

Cricut | Explore Air™ 2



Ready to get started?

Our online guide will walk you through how to set up your machine, create an account, and make a project.

To begin, go to *cricut.com/setup*.

Once you have set up your machine, return to *design.cricut.com* from any computer to design and cut your projects.



- 6 **Welcome.** You're going to love your Cricut Explore Air™ 2.
- 8 **Included in the box.** Everything you need to get started.
- 10 **Making.** The basics.
- 12 **Design Space®.** The heart of the Cricut® experience.
- 16 **Library.** Images, fonts, and projects at your fingertips.
- 26 **Projects.** So many things to make.
- 30 **Tools.** How Cricut Explore® cuts, scores, and writes.
- 34 **Mats.** The interface between materials and machine.
- 36 **Quick reference.** For those “How do I do that again?” moments.

Have questions? Get answers at help.cricut.com.

Welcome

When we built the original Cricut cutting machine in 2006, our goal was simple: to give crafters like you an easy way to make professional-looking paper crafts with an essential, handmade feel. Since then we've been truly inspired by the beautiful things our customers make, and the creativity, generosity, and spirit of the Cricut community.

Cricut Explore Air 2 is the star of our best-selling Cricut Explore family of smart cutting machines. Featuring speedier writing and cutting, Bluetooth® wireless technology, and powerful new features for your mobile devices, it's built to make your crafting experience faster, easier, and more convenient than ever.

We hope you love it!

The Cricut Team



Cricut | Explore Air 2

Included in the box

- Cricut Explore Air 2 machine (color may vary)
- Fine-Point Blade + Housing (pre-installed)
- Fine-Point Pen
- LightGrip™ Mat
- Welcome book
- Power adapter
- USB cable
- Cricut Access™ trial membership
- 50 ready-to-make projects
- Materials for your first project



Making

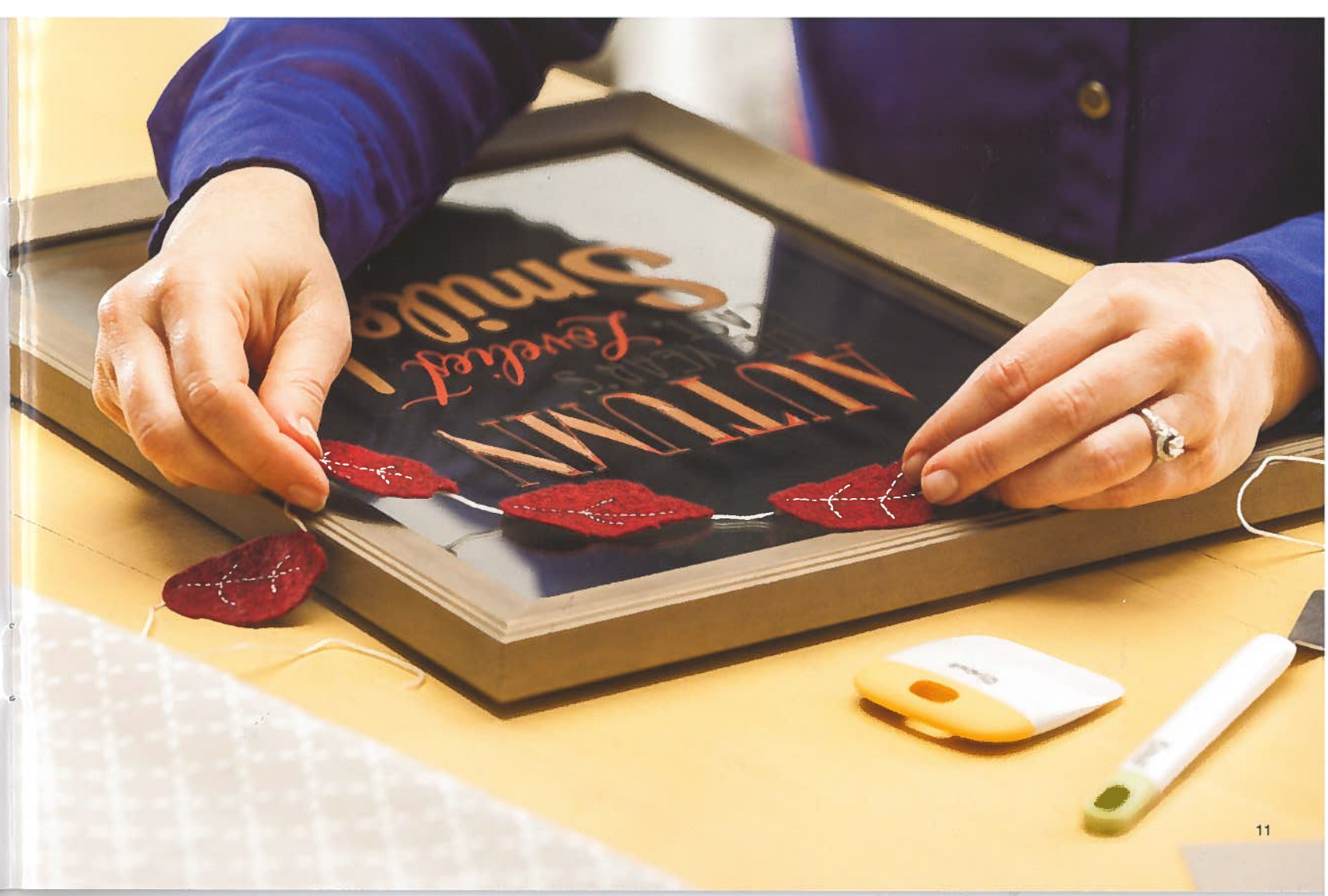
Whether you like to make things from scratch, or start with something that's already been designed, your Cricut machine and Design Space software work together to make DIY easy.

