

Idea Lab: Cricut Maker Website and Tutorial

Welcome!

Welcome to Idea Lab: Cricut Maker. This site tells you everything you need to know to get started with the Cricut at [Humber Libraries' Idea Lab facilities](#).

Use the menu bar to navigate to our [tutorial](#), [quiz](#), and [resources](#).

Interested in using the Cricut Maker and accessories at the Idea Lab? Click on [Where Do I Start?](#)

If you have questions about using the Cricut Maker and accessories, please contact us at idealab@humber.ca.

For more information about the Idea Lab, please visit the [Idea Lab website](#).

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Where Do I Start?

How do I access the Cricut Maker at the Idea Lab?

The Idea Lab has a Cricut Maker 3 at both the North and Lakeshore locations. It is available for current students, staff and faculty to use free of charge. Priority will be given to students working on assignments.

To book the Cricut, users must first:

1. Successfully complete the online tutorial and quiz (this takes approximately 15 minutes)

2. Attend an in-person workshop — workshop details will be available upon successful completion of the quiz
3. Reserve the Cricut Maker

Note: Bookings will only be accepted if a person has completed steps 1 and 2

Cricut Maker Tutorial

Introduction to this Tutorial

This brief tutorial will cover both the basics of the Cricut Maker and the policies around using the Cricut Maker at the Idea Lab. We will look at materials and accessories used, the software and hardware involved, as well as booking procedures at the [Idea Lab](#).

Learning Objectives

By the end of this tutorial, you will:

1. Identify the features and capabilities of a Cricut machine
2. Understand what materials can be used and where to get them
3. Know where to get free or paid images and designs
4. Understand how to access the Cricut Maker and accessories at the Idea Lab

Why is this tutorial important?

Only students, staff and faculty who have completed this Idea Lab Cricut tutorial and attended one of our Cricut workshops can book the Cricut at the Idea Lab.

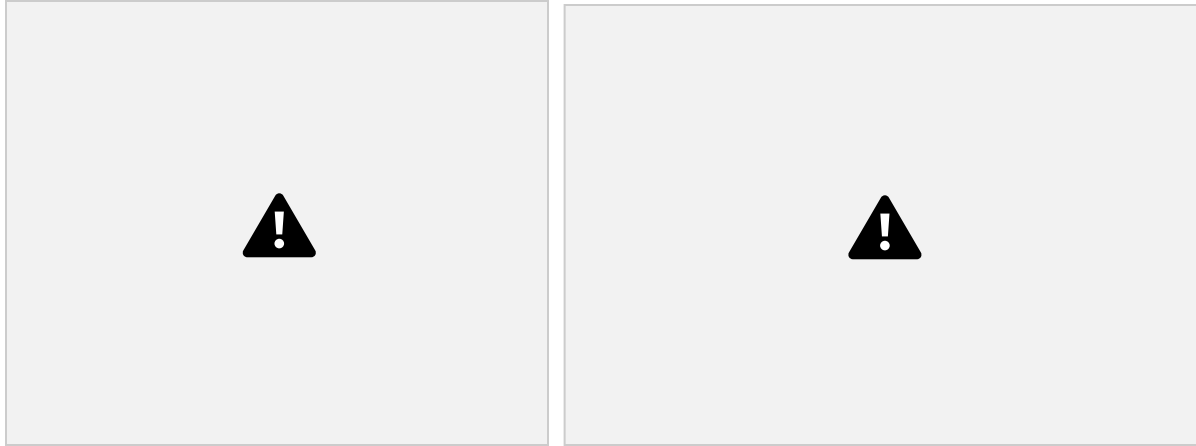
Will there be a test?

Yes, there is a short quiz at the end of the tutorial. You need to get every question right to use the Cricut Maker in the Idea Lab. But don't worry, if you read carefully through the tutorial and watch the videos, you shouldn't have any problems.

What is a Cricut?

What can I make?

A Cricut Maker is a desktop cutting machine, also known as a craft plotter or die-cutting machine. The Cricut can cut paper, adhesive vinyl, iron-on vinyl, fabric, craft foam, sticker paper, faux leather and more! This type of desktop fabrication tool is commonly used to create personalized items and paper crafts.



Are there restrictions on what I can make?

