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## **About This Booklet**

ello there, friend! Thank you for your purchase! You're probably itching to get started on your new project. Just in case you bump into a roadblock, I've included this booklet of handy tips and tricks for Cricut and Silhouette users to help keep you moving forward.

#### **Usage Info**

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Part of the member library yet? If not, stop by the <u>website</u> and join the newsletter for access to the whole library of free commercial use cut files and personal use planner stickers. You'll also receive e-mail exclusive designs and discounts as a bonus!

#### **Have Questions?**

I'm passionate about creating clean cut files and helping others. So if you have any questions or suggestions for additional pages, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Need one on one assistance or have feedback? I'm always happy to help! Email me at <a href="mailto:kelly@lollar.net">kelly@lollar.net</a> or use the contact form at: <a href="https://kellylollardesigns.com/pages/contact-me">https://kellylollardesigns.com/pages/contact-me</a>

Happy crafting!

kuy

## Glossary

Carrier Sheet: A thin layer of plastic with adhesive used to transfer vinyl. Solid HTV usually includes one but printed HTV will require a separate sheet.

**Compound Path:** A set of shapes that are permanently connected and cut as one piece.

**Cut Lines:** Usually outlined in red or gray right before cutting, they show where the machine will actually be cutting.

**Designer Edition:** A paid software upgrade (license key) for Silhouette Studio that allows you to use SVG files.

**Force:** A setting that controls the amount of pressure a cutting blade uses. Force is usually determined by the thickness of the material.

**Grouping:** A set of shapes that are temporarily connected to easily select, move or manipulate.

HTV (Heat Transfer Vinyl): A vinyl used to create designs on fabrics or hard materials. It sticks when activated by a heat press or iron.

Inset (Internal Offset): Creates a larger line on the inside of a shape. Used to create an overlapping area to make pieces easier to line up.

Kiss Cut: When the machine only cuts the top layer, leaving the backing material untouched. When you peel a sticker from a sheet and the backing remains, it's a Kiss Cut.

**Knockout (KO):** A hole left in a shape from removing another shape. When applied the base material will show through the knockout areas.

**Mirror:** To reverse or flip an image so it looks like it's held up to a mirror. Needed for HTV cuts.

**Offset:** Expanding the size of a shape outward to create a matching border. Used to make lines thicker or to outline a shape.

**Panels:** The settings windows for functions in Silhouette Studio. Click Panels in the system menu to access the list.

**Points or Nodes:** A cut line is a dot to dot instruction for the machine. The points or nodes are the dots. They control the arch and angle of the lines.

**Print Then Cut:** Printing a raster file on printable vinyl or sticker paper followed by cutting the outlines with a machine.

Raster Files (JPG & PNG): Pixel based images used for printing. They are flattened and do not contain any information for cutting. Rasters will loose quality when increased in size.

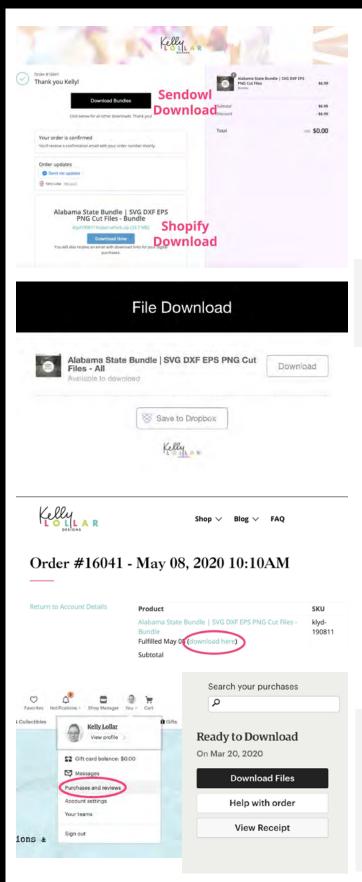
**Registration Marks:** Marks used by a cutting machine to read where to cut a print.

**Transfer Tape:** Transparent contact paper like tape used to transfer adhesive vinyl.

Vector Files (SVG, DXF & EPS): Coordinate based files that contain information for creating shapes used for cutting. They are lossless or can be increased without loosing quality.

**Weeding:** Physically removing unwanted vinyl from a cut design after cutting.

## **Downloading Your Files**



From kld: The Checkout Page will have two download links. The top is from SendOwl, where I host bundles and larger downloads. The bottom is for Shopify which are the same files, just a backup location.

The Shopify link will auto download when clicked, while the SendOwl link will open a new page with an option to direct download or send to your Dropbox.

**Tip:** If the download does not start, check to see if you have pop-ups blocked or a content blocker enabled that may be stopping the download.

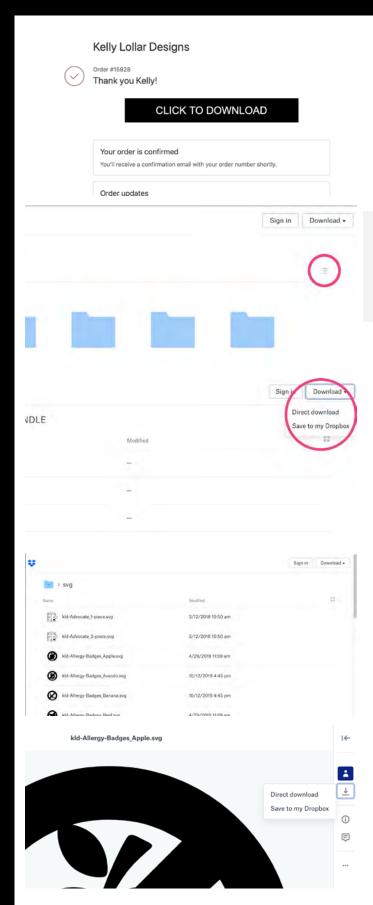
In addition to your email receipt, you will also receive a separate **Email** from Shopify and/or SendOwl with the same links. You'll receive an **Update Email** like these if any changes are made.

Your **Account Page** on the website will also have any SendOwl links with your purchase history.

For Etsy: Go to any page on Etsy. Click You in the upper right corner and Purchases and Reviews. A list of all of your purchases will come up with a Download Button to the right of any digital purchases. You can also use the search bar at the top to search for previous purchases.

Tip: The Etsy mobile apps do not have download links. If you are on mobile, log into Etsy using the browser on your phone or tablet. If you purchased a bundle from Etsy and would like to receive update emails or need assistance, please send a message or email me at kelly@lollar.net.

## **Downloading Dropbox Files**



**Click** the download link from your order page, download sheet or message. You will be **Redirected** to Dropbox.

If you already have an account, you can log in and sync your new files to it or direct download everything.

**Tip:** The free account includes 2GB of storage you can access from the Dropbox app from any smart device. Super handy as an extra backup.

If your page is set to Icon Mode, Click the List Icon to the upper right to change the view. (Not required, just makes it easier to select multiple items at once.)

Download the Whole Folder as a Zip File by selecting a folder and clicking the Download button on the upper right on desktop.

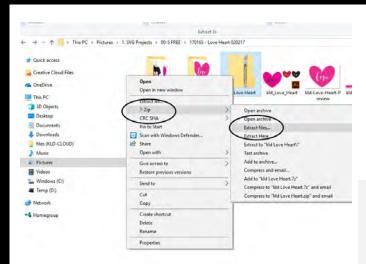
On mobile, click the ... to the right, directly under the folder name and select Download.

**Download Unzipped Files** by opening the folder for the file type you need. Click one file at a time to download individual, unzipped copies.

Click the Download Icon or the ... to the right of the file name to download.

