Cricut for Beginners

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ROCHESTER
public library district

Connect. Discover. Create.

SETUP

1. Button to open lid
2. Smart set dial
3. Power on/off
4. Dual cartridge
5. Accessory holder
6. Accessory Drawers
7. Cartridge Port

MATS

STANDARD GRIP

Great for light-to-medium weight materials like:
- Glitter Cardstock
- Patterned Paper
- Vinyl
- Iron-On
- Embossed Cardstock
- Window Cling

LIGHTGRIP

Great for light-weight materials like:
- Cardstock
- Construction Paper
- Vinyl
- Printable Iron-On
- Vellum
- Printer Paper

FABRIC GRIP

Great to use on your Maker with most fabrics like:
- Cotton
- Polyester
- Denim
- Tulle
- Felt
- Crêpe Paper

STRONG GRIP

Great for thick, stiff materials like:
- Chip Board
- Craft Foam
- Faux Leather
- Adhesive Foil
- Magnet Sheets
- Balsa Wood

VINYLS

- InkJet Printable Vinyl
- To print an image using a printer and transfer that image to a shirt.
- Oracal 651 - Permanent vinyl -
- Interior and exterior signs
- Car Decals
- Dishes (hand-wash recommended, may be top rack safe)
- Stencils
- Decorating
- General purpose
- Oracal 631
- Interior and exterior signs
- Temporary applications
- Stencils
- Decorating
- General purpose
- Heat Transfer Vinyl (HTV) - T-Shirts/ Iron on bags
- HTV Stretch - Sweatpants, tighter shirts, anything that has a stretch to it.

TRANSFER TAPE

- You can use Cricut brand Transfer tape, or several off brands.
- Make sure you only use Strong Grip transfer tape for glitter vinyl.
- Transfer tape is used with vinyl that is not HTV. You place it on top of your already cut vinyl and it'll be the exact placing that you want.
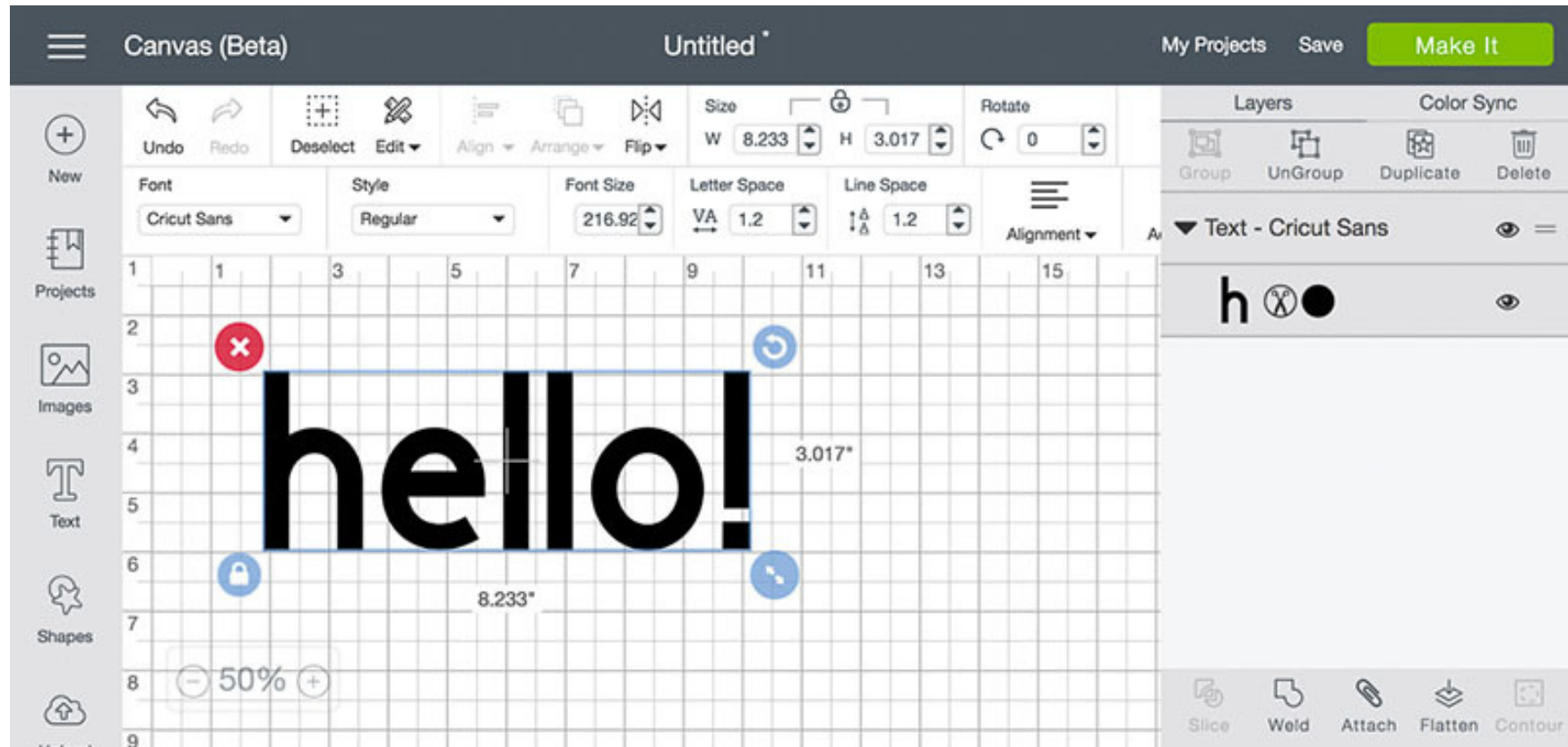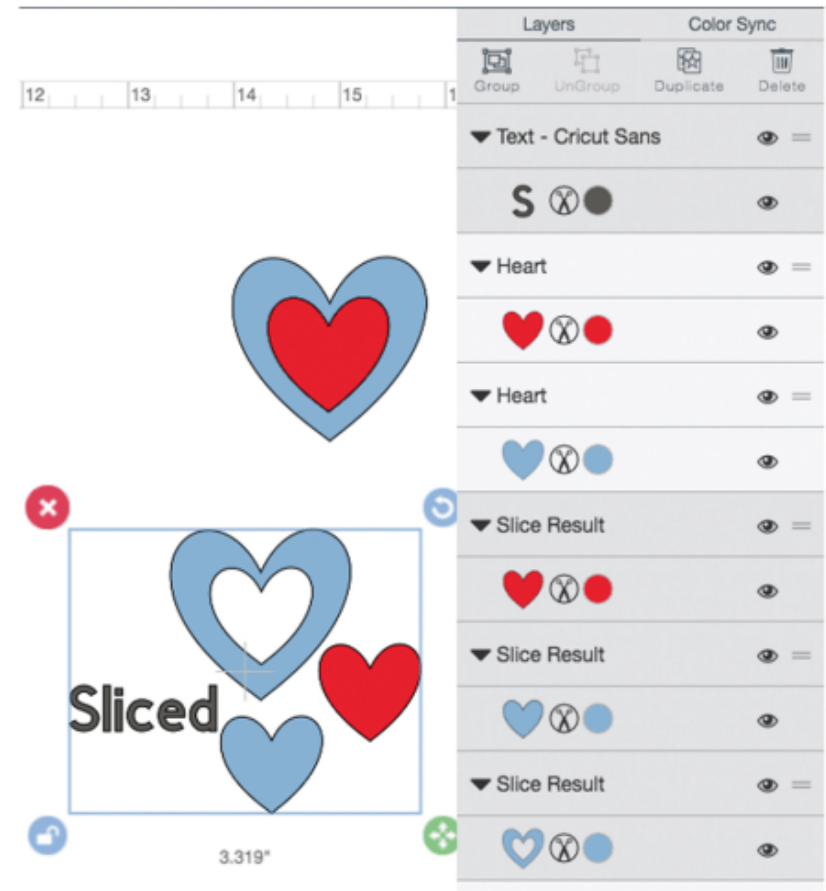
CUT SETTINGS

