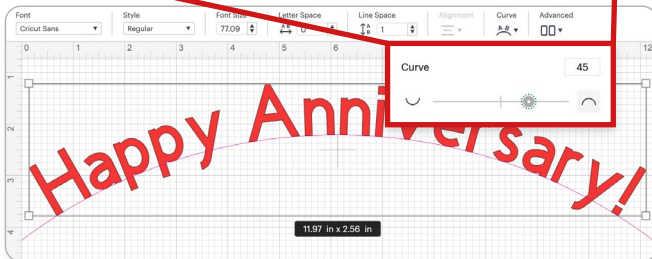
**Note** The Curve tool does not break the text into individual letters. It keeps your word or sentence as one continuous text box, but molds it into a curved shape. This is particularly useful because you can always easily re-adjust the text at a later stage if need be.

# Advanced

The Advanced tool allows you to ungroup the whole text element into either its individual letters or individual lines so that you can edit the letters or lines one by one.

## UNGROUP TO LETTERS

In this example we're going to Ungroup to Letters. This changes it so that each letter becomes an individual element. This way you can manually adjust letter spacing or alignment.
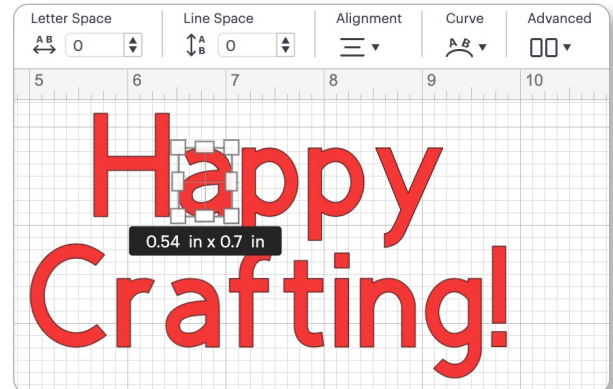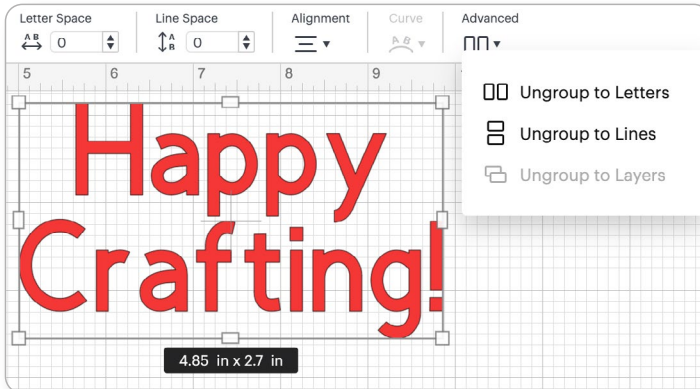


## UNGROUP TO LINES

When you have text that spans multiple lines you can Ungroup it into the separate lines which you can then edit individually.
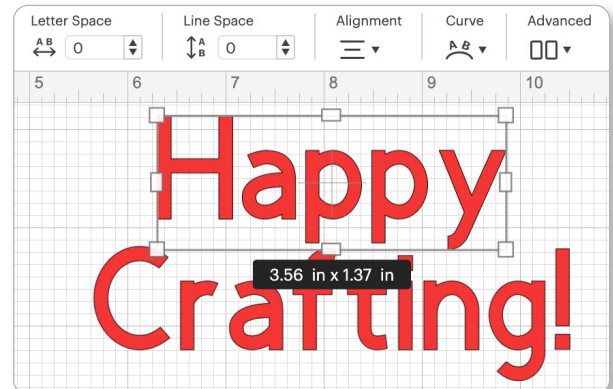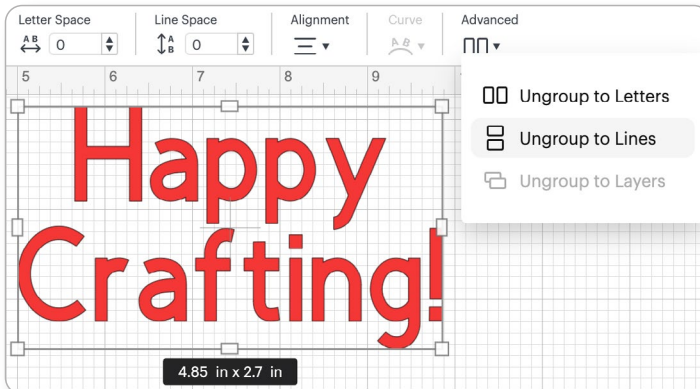


**Tip**  Once you're happy, in general it's best to use Combine > Unite to attach the letters back together in their same relative position. Otherwise when you go to make it they will be positioned differently.

# How To Add A Custom Font (Windows)

You can find free fonts on websites like **fonts.google.com** and premium fonts on websites like **creativemarket.com**.
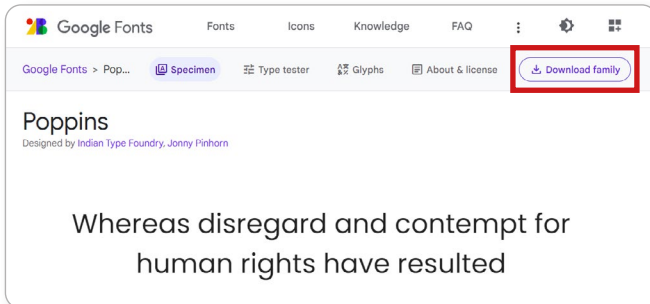
**Step 1** Go to **fonts.google.com** and search for the font that you want to use. In this case we're going to install a font called 'Poppins'. Once you've found it, click through to the font's page. Then in the top right, click 'Download family'.
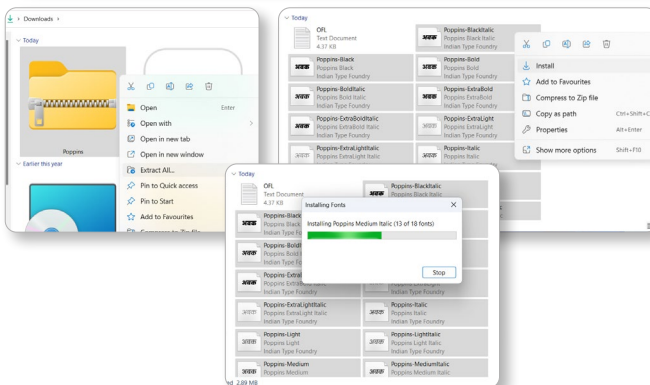
**Step 2** Go to your Downloads folder and find the downloaded file. If it's a zip file then right click on it and select 'Extract All'. It will ask you where to extract the files to. Make sure it's the Downloads folder and click 'Extract'.

**Step 3** Once extracted a new window will open with all the different individual font files. Select the ones you want to install, right click, click Install and the fonts will begin to be installed.
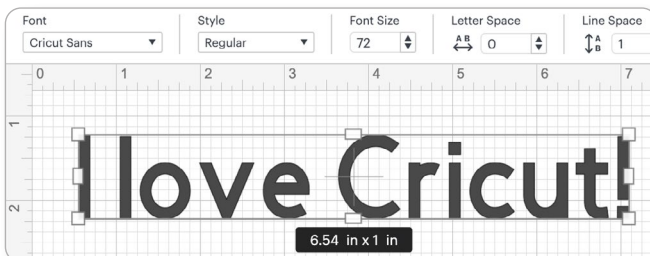
**Step 4** Once the font is installed, open Design Space. If Design Space is already open, you'll need to close it and reopen it. Create a new project, and add a new text layer.
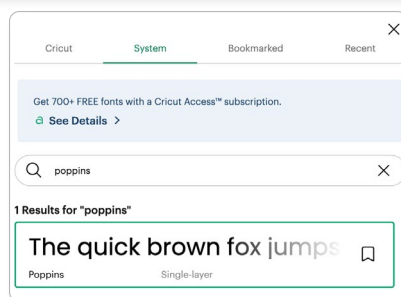
**Step 5** Click on the Font dropdown menu in the top toolbar. Click on the 'System' tab and then search for your font. Once you find it, select it and then click back on the canvas. Your text will change to the new font.
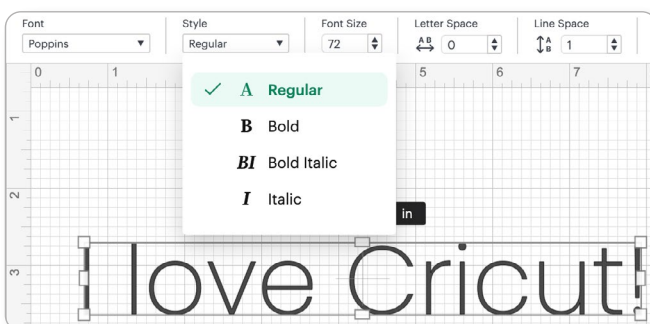
**Step 6** You can now change the other aspects of the font like Style and Size.

