

## Cricut Design Space

Cricut Design Space (DS) is a free software program necessary for using any Cricut device. Cricut Design Space runs on most devices as long as they are at least on Windows 10, macOS 12, Android 10, or iOS 16. Design Space does not support Chromebooks or Linux. There is no charge to use the app but you will need to make a Cricut profile, which will store your projects and device settings. The app has weekly update cycles for new features and content.

### What is Cricut Access?

Cricut Access is a subscription service that gives Cricut users access to a collection of 750,000+ images, 700+ fonts, and 100,000+ projects in the Design Space library. Access members also receive discounts on Cricut.com purchases. There are 2 subscription options: Standard plan (\$9.99/monthly or \$95.88/yearly) and Premium plan (\$119.88/yearly).

### Can I upload images without Cricut Access? Yes

**Basic Image files** including .JPG, .BMP, .PNG, and .GIF file types. These files are uploaded as a single layer, and you can edit the image during the initial upload process.

**Vector Image files** include .SVG and .DXF files. These cut-ready images upload as designed in external software. Files designed with layers will automatically be separated into layers after uploading and saving.

## Getting Started

After signing in on your desktop or app, Design Space will display some pop-ups for limited-time offers and load on the Discover tab. There are currently 5 menu tabs on the left side of the screen: **Discover**, **My Stuff**, **Cricut Access**, **Heat Guide**, and **Shop**.

### Discover

This tab will show you suggested images, fonts, resources, and projects you can purchase. Cricut will automatically detect any fonts already installed on your device, so buying new fonts is not required.

### My Stuff

This tab is where you will access your projects, collections, and images for your account.

### Cricut Access

This tab will take you to the Cricut Access page. You can update your subscription here and see any new content Cricut has added.

### Heat Guide

This tab will take you to the Cricut.com page where you can select your Cricut Heat machine, vinyl type, and material choice in order to see recommended heating temperatures and press times.

### Shop

This tab will take you to the Cricut.com store page where you can purchase Cricut-brand materials.

## New Project

Click the **+ New Project** button in the upper-right corner. You will have numerous project templates to select, with popular options displayed to the side. Project types include: **Vinyl Decal, Iron-On T-Shirt, Cards, Cardstock Cutouts, Stickers, DTF Transfer.**

There will also be a **Blank Canvas** option if you would prefer to start from scratch on a new project. Select your project type to see options for your design in more detail. After this, just click the **Start Designing** button to begin working on your project.

There are three main panels that you will use when working within Design Space. The Design panel (1), the Edit panel (2), and the Layers panel (3).