The Idea Lab's Cricut Maker may not be used to create material that is:

- Prohibited by municipal, provincial, or federal law or by Humber College policy — this includes but is not limited to Intellectual Property Law, Humber's Student Code of Conduct, Humber's Copyright Policy
- Unsafe, harmful, dangerous or poses an immediate threat to the well-being of others
- Obscene or otherwise inappropriate for the college environment

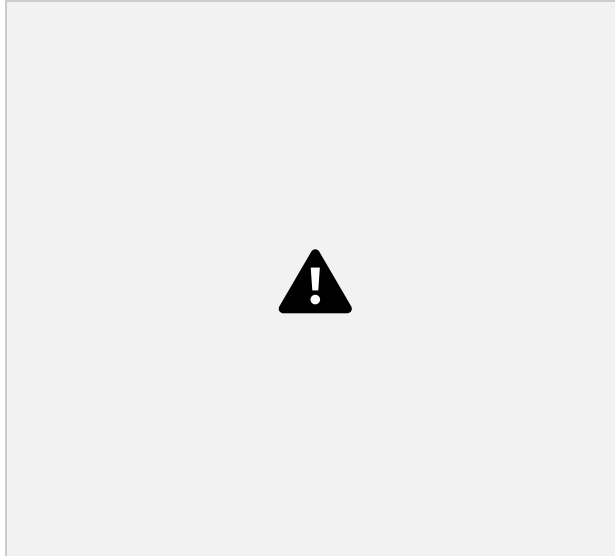
Materials Provided

What does the Idea Lab provide?

When you book time with the Cricut at the Idea Lab, you will have access to the following tools, accessories and materials:

Machine Tools and Blades

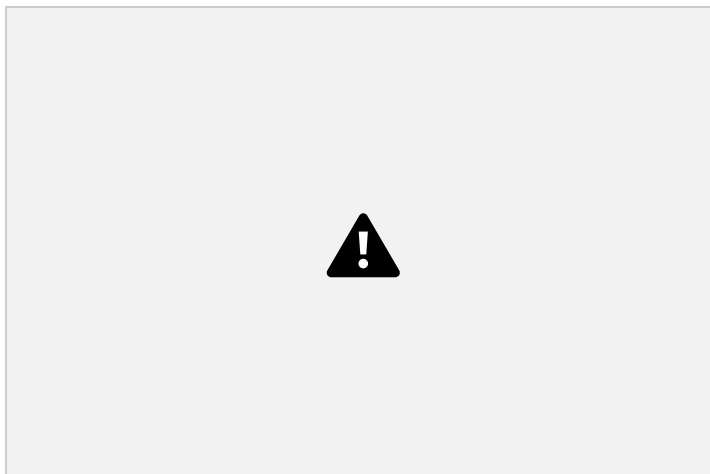
- Fine Point Blade: for thin to medium weight material such as paper, cardstock, and vinyl
- Deep Point Blade: a deeper cutting blade used for thicker materials such as magnets, thicker cardstock or matboard, and craft foam
- Rotary Blade: used to cut fabric and delicate materials such as tissue paper or cork
- Scoring wheels (single and double): used to create crisp creases for folding
- Engraving Tip: used to engrave or etch materials such as foil board, anodized aluminum, brass, acetate, etc.



Some tools come with a drive housing equipped with a gear at the top. These are part of Cricut's Adaptive Tool System, which uses a sophisticated steering system to control the direction of the blade.

Accessories

- Easy Press 2 (a heat pressing tool used to apply iron-on vinyl)
- Pressing Mat
- Weeding tools
- Scraper
- Pens (available in various colours and weights)
- Brayer (used to apply material securely to the cutting mat)



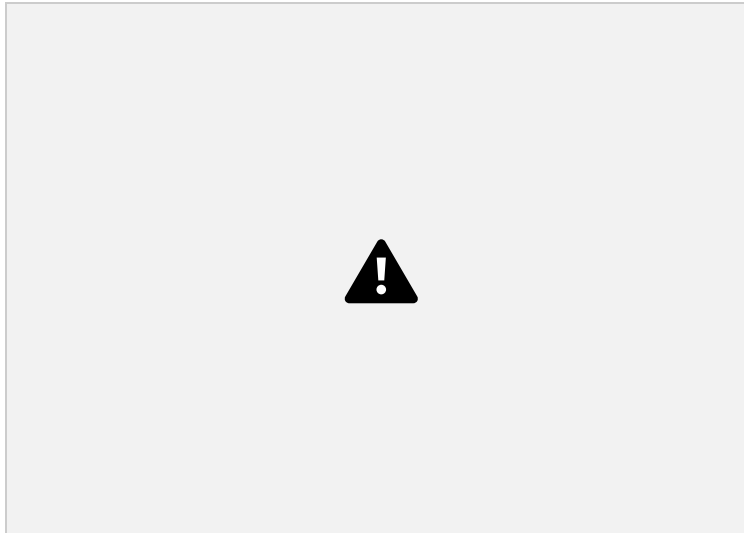
Materials

- Up to two 12" x 12" sheets of adhesive vinyl or heat transfer vinyl per user per semester will be provided free of charge (available colours may vary)

- Transfer tape (used to apply vinyl designs to surfaces)

Cutting Mats

- Green = Standard Grip: use with cardstock and vinyl
- Blue = Light Grip: use with lightweight materials such as copy paper, light cardstock, or vellum
- Pink = Fabric Grip: use with fabric
- Purple = Strong Grip: use with heavyweight materials such as cardboard, chipboard, or magnet sheets



What Can I Cut?

