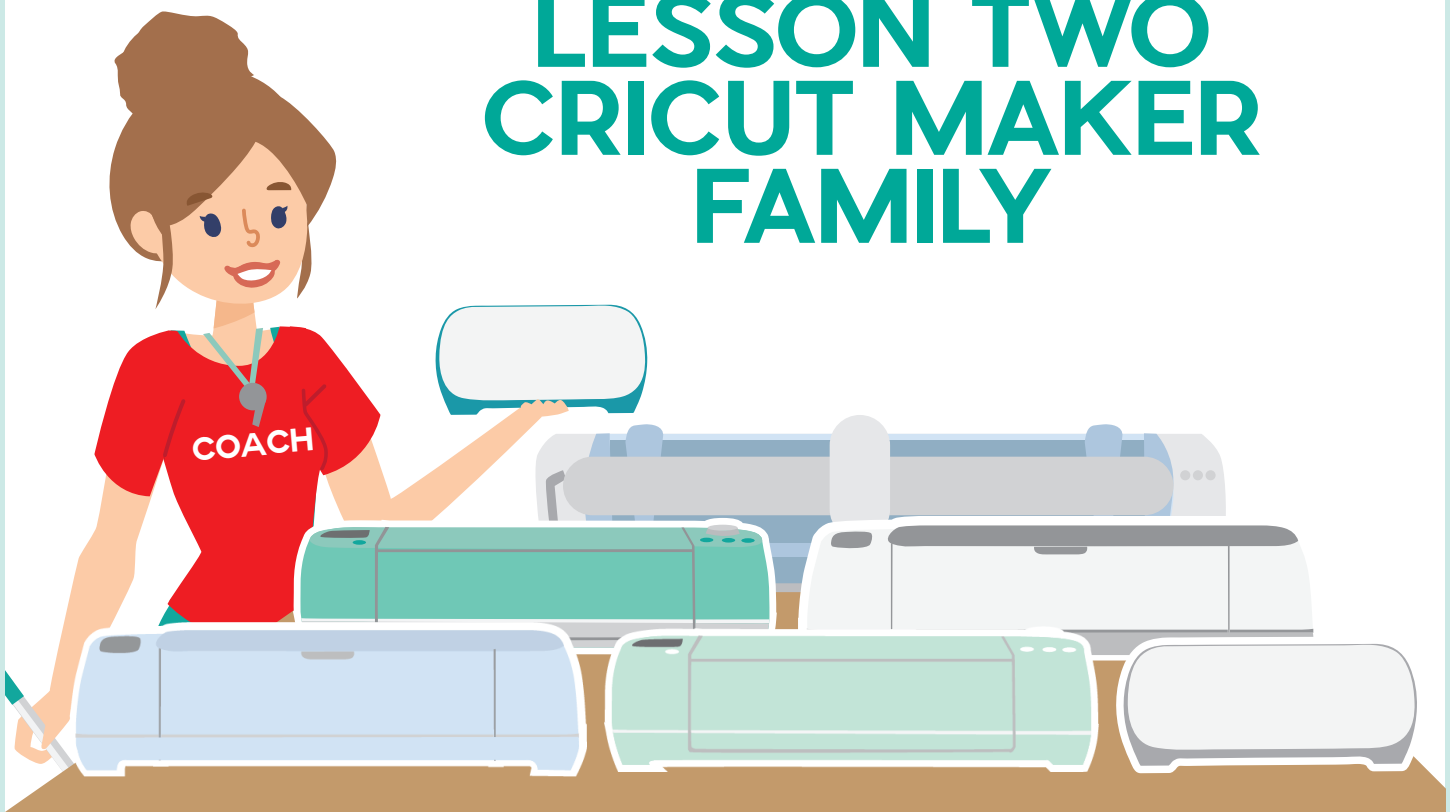


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LESSON TWO CRICUT MAKER FAMILY



SET UP YOUR CRICUT FOR SUCCESS WITH
JENNIFERMAKER

ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT

This is a transcript of the edited version of Cricut Kickoff: Know the Tools to Use With Your Cricut Maker video. Transcripts are provided for those who prefer to read and/or follow along with a text version as you watch the video at jennifermaker.com/cklesson2c

Please note that this transcript was made using an automated service, which means there may be some mistakes in interpretation of what I said, but we have reviewed it and attempted to correct all errors.

If you have any questions about using this transcript, please join me in my Cricut group at jennifermaker.com/cricutcrafter or email me at hello@jennifermaker.com

For more Cricut Kickoff lessons, visit makeracademy.com/cricut-kickoff-lessons

Happy making,

Jennifer



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Hello everyone, my name is Jennifer Maker and today I'm teaching you all about the tools, supplies, and accessories you can use with your Cricut Maker cutting machine, both the original Cricut Maker, which you can see right here and the Cricut Maker 3.

This is the Cricut Kickoff lesson two, and we're going to go through all of these fun things together one by one. So please pull up a chair here in my craft studio and we'll get started.

Now, in lesson one of Cricut Kickoff, you saw that your Cricut Maker cutting machine comes with a few things beyond just the machine, power cord, and USB cable. The original Cricut Maker box had a blue light grip mat, a black pen, a rotary blade, and some cardstock for test cuts. There was also a fine point blade inside the Cricut and the clamp, right? Right here. And in the Cricut Maker 3 box there was a small piece of smart vinyl for our test cut, plus three full size sheets of smart material and a full size sheet of transfer tape. And the fine point blade was also pre-installed in the Cricut Maker 3. And it's right here, but there is a lot more tool supplies, and accessories in the Cricut Maker universe, and understanding them and knowing what to focus on and what not to worry about as a beginner really goes a long way toward making what you love with your Cricut.

Now in this video, I'm going to cover the tools and supplies for both the original Maker that came out in 2017, but still very popular, and the Cricut Maker 3 that came out in 2021. The Maker 3 does have some extra tools and materials it can use, and I'll cover those separately at the end. But when I say Maker, you can rest assured it applies to both the original Maker and the Maker 3. If something applies to just one specific machine, I'll be sure to point that out.

And before we get too far, I want to remind you about my free Cricut Kickoff printable handbook that goes along with these lessons. You can download it right now at cricutkickoff.com. Just register for the class and you'll get the handbook. I'll be referring to it as we go along during today's lesson. Just know there's lots of really awesome cheat sheets on blades, pens, places for you to record, materials, brands, where to buy them, all that good stuff.

Now, since I know you're going to ask me where to get all the things I'm about to mention in this video, you can get these things for the most part at your local craft store or online directly from Cricut. Go to jennifermaker.com/cricutdiscount, I'll put the link at the bottom of the screen, for a 10% off coupon code and links to a bunch of awesome things that I'll be mentioning.

Now, I buy most of my stuff from Amazon. In fact, if you go to Cricut Maker... Sorry. Cricut Maker, that's funny. In fact, if you go to jennifermaker.com/cricut-maker-must-haves, I put that link at the bottom of the screen, you will see I have made you a handy Amazon shopping list with items that I'm mentioning today. So if I mention something unusual and you're not sure where to find it, check this shopping list, all right?

So let's get started. And we are going to begin with the blade. The Cricut Makers, both the original and the Maker 3, have a lot of different blades, a lot. The Maker is the most versatile of all the Cricut cutting machines, and the Maker 3 even more so. So let me show you each one and explain what it's used for, each blade.

All right, the basic all purpose blade that comes in your Cricut, right? They're identical, these two machines, this is the... It's called the premium fine point blade

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and it's in a silver housing. All right, this is what it looks like. This is the one that came in your Cricut. This blade is made from German carbide steel and is very sharp, so always handle it with care. This is the blade that you'll use most of the time. It's either silver or it could be gold. This is the gold one right here. These are identical. Just don't let the color confuse you or anything like that. They're the same thing. The thick shank here is called the housing, and that little bitty blade at the end, you can just barely see it poking out there, that's the actual blade itself.

