

Personal Decal Assignment

Introduction to Design with Engineering and Art (IDEA)

Now that you are Illustrator experts, it is time to start using it to make actual physical things. For this first project, you are to design your own decal.

CRITERIA:

- Create a design of your choice. Your design must be original. In other words, another person should not be able to look at your design and recognize other common logos, shapes, or text. Think about what is important to you in life, and try to design a shape that expresses this. Yes – some would classify this as art, and it is! Art requires creativity. At its core, art embraces the problem of expressing ideas, feelings, and emotions in creative formats. Engineering also requires creativity. Sometimes the engineering problem seems more concrete, but the creative process used in finding solutions in engineering is very, very similar to the process we use to create art.

- Your design must convey some message about you.
- Your design **may not** contain any shape or image that is immediately recognizable. (If you want to add in something specific, think about adding it in the negative space or combining multiple interests together.)
- Your goal is to make the viewer spend longer than a second looking at your design.
- Your decal must fit within a 4"x4" area. It should be designed for only one color.
- Your design must be a single object, or multiple objects **THAT DO NOT OVERLAP!** The vinyl cutter will cut wherever you have an edge of an object. If edges of multiple objects overlap and therefore intersect on the screen, you will have cuts where you do not want them. Do not design using strokes. It is probably best to simply turn your stroke off for all objects (by selecting the white box with the red slash through it for the stroke color).
- The vinyl cutter has limitations. If you have really tight corners and small shapes, the vinyl may not cut properly, and weeding waste material will be more difficult. So, since your decal is only 4" x 4" ... text isn't going to work out very well – **DO NOT USE IT.**

STEPS:

1. Create multiple sketches of your design idea on paper first. Your fastest idea probably isn't your BEST idea. You must acquire instructor approval (your instructor will initial your paper and input a small score). (SCORED ITEM)

2. When you think you are done rendering your design in Illustrator, use the **OUTLINE** command to ensure that the only lines showing up on your design are the ones you want the vinyl cutter to cut. Adjust your design as required.

3. When your final design is rendered in Illustrator, get it approved by an instructor (the design will be graded at this point).

(SCORED ITEM)

4. Go through the steps listed for “Instructions for Installing the Adobe Illustrator Extension for Cut Studio” located on the vinyl-cutter safety page. You must do this before you can use the Cut Studio Extension needed to convert your Illustrator file to a Cut Studio file the vinyl cutters can read.

5. Go through the steps linked to “Instructions for Printing on the Vinyl Cutters” on the vinyl cutter safety page to generate a Cut Studio file of your Illustrator design. Save both your Illustrator file as well as your Cut Studio File (created using the Illustrator plug-in) to both your Google Drive and the shared classroom folder linked to the class website. Ideally, you will also have a portable USB flash drive to save to as well.

6. Watch the vinyl cutter training video (on the vinyl-cutter safety page) and complete the Vinyl Cutter Questions assignment (you must do this before using the vinyl cutter). (SCORED ITEM)

7. With teacher approval, cut your decal on the vinyl cutter. **DO NOT CUT DIRECTLY FROM A ROLL!** Follow the instructions given in class. **DO NOT SIGN INTO THE VINYL CUTTER COMPUTER. ACCESS YOUR FILE ONLY FROM THE SHARED FOLDER ON THE WEBSITE OR FROM YOUR OWN USB DRIVE.**

8. Weed the waste vinyl out of your decal.

9. Place transfer tape on your decal and trim as necessary so that your transfer tape doesn't stick to other things. The tape **SHOULD NOT** extend beyond your decal backing paper.

10. Write your name and “PERSONAL DECAL” on the back of your decal. Additionally, submit a written statement about your decal that includes any hidden meaning we might not see immediately.

11. Place your decal into the INBOX for grading along with a written statement describing your logo and pointing out any hidden meaning or images. (SCORED ITEM)