Cricut Maker 3

What is it?
A maker machine with interchangeable tips and blades that can cut, deboss, draw, engrave, and foil.

What materials can I use?
A vast array of flat materials from thinner materials such as cardstock, fabric, and vinyl, to heavier and tougher materials like leather, wood, and metal. The type of tip or blade you use will depend on the effect you want you to make and the material you use. You can find a list of guidelines for numerous materials at: Anything not seen here, please consult with makerspace@valpo.edu.

What are the max dimensions of the print?
On a 12 in x 12 in mat (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm)→ 11.5 in x 11.5 in (29.2 cm x 29.2 cm)
On a 12 in x 24 in mat (30.5 cm x 61 cm)→11.5 in x 23.5 in (29.2 cm x 59.6 cm)
When using Cricut Smart Materials 12in W x up to 12ft. L
Max thickness of base material: 2.4mm depending on

Where can I purchase materials?
Cricut Website
Amazon
Michaels
Target

What kind of file do I need?
There are a vast number of files that you can use with the Cricut. However, some types of files are easier to work with than others. .PNG is suggested for simple vector projects. But .SVG, .JPEG, and .PNG are the most common file formats. Furthermore, the Cricut Design Program has integrated shapes and fonts for text that you can use if you want to create artwork that way.
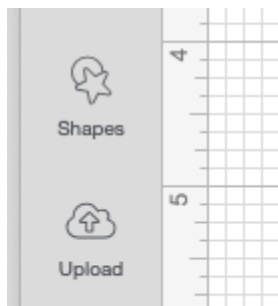
How does it work?

1. Open the Cricut Design Space program (green C icon)

2. Click on the "New Project" Button that is on the top right side of the screen. This will allow you to open up a new artboard and upload your artwork.
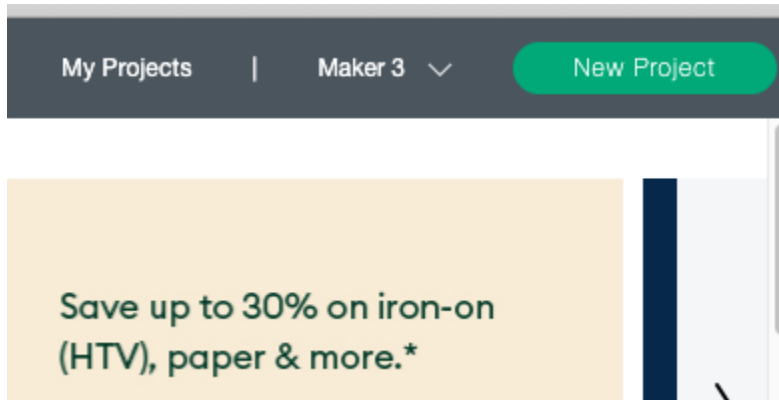
3. Upload artwork by clicking on the "Upload" button that is on the bottom left side. You can upload either pattern fill, or image. For this case, we will click on the left option (image). Find the artwork that you are wanting to work with and click upload.

Once your artwork is uploaded, you want to click "Add to canvas".

SIRKO
MAKER
SPACE

Uploaded ⓘ   Uploaded ⓘ   Uploaded ⓘ   Uploaded ⓘ

Download   SIRKO MAKER   Cancel   Add to Canvas
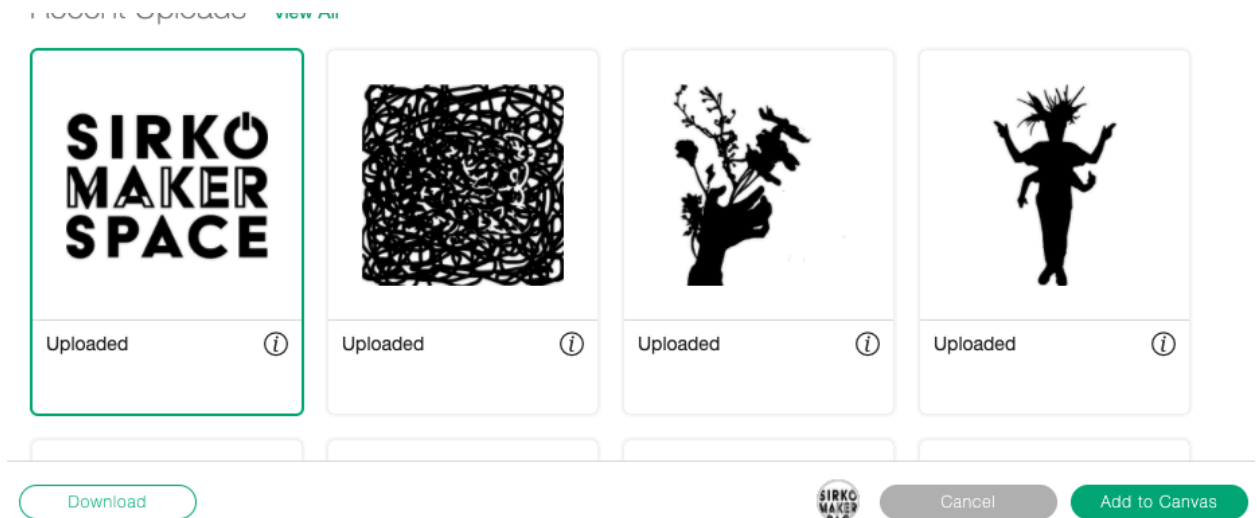
4. After adding to your canvas, you want to Weld/Attach the artwork that you want to be grouped together (can be separated by colors if needed), and size them accordingly. Welding is like rasterizing in Illustrator, where all of the layers will be welded together, and won't be able to be separated. Attaching is grouping the artwork together, and can be separable after. This only applies if you upload your artwork as an .SVG. .PNG will automatically be welded and cannot be separated. These buttons will be located on the bottom right corner when a layer is selected.