- Pre-programmed material selection dial, selections will automatically set the correct depth, speed, and force of the blade of the material you are using.
- Includes half-settings, in case your blade isn't cutting enough or too much for the material selected.
- If you are using another material, not listed set the dial to custom and you will select the right material in Design Space.
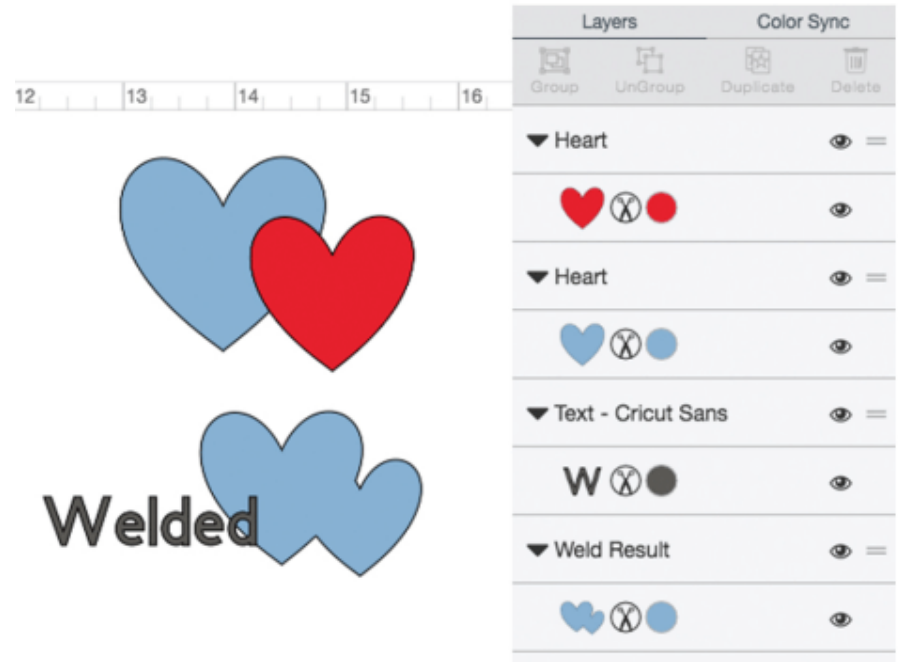
DESIGN SPACE

DESIGN SPACE - SLICE

- Slice will cut one image from another (like a cookie cutter)
- Slice works with two layers only.
- Select two layers, select Slice, pull layers apart.
- Slice is often used to cut on shape from another.
- Slice is often used to delete a part of an image.
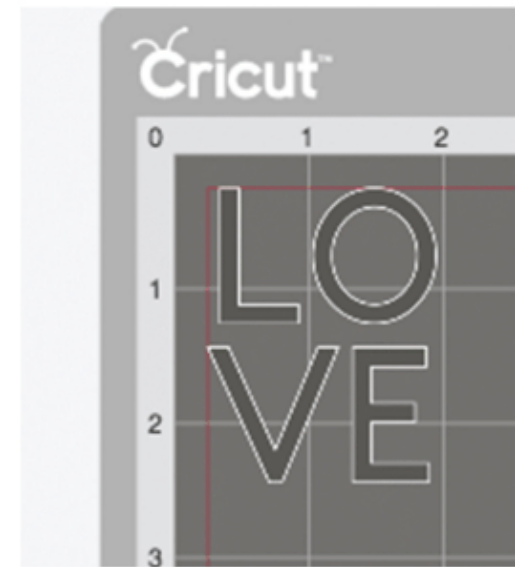- Slice is often used to create an outline of a font or image.