Check your Download Folder or Dropbox to use your new files.

# **Unzipping Your Download**



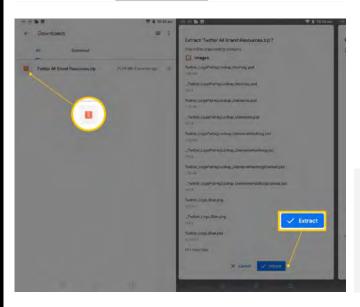
Windows: Right click and Extract All. The folder should be added to the same location as the zip file. Most zip files go to the Downloads folder, but if you lose it, put the file name into the search bar to locate it.

**Tip:** If you are missing zip file software or want a different option, I recommend **7-Zip.** It's free and has extra functionalities like Test Archive to check for file corruption.



Mac: Double click the zip file icon to unzip the folder in the same location. Most zip files go to the Downloads folder, but if you lose it, put the file name into the search bar to locate it.

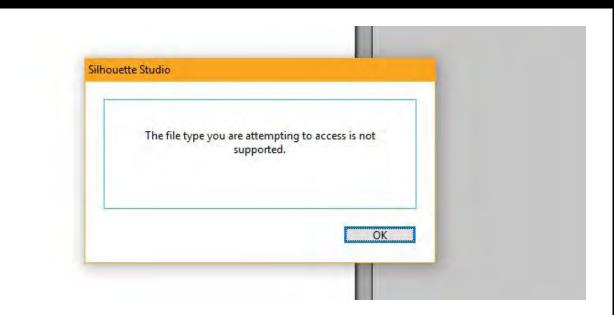
iOS: Downloads automatically go to the Files app. Open the Files app and click the Zip Folder. The folder will automatically unpack and open.



Android: Install Files by Google from the Play Store. Open Files by Google and find your downloaded zip file. Tap the zip file and click Extract at the bottom, then click Done.

Tip: For more information check out this Lifewire article (https://www.lifewire.com/unzip-files-on-android-4178981) which is also the source for the image to the left.

## **Troubleshooting Download Errors**



The uploaded SVG contained the following items that are not supported: Text elements. -- Import anyway?

Cancel

Continue

Getting an error message when trying to open an svg? Assuming you're not using Silhouette without the Designer Edition upgrade (if you are, skip to the DXF tutorial), try downloading your files again or from a different web browser.

Sometimes pop-up blockers or other filters can keep the download from working (this is usually the issue for SendOwl download errors). Another we see often, especially during the holidays on Etsy, is an interruption with the download server causing lost data. Usually trying again during a slower time of the day helps.

For the errors from Design Space like the above, the file may have an extra element that was not formatted in it. Contact your seller to check the file.

If you're still having trouble downloading, especially around Christmas, please send me a message if you purchased from Etsy or an email to kelly@lollar.net with your order info for website purchases. I'll email you a zip file and send over a Dropbox link.

Please note, Gmail sometimes blocks svg files for safety reasons, so Dropbox is the best solution for downloading unzipped files. Check the Dropbox how to for downloading or if you are on mobile, check the Unzipping Your Downloads page to learn how to unzip folders on mobile.

## **Vinyl Cutter Alternatives**









Printable Vinyl: You can use a printable vinyl from your local vinyl store or something like these from Expressions Vinyl.

Craft stores like Michaels usually carry the <u>Silhouette printable vinyl</u>. Plain Fabric is for cotton. Light Fabric is for white shirts and Dark Fabric for color shirts.

After printing your image, use scissors to cut around the design. If it starts fading after a few washes, press the vinyl again to brighten up the colors.

Outsource It: Check your local Facebook or NextDoor groups by posting for vinyl crafters or custom shirts. All they need is the svg file to either make the shirt for you or print a heat transfer.

You can also use the png file to order heat transfers from companies on Etsy just search for Custom Heat Transfers.

Screen Print It: If you're making a large number of single color shirts, your local screen printer will usually be the most cost effective. This is the option I use for class shirts every year.

You can also screen print at home using Speedball's diy kit. Here's a tutorial on the process. Once you go through the steps, you'll see it's pretty straight forward and you can't beat the quality and feel of ink. I have shirts I screen printed almost a decade ago that still look great after hundreds of washes.

## **Searching for Trademarks**



Visit the Trademark Electronic Search System or TESS (http://tmsearch. uspto.gov).

## Click Basic Word Mark Search (New User)

Select Plural and Singular on line one, Live on line two and type in your Search Term (word/words you are looking for). Set Field to Combined Word Mark (BI, TI, MP, TL), Result Must Contain to The Exact Search Phrase and click Submit Query.

You can narrow your search by adding a Classification. In the search bar, add "AND (###)[IC]" to the end of the search and hit enter to apply.

# Common Categories for Crafters: 009 Popsockets, 14 Jewelry, 16 Paper Goods, 18 Leather Goods, 21 Housewares, 23 Yarns & Threads, 24 Fabrics, 025 for Clothing, 26 Fancy Goods, 27 Floor Coverings, 28 Toys & Sporting Goods, 41 Education & Entertainment

Click here to read the full list of Search Field Codes.

The oldest records on the last page are usually what you are looking for. Each page has 50 lines so skip ahead enter a number in the **Start Line At** (51, 101, 151, etc.) and click Start.

Look for Trademarks that are **Live** and have a **Registration Mark**. (Controlclick or Command-click to open in a new window.) Any Trademarks without a Registration Number have not been finalized, which means you can file a letter of opposition.

# Searching for Trademarks Cont.





Next you're looking for the Mark Drawing Code (Design Plus Words, Letters And/Or Numbers OR Words, Letters And/Of Numbers in a Stylized Form, etc.) The two you are looking for are **Typed Drawing** or **Standard Character Mark**. These are both defined as, "The Mark consists of standard characters without claim to any particular font style, size, or color." Basically, the words themselves in any context.

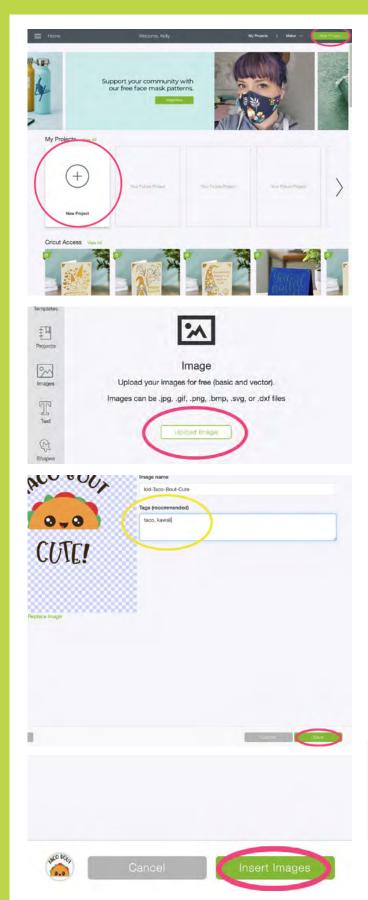
The top example includes the image so it's only valid with the artwork. The second example is what we're looking for. You can see the list of exactly what the trademark applies to. Any items in brackets [] are expired and no longer covered by the trademark. In this case, if you were making a dress, skirt or jogging suit with the word Pirates, you'd be safe.

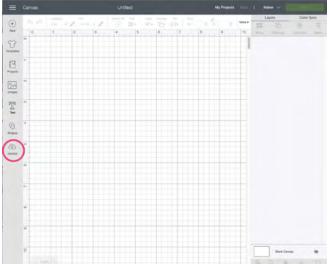
If you'd like to read the full application, click the blue TSDR Button at the top left. It will show you what other trademarks the holder has, the original filing paperwork, a list of legal prosecutions that have been filed to protect the trademark and more.

