

HOW TO: Cricut Basic Steps

Basic Materials + Steps when using the Cricut:

MATERIALS:

Everything can be found in the drawers underneath the Cricut Machine, located in the Riverside Makerspace

- **Found in the first drawer:**
 - o Various cutting mats (Pink = Fabric Grip, Purple = Strong Grip, Green = Standard Grip)
 - o Tools needed for application and weeding (picks, spatulas, scissors, lifters, bean bag)
 - o Paper cutter (used for condensing the piece of vinyl being used)
- **Found in the second drawer:**
 - o Where you will find the temporary/removable vinyl
 - o Removable vinyl is identified by the number on the back **(631)**
- **Found in the third drawer:**
 - o This is where the heat transfer vinyl would be found, it is used with the Cricut Heat Press or an Iron.
- **Found in the fourth drawer:**
 - o This is where transfer paper can be found. Essentially transfer paper is used to take the cut that you just made on the vinyl and adhere it to whatever it may be; (EX: Water bottle, phone case etc.)
- **Found in the fifth drawer:**
 - o This is where permanent vinyl would be found, it is best for things like exterior projects, water bottles.
 - o Permanent vinyl is identified by the number on the back **(651)** or the letter **P**
- **Found in the sixth drawer:**
 - o This is where the parchment paper that is used with the Heat Press can be found, along with some other miscellaneous Cricut projects from over time.

STEPS:

1. Download the Cricut Design Space from the internet → <https://design.cricut.com/#/>
(follow the prompts and instructions on the screen once you have clicked download).
2. Using the Riverside Account – access the Design Space
Username: RsideMakerSpace@sd43.bc.ca
Password: R@pidsMakers
3. In the top right corner, there is a button that says “New Project” click that button and it will bring you into the canvas area of Cricut. Once there, you can begin creating. You can start with something easy like your name, by double clicking on the canvas or selecting where it says “Text” on the left; or by inserting a simple graphic from Cricut using the “Images” icon on the left-hand side of the canvas. When selecting a font or an image to use **ensure that it has the small green “a” next to it to make sure that it is included in the Riverside account.** If you were to choose something without the green “a” you would need to bring in the necessary money to pay for the font or the design that you chose.
4. Once you have chosen your design, take note of the size it is on the grid in the canvas space. This will match up with the lines on the cutting mats. Making sure these are the same size is the easiest way to ensure that you have enough vinyl.
5. When it’s time to cut your design, you’ll want to follow these steps:

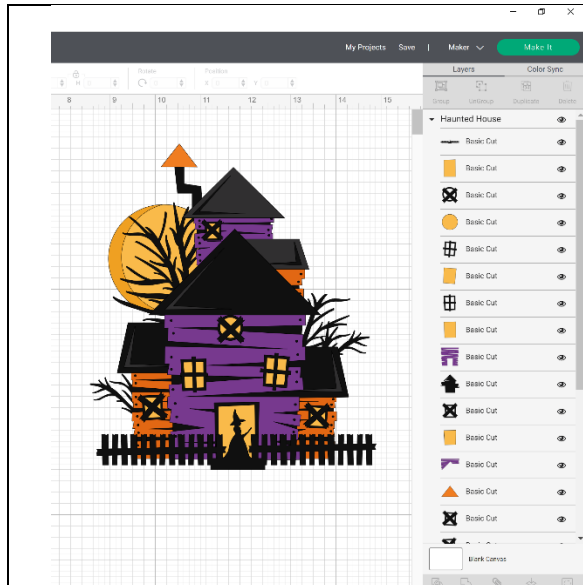
- Take your mat out of the drawer (green is the standard), and peel off the clear sheet. Place it to the side.
 - Place the sheet to the side, pull your desired piece of vinyl from the drawer labelled either VINYL or the second to last drawer (the FIRST) blank one.
Make sure you have enough vinyl to fully cut your design!
 - Once you have chosen your vinyl, place the lined side of the vinyl onto the sticky side of the mat. The colour should be facing up. (This is where the grid on the Design Space and your mat coincide. Make sure that the number of squares covered in vinyl is the same as the amount of squares that your design takes up on the graph on the Design Space.)
6. Now, open the lid to the Cricut Machine. Plug the USB into the port on your computer and turn on the Cricut Machine using the power button.
 7. Feed the cutting mat with your vinyl into the machine using the flashing dual ended arrow button.
 8. You are now ready to move onto the printing stage of your project.
 - **DO NOT mirror your design**
 9. Select the material you are using (VINYL) and check one more time that the design on your computer and the amount of vinyl that is on your mat is enough and your design will cut properly.
 10. Once all that information is correct, the Cricut button will be flashing.
Click this button and watch your design print!
 11. Once it has finished cutting, eject the mat using the dual ended arrow button (it should be flashing again).
 12. Peel off your design and IMMEDIATELY replace the clear sheet onto the mat (this makes sure it stays sticky for the next time it gets used and ensures that nothing gets stuck to it).
 13. Now, you're going to begin weeding your project.
 - **Start by finding a corner on your project (I tend to start on the top left)**
 - **Begin pulling the excess vinyl from around your design**
 - **Once the excess vinyl is removed. You can begin to pull out all the little things inside your design. (EX: the cut-outs in a's)**
 - **Once your entire design is weeded move onto the next step!**
 14. You are now going to complete the transfer. Take a similar sized piece of transfer tape to your design and peel the clear sticky side (it should say "Cricut Transfer Tape" on it), place it over the design and use the scraper to push any air bubbles out. Your design will now be on the transfer tape and the blank vinyl backing will be left.
 15. Transfer your design by using the transfer tape and the Cricut tools (scraper and bean bag) to put it on your surface.
 16. Slowly pull the transfer tape back – your design should have transferred to your surface.