Ready-to-make projects and patterns

Ready-to-make projects in Design Space are ideal when you're in the mood to pick something out and get cracking! There are thousands of ideas to choose from, complete with cut-ready designs, instructions, and material lists. All you need to do is follow along.

Custom projects

Designing a project from scratch is a great way to experiment, learn, and express your own creativity. Design Space kickstarts your creative process with thousands of *images* and *fonts* that you can use like building blocks. Play with them to your heart's content – the possibilities are endless.



Design Space

Design Space is the free design layout application at the heart of the Cricut experience. We created Design Space to be simple for people new to crafting, but with enough power for our most experienced makers, too.

Design Space is cloud-based, so you can design on your computer or mobile device and still access your files from anywhere. Start a project on one device and finish it on another without breaking stride. You can even download entire projects on your iOS device to use *offline*, for the times when there's no Internet access.

1

Designing

When you start a new project, you'll arrive on the *Canvas*, where you lay out your design. Grab *images* (pre-designed, cut-ready shapes) and *fonts* from the library, then edit, orient, color, and size these elements until you have a composition you like.

2

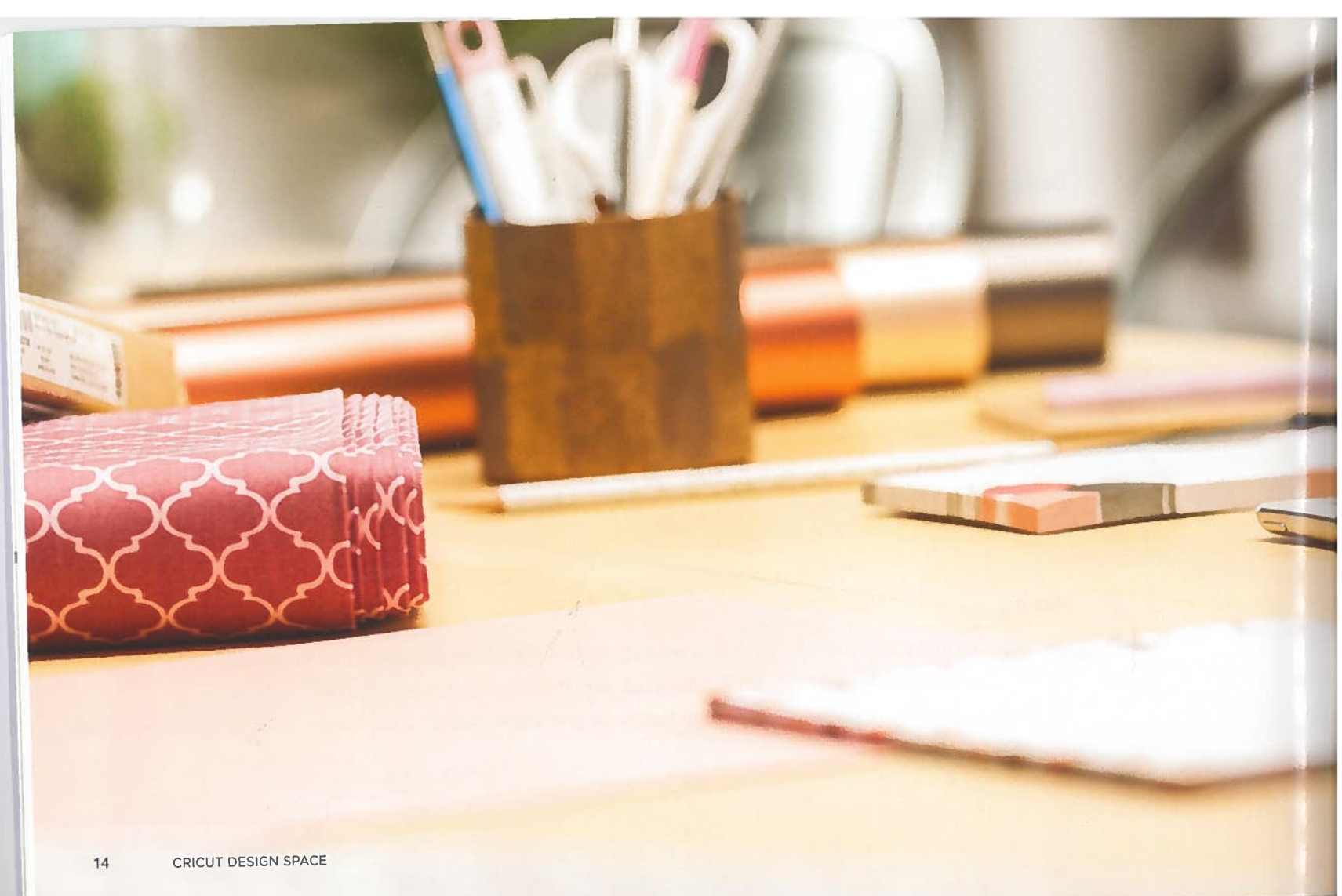
Preparing mats

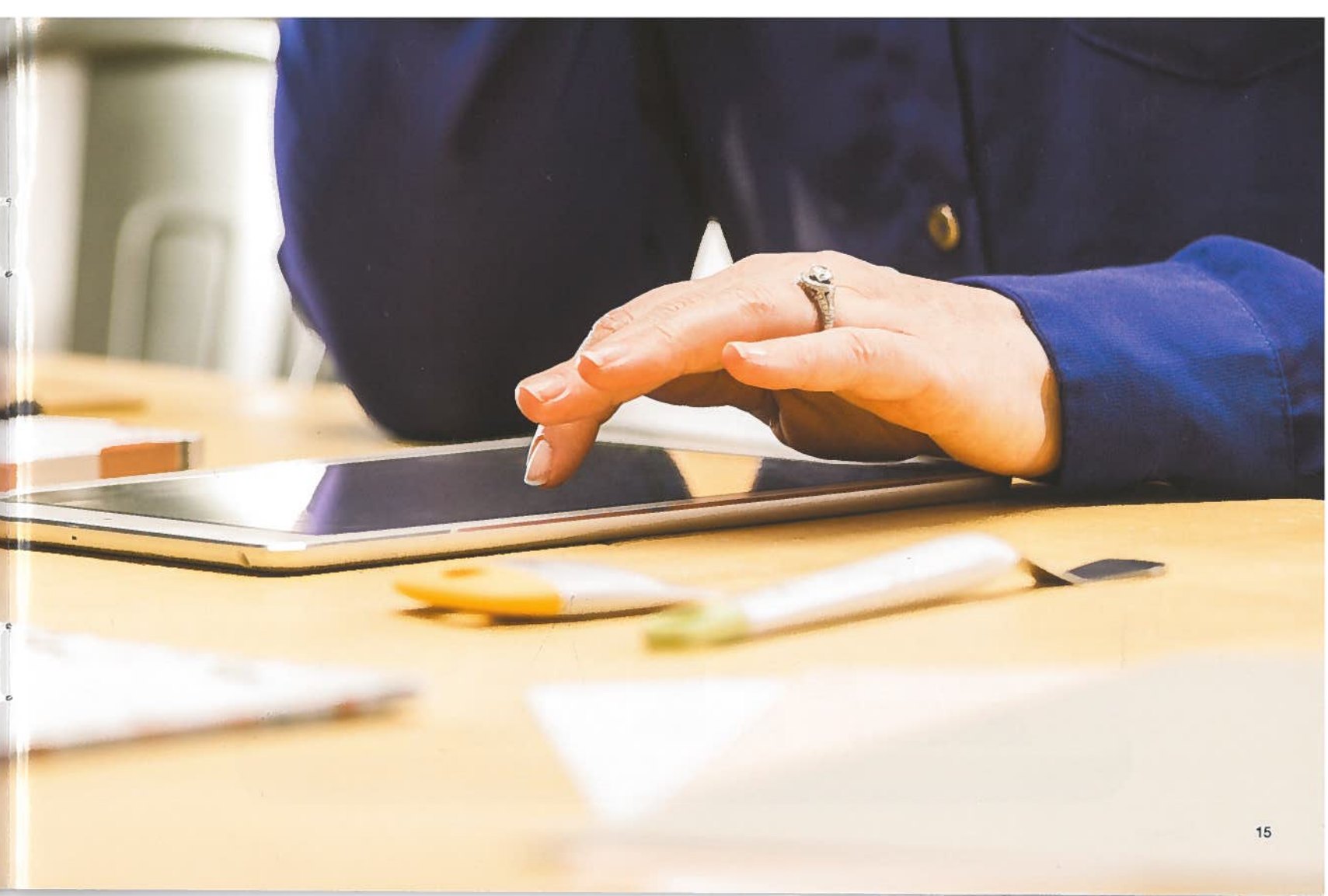
Cricut Explore cuts and writes on materials that you place onto adhesive *mats*. During this stage, your designs are automatically organized on mats by color. For example, red shapes would be placed together on the mat holding your red material.

3

Making

Choose your materials, and Design Space will suggest the right *tools* (like blades and pens) for the job. Load your tools and mats when prompted, and the machine takes it from there. When it's finished, carefully remove your cuts from the mats, and you're ready for assembly.





Library

The Cricut library in Design Space is full of designs and ideas to kickstart your next masterpiece. Browse and play with thousands of images, fonts, and ready-to-make projects, all available to use instantly. Since we're adding more all the time, you'll always find something fresh, new, and inspiring.

Cricut Access™

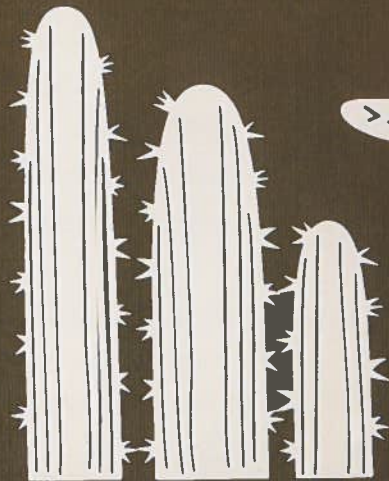
To get the most out of the Cricut library, we offer Cricut Access, a monthly or yearly membership plan that gives you unlimited access to tens of thousands of images, fonts, and projects, including many that are exclusive. Members also receive special discounts on Cricut products as well as other benefits. Visit cricut.com/access for full details. First-time members receive a free trial – give it a try!