What materials can I cut?

The Cricut Maker can cut over 300 different kinds of materials. Some commonly used materials are:

- Adhesive vinyl (permanent and removable)
- Heat transfer / iron-on vinyl
- Cardstock and paper
- Fabric

You are welcome to bring your own [compatible materials](#). You are not restricted to using the Cricut brand products, however if you are using off-brand materials, we recommend that you bring some extra as you may need to test and adjust the cutting settings.

What are smart materials?

Smart Materials are Cricut's house brand of consumables designed specifically to work with the Cricut Maker 3. They include sticker cardstock, iron-on and adhesive vinyl. Smart Materials are sized to be fed directly into the machine without a mat or used with the Cricut roll-feeder.

Where can I purchase material?

You can purchase materials for cutting with the Cricut from several online and brick-and-mortar retailers, including:

- [Cricut.com](https://www.cricut.com)
- [Michaels](https://www.michaels.com)
- [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)
- [Indigo](https://www.indigo.ca)
- [Staples](https://www.staples.com)
- [Walmart](https://www.walmart.com)
- [Sign Supply Canada](https://www.signsupplycanada.com)
- [Happy Crafters](https://www.happycrafters.com)
- [ShopVinylTO](https://www.shopvinylto.com)
- [HeatTransferVinyl.ca](https://www.heattransfervinyl.ca)

Software

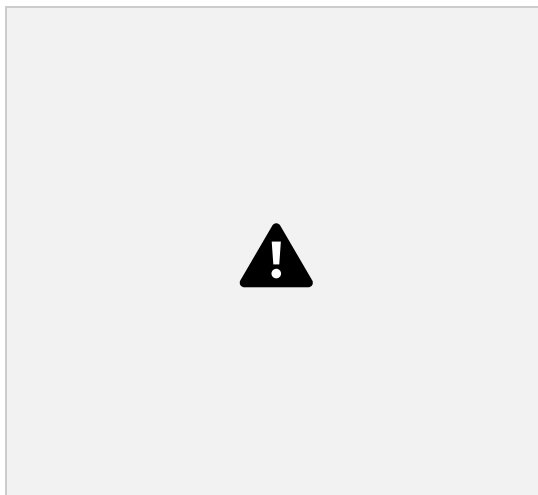
What software do I need?

To create designs and operate the Cricut Maker, you will use an app called [Cricut Design Space](https://www.cricut.com/designspace).

You can access the app from the Idea Lab computers or download it to your own device. You will need to create a Cricut I.D. and sign into the software each time you use it.

Although the Design Space app is free to use, there are some premium features which are only available with a paid Cricut Access subscription.

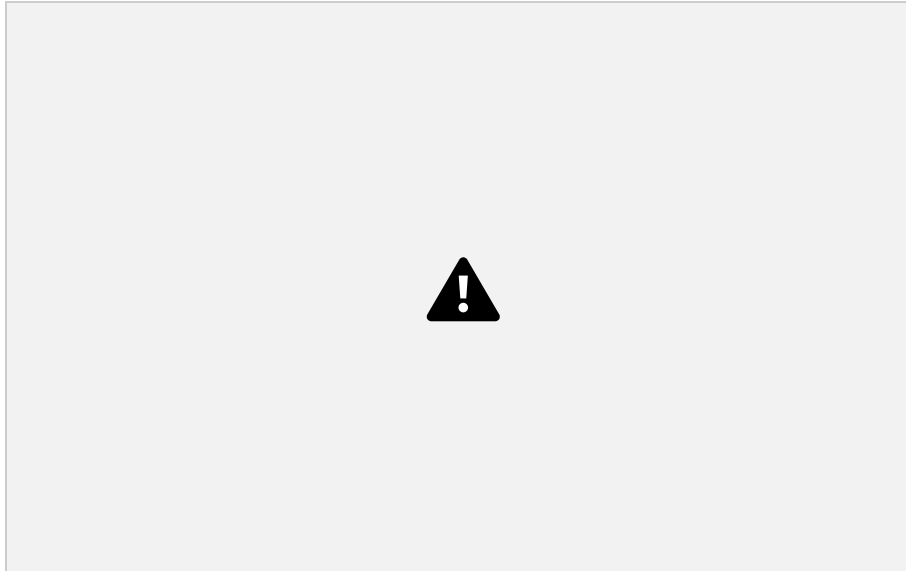
We will cover the basics of using Cricut Design Space in the mandatory workshop. However, it will be helpful to familiarize yourself with the application ahead of time. Once you have created your Cricut I.D., complete this 15-minute [Design Space Tour](https://www.cricut.com/designspace/tour) on the Cricut website.



