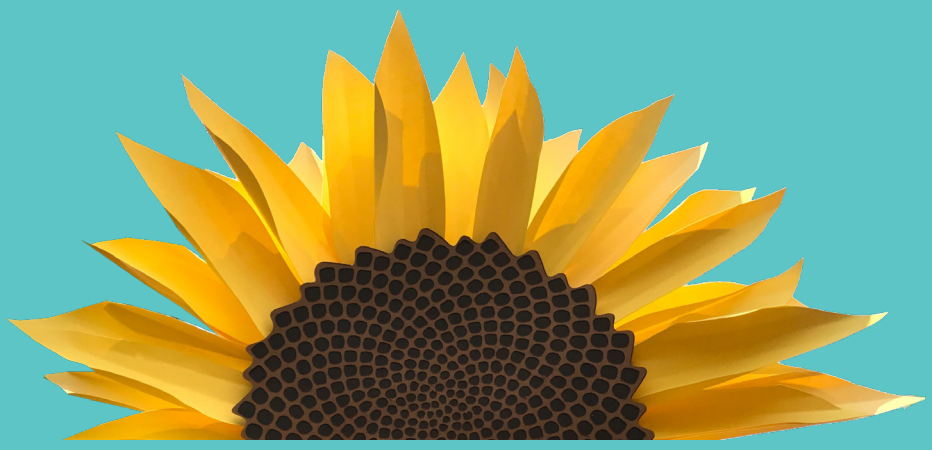


SVGS MADE SIMPLE

Learn how to find, download, upload, and modify SVG cut files

BY AWARD-WINNING GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR

JENNIFERMAKER

SVGs Made Simple

Have you ever wanted to make the beautiful paper crafts you've seen around, or wondered why some people can make amazing creations while others get SO frustrated?

Hey, I know you might be having issues. We all have them! But I'm also betting you love to make things. Beautiful things! Just like me.

Hi, my name is Jennifer, founder of the **CUT ABOVE SVG Design Course** and award-winning graphic designer at the JenniferMaker.com blog. Welcome to my training series, **SVGs Made Simple**.

Today, you're going to learn all about SVG cut files and how they can transform your crafts. You'll also learn how to find and download SVGs to help you cut and make gorgeous, jaw-dropping creations. Once you get this down, you'll blow everyone away with the things you can make … and you'll also totally make someone's day when you give them something you made with your own two hands.

That means if you are a Cricut or Silhouette owner who is struggling with this whole "cut file" thing, you're going to be able to start making amazing creations right away with SVG cut files.

My goal for the Joy of SVGs training series is to help you make beautiful creations that you can use to decorate your home and wow your friends and family. You are going to blow them away!

So are you ready? Let's dive in!

About This Training Series

In this first training session, I'm going to tell you about SVG cut files and share with you my secrets on how to find amazing ones, and my hope is that it will help you discover gorgeous designs so that YOU can use to craft something special.

I developed this training video series because I saw so many people who are struggling with SVGs. As many of you know, I design and share my free SVG cut files through my blog at JenniferMaker.com.

Every day I get email from some lovely person who is so eager to make one of my designs, but they just can't figure out how to get from point A to point B.

Sometimes the issue is knowing where to find the file, but other times they struggle with downloading them or even finding them after they've downloaded. It's not always as easy as we'd all like it to be.

But the reality is that I can relate to that struggle, because that has a lot to do with my story too. The day I bought my Cricut, I took it out of the box, set it up, and did the first project. It was so amazing!

But a couple of days later, I wanted to make something really beautiful, something that would just make people go "wow!"

I looked around online and discovered that it was possible to make flowers out of paper. I had no idea you could make paper flowers and I was instantly hooked.

But it was a total mystery to me. So I started poking around online, and reading blogs, and visiting sites, and eventually I discovered a wonderful blogger who was sharing some paper flower SVG files. I had no idea what an SVG was, but with time and persistence, I figured out how to get it and use it. And that day I made my very first paper flower! And when I showed everyone that evening, they were all so impressed … and so was I.

But this story doesn't stop with me.

The tutorial I am about to share with you is my method of using SVGs to make all these gorgeous creations. Everything you see here — everything on my blog — they all began as SVG cut files. Because I want you to be able to make things like this too. And you probably wouldn't be watching this if you weren't struggling — at least a little — with how to make these unique creations. But luckily, there's a solution.

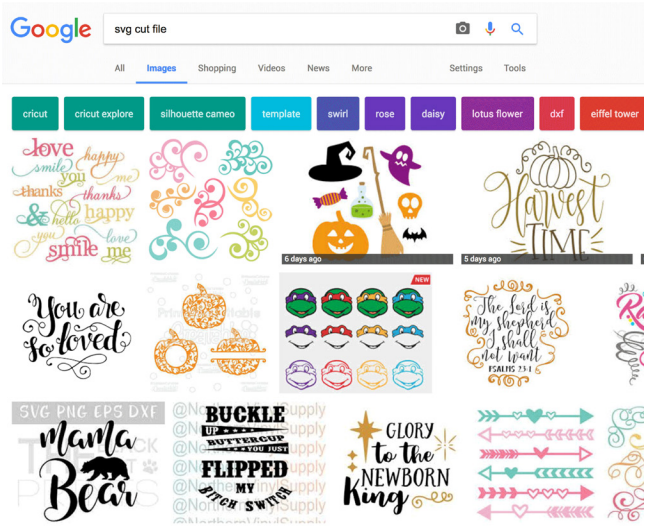
The purpose of **SVGs Made Simple** is to help you quickly overcome this frustration so that you can get to making stuff you love faster. It's that simple.

So as we go through these lessons and videos, I want you to identify obvious areas of opportunity for your current situation.

You ready? Let's get started.

