Step by Step Crafts with My Crafty Personality

DOORMAT TUTORIAL USING CRICUT MAKER

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to create a personalized coir doormat made using the cricut maker, permanent vinyl and flex seal spray. 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. Coir Doormat
2. Cricut cutting machine
3. Cutting mat and tools (Weeding tool, Scraper tool, Scissors)
4. Inkscape software (free for download) and cricut design space
5. Desired font (I used manthine)
6. Masking or Painters tape
7. Transfer tape
8. Sealant Spray
9. Flex Seal spray (or other paint/spray of preference)
10. Heat gun

STEP 1

Create your words using Inkscape

- Open Inkscape
- Click on the small text icon the left middle of screen
- Click anywhere on the sheet and type in the words you would like to use for your mat. ** I recommend to type in each word separately to better manage once in cricut design space**
- Make sure that they are the font that you want
- Convert them into vector images
    - Highlight one word
    - Click on the path tab on top of page
    - Go down and click on "Object to Path"
    - Keep everything highlighted as is (do not click anywhere on sheet)
    - Click on the Object tab right next to the path one
    - Go down and click on "Ungroup"
    - Again, Keep everything highlighted as is without clicking anywhere else
    - Click on the Path tab on top of page again
    - Go down and click on Union
    - Repeat for all separate words you have on screen
- Save file onto your computer

Helpful Hint

Click on the pointer icon on the left to move or resize the design. This program resizes their images disproportionately.

Make sure the lock icon is closed if you want to resize the design proportionately

STEP 2

Upload Image to Cricut Design Space

- Open Cricut Design Space
- Click on New Project
- Click on the upload button to the bottom left of the screen
- Click on browse
- Find the image you just saved and highlight it
- Click on Open
- It should show up on your screen, click Save
- It should appear in recently uploaded
- Click on it so that it has a green active square around it
- Click on insert image
- The image now appears on your screen

Create your Design

- Highlight the image and click "ungroup" icon on the top right, this allows you to manage each word individually
- Click on the shape button and choose a square
- Resize the square to the size of your mat for visual purposes
  - Click on the square
  - Make sure the lock icon is in the unlocked position
  - Change dimensions to the size of your mat (mine was W-30 and H-18)
- Fit and resize your design on your mat as desired
- To create a border:
  - Turn two squares into rectangles, one slightly smaller than the other (size will vary depending on how thick you want your border
  - Highlight both of them and center them
  - Keep both highlighted and click on slice
  - Delete the center of your sliced image and you are left with your border
- Place the border and names on the mat as desired for your final product
- Move the background "mat" away and delete it
- Highlight all portions of your design and hit the "Weld" button on the bottom right of screen (This will combine your image into one and allow for the next step which is slicing them down into pieces that would fit onto the cutting mats)

STEP 4

Prepare your design for Cutting

- This design is larger than any mat available with the cricut maker machine so you will need to "slice" it down to pieces in order to cut them out with the machine (and later place them back together like a puzzle)
- Click on shapes and insert a square
- Increase the size of the square to match the cutting size of the mat you will be using.
  - 11.5x11.5 (for a 12x12 mat)
  - 11.5 x 23.5 (for a 12x24 mat)
  - Cricut software has a give of about 0.5in to ensure the design cuts completely on the material
- Place the rectangle over the design as you would like it to be broken down
- Highlight the rectangle and your design
- Keeping both highlighted click on the slice button on the bottom right of the screen
- Be sure to delete all excess pieces from the slice, you should only be left with the slices of your design at the end, no extra pieces that were cut from the square should be left over.
- You will likely need to repeat this step several times to cut it down to fit onto the mats depending on your design and the mat sizes you have available
- Now you are ready to proceed with cutting the design on the vinyl

Helpful Hint

The slice function only works when two flat images are selected. If you have more than 2 images selected, or if one of your selected images is "grouped" or "attached' to other items the function will not work.

Solution would be to try and detach/ungroup them and slice the area of interest. Another option is to Weld the attached/grouped image at which point it will become one flat image and is now sliceable.

