

Design Space® Canvas Overview

A beginner-friendly guide to help you start using design tools on Canvas.



1 **Canvas** – Where you create your design using objects (images, shapes, text, etc.).

2 **Design Panel** – Contains tools to add shapes, images, text, templates, and other objects onto Canvas.

3 **Zoom** – Adjusts your project design view on Canvas to be larger or smaller. This does not increase or decrease the size of your project design.

4 **Text Edit Bar** – Appears below the Edit Bar as soon as you insert or select a text object on Canvas. It allows you to modify selected text and only appears when text objects are selected.

5 **Edit Bar** – Contains basic editing tools for modifying selected objects on Canvas.

6 **Design** – Objects that you add to Canvas. Can include any combination of images, texts, shapes, etc.

7 **Layers Panel** – Lists each element of a design as an individual component with an operation assigned to it (Cut, Draw, Foil, etc.). Includes tools for editing layers like Duplicate, Attach & more.

Design Space® Shortcuts

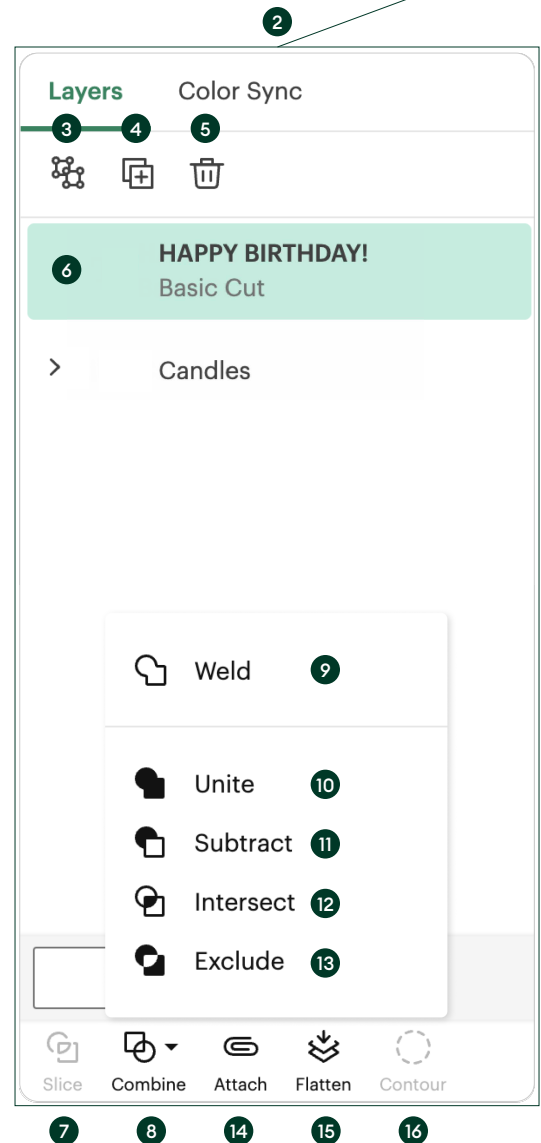
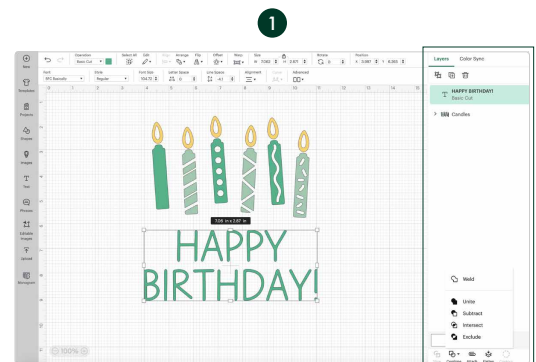
At-a-glance guide to our most helpful keyboard shortcuts.