# How To Add A Custom Font (Mac)

You can find free fonts on websites like **fonts.google.com** and premium fonts on websites like **creativemarket.com**.
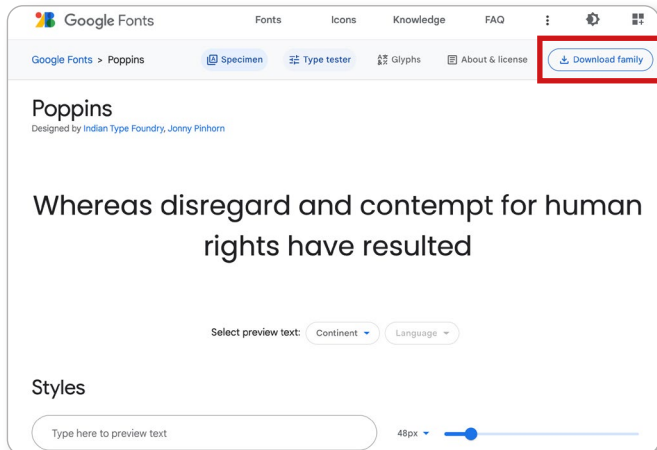
**Step 1**   Go to **fonts.google.com** and search for the font that you want to use. Once you've found one, click Download family in the top right.
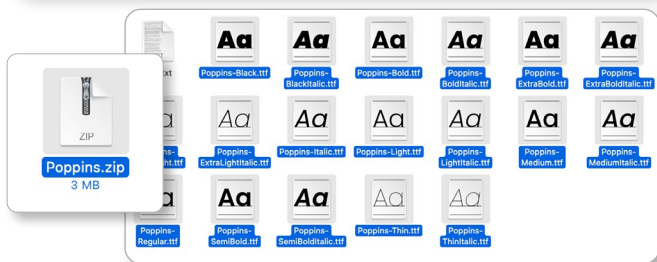
**Step 2**   Find the downloaded file (usually in your Downloads folder). If it's a zip file then double click it to unzip it. Open the new folder to find the fonts (most font files end in .ttf or .otf). Double click on the one(s) you want to install and follow the prompts on your computer to install the font file.
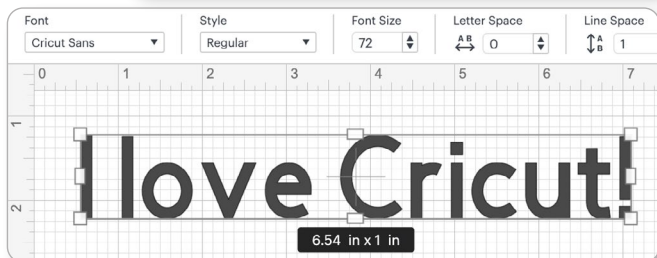
**Step 3**   Once the font is installed, open Design Space. If Design Space is already open, you'll need to close it and reopen it. Create a new project, and add a new text layer.

**Step 4**   Click on the Font dropdown menu in the top toolbar. Click on the 'System' tab and then search for your font by typing in the name. Once you find the font, select it and then click back on the canvas. Your text will change to the new font.
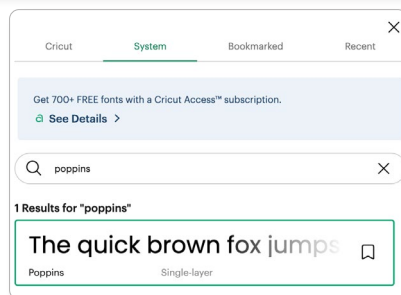
**Step 5**   You can now change the other aspects of the font like Style and Size.
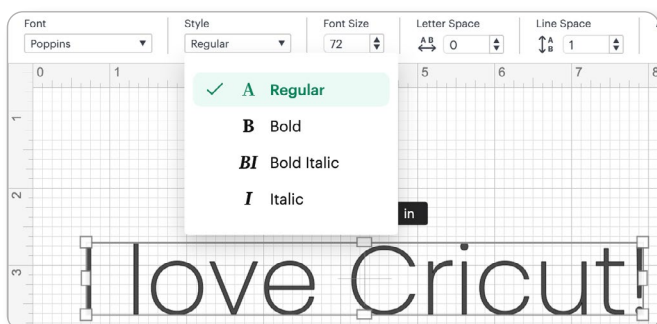
# Project Preview

Project Preview gives you a visual representation of your project before you actually cut it with your Cricut machine. It gives you a better understanding of how your design will look once it's cut, plus how many different mats and materials the project will require. If you want, you can also reposition items on the mat to save space.

**Total number of mats for the project**

**The operation for the mat**

**Your Cricut Model**

Prepare (2 mats)   Untitled   Maker 3

Project copies: 1   Apply

Basic Cut — 1

Basic Cut — 2

Material Load Type
On Mat

Material Size
12 in x 12 in

Mirror ⓘ

50%

Cancel   Continue
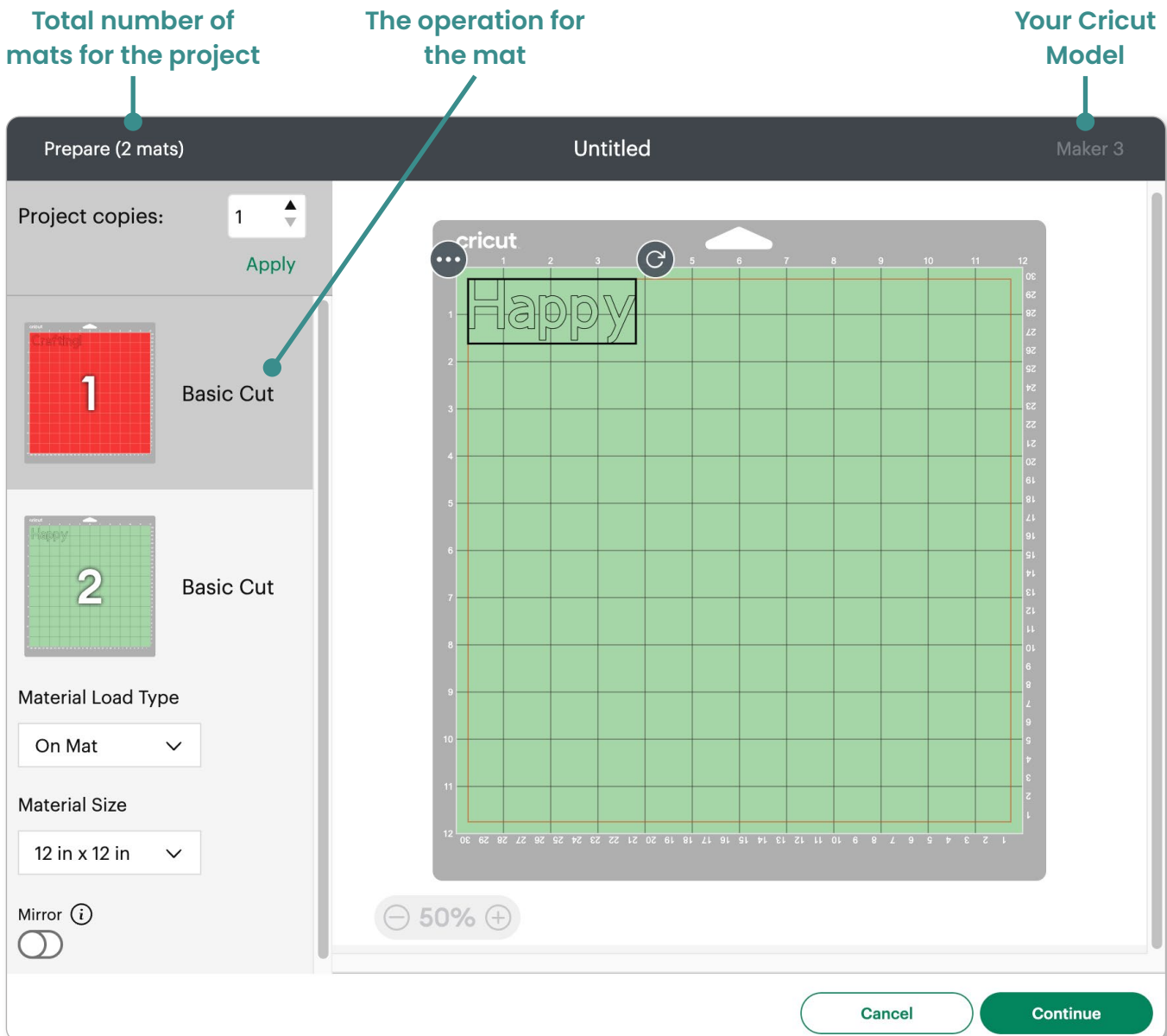
| | |
|---|---|
| **Material Load Type** | Tell your Cricut if you're using Smart Materials, a Card Mat, or a machine mat. |
| **Material Size** | What size material are you loading into your Cricut |
| **Mirror** | If you're doing an iron-on project, you need to mirror it before cutting. Use this toggle to mirror the design. |