You'll use the fine point blade for cutting cardstock, vinyl, and really most materials. And this is the one that you're going to use the most. So if you need to replace this blade, I highly recommend getting another Cricut premium fine point blade, not a knockoff. Your blade is your first and most important must have tool and it is so important to get good cuts.

That said, you probably won't need a new blade for a very long time if you keep the one that you have cleaned. I almost never have to replace my blade in my Cricuts because I keep the one that came with my Cricut cleaned. So if your blade is not cutting as well as it did in the beginning, it's probably just got some stuff on it that you need to clean off, seriously.

Now, there's two good ways to clean. The simplest and fastest cleaning method is to use a ball of aluminum foil. And the slower and more careful cleaning method is with isopropyl alcohol and a lint-free cloth, like this alcohol prep pad. So that means two more must-haves for you are some regular aluminum foil, the kind that you probably have in your kitchen already, just like this stuff. And some alcohol and something lint-free, which can just be a coffee filter or it

can be one of these little prep pads.

And I want to demonstrate both methods for you for cleaning your blade because it's so important and it really makes such a difference. And then you can decide which one you want to use.

So we just pull off about 12 inches, and I'm going to adjust my camera so we can see that a little bit better. So we pull off about 12 inches of aluminum foil. over there. And you just crumple it up into a ball. There's no special way to do this. This can be reused many times. It isn't like just one time per cleaning session. All right, so there is our aluminum foil ball, super high tech.

Here is our blade. And what you're going to want to do is push... Depress the plunger at the end so the blade sticks out like this. And then you're just going to poke your blade into your aluminum foil ball a few dozen times, very carefully of course. You don't want to poke yourself. You can go like this and what this will do is it will remove oxidation, adhesive, little bits of glitter, dust, that sort of thing. And it's really almost like magic. It does a great job.

I have been doing this for years now. I think I started doing it in 2017. It's kind of lost to memory now how I learned about it. This isn't something I came up with, it's something folks were doing in the Cricut community. And I think it was Melanie Lane's Facebook group that I learned it from, but I'm not positive anymore. It was really a long time ago, like six years now. So I had been doing this on all of my blades from almost the beginning. I remember in the first like month, I'm like, "Oh, I need a new blade." And I would go out and buy new blades. And then I learned this and that was the last time I bought blades, unless it's just to show you in a video, like see how it's like, still packed away? So however,

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there's controversy. So this method cleans, it doesn't sharpen. So that's important to understand. There are some pros and cons to doing this. The pro is that it's really easy. You can just put your little ball of aluminum foil right with your Cricut. It's always there. You don't have to worry about alcohol or anything like that. You also don't really have to touch the blade yourself. I like that too. The drawbacks are that doing this can push any glitter or dirt up into the housing, right? Up into the housing here, which could cause issues. It's never caused an issue for me, but it could. And it's also possible to accidentally have your blade get stuck in the aluminum foil and you don't notice it. And then you go and you try to... It kind of basically pulls out of your housing. But nothing like that has ever happened. I'm sorry, it's happened to me once, I had it stuck in my aluminum foil ball. But that is my method. But there's another method that I want to show you which involves using alcohol. So let me switch my camera again. So here is a little alcohol or prep pad. You don't have to use that. You could just get some alcohol and a lint-free cloth. But we'll use this because it's handy. All right, so here is our alcohol pad and here's our blade. So what you want to do is depress the plunger so that we can see the blade, and then using the alcohol pad or your lint-free cloth, very carefully, 'cause this is a very sharp blade, you want to grasp the blade and pull it out, right? You see how they're separated now? Now you'll want to clean that housing 'cause you know you can get stuff stuck in there. So you can use a bottle of compressed air and just blow it out, or you can go like this. To get any dust out of it, right? Then your next step is to use the alcohol to clean your blade. I just sort of twist it around like this until we got it. So always be really careful. It's like a tiny little exacto knife. Look at that. All right, and then we want to put it back in. I'm going to keep holding that alcohol prep pad so that

we're safe. I'm going to hold it from the side, I think that's better. And then it should go right back in and there's a magnet. You'll hear it kind of click and there it is. So that's how you can clean your... And you can do this with any of these blades, you can use the alcohol to clean them. And this will prolong the life so... Oh, it works amazing. Now you won't find either of these methods on cricut.com's help site. I think that touching the blades, telling people to clean them is tricky. So please be very careful. And you know, of course you know, they're a business, Cricut would of course want you to just buy blades. But really the thing is, is that the craft store is not always open at like 2:00 AM when you're crafting. And if it's not cutting, you need to clean your blade. So I really want... That's why I wanted to teach you this because it's such a big deal. So add alcohol and or aluminum foil to your must have list. It's really... Every one of my Cricuts around here has a little bit of a little ball of aluminum foil tucked into it right here. All right, now there are actually more blades that you can use in the Maker machines, and I want to show you what they are. The bonded fabric blade in the pink housing is for fabric. But here's the thing, even though it says it's specifically for bonded fabric, I don't believe there's any difference between it and the regular fine point blade other than the pink color. And because you have a Cricut Maker with the rotary blade or the ability to use a rotary blade, you probably don't even want this blade at all. You can use it. But the rotary blade does a much better job of cutting fabric. So this is not on your must-have list. All right, the blade in the black housing, the deep point blade. This allows you to cut thicker materials. The deep cut blade has a steeper blade angle of 60 degrees and it's made of a harder, more durable steel. I use the deep cut blade to cut cardboard, chipboard,

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magnets, stiffened felt, and foam sheets.

Sometimes I use the other knife tool, which I will tell you in a bit, but this is still an important tool with my Maker. This one here with the blue housing, it's not so much a blade as a tool. This is the foil transfer tool, and it comes with three interchangeable tips in fine, medium and bold. The foil transfer tool is used to transfer Cricut sheets, sorry, Cricut's foil transfer sheets onto your projects.

You can learn more about the foil transfer tool on my blog and YouTube channel. I have tutorials, of course. But that's not all. If you got the original Cricut Maker, that's this one, there was a blade in the box that looks different from all of these. So if you... I showed you yesterday when we unboxed this one, it didn't come with the Maker 3 but it did come with the original Maker. And that is this blade right here. This is the rotary blade. Note that it has a gear on the top. Do you see that gear right there? That gear goes into this, can only be used on the Maker, right? And this is a tiny rotary blade. You see how cool this is? And so when there is a gear like this, we call this the drive housing. And with the gear, your Cricut Maker, both the original and the Maker 3, so both of them can use this tool, can rotate the blade in any direction necessary to make the most precise cuts.

The rotary tool is used for delicate materials such as fabric, tissue paper and crepe paper. And it does an amazing job, it truly does. So this is the rotary tool. I don't know why they didn't include it in the Maker 3, but you can use it, you can buy it. Okay, so it's only packed into the original Maker. Now, you can buy more of these Maker only tools with the gears too.

Another popular Maker tool, Maker only

tool is this. This is the knife blade. Think of the knife blade is the polar opposite of the rotary blade. The knife blade lets you cut thicker or dense materials such as balsa wood, heavy chipboard, leather, craft foam, and more. It's very precise and does lovely sharp cuts. I use it to make puzzles, leather binder covers, and thin wood projects. So isn't that cool? Awesome little tool there.

Now there are more Maker tools that work with the adaptive tool system, which is unique to Cricut Maker. The adaptive tool system is a drive housing that allows you to swap out blades and tips without having to change the housing. This means that Cricut can keep coming up with new tools for us and all we have to do is swap them in. And they have done that last year.

Four new tools were added to the quick swap housing. So let me show you some of the tools that you can put into your quick swap housing.