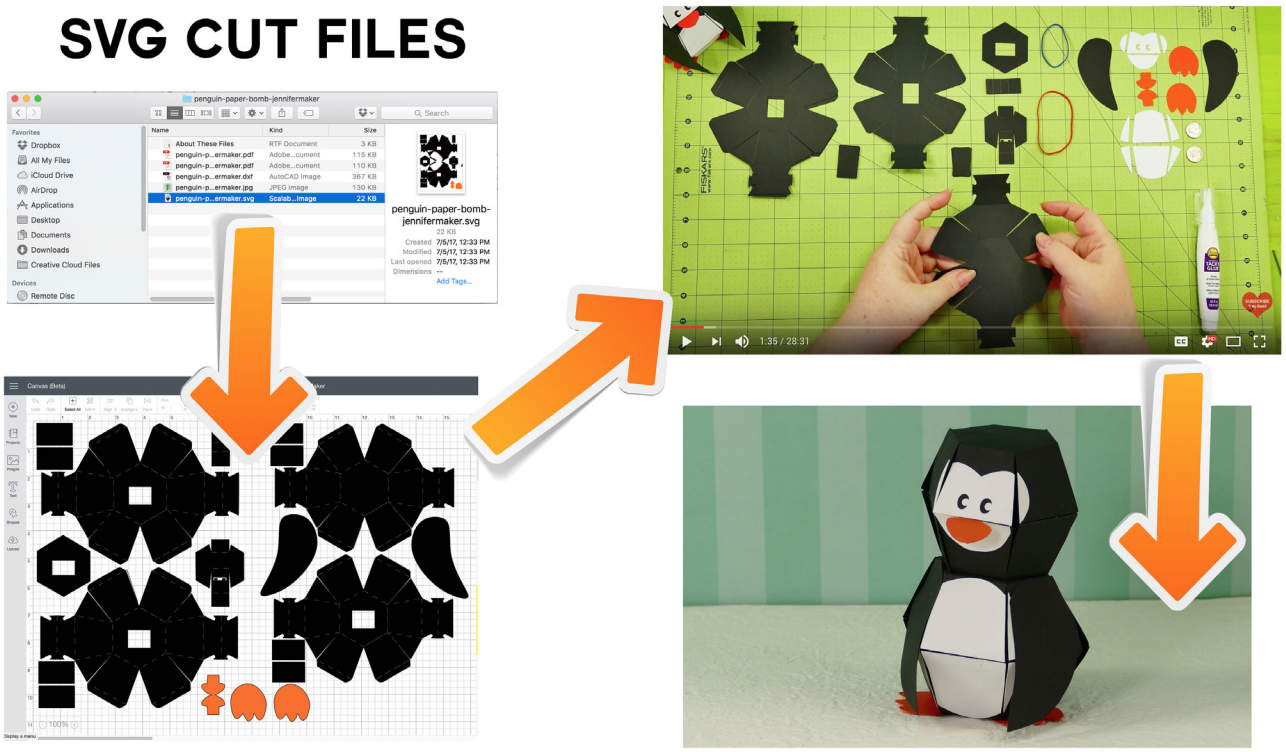
Tip: You can watch video 1 https://jennifermaker.com/svgs-made-simple-how-to-download

What is an SVG cut file?



So let's begin with the basics. What is an SVG cut file?

An SVG is a file with a pre-made design that you can download to your computer or device, upload to your favorite design software, such as Cricut Design Space, Silhouette Studio, Sure Cuts a Lot, or Make The Cut. The file contains all (or most) of the imagery and directions needed to cut a project exactly as designed. And it's this exactness that makes SVG cut files so appealing — it allows designers to make something precisely and share it with others so they can do the same thing.



So here on the left side of my screen is the SVG file for my Penguin Paper Bomb in Cricut Design Space, just as it was designed. And on the right side of the screen is the completed penguin, cut from the directions in the SVG file.

And by the way, SVG stands for scalable vector graphics, and it is an open standard file that's been in use since 1999.

I love SVG files because they are SO precise!

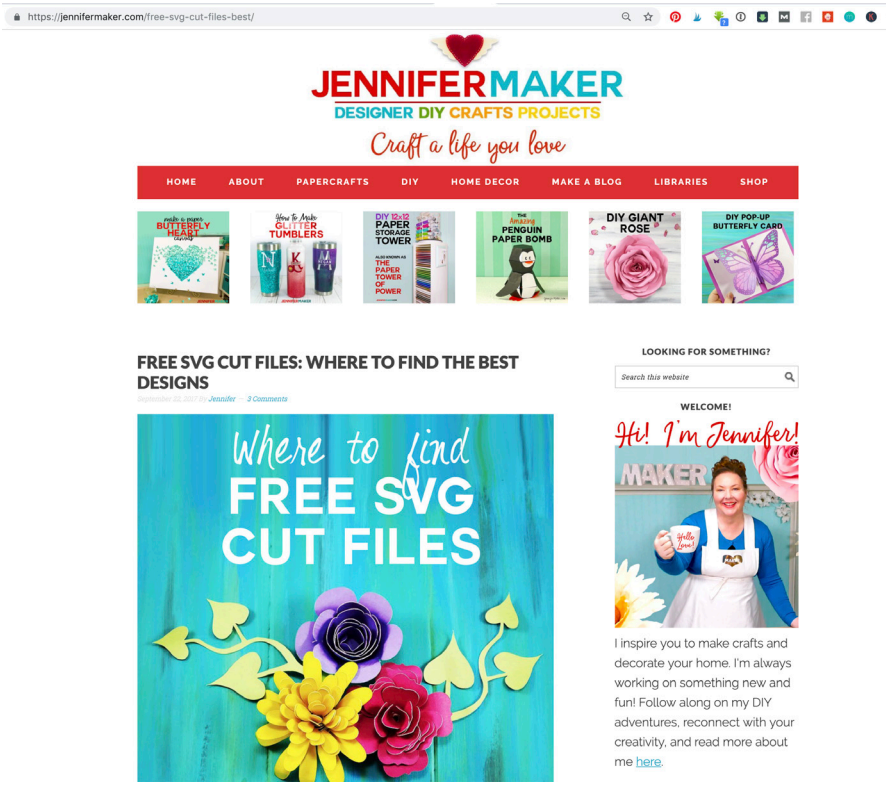
Where do you find SVG cut files?

Now you may be wondering, where do you find SVG cut files?