**Tip:** New trademarks are always being added, so make sure to check routinely or set a reminder to check again.

These records are only for federal trademarks, so you might need to check your state trademark database also to make sure you're completely in the clear. Searching for your state name and Trademark Database will usually bring up the right link.

# **Importing SVG Files**





Open Design Space and click New Project using the rectangle with a + sign or the button on the top right.

Click Upload (the cloud icon on the bottom of the left menu).

**Click Upload Image** on the left side of the screen.

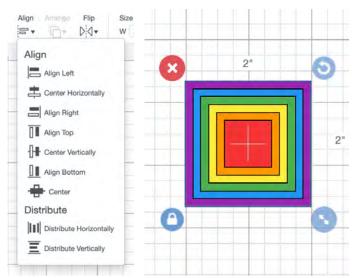
**Drag and Drop** your svg or **Browse** to locate it.

If the image looks right, make sure the file is named where you can search for it later. If not you can change the name or add tags. **Click Save**.

When you are ready to start your project, click the image to select it, then **Click Insert Images** in the lower right corner.

**Tip:** Hold **Command** or **Control** while clicking to add multiple images to the same project.

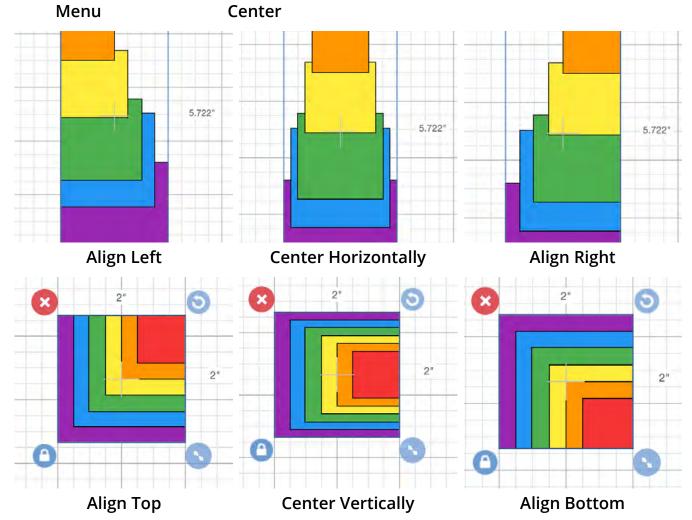
# **Centering and Aligning**



Click Align in the top menu. You should get a drop-down that looks like this.

Each option will line up everything you select with one edge of the images. For example, Align Left will make sure everything is as far left as it can get and lined up.

The **Distribute** functions will evenly space a group of objects if they are spaced apart. These work best if your elements are all the same size.



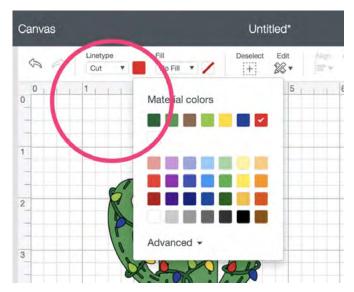
## **Colors & Organizing**



Welding: Keep pieces from moving when you cut by using the weld function.

Hold **Command / Control** and click each layer you would like to stay in place (like the white in the eyes here).

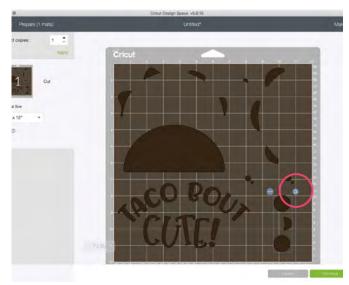
**Click Weld** in the lower right menu to make them one piece.



**Recoloring:** Change layer colors to get an idea of the final project, to cut everything on one mat or to prep for print then cuts using the fill color function.

Hold **Command / Control** and click each layer you would like to be the same color.

Click the Color Box to the right of the Linetype drop-down in the top menu. Choose one of the presets or Advanced to set your own color.

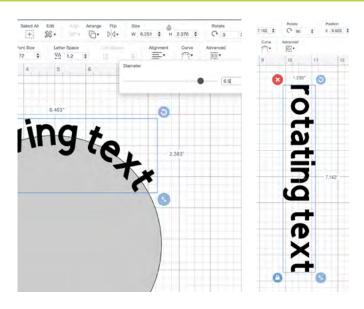


**Cut on One Mat:** Save time and vinyl by cutting everything on one mat.

Start by following the **Recoloring** directions to make everything one color. **Click Make It.** 

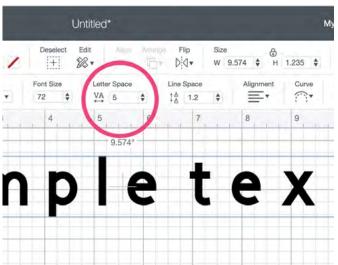
Click and Drag same colored items to different areas of the mat. To rotate, click and hold the circle arrow icon. The squares on the page correspond with your mat so you know where to place your colors. Try to leave a little extra space around each color for wiggle room.

## **Curving, Rotating & Spacing Text**



**Curving:** Type your words in the font and size you would like. If you have a template object like this circle, line the cross hatch up with the top, center of the shape. With the text selected, **click Curve** in the top menu. Use the slider to adjust the curve or you can manually enter a number for more control.

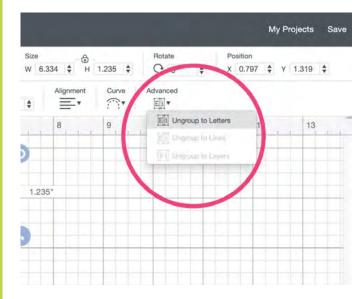
**Rotating:** Select your text box or object. **click the Circle Arrow Icon** or enter a degree in the **Rotate Box** in the top menu. Positive numbers (ex. 90°) turn right and negative (ex. -90°) turn left.



**Spacing:** In addition to changing the size of your letters, you can adjust the space between them.

Increase or decrease **Letter Space** for more or less space between each letter.

Increase or decrease **Line Space** for more or less space between line of text. For some scripts you might need to go negative to remove blank space between lines.

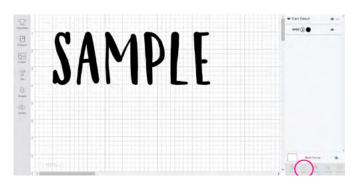


Manual Text Adjustment: Want something more precise?

With your text selected, click Advanced and Ungroup to Letters. Now you can move each letter independently or even rotate them for a playful setup. When you're set, select all of your letters and Weld them to keep everything in place.

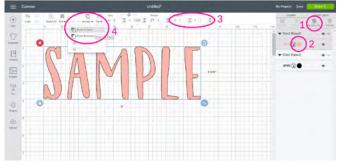
For more control over line spacing, simply type each line separately so they can each be moved around.

## **Offset Shadow Text**



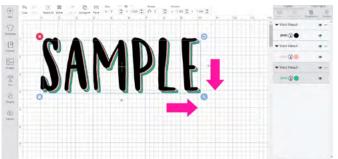
**Type** your words in the font and size you would like. Move them to Position X 1.0 - Y1.0 or similar.

Click Weld to keep the letters from moving when you cut.



Select your text layer and **click Duplicate** in the top right menu. Change the color of the new layer to make it easier to keep track.

Move it to the same position as the original layer. Click Arrange and Move to Back.



SAMPLE

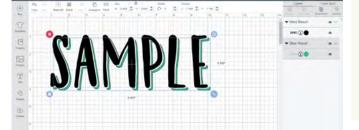
With the bottom layer selected, **Move the Text** right and down with your arrow keys, mouse or the position settings.