First there is the scoring wheel. It looks like this. You can have a single score or a double score. Single score is good for thinner materials, while double score is best for thicker and specialty materials. The single score is identified with a 01 on the side here, right here. And the double score has a 02 on it. So that is the scoring wheel. And this is the combo pack, but you can get a single too.

And there is an engraving tip that you can use to engrave acrylic, aluminum leather and soft metals. You can identify this tip with a number 41. So all of these quick swap tools have a number on their tip so that you can identify them, right?

Well, this debossing tool adds detailed designs pressed into your cardstock with a tiny little roller ball in the tip. The debossing

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tool is good for making pretty cards and gift boxes. You can identify the debossing tip with the numbers 21 printed in the tip. This is the one that... This is the debossing tool so you can see what that looks like. See that tiny little tip there? That little tiny, tiny thing. Let's get that to focus, there we go. That is the debossing tip. There's really so many of these.

There's a perforation tool that helps you create tear offs and easy peel away crafts. Cardstock acetate and posterboard. The tool perforates with little teeth. Let's swap this one out. So I'll just take that, swap that one out. It's really easy to do. And this is the perforation tool. Let me hold that so you can see the number. See, number 11. So it has these little teeth that cut into your material at intervals, and you can identify the perforation tool with a number 11 printed on the tip.

The wavy blade tool creates a fun wavy edge in a variety of materials. I use it to make the edges on some felt sunflowers I put onto one of my dresses. That has a number 31 printed on the tip. If you have a Cricut Explore or a Cricut Venture, those blades will all fit into your Maker. So the Maker can use everything that the Explore and Venture can use, all the blades at least. But the the Makers, these geared ones will not fit into the Explore. Only the Maker gets to use the geared ones. Also the Maker cannot use the Cricut Joy blade. The Cricut Joy blade is unique to the Cricut Joy. It's also important to know that you can get replacement blades as needed for those that need blades like the Cricut... You know, like the deep point and the fine point and the bonded fabric, those all use blades. I mean, even the knife blade too, you can get a replacement for that. If you do get replacements, the premium fine point blades can be identified.

And I want to show you, actually, we put up a graphic 'cause this is important. So the image on the right are the premium fine point blades. These are the right ones to get. They have white caps. The image on the right, I might've said that wrong, left and right. Well, you've got a graphic on the screen. The image on the right are the wrong ones to get. They have a gray cap and also that says standard blade on the packaging. The ones with the gray caps that you see here, they were made for older Cricut machines and they are too long for the Cricut Maker. So instead look for their premium fine point blades. They may also say that they're German carbide blades. Because if you do not use the right blade for your Cricut, it may be cutting too deep and causing issues. So please check your packaging and be careful when buying replacement blades.

And this is where I have a little aside, it's not uncommon for when someone posts in my Facebook group and says I'm having an issue, I just update... You know, I just changed my blade and everything and it's not cutting. And often I'll ask them, "What kind of blade did you change to?" And more often than not, they have changed to one of those other blades by accident. And when they switch to the Cricut Premium Fine Point Blade, everything is suddenly cutting good again. So be cautious about your blades. So yet another reason to keep your blades clean, rather than just replace them.

Now, another thing before we move off blades is storage. Remember, you can use the accessory tray in your Cricut Maker to store blades. See if we can get a good shot of that. Yes. So this is the Cricut Maker 3. So it has this compartment right here and this is a blade compartment. There is a magnetic strip in this compartment to keep the blades from rolling around. Now eventually you may have too many blades for the accessory

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compartment, or you know, you put other stuff in there like candy or whatever and you'll need a different method of storage. So I have two that I'm going to show you.

All right, so the first tool I use is this tool holder that Greg designed and made for me on his 3D printer. I have the files free for anyone else who wants to make this tool holder. Now if you don't have a 3D printer, Cricut makes a machine tool organizer that looks like this, right?

So this is pretty cool. Let me show you how it works. So it's got these slots at the top and you can just drop in all your tools. This is great 'cause I can put back all my tools, so that one goes in there. And they just go right up here. And then this section down here at the bottom, it just unscrews, and you can put all of your quick swap housings in the bottom just like that. Isn't that cool? And so you can access them without having to, you know, like reach in or whatever, you just unscrew it from the bottom. Here we go. It's got a non-slip ring on the bottom as well.

So those are the two ways that I store, well, really three. I will put blades in here, but usually I like to put them right in here, right? He designed this so that it would fit them. Or I keep them in here. As I mentioned yesterday when we did our tour, and this is the same whether it's original Maker or Maker 3, this is clamp A with our accessory tool in it. I'll show you that when we get to the stylus and the pen. This is clamp B, this is where your blades go.

So to put in... Let me demonstrate actually one of the geared tools. Let's get out a tool. We'll use this one. So to put in a geared tool, it's so easy. You just set it in with the gear. Like this is the protective cover, you want to keep this on. This is here for

your safety so that should you be, you know, leaning over it and your hair or something gets caught, it won't pull it in, right? 'Cause these are gears. Keep this protective piece on. So the gear's back in there. So I'm just going to... It's hard to do with my left hand. I'm not left-handed. All right, there we go. And it just sets right in there, nothing magic about it. And then we close this clamp and then we close this clamp just like that. That's how you insert the geared Maker tools.

All right, so let's open that up, put that one away back into our little machine box. All right, so let's put the fine point blade back into our Cricut. So I'm just going to set it right into the clamp. It's not attached yet, right? It's not like secured yet. It's just sitting down. And I like to do it this way because it's really important that your blade be seated all the way down in that clamp because it's actually possible with the Cricut Maker to accidentally close it up like this. Do you see how the lip of it, it's not seated well into it? If you were to cut it, like if you were to try to cut a project like this, it wouldn't work and you wouldn't even necessarily... Without noticing this, you would think that something was wrong. The issue is just that your blade isn't seated all the way down in that clamp, okay? So you just want to open it up. Do you see how it fell down when I opened it? So you want to make sure it's down all the way in your clamp and then close it and secure it. Mats.

All right, so mats are adhesive covered plastic mats, panels, whatever you want to call it, piece of plastic. But they're covered in adhesive on one side and they hold our materials in place while we cut them on the Cricut. We call these machine mats to distinguish them from other mats like self-healing mats, which I will tell you about later.

Now, there was one machine mat included in

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your box if you got the original Maker, this blue light grip machine mat. We used it in lesson one to cut our decal. But there was no mat in the box with the Maker 3. Okay? So that you're not confused by that. Which is okay, though. But the Maker 3 can definitely use mats, and you want to get some mats. Mats are a must have, unless the only thing you're ever going to use your Maker 3 for is cutting vinyl. So you would want some mats.

So let's talk about the different mats. So the blue light grip mat is the least sticky of all the mats, and it is best for use with light and medium weight paper, medium cardstock, and vinyl. I don't use this one that much, I will admit.

There are four other machine mats to choose from. The green standard grip mat is stickier than the blue mat. And it is ideal for use with things like vinyl, medium to heavy cardstock, posterboard and more. The green mat is the mat I use most of the time. This is a must have. If you're only going to get one mat, get the green mat. They often go on sale too. And if you're following me on my Facebook page, you will know about it 'cause I will tell you when I see that they're on sale.

The purple mat is the strong grip mat and it is the most sticky mat. This machine mat is best for use with heavyweight materials like matboard, bonded fabric, chipboard, and thin wood like basswood.

And then there is the fabric grip mat. This was also included in the Cricut Maker original, one along with the rotary blade. Not in the Maker 3 though, but it can use it, all right? So this is a slightly thicker mat than the other three, with a special adhesive on it that is made for gripping fabrics. It will also release your fabric from the mat more cleanly.

That said, in a pinch I have used the purple strong grip and green strong grip mat for my fabrics when I needed to. So your mileage may vary on that, but this is the one that's intended for fabric and it does do a great job.

