

CAD/CAM Reflection

The name card project was the first project that we did in CAD/CAM, with the purpose of introducing and orienting us for using the laser cutter and inkscape. I had already used inkscape the prior year to create projects for MAKE, so I was already familiar with all the basic functions of the software. So, I followed the specifications given to us by Mr. Cribbs in creating a basic name card image. I only had a small amount of trouble with the panther head since it had to be in two separate colors, and a few different times it would not separately color them. I realized this was because I was grouping the objects when I didn't have to. At first I didn't know that you could smooth out the corners of boxes, so that was fun to learn.

So, as a first, students would cut out the project themselves. They would have to orient and use the laser during class time - with supervision of course. This was new, and the first time I stepped up to turn on the laser cutter, I thought I did something wrong because it made a beeping noise. It was just turning on. Lesson learned, I placed the material, aligned and homed the laser, and prepared my file. Previously, Grant used the laser to cut out his name card, so I just used the already open Retina Engrave (with previously adjusted cut speed/power) to print my Inkscape file. I had already helped Grant choose the laser settings (low power high speed for raster/engrave, reverse for cut), so I just hit run job perimeter and found a good spot. Granted, It does have a little bit of previous failed attempts on it, but that's fine since it's just an intro project (and I later wrote OwO on it, sorry). It cut out perfectly, but I think the engrave was too strong or something since I can almost pop the panther head out from the border. Anyway, good intro proj. Looking forward to better stuffs.