Repeat the Previous Step using the bottom layer. Move it right and down the same amount as the second layer. Moving it further will give you a bigger offset.

Select the bottom two layers and **click Slice.** 

**Delete** the first three pieces to be left with an offset that has gap knockout gap.

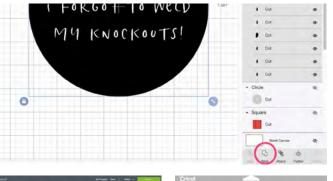
All done! Click Make It to cut.



**Tip:** You can also do this with two layers for no gap.

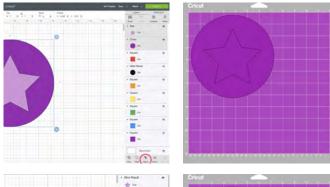
If you would like both layers to be the same color, select both and **Weld** before cutting.

## **Knockouts**



Formating Knockouts (KO): Opened an svg and all of the centers of the letters show up in pieces?

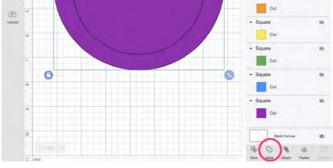
Select all of the coorsponding layers and **click Weld** to make everything one piece.



Creating Knockouts V1: Place your knockout pieces over the solid piece you would like them in and select both layers. Click Attach in the lower right menu. This makes them one path, which means all of the lines showing on the cutting mat will cut, plus it can easily be undone by clicking Detach.



Creating Knockouts V2: Place your knockout pieces over the solid piece you would like them in and select both layers. Click Slice in the lower right menu. Delete the leftover pieces and you're left with a permanent knockout.



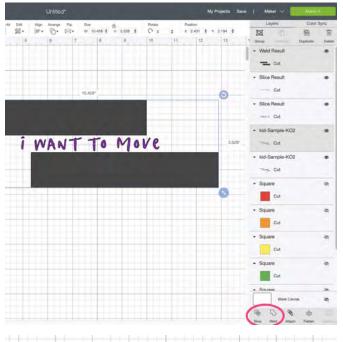
Removing Knockouts V1: Use shapes like circles or rectangles to cover the areas you want removed. If you used multiple shapes, select them all with the original image and click Weld to make them all one piece permanently



Removing Knockouts V2: Same as V1 only click Attach if you need to be able to go back to the original.

Removing Knockouts V3: Select your layer and click Contour in the lower right menu. To remove all of the knockouts click Hide All Contours or click one at a time to hide parts of the design.

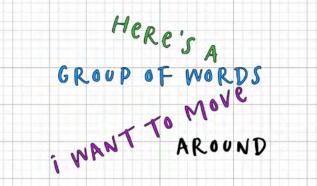
## **Breaking Compound Paths**



#### **Breaking Compound Paths V1:**

For a permanent solution, **Duplicate** your original layer and recolor it. (This one took four duplicates). **Use Shapes** to cover the parts you want to delete.

Make sure to **Weld the Shapes**, then **Slice** them from the image. **Delete** your extra pieces and repeat until everything is separated.



Now you can freely move them around.



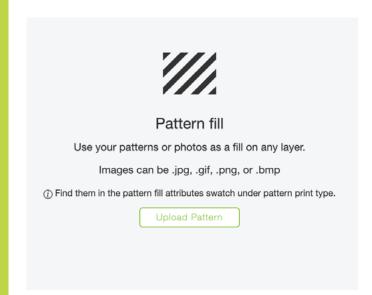
#### **Breaking Compound Paths V2:**

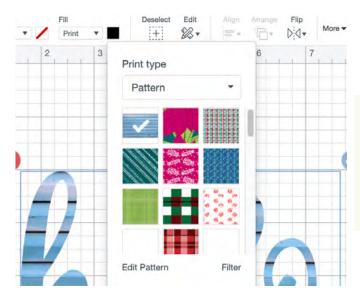
For a non-permanent solution, select your layer and **click Contour** in the bottom right menu.

You can click the invidual shapes on the image or the boxes on the right to hide the cuts you would like to remove.

Once you've hidden all of the pieces you would like to remove, you'll be left with just the selected parts.

## **Adding Patterns to SVG Pieces**







**Open Design Space** and **click Upload** as if you were uploading a new svg.

**Click Upload Pattern** on the right side of the screen.

**Drag and Drop** your pattern or image and click **Save**.

**Open an SVG** and select the layer you want to add the pattern to.

Set Fill to Print in the top menu.

**Click the Color Window** to the right of Fill and **Select Pattern** for the Print Type.

Click the Pattern to apply it to the layer you selected before.

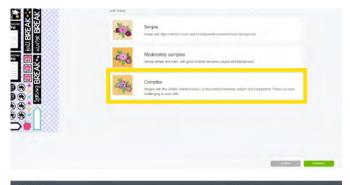
**Tip:** If you are applying a pattern to typed text or multiple pieces at once, make sure to select all of the letters and/ or pieces and **click Weld** in the lower right menu to make sure the pattern applies consistently across the image.

If you want to change the placement, size or direction of your pattern, **click Edit Pattern** at the bottom of the Color Window.

**Scale** makes the pattern larger or smaller. **Horizontal and Vertical** move the pattern up/down or left/right. **Rotate** turns the pattern right with a positive number and left with a negative.

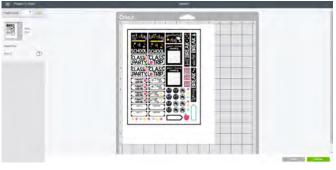
**Tip:** If your image is not a seemless pattern (all the edges match up), leave the scale at 100% or larger to prevent odd overlapping lines.

## **Print Then Cut**











Check your image for quality (300 dpi is optimal). Right click the image and select **Properties** or **Details**. You'll see a pixel size or dpi (bigger is better and PNG or JPG work best).

**Upload** the image just like you would an svg file.

Choose your image type. If you're not sure, stick with **Complex** and click Continue.

**Modify** the image if needed by erasing parts or the background and click Continue.

Save as Print Then Cut Image by clicking the color image to the left and Save.

**Load** your image from the Upload Tab. **Resize** the image, making sure the lock icon is on to keep your proportions. (My sticker sheets are usually 8" high.)

Note: Max print size 6.25" wide by 8.75" high.

Click Make It to go to the preview screen. If you get an error, go back a step and make sure your image is smaller than the max size.

**Click Continue** to print on vinyl, paper or sticker paper.

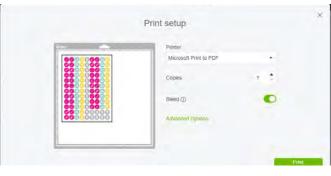
**Place** your print in the top left corner of your mat and load it in your machine.

Set your material and **click Go**. You've got yourself a cute new set of stickers!

## **Print Then Cut Hack**









Print Then Cuts printing out at a quarter of their actual size? Or maybe you just need a few copies cut of the same image. This hack is just thing for both situations.

I encountered a rare Design Space bug when I had a Windows 10 PC and Samsung color printer combo. No matter what I tried, my Print Then Cuts always came out at 25%.

Here's the work around I found for this annoying bug. Load your Print Then Cut like usual. After resizing, click Make It, then Continue on the preview page.

After you click Send to Printer, change your selected printer to Microsoft Print to PDF. You'll have a save window pop up. Save to Downloads or the folder you have your project in.

