



# SCREEN PRINTING USING CRICUT MAKER AND PERMANENT VINYL

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to create a t-shirt using the cricut maker, permanent vinyl and a one color screen printing technique. You can use this technique on several different materials and products. I hope you all enjoy. This guide compliments the step-by-step video tutorial you can find on my website and YouTube® channel. Happy Crafting!

## MATERIALS

1. Desired design
2. Cutting machine and cutting mat
3. Tools
  - Weeding tool
  - Scraper tool
  - Scissors
4. Permanent vinyl
5. Medium Transfer Tape
6. Masking/Painters tape
7. Screen printing Frame and Squeegee
8. Fabric screen printing ink
9. Spoon or small spatula
10. Cardstock sheet (just one)
11. Blank T-shirt (or anything else you want to screen print on)
12. Iron or Heat Press
13. Parchment or Butcher Paper

Helpful but not required

- Paper plate or basket to put squeegee on





## STEP 1

### Upload your Design

- Open design space (if using Cricut)
- Click on create new project
- Upload your desired design (you can also create your own if you would like)
- To upload:
  - Click on upload on left of screen
  - Click the upload image button
  - Click on browse
  - Search for image where you have it stored on your computer
  - Click on the image you want to upload to highlight it
  - Click on open
- Confirm that the image on the screen is correct
- Click on save on the bottom right of screen
- Your uploaded image should appear under the recently uploaded images section
- Click on the uploaded image so that you see an active green square around it
  - You also know it is active because it appears in a small circle on the bottom right of the screen
- Click on insert image on the bottom right

## STEP 2

### Customize and size your image

- Customize image to your liking
- Re-size the image to match the material you will be using
  - For a medium t-shirt, I adjusted the width to 10 inches
- Ensure that if your design has multiple parts that they are ATTACHED (not just grouped)
- To attach:
  - Click and drag to highlight all of the parts
  - Click on attach on the bottom right of your screen
  - This keeps the image exactly as shown for cutting purposes
- **\*\*Save your work\*\***
- Click on the green make it button on the top right of your screen

### Helpful Hint

If you have multiple machines, make sure that you have the one you are going to use for cutting set as the active one by using the dropdown menu on the top right of your screen.



## STEP 3

### Prepare it for Cutting

- Click directly over your design and drag it slightly downward and towards the center of the mat on the screen
  - This will allow for space around the design once it cuts
  - This will be helpful for placement on the screen and taping later
- Mirror your image:
  - Click on the little mirror toggle on the left side of the screen
  - Once on it will turn green in color
  - You will notice the image is flipped on the screen
- Click the green continue button on the bottom right
- Select base material by clicking on premium vinyl
  - If it is not on the main screen as an option you can use the search area
- Make sure the proper tool is loaded in the machine (fine point blade)

## STEP 4

### Place your Vinyl on your Mat

- Cut a piece of permanent vinyl that is bigger than the dimensions of your design
- Place your vinyl sheet on your cutting mat SHINY SIDE UP
  - You want the design to cut directly onto to the vinyl (not on the back side)
- Secure the vinyl so that it is flush as possible
  - You can use your hand or a brayer tool if you have one

## STEP 5

### Load and cut your design

- Insert the mat into the designated area of the machine until you feel slight resistance
- Press on the double arrow button that is blinking on the right of the machine
- Once the "C" cricut button sign on the right of the machine starts blinking, press on it and the cutting should begin
- Once complete, the double arrow button should start blinking, press on it to unload the mat



## STEP 6

### Reverse weed the vinyl

- Reverse weeding is taking the design out instead of the vinyl around it
  - I recommend leaving the vinyl on the mat while weeding to keep it flat and make it easier
- Take your weeding tool (or household tweezers) and begin to remove the actual design
  - Remember you are creating a stencil, so you are removing everything where you want the ink to show up
- Remove the vinyl from the mat
  - I recommend flipping the mat upside down and carefully pulling the mat up and away while holding the vinyl down on your hard surface

#### Helpful Hint

Pull up a copy of the reversed image on your screen so you can visualize exactly what you need to be weeding.