DESIGN SPACE - WELD

- Well will join two or more layers together.
- Weld will delete cut line between overlapping objects.
- Weld will create one layer in the same color from two or more layers.
- Weld is often used to join script text.
- Weld is often used to combine multiple layers into one layer so that they may be sliced.
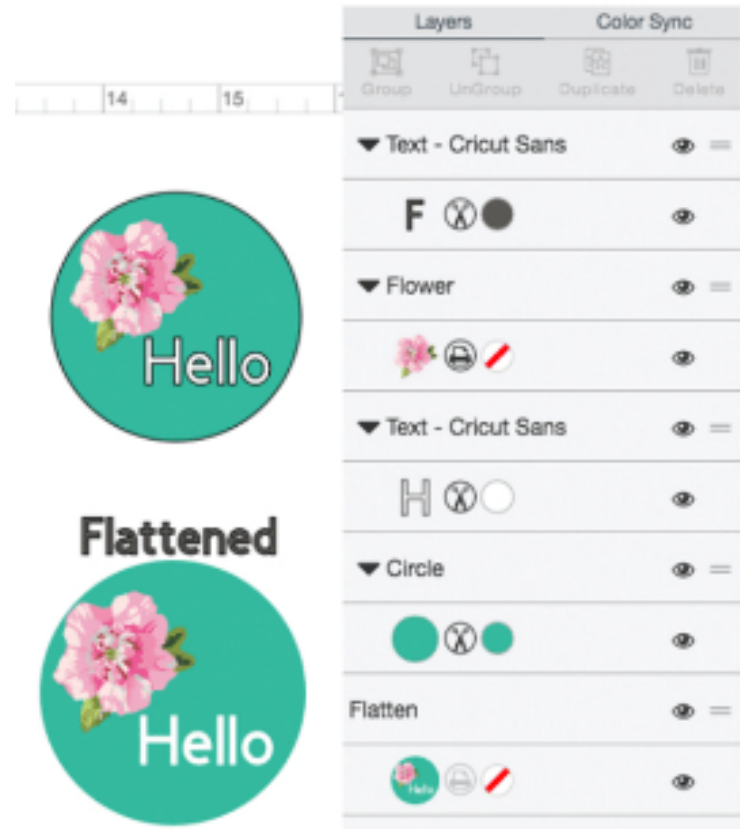- Once you weld, you cannot un-weld.

DESIGN SPACE - ATTACH

- Attach will keep the placement of items from the design area to the cutting mat.
- Select desired object layers and select Attach.
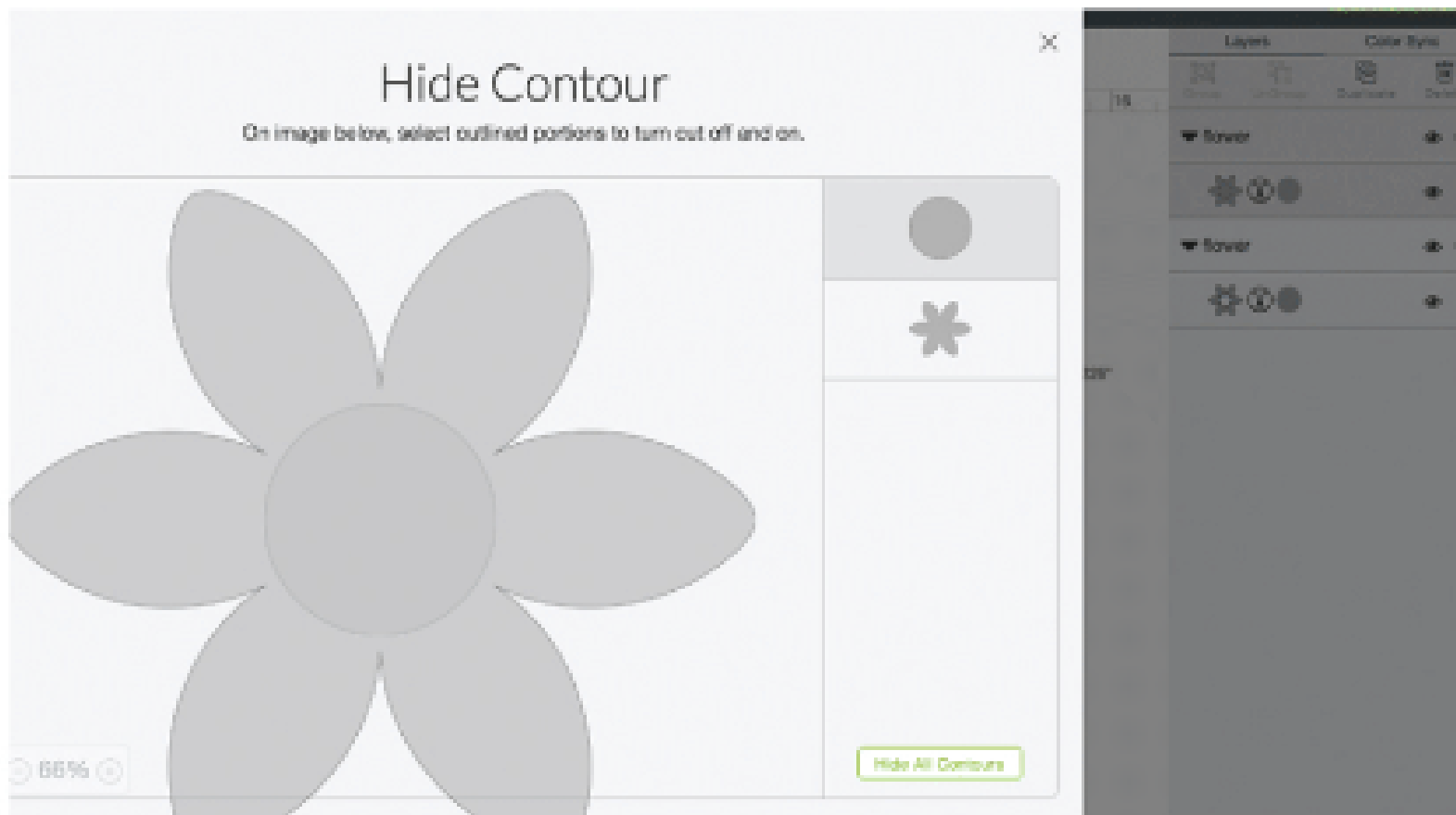- Attach is often used to hold word art/text in place.