Designs

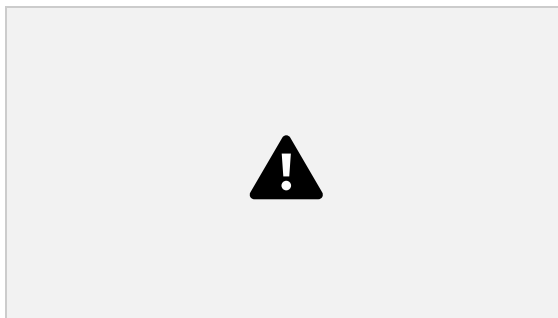
How do I find or create designs?

There is a limited selection of free design assets available in Cricut Design Space. Optionally, you can subscribe to Cricut Access for unlimited access to the entire library or purchase premium images, fonts and ready-to-make projects individually.



You can upload your own original art or images you have found online into Design Space as a JPEG, PNG or SVG file.

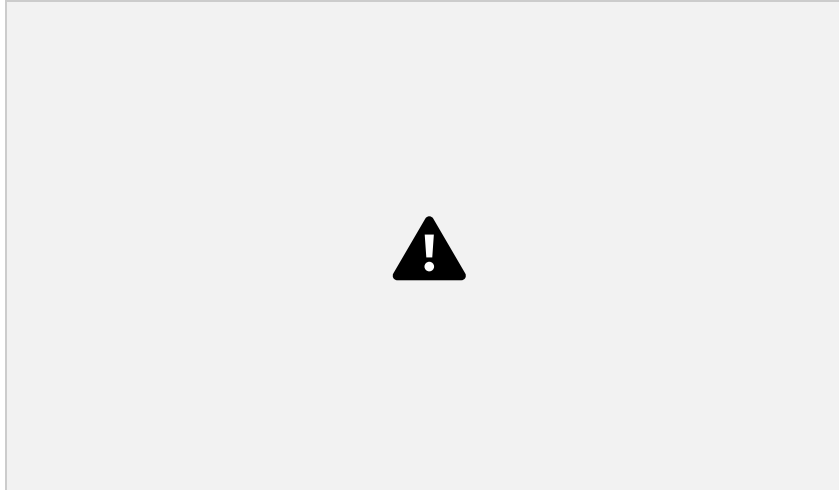
An SVG vector file is the easiest type of file to work with. You can find many SVG files online which have been formatted for use with a cutting machine. Many designers offer free SVG files in exchange for signing up for an email newsletter, or you can purchase SVG files from sites such as [Etsy](#), [Creative Fabrica](#), [Design Bundles](#) and others. Some sites where you can search for free SVG designs include [LoveSVG](#), [SVGRepro](#), and [FreeSVG](#).



Hardware

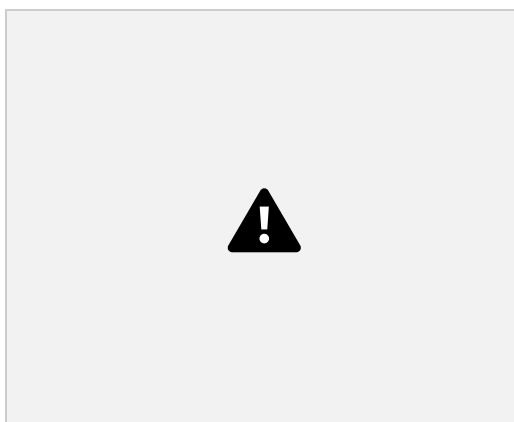
See below to learn about the different hardware components.

Cricut Maker



- **Power Button** - The power button turns the Cricut Maker on or off.
- **Load/Unload Button** - The double arrow button loads and unloads the cutting mat from the machine.
- **Roller Bar** - The roller bar feeds the material through the machine as it cuts. The small white rings help to keep the material from shifting during cutting. These can be moved to the side to accommodate thicker materials such as leather, craft foam, or felt.
- **Clamp A** - Clamp A holds Cricut pens and markers. The clamp handle swings open allowing you to change or remove drawing tools.
- **Clamp B** - Clamp B holds the machine cutting blades and tools. The clamp handle swings open allowing you to change or remove cutting tools.
- **Load/Unload Button** - The double arrow button loads and unloads the cutting mat from the machine.
- **Start Button** - The Play button starts the cutting job.