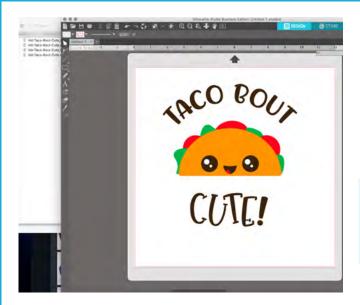
**Open the PDF and print it**. It should print at the correct proportions.

Now **Load your print** in your machine and continue as usual by selecting your material and clicking **Go**. Crisis adverted!

Need to cut the same sheet a bunch of times? You can use this same hack.

After you've cut your first sheet, load the next sheet and click **Go** again. As long as everything's running on the same project you can cut it as many times as you need. Pretty neat!

## **Importing SVG Files**

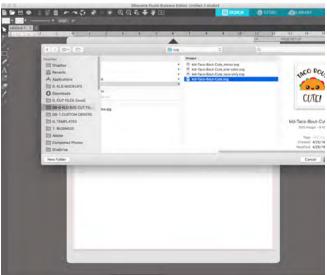


Method 1: Open Studio and your Finder Window side by side.

Locate the svg or dxf you would like to open in the finder window.

Click the File Icon and Drag it onto the Studio window.

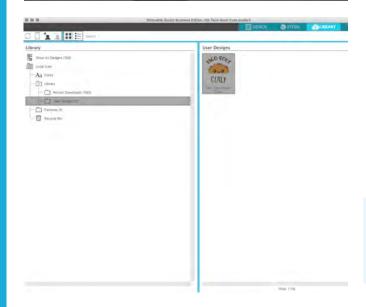
**Tip:** If you would like to open multiple files on the same project board, this is the best option. Drag as many as you need into the same window.



Method 2: Click File > Open or the File Folder Icon at the left of the top menu.

Use the finder window to locate the svg or dxf you would like to open. Select the File Icon and click Open.

This will open the file in a new window. For every file you open like this you'll get a new window.



Method 3: Click File > Library > Library or click the blue Library Tab at the left of the top menu.

Select the **User Designs Folder**. Open your **Finder Window** and locate the svg you would like to add. **Click the File Icon and Drag** it into the User Designs Folder. Double click the design to open it.

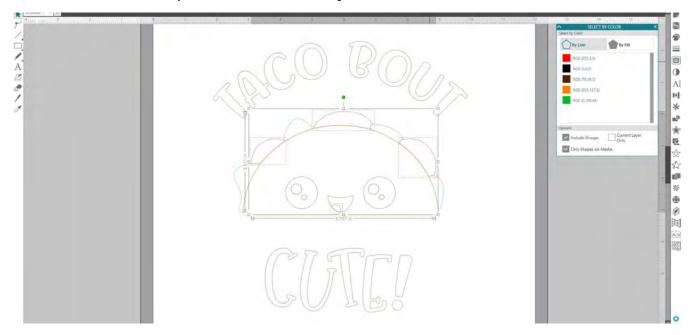
**Tip:** This method is best if you want to open a design using a tablet or mobile device. The mobile app can only use designs from the Library.

# **Preparing DXF Files for Cutting**

Open Studio and open your DXF file just like you would a Studio file.

Before moving anything, you need to complete a couple of quick steps:

Click Panels in the top menu and Select by Color:



Click a Color Box in the panel to select everything with that color, then right-click and Compound Path. Once each color is a compound path, you're ready to cut! Super easy and more accurate than tracing.

**Tips:** Want to leave pieces out of a color group? Hold down shift and click the piece you are leaving out before creating the compound path.

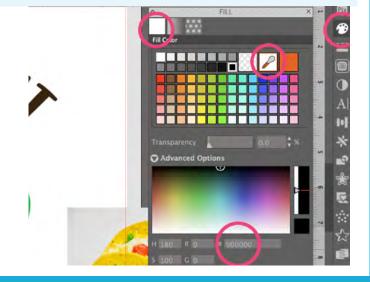
You can also color in your pieces to make them easier to see by opening the **Fill Color Panel**, selecting a piece and clicking a fill color:

Visit the website for more tips like this, tons of freebies and more:

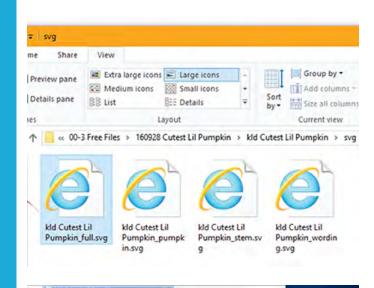
https://kellylollardesigns.com

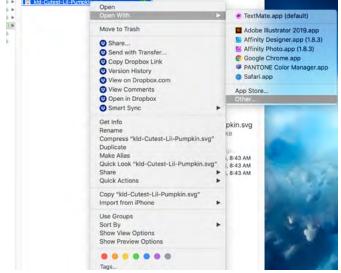
You can also reach me anytime at kelly@ lollar.net with questions.

Thank you so much for your purchase! Happy crafting!



## **SVG Default Program Settings**







Let's get rid of that pesky Internet Explorer icon for good and make opening SVG files easier!

Sure you can open Silhouette Studio and use the Library function to import an SVG or just drag and drop it into the program, but we're so used to double clicking an icon and it just working. That and the IE icon on an SVG can be just plain confusing. So let's take a second to fix it.

This process is the same for both Windows and Mac users, plus you can use it for any file type.

Locate an SVG File and Right Click it. Go down to Open With and select Other / Choose Another App.

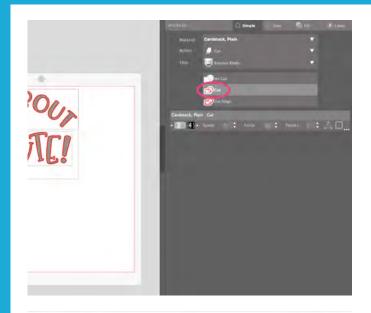
Set the options to **All Applications** by using the drop down at the bottom of the window on Mac or clicking **More Apps** on PC.

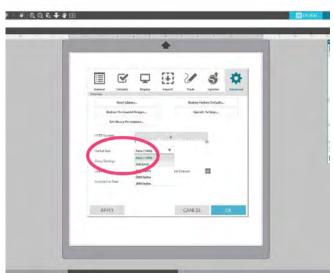
Scroll down and Select the Silhouette Studio App. After it's selected, check the Always Open With / Always Use This Application box then click Open / OK.

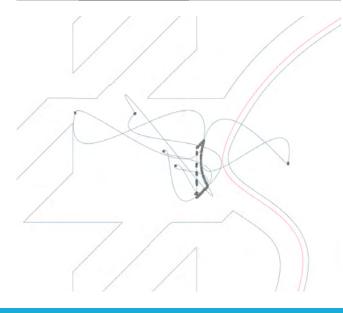
Your icon should change the Studio icon and now when you double click an SVG it will open with Silhouette Studio. Easy peasy!

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## **Troubleshooting Cut Errors**







#### No Cut Lines:

Double check that you have loaded the SVG Files.

Make sure the pieces you are trying to cut have been selected. These should be automate in the latest version of Studio, but if you're running an older version, select the pieces you are cutting. You should see red outlines around them on the Send screen.

Still not working? Check the Troubleshooting Downloads page.

#### **Stray Line Across or Incomplete Cut:**

This usually happens on complicated designs with a lot of points. You can try selecting your design, click A for Edit Points and click the S icon in the top menu to **Simplify**.

Adjusting your Packet Size helps create smoother cuts also. Click Edit on PC or Menu on Mac > Preferences > Advanced > un-check Software Overcut > set Packet Size to 500 > click Apply

This should help all of your cuts.