As it turns out, there all over the place. I myself have a big collection of free SVG files on my blog at JenniferMaker.com. I keep them all in my free resource library. And many other bloggers do something similar and are happy to share their designs with you via SVG cut files. If a design is being shared, the blogger will mention it in their blog post.

Beyond blogs, you'll also find cut files in SVG design shops. Most all shops have a free section along with their files for sale. If you don't mind paying a small price, SVG shops usually have what you need in their large collections

Another place to look for SVG cut files is in Facebook groups devoted to Cricut, Silhouette, and other cutting machines. Most of these groups encourage their members to share files they've made themselves and members are allowed to download them.



To help you locate these blogs, shops, and groups, I have a big list of great places to find SVG cut files on my blog at https://jennifermaker.com/free-svg-files-best

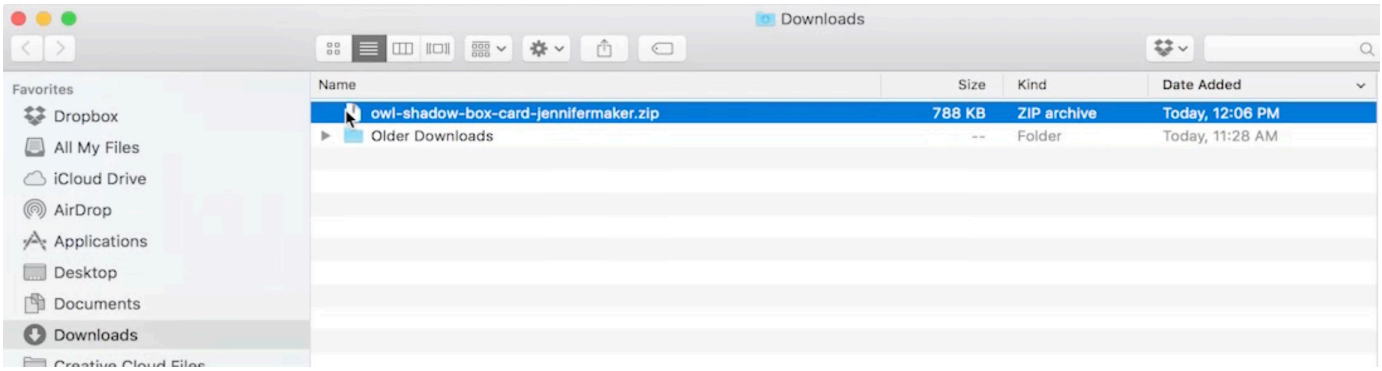
Finally, my all-time favorite place to get SVG cut files is to JUST MAKE THEM MYSELF. Yep, that's right—you can just make your own SVGs in precisely the way, size, style, and configuration you want without any compromises. Those SVG files aren't found online, but are in your imagination. And it's TOTALLY possible to make your own. If you've ever thought about it, I encourage you to try it. I'll be talking more about how you can learn to design and make your own SVG files later on.

How do you get SVG cut files?

Ah! Now we get to the trickier part, and the one I get a lot of questions about. How do you get the cut files from online into your software. The first thing you need to do is DOWNLOAD the files. It isn't hard to do, so let me know you how to download a file from my blog on three different devices—a Mac desktop computer running Chrome and Safari, a Windows laptop running Firefox and Internet Explorer, and an iPad running Chrome Remote Access.

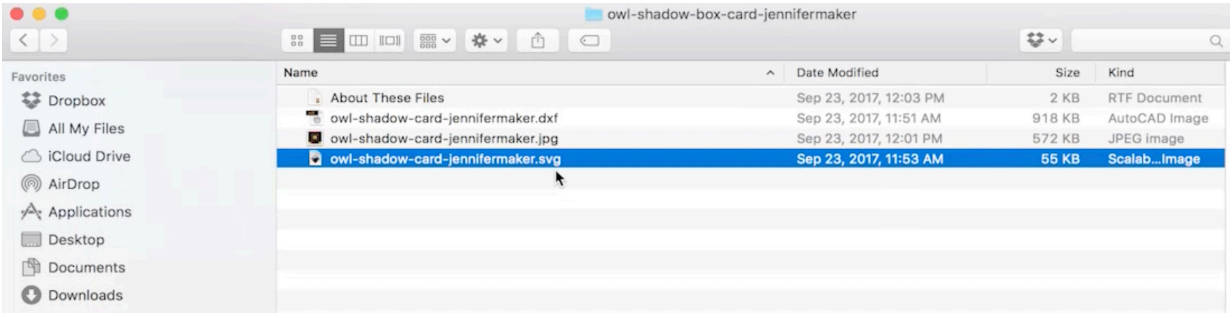
Downloading SVG Cut Files on a Mac with a Chrome Browser

First, you locate the file. Usually, all you need to do is click a link or a Download button, and the file will download for you. First, go to my blog's resource library and click link to download a design. It downloads. Now we need to locate it. If you know where your computer downloads its file, you can go right there. On the Mac, it's almost always going to download to your Downloads folder.



But if you're ever unsure, most browsers have a way to track downloads. On Chrome, your recently downloaded files appear at the **bottom** of the window. Click the little down arrow next to the file name and it takes you to your Downloads folder.

Now you'll notice that the file that downloads is a compressed **ARCHIVE that ends in .zip**. This is going to be true of virtually any SVG file you download anywhere online, because most designers like to bundle a variety of versions and formats to make sure everyone can use it. To open and decompress a ZIP file on the Mac, simply double-click it. A new folder will appear with the same name as the ZIP file. Double-click the folder and **inside you will see all of the contents**. The file that ends in .SVG is the one you'll want to work with.

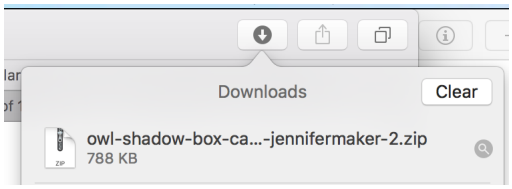


Now don't try to double-click or open an SVG file. If you do, it will search for some illustration software to open it in, and many people do not have it. Instead, we'll upload this file just as it is — and I'll be showing you exactly how to do that in the next video.

