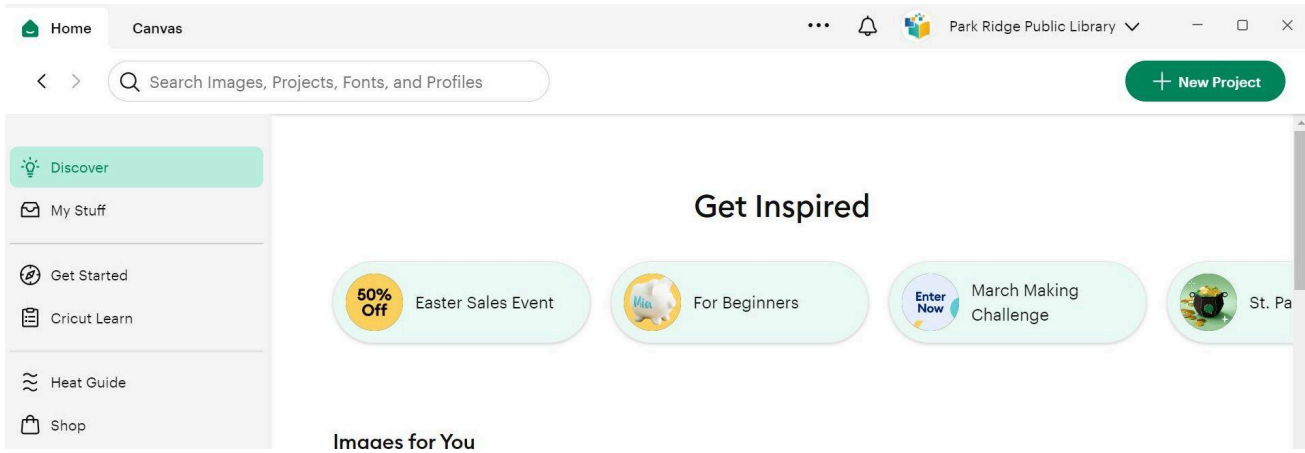
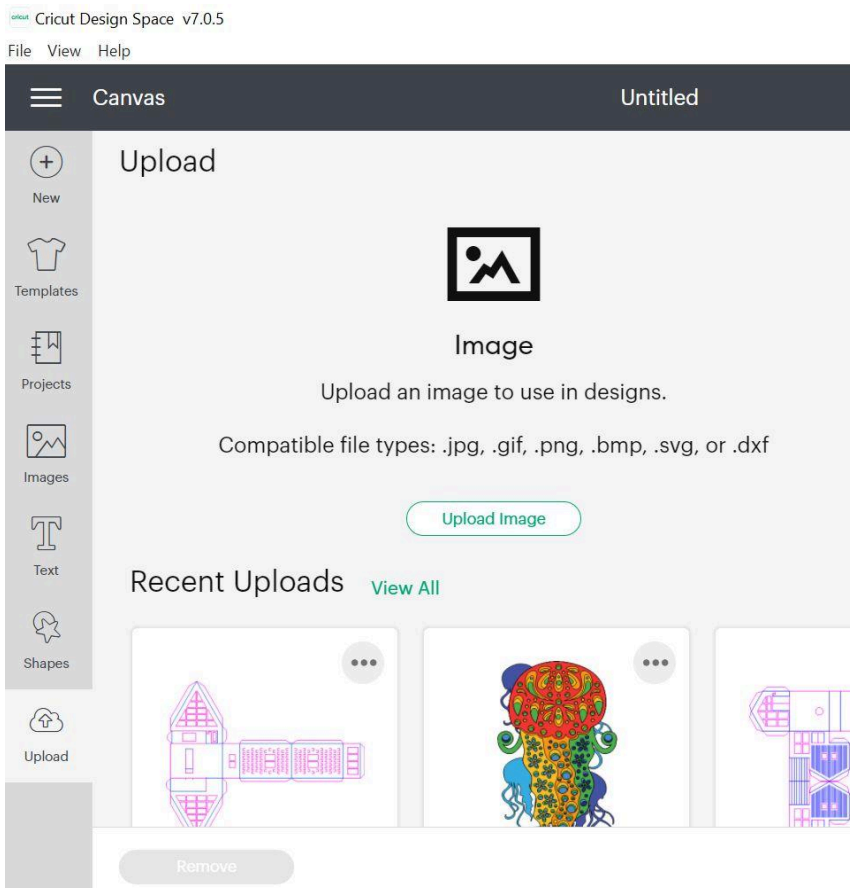


