



## User Guide: Silhouette Cameo 4



### What is it?

The [Silhouette Cameo 4](#) is an electronic cutting and drawing machine. Using a connected computer, it uses a small blade to cut a design you created on the computer out of some material sent into the machine. It cuts paper, cardstock, and vinyl.

### What can I do?

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

- Check out some [project inspiration online](#)
- [Pinterest](#) is a great resource for project ideas and tutorials

### What does The Studio provide?

- Silhouette Cameo 4
- 12"x12" cutting mat
- Silhouette Blade
- Silhouette Pens
- Weeding tools

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

## What do I need?

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

## What materials can I use?

The 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

Silhouette offers a variety of materials for purchase. Except for Silhouette pens and markers, you can purchase off-brand materials from most craft retailers. The Library currently does not sell or provide materials to use with the Silhouette.

## Where can I buy materials?

### Designs

- You can buy designs and fonts online from the [Silhouette Design Store](#) or other online sources like Etsy

### Materials

- You can find materials at [Michaels](#), [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.

## 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

### Learn

- [Watch Videos](#)
- [Silhouette 101](#) has project tutorials, online classes, and inspiration.
- The [Silhouette Inc. YouTube Channel](#) has videos and tutorials.
- Find project tutorials on [Instructables](#)
- **Still have questions? Contact us at [thestudio@parkridgelibrary.org](mailto:thestudio@parkridgelibrary.org)**