And finally we have the insert card mat, or just card mat as you can see right here, which is used with the pre-folded insert cards that are made by Cricut. It allows you to cut on just the front of the mat without damaging the back. So it has pockets that you slide your card into, and then you can cut the front, which is pretty cool.

So all of these machine mats come in two sizes, except this card mat, that one doesn't. So the two sizes are the standard 12 by 12 inch that we have here. And then this big 12 by 24 inch size. Oops, here we go. This big 12 by 24 inch size. So all of them, you can get them in all the sizes. I think I've mostly only used the... I've used the fabric grip in the large size and definitely the green standard grip mat in a large size. But remember, like I said, the green one is really your must have. And my suggestion is the 12 by 12 inch size. You probably don't need the 12 by 24 inch size mat unless, you know, you're planning to do a big project.

Now, I consider mats to be a consumable, and they will need to be replaced over time as they get less and less sticky as you use them. This is not something that you're going to be able to never replace or just keep clean and not replace, okay? I have definitely cleaned my mats, but I've also replaced many mats. There's nothing like a new sticky mat for success, okay? But you can keep them going for quite a long time by cleaning them with baby wipes. Just regular baby wipes, but you want to use the alcohol free type because alcohol will dissolve adhesive and you don't want to mess up your machine

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mats. So when you notice that your mats aren't quite sticky enough, you can just wipe it down with the baby wipe, it will remove dust and the little particles that make it not so sticky. And when it dries, it should be stickier.

I have tutorials on how to do that if you're not sure. If you don't want to use a baby wipe or you don't have access to those, you can also use mild dishwashing detergents and some lukewarm water and then wipe them down. Do not scrub at them like, with a scrubby sponge, 'cause that can remove the adhesive on the mats. You don't want to do that. So just gently wash them and then let them dry. So those are our mats. Truly a lot of people, I think, think that the mat should last forever, but they do not. So don't keep using a dead mat because you really need that sticky mat to keep your material in place as you cut it. It truly makes a difference, okay?

So if you're struggling, get yourself a new mat or you can try cleaning a mat you have first, but probably you just need a new mat. All right, let's talk about pens.

Pens. All right, Cricut Maker pens are great for writing on cards, making labels and embellishing paper crafts. The pens are water-based, acid-free, non-toxic, and permanent after they dry. The Cricut Maker, the Explore, and the Venture all use the same size pens and they all work in the Cricut Maker, but you cannot interchange them with the Cricut Joy pens just like you can't put the Cricut Joy pens into the Maker. Okay?

So I want you to see, on this packet it says Cricut Explore at the top. Not to worry, these still work in the Maker, they also work in the Venture, not that we're talking about that right now, but these still work in the Maker, okay? So don't let that Explore confuse you. Now, the clamps, well, I'm sorry, the

reason why they don't work is the clamps are different sizes so you can't just stick them in there. So when you get pens and markers, make sure they say Explore. Sometimes they will say Maker.

Let's see, I think this one says Cricut Maker at the bottom. Maybe it needs my finger in there. There we go, see at the bottom it says Cricut Maker and Cricut Explore. Now, if you had a Cricut Venture, you might be like, oh, what about me? It still works in the Venture too. So if you're using the Maker, just make sure that it says either Explore, Maker, or Venture on the box of pens.

Now, if you open the original Cricut Maker, you got a fine point pen with a 0.4 size tip in black with the Cricut Maker. There was no pen included with the Maker 3. Instead, it has extra material so that you're like wondering why it's like that. But there are so many pens and markers. So if you want one, you can get one. They come in all different sorts of colors. But there's also different styles. There's extra fine point pens, metallic markers, gel pens, watercolor pens, opaque pens, Cricut Infusible Ink pens, which I'll explain what that is a little later.

But so many things. And one thing I want to show everybody, 'cause it's new this year, is this product right here. These are permanent markers. They came out with the Cricut Venture. But you might think, oh, well, look how big they are. They're really big compared to the ones that you might be familiar with, which look like this. And you might think that maybe you can't use them, but you can use them in your Cricut Maker, okay? So these are really big, chunky permanent markers. So I'm going to show you how to use them. We're talking about the nice, big, thick, permanent

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markers. These are very bold, they're beautiful. All right, so to use these in your Cricut Maker, normally you put your pens into clamp A. It's okay that I did that. Like, it moves up and down. Okay, so you want to open up the clamp, I'll use this hand, open up the clamp and you want to remove this pen adapter. It comes pre-installed on your Cricut Maker, both the original and the Maker 3. But it can be removed, right? So to remove it, you just press from the bottom and you push it up. There we go. And it looks just like this. Now this pen adapter, it's for the pens. It's also for the scoring stylus, but you can remove it.

Sometimes I've noticed that when people force the pens in, and I'll show you how to put a pen in in a minute, sometimes they crack, right? And so if you are having an issue with your pens or your scoring stylus, I will also explain that in a minute, know that it could be your adapter and you might just need a new adapter. You can buy these separately. Or if you lose it, you can buy it separately. Okay, so we've removed the pen adapter.

Now we can put in the big, chunky permanent markers. All right, let's put in a green one. So whenever we put in a Cricut pen, we always want to test it to make sure it works before, because you don't want it to, you know, start flowing after it's been in there for a while. So I'm just going to use the back of my handbook, make sure it's working, and it is, perfect.

All right, so we're just going to put it right down into here like this and we're going to push it in until it won't go any further. There was a audible click. There may not always be one, but the key is to push it in as far as it goes. And then we close it with the clamp just like this. And then we put the cap on our pen so we don't lose

it. That's how that works. So yeah, there are adapters that you can buy that will fit other pens besides the Cricut pens. I haven't really experimented with them too much because I've been more or less fine with the Cricut pens. But just so you know there are third party adapters that you can put in here that will fit other size pens.

Okay, so let me show you how to insert a pen. Let's put the adapter back in. Here is our adapter and it just goes right down into here. And then you don't have to close it yet. Okay, so this is a gel pen. I want you to see how on the side here it tells you what it is. So this is a gel pen, a 1.0 tip. So a little thicker than a standard one, so bold. And it's an aqua, that we can tell by the cap color of course. Also on the bottom, oh, if you can see that, see that G? That G stands for gel. You'll see other initials, M for marker, F for fine point, right? So things like that.

So if you put them like into your accessory tray here, you could still tell what size it is and you don't accidentally grab the wrong one. So again, we just take off the cap, we make sure that it's writing. Here we go. Do you see how in the beginning it didn't quite write, but now once you do this, usually it starts to flow? And then we put it in.

This arrow that's printed on the barrel right here it can serve as a guide for how far in it needs to go. But it's the same basic idea. It'll snap in and then you close it and you put your cap on the end so it doesn't roll off your table and into oblivion.

So there's all sorts of awesome pens. When you're done, don't forget to remove your pen. There we go. And put your cap back on so it doesn't dry out. All right. And you can store it tip down in your accessory tray. So there's all sorts of cool pens. There's even things like a washable fabric pen. I love to use this for

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marking my fabric, like seam allowances or darts. I use this pen a lot because I love to sew and cut fabric on my Cricut Maker for my projects.

Now, like I told you, I suggest that you put your Cricut pens and markers tip down in your accessory tray or another organizer to keep the ink ready to flow. So, and also note that when you buy a pack of pens, they usually come in a case something like this or a blister pack, and they come with the tips up. So if you just got your pens and they've been sitting on the store shelf or wherever, tip up for who knows how long, you may need to flip 'em over for a little bit and give them some time to get ready, right? Before you actually start using them, okay? So just keep that in mind. And you should also store them... You can also store them on their side like this, right? Either on their side or tip down.