# How to Print Then Cut

The Print-Then-Cut feature combines printing and cutting to create intricate and colorful designs. You can print designs on compatible materials using a InkJet or Laser printer and then have the Cricut precisely cut around the edge of the design for a wide range of projects. The best materials include paper, cardstock, Cricut printable fabric, stickers and vinyl.
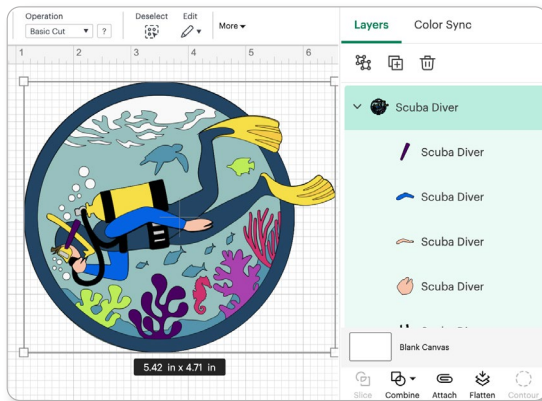
**Step 1**   Add your elements to canvas. If there are multiple layers, select them all then click Flatten in the Actions panel to merge them into one Print-Then-Cut layer.
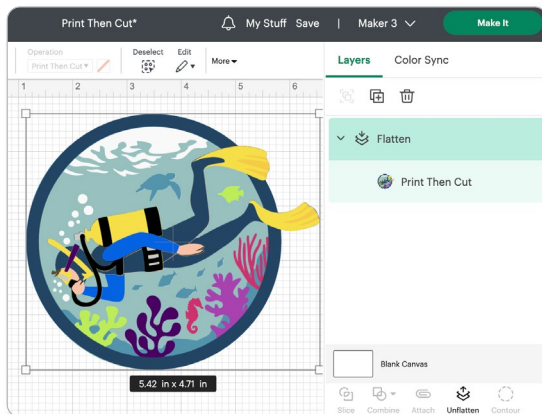
**Step 2**   Click 'Make It' in the top right hand corner.

**Note**   If your design is too large to Print-Then-Cut, Design Space will display a warning in the Layers panel. You must resize any oversized items before proceeding to the cutting process. You can do this automatically. Just click on the warning icon and choose 'Auto- Resize Image' or 'Change Page Size' to adjust to a new material size.
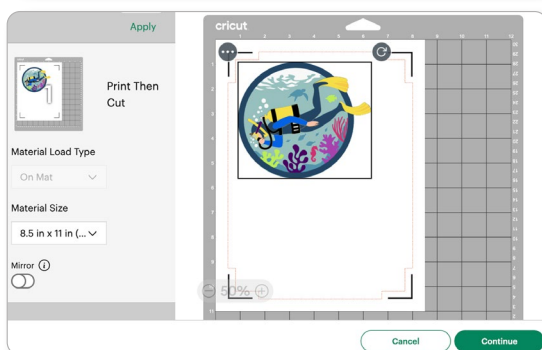
**Step 3**   In 'Preview', ensure that the correct Material Size is selected. You can also adjust the position & angle of the image on the print material, if desired. Once formatted, click 'Continue'.

**Step 4**   From the 'Make' screen, tap 'Send to Printer'.
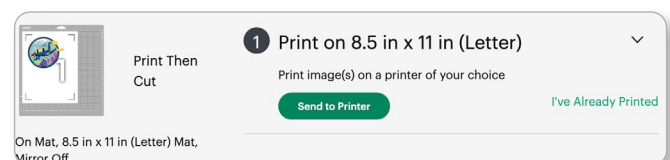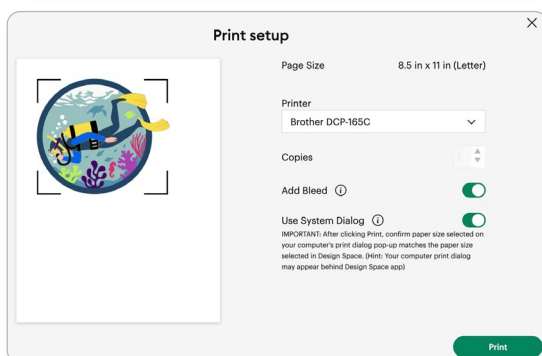
**Step 5**   Select your printer, and the settings will appear. Turn on Bleed, and click Print. I also recommend switching 'Use System Dialog' on. Ensure that the paper size matches what you selected in Step 3.

# How to Print Then Cut cont.
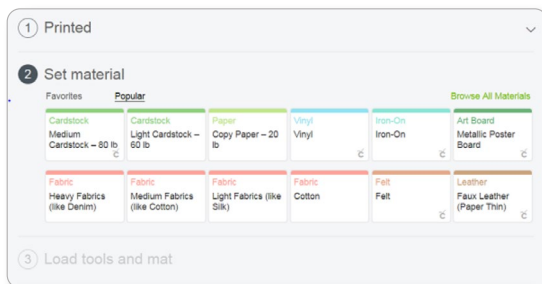


**Step 6** Select the Material that you used to print on (e.g. Medium Cardstock) by clicking Browse All Materials.

**Step 7** Now load your cutting tool into your Cricut. Then place your printed material in the upper, left corner of your mat.
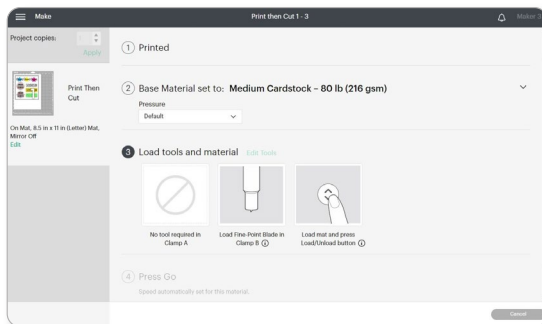
**Step 8** Load your mat in your Cricut, and press 'Go'. Your Cricut will scan the black 'Registration Marks' to orient its cut (this process takes a moment before cutting begins). Your Cricut will then cut out the design for you!



Keep in mind that the size of the design you can Print Then Cut is limited by the dimensions of your printer and Cricut machine.

- Maximum print size: 6.75" in x 9.25" in for Letter paper (8.5" x 11")
- Maximum print size: 6.51" x 9.93" for A4 paper (8.3" x 11.7")

Print-Then-Cut now supports three additional paper sizes: Legal, Tabloid, and A3
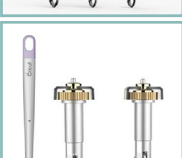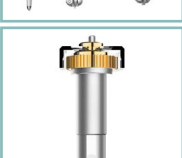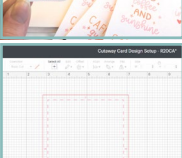
- – Maximum print size: 7.44" x 12.93" for Legal paper (8.5"x14")
- – Maximum print size: 9.94" x 15.94" for Tabloid paper (11"x17")
- – Maximum print size: 10.63" x 15.49" for A3 paper (11.7" x 16.5")

Maximize printed material usage in the 'Prepare' screen by repositioning your design within the dotted red line outlining the printable area when you mouse over the mat.