Images

Images are design elements that have been optimized to cut quickly and accurately on Cricut machines. The variety of images in the Cricut library is stunning, with designs that range from intricate to bold, traditional to modern, formal to whimsical.

You can also upload and use your own images and photos. Just use the *upload* tool on the Canvas. Design Space is compatible with image files in a variety of standard formats (.svg, .jpg, .gif, .png, .dxf, .bmp).



There are three sources of images in the Cricut library:

- *Cricut images* are original designs developed by our Cricut creative team. Tens of thousands are available, including both *free* and *premium* images. Cricut Access members receive unlimited use of all premium Cricut images.
- *Designer images* are developed in partnership with top designers like Anna Griffin®. These designs are available for purchase individually and in sets.
- *Licensed images* include designs and characters from brands like Disney®, Hello Kitty®, and Marvel®. They are also available for purchase individually and in sets.

Using premium, designer, or licensed images to visualize your design is always free, whether or not you own or subscribe to them. Add as many images as you like to the Canvas, and arrange, edit, or delete them as you figure out what you need. You'll only pay for the ones you actually end up using in your project.



Fonts

The Cricut library features hundreds of beautiful fonts in a wide variety of styles, all designed to be cut or written using Cricut machines.

Like images, *Cricut fonts* include a mix of *free* and *premium* original fonts. Cricut Access members receive unlimited use of all premium Cricut fonts. *Designer fonts* and *licensed fonts* bring you even more options.

Looking for your familiar fonts? You can always use the *system fonts* installed on your computer or mobile device.

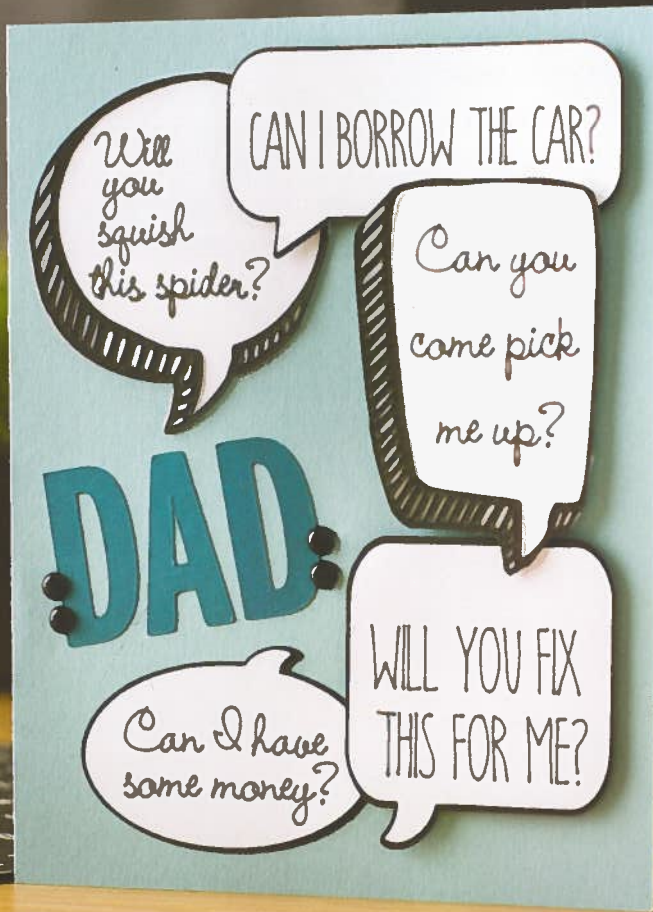


Thank You
for joining us!
Love, Brent & Hailey

There are two kinds of fonts available in the library:

- *Image fonts* can be cut out with a blade or outlined with a pen, just like images. Some have more than one *layer* so you can easily add a color, outline, or shadow.
- *Writing fonts* draw letters with a line, in much the same way you would by hand. It's a unique, flawless, "handwritten" effect that really sets your project apart.

Many fonts come in both image and writing versions. Just like images, you can play with any premium, designer, or licensed font on your Canvas before committing to a purchase.



DAD

Will you squish this spider?

CAN I BORROW THE CAR?

Can you come pick me up?