STEP 5

Arrange your design for Cutting

- Click on the green make it button on the top right of screen.
- Your sliced images will be broken down into separate mats
  - Here you can rearrange some of the designs onto less mats as sometimes the software does not organize them to be "space saving"
- No need to mirror your image on this one as we are creating a stencil that will go directly onto the mat.
- Once everything is on the mats as you desire, make sure none of them are overlapping and 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 6

Place your Vinyl on your Mat

- Cut a piece of permanent vinyl that will fit the dimensions of your design
- Place your vinyl sheet on your cutting mat(s) 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

Helpful Hint
If you are using different size mats, be very careful and attentive here to ensure you are entering the correct mat at the correct time.

STEP 7

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
- The double arrow button will begin blinking again signaling that it is ready for the next mat, repeat steps above until finished.

STEP 8
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 paint 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 re-versed image on your screen so you can visualize exactly what you need to be weeding.

STEP 9
Piece your design together

- Cut the vinyl paper down around the pieces of your design making sure to leave a bit of space for taping later
- Piece the design together so that it looks like the final design you wish to have on your doormat
- On the edges that meet up, cut both pieces of vinyl closely on each piece and line them up together and tape the edges right above and below to hold it together.
- Repeat this step for each piece you need to put together until your design is complete in front of you.

Helpful Hint
The complimentary tutorial on my YouTube channel has a great visual on these steps.

STEP 10
Transfer the vinyl stencil to the doormat

- Cut out a piece of transfer tape slightly larger than your vinyl design (this design requires several over-lapping layers, start from the bottom up).
- Transfer your vinyl to your transfer tape
  - Do this slowly and carefully
  - Make sure your vinyl is facing the tape (you want to stick it directly onto the transfer tape)
  - Place the tape on the hard surface first and then slowly press it down onto the vinyl
  - Repeat this step but this time placing the tape slightly over the first layer of transfer tape then over the exposed vinyl
- Once attached to the transfer tape, burnish (scrape) along all of the edges of your design to 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 the small 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 and continue removing

STEP 11

Transfer your stencil design to the mat

- Transfer stencil design to the doormat
- Carefully place the stencil sticky side down onto the mat
- Make sure it is in the desired placement, centered, etc before fully transferring
- Once it is on begin burnishing (scraping) with some pressure, especially over the edges and small floating pieces
- Carefully remove the transfer tape
  - Begin with the piece of tape that is layered on top
  - 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 mat
  - As you are pulling the tape back, hold down the vinyl so that it does not move too much out of place
  - If a piece starts lifting, gently put it back down and burnish (scrape it so it can stick to the mat)
  - If a piece does end up lifting completely, grab some tweezers and place it back where it belongs
  - Repeat steps for each layer of tape until your stencil design is all that is left on the mat

STEP 12

Prepare your doormat for painting

- Place masking tape or painters tape along the edges of all of the exposed areas of doormat
  - Be sure to cover all exposed areas, even the smallest ones
  - This will avoid from the excess paint to go through onto unwanted areas
- Gently apply heat to all of the design edges to adhere them slightly to the mat for a crisper look and decrease likelihood of paint seeping through
  - I like to briefly put heat over the area for a second then press it down with my hand
  - Be careful not to burn yourself here
- You doormat is now ready to be painted

STEP 13

Paint your doormat

- Apply paint to your doormat making sure to fill in all the areas of the stencil design
- If using spray you can do it in a steady sweeping motion or in short spurts of spray
- Ensure that all areas have an even amount of paint as desired for your project
- There will be some paint that accumulates on the edges of the vinyl around the design, in case you need to use some of this with a paint brush to fill in any uneven areas
- Let is sit for a bit to allow it to dry slightly prior to removing the stencil

Helpful Hint
Make sure you are in a well ventilated area when painting.

STEP 14

Remove the stencil from the mat and seal

- Gently lift the stencil with the tape up and away from the mat starting on one side and throw it out
- Be careful not to spill any excess paint to avoid getting paint in undesired areas
- Now, with a tweezer, remove the filler portions of the letters/design
- Liberally spray sealant over your entire design for longer lasting product
- Congratulations, You have just made your personalized Coir Doormat!

Helpful Hint
Have a large plastic bag ready nearby to put the stencil on once removed. It will be messy and full of paint.

STEP 15

Drying and Curing

- Allow to fully dry and cure for 24-48 hours prior to use.
- Enjoy!