Cricut 101

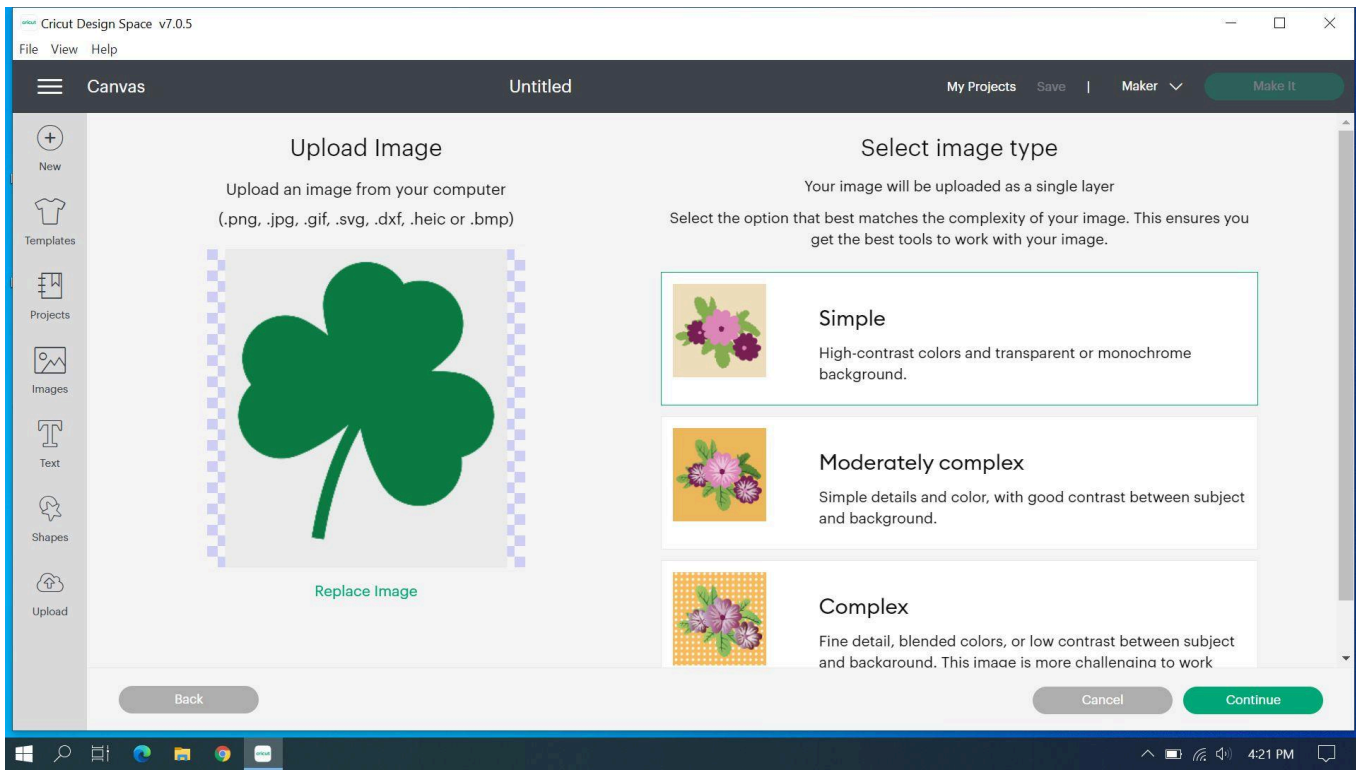
1. Turn on the Cricut Maker (power button on the right)
2. Open Cricut Design Space on your computer and either begin a new design or open one of your saved projects. This is the home screen.



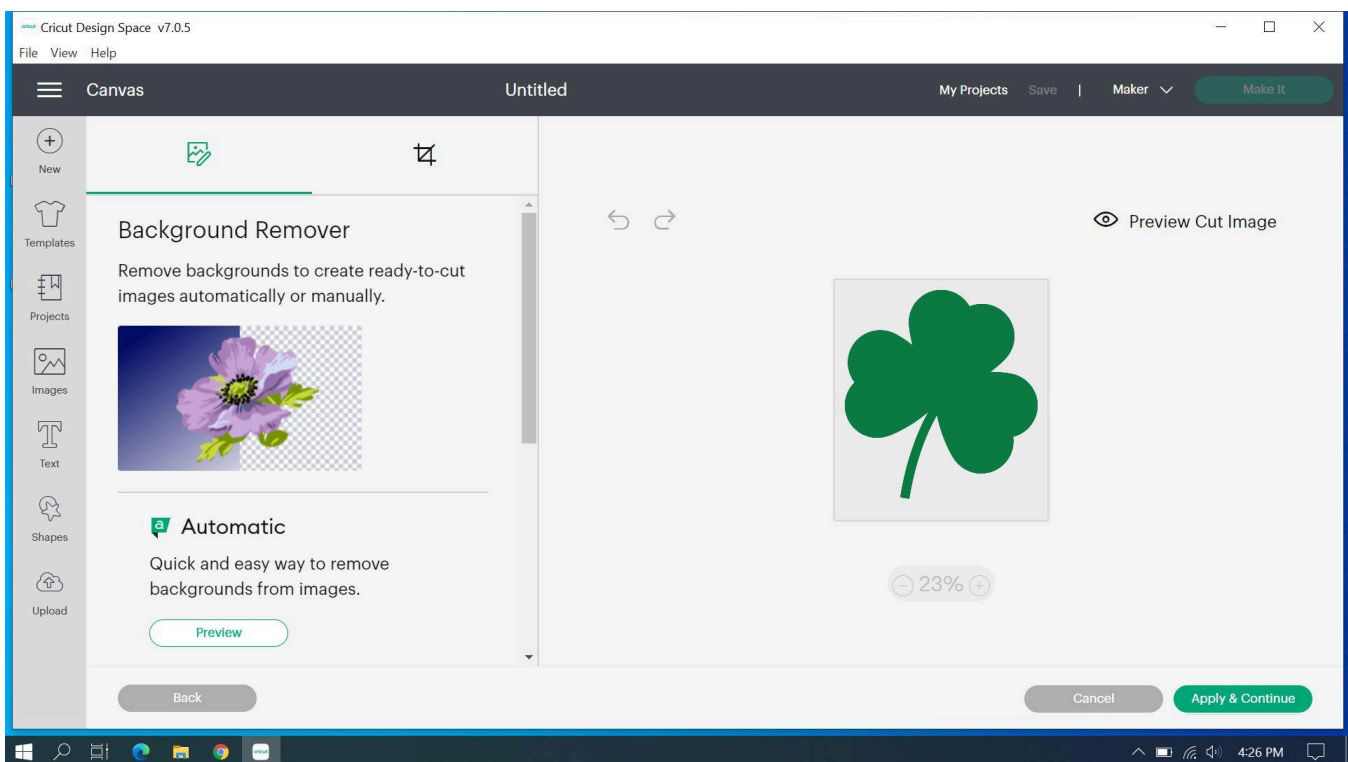
- a. To open a saved project, click My Stuff on the left-hand menu (*see above*) and select the project you want to work on. You must be logged into your Cricut account or create a new one.
- b. If you are importing a PNG or JPG file, you need to upload the image. You can use these files: .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp, .svg, or .dxf. Click on New Project on the upper right (*shown above*) and then scroll down to Uploads in the menu on the lower left.