#### Loopy or Crazy Lines on DXF Files:

Long story short, Studio adds points to designs when it renders them, especially DXF files. Some versions of the software have added so many they corrupt the file like this.

**Roll Back your Software** a version or two following the instructions here.

**Tip**: You can also check the <u>Silhouette</u> <u>School Blog</u> to see what the current bugs are and the latest stable version of Studio.

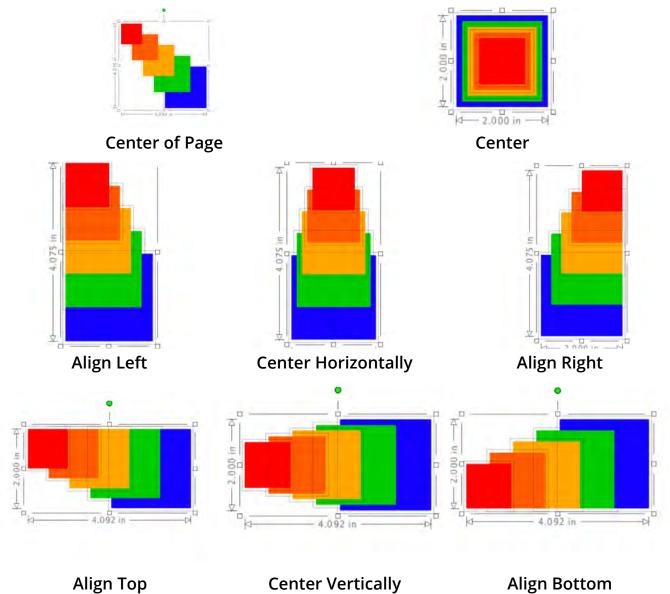
# **Centering and Aligning**



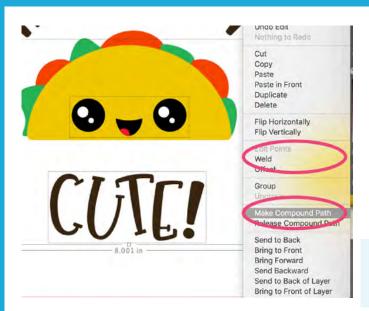
Click Panels > Transform in the top menu or the Transform Icon (three vertical bars with a line through the middle). You should get a panel that looks like this.

Each option will line up everything you select with one edge of the shapes. For example, Align Left will make sure everything is as far left as it can get and lined up.

The **Spacing** functions will evenly space a group of objects if they are spaced apart. These work best if your elements are all the same size.



# **Colors & Organizing**



Welding: Check to see if you have any overlapping pieces that are the same color, like script letters. Select all of the connecting pieces and right-click Weld to fuse them together.

Compound Paths: If you have a group of pieces that are the same color and want to make sure they keep the exact distance between them, select them all and right-click Compound Path.

**Tip:** You may need to send your newly connected pieces back if any others disappear.

**Recoloring:** Change layer colors to get an idea of the final project or to prep for print and cuts using the **Fill Color Panel**.

Click Panel > Fill Color in the top menu or the Color Palette Icon. With your piece selected, click a pre-existing color to swap. You can also click the Advanced Options arrow and type in a Hex Code. Or you can drag and drop a sample photo onto the board and use the Eyedropper tool to select a color from your sample.



**Cut on One Mat:** Save time and vinyl by cutting everything on one mat.

Click and Drag same colored items to different areas of the mat. To rotate, click and hold the green circle icon.

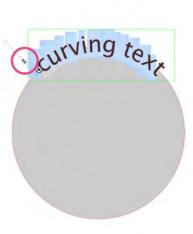
The squares on the page correspond with your mat so you know where to place your colors. (The crosshatch here would be 1 over and 11 down on your mat.)

**Tip:** Try to leave a little extra space around each color for wiggle room just in case the cut shifts.



## **Curving, Rotating & Spacing Text**





**Curving:** Type your words in the font and size you would like. Use a template shape like this circle, to define the curve.

Click and drag the Cross Hatch Circle at the left of the text box. If it disappears just click outside of the textbox and select it again.

Click and **drag the Oval** to the left to move your text up and down on the path.

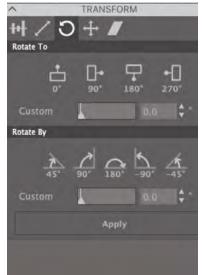
Tip: Try to center your text on the path for best results.

**Rotating:** To rotate your text while placing it on a path, **drag the Cross Hatch Circle** left and right.

If you just need a simple rotation, click and hold the **Green Dot** while turning.

You can also open the **Transform Panel** and click the circle arrow to rotate. Positive numbers (ex. 90°) turn right and negative (ex. -90°) turn left.









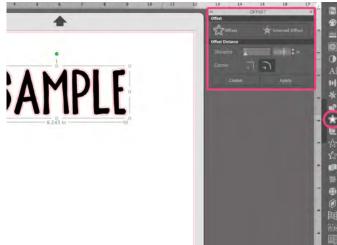
Manual Text Adjustment: Want something more precise?

With your text selected, **right-click and Ungroup**. Now you can move each letter independently or even rotate them for a playful setup. When you're set, select all of your letters and **Weld then Compound Path** them to keep everything in place.

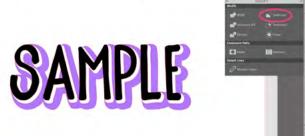
For more control over line spacing, simply type each line separately so they can each be moved around or use the Text Style Panel.

## **Offsets & Shadow Text**









**Type** your words in the font and size you would like.

Right-click and Weld then Compound Path to fuse everything together. (When in doubt always repeat this step. It keeps you from having to select a ton of little pieces later.)

Select your text layer and **open the Offset Panel** or click the star in a star icon. Click Offset to increase the size or Internal Offset to decrease the size. Use the slider or enter a number to set the distance. Select sharp or rounded corners.

Click Apply and change the color of the new layer to make it easier to keep track. Make sure to Weld and Compound Path again to fuse everything together.

For a **Double Offset**, select your first offset layer and repeat the process.

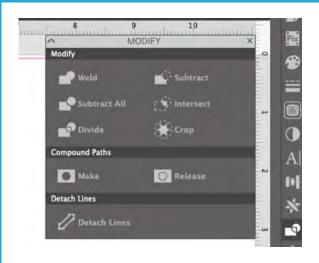
From here you can use the modify panel to subtract the middle layer from the bottom to leave a blank space or knockout. Make sure to Weld and Compound Path after subtracting.

Want a **Shadow Effect**? Select and move your offset layers using your arrow keys or the X and Y coordinates in the top toolbar.

**Tip:** Have a thin font you love but it's a pain to cut? Try offsetting it by 0.025 to 0.05" to thicken it up a little bit. Fonts always tend to look wider on screen than they do once they're cut out.

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## **Knockouts & Modify Panel**



**Modify Panel:** Click **Panels > Modify** or the intersecting rectangle and circle icon to open.

Here's where you go to knockout shapes, weld pieces together, compound path and more.

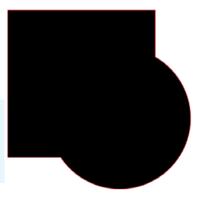
The best way to get a handle on what each function does is to make a couple of shapes and try each one out yourself. Here's a quick summary of what each function is used for:

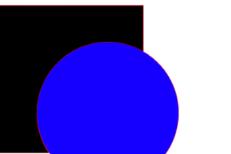
Weld: This fuses two or more shapes together permanently into one shape.

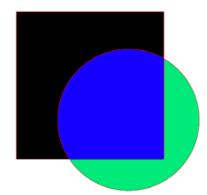
**Tip:** Use this fuction for script fonts to attached your letters together.