DESIGN SPACE - FLATTEN

- Flatten is used to change multiple layers into one Print then Cut layer.
- Flatter is used to keep printed text on an object such as a card or envelope.
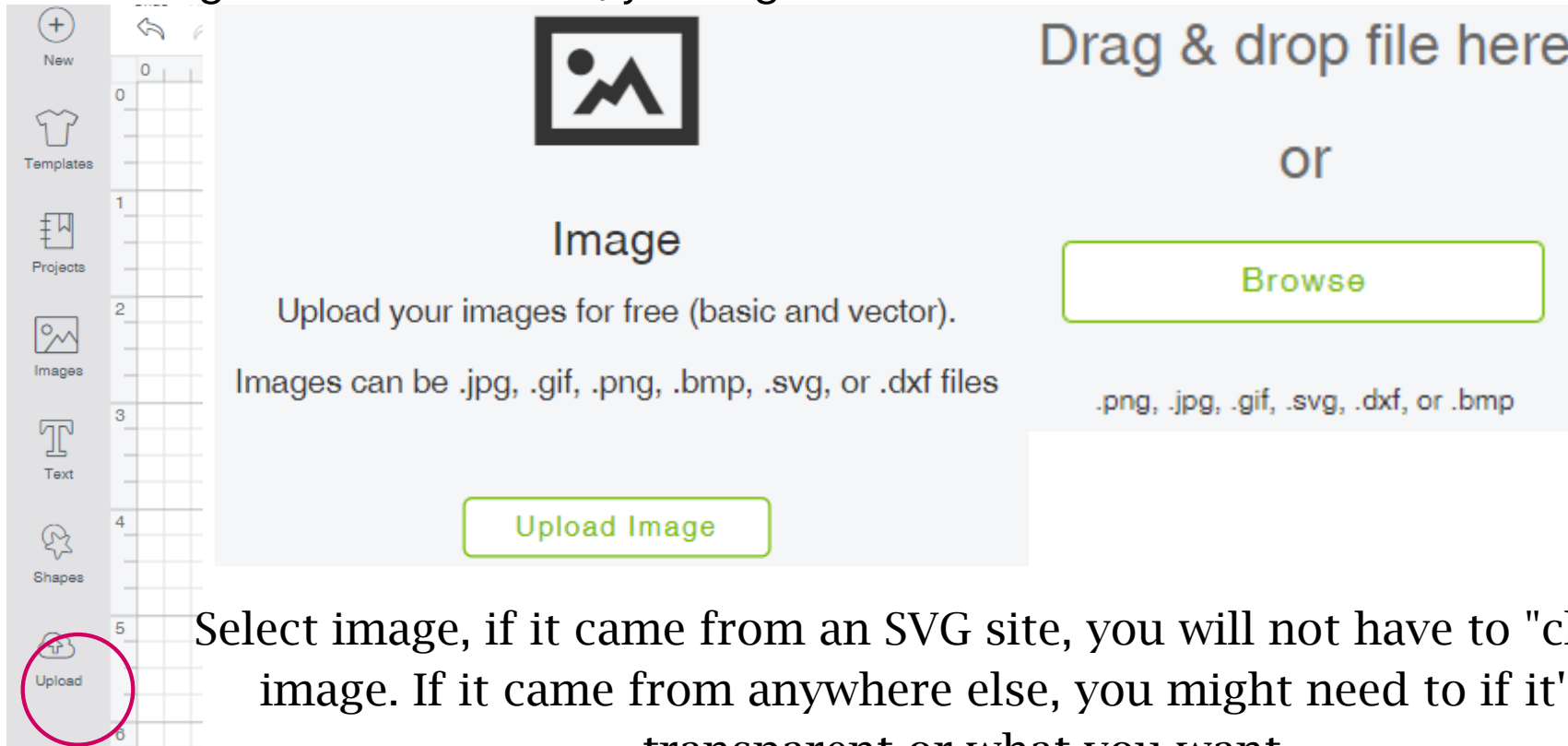- Flatten is ONLY used when printing.