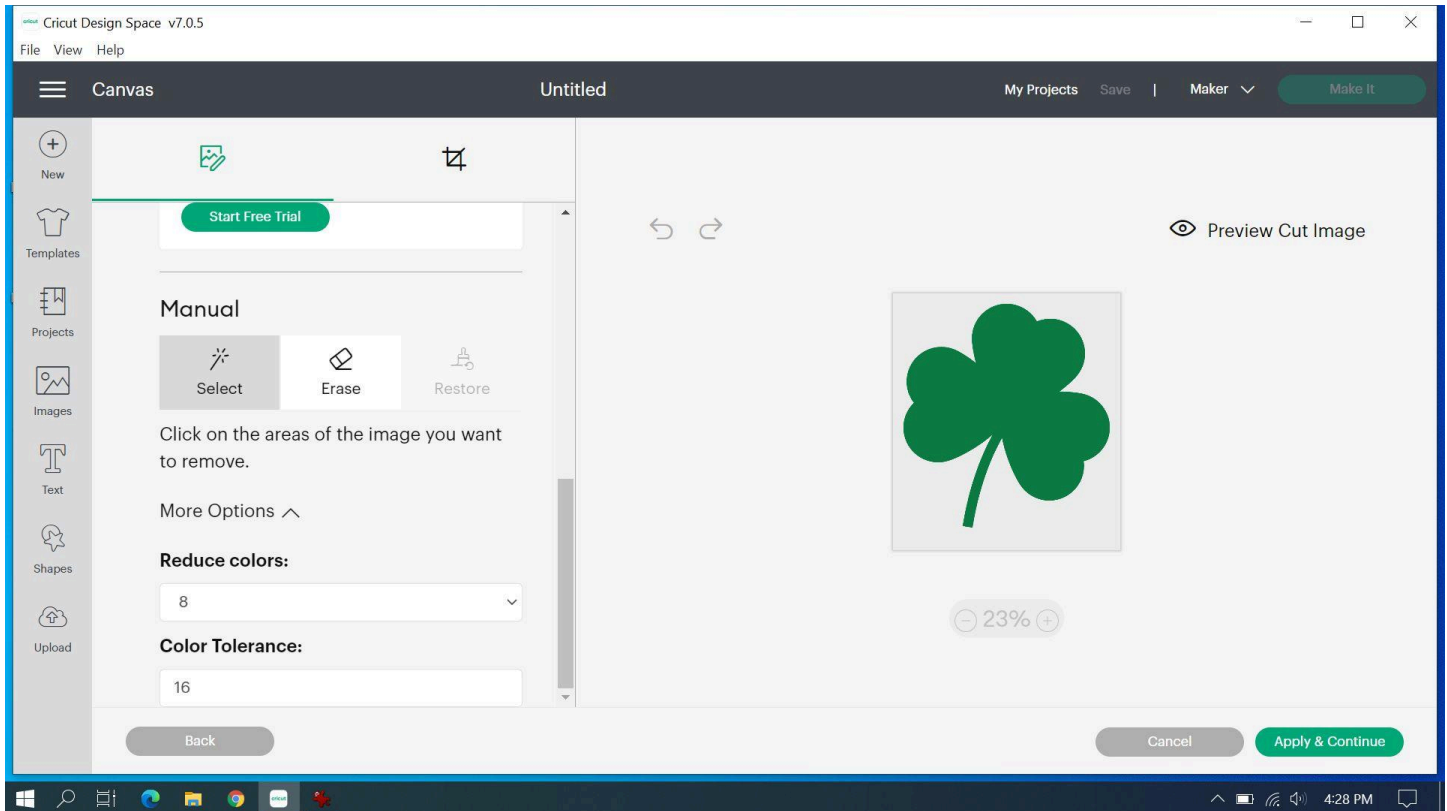
3. When you upload a design, there are 3 types you can choose from. Simple, Moderately Complex, or Complex. We are using Simple for our demonstration. It's the most common. Once you choose the type, press Continue in the lower right.



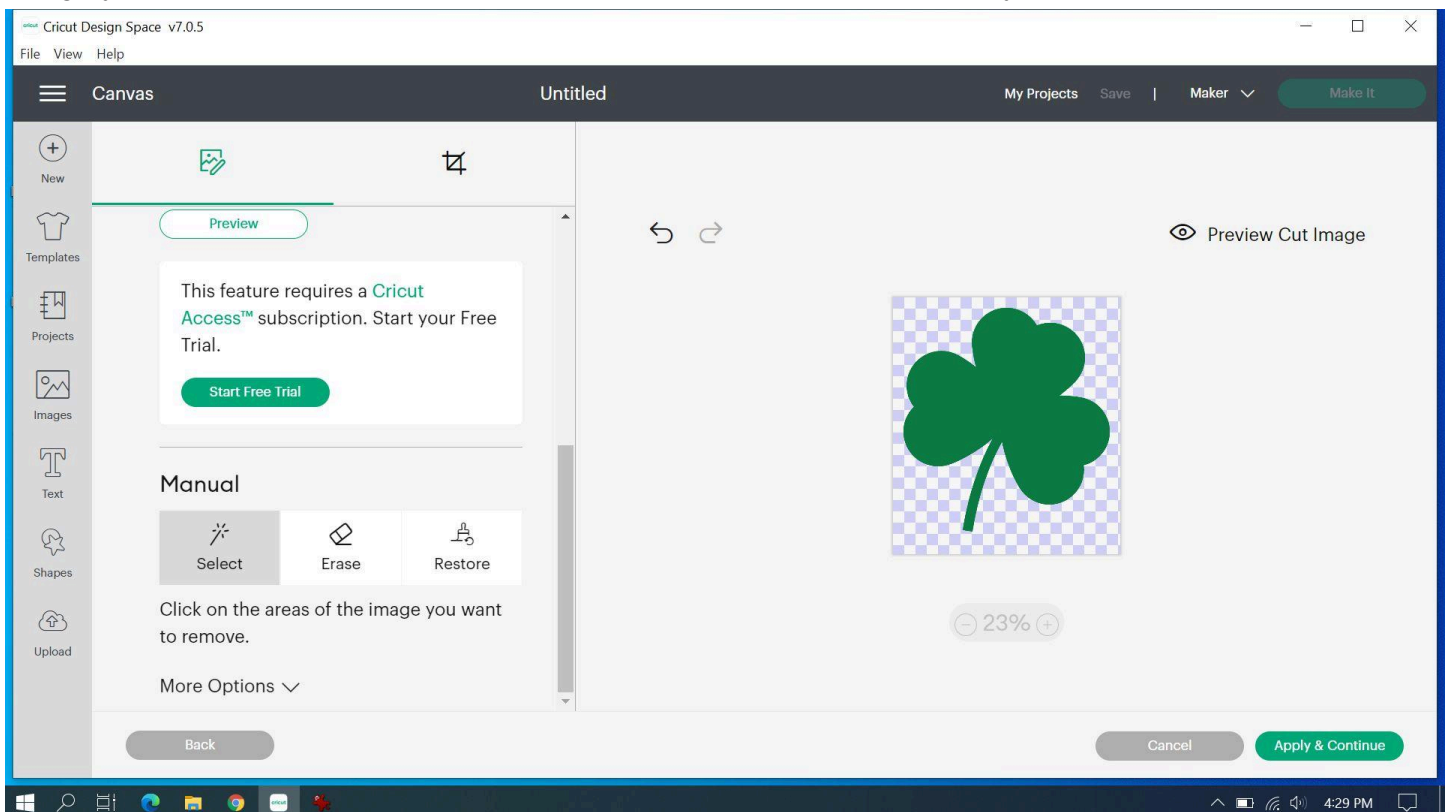
4. Next, you can remove any background on the uploaded image if it is a .jpg or .gif. If you pay for the premium Cricut Access subscription, there is an Automatic background remover tool. We will be using the manual one.