For mobile use, you must ensure that your printer has WiFi or AirPrint capabilities to connect to your device. If your Print-Then-Cut is not precise and the Cricut is cutting outside of the 'bleed' area, you can run a 'Machine Calibration' to fix any errors.

# The Different Operations & Tools Explained

The Operation defines what tool your Cricut will use to make each layer of your design. There are many different options, and they depend on which model you have.

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| **Basic Cut** |  | This is the most used and well-known Cricut feature. It allows you to cut your design out using many different materials. And there are many different types of cutting blades to choose from, depending on which Cricut you have. |
| **Wavy** |  | The Wavy Blade adds a beautiful wavy edge to any design, and in half the time of a drag blade (Maker only). |
| **Perforate** |  | Use the Perforation Blade to create evenly spaced perforation lines for clean, even tearaways. It's the perfect tool to make tear-out booklet pages, raffle tickets, homemade journals, or for any project that demands a clean, easy tear. (Maker only). |
| **Pen** |  | Use Cricut Pens to write cards and gift tags, draw coloring pages and doodles, and illustrate your Cricut creations! You can choose the color and thickness from the settings window (all Cricuts). |
| **Foil** |  | Add Foil accents to your designs with the Foil Transfer Tool. You can choose fine, medium or bold tip depending on your design and preference (all Cricuts). |
| **Score** |  | The Scoring tools help to create crisp creases in thick and thin materials in order to make perfect, effortless folds. Score with the Stylus (Maker or Explore) or the Scoring Wheel Tools (Maker only). |
| **Deboss** |  | The Debossing tool creates depressions in a variety of materials to add dimension and flair to your projects. A great example is a dimensional wedding card. (Maker only). |
| **Engrave** |  | The Engraving Tip has a sharp metal point that is designed to use pressure to permanently inscribe text and images into assorted soft metals, acrylic, leather, paper, and plastics. (Maker only). |
| **Print Then Cut** |  | How this works is that you first print your design out on a regular printer, and then you load that into your Cricut to cut the design out. The benefit is that you can use multiple colors in one design very easily. (Explores and Makers only). |
| **Guide** |  | Cricut Guides are lines that you can add in Cricut Design Space to help make your design, but they won't cut out on your mat. This feature makes it easier to create a template for designs that you are working on that need to be a certain size. For example adding a box around a design that represents the size limit. |

# A

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| **Access** | A subscription service offered by Cricut that allows users access to a library of images, fonts, and projects that can be used with Cricut machines. |
| **Acetate** | A clear, plastic material that can be cut with some Cricut machines and used for stencils, overlays, and other crafting projects. |
| **Adaptive Tool System** | A Cricut technology that controls the direction of the blade and the cut pressure to match different material types, allowing for more precise cuts with various materials. |
| **Adhesive Vinyl** | A sticky-backed material that can be cut with a Cricut machine and applied to various surfaces for decoration or labeling. |
| **Alignment** | The process of arranging objects in a straight line or in correct relative positions before cutting, which can be done manually or using features within Cricut Design Space. |
| **App** | The software application used to design and layout projects to be cut by a Cricut machine. It can be accessed on various devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones. |
| **Artwork, Digital** | Images or designs created or edited on a computer that can be uploaded to Cricut Design Space and then cut out using a Cricut machine. |
| **Attach Function** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that is used to fasten two or more objects together so that they will be cut out exactly as they are arranged on the canvas, maintaining their position relative to one another. |
| **AutoBlade** | A type of blade used in some Cricut machines that automatically adjusts to the correct depth for the material being cut. |

# B

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| **Background Removal** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows users to remove the background from uploaded images to create cut-out designs or clean up images for cutting. |
| **Basswood** | A type of wood that is often cut with the Cricut Maker's knife blade for various projects such as woodworking, model making, or 3D crafts. |
| **Bitmap** | A type of digital image composed of pixels, which can be uploaded into Cricut Design Space. However, unlike vector images, bitmap images may lose quality when scaled up. |
| **Blade** | The cutting element in a Cricut machine that can come in different types, such as fine-point, deep cut, or bonded fabric blade, each designed to cut different materials. |
| **Bleed** | In printing, bleed is the area that will be trimmed off after printing. Cricut Design Space offers a "bleed" option for print then cut projects, which extends the ink slightly beyond the borders of the image to ensure there are no white edges after the cut. |
| **Bluetooth** | A wireless technology that allows Cricut machines to communicate with computers or mobile devices without a physical cable. |
| **Bonded-Fabric Blade** | A blade specifically designed to cut bonded fabric or fabric with an iron-on backer using the Cricut Explore or Maker machines. |
| **Brayer** | A roller tool used to smooth materials onto the Cricut cutting mat to ensure that they are flat and securely in place before cutting. |
| **BrightPad** | A lightbox-style device offered by Cricut that provides an illuminated background to help with weeding or tracing designs onto materials. |
| **Burnish** | The technique of rubbing a tool, like a scraper or a credit card, over the surface of vinyl or transfer tape to ensure that it adheres properly and to remove any air bubbles. |

# C

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| **Calibration** | The process of aligning the Cricut machine to ensure it cuts and prints with precision. This is often necessary when setting up a new machine or when there is a change in materials or tools. |
| **Canvas** | In Cricut Design Space, this refers to the virtual workspace on which designs are created and manipulated before being sent to the Cricut machine for cutting. |
| **Cardstock** | A heavy-duty paper that comes in various weights and textures. It is commonly cut with Cricut machines for creating cards, scrapbook elements, and other paper crafts. |
| **Cartridge** | A physical storage device that was used in older Cricut machines to store images and fonts. Cartridges are inserted into the machine to access pre-designed cut files. |
| **Contour** | A function in Cricut Design Space that allows users to hide or remove certain cut lines or parts of an image, giving them the ability to customize designs by excluding details they don't want to cut. |
| **Craft Foam** | A soft, foam-like material that can be cut with some Cricut machines. It is popular for creating dimensional projects like stickers, educational tools, and more. |
| **Cricut Design Space** | The software platform used with Cricut machines where users can create and design projects, as well as control the settings for cutting, writing, scoring, or printing. |
| **Custom Materials** | A setting in Cricut Design Space that allows users to specify and save the cut settings for materials that are not already listed in the pre-set material options. |
| **Cut Lines** | The lines that the Cricut machine follows to cut materials. These are visible in Cricut Design Space and indicate where the machine will cut. |
| **Cutting Mat** | A sticky mat that holds your material in place while it's being cut by the Cricut machine. |

# D

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| **Debossing Tool** | A Cricut tool that creates depressions in a material to give it texture or to create a design element. The debossing tool is used with the Cricut Maker's Adaptive Tool System. |
| **Deep Cut Blade** | A type of Cricut blade designed to cut thicker materials such as chipboard, rubber, and some types of leather. |
| **Deluxe Paper** | A patterned paper offered by Cricut that's thicker than standard paper and can be used for more elaborate and decorative projects requiring a sturdier material. |
| **Design Space** | The software used by Cricut machine owners to create and design projects, as well as control the machine's cutting and writing operations. |
| **Designs, Digital** | The electronic images or patterns that are used to cut, draw, or score with a Cricut machine. These can be bought, downloaded, or created in Cricut Design Space. |
| **Die-Cutting** | The process of using a machine to cut out shapes and letters in various materials. While traditional die-cutting requires physical dies, a Cricut machine uses digital designs to cut. |
| **Double Scoring Wheel** | A Cricut tool designed for the Cricut Maker that makes two parallel score lines at once for easier folding and more pronounced creases, particularly beneficial for thicker materials. |
| **DPI (Dots Per Inch)** | In Cricut terminology, this often relates to the resolution of print then cut images; the higher the DPI, the sharper the printed image will be. |
| **Drawing** | Referring to the capability of Cricut machines to hold pens and create hand-drawn effects on projects, which includes writing text or drawing images. |
| **Duct Tape Sheets** | Adhesive-backed duct tape that has been formatted into sheets that can be cut with a Cricut machine and used for a variety of decorative purposes. |