DESIGN SPACE - COUNTOUR

- Contour is used to delete cut areas from a single area.
  (Ex: You want different colors)

DESIGN SPACE - UPLOAD AN IMAGE

- Download image - SVG, PNG, JPEG.
- You can get these images off google, any online site, or some free SVG sites (Example below.

Lovesvg.com

Svgandme

Geeksvgs.com

- Save image. (If it's an SVG site, you might have to download the ZIP file.)

Drag & drop file here

or

Browse

.png, .jpg, .gif, .svg, .dxf, or .bmp

Image

Upload your images for free (basic and vector).

Images can be .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp, .svg, or .dxf files

Upload Image

Select image, if it came from an SVG site, you will not have to "clean up" image. If it came from anywhere else, you might need to if it's not transparent or what you want.

DESIGN SPACE - IMAGE FROM GOOGLE

Upload Image

Upload an image from your computer (.png, .jpg, .gif, .svg, .dxf, or .bmp)

Select image type

Your image will be uploaded as a single layer

Select the option that best matches the complexity of your image. This ensures you get the best tools to work with your image.

Simple
High-contrast colors and transparent or monochrome background.

Moderately complex
Simple details and color, with good contrast between subject and background.

Complex
Fine detail, blended colors, or low contrast between subject and background. This image is more challenging to work with.

- Select Moderately Complex or Complex if it's a detailed image.
- You will then use the pointer or eraser tool to select anything you do not want.

Hit preview, then if it's what you want, hit continue, lastly, hit insert images in the bottom right corner.

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO UPLOAD FONTS

Before you upload a new font, you need to choose a new font!
Below are some top free font sites.

- Dafont
- Font Squirrel
- Google Fonts

1. Choose A Font

I found a font I like called 'I love Glitter' shown in the screenshot below from dafont.com(my favorite place to get free fonts).

Click to download and save the file to your computer. If you haven't already, set up a folder especially for all your fonts!

Mf I Love Glitter [a][e] by Misti's Fonts [↗]   in Script > Handwritten

1,266,908 downloads (1,952 yesterday)   37 comments   Free for personal use - 2 font files
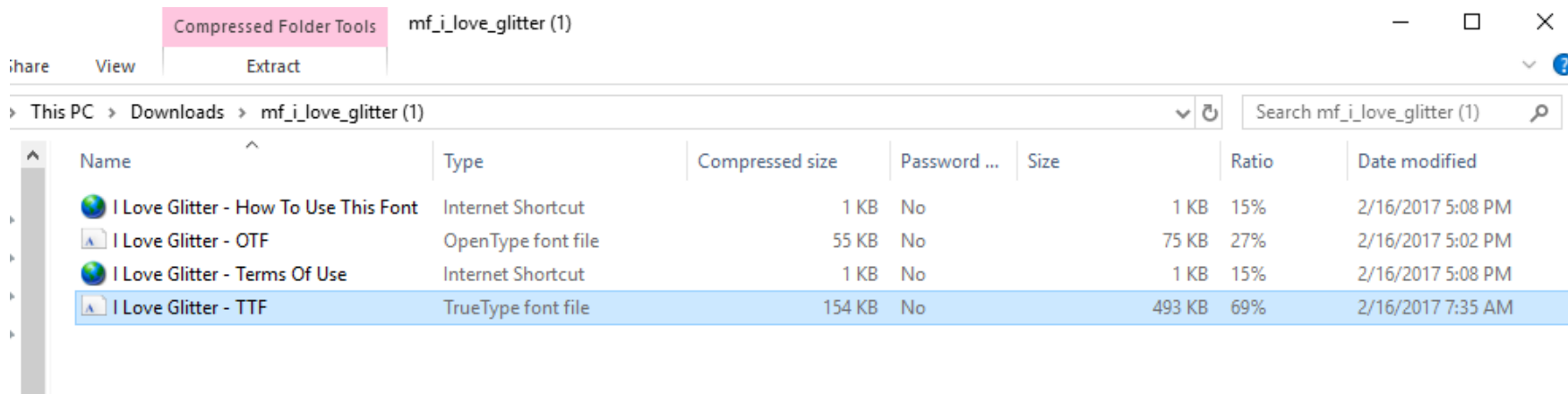
I Love Glitter♥