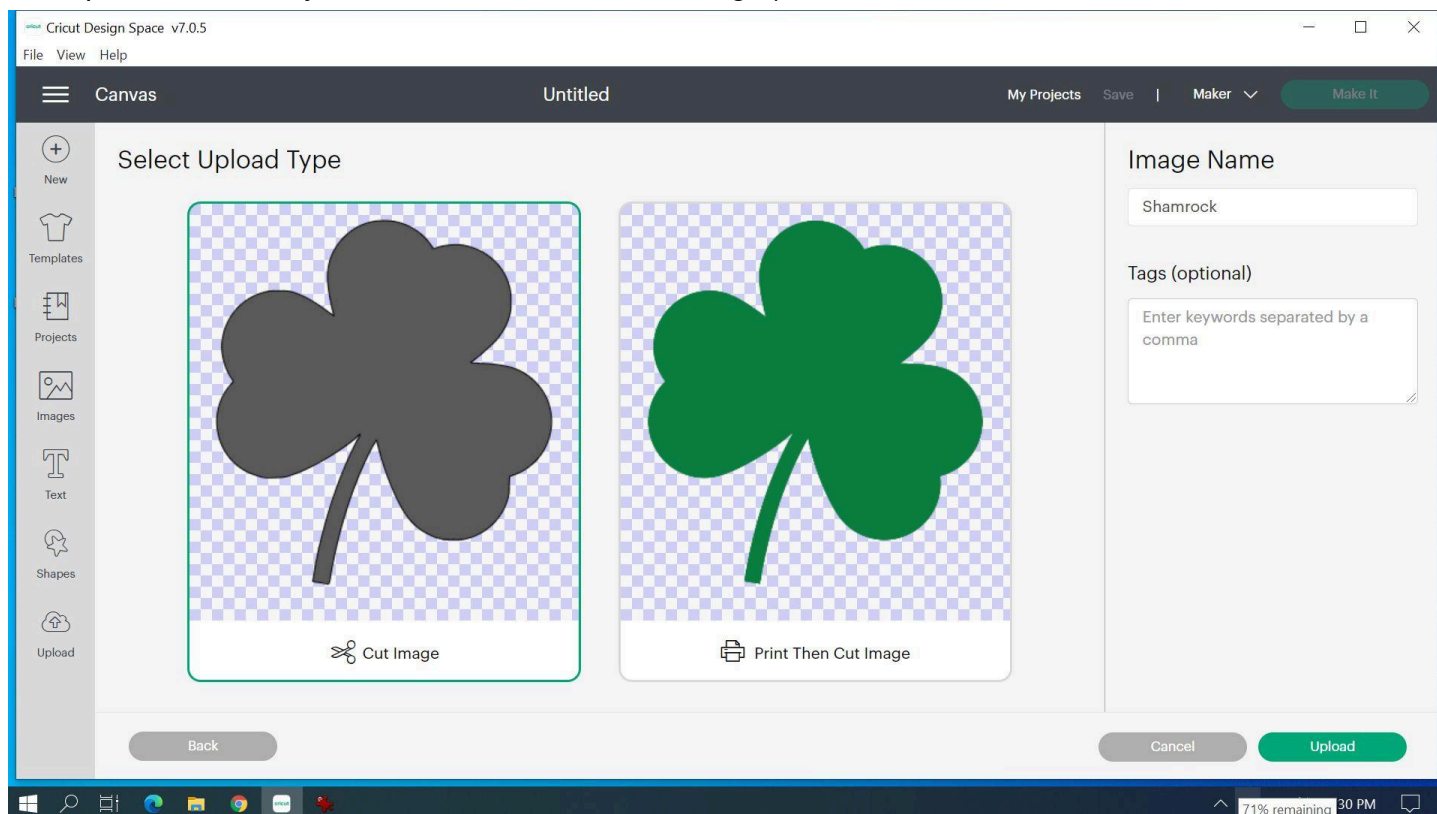
You will need to scroll down slightly with the scroll bar in the center of the screen.
Choose Select and click on the grey area around the shamrock in the uploaded image.