## What do you want to make?

Select a project type or start from scratch

### Project Types

All Project Types

Vinyl Decal

Iron-On T-Shirt

Card

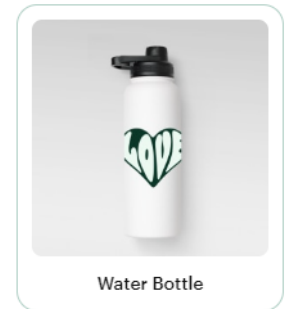
Cardstock Cutout

Stickers & Labels

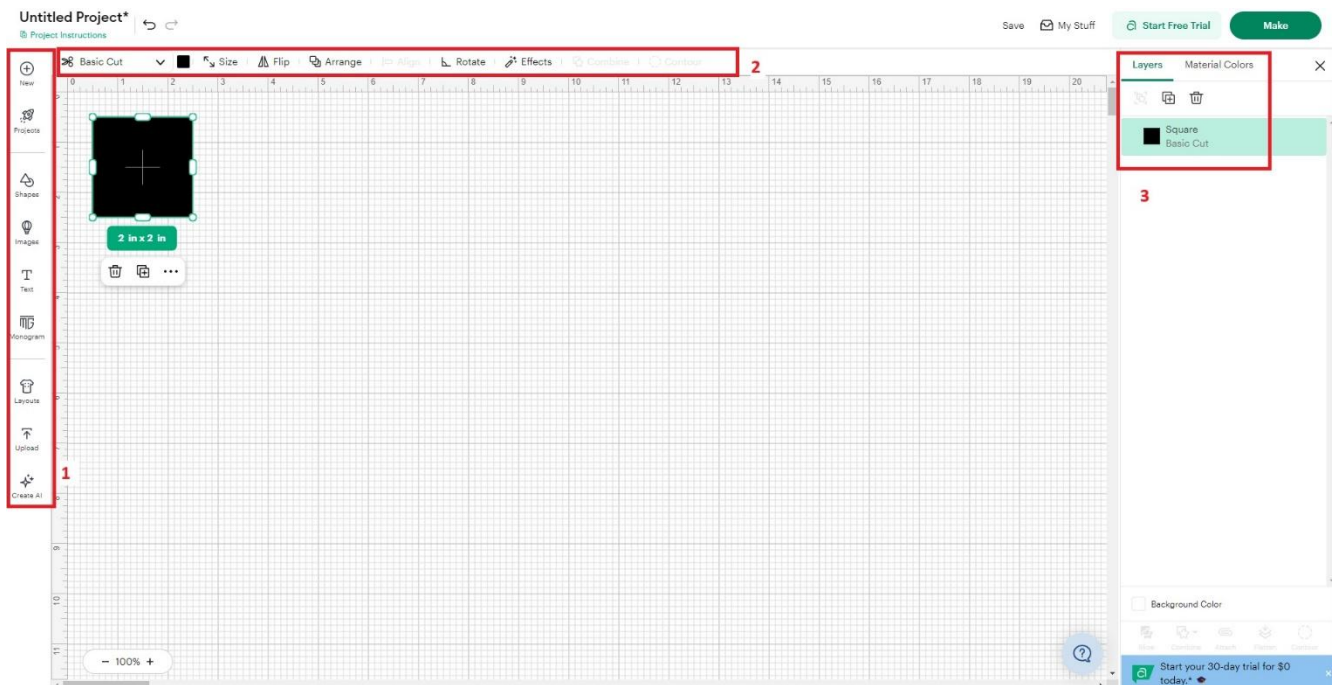
DTF Transfer

### Design From Scratch

Blank Canvas



Water Bottle



## Design Panel

The left side of the screen will have seven buttons: **New, Templates, Projects, Shapes, Images, Text, Monogram, and Upload.**

**New** – Loads the New Project screen.

**Templates** – This button will show template options that are relevant to your project.

**Shapes** – This button allows you to select shapes to add to the canvas.

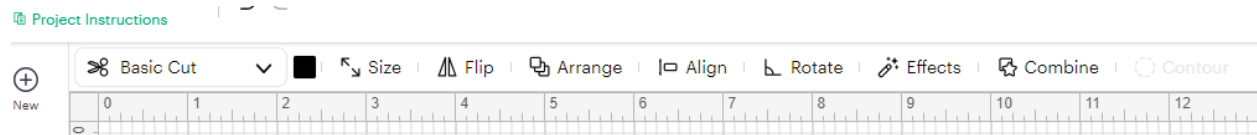
**Images** – This button allows you to access all free and paid images in Cricut Design Space.

**Text** – This button allows you to add text to the canvas.

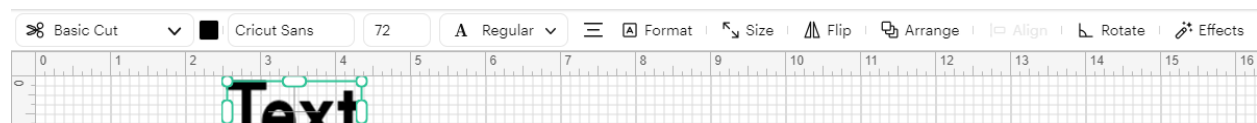
**Upload** – This button lets you upload and partially edit image files and add them to the canvas.

**Create AI** – Cricut Access-exclusive, generate AI images for projects.

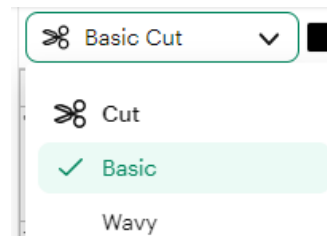
## Edit Panel



The editing panel on top of the canvas will allow you to adjust the color, size, and angle of each object.



When clicking on editable text, additional font options will appear on the toolbar.



**Operation** – This button will typically say **Basic Cut** by default on the Edit panel. This section changes how Cricut will cut different materials.