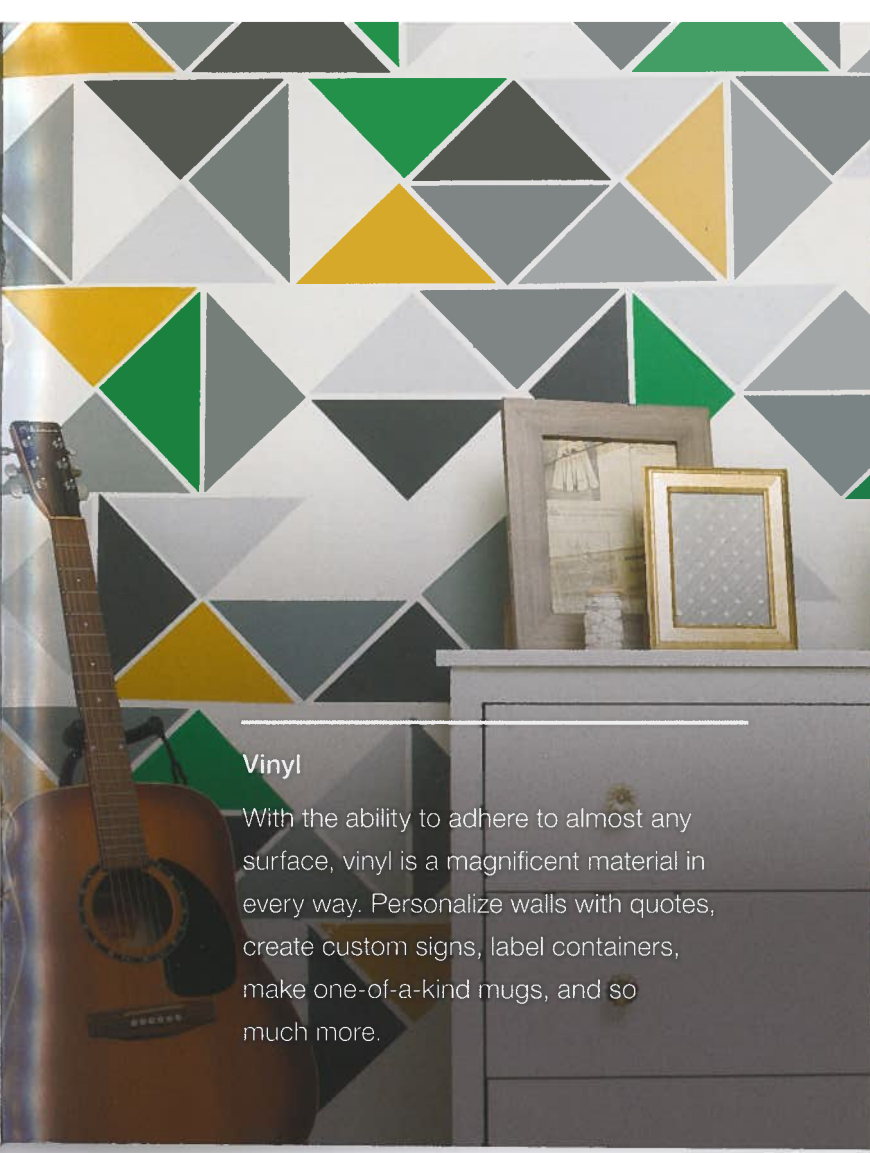
WILL YOU FIX THIS FOR ME?

Can I have some money?



Projects

The variety of personalized projects you can make with Cricut Explore is truly amazing. Here are a few of our favorites to get you started. Many of these are available as ready-to-make projects in the Cricut library.