## STEP 7

### Transfer vinyl to the transfer tape

- Cut the vinyl paper down around your design making sure to leave a bit of space for taping later (but not too much)
- Cut out a piece of transfer tape slightly larger than your vinyl design
- Transfer your vinyl to your transfer tape
  - Do this slowly and carefully
  - Place your vinyl face up on a hard surface
  - Make sure your vinyl is facing the tape (you want to stick it directly onto the transfer tape)
  - Peel back the edge of the transfer tape and tape on the hard surface just above the vinyl design
  - Slowly start attaching it to the vinyl sheet by pulling the backing of the tape off and pressing the transfer tape to the vinyl on the hard surface
  - Use your hand or scraper tool to begin attaching the vinyl to the transfer tape
- Once attached to the transfer tape, begin burnishing (scraping) along all of the edges of your design to remove any air bubbles and ensure the vinyl attaches to the transfer tape
  - I recommend burnishing (scraping) on both sides for best results
- Pull the backing off of the vinyl design
  - Do this carefully and slowly to avoid ripping the vinyl and removing delicate floating pieces of the design
  - If you notice a piece lifting, gently put that small portion down and scrape it with some pressure to adhere it to the transfer tape

#### Helpful Hint

Fold the transferred vinyl design and create creases on the top and bottom of the transfer tape for center markings for placement later on.



## STEP 8

### Transfer your design to the screen

#### Helpful Hint

Mark the centers of your frame and line those markings up with the center markings of your folded transfer design.

#### Helpful Hint

As you are removing the transfer tape, fold it back and stick it onto itself so that it doesn't get in your way or stick onto unwanted areas.

- Transfer stencil design on the **BACK** of the silk screen frame
  - This can be placed horizontal or vertical depending on size of design
- Gently place one edge of the transfer tape sticky side down onto the silk screen and slowly flatten it onto the screen using a scraping tool
  - Be careful not to apply too much pressure on this side of the screen so as to not break the actual screen
- Once it is on, turn the frame around, place it on a hard surface and begin burnishing (scraping) with more pressure
  - Try to take out as many air pockets as possible, especially around the edges of the design for cleaner look when putting the ink down
  - Take your time on this part
- Turn the frame back around and remove the transfer tape
  - This can be tricky so be very careful
  - Avoid pulling back hard and fast so you don't break the vinyl and don't lift any floating pieces off of the screen
  - If a piece starts lifting, gently put it back down and burnish (scrape it so it can stick to the screen
  - If a piece does end up lifting completely, grab some tweezers and place it back where it belongs
- Once the tape is removed, go over both sides of the frame and burnish (scrape) the vinyl and remove any visible air bubble
- Carefully burnish (scrape) over all of the edges, especially those in between the letters/images so that they are flat and flush and free of air bubbles
  - This will prevent paint from seeping through
- Place masking tape or painters tape along the edges of all of the designs
  - Be sure to cover all of the unused areas of the screen
  - This will avoid from the excess paint to go through onto unwanted areas of your shirt that are not part of your design

## STEP 9

### Prepare your shirt and stencil

- Place clean and wrinkle free shirt on a hard surface
- Place a piece of cardstock in the middle of the shirt
- Place the frame on the shirt, make sure the back of the frame is on the shirt and that your stencil design looks like it would normally look when finally on the shirt
- Center the design portion of frame on the shirt and place it 3 inches below the midline of the neck
  - Try to make the design as centered and straight as possible
  - Using the visual markings made earlier to the tape and frame help here
- Flatten the design onto the shirt by pressing down and rubbing it with your hand or the squeegee



## STEP 10

### Screen-print your shirt

- Take a spoon and mix the fabric ink slightly
- Apply a decent amount in a thick straight line just above your stencil design
  - Make sure to apply a line long enough to cover the entire design
  - Make sure to put enough ink down to cover the entire design
  - Don't worry, you can scrape up any excess ink later and put it back into the jar for re-use at another time
- Apply the ink to your stencil design
  - Hold the frame with one hand and the squeegee with the other
  - Place your squeegee right above the paint and apply steady downward firm pressure over the entire design
  - Make sure that every part of the stencil is covered with ink and that it looks even
  - If any areas look uneven, apply more ink just above those areas and pass the squeegee right over it
  - Once you are happy with the evenness of the ink, pass over with the squeegee a few last times to remove any unwanted visible lines and any areas with excess paint before lifting the screen
  - Try to only use the squeegee in one direction (top to bottom) to avoid chances of ink seeping through
  - Try to make sure you are holding down the frame the entire time to avoid it from shifting

#### Helpful Hint

Have a paper plate or small container large enough to place the inked squeegee on to avoid getting your surface dirty

## STEP 11

### Remove the frame from the shirt

- Gently lift the frame up and away from one side
- Be careful not to spill any excess ink or drag the frame to avoid damaging the design
- You have just screen printed a shirt!!!

## STEP 12

### Dry and Press

- Allow to dry for several hours (overnight is best)
- Once dry, heat press or iron over the design to bond the ink to the shirt
  - Make sure to use parchment paper or butcher paper between the ink and the heated surface
- If using a cricut easy-press, heat to 320 and press for 30-40 seconds