

Reflection - CAD/CAM 8x8
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For my 8x8 project, I was inspired to create a Garfield image. I was very excited about this, so I googled pictures of Garfield and found an appropriate image and pulled it into inkscape. I didn't like the basic bitmap format, so I experimented with the layer bitmap format for a while until I found the best amount of layers for garfield to keep all his different shades of color, since my original intention was to dither him onto the material. But then, I decided I didn't want to just put him inside a *box*. I wanted to cut *around* Garfield. I thought it was the coolest idea ever, so I started experimenting with the separate layers to see if I could create a yellow border around the top half of the image. This did NOT work, and continuously created problems, but it gave me some ideas for later endeavours. After this failure, I tried taking another bitmap of the original and making that yellow, while erasing the inside lines. This was really messy, but it was my current best lineart. Then I realized that each layer was a path. A path with *nodes* that I could *snap* lines to. So then I took the bezier and line tool, turned on snap to smooth nodes, and went around the outside of the image to create a border matching Garf. This took forever, and I had to use the nodes tool to create additional nodes for a more fitting line. Once this was done, I added a text box that quoted Garfield, and surrounded it in a yellow box. Then I just deleted the top part of the box and joined the nodes of the two borders to create a single line. He was finished.

To cut Garf out, I centered the design inside my original page border and sent it to the laser software. It looked nice on my computer. But when I finally got to the laser, it seemed that my plans for dithering would not come true since it takes forever to do that (and the wood burns probably would have messed it up anyway). I realized that it also didn't look to good after a couple of failed tests. So I just raster engraved the outline of the design and the text instead. The software immediately crashed after I used it, and also didn't cut him out the first time around for some reason? But since I didn't move the material I just re-printed the file to RetinaEngrave and changed the passes on the black color to 0. He cut out wonderfully and I didn't lose a single detail! Even the whiskers (which were very thin) stayed on! I'm very happy with this design and how it came out, even if it took forever to actually use the laser :P