Blank Canvas

Slice   Weld   Attach   Flatten   Contour

9:48 AM
10/5/2021
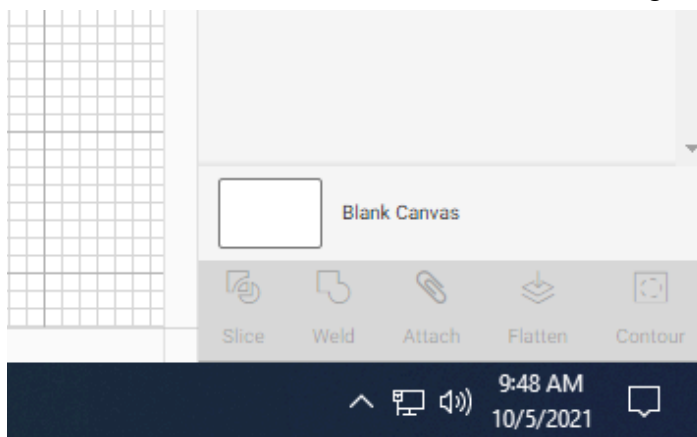
5. Next, choose the operation that you are wanting to use (Cut, Emboss, Engrave, etc). This will be based on the material you are wanting to use and what style you are looking for.
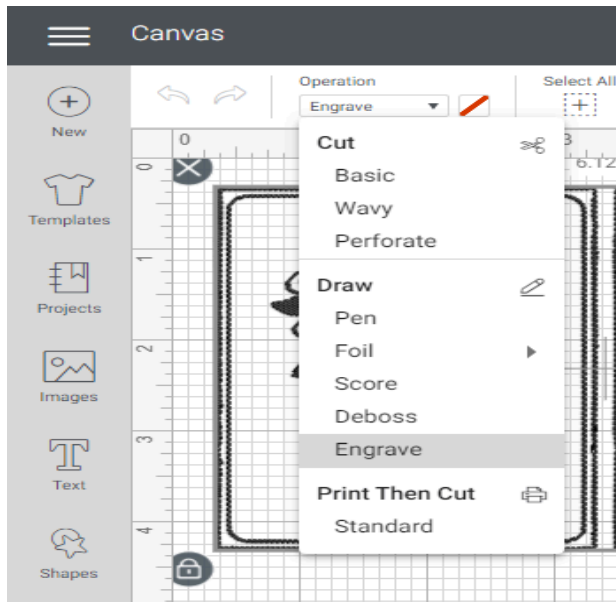
6. Once you have selected an operation and everything is ready design wise, click the green "Make It" button on the top right
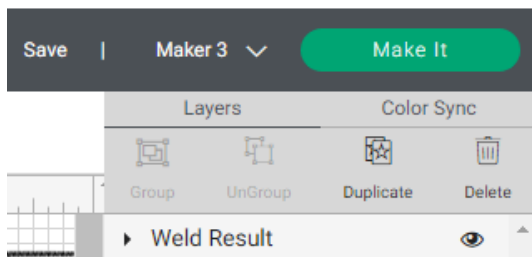
7. Choose with mat or without mat (only without mat if it is certified material)
8. The design will show how it will be on the material. Move as needed or correct any design mistakes. This is also where you can mirror your image if needed. Also, choose the correct mat size (12" x 24"). Then click continue.
9. Open the silver lid of Cricut and the bottom tray will open. You will then see the buttons to power on, load material, pause, and play. Press the power button to turn on the Cricut.
10. First you need to set the base material depending on the material that you are using. There is a list that you can choose from to get the correct material.
11. You will then move to the next step and load in the material. There are directions on the screen to which blade and tool you might need for the material chosen. You will place the material inside the Cricut rollers and click the flashing load button. This will have the machine scan the material.
12. Once the machine scans the material, you are good to press the flashing go button on the machine. If you see there is a mistake or the machine is not functioning properly, press the pause button immediately and cancel your print.
13. When the print is complete, you will click the flashing unload button to have the machine release your material. After this is complete, you will need to make sure

to power off the machine if you are finished, save any files that you might want to keep, and store them on an external hard drive or google drive.
14. Clean up the space around you and return any supplies that you might have used (blades, scissors, ruler, etc) in the correct area/spot.

Reminders:
- For heat transfer vinyl, make sure to place the vinyl shiny side DOWN.
- For removable vinyl, make sure to place the vinyl shiny side UP.

Additional Resources