Getting Started - Making a Vinyl Sticker

Materials Needed:
- Cricut cutting machine
- Cricut power cord
- Cricut USB cord
- Cutting mat
- Laptop, tablet, or other device
- Sticker vinyl
- Weeding pick
- Scissors
- Scraper
- Transfer tape

1. Begin by plugging in the power cord into the back of the Cricut and then into a power source.

2. Plug in the USB cord into the back of the Cricut and then into the laptop.
3. Turn the Cricut on using the Power button.

4. On your laptop, open the Cricut Design Space software by going to [design.cricut.com](http://design.cricut.com) and sign in using the Louisville Public Library ID or your own:

   - Cricut ID: ref_desk@louisvilleco.gov
   - Password: L1brary!!

5. If you are prompted to run an update, please do so.

6. Click on “Canvas” under the Home menu on the top left of the home screen.

7. This will bring you to your working surface:
8. Choose a shape for your sticker. You may use a basic shape in Cricut’s shapes or use a purchased or uploaded image. To choose a purchased or uploaded image, select the “Images” option from the left hand menu.

9. Use the “Filter” option at the top right to select owned, uploaded, and free items. Since this is going to be a sticker, you may consider selecting “Single layer” as well to minimize having to hide or clean up layers of the image.

10. Select your desired image and click “Insert Images” to drop the image onto your work surface.
11. If you would like to add text to your sticker design, simply click on the “Text” option on the left side menu.

12. You can manipulate your sticker object or your text by using the delete, rotate, lock/unlock, and resize options that appear when your object or text is highlighted. Locking your object allows you to resize your object while it maintains its original proportions. Unlocking allows you to “squish” your object or change height or width while the other stays the same.

13. OPTIONAL: If you wish to have your design both above and below your name or word, select the design above and then right-click on your mouse to show an additional options menu. Select “Duplicate”.
14. To ensure that your design is lined up, select all 3 objects by either A) holding “Shift” and clicking on all 3 objects on the right or B) clicking and dragging across all 6 objects on your working space:

A) ![Image of selection tool]

B) ![Image of design]

15. With all 3 objects highlighted, click on “Center Horizontally” to line the objects up at the center. Then click on “Distribute vertically” to make sure each object is spaced out evenly.

16. You will notice that your objects are different colors. For the sticker to cut on a single piece of vinyl, all objects will need to be the same color. Click on the “Color Sync” at the top right of your screen. This will show you the two different color layers. Click on the black text object and drag it into the orange section to sync the colors.

17. The last step before cutting your sticker is to attach the objects together and make sure it’s the size you want. To do so, highlight all 3 objects, and click “Attach” on the bottom right side.
18. While your sticker is still highlight, go to the measurements at the top toolbar and adjust to your desired size.

![Image of tutorial project with measurements]

19. Now it’s time to cut out the sticker. Select “Make it” on the top right.

![Image of Make It button]

20. Take a look at the preview of the cut. In this screen, you can select the size of vinyl sheet you’re using, move or rotate the design on the mat if you’re using a partial sheet of vinyl, and mirror the design (this is for cutting heat transfer vinyl for iron-on designs). When the sticker is in the correct place, click “Continue” on the bottom right.

![Image of Preview and Continue button]

21. Ensure that Design Space is connected to your cricut and that the material dial is set to “Vinyl”.

![Image of material dial set to Vinyl]

Press Go
22. Place your vinyl (white liner-side down) onto the mat and slide the mat in between the guides on either side of the Cricut. Apply very gentle pressure to the edge of the mat and press the “Load” button (shaped like a double arrow) that should be flashing.

23. The Cricut should bring the vinyl into the machine and calibrate. Once this is complete, press the flashing “Cut” button (shaped like a C with antennae). Watch as the Cricut cuts out your sticker. Design Space will show you the progress. When it is finished, the “Load” button will flash again. Press it to release the mat.

24. Gently peel the vinyl from the mat and cut around the sticker. Using the weeding pick, remove all of the vinyl that is not part of the sticker.
25. Place your sticker on top of a sheet of transfer tape. Cut out a piece of transfer tape that is about the same size as your sticker.

26. Remove the white backing from the transfer tape and lay it on top of the sticker, sticky side down. Using the smoothing tool, apply pressure to the top of the transfer tape to ensure that it has adhered to the vinyl. Trim any excess transfer tape.

27. When you are ready to apply your sticker, remove the white backing and use the transfer tape to apply your sticker to an object. Apply pressure to ensure that the vinyl sticks well. Slowly peel off the transfer tape. Done!