# E

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| **EasyPress** | A heat press designed by Cricut for transferring iron-on vinyl (HTV) to fabric. The EasyPress provides consistent heat distribution and temperature control for professional iron-on results. |
| **Edge-to-Edge** | A term used to describe a type of cut or design that extends to the very edges of the material being used, often requiring precise placement and sizing within Cricut Design Space. |
| **Eject** | The action taken by a Cricut machine when it finishes cutting and releases or "ejects" the cutting mat out of the machine. |
| **End Caps** | Small caps that can be placed on the ends of scoring stylus or other accessory tools to prevent injury or to store them more safely when not in use. |
| **Engraving Tool** | A tool used with certain models of Cricut machines, like the Cricut Maker, to engrave designs onto a variety of materials such as metal, leather, and acrylic. |
| **Etching** | While similar to engraving, etching usually refers to a chemical process. In the context of Cricut, it often refers to the effect achieved by the engraving tool, where the surface of a material is indented with a design. |
| **Excess Material** | The material that is not part of the final design and is removed after the cutting process. This is often referred to in weeding, where the excess vinyl or HTV is removed to reveal the finished design. |
| **Export** | The process of saving a file out of Cricut Design Space to another format or location. Note that at my last update, Cricut Design Space did not allow users to export projects with proprietary elements in formats that can be edited outside of their platform. |
| **Eyelets** | Small metal rings that can be added to a project for decoration or to reinforce a hole. These can be set in place with certain Cricut tools. |

# F

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| **Faux Leather** | Also known as pleather, this is a synthetic material that mimics leather and can be cut with Cricut machines for making jewelry, bags, and other craft projects. |
| **Felt** | A non-woven textile that can be cut with a Cricut machine. It is often used for crafting decorative items, toys, and other creative projects. |
| **Fine-Point Blade** | This is the standard blade used in Cricut machines for cutting a wide range of materials, from paper to vinyl. |
| **Firmware** | The permanent software programmed into the Cricut machine, which sometimes needs updates to ensure compatibility with the latest features in Cricut Design Space. |
| **Flatten** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that converts multi-layer images into a single layer for printing, essentially turning a cut file into a printable image with a cut border. |
| **Flex Heat Transfer Vinyl (HTV)** | A type of heat transfer material that stretches after being applied, making it ideal for clothing and fabric projects that require flexibility. |
| **Foil Transfer Kit** | A set of tools for the Cricut that adds foil embellishments to projects using pressure, rather than heat, to apply the foil. |
| **Font** | In the context of Cricut, fonts are the styles of text that can be cut or drawn. Cricut Design Space offers access to a wide range of fonts, and users can also upload their own. |
| **Fusible Fabric** | Fabric that has an adhesive backing which can be bonded to another fabric using heat, typically compatible with Cricut's cutting machines for making appliqués or fabric projects. |

G

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| **Gallery** | Often referred to in Cricut Design Space as the image gallery or library where users can choose from a wide variety of pre-made designs and images to include in their projects. |
| **Gather** | A term that's not exclusively used in Cricut vocabulary but can refer to the process of bunching fabric together, which can be part of a project involving Cricut-cut fabric pieces. |
| **Glitter Iron-On** | Similar to glitter vinyl, but with a heat-activated adhesive that allows it to be transferred to fabric and other surfaces using a Cricut EasyPress or a home iron. |
| **Glitter Vinyl** | A type of adhesive vinyl that has a glittery finish. It's used for decorative decals and projects that require a sparkling appearance. |
| **Grip** | Refers to the stickiness level of a Cricut cutting mat. There are different grips (light, standard, strong) intended for various types of materials to hold them in place during the cutting process. |
| **Group** | In Cricut Design Space, this function allows you to link objects together so they move and scale as a unit, but they keep their individual properties for cutting or writing. |
| **GSM (Grams per Square Meter)** | A measurement of paper weight and thickness. Understanding GSM is important for knowing which materials can be cut with which blades and mats in a Cricut machine. |
| **Guide Marks** | These are lines or other indicators in Cricut Design Space or on Cricut materials that help with aligning cuts, folds, or layers accurately. |

# H

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| **Hand Tool Kit** | A set of tools provided by Cricut or other companies that aid in the weeding, cleaning, and application of vinyl and other materials. |
| **Heat Guide** | Cricut provides an online Heat Guide that offers the recommended heat settings and times for using the EasyPress with different materials and transfer types. |
| **Heat Press** | A machine used to apply heat transfer vinyl (HTV) to a substrate, such as a t-shirt. Cricut's version of this is known as the EasyPress, which provides a flat, evenly heated surface for HTV application. |
| **Heat Transfer Vinyl (HTV)** | A type of material that can be cut into designs by a Cricut machine and then applied to fabric using heat. It's commonly used for customizing apparel and textiles. |
| **Heavy Cardstock** | A thicker form of cardstock that can be used for projects requiring sturdier paper. Its weight is typically over 80 lbs (about 216 gsm) and requires a deep-cut blade to be properly cut with a Cricut machine. |
| **Hinge Method** | A technique often used when applying vinyl to a surface, where the vinyl is held in place on one side with a piece of tape (acting as a hinge), which allows for better control and positioning. |
| **Holographic Vinyl** | A specialty vinyl with a multi-colored effect that appears to change as the viewing angle changes. It can be cut with a Cricut and applied to various surfaces for decorative purposes. |
| **Housing** | Refers to the protective casing around a Cricut blade or tool. For example, the blade housing holds the blade and fits into the machine's carriage. |

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| **ID Number** | A unique identifier for images or projects in Cricut Design Space, allowing users to find and reference them quickly. |
| **Image** | In Cricut Design Space, this refers to a digital graphic or illustration that can be used to create a project. Images can be uploaded or chosen from Cricut's extensive library. |
| **Import** | The action of bringing an external file, image, or design into Cricut Design Space for use in a project. Users can import various file types, including SVG, PNG, JPG, DXF, GIF, and BMP. |
| **Infusible Ink** | A line of Cricut products that, when applied with heat, create a chemical bond with the material, resulting in professional, seamless transfers that are flake-proof, peel-proof, and wash-proof. |
| **Ink Transfer Sheets** | Used with a Cricut Infusible Ink system, these sheets are a form of heat transfer that dyes the fabric or substrate for a permanent, professional-quality finish. |
| **Interface** | Refers to Cricut Design Space's user interface, which is the platform where all design and layout work is done before sending a project to the Cricut machine for cutting, writing, or scoring. |
| **Intricate Cuts** | Detailed and often complex designs that require precise and careful cutting, achievable with the fine-point or deep-point blades on a Cricut machine. |
| **Iron-On Vinyl** | Also known as heat transfer vinyl (HTV), this is a material that can be cut with a Cricut machine and then applied to fabric with heat. It is used to create custom apparel, tote bags, and more. |
| **Isolate** | The process of separating elements of a design, typically in Cricut Design Space, to work with or manipulate them individually. |
| **Italic** | A font style with letters that slope to the right, used for emphasis or to distinguish certain text in a design. Italic fonts are available in Cricut Design Space and can be used with writing or cutting operations. |

# J

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| **Jewel Tones** | A color palette often used in crafting that includes rich, deep hues similar to gemstones. Cricut materials like vinyl and cardstock may come in jewel tones. |
| **Jig** | In crafting, a jig is a tool that helps position and hold pieces in place while assembling a project. While not a Cricut-specific term, it's a common tool in many crafters' arsenals. |
| **Join** | A term used in Cricut Design Space and other design software to combine two or more shapes or lines into one continuous cut path. |
| **Journaling Card** | Pre-designed cards that can be cut out and used for scrapbooking, planners, or journaling. These can be created with Cricut machines to add a personal touch to memory keeping. |
| **JPEG Engraving** | Refers to the process of using a Cricut Maker's engraving tool to engrave designs that have been converted from a JPEG format. This requires converting the image into a path suitable for engraving. |
| **JPG/JPEG** | A common file format for images and photos. In Cricut crafting, JPG files can be uploaded to Cricut Design Space and converted into cuttable images. |
| **Justify** | A design term referring to the alignment of text within a given space or margin. In Cricut Design Space, text can be justified left, right, center, or fully, which affects the layout of text in a project. |