HOW TO: Cricutting for Pumpkins

An important disclaimer

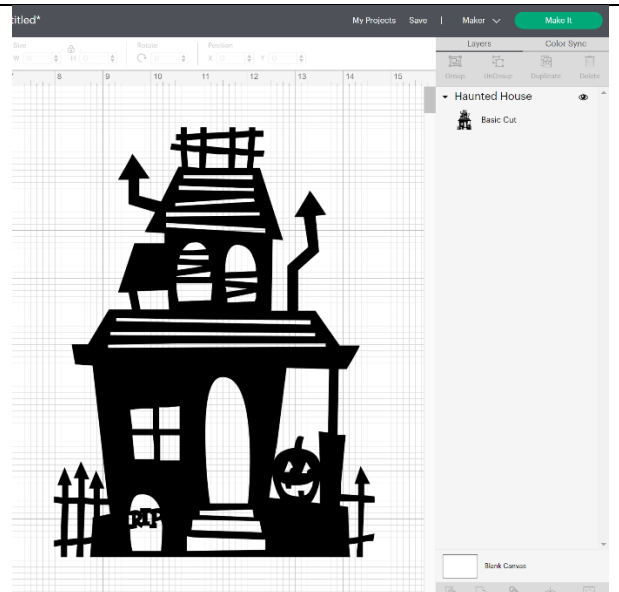
Because the surface of a pumpkin isn't flat like some other things, we often transfer onto it requires a little more attention when transferring and planning your design. Being able to split up your design into a few pieces or using several smaller designs would probably be your best bet.

For instance, when starting out:



Using a design like the one above, not only is it very detailed to cut and transfer but the size of the design could affect how it transfers to the surface of the pumpkin because of its shape.

When designs that use several different colours are used it increases the amount of time it takes and the complexity of the project.



Using something more like the house above, would be easier. This is because it only contains one colour.

When a design only uses one colour it means that is the only one to be transferred and makes completing the weeding and transferring a much easier task to complete.

1. Follow the steps from the Cricut Basic Steps to see your design come to life.
2. When it comes to choosing vinyl, this project has 2 good options
 - Removable vinyl (631) – this is best if you do not plan on putting your pumpkin outside.
 - If choosing to put your pumpkin outside, permanent vinyl (651 | P) would be best. Permanent would be better because it will better withstand to the elements like rain or colder temperatures.
3. I chose permanent vinyl for my pumpkin and here are somethings I found:
 - Make sure to measure accurately when choosing your design and piece of vinyl.
 - When transferring your design onto your pumpkin I recommend lining it up then moving from one side to the other, using the scraper to smooth it out along the surface.
 - I personally used the scraper over the transfer tape to push the vinyl down into the grooves of the pumpkin.

- I found that using a smaller design (like the bats) compared to the haunted house, was easier to transfer successfully with the clearest results.