Downloading SVG Cut Files on a Mac with a Safari Browser

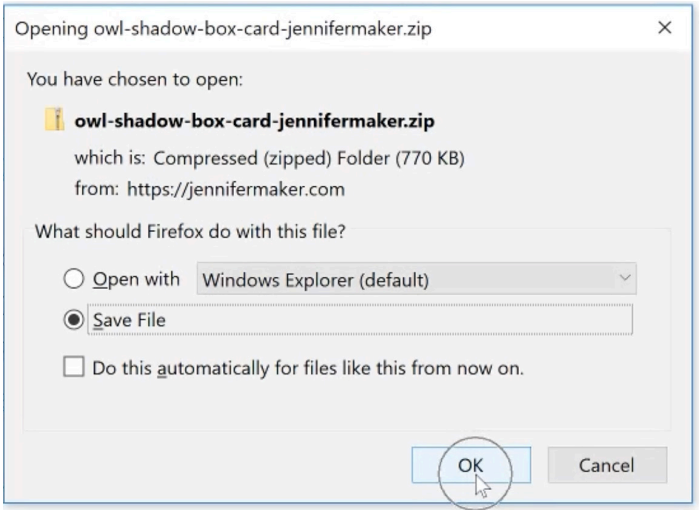
Ok, so we've done a Mac desktop computer running Chrome. Let's see how it looks running Safari.

In Safari, go to my Resource Library on my blog. Download the file and you can see it download. And again you can go right to your Downloads folder, but if you ever not sure where your download went, you just click this little down arrow at the top of your screen, and it shows you the latest downloads. Click the magnifying glass and it takes you to your Downloads folder.

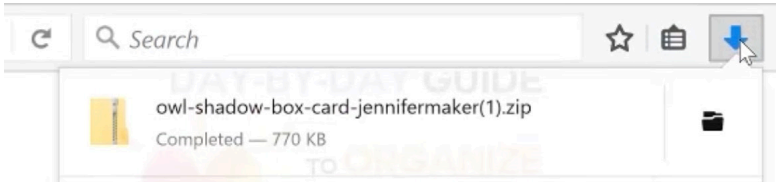


Downloading SVG Cut Files on Windows with Firefox

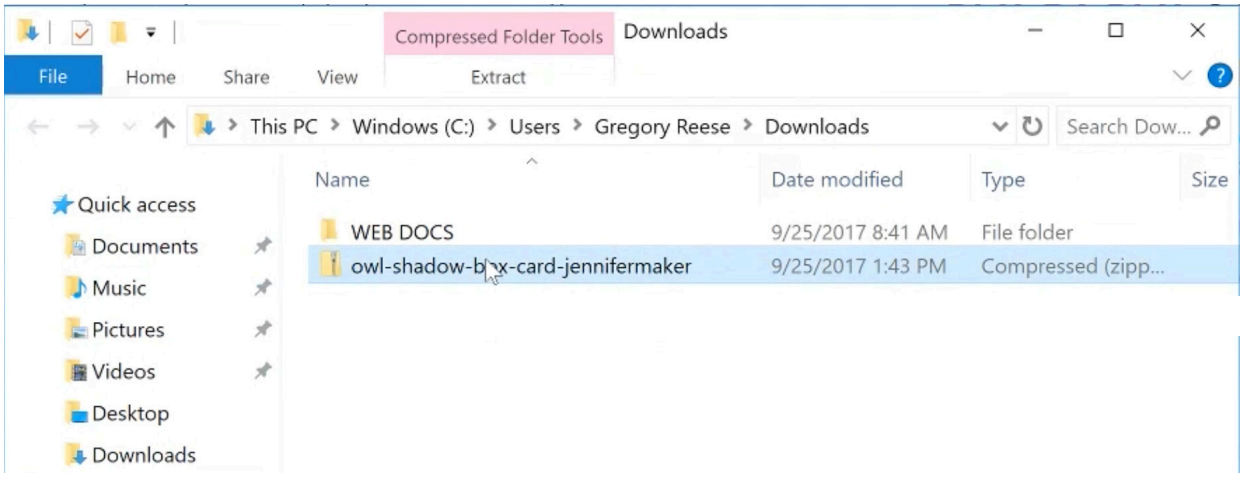
Ok, now let's switch to a Windows laptop running Firefox. So again, we go to my Resource Library on my blog and I scroll to find, and click the link to download it. And you'll see it ask if you want to open or save it—you want to Save it.



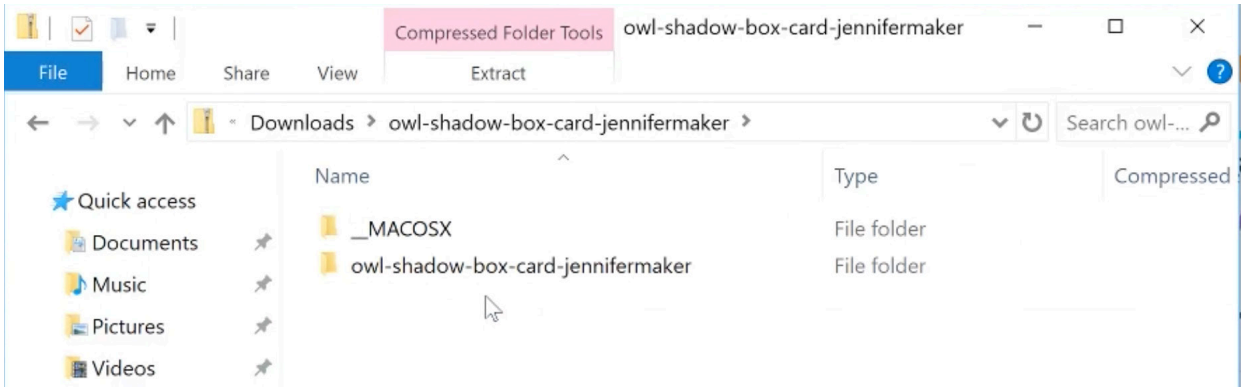
You click OK awnd you see that this little down arrow is what you click on to find your downloads. You don't want to open it, you just want to go look at the folder. Click the folder icon to the right of the filename.