# K

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| **Kerning** | In typography, kerning refers to the adjustment of space between characters in a piece of text. In Cricut Design Space, this can be adjusted to improve the appearance of cut or written text in projects. |
| **Kiss Cut** | A type of cut that only goes through the top layer of material and not through the backing material, commonly used in sticker making so that the sticker can be peeled away from its backing. |
| **Knife Blade** | A Cricut tool used with the Cricut Maker that allows for deeper cuts into thicker materials like balsa wood, matboard, and leather. |
| **Knockout** | A design technique where a shape or text is cut out of another shape or text, creating a "knocked out" area that shows the layer beneath or creates a visual effect with negative space. |
| **Kraft Board** | A sturdy, wood-based material that can be cut with a Cricut machine. It is thicker and stronger than standard cardstock, suitable for projects that require a more durable material. |
| **Kraft Paper** | A type of strong, brown paper that is often used for pattern making, as well as for creating bags, wrapping, and other crafts. It can be cut with a Cricut for various projects. |

# L

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| **Laminating** | While not a Cricut-specific term, laminating a project made with a Cricut, such as a sticker or bookmark, can enhance its durability and finish. |
| **Layer** | In Cricut Design Space, layers are used to organize different parts of a design that are to be cut, written, scored, or printed then cut. Each layer can represent a different color or material. |
| **Layering** | A technique in Cricut crafting where multiple layers of material (often vinyl or paper) are assembled to create a multi-dimensional effect. |
| **Leather** | A material that can be cut using the Cricut Maker with the Knife Blade or the Cricut Explore with a Deep-Point Blade. Leather crafting includes making jewelry, accessories, and embellishments. |
| **License** | Many images and fonts in Cricut Design Space come with a license that allows for personal use, and sometimes for commercial use, which dictates how the designs can legally be used. |
| **LightGrip Mat** | A cutting mat with a light adhesive grip suitable for lightweight materials such as standard paper, light cardstock, and vellum. |
| **Linen** | A type of fabric that can be used in Cricut crafting, especially with the Cricut Maker, which has the capability to cut a variety of fabrics with the Rotary Blade. |
| **Linetype** | In Cricut Design Space, the linetype tells the machine what to do with the material (cut, write, score, or engrave). |
| **Luster** | Refers to the finish of paper or other materials used in Cricut projects; for instance, some vinyl has a lustrous, shiny surface. |

# M

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| **Maker** | The Cricut Maker is one of the models of Cricut cutting machines. It has additional capabilities compared to the Explore line, such as cutting thicker materials and using a wider range of tools. |
| **Mat** | A Cricut mat is a sticky surface on which you place your material (like paper or vinyl) to be cut. They come in several grip strengths (light, standard, strong, and fabric) to accommodate different materials. |
| **Material Settings** | These are pre-programmed settings in Cricut Design Space that adjust the cut speed, pressure, and depth to match the type of material being cut. |
| **Matless Cutting** | This refers to the ability to cut certain materials using a Cricut machine without a mat, which is a feature of some newer Cricut machines like the Cricut Joy. |
| **Mesh Canvas** | A type of material used in crafting for making various projects, including bags and home decor. It can be cut using a Cricut machine with the right settings. |
| **Mirror** | This function is used when preparing to cut heat transfer vinyl (HTV). You mirror the image so that it appears backwards on the mat but will be correct when ironed onto fabric. |
| **Mirror Mode** | A setting used when cutting heat transfer vinyl (HTV) that flips the design so it's properly oriented when ironed onto a surface. |
| **Monogram** | A motif of two or more letters, typically a person's initials, interwoven or combined in a decorative design, used as a logo or to personalize an item. Cricut machines can create monograms in various styles and complexities. |
| **Mosaic** | Refers to a pattern or design resembling a mosaic in appearance. Cricut may offer mosaic-style vinyl or paper, and the term can also refer to a crafting technique to create such patterns. |
| **Multicut** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows the machine to make multiple passes over the material, cutting it several times for a complete cut, especially useful for thicker materials. |
| **Mylar** | A type of polyester film or plastic sheet that's used in Cricut crafting for stencils or other projects. It's durable and cuttable with the right settings on a Cricut machine. |

# N

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| **Negative Space** | The space around and between the subject(s) of an image. In Cricut projects, it is often the space left behind after a shape has been cut out from the material. |
| **Nesting** | A technique used in Cricut Design Space to arrange shapes or patterns efficiently on the mat to conserve material and minimize waste. |
| **New Project** | The starting point in Cricut Design Space where you create a new design from scratch or begin with a template. |
| **Nib** | The tip of a Cricut pen or marker. Different nib sizes and types can be used to achieve various writing and drawing effects on Cricut projects. |
| **Noise** | In the context of images and designs, noise refers to the visual distortion or the appearance of fine, random speckles or grains. When preparing images to be cut, reducing noise can be important for a clean cut. |
| **Non-Woven Material** | Materials that are not woven or knitted, such as felt or foam, which can often be cut with Cricut machines if they are of appropriate thickness. |
| **Notch Tool** | A tool used to make small notch indents on materials, such as paper or cardstock, to help with folding or piecing projects together. |
| **Note Cards** | Small, folded cards that Cricut users can make using the machine. They can be customized with cut-outs, writing, or other embellishments. |
| **Nylon** | A synthetic material that can be cut with Cricut machines, often used for making flexible, durable projects like custom bags or appliques. |

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| **Offset** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that creates a proportional outline around an image or text, which can be used for layering effects or to make stickers easier to peel. |
| **Opacity** | In digital design, opacity refers to the transparency level of an image or layer. It can be adjusted in Cricut Design Space to make images more transparent for print then cut projects or for design effects. |
| **Optimize** | The process of adjusting the arrangement of images or shapes in Cricut Design Space to make the most efficient use of material and minimize waste. |
| **Ounce (oz)** | In crafting, the weight or thickness of certain materials, such as felt or leather, may be described in ounces. This is relevant for understanding which materials can be cut by the Cricut and with which blades or settings. |
| **Outlines** | The outer edges of shapes or letters that can be cut or drawn with a Cricut machine. Outlines are often used for creating patterns, templates, or as part of a design element. |
| **Overcut** | A setting that extends the cut line past the corner when cutting thick or dense materials, which helps to ensure the corners are fully cut through. |
| **Overlay** | In design, an overlay is a layer that is placed over another layer, often used in crafting for adding additional design elements or information on top of a base image. |

# P

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| **Paper Stock** | The type and weight of paper used for crafting. Different paper stocks can be used for various projects, with specific types recommended for the optimal cutting experience. |
| **Parchment Paper** | A non-stick paper that is sometimes used in Cricut crafting when working with materials like HTV to protect the iron or heat press and the material. |
| **Pattern Fill** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows users to fill a shape with a pattern. Users can choose from a variety of patterns or upload their own. |
| **Peel** | The action of removing the cut material from the Cricut mat or the excess material from around a design after cutting, often referred to as "weeding," especially in the context of vinyl projects. |
| **Pen Tool** | A Cricut accessory that holds various pens and markers for drawing or writing text and images. |
| **Permanent Vinyl** | A type of vinyl that has a stronger adhesive for a long-lasting application. It's used for projects that need to withstand the elements or handling, such as car decals or outdoor signs. |
| **Personal Cutter** | Refers to Cricut's personal-sized cutting machines, like the Cricut Joy, which are smaller than standard machines and designed for quick, simple projects. |
| **PNG** | A file format used for images. PNG files can have a transparent background, which is ideal for creating designs in Cricut Design Space, particularly for Print then Cut projects. |
| **Pressure** | The amount of force applied by the Cricut machine blade when cutting materials. The pressure can be adjusted based on the type of material to ensure a clean cut. |
| **Pressure Settings** | Adjustments in Cricut Design Space that control how much pressure the machine uses to cut different materials. |
| **Print then Cut** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows users to print images using a home printer and then use the Cricut machine to cut around the printed designs. |
| **Project** | In Cricut terminology, this refers to the entire design that is being worked on in Cricut Design Space. |
| **Provo Craft** | The company that originally developed the Cricut brand. It has been instrumental in bringing the Cricut to the crafting market. |