All right, so there are a lot of tools that you can buy for your Cricut Maker. Some are useful, some are less so. The ones I recommend you get, the ones that I personally use all the time are the scraper tool, the weeding tool and the scoring stylus, okay? Or the scoring tool.

We'll talk about that. All right, so. Yes, okay. So I'm going to show you what each one of these looks like. So the scraper is great for getting all the bits off of your machine mats. I have both the small one which looks like this, and the big one which looks like this. So if you don't want to buy a scraper tool, you can use an old store loyalty card or an expired debit card or credit card. But this will really extend the life of your mats, really make it easier to get good cuts. So use a scraper of some kind to get those little bits off of your mats.

Next must-have tool is the weeding tool. The

weeding tool is used to remove excess vinyl from a cut, which we call weeding. And this is how you get all those little bits out of your design that you don't want after you've cut it. You will mostly use it with vinyl, but I also use the weeding tool on intricate paper craft projects as well.

All right, and the third tool that I really like even with the Maker is the scoring stylus. So this is really useful to have even if you have a Maker scoring tool, which I showed you earlier, right? Why? Because you can put the scoring stylus in clamp A, this one right here, instead of clamp B, which is where the scoring tool, the scoring wheel goes, right? And that means you can score and cut without having to change tools, right? So it goes right into that clamp, and I love that because I don't like having to pause and switch my tool out.

Now, most of the paper crafts in my blog have some sort of scoring involved. Now, the scoring stylus' score isn't quite as deep as the scoring tool's score. So keep that in mind. But this is easier and I like easy. So the scoring stylus is a simple tool that makes a big difference for paper crafting. Note that if you don't plan to do any paper crafting or any paper crafting with folds, you don't need this accessory. So it's up to you. Okay?

All right, something else that I recommend is the spatula tool. So the spatula is another option and it's used for removing materials from your mats. I use this mostly for when I need to get small cardstock or intricate pieces of cardstock off of my mat without damaging the pieces, right? So it's for when you need to remove those little bitty pieces that are just, they're so fine and tiny. The spatula is very handy, right? So it depends whether this is a must have or not. Depends on whether you're going to be doing lots of intricate cuts. But the Cricut excels at

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intricate cuts so I recommend you try them. Okay, so that's the spatula.

The next one, this is the brayer. The brayer is another one of those optional tools that some people love and others don't use. The brayer is just a big rubber roller that helps you stick stuff down on your mat for cleaner cuts. So Cricut says that the brayer is for fabric, but people including myself use it for vinyl and cardstock too. If you find you have issues getting your material onto your mat smoothly, you may find the brayer useful. In the beginning, I didn't even think I needed this. I never bothered to get it. I just used my hands to press everything down and then I got it and started using it and now I use it pretty much all the time. It really makes a difference. It's very useful. So for me now, the brayer is a must have.

Another tool that I think is really useful and I now consider a must have for me is the TrueControl knife. It has a special razor sharp non-stick blade. Here's another, here's the one I'm actually using. You saw me using it to open the Cricut Maker box and the seals up yesterday. Craft knives are used for doing manual cuts. So we don't put this into our Cricut, we just use it for those times when we need to cut something a little bit here or there, you know, maybe cut a piece off or something. Also sometimes a project mostly cut all the way through but it's hanging by a tiny little bit due to a design issue or whatever. And then you can easily cut that with a craft knife, right?

You can also get a version of this that is a weeding kit and it has interchangeable tools. I'll show you what they look like. There, where you can swap out the knife part and then you get these weeding access to these weeding tools with it. So then it's not just a knife but rather a four in one tool. And you can change the tip to add on your weeding

tools. There's four different tips. I love this and I use it nearly every day.

Now if you use the TrueControl knife, whether it's the one with the weeding tips or not, I also recommend you have a self-healing mat like the one you see right here on my desk. Now this mat is not an adhesive mat like the kind you put into your Cricut, but rather it's just an extra thick mat that you can use to cut things with your craft knife. And when I say self-healing mat, that means it's made from separate tiny pieces of material, I don't know what it's made from.

All I know is there's a bunch of little, little, little nubs essentially that are pressed together and it creates a solid surface to our fingers that feel solid. But when you cut on it, the little pieces actually separate rather than cut into them. So you can cut on this and it will self-heal, right? So it separates them rather than cutting into the entire surface. Thus we call it a self-healing mat. I always craft on one of these mats, usually the large one, which is the one that I have right now. You can't quite see it and it's kind of... But this is the 18 way and then the 24 inch way is going this way right now on my mat. I also like to craft on this because I find it much easier to keep it clean than my normal work surface, which is over here, which is in the... This is like our standing desk, I don't know what this is, it does clean but this cleans off better.

So, and then also if something happens and I can't get it clean, I can just replace my mat. It's so much better than replacing my whole desk, right? So I am a big proponent of using mats on your desk. But it's really particularly useful if you have the TrueControl knife, or you know, an exacto knife or any craft knife for that matter.

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All right, now there are some other things I want to show you. Other tools that are not made by Cricut but are really very useful, especially with the Maker. I think that this is the fun part.

Okay, so the first one is my magnifying glasses. Well, they're not mine, I just really like 'em. They look like this. And let me show you on the other camera. They look kind of funny but they work like a champ. So there is actually like a little light up here too. I don't know if my battery is... Oh, there we go. You can see it, see? See? Light. So there's a little USB light up at the top. And then these lenses here are interchangeable. So whatever magnification you need, you can swap 'em out, they fit over glasses, and they're just really awesome for seeing those tiny cuts when you're weeding vinyl. 'Cause I'm not a fan of weeding vinyl. I'm not very good at it, so I use any help I can get. And these glasses are awesome. They're amazing. They fit right onto your head like this. They are so cool, love them. Greg told me about these a few years ago.

So these things I'm mentioning now are a little bit less typical. So if you aren't sure where to get them, I got everything on Amazon as I mentioned earlier. And it's in the list that you see right down here at the bottom of the screen, so you can find everything linked there. Okay, those are my magnifying glasses.

Another thing that I like to use are silicone weeding containers. So as we're weeding vinyl, we get little bits and little bits of vinyl that we take off. And it's important to keep them separate from our project because otherwise if they find their way back in they can mess up your project and cause an issue. So this one is just a little one that fits right on your fingers like this and it moves with you as you're working. And this one here is

actually hinged. It's got a little suction cup on the bottom so you can stick it onto your desk, you can fold it towards you as you're working. And the way that it actually works is... Let's get my weeding tool.

So here's our weeding tool. So let's pretend I'm weeding. Here we go, I'm weeding. This is the easiest weeding ever. But you pick up a little piece of vinyl, right? And it's stuck on the end of your weeding tool. But you can just come over here and you go like this and you just take it right... It comes right off into the silicone little thing. It won't stick to the silicone. And when it's full or you want to remove it, you just reach in and pull out all the bunched up vinyl 'cause it'll stick to itself, not to the silicone. And then you're keeping your area clean. And most importantly it's not just about keeping it clean 'cause I'm not really a clean crafter, I don't tidy as I go, it's totally not me. What's more important is that those little bits that you're weeding away from your vinyl don't get back into your project and mess it up. That's what matters. Okay, those are my weeding tools.

Let me show you something else I use to help me with weeding. They come in this little silver case. And they are fancy weeding tools. There's a pointy one that looks like this, I like this one, and then this one that's curved. I don't like it when they curve all the way in. Oops, here we go, turn that a little bit more, see how that's curved like that? These are really useful. But the reason why these are cool is that they have lights on the ends. So then when I'm weeding I can actually see. See how they light up the area? So there's little USB lights on them, so it's very useful for seeing the tiny cut lines on your projects. So these are LED light up weeding tools. So if you struggle with weeding like I do or you discover that you struggle with weeding like I do, you might find these useful.