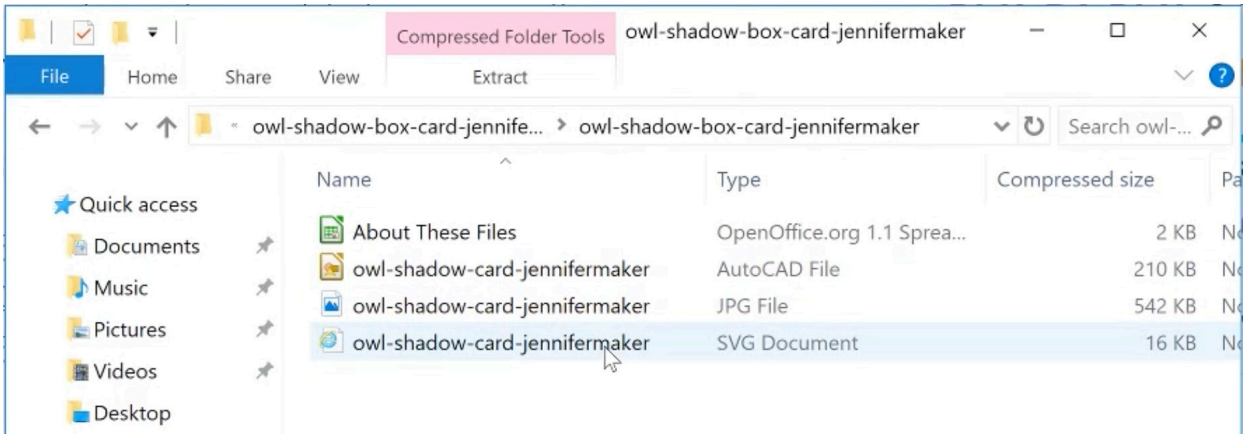
And then here you are—this is the file you downloaded. You double-click that file to extract (decompress) it.



Ignore the MacOSX folder (that is something that gets created when I compress files on the Mac and is not anything to be concerned about).



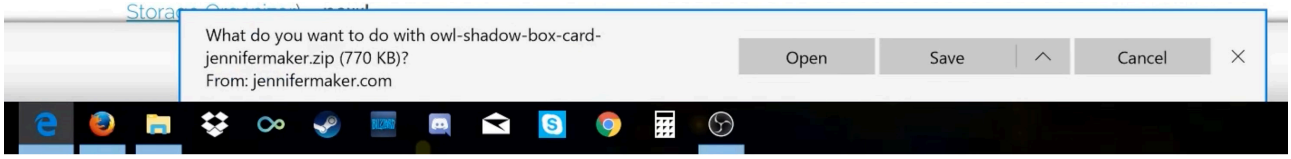
Here is the list of files in there.



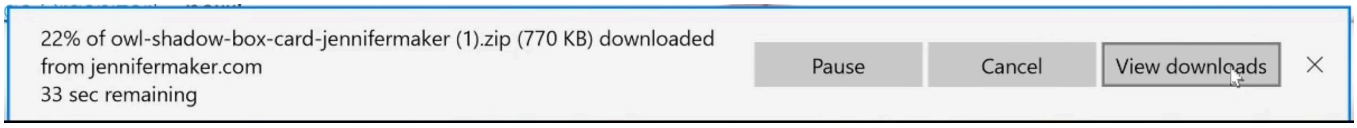
The SVG file you are going to want to use is right here. Pretty easy, actually.

Downloading SVG Cut Files on Windows with Internet Explorer

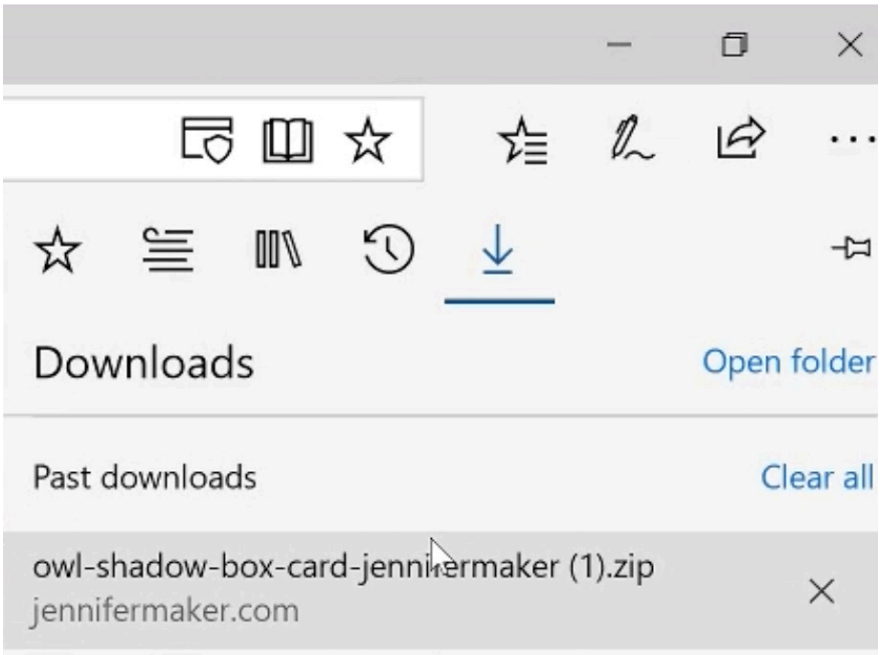
So let's look at Internet Explorer. I go to my web site and open the library. Again, browse for the file that we'd ilke to download. Click on the link. You'll get a dialog box at the bottom asking if you want to open it or save it. You want to save it.



And it'll take a while in Explorer—I'm not sure why. It does at least tell you the percentage that you've downloaded and about how long is remaining.