# Q

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| **Quality** | Refers to the resolution and clarity of images and designs, which affects the precision of cuts made by the Cricut machine. High-quality images result in better cutting outcomes. |
| **Quatrefoil** | A decorative pattern resembling a four-leafed clover that is popular in design and can be created or cut using a Cricut machine for various projects. |
| **Query** | In the context of using Cricut Design Space software, a user might query the help section or use a search function to find specific functions or troubleshooting tips. |
| **QuickSwap Housing** | A Cricut tool housing that allows crafters to quickly and easily switch between different compatible tool tips, such as the scoring wheel, engraving tip, and debossing tip. |
| **Quiet Mode** | Some Cricut machines may have a feature or setting that reduces the noise made during operation, useful for crafting in a shared space or during quiet hours. |
| **Quilling Tool** | While not specific to Cricut, a quilling tool can be used to create coiled designs with paper strips. Some crafters might adapt Cricut-cut shapes for quilling projects. |
| **Quilt Pieces** | With the use of a Cricut Maker and its rotary blade, crafters can cut fabric into precise shapes for quilting projects. |

# R

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| **Raster Image** | A type of digital image made up of a grid of pixels or points of color, which can be used in Cricut Design Space, though vector images are generally preferred for their scalability without loss of quality. |
| **Registration Marks** | Marks printed on materials when using the Print then Cut feature that allow the Cricut machine to align and cut around printed images accurately. |
| **Removable Vinyl** | Vinyl with a temporary adhesive that's used for decals and decorations that need to be removed easily, such as wall art or seasonal decorations. |
| **Repeat** | A function in Cricut Design Space that allows users to duplicate a selected object or design multiple times. |
| **Repositionable Vinyl** | A type of vinyl that has a lighter adhesive so it can be removed and repositioned without leaving residue or damaging the surface it's applied to. |
| **Resize** | The action or ability to change the dimensions of an image or text within Cricut Design Space to fit the requirements of a project. |
| **Reveal Wheel** | A paper crafting technique often used in card making where a wheel can be turned to reveal different images or messages through a cut-out window. |
| **Reverse Weeding** | A technique used in vinyl projects where the negative space is weeded out after the design is transferred to the transfer tape, which can be easier for intricate designs. |
| **Rhinestone Template** | A pattern cut with the Cricut to create a template for placing rhinestones in a design. |
| **Rip Cut** | A term borrowed from woodworking that refers to cutting a material along the grain or in a straight line. In Cricut terminology, this could apply to making long, straight cuts in materials like vinyl or paper. |
| **Rotary Blade** | A cutting tool used with the Cricut Maker that can cut through a variety of fabrics without the need for a backing material. |
| **Ruler** | An essential tool for precise measurements and cuts; the Cricut also has a ruler along the top and bottom edges for quick measurements. |

# S

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| **Score** | A feature used to create fold lines on materials such as paper or cardstock. |
| **Score Line** | A fold line created by the Cricut machine using a scoring tool or wheel. It allows for precise folds in paper and cardstock projects. |
| **Scoring Stylus** | A tool that can be used in the accessory clamp of Cricut machines to create score lines instead of cuts. |
| **Shadow Box** | A crafting project that involves creating a three-dimensional display with layers of materials cut by the Cricut, often with depth and shadow effects. |
| **Silhouette** | Often used generically for cutout shapes and designs, but it's also the name of a competing brand to Cricut, known for similar cutting machines. |
| **Slice** | A function in Cricut Design Space that allows users to cut overlapping images or text out of each other, creating new shapes. |
| **Smart Materials** | A range of Cricut-branded materials designed to be cut without a mat. They are fed directly into Cricut machines such as the Cricut Maker 3 and Cricut Explore 3. |
| **SnapMat** | A feature in the Cricut iOS app that allows users to take a photo of their material on the mat to place designs precisely in the Cricut Design Space app. |
| **Space** | In Cricut Design Space, spacing refers to the distance between letters or lines of text, which can be adjusted for different visual effects. |
| **StandardGrip Mat** | A cutting mat with a standard adhesive grip suitable for a wide range of materials, including cardstock, heat transfer vinyl, and iron-on. |
| **Stencil Vinyl** | A specific type of vinyl that's used to create stencils for painting or adding designs to a variety of surfaces. |
| **Sticky Mat** | The adhesive mats used to hold materials in place as they are being cut by the Cricut machine. They come in different grip strengths (light, standard, strong). |
| **SVG File** | Stands for Scalable Vector Graphics, a type of file that can be used in Cricut Design Space to create intricate designs without losing quality when resizing. |
| **System Fonts** | Fonts that are installed on the user's computer and are accessible in Cricut Design Space to create text for designs. |

# T

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| **Tack** | Refers to the stickiness of the adhesive on Cricut mats and materials such as vinyl. For example, a 'low-tack' mat would be less sticky for lighter materials. |
| **Tear-Away Material** | Some materials are designed to be torn away after a part of the project is completed, commonly used in sewing or embroidery projects cut on a Cricut. |
| **Template** | In Cricut Design Space, a template is a helpful guide to visualize how a design will look on different objects like t-shirts, tote bags, etc. |
| **Test Cut** | A small cut made in an inconspicuous area to ensure settings are correct for the material being used before proceeding with the full cut. |
| **Text Tool** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that enables users to add and edit text in their designs. |
| **Thermoplastic** | Material such as heat transfer vinyl (HTV) that becomes pliable when heated. It is often used for applying designs to fabric. |
| **Tile Function** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows users to repeat a pattern across a larger surface area to create tiled effects. |
| **Tool Set** | A collection of tools by Cricut which typically includes items like scissors, tweezers, spatula, scraper, and weeding tools to assist with various crafting tasks. |
| **Top Coat** | A sealing coat applied over materials such as vinyl to protect the design and extend its longevity, especially if it's going to be exposed to elements like water or UV light. |
| **Transfer Tape** | A clear adhesive material used to move vinyl designs from their backing to the final surface without distortion. |
| **TrueControl Knife** | A precision cutting tool offered by Cricut that allows for detailed hand cutting on various materials. |
| **Tweezers** | A tool used to help place and position small pieces of material or to help with the weeding process in vinyl projects. |

# U

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| **Ultra-Violet (UV) Resistant** | Some materials, such as certain vinyls, are UV resistant to prevent fading from sunlight, an important feature for outdoor projects. |
| **Underlay** | In some crafting contexts, especially when dealing with embroidery or appliqué made with Cricut-cut fabrics, it refers to a layer of fabric placed underneath the top layer for stability or to enhance the colors. |
| **Undo** | A common feature in many software applications, including Cricut Design Space, which allows users to reverse the last action taken. |
| **Unfold** | This term could be used in the context of preparing a 3D project cut on a Cricut, where the user unfolds the design to assemble it. |
| **UnGroup** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows users to separate grouped elements so they can be edited individually. |
| **Ungroup Layers** | In Cricut Design Space, this allows the user to separate layers of an image for individual editing or arranging. |
| **Universal Overlay** | A term from older models of Cricut machines that used physical cartridges. The universal overlay was a standard keyboard overlay that worked with any cartridge. |
| **Update** | Periodic software and firmware updates for Cricut Design Space and Cricut machines that enhance functionality or fix bugs. |
| **Upload** | The action of adding your own images or designs to Cricut Design Space for cutting or printing. |
| **USB Cable** | The cable used to connect Cricut machines to a computer. Even though newer models often have wireless capabilities, a USB cable is sometimes necessary for updates or direct connection. |
| **User Interface (UI)** | Refers to the layout and design of the Cricut Design Space software that users interact with during the design process. |
| **Utility Blade** | While not a Cricut-specific term, crafters may refer to a utility blade for tasks like trimming materials before or after they're cut with the machine. |

# V

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| **V-Score** | A term borrowed from traditional paper crafting that refers to a fold line cut in the shape of a "V" to make folding easier, which can also be done on a Cricut machine with a scoring tool. |
| **Vanish Lines** | Not a standard term in Cricut vocabulary, but it could hypothetically refer to the fine, cut lines that almost disappear in intricate designs or after a perfect weed. |
| **Variable Settings** | This term can refer to the customizable settings in Cricut Design Space that allow users to adjust blade depth, speed, and pressure to match the material being cut. |
| **Variance** | In the context of Cricut, this can refer to the slight differences in cut results due to material irregularities or blade wear. |
| **Vector** | An image format consisting of paths which allows for scaling without loss of quality, commonly used in Cricut Design Space to create clean cuts. |
| **Vector Image** | A type of digital image created using geometric forms like points, lines, and curves. Vector images can be scaled without losing quality, making them ideal for use in Cricut Design Space. |
| **Vectorize** | The process of converting a bitmap image (like JPG or PNG) into a vector image (like SVG) that can be scaled and cut with precision on a Cricut machine. |
| **Vellum Setting** | A specific material setting in Cricut Design Space used when cutting vellum paper, ensuring the right cut pressure and depth. |
| **Velum** | A translucent paper that can be cut using a Cricut machine, often used for invitations, envelopes, and as overlays in scrapbooking. |
| **Velvet Paper** | A type of specialty paper with a velvet-like texture that can be cut with Cricut machines for luxe effects on projects. |
| **Vinyl** | A versatile material that can be cut with Cricut machines and applied to various surfaces. It comes in many forms, such as permanent, removable, and heat transfer (HTV). |