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All right, something else. There is a really cool organizer that you can get for your tray here. All right, so there is the tool compartment. You can see right down into it, there's where the blades are. But this organizer actually gives you a bunch of space. It basically creates fitted areas for your tools in there. So it's really easy, they just pop right in. So that one goes right in there. This one goes right in here like that. See, they like fit so nicely. This one goes in here. And here's one more and that one goes right here. And now you can store your tools in here, and they won't be like... Just they now all have little areas for them to be. See, isn't that cool? I love this. It's not very expensive. I found it on Amazon. And the brand is LOPASA And it works in both the Cricut Maker 3 and the original Maker. So either way, it doesn't work in the Explores or anything like that, but it definitely works in the Makers. So that is Cricut... It's called the Cricut Maker Tool Organizer. Isn't that neat?

All right, something else that you can get to help with your Maker, back this up a little bit, is a extension for the end of this. And it looks like this on the box. And this is really useful when you're working with mats, especially the long mats 'cause they can kind of flop off the end. It's also useful if you put your Maker up higher, like it's maybe on a shelf and you don't have like a flat surface in front of it. It's not like sitting on a desk like mine is right now. Instead it's just all empty air and your mat is sort of just hanging. You don't really want it to hang like that because when you bend your mat it can release the material, right? That bending of the mat.

So you can use this and I'll demonstrate it real quick for you. It's very easy. They just snap right onto this part. Hold on, this one. Super easy. And now as you're using a mat, let me grab one, instead of flopping off the end, it sits very nice and neatly onto the

extender. So it's not... I wouldn't consider this a must have unless you're struggling with it and you really need it. It's more like a nice to have, but it's pretty cool. And then one more. And for this one, I'm going to show it on the original Cricut Maker.

This next one I'm showing you, you will work on both the original Maker and the Maker 3. But this port is closer to me right now. So I'm going to show you on this one. Now remember yesterday I told you that the Maker, both the original Maker and the Maker 3, has a USB port on the side. I'm just going to move that a little bit so you can see. Well, I'm going to try. Just in case you missed that, right here there is a USB port. I think its intention, it was put there was so that you could charge your mobile devices, right? When you're using it, like your iPad or your Android tablet when you're using your Cricut Maker. I think that was the idea. But I like to use it for other things too. I have charged my phone even though I'm not using my Cricut off of it.

So what I do is I have gotten this USB light. It's intended for like, laptops. It's got like this gooseneck on it. But we can plug it in right here, right? And it just positions wherever you want it to. And then you can light up your work area. So even if you don't have... Like wherever your Cricut is and then you can see things better, you can see what you're doing on this better. Oops, why is this not opening? There we go. Right when you're working, I have so many things here, sorry, there we go. So when you're working you might need to see, did it cut through or not, right?

One of the things I often teach is for you to check your cuts to make sure it cut through before you unload your mat. And so with a light like this, it's so much easier to tell if you have actually cut through, right? So

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cute little light here. It doesn't have to be this exact one. This one, in fact, ever since I discovered it and started talking about it, it keeps going out of stock. I'm not going to say that I have something to do with that, but I don't know what's going on. I'm sure it's just a coincidence. But this one keeps going out of stock.

But there's other ones. It just needs to have a USB connection and have this gooseneck so that you can just position it wherever you want. So I did find... And then I noticed that again it was out of stock today 'cause I made a video about it a couple weeks ago, and that video has been doing really, really well. So I think it's selling out. But I found another one and so I linked it in the shopping list for you if you like it too, 'cause I think that this is really useful. I love this little light. I think that those are all of the little tools I wanted to show you.

So now it's time for materials. Let's start with cardstock. Because I think cardstock is the first thing a Cricut beginner should begin with. Cardstock is easy to get. It's inexpensive. You can get a pack of cardstock, it can last you really a long time. And it's not a big deal if you, you know, you're going to make lots of mistakes in the beginning, and it's just a piece of paper. It's just a piece of paper, right?

So tomorrow in our lesson, lesson three, I will show you how to make a cardstock project. So let's talk about the cardstocks I think are great for you to use. All right, here we go. So the first, there's many brands, not all brands are the same. Cricut makes excellent cardstock, but I don't often use it in my tutorials because it's hard to get. You're never going to find it in a store. It's even hard to find on Amazon or on Cricut. When you can find it, it's amazing. So they have got great cardstock, so that you know. If you find

it and can get it, go for it.

They also have some cute papers. So it's called deluxe paper, but they have it in different patterns. They also have licenses with Disney and Marvel and other companies so they can get cool patterns like this. It's Mickey Mouse paper. There's Disney's "Frozen". And they make things like posterboard. So this is metallic posterboard, really pretty, especially around the holidays. And foil posterboard. Also very pretty, see how it shines? This makes beautiful paper crafts. And posterboard is a little thicker than cardstock. So it's really sturdy. And that's mostly... I mean, there are a few other Cricut cardstocks and paper products. They're just harder to get, I have found.

So that means I look to other brands and one of my favorite cardstock brands is AC Cardstock. AC stands for American Crafts. Their stuff is beautiful. This is 80 pound cardstock, which we see listed right here. A good cardstock will put its weight right on the packaging. The weight matters for like... I will tell you in a tutorial which weight to look for. Typically 65 to 80 pound is considered medium weight cardstock. They're mostly interchangeable. The only time that I will suggest heavily that you use 65 pound over 80 pound is when we're doing something like a shadow box and we want the light to shine through the paper so it needs to not be so thick.

This paper is also solid core, which means it's the same color all the way through. And we can tell that by looking at the edge of it. And when we look at the edge, if you see all the colors or the color of it, then it's solid core. Sometimes it'll also tell you on the packaging, so right here it says solid core. You see that? Not all cardstock is solid core, though. You have to watch out for that. So usually you'll see non-solid core or white

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core in like printed or specialty paper like glitter cardstock. So this one you see on the edge, it's mostly white. This is white core, right? Another one that's white core is this one, right? And the reason why this matters in paper crafting is because you can see the edges of your paper. And if you have some beautiful, vibrant or dark cardstock but the edges are white, it's really noticeable. And so sometimes you can't help it. Like this stuff only comes in white core because it's printed. Well, and it's got these foil accents, right? So, but if you're using solid colored cardstock, look for solid core 'cause the end result will be nicer.

This is also another great brand. This is Recollections. I use this in many of my tutorials and it's also solid core. This one is 65 pound, and it says so right on the packaging. You can go a little lighter, though we don't typically. You can go higher, you can use like 100 or 110 pound cardstock. That would be considered heavy cardstock. It is harder to cut though, so keep that in mind. This is another good brand, I get this one on Amazon, ClearPath Paper. They have tons of different colors, weights, and sizes, all very clearly marked.

Cardstock Warehouse is another great brand. Again, just like ClearPath Paper, they have lots of different sizes and colors and finishes. So like this one is silver glitter, isn't that pretty? Echo Park Paper makes really pretty patterned paper. Then there's other choices as well.

Darice has some great paper. If you're struggling with getting good cuts in white cardstock in particular, because this has been a hot topic in our Facebook group recently, I recommend white Darice cardstock. I've noticed that most people are successful with it. I don't usually have any issues cutting white cardstock, so I think that there might

be more going on, but I'm not sure what it is. It could be humidity.

Humidity and paper don't get along. And if you have some damp cardstock, it doesn't cut basically at all. It just sort of shreds and tears and it's just a mess. If you think that your cardstock has gotten damp or it's not cutting and you suspect that that could be an issue, you'll want to put it into an airtight container and then put in a desiccant pack or I guess some rice. You could put in some rice, something to soak up the moisture and get it out of the paper so that you could then try using it.