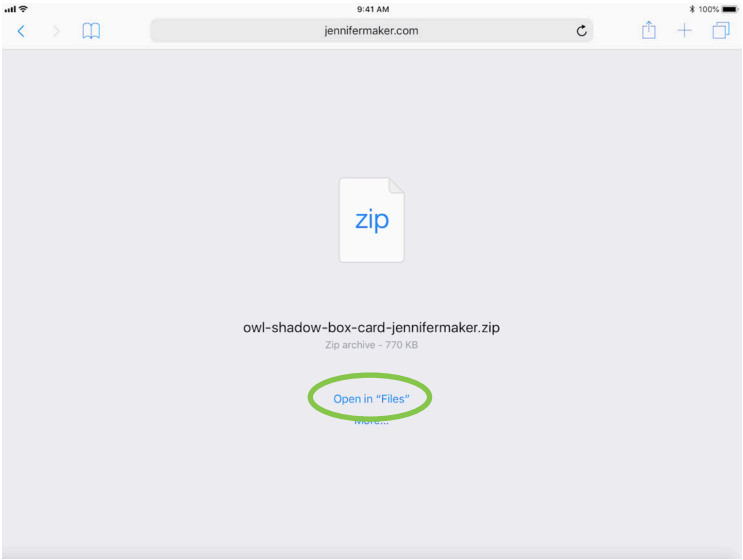
And then when it is done, you'll want to click View Downloads. You'll then be able to see all of our downloads here on the side. Click the filename that matches what we downloaded. And there we find the SVG file just as we need it for the next step.



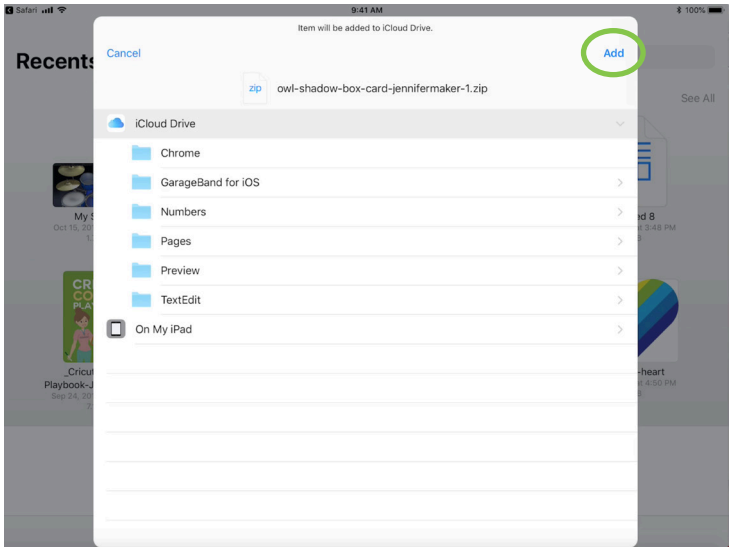
Downloading SVG Cut Files on an iPad or iPhone with iOS 11+

Let's talk about how to get SVG cut files if you're using an iPad or even an iPhone. First, you should know that it IS possible to download files on these devices. And since the introduction of iOS 11, you can even download and upload directly from your iPad or iPhone! Let me show you how to do this on my iPad.

So first we go to the SVG file we want to download and tap on file to download. Once you tap on the SVG file, you get a screen that looks like this. Tap Open in "Files" to proceed.

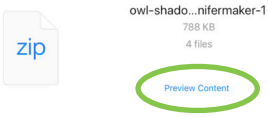


The next step is to save this file in a place that you can access from Cricut Design Space. You have several choices—iCloud Drive, your iPad or iPhone itself, or a third-party service like Dropbox. For the purposes of this tutorial, I'm saving to iCloud Drive. So to continue, tap iCloud Drive.



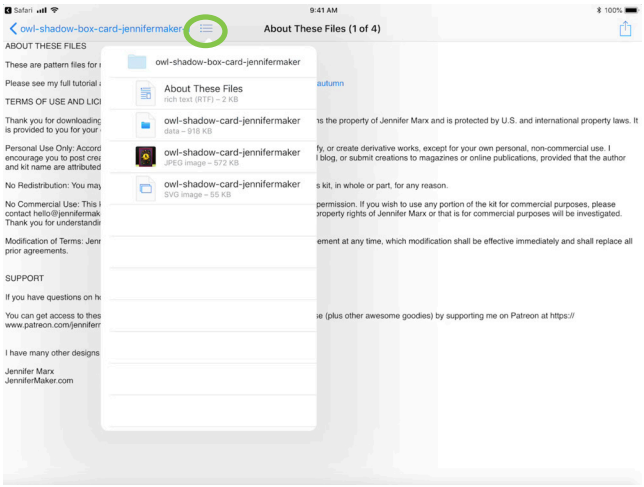
Next, tap the Add button in the upper right corner.

Once you do that, you'll get this screen. This shows you that the ZIP file has been saved, but that's not enough yet, as ZIP files cannot be uploaded to Cricut Design Space. So to get the actual SVG out of it, tap Preview Content.

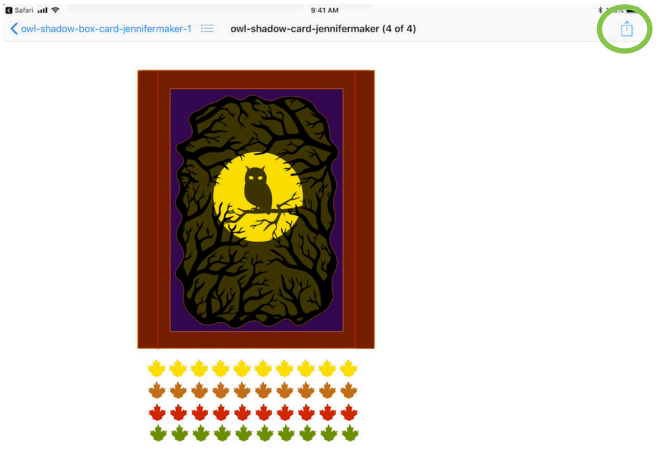


Previewing the content will likely show you my "About These Files" text document. I recommend you read this, but we need to keep going a couple more steps still. Tap the button with the three lines in the upper bar (on an iPad) or in the lower right corner (on an iPhone).