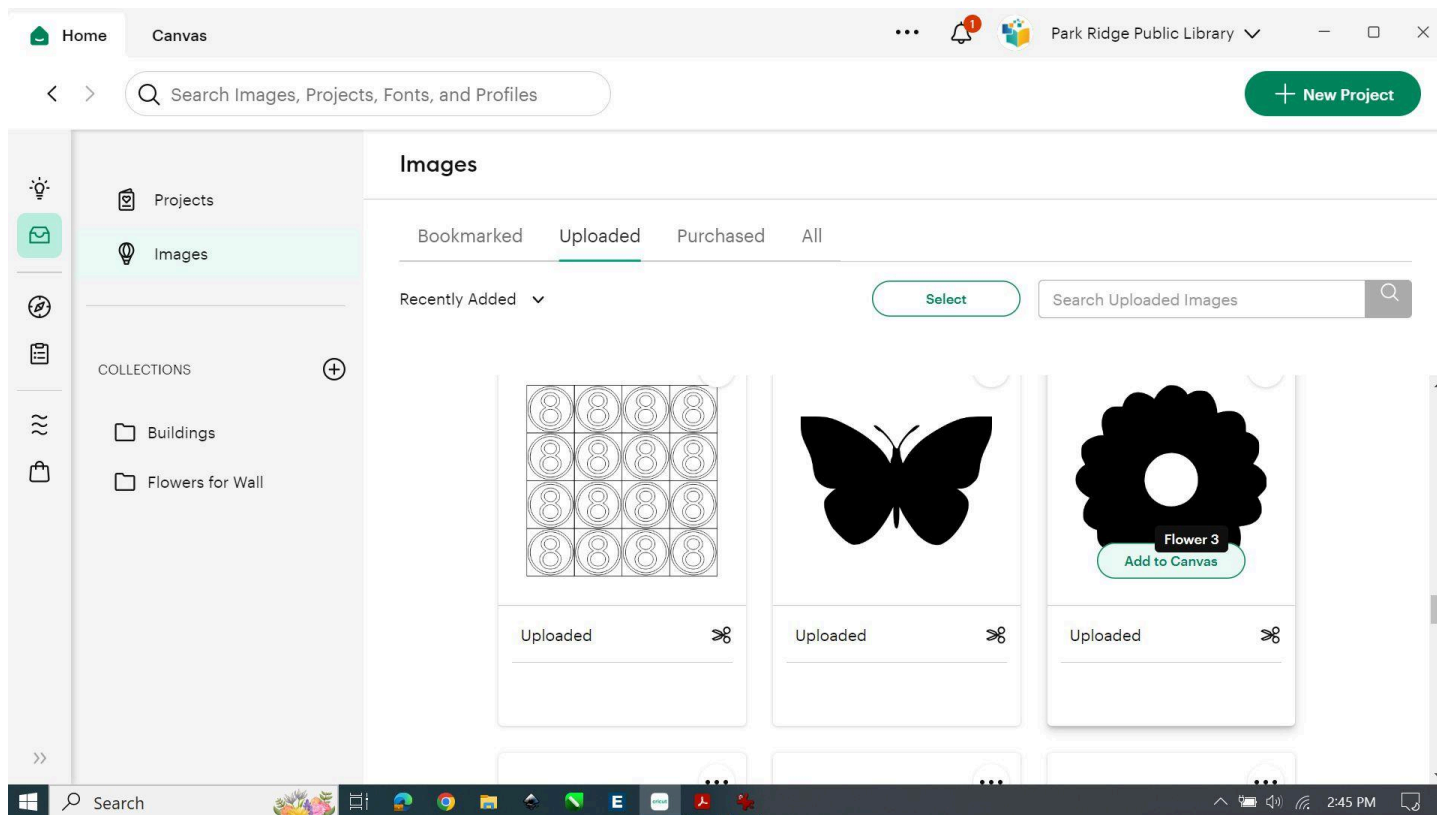
The grey area should turn into a blue and white checkered pattern. Click Apply & Continue.



You can now upload the image as a Cut Image or as a Print-Then-Cut image. We will be using the Cut Image. Select “Cut Image.” Then click Upload. (Print-then-cut is a Cricut feature where you print an image on your home printer, and then your Cricut will cut around the edge.)