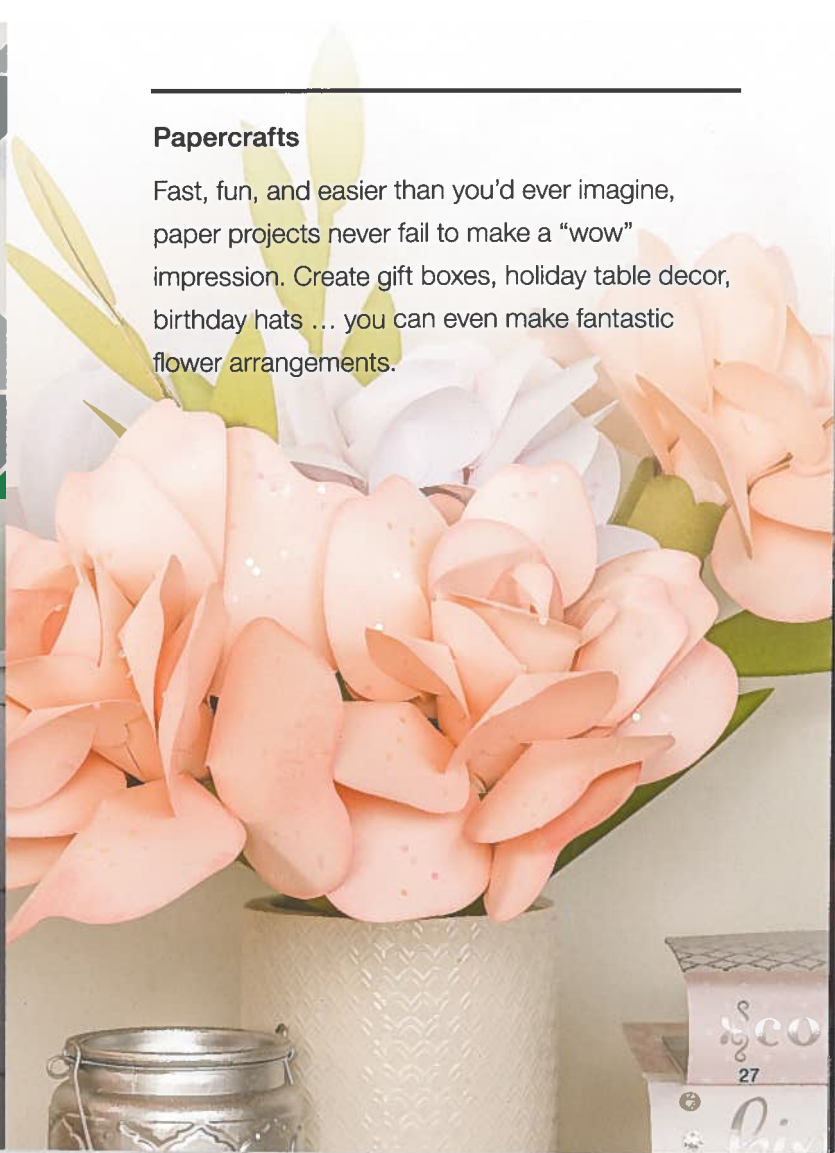


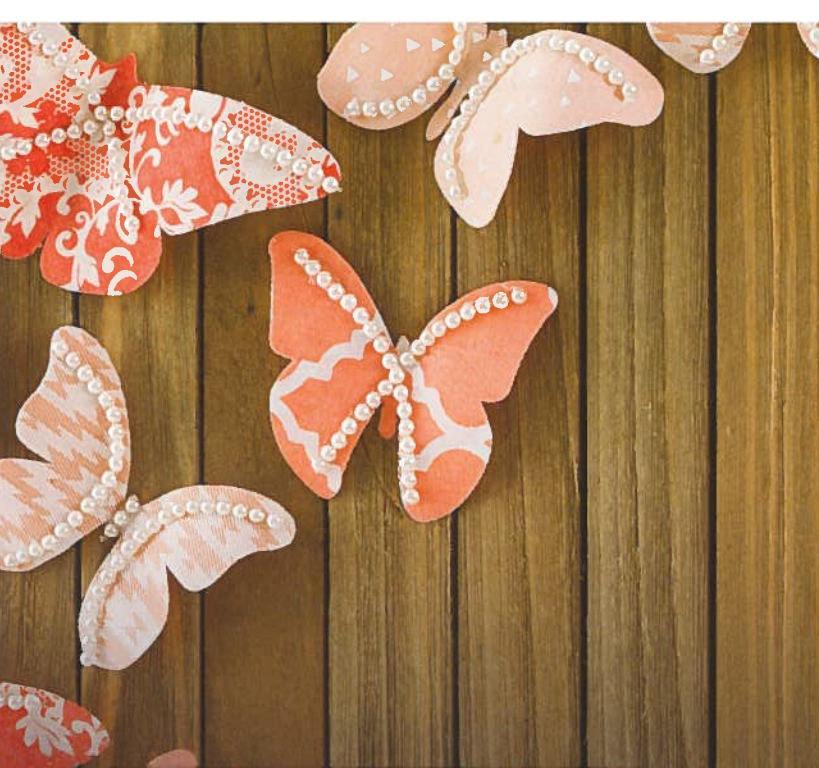
Vinyl

With the ability to adhere to almost any surface, vinyl is a magnificent material in every way. Personalize walls with quotes, create custom signs, label containers, make one-of-a-kind mugs, and so much more.

Papercrafts

Fast, fun, and easier than you'd ever imagine, paper projects never fail to make a "wow" impression. Create gift boxes, holiday table decor, birthday hats ... you can even make fantastic flower arrangements.





Home decor

Wall decorations, paper flowers, personalized pillows – there are an endless number of ways to use Cricut Air 2 to brighten up your walls and make your home yours.

Cards

There's nothing like a custom card to show that you really care. Cards are quick to design and make, and perfect for any occasion – from a big life event to a small gesture.