Download

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO UPLOAD FONTS(CONT.)
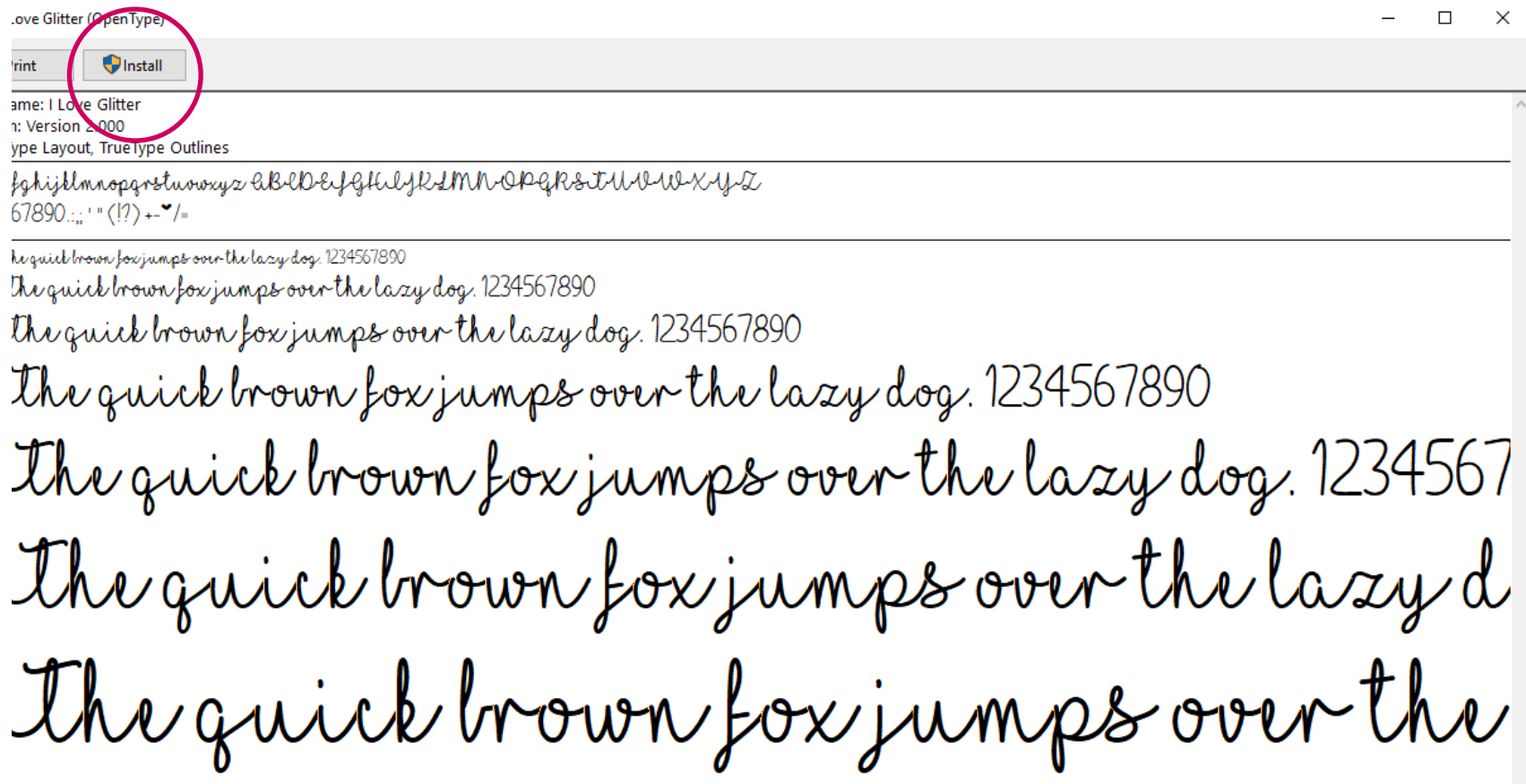
2. Open the TrueType Font File
Find the file on your computer and open the TrueType font file

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO UPLOAD FONTS(CONT.)

3. Install the Font
Click to install the font onto your computer.

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO UPLOAD FONTS(CONT.)

4. Getting your Font to appear in Design Space

- You will need to sign in and out (or close window and reopen) for your new font to appear. If your new font isn't showing up, you may need to restart your computer.
- In DS, open a new project. Click the text icon and type some text. Your text will appear in the default font, so click to change the font in the edit panel. Search for your new font by name and it should appear.

Fonts

All   System   Cricut   i love glitter   ✕   🔍   Filter

I Love Glitter
Single-Layer Cutting

Style
Regular

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog 1234567891

DESIGN SPACE - FONTS
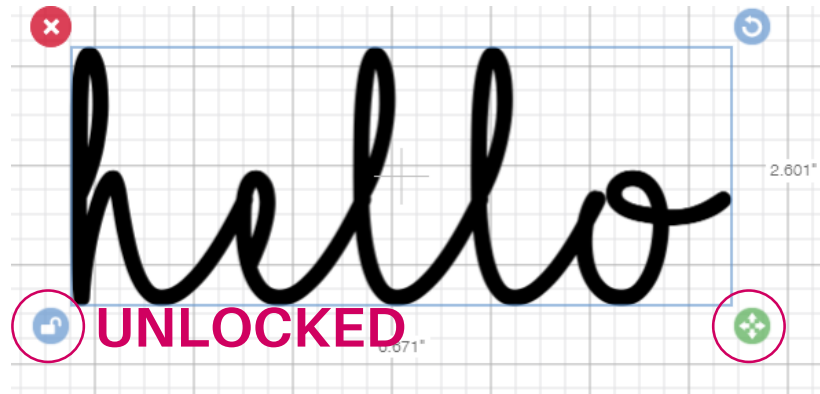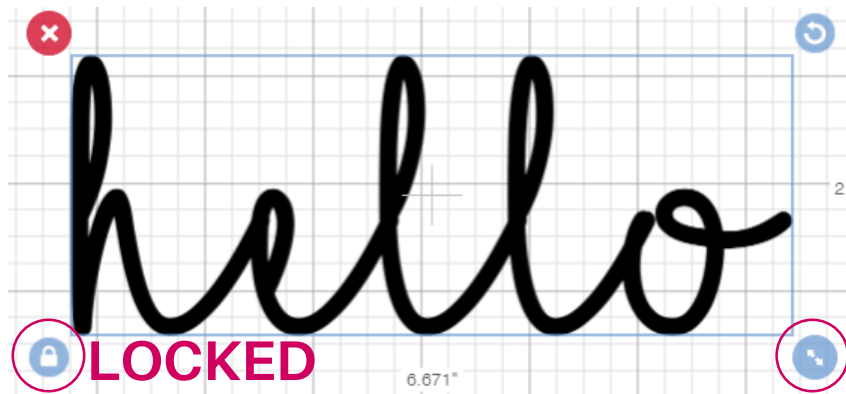
5. Customize your Font

- Now you can customize the font. You can change the size, style, and you can increase or decrease the space between letters. You can also ungroup your text to each individual letter so that you can manually move each letter how you like.