		Windows		macOS	
		Action	Shortcut	Action	Shortcut
General		Save	Ctrl + S	Save	Cmd + S
		Undo	Ctrl + Z	Undo	Cmd + Z
		Redo	Ctrl + Shift + Z	Redo	Cmd + Shift + Z
		Toggle Grid	Shift + G	Toggle Grid	Shift + G
Edit		Cut	Ctrl + X	Cut	Cmd + X
		Copy	Ctrl + C	Copy	Cmd + C
		Paste	Ctrl + V	Paste	Cmd + V
		Duplicate	Ctrl + D	Duplicate	Cmd + D
		Select All	Ctrl + A	Select All	Cmd + A
		Select None	Escape	Select None	Escape
Layers		Group	Ctrl + G	Group	Cmd + G
		Ungroup	Ctrl + Shift + G	Ungroup	Cmd + Shift + G
Arrange		Bring Forward	Ctrl +]	Bring Forward	Cmd +]
		Bring to Front	Ctrl + Shift +]	Bring to Front	Cmd + Shift +]
		Send Backwards	Ctrl + [Send Backwards	Cmd + [
		Send to Back	Ctrl + Shift + [Send to Back	Cmd + Shift + [
Zoom		Zoom In	Ctrl +	Zoom In	Cmd +
		Zoom Out	Ctrl -	Zoom Out	Cmd -
		Zoom to 100%	Ctrl + 0	Zoom to 100%	Cmd + 0
		Zoom to Fit	Ctrl + 1	Zoom to Fit	Cmd + 1
		Zoom to Selected Item	Ctrl + 2	Zoom to Selected Item	Cmd + 2
		Zoom to Specific Area	Z + Drag	Zoom to Specific Area	Z + Drag
Mouse Actions		Pan the Canvas	Space + Drag	Pan the Canvas	Space + Drag
		Duplicate and Move	Alt + Drag	Duplicate and Move	Option + Drag
		Zoom In	Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Up	Zoom In	Cmd + Scroll Wheel Up
		Zoom Out	Ctrl + Scroll Wheel Down	Zoom Out	Cmd + Scroll Wheel Down

Layers Panel Overview for Beginners

Learn about the tools you need to work with multi-layered design on Canvas.

- 1 **Canvas** – Where you create your design using objects (images, shapes, text, etc.).
- 2 **Layers Panel** – Lists each element of a design as an individual component with an operation assigned to it (Cut, Draw, Foil, etc.).
- 3 **Group/Ungroup** – Assembles multiple layers, images, or text into a cluster that maintains their individual shapes and colors. They can also easily be moved and resized as one. Similarly, Ungroup reverts items back into individual layers.
- 4 **Duplicate** – Creates a copy of a selected object.
- 5 **Delete** – Removes selected object from Canvas.
- 6 **Layers** – Refers to each element or object in a design. An image may have multiple layers, e.g. multi-colored paper or iron-on project designs – like a rainbow.
- 7 **Slice** – Splits two overlapping images or text into different parts, creating a third object or shape. Each new shape will appear in the Layers Panel as an individual layer.
- 8 **Combine Menu** – A pop-out menu that activates when two or more objects are selected on Canvas. It shows four actions – Unite, Subtract, Intersect & Exclude – each of them allow you to combine objects to make new, separate objects.
- 9 **Weld** – Merges two or more separate shapes into a new, single shape. Once project is saved, this action cannot be undone.
- 10 **Unite** – Combines two or more objects together into one, new object. Each new object appears as a new editable layer.
- 11 **Subtract** – Removes the bottom object (or layer) of a selected group of objects. Unlike Slice, it is possible to apply this action to multiple objects at once.
- 12 **Intersect** – Creates a new, editable object from overlapping areas of two or more selected objects.
- 13 **Exclude** – Creates a new, editable object from non-overlapping areas of two or more objects.
- 14 **Attach/Detach** – Keeps objects in place so your design cuts exactly the way it is arranged on Canvas when sent to a Cricut cutting machine. Once objects are attached, all cut objects will convert to a single color.
- 15 **Flatten/Unflatten** – Merges selected layers into a single layer, turning it into a printable image. Similarly, it can separate layers out of a single, printable image into individual layers.
- 16 **Contour** – Hides or unhides contour lines or cut paths on a selected layer. If a selected image has multiple layers, use Ungroup to separate first, then Contour can be applied.



Beginner-Friendly Tips for Using Cricut® Materials

Helpful info on working with our most popular materials.*

Cricut Vinyl

- Use Removable Vinyl for indoor and/or temporary applications – it's durable yet removes without residue for up to 2 years.
- Use Permanent Vinyl for outdoor applications (and in any environment!) – it's weather- and UV-resistant up to 3 years.
- Always load vinyl color side up, grid side down.
- Use StandardGrip Transfer Tape (gray grid) for most vinyl. Use StrongGrip Transfer Tape (purple grid) for textured vinyl, including glitter.

Cricut Iron-On

- Always mirror heat transfer projects. Mirror flips your design so it cuts correctly. In the app, from the Prepare screen, toggle on Mirror.
- Load iron-on material with liner (shiny side) facing down.
- Use the Cricut Heat Guide** or Cricut Heat App for precise time and temperature settings.
- For best results, transfer using Cricut EasyPress®.
- After your press is complete, wait about a minute, then slowly peel liner. If your design isn't fully transferred, reapply heat for a few more seconds. Let design cool, then try again.
- Follow care instructions: 1. Allow 24 hours after application before washing. 2. Wash and tumble dry inside out. 3. Do not bleach or use fabric softener. 4. If you need to iron, only iron on the backside of the garment.