Subtract All: This deletes the front object from to back object without deleting the original shape. This is now 2 pieces, a square with a circle shaped hole and a circle.

**Divide:** This creates a new shape from the area that everything intersects. This is now 3 separate pieces.













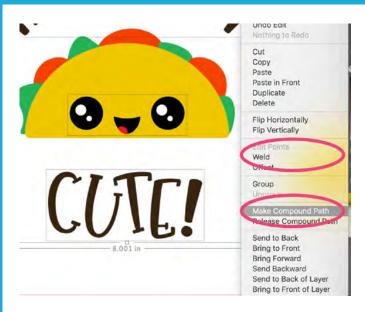
**Subtract:** This deletes the front object from the back object, leaving you with one piece.

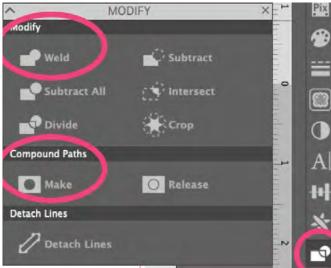
**Tip:** Use this function to add knockouts to a shape.

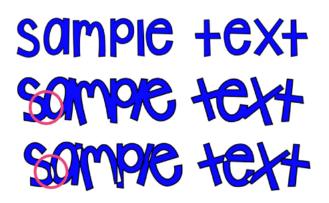
Intersect: Like the divide function, this creates a new shape from the area where everything intersects. Unlike divid, this leaves you with only the intersection piece.

Crop: Like intersect for three or more shapes. Originally this was 2 circles and a square. All that is left is a piece created from any areas that overlapped.

## **Grouping, Welding & Compound Paths**







**Grouping:** Grouping multiple pieces together makes it where you can select them all at once without being permanent.

Imagine you had a pile of letters. Grouping would be like throwing them in to a box. They're all still disconnected, just contained.

Welding: Welding is when you take any touching or overlapping pieces and make them into one piece. In the sample text photo the second line is welded. Only overlapping parts are now permanently connected.

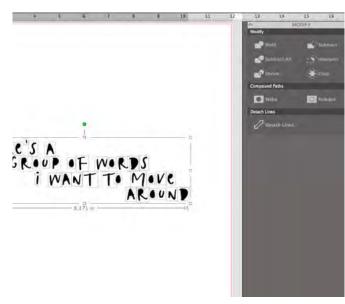
So if we go back to our pile of letters. Image we made sure the letters were touching for each word then welded the words. Now we have a piece for each word instead of a bunch of letters, so if we shake the box only the words are floating around.

Compound Path: Creating a compound path is a permanent way to group pieces. It tells your machine that all of these pieces must be cut together. If any of those pieces overlap and are not welded like the bottom row of text, the machine will still cut all of the lines. That's why when you don't weld script fonts, you get pieces from the previous letter cut out of the next one. In those cases you want to weld and then compound path.

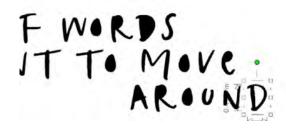
Back to our pile of words, this would be like gluing all the words down to the box so nothing moves when we shake it.

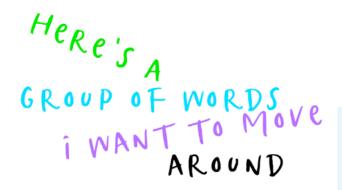
When in doubt and you need pieces connected, weld and compound path.

## **Breaking Compound Paths**









#### **Breaking Compound Paths V1:**

For a permanent solution, **Duplicate** your original layer and recolor it. (This one took four duplicates). **Use Shapes** to cover the parts you want to delete.

**Subtract** the shapes from the original layer and repeat until everything is separated.

#### **Breaking Compound Paths V2:**

Right-click and Release Compound Path. Now every cut line in the shape is disconnected. We'll have to fix the letters before moving on.

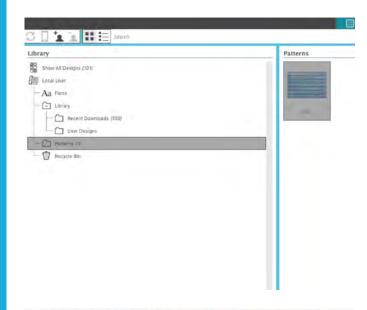
Select the base letter and it's center then click **Subtract**. Do this for each letter.

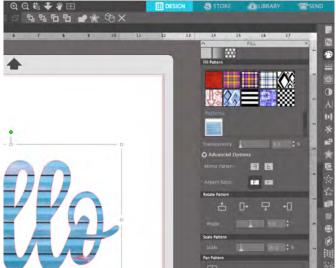
Or if you're feeling ambitious, select the base pieces for all of the letters you're connecting again (don't forget to select the dots on i and j) and Compound Path them together. Right click the new shape and Send to Back to make sure it's under the pieces you'll be knocking out.

Now select all of the pieces and Subtract the centers from the letters. While everything is still selected, Compound Path it all together again.

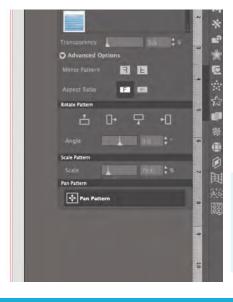
Tip: When you click on an object you'll see a light outline box around it. Each box is a separate cut. If you see multiple boxes you know your object is not a compound path.

## **Adding Patterns to SVG Pieces**









Open Studio and click File > Library or the Library Tab (upper right) as if you were uploading a new svg.

Click the Patterns Folder on the left side of the screen. Drag and Drop your pattern or image in the space to the right.

Go back to the **Design Tab. Open an SVG** and select the layer you want to add the pattern to. Hold shift while clicking to select multiple pieces.

Click Panels > Fill Color or the Palette Icon in the right side menu.

Click the Polka Dot Tab at the top of the panel and click the Pattern to apply it to the layer you selected before.

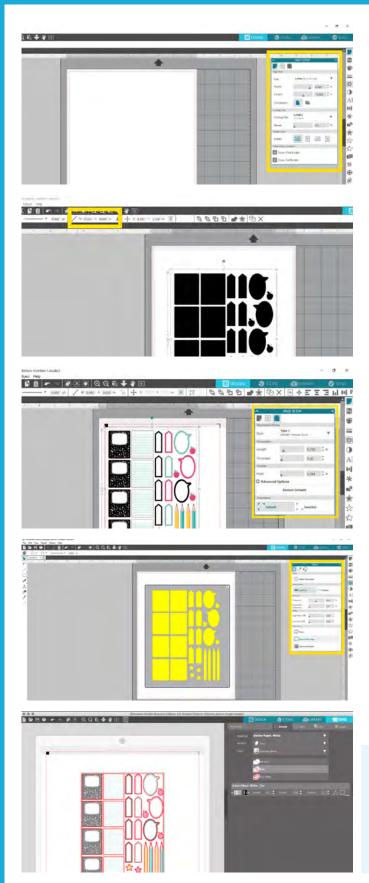
**Tip:** If you are applying a pattern to typed text or multiple pieces at once, make sure to right click and **Weld** connecting letters or right click and **Compound Path** pieces that are not touching to make sure the pattern applies consistently across the image.

If you want to change the placement, size or direction of your pattern, **click Advanced Options** at the bottom of the Fill Panel.

**Scale** makes the pattern larger or smaller. **Rotate** turns the pattern. Pan Pattern gives you a arrow icon in the center of the piece you can drag to move the image around inside.

**Tip:** If your image is not a seemless pattern (all the edges match up), leave the scale at 100% or larger to prevent odd overlapping lines.