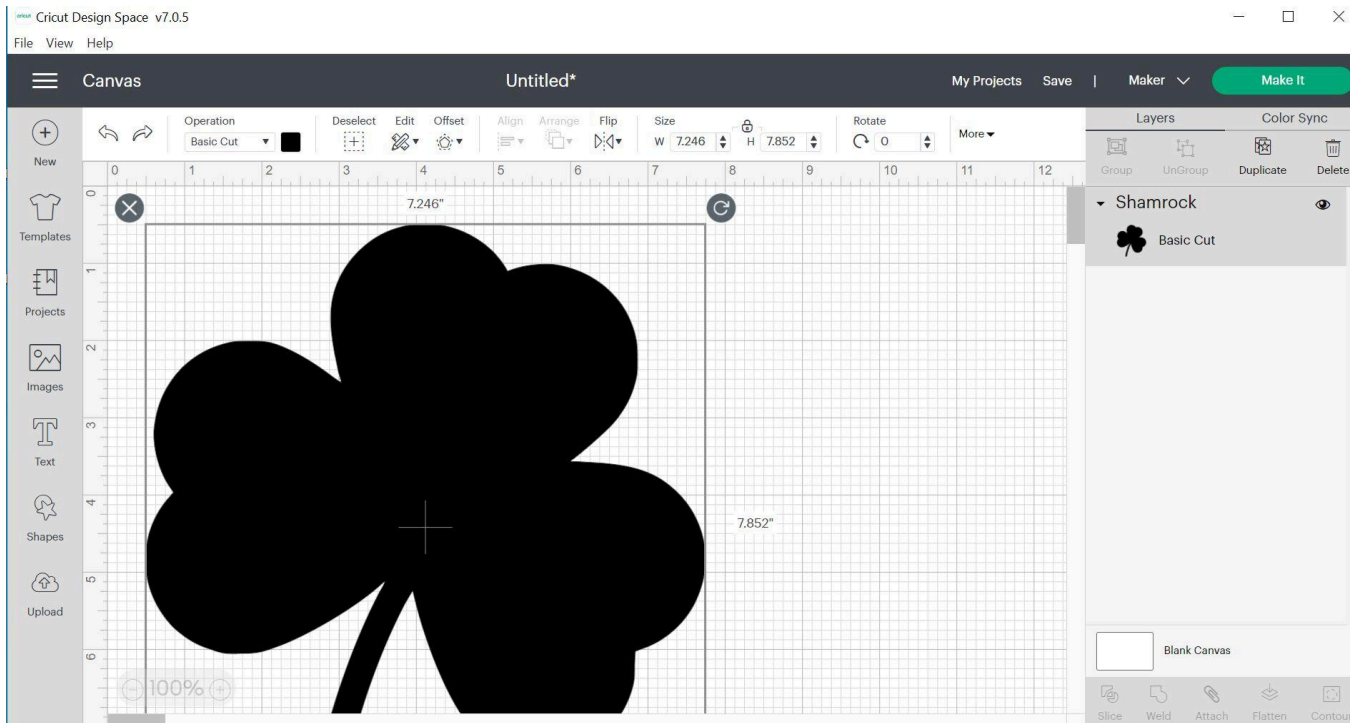


Now the image is listed in the Recently Added Images. You can click on it and choose Add to Canvas, which is shown in light green. Once you add your image, you will then choose View to see it on the canvas..



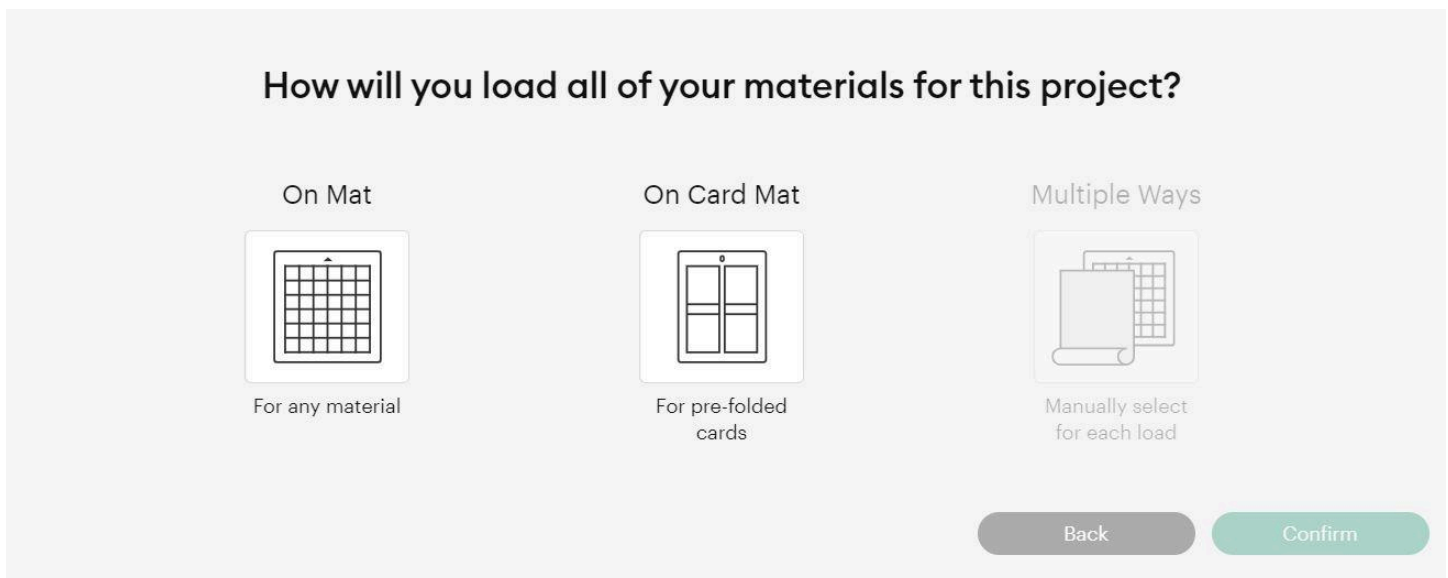
Once the image is added to the canvas, you might need to resize it to fit your material. You can either scroll down a little and use the double-headed arrow in the lower right to drag to the appropriate size or use the specific Width and Height measurements in the upper right on the toolbar.

The little lock between them keeps the ratio the same so it doesn't end up elongated or squished. Click in the box for Width and change it to the size of your material. For example, if you had a piece that was 5" x 5", you might change the width to 4". When you click outside of the Width box, after changing it, the Height should automatically adjust thanks to that little lock.