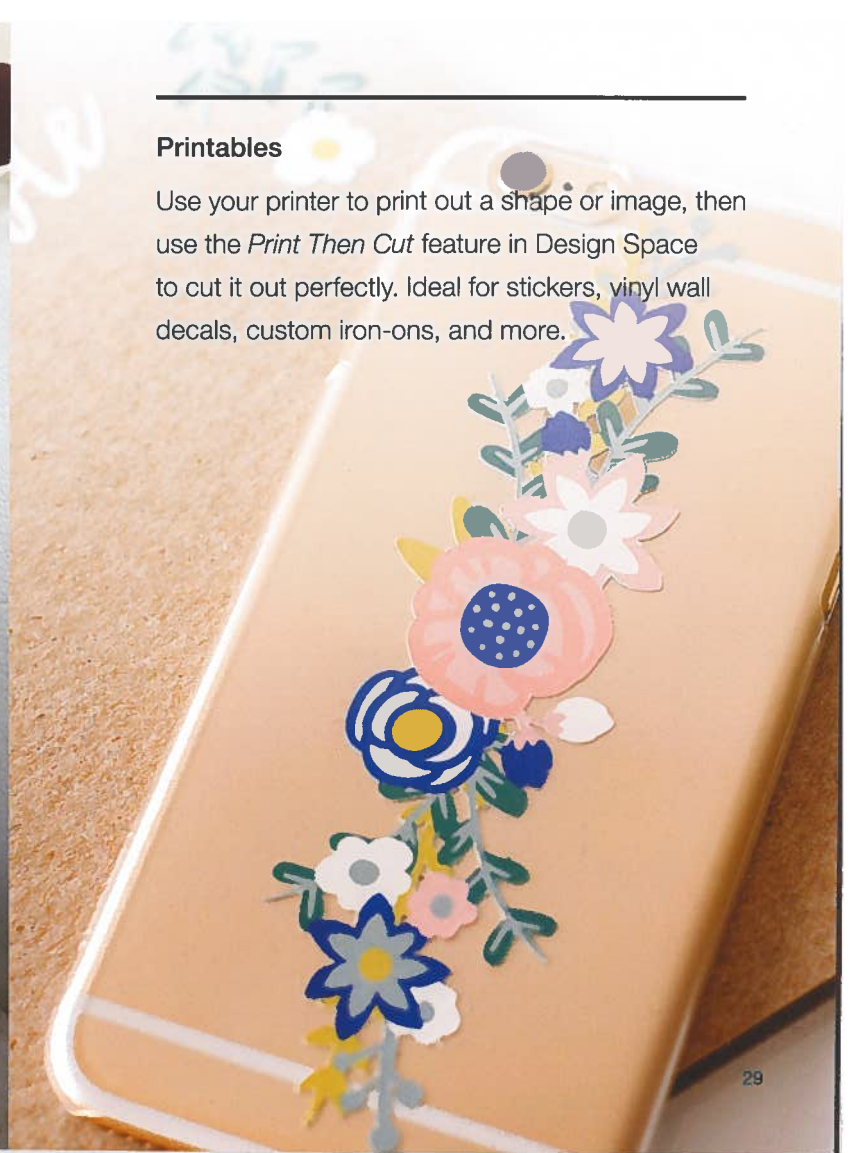
PARIS

Iron-ons

Embellish pillows, clothes, and more to make a truly unique statement. Iron-on materials are available in a huge range of colors, finishes, and effects.

Printables

Use your printer to print out a shape or image, then use the *Print Then Cut* feature in Design Space to cut it out perfectly. Ideal for stickers, vinyl wall decals, custom iron-ons, and more.



Fine-Point Blades

A series of blades designed to make the most intricate cuts imaginable in a variety of thin to medium-weight materials. The versatile Premium Fine-Point Blade cuts everything from paper, cardstock, and posterboard to vinyl and iron-on. The Bonded Fabric Blade is reserved for cutting appliqué out of fabric with an applied backer material.



Scoring Stylus

The Scoring Stylus creates creases and fold lines in paper, cardstock, posterboard, and more. This popular tool is perfect when you're making cards, envelopes, boxes, and other 3D crafts.



Pens

With a wide range of colors and effects, Cricut pens embellish your project with beautiful text and delicately drawn shapes. Cricut pens use high-quality, nontoxic, non-acidic, water-based inks that are as perfect for use around the home as they are with your Cricut machine.



Fine-Point Pen



Medium-Point Pen



Calligraphic Pen

Tip size	0.4 mm	1.0 mm	2.0 mm
Tip shape	Point	Point	Chisel
Colors	Variety	Variety	Black, metallics

All the
Prellig
things



Mats

Cricut reusable adhesive cutting mats are the interface between your material and the machine, so we've taken extra care to make sure they perform at the highest level.

Cricut mats are carefully engineered to hold your material in place while it's being cut, while also allowing you to remove your finished pieces with ease. Each mat is formulated to ensure the best possible adhesion and the longest possible life. Mats are available in 12" x 12" and 12" x 24" versions to fit a variety of project sizes.



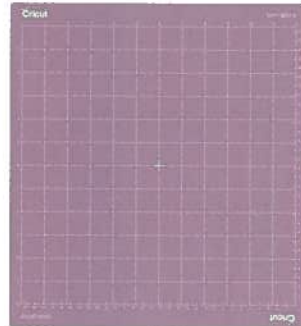
LightGrip™ Mat

Great for lighter-weight materials with soft-release adhesive for easier cut removal.



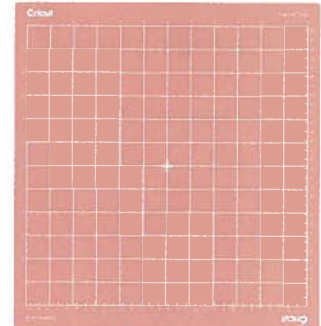
StandardGrip™ Mat

This versatile mat works with a wide range of light- to medium-weight materials.



StrongGrip™ Mat

Ideal for thick, stiff materials requiring high cut pressure, like chipboard, balsa, and matboard.

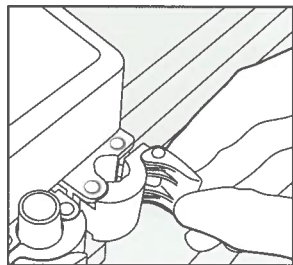


FabricGrip™ Mat

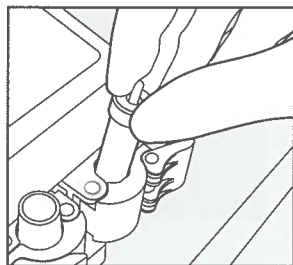
Use with most bonded fabrics including cotton, polyester, denim, felt, and canvas.

Quick reference

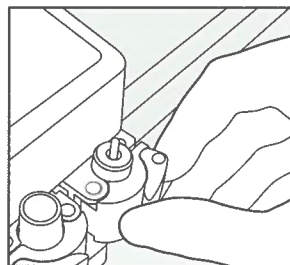
Changing blades



1. Open Clamp B and remove blade housing.

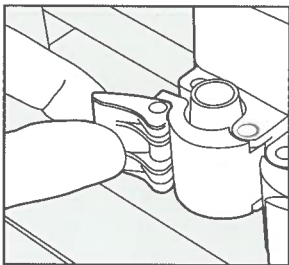


2. Place blade housing in Clamp B, ensuring that housing is seated on the top surface of the clamp.

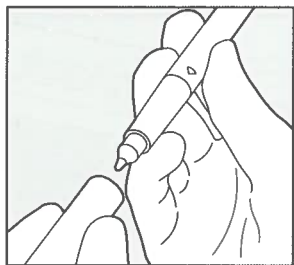


3. Close the clamp.

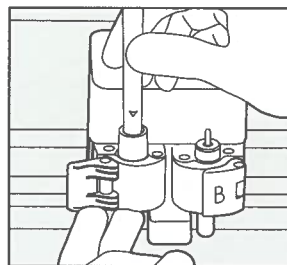
Inserting a pen



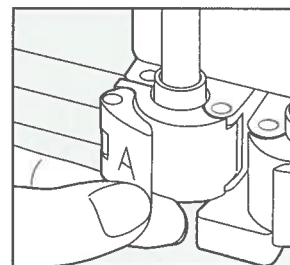
1. Open clamp A.