- In the screenshot below I decreased the letter spacing to -0.5 so that the letters were touching. You can also select all and ungroup letters to do it manually. You must group back together once done. (If you ungroup you cannot change the font after).

DESIGN SPACE - FONTS

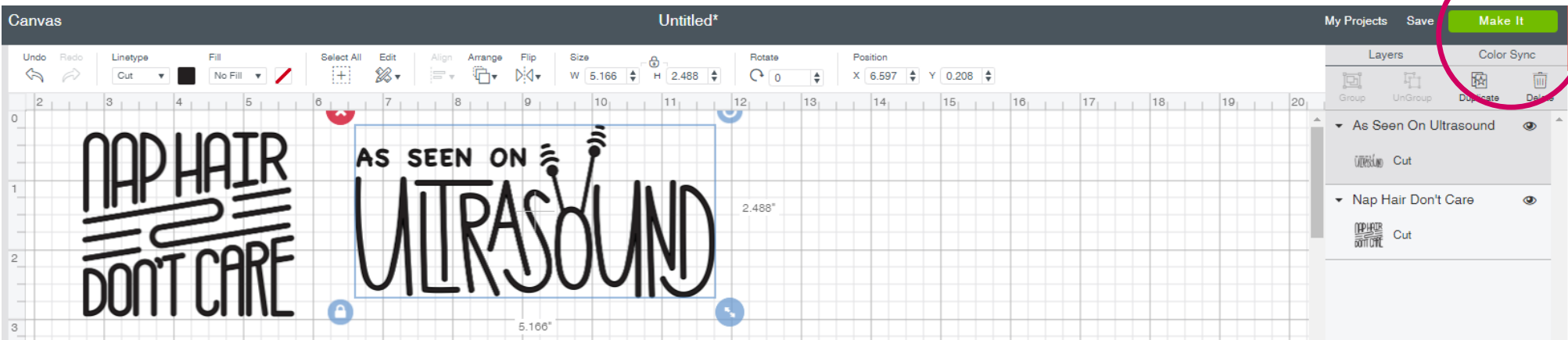**5. Locking and unlocking fonts for more customization**

- You can hit the unlock button to unlock a font from it's standard formatting. This is to stretch out, or make shorter or longer.

LOCKED

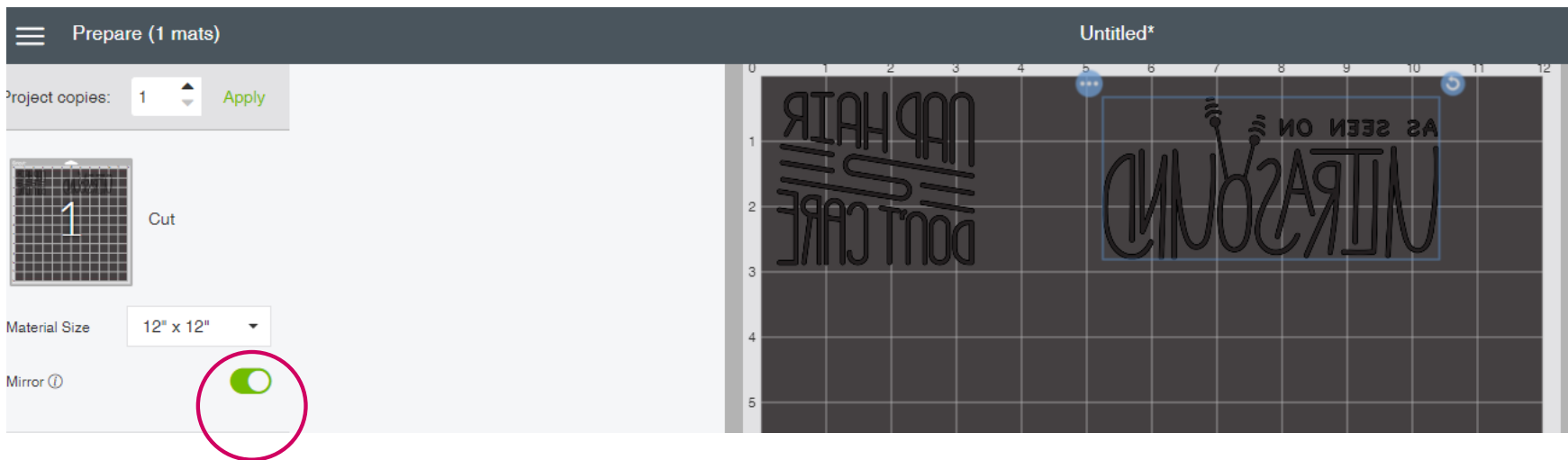**UNLOCKED**

DESIGN SPACE - MIRRORING FOR T-SHIRTS

How to cut Cricut Iron On Vinyl

- Start by opening Cricut Design Space. We're going to be using images from the Cricut Image Library, so click Images in the Design Panel on the left. From here, search for the following images using the search bar in the upper right. Make sure to include the #:
- **Nap Hair Don't Care** (**#M7042583**)
- **As Seen on the Ultrasound** (**#M70427DA**)
- Once these are onto your Canvas, resize them using the Edit Toolbar at the top.
- Then click MAKE IT at the top of the Canvas. The preview screen will open.