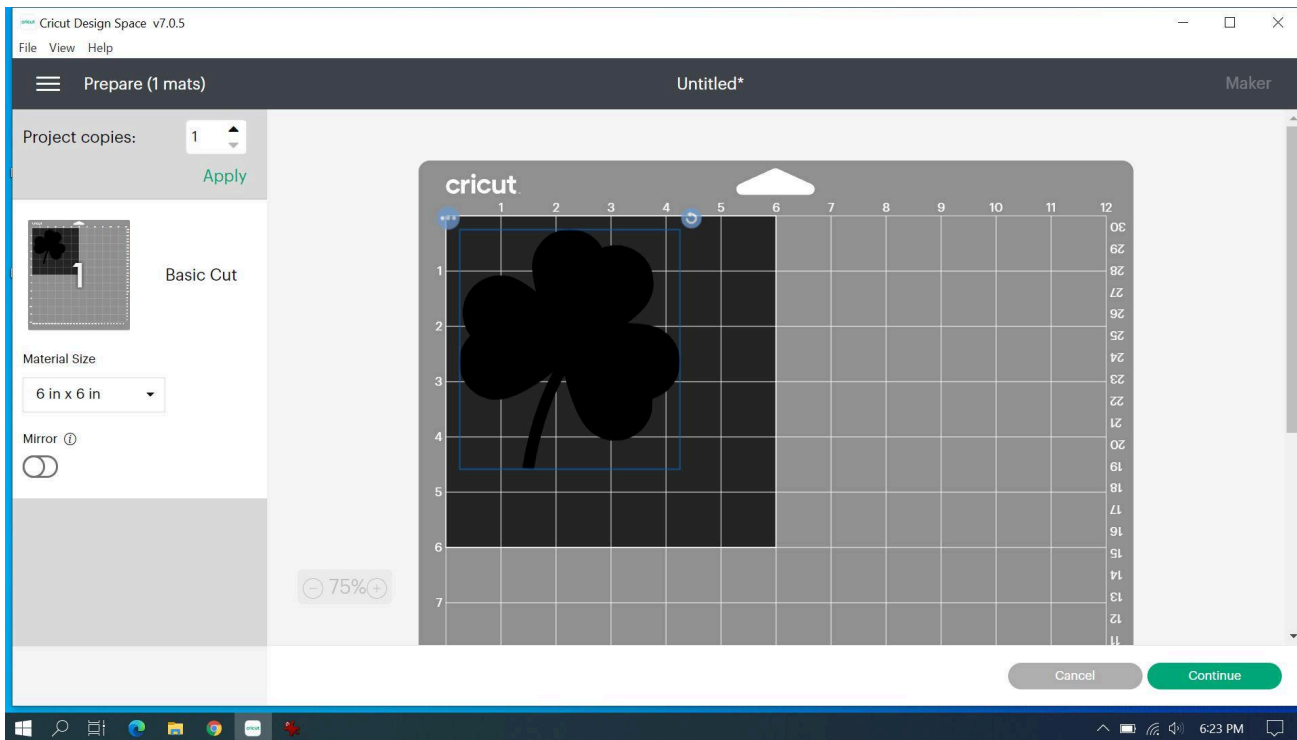
You will see one layer as a basic cut on the right-hand side. The more complex your design, the more steps you might see there. Click the green Make It button on the upper right.

Cricut will ask you how you are loading your materials. We are choosing On Mat. It will also ask if it is a 12" x 12" or 12" x 24" mat. Then click Confirm.

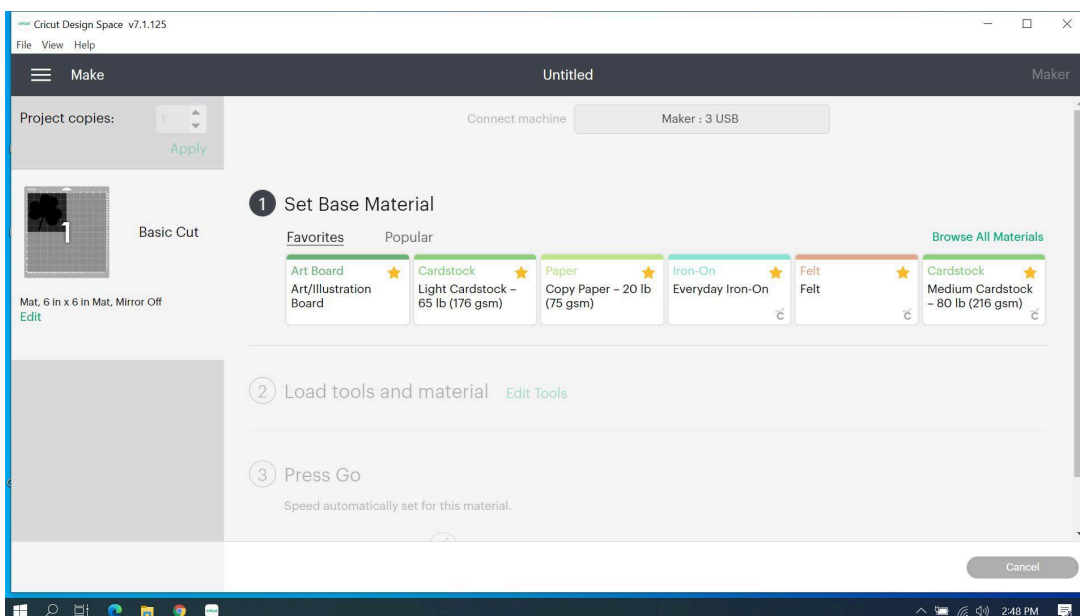


The next screen shows you how to prepare your mats. All of the materials that Cricut cuts need to be placed on a mat. For the most part, you will be using the Green standard grip mat. Other choices include Purple – strong grip, Blue – light grip, and Pink – fabrics.

Choose the closest material size in the drop-down box. In this case, choose 6" x 6". The shading around the image shows the material placed on the mat. If you are using heat transfer vinyl, make sure to toggle "Mirror" on the lower left.