Easy Press



- **Power Button** - This button turns the Easy Press on and off. When turning the machine on, it will revert to the last settings used.
- **Temperature Button** - Press this button to set the temperature. Use the + and – button to increase or decrease the temperature value accordingly.
- The temperature setting will display on the screen in Fahrenheit. To switch from Fahrenheit to Celsius, press and hold the temperature button until you see the change from °F to °C on the screen.
- **Timer** - Press this button to set the timer. Use the plus and minus buttons to set the number of seconds on the timer.
- **Plus and Minus Buttons** - Use the plus and minus buttons to adjust the temperature or timer settings.
- **Start Button** - This button starts the timer countdown. Once the timer reaches 0 seconds, you will hear a beep.

Booking the Cricut Maker

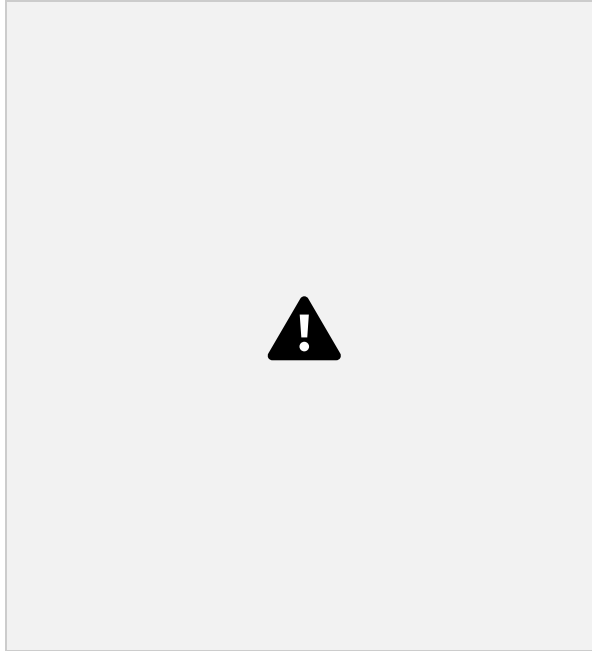
Students, staff and faculty must complete this online tutorial and quiz and attend a Cricut workshop before they are able to book the Cricut Maker to use independently.

Once you have successfully completed the [tutorial and quiz](#) and attended a workshop, you can book the equipment using the Idea Lab [booking calendar](#).

Select "Cricut Maker" as your purpose for booking and include a short description of what you want to make. In the notes section, let us know which blades or tools you would like to use, and what material you will be cutting.

You may book the Cricut for up to two hours per day, with a maximum of four hours per week.

Idea Lab staff will be available to assist with troubleshooting, but you are responsible for the equipment during your booking.



Quiz

You are almost done!

It's quiz time. You will need to get all the answers right, but don't worry, you can take the test as many times as you need.

[Idea Lab Cricut Quiz](#)

Getting Ready for your Cricut Booking

You've completed the online module, attended a workshop, and booked your first Cricut session — what else do you need to know?

Review this checklist to help you get the most out of your Cricut session:

- Set up your project ahead of time in the Cricut Design Space app from your own account — you can make final adjustments during your booking timeslot
- Not sure which type of material is best for your project? Consult this [cheatsheet](#)
- If you are bringing your own material, make sure you have some extra in case your project does not cut correctly the first time
- Double check dimensions!
- If possible, bring the item you want to apply the design to

Workshops

What will be covered at the mandatory workshop?

The online tutorial has introduced you to the Cricut Maker including the machine features, compatible materials, and booking policies. The mandatory in-person workshop will cover:

- Software
 - Uploading designs into Design Space
 - Setting up a design on the canvas
 - Sending a cut job
- Hardware:
 - Changing tools
 - Loading material
- Applying the design to a blank
- Tips for successful cuts
- An opportunity to ask questions

Where do I sign up?

You will be directed to the workshop booking page when you complete the [online quiz](#).

Resources

- [Cricut Learning Library](#)
- [Cricut Official YouTube Channel](#)
- There is an active community of Cricut users on social media. You will find many tutorials and project inspiration on YouTube, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc. Try searching with the hashtag #Cricut
- Borrow the eBook [Makers Guide to Cricut](#) from Humber Libraries; log in with your Humber credentials