2. Remove cap from pen.



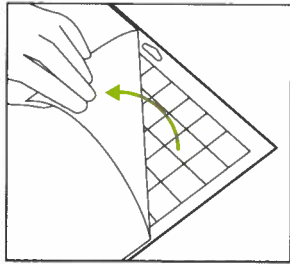
3. Hold Clamp A up with fingers while pushing pen down into clamp until arrow on pen disappears.



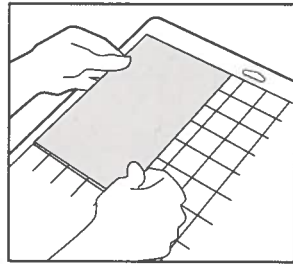
4. Close the clamp.

Quick reference

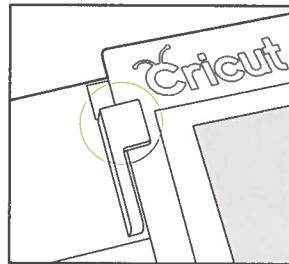
Preparing and loading a mat



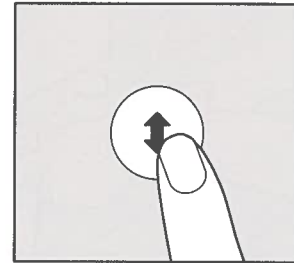
1. Remove clear plastic cover from mat and save for storage.



2. Place material on mat inside the grid. For fabric, roll it with a brayer to ensure that it's held down smoothly and securely.

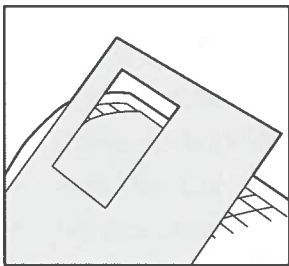


3. When prompted, position mat underneath mat guides.

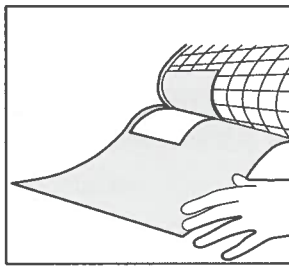


4. Keeping mat pushed firmly against rollers, press the flashing Load/Unload button.

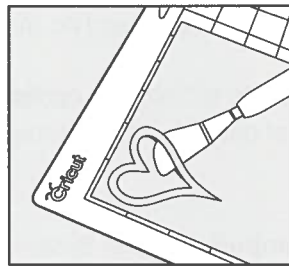
Removing paper or cardstock from the mat (while avoiding curling)



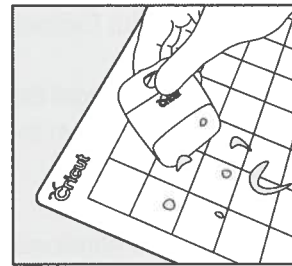
1. Gently bend mat until one edge of the material releases.



2. Hold material on a flat surface and slowly pull mat away.



3. Use spatula to remove finished cuts.



4. Use scraper to remove leftover bits of material.

Quick reference

Connecting via Bluetooth wireless technology

To pair your machine with mobile devices or computers featuring Bluetooth wireless technology, make sure Cricut Explore Air 2 is turned on and no more than 15 feet away.

- **iOS and Android devices.** Go to Settings, confirm that Bluetooth is ON, then select Cricut Explore Air 2 from the list of devices. When prompted for a PIN, enter “0000” to pair with your machine.
- **Mac® and Windows® computers.** Open System Preferences on Macs or the Control Panel in Windows, and select Bluetooth. Confirm that Bluetooth is ON, then select Cricut Explore Air 2 from the list of devices. When prompted for a PIN, enter “0000” to pair with your machine (this step may happen automatically).

Need help? Search *Bluetooth pairing* at help.cricut.com.

Most popular help terms on *help.cricut.com*

- *Attach images* to keep images in the same relative position on the mat for cutting
- *Change font* for selecting font types and styles
- *Find images* for locating images, including ones you own
- *Image upload* for uploading your own images
- *Layers* for using layered images and fonts
- *Materials list* for a full list of materials that your machine can cut
- *Offline mode* for working offline using your iOS device
- *Print Then Cut* for making printables
- *Replace blade* for safely replacing any blade
- *Scoring* for adding a score line
- *System requirements* for mobile device and computer requirements
- *Write on cut layer* for adding writing on top of a piece to be cut

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Useful Links

learn.cricut.com

Educational videos, instruction manuals,
and other learning materials

youtube.com/officialcricut

Instructional videos, news, and more

cricut.com/blog

News, announcements, tips, and inspiration

facebook.com/officialcricut

Join the discussion and connect with
the Cricut community

help.cricut.com

Answers to all your Cricut questions

cricut.com/contact-us

Live chat and email support