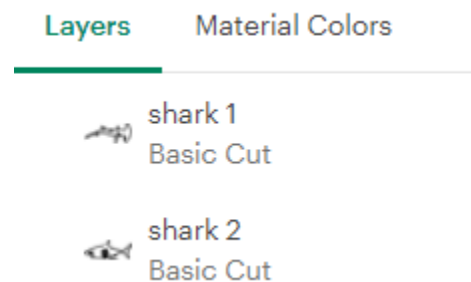
- **Cut** – Basic, Wavy, Perforate
- **Draw** – Pen, Foil, Score, Deboss, Engrave
- **Print Then Cut** – Used for stickers, card making, scrapbooking
- **Guide** – Outline mode

**Print Then Cut** allows you to create a design in Cricut Design Space, print it on your home printer, then load the print into your Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machine for cutting. The machine scans the printed cut sensor markings, then cuts your design with precision – no scissors required! This allows you to create stickers, button inserts, toppers, and even photos with ease!

## Layers Panel

The **Layers** panel will allow you to rename and rearrange the order of your layers. You can also group them to keep sets of shapes together within the panel, which will also make it easier if you need to hide the layers while working. Grouping only applies to canvas work. In order to keep the shapes in place during the Cutting phase, you will need to weld or attach the layers, which we will discuss in the next section.

The **Material Colors** tab will let you drag and drop layers in order to consolidate colors between sections more easily. Alternatively, you can change the color of a single layer or group by clicking on the color box in the toolbar next to the Operation button. In order to select multiple layers, left-click the first object on the canvas, hold down the shift key on the keyboard,



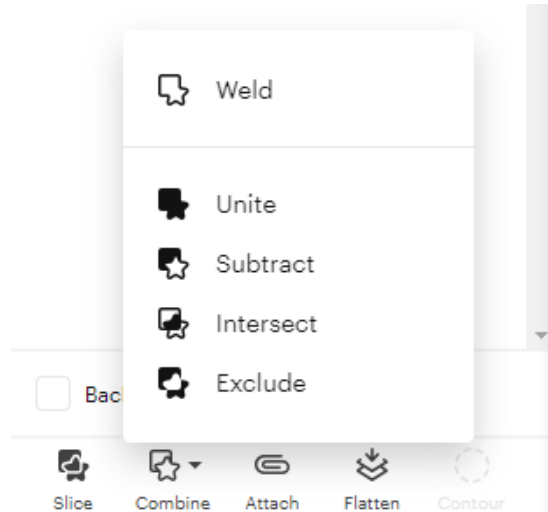
and left click with your mouse on the other object. Both items will show a box around them on the canvas and their layers on the right-side panel will have green highlights.

## Combining Layers

When multiple layers are the same color or shape, or will be staying in the same positions on a layout when cut, you can combine them in multiple ways using the **Combine** buttons at the bottom of the edit panel.

To use the **Slice** option, highlight two layers that overlap. Selecting slice will generate a new layer based on the overlap.

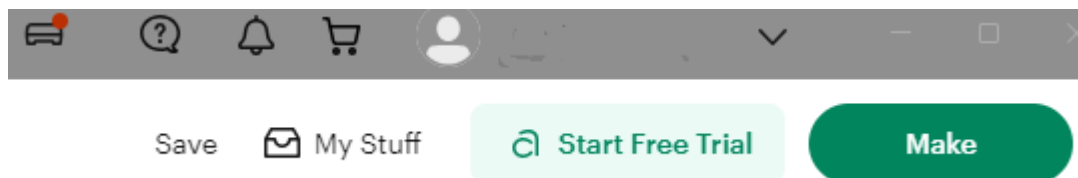
The **Combine** button has multiple options that will cause different interactions depending on if the layers overlap. The **Weld** option simply merges all highlighted layers together as they are which can be the easiest option if you are making a design that is a single color. These options will highlight in the Layers panel when you select two or more layers on the canvas. The Unite, Subtract, Intersect, and Exclude options are explained further on the cheat sheet at the end of this packet.



The **Attach** button is similar to the Grouping option with layers, but makes sure they stay in place during the cutting process. The **Flatten** button merges layers into a single Print Then Cut layer. The **Contour** button is used on images with multiple cut lines to hide sections. An example would be a donut which has 2 cut lines, whereas a circle only has 1 cut line. Sections hidden with the **Contour** button can be un-hidden at any time.