# V

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| **Vinyl Roll Holder** | An accessory that can be used with some Cricut machines to hold and feed rolls of vinyl directly into the machine for cutting larger projects. |
| **Vinyl Sampler** | A variety pack of vinyl sheets offered by Cricut or other brands, which includes multiple colors or patterns for crafters to try out. |
| **Vinyl Weeder** | A tool used to remove excess vinyl from around and inside designs after they have been cut, part of the weeding process. |
| **Virtual Mat** | The on-screen representation in Cricut Design Space where users lay out their designs before cutting; it corresponds to the physical cutting mat used with the machine. |
| **Visualize** | In Cricut Design Space, the ability to preview how the design will look on the chosen material or object before actually making the cut. |
| **Vivid Brights** | Refers to a collection of vinyl or other materials offered by Cricut that are in bright, vivid colors. |

# W

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| **Warp Tool** | A feature in Cricut Design Space that allows you to distort or warp images and text to fit a particular shape or style. |
| **Warranty** | Many Cricut machines and accessories come with a manufacturer's warranty, which guarantees repair or replacement under certain conditions. |
| **Washi Sheet** | A type of adhesive paper similar to washi tape but in sheet form that can be cut with Cricut machines, often used for scrapbooking or card making. |
| **Wavy Blade** | A specific type of blade that can be used with some Cricut machines to create a wavy edge on cut materials. |
| **Weeder Tool** | A tool designed to help in the weeding process, usually with a fine point to remove small pieces of excess material. |
| **Weeding** | The process of removing excess vinyl from around and inside letters and designs after they have been cut. |
| **Weight (Paper Weight)** | In the context of Cricut crafting, this refers to the thickness or sturdiness of paper and cardstock, which is important to know for proper machine settings. |
| **Weld** | A function in Cricut Design Space that combines multiple shapes to create a single, continuous cut line. |
| **Window Cling** | A type of material that can be cut with Cricut machines, often used to create decorative and repositionable designs for windows. |
| **Wireless (Bluetooth) Connection** | The feature that allows Cricut machines to connect to Design Space wirelessly through Bluetooth technology. |
| **Workshop** | Often, Cricut enthusiasts or retailers will host workshops or classes to teach various techniques and projects one can do with a Cricut machine. |
| **Write (Writing)** | The Cricut machines can hold a pen to write or draw on materials. This is done using the "write" function in Design Space to create handwritten projects and drawings. |

# X

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| **X-Acto Knife** | A brand name that has become synonymous with precision cutting tools, similar to a craft knife, which can be used for detailed hand trimming of materials after they've been cut with a Cricut machine. |
| **X-height** | In typography, this refers to the height of the lowercase letters, not including ascenders and descenders. While not specific to Cricut, it is relevant when designing text for cutting or drawing. |
| **X-Press It Transfer Tape** | A type of transfer tape brand that may be used to transfer vinyl designs created with a Cricut machine onto surfaces. |

# Y

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| **Y-Axis** | In the context of a Cricut machine, this refers to the vertical axis on the grid of the cutting mat or the direction of the vertical cut in the Design Space software. |
| **Yearbook** | A common project made with Cricut machines, where users may create customized decorations, lettering, or images for school yearbooks or memory books. |
| **Yellowing** | Sometimes used to describe the discoloration that can occur with certain adhesives or clear materials over time. It's important for crafters to select high-quality materials that do not yellow, especially when making products to sell. |
| **Yield** | In crafting terms, this might refer to the amount of material that can be effectively used or produced from a larger piece of material without waste. |
| **Yoke** | In garment making, a yoke is the part of a garment that fits around the neck and shoulders. While not a direct Cricut term, Cricut machines can be used to cut fabric patterns or heat transfer vinyl for yokes. |
| **Yupo Paper** | A synthetic, waterproof paper that can be cut with a Cricut machine. It is known for its durability and is often used in alcohol ink art, which can be combined with die-cutting for mixed media projects. |

# Z

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| **Z-axis** | While not commonly used in Cricut terminology, in 3D space, the Z-axis could refer to the depth or layer aspect of a material or an object. In the context of the Cricut machine, which operates primarily on the X (width) and Y (height) axes, there isn't a Z-axis function. However, the term might come up in discussions about 3D crafting or when using the Cricut to cut elements for 3D projects. |
| **Z-score** | In statistics, it's a measure of how many standard deviations an element is from the mean. In crafting, this concept could be loosely referenced when discussing the distribution or variability of design elements in a larger project or set of projects, though it's admittedly a stretch and not common. |
| **Zebra Patterns** | Patterns with alternating stripes, which can be used in various Cricut projects, from vinyl decals to iron-on transfers. |
| **Zero-Centering Ruler** | A ruler that starts with zero in the middle and measures out to the ends. It's a useful tool for finding the center of a project, which could be important when aligning materials on a Cricut mat. |
| **Zigzag Cutters** | A tool used for cutting a zigzag pattern, often used in sewing to prevent fabric from fraying. A similar effect can be achieved with a Cricut machine using a corresponding pattern. |
| **Zigzag** | A sewing stitch pattern that can be mimicked with Cricut pens or scoring tools to create a decorative edge or pattern on materials. |
| **Zip File** | A compressed file format that can contain multiple files or folders. Cricut Design Space users may download digital designs in zip files that then need to be extracted before use. |
| **Zots** | A brand name for small dots of clear adhesive that can be used to stick lightweight items together in crafting projects. They could be used to assemble pieces after cutting them with a Cricut. |

# Keyboard Shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts are useful because they are generally quicker and more convenient to use than having to navigate to the respective button in Design Space. Here are the most important Keyboard Shortcuts.

| | Action | Windows<br>Shortcut | macOS<br>Shortcut |
|---|---|---|---|
| **General** | Save | Ctrl + S | Cmd + S |
| | Undo | Ctrl + Z | Cmd + Z |
| | Redo | Ctrl + Shift + Z | Cmd + Shift + Z |
| | Toggle Grid | Shift + G | Shift + G |
| **Edit** | Cut | Ctrl + X | Cmd + X |
| | Copy | Ctrl + C | Cmd + C |
| | Paste | Ctrl + V | Cmd + V |
| | Duplicate | Ctrl + D | Cmd + D |
| | Select All | Ctrl + A | Cmd + A |
| | Select None | Escape | Escape |
| **Layers** | Group | Ctrl + G | Cmd + G |
| | Ungroup | Ctrl + Shift + G | Cmd + Shift + G |
| **Arrange** | Bring Forward | Ctrl + ] | Cmd + ] |
| | Bring to Front | Ctrl + Shift + ] | Cmd + Shift + ] |
| | Send Backwards | Ctrl + [ | Cmd + [ |
| | Send to Back | Ctrl + Shift + [ | Cmd + Shift + [ |
| **Zoom** | Zoom In | Ctrl + | Cmd + |
| | Zoom Out | Ctrl – | Cmd – |
| | Zoom to 100% | Ctrl + 0 | Cmd + 0 |
| | Zoom to Fit | Ctrl + 1 | Cmd + 1 |
| | Zoom to Selected Item | Ctrl + 2 | Cmd + 2 |
| | Zoom to Specific Area | Z + Drag | Z + Drag |
| **Mouse Actions** | Pan the Canvas | Space + Drag | Space + Drag |
| | Duplicate and Move | Alt + Drag | Option + Drag |
| | Zoom In | Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Up | Cmd + Scroll Wheel Up |
| | Zoom Out | Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Down | Cmd + Scroll Wheel Down |