Cricut Cardstock

- Use Brayer hand tool (or clean, dry hands) to gently smooth material onto mat.
- When removing cuts from the mat, always bend mat away from the cardstock. This quickly lifts the design from the mat, preventing tearing and curling.
- For detailed designs, try the Intricate Cardstock cut setting in Design Space. From the Make screen, under Browse All Materials, search for and select Intricate Cardstock.
- Use adhesive sparingly when assembling cardstock projects – a fine tip applicator can be helpful. Test on scraps first to ensure you get your desired result.

Cricut Infusible Ink™

- Make sure your hands are clean and dry before handling Infusible Ink Transfer Sheets.
- Always mirror heat transfer projects. Mirror flips your design so it cuts correctly. In the app, from the Prepare screen, toggle on Mirror.
- Load Infusible Ink Transfer Sheets with paper (colored side) facing up.
- Try weeding transfer sheets with your fingers – first bend the design along cut lines to loosen the parts you want to remove.
- Always use light-colored, high-polyester (greater than 60%) blanks designed for sublimation.
- For best results, transfer using Cricut EasyPress.

Tip for all materials: Always do a test cut before trying any new material. Cut something simple like a star to determine if the cut works for your project. If needed, you can change your blade, your base material selection, or the pressure setting.

*This is not a complete product list – to see all available Cricut materials, visit cricut.com/en_us/materials.html

**To view the Cricut Heat Guide, visit cricut.com/heatguide

Cricut® Project Checklist for Beginners

Before you start a Cricut project, make sure you have these supplies.



What are you making?	Personalized T-shirts, pillows, or tea towels	Customized tumblers, labels, or home decor	Unique cards, paper flowers, or invitations
Required Materials	Iron-On (HTV) or Smart Iron-On™ (HTV) ✓	Vinyl or Smart Vinyl™ ✓	Paper, Cardstock, or Smart Paper™ ✓
Cricut cutting machine	✓	✓	✓
Design Space® app*	✓	✓	✓
Machine Mat Not needed with Smart Materials™**	StandardGrip ✓	StandardGrip ✓	LightGrip or StandardGrip for glitter/embossed cardstock ✓
Weeder & Scraper	✓	✓	✓
Scissors or Portable Trimmer	✓	✓	✓
Blanks (anything you want to customize, i.e. T-shirts, tote bags, etc.)	✓	✓	
Scoring Tool†			✓
Cricut EasyPress™ heat press	✓		
Cricut EasyPress Mat or fluffy towel	✓		
Cricut Pens or Markers			✓
Transfer Tape		✓	





*Available for Windows® and Mac® computers and iOS and Android™ devices.

**Cricut Smart Materials™ require compatible Cricut cutting machines.

†Cricut Explore® and Cricut Maker® series cutting machines work with Scoring Stylus. Cricut Scoring Wheels are only compatible with Cricut Maker series cutting machines.