I had one summer where just a couple years ago our air conditioner went out, it was out for like two months and it was so hot that summer. And all of my paper in my craft room like got damp, and I discovered how very impossible it was to cut damp paper. So I am very familiar with this problem. Thankfully our air conditioner is now fixed. Not that I need it this time of the year.

All right, there's other cardstocks too and other materials. Let me show you some of the other materials that we can use, especially on the Maker. So the Maker can cut other things besides just cardstock, right? So it can cut felt and it can cut craftboard. You can cut this on the other ones as well. But craftboard is a thicker, even thicker than posterboard. Here's some foil posterboard for you. Basswood, you can use a knife blade to cut basswood. So this is wood. Now, your wood does need to be two millimeters or less, I think it is. So it can't be really thick. You can see that this is really pretty thin. See how thin those sheets are? But this is the Cricut brand of basswood, it's very cool. Heavy chipboard is another option. Heavy chipboard is... And this is, again, it has to be two millimeters or less, but you can make some really cool, very sturdy crafts with

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heavy chipboard.

And again, you're going to use your knife blade for this. You can cut wood veneer. So here's cherry and walnut, isn't this gorgeous? Wood veneer is really quite easy to cut because it's very thin. And leather, you can cut gorgeous leather. Look at how pretty this is. So Cricut makes this, I love this stuff. There's some other colors as well, black. And this one, I love rose gold. I have made a binder cover with this.

So with the Maker, the Maker can do those things. You can't cut a lot of these materials on the other machines. And of course you can cut fabric using your rotary blade on the Cricut. I don't have any fabric out but I know you all know what fabric looks like. So Cricut used to make some bundles of fabric when the Maker first came out, but they don't make 'em anymore. So I could show them to you but then you'd be like, oh, I want those. And I'd be like, well you can't get them. So I'm just not going to bother to show you. But you can cut pretty much all the fabric. The only things that I've found that I can't really cut on my Maker is like batting, 'cause it's just too puffy. That's about it. I've cut a lot of different fabric on my Maker. Yeah, okay.

And then besides things like the cardstock and the unusual materials, of course you can cut vinyl. So all the adhesive vinyls I have over here, as well as some specialty vinyls and iron-on vinyls, some Infusible Ink. I'm going to explain what all of these things are.

So vinyl is a material that we attach, we can either use adhesive vinyl or iron-on vinyl. Adhesive vinyl tends to go on to solid surfaces, like inflexible, stable, what's the word I'm looking for? Rigid surfaces, that's it. Like a shadow box frame or a coffee mug, that kind of thing. And it comes in all sorts of finishes, glitter, holographic. The basic kind is... Let's get that to focus for us,

there we go. This is the mainstay, permanent glossy premium vinyl. You can also get it in removable in case you want to put it like on your wall or an appliance and remove it later. But it comes in all sorts of different finishes. Holographic, sparkle, glitter, all of that, lots. There's many of them.

Now, to use adhesive vinyl, you also need to be able to transfer it to your surface. And for that we need transfer tape. So this is transfer tape. It comes in a roll also. This is the transfer tape that you would want to use for these smooth vinyls. So this is the standard transfer tape. It has a gray grid on it and it just says transfer tape. But if you want to transfer something like glitter vinyl, glitter vinyl is textured, it's thicker, and it's not going to work with this regular standard grip.

So you need to move up to a strong grip transfer tape. These transfer tapes are not interchangeable. Don't be like me and go to the craft store and be like, oh, I'm going to get strong grip 'cause that'll work best for everything. It'll be too strong. Strong grip is too strong for regular smooth vinyls like this. You only want to use strong grip for things like glitter vinyl or the true brushed or any kind of textured vinyl. And again, we're talking about adhesive vinyls, not iron-on vinyls.

But one thing a lot of people don't realize is that there's actually a piece of strong grip transfer tape inside the roll of glitter and those other textured vinyls that need it. So if you get a roll of glitter vinyl and you don't have the strong grip stuff or you forget and you try anyways, 'cause that happens all the time, and it's totally okay, just unroll your vinyl all the way and you will find a sheet of it in there.

I can see it kind of poking out right now. So it's in the bottom, it's the lowest layer of your vinyl. I think only Cricut vinyl does that,

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so that you know. All right, and then there's one more transfer tape that you can try. This is a standard grip and it's new this year and it's called the linerless transfer tape. So it's got the same stickiness level as the standard grip but it doesn't have a liner. So it's better for the environment, one less step, but I don't think it's as easy for beginners, who are just learning about transfer tape, to use.

I have a video all about how to use the different transfer tapes and different techniques on them on my YouTube channel if you want to learn more about using or picking the right transfer tape for your project. And then there are also some, in addition to these, there's some specialty vinyls I would like to show you.

All right, so there's things like chalkboard vinyl that you can use to make cute labels like they've shown in this one. And there is dry erase vinyl, also great for making labels or decorating your refrigerator door or your locker door or whatever. There's stencil vinyl, which is, it's see-through and it's got a grid. So it's not really any different than like permanent vinyl, but you can see through it. So that's useful for some stenciling projects. I usually just use permanent vinyl for my stenciling projects. But hey, it's see-through and it's got a grid. So if that's useful for you to know.

There's window cling in different colors so you can put cool designs on your windows. And new this year also is heat activated or cold activated color-changing vinyl, there's different colors, they change from one color to another. And this is the blue, but there's also like a yellow and a pink, I think, or purple and a pink. And these are really fun because if they get hot or cold, they change. So if you put them on a mug or a jar or a pitcher, they'll change color when you put like a hot liquid or warm liquid in there. So those are some of the specialty vinyls that

are available.

And then of course, as I mentioned, there's iron-on vinyl. So adhesive vinyl like this is activated by pressure, so you press on it, and I have lots of tutorials on that if you want to learn more about it. Whereas unlike adhesive vinyl, iron-on vinyl is activated through heat, right? So like a household iron or something like a Cricut EasyPress.

So we have all different sorts. We have glitters, foils, patterned iron-on vinyl, all sorts of things. If you can think of it, it probably exists. Cricut makes them, other companies make them. In addition to Cricut's iron-on vinyl, I also like Siser's iron-on vinyl and HTVRONT's iron-on vinyl. You can get that on Amazon.

Now I want to call your attention, though, to these ones in the box back here that say smart on them. Let's pull them out. We've got some smart vinyl and some smart iron-on. These are only going to work in your Cricut Maker 3. Now if you accidentally buy them, you can still put them on a mat with your original Cricut Maker. So don't worry too much. But they're intended for the Cricut Maker.

And this is just like you saw in yesterday's setup video where we just took the vinyl and we just put it in the machine without a mat so you can get it in all the colors. So this is adhesive vinyl, this is smart vinyl. You can get it in permanent or removable. Lots and lots of colors, also glitter and all that. And then there's smart iron-on, which is activated through heat rather than pressure. And you can get it in different colors and different finishes as well. It works the same way that we did yesterday. These two work the same way. So those are for the Maker 3.

Now, I think it's not... Like the whole smart thing sometimes confuses people and they're

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just like, oh hey, it says iron-on and I'll just buy it. And people who don't have the newer Maker 3 and instead they have, you know, the older Maker 1 and they're like, oh, now what do I do? So you can just put it onto a mat and cut it. There is a material setting for it and you're going to be fine. You could attempt to cut it without a mat but the settings won't be correct. And so it might be too much pressure and it might end up cutting through your liner. So you would have to mess with the settings.

Also the Maker, the original Maker is missing, the guides that we have. Here are... These guides are on the door of the Cricut Maker 3. But if we look over here, there are no guides, right? So these guides make a difference in your ability to guide the material and stay and track it without the mat, or sorry without... Right, without a mat. 'Cause it can wiggle around. With the guides that you have on the Maker 3, it can't wiggle around, but it can wiggle around on the Maker. So you're welcome to try it. Just know that you might have some issues. People have tried it. There's some tutorials out there if you want to give it a try. I personally don't like wasting materials. If I want to use my smart vinyl, I either put it into my Maker 3. If I don't have my Maker available, 'cause this is usually the one that's sitting near my desk, I still use my original Maker, then I just put it on a mat and then I don't have to worry about messing it up. Yeah, okay.