## Saving and Printing

If you are done with a project, you can click the **Save** button in the upper-right corner and name it. The **My Stuff** button will take you back to your main projects page. The **Maker** button will allow you to select which machine you have your device connected to. Most machines have USB and Bluetooth options to allow you to connect from any device that has the Cricut Design Space app installed. The **Make** button is what you will click when you are ready to cut your materials. Cricut will also prompt you to save your project when you click this button. At this point, you will load your material onto the appropriate mat and into your Cricut machine.



## Making

There are different mat types depending on the materials you are using. Use the Green StandardGrip Mat for heavy cardstock, iron-on, and vinyl. Use the blue LightGrip Mat for standard paper, light cardstock, and vellum. Use the Purple StrongGrip Mat for specialty cardstock, matboard, and backed fabric.

You will load the appropriate materials into your machine at this point and then have a few final adjustment options on the Make page. On the left-hand side, you will see multiple layers dependent on the color options you selected earlier. If your pieces are welded together, they will display on the center preview screen in the same placement as the canvas. If not, they will display side by side in the most efficient order to cut everything. The second Make page will let you select the material you are using, ensure that the proper blades are loaded, and allow you to press Go on your device to begin making/cutting. **Fast Mode** allows the device to cut at 2x the normal speed, but this can cause cutting errors so it is best to only use this for simpler shape cuts instead of complex cuts or materials.



**Apply**

**1** Basic Cut

Material Load Type  
On Mat

Material Size  
12 in x 12 in

Mirror

**2** Basic Cut

**1** Base Material set to: Vinyl  
Pressure: Default  
 Remember material settings

**2** Tools and material loaded  
Loaded: Fine-Point Blade

**3** Press Go  
Fast Mode   
Press flashing Go button.

Once your design is cut, you will click the **Done** button in the bottom right corner, and can resume working on more cuts or save and close your project. From here, weeding and any additional work will be handled outside of Cricut Design Space.

Bloomington Public Library  
Makerspace: Intro to Cricut Design Space

## Bloomington Public Library Makerspace

Bloomington Public Library (BPL) cardholders (ages 12-adult) are welcome to use the Makerspace. If you're a Bloomington resident who would like to use the Makerspace, you can apply for a library card at the Circulation Desk. Minors 17 years and younger need a parent/guardian present to apply.

**Waiver Requirement:** BPL cardholders and guests must fill out a waiver before using the Makerspace. For minors 17 years and younger, a parent or legal guardian must fill out the waiver. Waivers will be kept on file.

**Guests:** BPL cardholders may bring a max of 2 guests. Guests do not need a BPL library card.

**Age Limits:** The Makerspace is open to Bloomington Public Library cardholders age's 12-adult. Children 11 years and younger are allowed to use the Makerspace when supervised at all times by a BPL cardholder.

**Availability:** The Makerspace is available to Bloomington Public Library cardholders during Open Use Time hours. Hours are subject to change.

The Makerspace is not available for group reservations, group projects, or meeting room bookings.

**Room Capacity:** During Open Use Time, **15 patrons max** are allowed in the room at a time.

Due to limited room capacity, patrons may be asked to leave the Makerspace if they are not using equipment or working on a project.

**Book-A-Maker** appointments are one-on-one sessions to learn how to use a specific piece of Makerspace equipment. After your appointment, you'll have the knowledge and experience necessary to independently work on our equipment during Makerspace Open Use Hours.

### **Equipment Provided:**

Cricut Maker  
Cricut Maker 3  
Cricut EasyPress 2  
Cricut Mug Press

For personal projects, patrons can bring in their own supplies/materials or purchase the following supplies from us:

Cardstock paper  
Paper  
Heat transfer vinyl/HTV (assorted colors)  
Indoor/removable vinyl (assorted colors)

### **IMPORTANT: The library only accepts cash for supplies**

Patrons can purchase their own supplies at general merchandise stores (Walmart, Meijer, Target), craft stores (Michaels, Hobby Lobby, etc.), or online

## Tips & Tricks

### General

<https://mybpl.org/bookmaker>

<https://www.youtube.com/@Cricut>

<https://makersgonnalearn.com/>

<https://jennifermaker.com/>

<https://heyletmakestuff.com/>

### Free files

<https://freesvg.org/>

<https://hellosvg.com/>

<https://lovesvg.com/>

<https://www.vecteezy.com/>

### Free software

<https://www.canva.com/features/svg-editor/>

<https://inkscape.org/>