

Using Design Space

Cricuts use a program called Design Space to upload and edit your projects. Design Space is available on Mac, PC, IOS, and Android- and of course on our Maker's Lab computer!

We encourage patrons to sign up or use their own accounts to access Design Space from any device- especially if you plan on making many projects with us! Tip: Have your design ready to print in design space before you register to use the Cricut.

Design space has so many great ideas and tutorials for new users! There are lots of projects that can be designed with no additional charges and some that require purchase. These are typically denoted by a small green banner.

Cricut does offer a service called Cricut Access, which provides creators with unlimited use of these projects for a monthly fee.

After you make it through the set-up prompts when you visit Design Space, you'll be on the home page. Click 'New Project' to begin. Here you'll find a canvas where you can make designs from scratch, or upload and edit premade designs from the Design Space community.

On the left-hand side of the canvas screen, you'll find a toolbar. This tool bar includes the following options:

- New: Start a new project.
- Templates: Find and add templates to your project to use for reference as you create.
- Projects: Find ready-to-make projects from the Design Space community.
- Images: Add an image to your project.
- Text: Add text to your project.
- Shapes: Add a shape to your project.
- Upload: Upload a project from another source to your canvas.

After you've completed your design, it's time to "print"!

Completing a Project

When your design is ready, click the “Make” button in the upper right-hand corner of the project canvas.

The next screen will guide you through preparing your mat for cutting. Cricuts use a series of mats to secure your work while cutting, writing, or engraving. Mats come in a variety of sizes and levels of stickiness, called “grip”.

Our Maker’s Lab has several mats available for use. Depending on the type of project, you may need to use a mat with a different grip.

Grip types include:

- Strong Grip- a purple mat used for heavier materials, such as thicker card stocks, cardboard, poster board, chipboard, leather and suede, magnet sheets, and wood.
- Standard Grip- a green mat perfect for a wide range of papers, card stock, vinyl, iron-on sheets, and ink-transfer sheets.
- Light Grip- a blue mat used for delicate materials, such as thin-to-regular weight papers (printer and construction paper, thin card stock), as well as wrapping paper, washi, and vellum.

Remove the clear cover from the mat. The Cricut will show you where to place your material on the mat for cutting. It will show you the size, shape, and position of your material, as well as the colors used in the design.

Cut your material to the correct size and press it onto the mat as shown. Note: be very careful as you align your materials. It is a very common beginner mistake, so don’t fret!

Each mat has guidelines that will match the one on your screen. Correct placement will ensure your design comes out just as you planned!

Load your mat into the front of the Cricut using the tabs on either side. Hold the mat in place under the roller and press the “Load” button on the Cricut Maker

Click to continue in the Design Space. Make sure the Cricut is connected properly, select the correct material you will be cutting, and press the “Go” button on the Cricut Maker.

The Cricut Maker will begin your project- sit back and enjoy! You won’t have to touch anything until your project is complete.

Finishing Touches

The “Load/Unload” button will flash when your project is ready. Press it to release your mat.

Now it’s time to remove your project from the mat. Carefully peel your design from the mat by turning the mat upside down and peeling it away from the project. This helps prevent any damage to your material.

▪ **Note: please be sure to replace the clear cover sheet on your mat when finished! This will preserve the grip and keep it clean for future projects!**

Once you remove your project, you may notice some excess material has remained in the design or on the mat. This is normal!

Remove small, cut pieces from the mat by hand or with the spatula tool. Use the weeding tool to remove excess material from your design, such as the “negative space” around a project or in between spaces in letters or designs. Complete your project as necessary, which may include a few more uses of the cutting process above. After that, the world is your crafting oyster!