

# Vinyl Cutting & Design

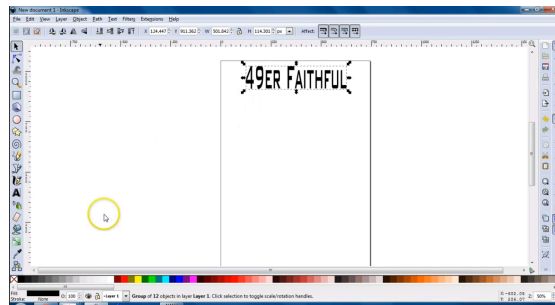
For this project we are going to create our own Vinyl Decals using the Silhouette Cutter and Inkscape.

The vinyl cutter lets you create some fun and professional looking decals and lettering in as little as a couple of minutes once you get the process down.

The following video will show you how to customize and prepare your art for the cutter.

**\*NOTE\*** When saving, choose File>Save As and from the file types choose “Desktop Cutting Plotter (AutoCAD DXF F14) (\*.dxf)” for the file type!

[UPLOAD YOUR DESIGN HERE](#)



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWZbt7JAQzaRLrlxAcpEmp0qTcVFBjZ6/view?usp=sharing>

When you have your file saved, you can take it to the vinyl cutter.

## Material Prep

1. Choose your vinyl color from the supplied sheets
2. Carefully apply the vinyl to the mat, make sure you line the material up with the top of the grid on the mat.
3. Open the lid to the cutter and align the mat with the guides
4. While gently holding the mat against the rollers choose “Load Mat”
  - a. **Be sure not to choose “Load Media”, this will cause the top alignment to be off!**

## Silhouette Studio

1. Open your file “File>Open”
  - a. When loaded, you should see a path around your design. This path will be a guide for the vinyl cutter.
2. Place the image to the left or right of the sheet, do not place it directly in the middle!

- a. This will allow us to save as much material as possible for future cutting.
3. Resize your image by clicking on it then editing the Width or Height from the menu bar above.
  - a. **You can lock the ratio by choosing the lock icon before editing!**
4. Choose the "Send" icon from the menu bar in blue.
5. Set your Material to "Vinyl, Glossy" from the drop down.
6. Now you can select send and watch the cutter do all the work!
7. When finished, choose unload media and remove your vinyl sheet from the cutter.

### **Final Steps**

1. Carefully cut out around your design.
  - a. **Be sure not to waste material as it can be reused in the future!**
2. Using an exacto knife you will "weed" out the pieces that you do not want.
3. When finished weeding, cut a piece of transfer paper slightly larger than your design and carefully place it over.
4. Trim your piece so that you are left with clean edges