

# Cricut Crafting: 101

*An adult craft time series with the Willows Public Library*



## Workshop Outline

### Introduction

We'll watch the Cricut intro video (2 min.), "[What is a Cricut Cutting Machine](#)"

In this series we'll be using a Cricut Maker<sup>®</sup> machine with a laptop computer. You may be using other devices at home that require alterations when creating these projects, but the fundamental skills will be the same.

If you do not already own a Cricut cutting machine and would like to know more about which machine is best for your needs, please watch the video (12 min.) "[Choosing the Right Machine](#)"

### Turn On Devices in Correct Order

*(Follow the instructions provided with your Cricut machine for initial setup.)*

1. Turn on computer.
2. Connect Cricut machine to computer via the USB cable.
3. Turn on machine by pressing the power button.
4. Make sure computer is connected to Internet. (After starting software and importing files, you may go into "Offline" mode.)
4. Open Cricut Design Space<sup>®</sup>.

### Ways of Creating Projects

1. Access images and fonts via Cricut Access<sup>™</sup> with a subscription or make a one-time purchase for files and fonts.
2. Upload file purchased on a third-party website like Etsy or Creative Fabrica.
3. Create your own design in Design Space with shapes and/or text.

### Project 1 - Valentine's Card & Envelope

1. Under "My Projects", click "+ New Project" button. A blank canvas appears.
2. Click "Upload" button. On the next screen click the "Upload Image" button. In the next screen you can either drag files or browse for them on your computer. Select file named: "A2-Valentines-card-2up.svg"
3. The next screen shows the option "Cut Image" selected. Click the "Upload" button.
4. Then you're back on the "Upload" screen. Select the file just imported and click the "Add to Canvas" button.
5. **Examine the .svg**
  - Zoom out to see entire graphic.

- Most .svg files contain everything you need for creating a variety of projects in different materials. For example, you could cut the design out of vinyl to apply to a mug, you could cut the design out of htv to apply to a t-shirt or you could cut the design out of paper to create a card. Therefore, you can hide layers, combine shapes, delete shapes and more to customize the graphic, all in Design Space. **This part takes practice and planning.**
- Note that elements that are the same color in Design Space will be cut on the same mat (material). In this file, the four corner notches and the mason jar graphic in black will be cut together, then the red cardstock inserts. The pink rectangle behind all the graphics is included to illustrate where they are placed on the letter sized paper and will be discarded.
- In order to economize on materials, notice that this file contains two copies of the card graphic because two cards of this size can be made from a letter size (8.5" x 11") piece of cardstock. (Finished folded size of each card is 4.25" x 5.5".)

## 6. Preparing

- First, hide the insert layers (shown in red) and the pink background rectangle.
- Click anywhere on the black graphic and click "Ungroup".
- Select the line in the center of the graphic and change "Basic Cut" to "Score" in "Operation" pull down menu.
- Then select all the layers by clicking the "Select All +" button at the top and click the "Attach" button. This will keep all the elements spaced as they should be when being cut. If you do not "Attach", Cricut will arrange the elements to fit the best way possible on the cutting mat in order to save material.
- Now "unhide" the red insert layers.

## 7. Cutting and scoring

- Click the "Make It" button.
- The next screen shows a preview of the graphics on the mats. Change "Material Size" on the first mat with black graphics ("Score, Basic Cut") to 8.5" x 11 in (letter). Then move the card graphic to the right edge margin. This ensures that the graphic will be cut on the correct side of the paper. (Cricut deducts .25" margins on all sides of the mat, so your maximum printing area on a letter sheet is actually 8" x 10.5". Keep this in mind when designing and measuring.)
- Click the second mat with the red inserts. These, not being "Attached", will be placed next to each other on the mat to save material. (You can also duplicate the inserts on the canvas before clicking "Make It" in order to cut the maximum number of inserts available from a letter sheet of paper [four].)
- Click "Continue".