## **Print & Cut**



Check your image for quality (300 dpi is optimal). Right click the image and select **Properties** or **Details**. You'll see a pixel size or dpi (bigger is better and PNG or JPG work best).

Open **Studio** and set your **Page Size to Letter** (vertical). **Upload** the image or planner sticker svg just like you would an svg file.

Resize the image if needed, making sure the lock icon is on to keep your proportions. (My sticker sheets are usually 8" tall.)

In the Page Setup Panel, click the Registration Mark tab (the last one). Select Default and set your dimensions as low as you can. Make sure your image is inside of the registration marks on the art board.

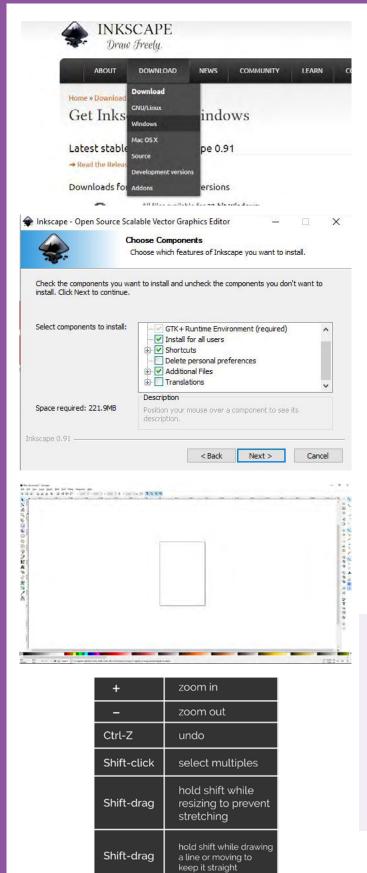
I usually include a black cut file under the print image for my Print & Cuts. If you only have a PNG, the latest version of the software should auto-detect the cut lines. You can also use the **Trace Panel** to create cut lines.

Set to Solid Fill, Trace Outer Edge and slowly increase the Threshold until your shapes are solid yellow. Now you have cut lines.

Select your trace or cut file and click **Send**. Set your material (I use Sticker Paper, White) and Action to **Cut**.

**Tips:** Machine having trouble reading your registration marks? Try placing a lamp close by to give it more light. If the cut marks are off, you may need to calibrate using <u>Silhouette America's</u> directions here.

# Installing & Using Inkscape



Start by visiting <a href="Inkscape">Inkscape</a>'s homepage (https://inkscape.org/en/).

Click on **Download** in the top menu and select Windows or Mac depending on what kind of computer you have.

Double Click the Downloaded File to install. There will be a pop-up with a list of options. Stick with the presets unless you need translations or to change the language. Click Next.

The second pop-up will ask where to keep the program on your hard drive. The preset Program Files is usually the best place and makes it easier to find later. **Click Install**.

A third pop-up will give you a progress bar for the extraction. Once it's complete, **click Finish** and open the program.

It should look something like this screen with a single artboard in the middle to start with. The artboard is where you should place any artwork you are exporting for the final product.

**Tip:** Here is a quick list of handy shortcuts to get you started. To learn more about using Inkscape, check out these sources:

YouTube

**Inkscape Tutorials** 

**Downloadable Manual** 

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## **Recoloring Designs with Vectr**



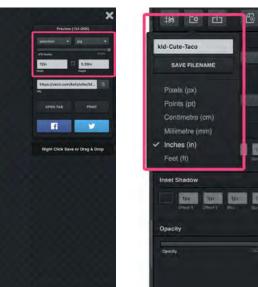


mobile app. (It's free!) After signing up for an account, click Create File and upload your svg file.

Start by visiting Vectr's homepage at https://vectr.com or downloading the

Click the File Settings (paper with a gear icon on the top right) and name your project. If you'll be resizing, you can set the measurements to inches here.

Select a piece to recolor then click the Color Box to the right. You can use the slider to change the color or enter a Hex Code.



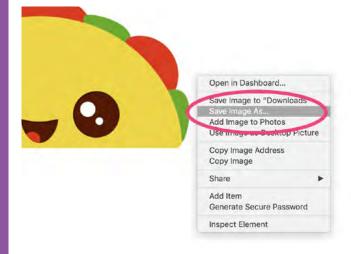
If you'd like to use a reference photo for colors, drag and drop the photo onto the window. In the color menu, click the **Eyedropper Icon** and click on the reference photo to pick a color.

Make sure Border, Shadow and Inset Show are un-checked to the right.

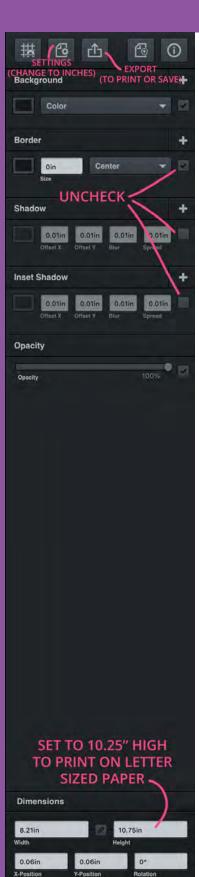
Select your design then click the **Export Icon** (rectangle with an up arrow). Set the first drop-down to **Selection** or if your design is the only thing on the page you can select Page. Select JPG in the second drop-down for a print image. (PNG will only export at 72 dpi with no color settings while the JPEG contains the color profile and has a much higher resolution better for printing.)

You can resize by changing the height or width. Even if the dimensions are set in pixels, you can use the inches symbol (") to change the size in inches.

**Right-click and Save** the image or click the image and drag it to your download folder or desktop. You're all recolored and ready for a printing!



# **Modifying & Printing with Vectr**



Start by visiting <u>Vectr's homepage at https://vectr.com</u> or downloading the mobile app. (It's free!)

After signing up for an account, click **Create File** and drag and drop your svg into the window. To **Drag and Drop** click on the svg file for your image and while holding down the mouse button, drag it to the Vectr page then release.



Click the File Settings (paper with a gear icon on the top right) to name your project and set the measurements to inches here.

Group each part of the image by selecting a group and right-click Group

Add your Names using the **Text** function (the T icon on the left menu). Then resize and color your text as desired. Copy/Paste the first name to add more.

Make sure Border, Shadow and Inset Show are un-checked to the right.





## **Modifying & Printing with Vectr**

Select everything in the design using your mouse or the shortcut Cmd-A / Ctrl-A. Resize the full image to fit your paper size.

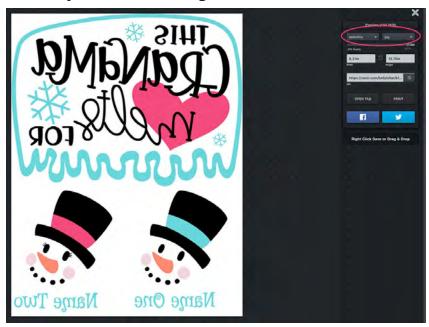
Since most printers can't print to the edge, make sure to reduce the size by about a 1/4 inch.

If you need to **Mirror** your image to print on trasfer paper, select everything and click the Flip Horizontal button at the top of the image.



Select your entire design then click the **Export Icon** (rectangle with an up arrow). Set the first drop-down to **Selection**. Select **JPG** in the second drop-down for a print image. (PNG will only export at 72 dpi with no color settings while the JPEG contains the color profile and has a much higher resolution better for printing.)

You can resize by changing the height or width. Even if the dimensions are set in pixels, you can use the inches symbol (") to change the size in inches.



**Right-click and Save** the image or click the image and drag it to your download folder or desktop. You're all ready to print!

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