CRICUT: HOW TO USE VINYL

What the Creative Studio supplies:

Cricut Maker
Note: Not the Maker 3

Cricut Tools and Cutting Mats

What you need:

Adhesive Vinyl (permanent or removable)

Recommended brands: Oracal, Cricut, Silhouette

Transfer Tape

A design in Cricut Design Space

Uploads files that are JPEG, PNG, SVG, DXF, EPS

What is the Cricut Maker?

The Cricut Maker is an electronic cutting machine, or vinyl cutting machine. The machine uses a computer-controlled blade that cuts thin material, like paper and vinyl. To use the machine, the design must be saved in Cricut Design Space.
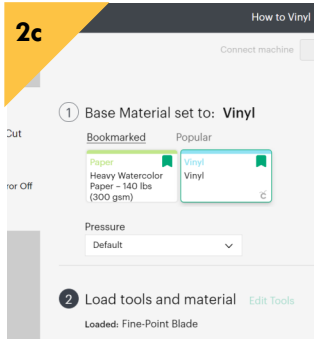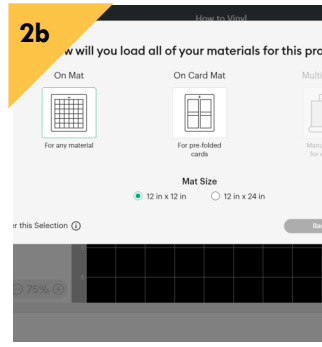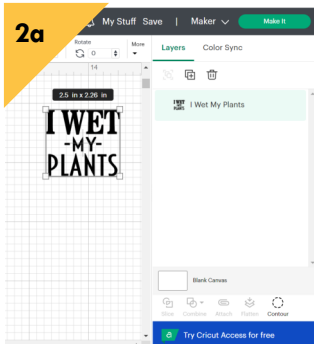
What is Vinyl and Transfer Tape?

Vinyl, or adhesive vinyl, is a thin material with adhesive on one side. This is used to make stickers or "vinyl decals" that can decorate hard surfaces like mugs, windows, or walls. Removable vinyl is meant for painted surfaces, like walls. Permanent vinyl is meant for outdoor projects or drinkware. Transfer tape is a large piece of tape that helps you move the vinyl onto the surface.

Things to consider:

- Maximum dimensions for material are 12" x 24"
- Maximum dimensions for design are 11.5" x 23.5"
- **Always bring extra materials**
- Vinyl and transfer tape can chip the surface or paint when removed.
- Vinyl doesn't stick will to textured surfaces or soft surfaces like wood. For wood, consider sealing with polyurethane or acrylic spray.

Share your project with us!

2a

2b

2c

2e

3a

3c

3d

3g

1. Find or Create a Design

a. Create a free Cricut account to use Cricut Design Space. *Note: Cricut accounts are required.*

b. Options for designs:

- Find a pre-made design from Cricut.
- Visit *addisonlibrary.org/cricut* for resources to create your own design.
- Upload JPEG/JPG, PNG, SVG, DXF files

2. Cut your Design

a. Click the **Make It** button in upper right.

b. Preview your design in the **Prepare** screen. Select **On Mat** for loading the materials.

c. In the **Make** screen, select the material that matches the label of your vinyl. Use "**Browse All Materials**" if needed.

d. Put your vinyl on the cut mat **colored side up**.

e. Line your cut mat with the brackets of the machine and press the blinking **Load**/**Unload** arrow button.

f. Press the blinking **Cricut button** to start the cut.

g. Press the **Load**/**Unload** button to remove cut mat.

3. Weed and Transfer to Surface

a. Use the weeding pick to remove the extra vinyl. *Tip: Start in a corner.*

b. Place a piece of transfer tape overtop your vinyl design.

c. Peel the vinyl design off the white "backing" using the transfer tape.

d. Line up the transfer tape with your design on the item you want to decorate.

e. Lay the transfer tape and vinyl design flat onto the item.

f. Apply pressure to help the vinyl stick to the surface.

g. Peel the transfer tape. *Tip: Bend the transfer tape as you peel to prevent the vinyl from peeling off the item.*

h. Apply pressure and smooth out the vinyl design.