And then, oh, can't forget about our Infusible Ink. I mentioned that there are Infusible Ink pens. There's also Infusible Ink transfer sheets. So transfer sheets, it's basically pre-printed sublimation prints put onto a liner and you can cut them on your Cricut. So it's pretty cool, especially if you're curious about sublimation crafting, you've been hearing me talk about it, but you're not ready to invest. Your Cricut can cut these. So you know, there's these, there's also the pens

I mentioned. And with sublimation, which is a whole new topic, right? And we're not going to go too deep into that. But you can use high heat up to usually 400 degrees Fahrenheit or the equivalent in Celsius to transfer the ink from the transfer sheet onto another surface.

So we would often do something like the Cricut Mug Press, which is right here, right? And we would wrap the transfer sheet around a appropriate mug. It's not any mug, it's certain mugs. Cricut sells mugs. This is a Cricut branded mug. And it will... Once it's in the mug press, it'll actually... This mug press is very cool. It actually will take the temperature and the pressure for you. You don't have to... Like it's super auto.

Anyways, it will transfer the ink from the transfer sheet into the surface of your mug. And it's like your mug just changes, it's like getting dyed, it's very cool. And there's no edges, it isn't peel or crack, it stays, it's permanent. It's very neat. So the mug press is for use with the Infusible Ink transfer sheets and the Infusible Ink pens and markers.

I Have lots of tutorials on that if you want to learn how to do that. And more Infusible Ink surfaces besides the mug, they have coasters. These are ceramic coasters. These are aluminum coasters with a cork bag. There's tote bags and T-shirts. And there's more too, makeup bags, pillowcases. And you can use brands other than Cricut. I am often finding amazing deals on Amazon and sharing them, lots of sublimation blanks.

Anything that's called a sublimation blank works with Infusible Ink. So in Infusible Ink blanks, which it says here, Infusible Ink, work with sublimation. It's all the same thing. Just Infusible Ink is Cricut's name for their transfer sheet and pens. They came up with their own name 'cause that's Cricut.

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And of course, like I said, you need heat to transfer Infusible Ink.

So like, we use the mug press, but you could also use something like the mini press. The mini press gets hot enough for Infusible Ink transferring. This is a nice cute little press, but it's only good for small projects really.

A full sized press is like the Cricut Easy Press that I have here. This is the nine by nine size. There's also a 12 by 10 size and even a bigger one, a 12 by 15, that is the Cricut Autopress. You don't have to use a Cricut press to use Infusible Ink or iron-on vinyl. You can use another brand. The Cricut ones, however, work really well. I am a fan of their products, but you all know that, right?

Remember, I don't work for Cricut. I'm not being paid to say anything I say, right? Remember I told you that in lesson one, just in case you're just dropping in at me and you're like, what? Does she work for Cricut? She just loves all this Cricut stuff. I do. I really... I don't work for Cricut. No. I don't want to work for Cricut. No offense, Cricut, but I like being independent because then I can say whatever I want. And that's very important to me. But I actually really like Cricut stuff, so that's the truth.

But I will use other brands when either Cricut doesn't offer it or I don't like Cricut's brand. It used to be that I didn't like Cricut's printable sticker paper 'cause it was too thick and it wouldn't go through my printer. But you know what? They came out with new sticker paper, which I don't think I have right now. I should have that out to show you, but I'll just tell you about it. They came out with new sticker paper just a few months ago, and this is now thinner and it works in all the printers. So they have actually eliminated that too. So there's new sticker paper, printable sticker paper, printable vinyl. That was always fine but they still upgraded it,

and now there's like holographic and there's UV resistant stuff.

So they have like a whole new line of printable papers and vinyls that are really good, and they're great for stickers and decals and all that. All right, so I think we have gotten through all of our materials, at least all the ones I have to show you. There's so many things, aren't there?

So let's talk about what you really don't need to be worrying about as a Cricut beginner, because this is all a little bit overwhelming.

Okay, first, you really don't need replacement fine point blades. Use my two cleaning methods to keep your blades nice and clean. They really, truly work.

Second, you don't need every color and type of cardstock or vinyl or Infusible Ink or anything. Even though you might be tempted, you might see sales, I think right now there's like a 70% off sale at cricut.com, like a warehouse sale. And I know it's tempting to get these things, but I recommend you buy your supplies on a project by project basis to avoid stockpiling too much and getting overwhelmed, because this is a thing, it truly is. People will buy all the things and they think they can't craft until they have, like everything, right? And then they're afraid to or intimidated by it or they just don't know where to start. It's almost like they just collected the things. So don't do that, please.

And third, you don't need to try all the different types of materials. You don't need to do Infusible Ink at all. You don't need to do paper crafting at all, or vinyl, none of it. Like, you can just pick the one thing that you care about and ignore all the rest. If you're not sure where to start, I recommend a paper craft 'cause they're really pretty easy to do and they're not expensive. So I recommend a nice easy paper craft, and you do it, you finish

it, and you move on from there. It's really important to stay focused for success.

I recommend you be project based rather than supply based. And by that, I mean you are motivated by making something specific, a T-shirt or a mug or a tote bag or a shadow box, whatever it is. And it doesn't even have to be a thing. It can be what the purpose of it is, a gift for someone, right? Something for a fundraiser. So it's important to focus on that, right? Because that will motivate you to figure it out.

So then you come to my blog at jennifermaker.com and you search for the kind of thing that you want to make, you find the directions and you use my tutorial to make it. You get the supplies you need for that one project. Not all of the supplies that are possible, but just the things you need for that one project. And then you do it and you finish it, stay focused, and you've got it, you have finished it and this builds your confidence. Even if it's just little things at first, this really truly makes a difference.

All right, well, until our next class, this is Jennifer Maker reminding you to craft a life you love.

HOW TO PRINT

While I generally recommend you use this organizer electronically on your computer or mobile device to save paper, search easier, and keep the latest version, I know that some people prefer to have a printed hard copy. So here are some tips on printing this file:

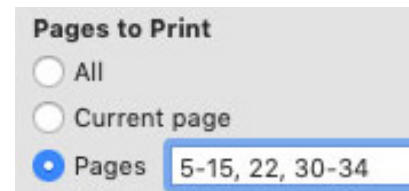
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Whenever possible, print from a desktop or laptop computer—iOS devices have known print bugs that can cause images to disappear.

Always do a test print before you print all the pages to ensure you have ink in your printer, that the quality is good enough for you, and so on.

Before you send the entire organizer to print, look through it and decide if you really want all the pages to be printed. Or if you need extra copies of some pages.

You can print specific pages by typing just the page numbers in your Print dialog box, like this:



If you're concerned about ink usage, you can print in grayscale instead (look for an option in your Print dialog box for grayscale or black and white). Another option is to click on your Printer settings and change your quality to "draft" and this will save more ink (but do a test first, as you may not like it).

If your test print looks blurry, click on your Printer settings and make sure your quality settings are set to normal or even best for the highest resolution print.

Readers outside the U.S. may need to print on A4 paper. If you do this, make sure your pages are not being reformatted before you print them (check the print preview box). You can also scale your pages down 97% to print on A4.

If you intend to keep your organizer updated with future updates, put the pages in clear protective sleeves in a binder rather than have the pages bound—it'll be easier to add and update pages that way.

If you do not have a printer or would rather someone else print it, you can send your PDF to a copy shop or an office supply store like Staples.com. You can also tell them that you want only certain pages printed, too! There's a Print Release Form for them on the next page.

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