



User Guide: Cricut Maker



What is it?

[The Cricut Maker](#) is an electronic cutting and drawing machine. Designs created on your computer can be cut or drawn into material such as paper, cardstock, vinyl, fabric, and more.

What can I do?

The Cricut can be used to make signs, custom t-shirts, labels, greeting cards, and much more!

- Watch videos on the [Cricut Official YouTube](#) page
- Check out project inspiration on [Cricut's Projects page](#)
- View tutorials and step-by-step instructions on [Creativebug](#) with your Park Ridge Public Library Card

What does The Studio provide?

- Cricut Maker
- Cut mats sized 12"x12"
 - Light Grip
 - Standard Grip (also available in 12" x 24")

- Strong Grip
- Fabric Grip
- Fine Point Blade
- Rotary Blade
- Knife Blade
- Weeding tools

There is no cost to use the machine or listed tools.

What do I need?

- A design prepared in [Cricut Design Space](#)
 - Cricut Design Space is a free program for your Windows, Apple, and Android devices. You can download it at home, or use the laptops in The Studio.
 - Cricut will upload a variety of file types: JPEG, PNG, SVG, DXF, EPS
- All materials to create your project (see below)
- Transfer tape for applicable projects (see Tips and Additional Info below)
- Anywhere from 30 minutes for a small design to several hours for a larger/more detailed design.

What materials can I use?

Material must fit within the size of the work area:

- Width: 11.5 inches maximum
- Length: 23.5 inches maximum

Common materials include:

- Copy paper (white, patterned, printed, etc.)
- Cardstock (adhesive, chalkboard, glitter, etc.)
- Vinyl (printable, adhesive, matte, glossy, stencil, etc.)
- Heat Transfer (Iron-On) Vinyl
- Infusible Ink Transfer Sheets
- Cricut Pens and Markers (Must be Cricut brand to fit in machine)
- Cricut Infusible Ink Pens and Markers (Must be Cricut brand to fit in machine)
- Fabric

Cricut has many materials you can purchase for use. Except for Cricut pens, markers, and Infusible Ink products, you can purchase off-brand materials from most craft retailers. The Library currently **does not sell or provide** materials to use with the Cricut.

Where can I buy materials?

Designs

- You can buy designs and fonts online from the Cricut Design Space library or other online sources like Etsy or Craftsy
- Cricut Design Space also offers free designs and fonts for use
- Cricut will upload designs from a variety of file types: JPEG, PNG, SVG, DXF, EPS
- Cricut will read fonts installed on your device from OTF or TTF files

Materials

- You can find materials at [Cricut](#), [Michaels](#), [Jo-Ann](#), [Amazon](#), [Paper Source](#), [Etsy](#), and more

Park Ridge Public Library does not endorse nor profit from these links. These are suggestions of where you can purchase items to use in the Studio but are by no means an exhaustive list.

Learn

- [Watch videos](#)
- Use project tutorials and classes on [Creativebug](#)
- Visit Cricut's [Learn](#) page
- The [Official Cricut YouTube Channel](#) has videos of tutorials and project inspiration
- Find project tutorials on [Instructables](#)

Tips and Additional Info

Adhesive Vinyl Projects

Adhesive vinyl is great for decorating and customizing everyday items like wood signs, cups, picture frames, laptops, and more! This vinyl comes with a layer of adhesive so it is ready to stick on your item, both in permanent or removable options. Avoid tiny or thin lines in your design. You will need transfer tape to move your design onto the item you are decorating.

Materials you will need to complete your project:

- Vinyl

- Permanent is recommended for outdoor or washable items
- Removable is recommended for laptop or wall décor
- Transfer tape

Still have questions? Contact us at thestudio@parkridgelibrary.org