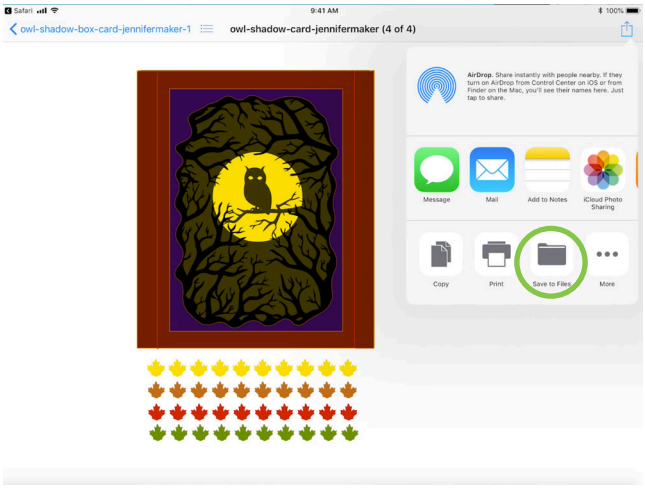
Now we can see what is INSIDE the ZIP file! Hooray! Look at the list and find the one labelled 'SVG image' in gray text beneath the filename. This is the SVG file. Tap the SVG file in the list to proceed.



Once you do that, you'll see a graphical representation of the SVG file appear onscreen, as shown below. Now tap the Upload button (it looks like a box with an up arrow in it) in the upper left corner (on an iPad) or the lower left corner (on an iPhone).

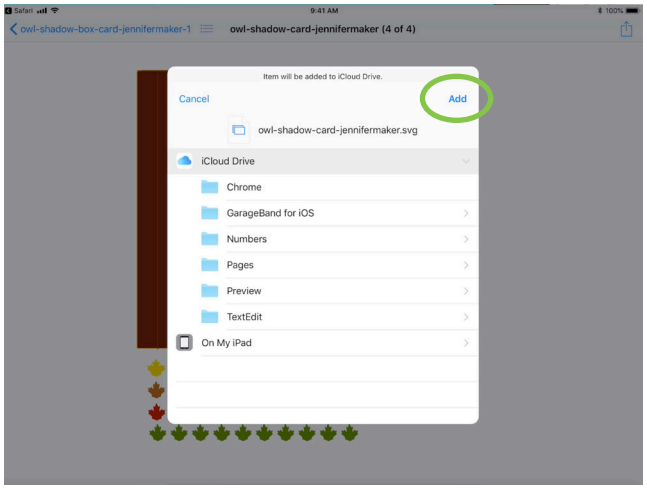


Next you want to tap Save to Files. You may need to scroll to the right to see this option. Do NOT tap Save Image — that only save the picture, not the SVG file itself.



Now choose where you want the SVG file to be saved. I am choosing iCloud Drive.

Now just tap Add to save your SVG file!



The SVG file is now saved and ready to upload to Cricut Design Space, which I'll show you how to do in our next lesson.

Downloading SVG Cut Files on older iPads and iPhones

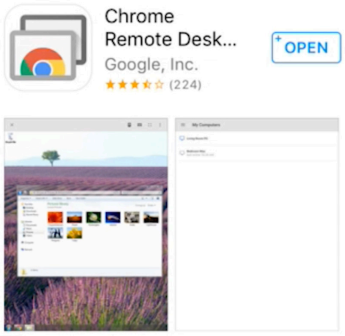
LNow if you have an older iPad or iPhone that does NOT support iOS 11, there is a trick you can use to download SVG cut files using your iPad or iPhone.

To do this, you'll want to download and install the Chrome Remote Access extension on your Chrome browser on either a Mac OS or Windows computer (it works on both).

It's free and easy to install — if you need help installing it, here is a helpful step-by-step tutorial below.

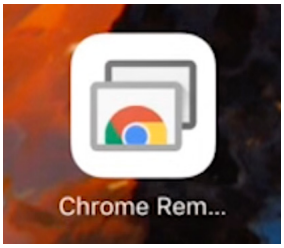
https://jenifermaker.com/chrome-remote-access

Once you've got that installed on your Chrome browser, go to your iPad or iPhone, open the app store, and search for the Chrome Remote Access app there. Download and install it, too, then connect to your iPad or iPhone.