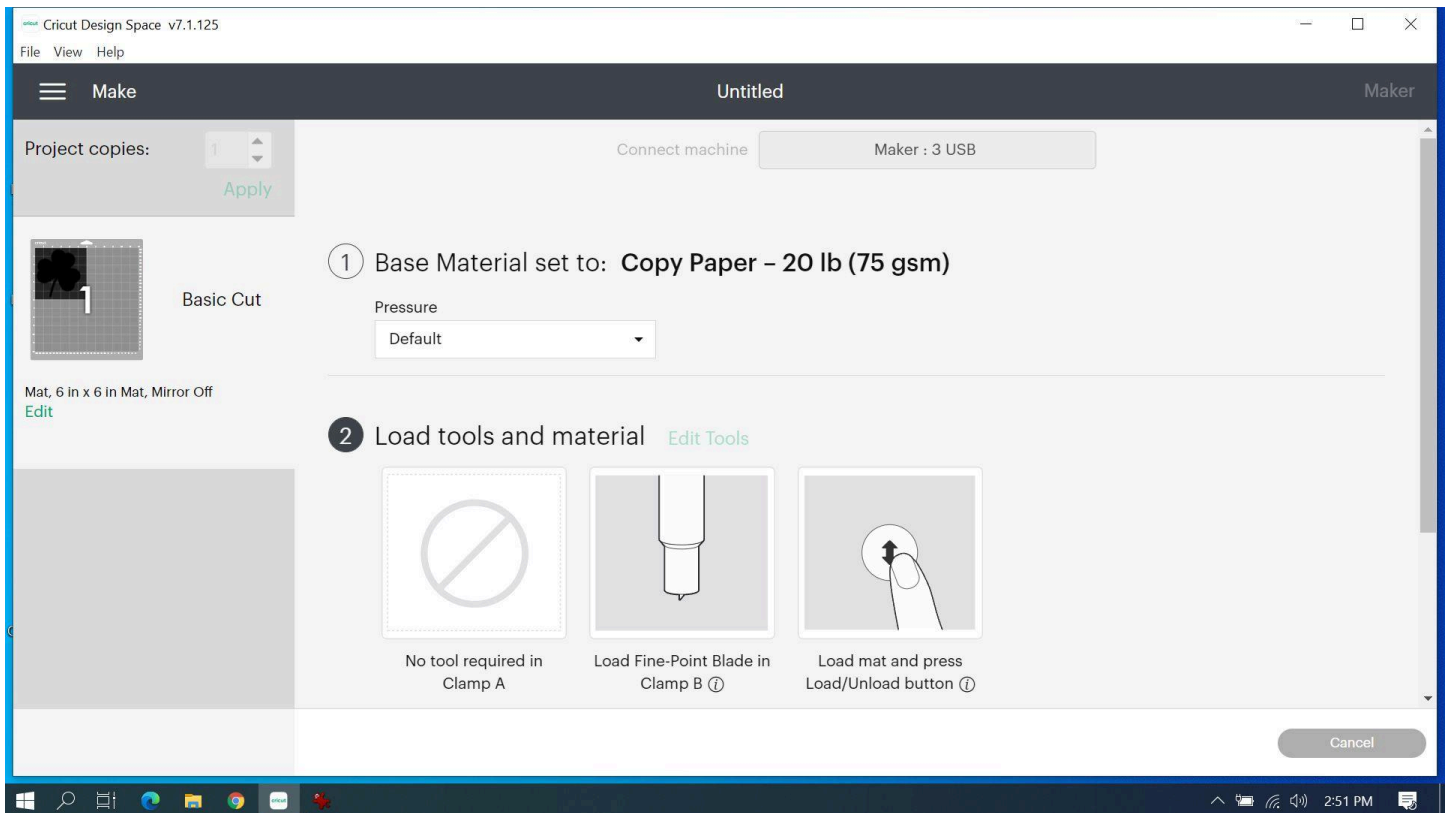


5. Check that the Cricut is connected to the computer via USB and click Continue. On the next screen, choose the material you will be cutting. You can set Favorites that you commonly use. If you are using something not listed here, click on Browse All Materials to choose from a long list of options.

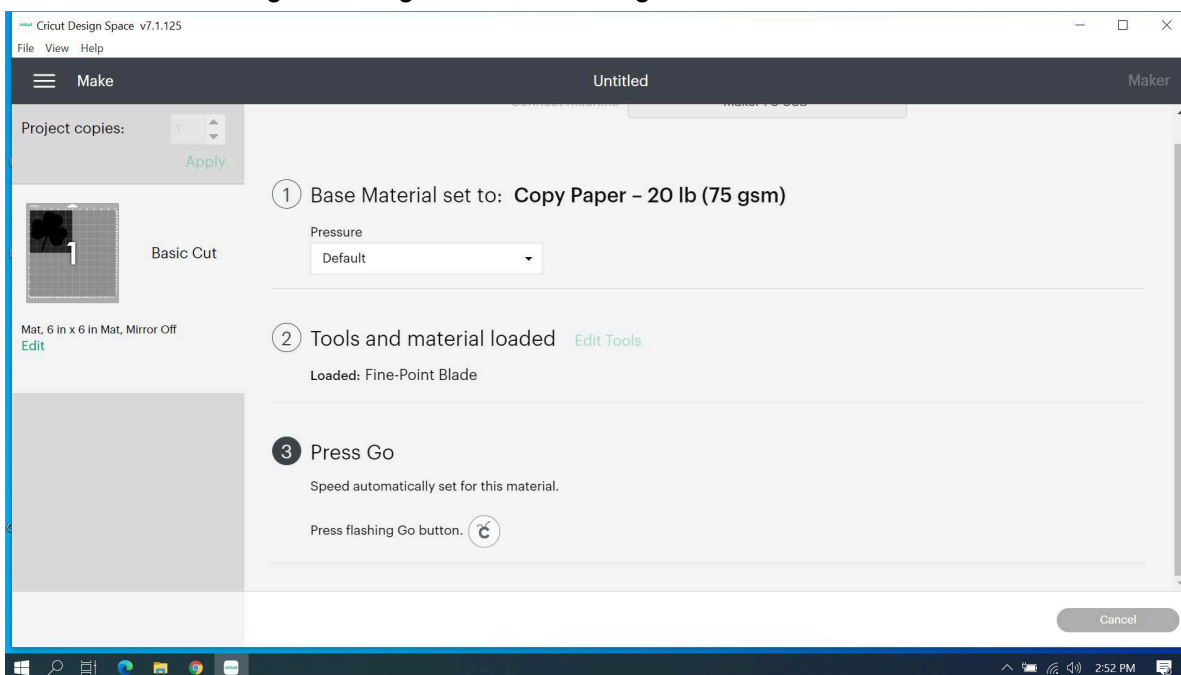


6. Once you have selected the proper material, the next screen will allow you to change the blade or the pressure as needed. Default pressure is fine for the demo. If your material is not cutting as well as you'd like, you can increase the pressure here.

Attach your material to the mat, and load it into the machine by lining up the mat under the two tabs on the sides. Hold the mat against the roller bar and press the load/unload button. It is the blinking up and down arrow on the right side.



7. Press the flashing Cricut logo button on the right.



8. The load/unload button will begin flashing when Cricut is done cutting. Press the button to release the mat. Carefully remove the material from the mat.