### *Please note:*

- Before cutting, read the instructions included on the base material packaging as to what mat, pressure and cutting tool is required. For our project, we will be using the standard fine tip blade, a standard grip mat and a pressure of "More."

- Select the top, black mat preview.
- In area “1: Set Base Material”, select “Light Cardstock - 65lb. (176 gsm).”
- Change pressure to “More.”
- Click “Edit Tools” and select “Scoring Stylus”. (You could use a scoring wheel in clamp “B” which is default as you see—it would require swapping cutting tools when directed).
- Place the scoring stylus in clamp “A”. (This clamp is used for non-cutting accessories like pens and scoring stylus.)
- Place your paper on mat.
- Line up your mat with the left-hand guide and press the flashing “Feed” button.
- Click the blinking “Cricut” button to start cut.
- The machine will make the score mark, then cut the design.

## 7. Finishing the card

- Place the mat upside down on a clean table top and slowly peel the mat away from paper.
- Using the paper cutter, line the long edge of the sheet to the 5.5” mark and cut the two cards in half.
- Gently fold the card in half by hand along score line, then use scraper to make crisp fold.

## 8. Repeat process to create envelope

- Use glue or adhesive tape to secure bottom and side flaps.
- Close top envelope flap with a sticker, piece of washi tape, wax seal or dab of glue.

## Project 2 - Personalizing Gift Bag with Heat Transfer Vinyl

1. Instead of importing a file, this time Design Space will be used to create a first name initial.
2. Create a new project (we can either save our previous project or “Replace” it). In the new, blank canvas, add a text box by clicking the “Text” button in the left-hand menu.
3. Type out the letter you would like and then apply the font (we are using the font “Autumn in November.ttf”) and change size to be no more than 1.5” wide or high by using the font size tool, the size tool or the ruler.

### *Please note:*

- Be sure to measure the area on the material before cutting htv, to ensure that design will fit.
4. Click the “Make It” button. Then select the “Material Size” on the left-hand menu or leave as default and click the “Mirror” toggle button. **When cutting htv, you must always mirror the image.**
  5. Click “Continue” and select “Heat Transfer (non-Cricut)” under “Browse All Materials” and select pressure of “More.” (If you’re using Cricut brand htv, select the appropriate “Everyday Iron-On” material.)
  6. **Place the piece of htv shiny side down on the cutting mat (always),** load into machine and proceed with previous steps to for cutting.

7. Once the design is cut, turn the mat upside down on a tabletop and peel the mat away from the piece of htv. This will eliminate the htv from curling.
8. On the dull side of the piece of htv, weed out the areas that will not be in the final image, in this case the area around the letter.
9. Follow the instructions found on the [Cricut Heat Guide](#) online or through experimentation, to determine the amount, length and pressure of heat needed to adhere htv to the material you are using. For this project we will be using an EasyPress Mini on Medium for 15 seconds.

*Please note:*

- Before creating your final project, it is best to first determine through research or practice runs whether the htv you wish to use on the base material will in fact adhere and not damage the material.
10. Place a tephlon sheet or piece of parchment paper over htv when applying heat press or iron.
  11. Once cool, slowly peel off the shiny carrier sheet. If the htv has not stuck down in some areas, stop peeling and reapply heat.

## **Conclusion**

Visit our blog post at: [willowspubliclibrary.org/resources/workshops/cricut-crafting-101](http://willowspubliclibrary.org/resources/workshops/cricut-crafting-101)

You'll be able to:

- access an online version of this outline with clickable links
- download the SVG and font files used in this course
- access suggested resources: free fonts and graphics
- leave comments/and or upload photos of projects you create at home!

And be sure to check out our new books on Cricut crafting:

[Paper Party](#) by Cori George, 745.54 George

[Cricut 4 books in 1](#) by Holly Moss, 745.50 Moss

We hope to see you in Cricut Crafting 102!

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