Cricut® Materials Cheatsheet for Beginners

At-a-glance guide to our most popular materials.*



Material	Great for these projects	Types	Essential tools & accessories	Need-to-know	Want to learn more?
 <p>Cricut Permanent Vinyl</p>	<p>Outdoor Decals Windows, planters, signs, mailboxes & cars</p> <p>Drinkware Coasters, glasses, cups, tumblers & mugs</p>	<p>Solids Available in a variety of colors – matte & glossy finishes</p> <p>Specialty Glitter, holographic, foil, shimmer & more</p> <p>Smart Vinyl™** Use without a mat – just load & go</p>	<p>Fine-Point Blade For cutting your material</p> <p>Green StandardGrip Mat Holds your material in place as it's cut (not needed with Smart Vinyl)</p> <p>Transfer Tape For transferring design to chosen surface</p> <p>Weeding Tool To remove unwanted parts from design</p> <p>Scraper To remove any bubbling & smooth/perfect the transferred design</p>	<p>Prep/clean transfer surface with rubbing alcohol prior to vinyl application</p> <p>Weed (remove) unwanted vinyl before using Transfer Tape</p> <p>For vinyl that has a textured finish, such as glitter, shimmer & true brushed, use StrongGrip Transfer Tape</p> <p>Permanent Vinyl is weather- and fade-resistant & dishwasher friendly</p> <p>Removable Vinyl easily removes without residue</p>	<p>Take a free online course on vinyl at learn.cricut.com/courses/vinyl-basics</p>
 <p>Cricut Removable Vinyl</p>	<p>Indoor Decals Wall, mirror & window decals</p> <p>Accessories Appliance & device decals</p>	<p>Solids Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Specialty Glitter, holographic & more</p> <p>SportFlex For athletic apparel</p> <p>Smart Iron-On™** Use without a mat – just load & go</p>	<p>Fine-Point Blade For cutting your material</p> <p>Green StandardGrip Mat Holds your material in place as it's cut (not needed with Smart Iron-On)</p> <p>Weeding Tool To remove unwanted parts from design</p> <p>Heat Press For even heat application, use Cricut EasyPress®</p>	<p>Mirror your design in Design Space® before cutting</p> <p>Place material shiny side down</p> <p>Weed (remove) unwanted iron-on before transferring to surface</p> <p>Refer to Cricut Heat Guide for precise time & temp settings cricut.com/heatguide</p>	<p>Take a free online course on iron-on at learn.cricut.com/courses/iron-on-basics</p>
 <p>Cricut Iron-On (Heat-Transfer Vinyl)</p>	<p>Custom Apparel T-shirts, totes, denim, hats & jerseys</p> <p>Home Decor Pillows, blankets, canvas art & wood signs</p>	<p>Solids Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Specialty Glitter, holographic & more</p> <p>SportFlex For athletic apparel</p> <p>Smart Iron-On™** Use without a mat – just load & go</p>	<p>Fine-Point Blade For cutting your material</p> <p>Blue StandardGrip Mat Holds your material in place as it's cut (not needed with Smart Paper)</p> <p>Glue/Adhesive For creating structure or adding embellishments</p> <p>Pens & Markers For adding drawn or written elements</p>	<p>To prevent curling, flip mat over after cutting & peel away from cardstock</p> <p>Create clean creases with Cricut Scoring Tools</p> <p>Create dimension by layering patterns and prints</p> <p>Non-adhesive cardstock is textured, but Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock is smooth</p>	<p>Take a free online course on cardstock & paper at learn.cricut.com/courses/paper-basics</p>
 <p>Cricut Cardstock & Cricut Paper</p>	<p>Stationery Cards, tags & invitations</p> <p>Paper Crafts Scrapbooking, mandalas, paper flowers, wreaths & 3D projects</p> <p>Party Decor Banners, cake toppers & placemats</p>	<p>Solids Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Specialty Patterns, glitter & adhesive/sticker (see below)</p> <p>Smart Paper™ Sticker Cardstock** Adhesive-backed paper works without a mat – just load & go</p>	<p>Fine-Point Blade For cutting your material</p> <p>Blue StandardGrip Mat Holds your material in place as it's cut (not needed with Smart Paper)</p> <p>Glue/Adhesive For creating structure or adding embellishments</p> <p>Pens & Markers For adding drawn or written elements</p>	<p>To prevent curling, flip mat over after cutting & peel away from cardstock</p> <p>Create clean creases with Cricut Scoring Tools</p> <p>Create dimension by layering patterns and prints</p> <p>Non-adhesive cardstock is textured, but Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock is smooth</p>	<p>Take a free online course on cardstock & paper at learn.cricut.com/courses/paper-basics</p>

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**Not all machines are compatible with Smart Materials – to learn more, visit help.cricut.com

Top Terms for Beginners

A glossary of common crafting terms to help you on your Cricut® journey.

Design Space®		The free Cricut design app that connects to Cricut cutting machines. Available for Windows® and Mac® computers and iOS and Android™ devices.
Canvas		The screen within the Cricut Design Space® app where project design takes place.
SVG (Scalable Vector Graphic)		An image file type ideal for Design Space uploads. Because SVG files are not composed of pixels, they can be scaled larger or smaller without losing resolution.
Print Then Cut		A feature in the Cricut Design Space app that allows users to print their design on a home computer before cutting it with a Cricut cutting machine.
Layers		A term used to refer to each element or object in a project design. Layers also refers to a panel in the Cricut Design Space app where each element of a design (or groups of elements) is listed.
Machine Mat		Accessory used to hold materials in place as the Cricut machine cuts, writes, or embellishes.
Vinyl		Thin self-adhesive material used to create decals, labels, stickers, and more. Can be used on a variety of smooth surfaces. Available in permanent and removable varieties.
Iron-On (Heat-Transfer Vinyl or HTV)		Vinyl material with a heat-activated adhesive. Iron-on gets applied to a variety of surfaces (like fabrics, wood, and paper) using a heat press.
Infusible Ink™		A system of Cricut products that work together to create pro-level, permanent heat transfers. Includes Infusible Ink Transfer Sheets, Pens & Markers, and compatible blanks like T-shirts & mugs.
Transfer Tape		Sticky, see-through plastic film used to lift a vinyl design from the liner and apply to a project surface/substrate.
Brayer		Hand tool with roller used to firmly press materials onto a surface to eliminate wrinkles, kinks, bubbles, and puckering. Often used to smoothly adhere materials to a machine mat before cutting.
Weeder		Hand tool with a pointy, sharp head that is used to separate unwanted vinyl, iron-on, or Infusible Ink™ material from its liner to prepare a design for transfer.
Scraper		Hand tool designed to remove scrap material from cutting mats. Can also be used to smooth materials onto the cutting mat or to burnish materials so they stick together.