DESIGN SPACE - MIRRORING FOR T-SHIRTS

Important: in this screen, click "Mirror" in the sidebar so it flips your image. If you don't do this, your image will be backward when you go to iron it on! You can see the little slider on the left is green, and your project is backward on the mat.

- Then click continue.
- In the final Make screen, connect your Cricut Machine. Then select your iron on materials. If you are using a Cricut Explore Air, you will set your dial, if you are using a Cricut Maker, you will select from a list of materials.

DESIGN SPACE - MIRRORING FOR T-SHIRTS

① Custom material set to: **Everyday Iron-On**

⚠️ Make sure Mirror is turned on and iron-on material is face (shiny side) down on mat.   Learn More

Pressure

Default ▼

② Tools and mat loaded

Tools: Fine-Point Blade

③ Press Go

Speed automatically set for this material.

Press flashing Go button. (Ͼ)

- Place your iron on vinyl **shiny-side DOWN** on your cutting mat.
- Insert the mat into the Cricut and press the arrow button on your Cricut. It should grip your cutting mat and bring it into the machine. Then press the blinking "C" button on your Cricut and it will cut your project for you!
- Once it's finished, press the arrow button on your Cricut and it will release your mat.

DESIGN SPACE - WEEDING

- Weeding vinyl is the process of removing the excess material that you do not want on your project.
- You will use a special hook called a weeder or weeding hook to remove the excess vinyl. It sounds simple, but the more complex design, the more care you need to take while weeding.
- Cut off excess vinyl before you weed.
- Most of the time, we use the weeding hook. We have found it's the tool that works the best. There are other tools, however, that you might want to have in your weeding arsenal. - A good pair of tweezers, a straight pin or needle (for pulling up the tiniest pieces), and a craft knife.
- Use scissors if you're weeded off a large chunk.

Weeding Tools

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO MAKE A KNOCKOUT

Step 1
Have Design Space open. Open new text box

Step 2
Choose IMPACT or TIMES NEW ROMAN font

Step 3
Type in primary word and change letter space so there is very little space in between letters. (Almost touching)

Step 4
Open another text box. Choose "I Love Glitter" font

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO MAKE A KNOCKOUT

Step 5

To get the swirls and heart do the follwing.

[john_anna]

How To Use This Font

Type * (asterisk) for the heart.

Type | (vertical bar) for the solid heart doodle.

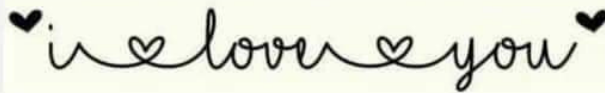Type _ (underscore) for the open heart doodle.

Type [] (brackets) for the swirls.

Examples
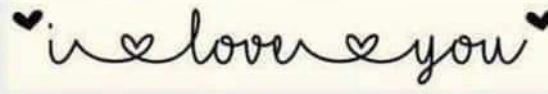
Type *john|anna*

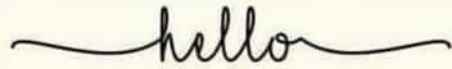Type *i_love_you*

Type [hello]

Type *john|anna*

Type *i_love_you*

Type [hello]

Connect all letters using the letter space option, or ungroup and do manually.

DESIGN SPACE - HOW TO MAKE A KNOCKOUT

Step 6

Weld together the words you're putting in the middle and set them to print in the layers section.

Step 7

Click the "Make It" button as if you were going to make the project. You ARE NOT actually going to make this yet. Once your project is up on the mat you'll see the "print" mat first. Go ahead and select "send to printer". Again, you ARE NOT actually going to make this. Don't worry, it won't go to your printer. You don't even need to have a printer connected for this to work.

Step 8

Once you have hit "send to printer" you'll get a confirmation screen. Make sure the "bleed" option is TURNED ON! This will make your words look like a big ol blob and that is exactly what you want. From here, right-click on the blob of letters and select "save image as". Name your image and select a folder to save it to. (I named mine blob and saved it to my desktop.) Then you can exit out of the print and cancel the cut.

DESIGN SPACE -
HOW TO MAKE A KNOCKOUT

Step 9

Once you have canceled the cut and you're back in your project you'll want to pull in the image you just saved. Click the "Upload" button and select "upload image". Find your blob image and upload it into design space. You'll select "simple image" and then delete everything in the image except the blob of words. (Just keep clicking the lines of the box until they all disappear.)   Save this as a "cut image" and insert it into your project.

Step 10

Now it's time for some positioning. I like to make each layer a different color so it's easy to see what I'm working with.   I turn the main word black, the blob text pink and the actual text blue. Size the main word to the size you want it on your final project. Pull your actual text up to the middle of your main word and position it exactly how you want it to look on your final project. Then you'll need to rotate the blob text and pull it up to the main word as well. Arrange the blob text to be behind the actual text. Continue to resize and position the blob text until you get it perfectly aligned behind your actual text.

DESIGN SPACE -
HOW TO MAKE A KNOCKOUT

Step 11

Pull your actual text out leaving only your main word and the blob text together. Select both the main word and the blob text and hit "slice". This will cut the blob out of the main text. Go to the layers panel and delete all of the blob text including the part remaining in the middle of the main word. Once it is all removed you should see a gap between the top and the bottom of your main word.

Step 12

Move your actual text back up into the gap in your main word and position it to the exact position you want. Set the actual text back to cut and you're ready to cut your project. If you plan on making the whole project one color, weld it all together. If you're making it 2 separate colors, keep it as is.