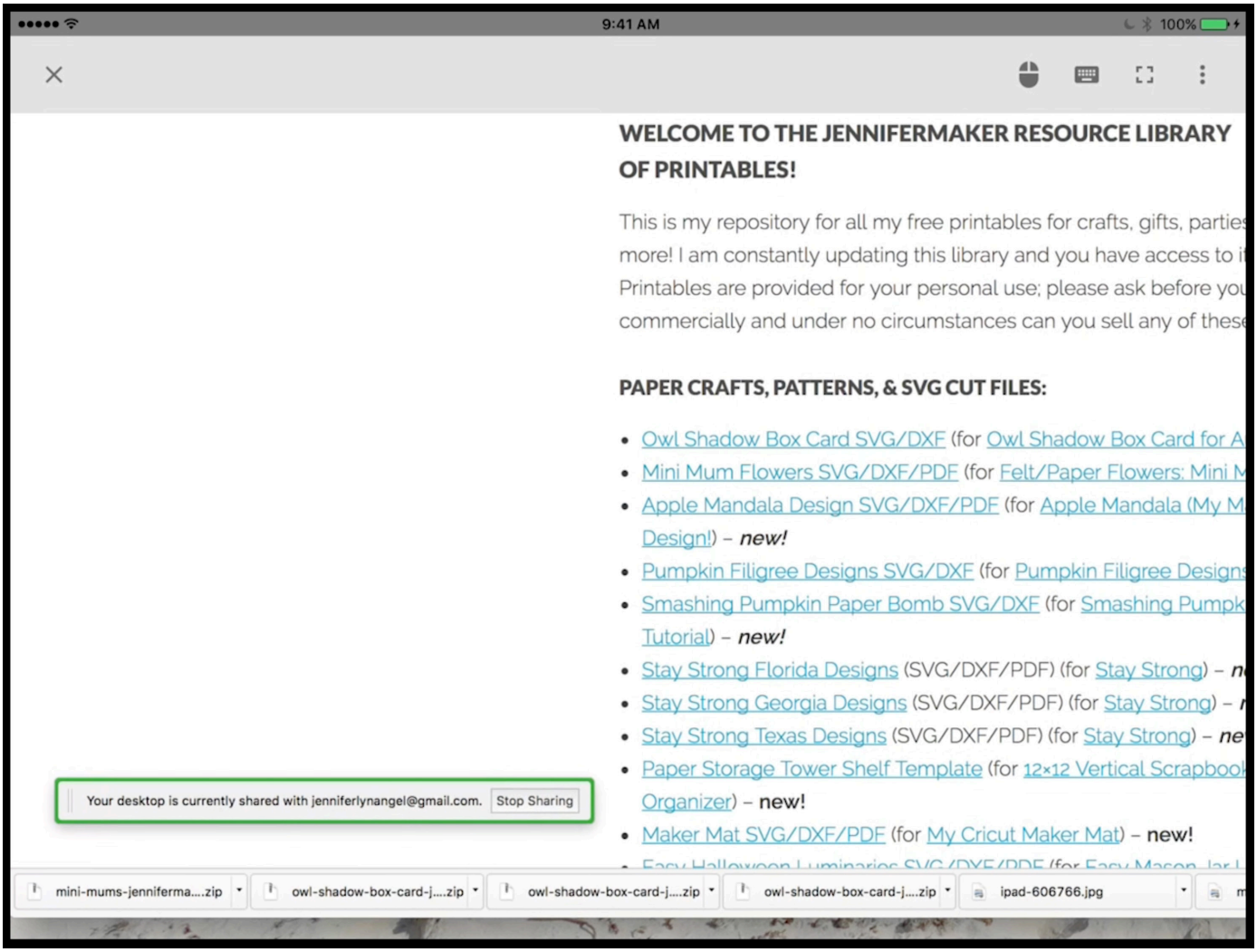


Once you do that you now have remote control over your computer on your iPad or iPhone and you can do anything that you could do if you were sitting at your own computer, including look for files, download files, and upload files—everything you need to do.

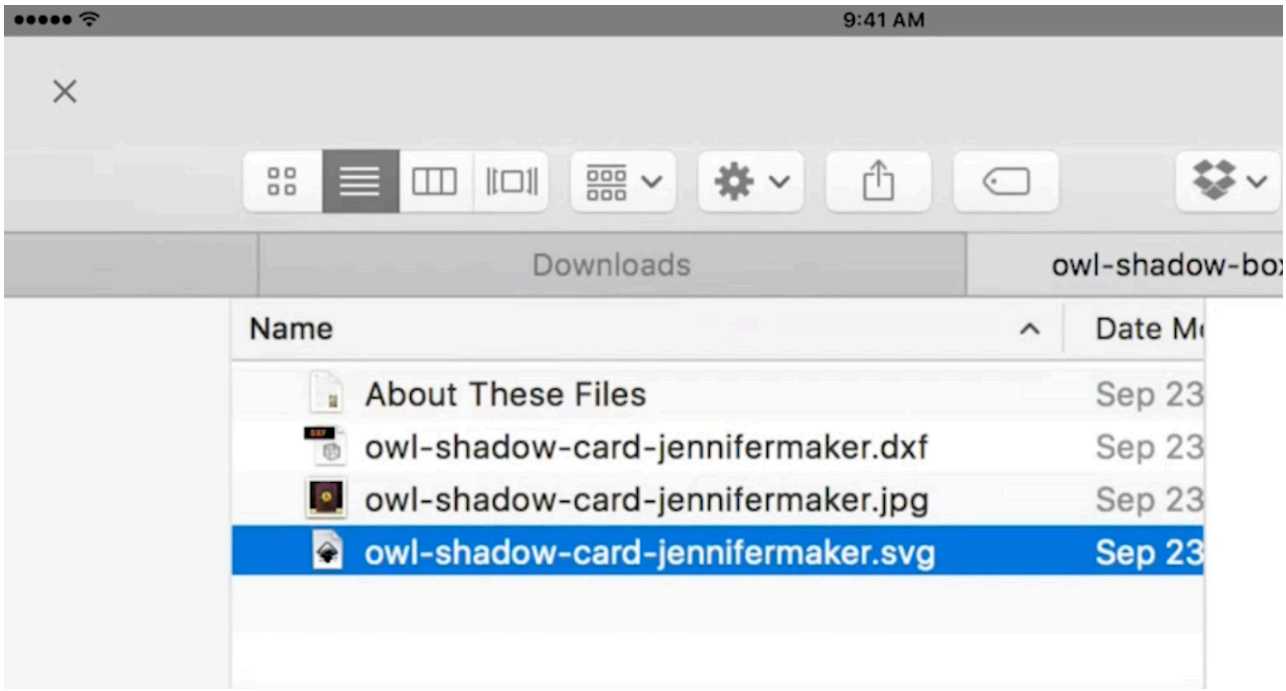
So let me show you how I do this on the iPad. I cick the Chrome Remote Access app and I connect to my computer.



I put in my authentication code which I set up when installing it. And here is my remote access what the remote access to my iMac looks like on my iPad.



Click on the SVG I want and it downloads to my computer. And I can go in and unzip it right here on my computer. And I'm doing all this on my iPad right now, don't forget that. I can also decompress it right here. Here is the SVG that I can then upload when I need to. And this is all done using the iPad with remote access to Chrome on my computer.



What's Next?

Okay, so now that we've worked on finding and downloading SVG cut files, the BIG question is, how do you upload and use these files?

I mean, just downloading the file does not make it magically load itself into your machine and begin cutting, now does it? How do you get an SVG cut file into Cricut Design Space or Silhouette Studio? What do you do if you're on an iPad or phone? Can you upload it at all?

Well, that's exactly what I'm going to show you in lesson #2! I'm also going to give you actual examples of SVGs being uploaded in a variety of different ways.

Solving the problem of getting SVGs into your cutting software is easy and I'll show you how in the next lesson.

Remember this when you're feeling frustrated —

Without some struggle, there can be no progress.

♡ ♡ ♡

You CAN turn your breakdowns into breakthroughs.

See you in the next lesson!

Jennifer

NOTES

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