

Please take the time to read all guidelines on this page. It takes only a few minutes and it can save you a lot of time. If you are not clear about anything please don't hesitate to [ask us](#) or take a look at our more in depth document [Creative Laser Engraving & Cutting Guide](#).

Use any vector graphics editor for your design; simply create a file with the right dimensions. When you are done with your project save it as an uncompressed file in one of the following formats.

Supported formats:

Preferred file format - Plain pdf or ps (post script) (vector graphic) any editor.

Corel Draw (cdr) - saved for version **15.0 and older*****Program we use!**

Inkscape (svg) - saved as **plain svg** (not Inkscape svg) for any version

Adobe Illustrator (ai, eps, pdf) - saved **uncompressed**

AutoCAD (dxf) - saved **uncompressed**, please don't save it as dwg

Please leave at least 5mm (0.2") between your design and the material edge.

Also, leave at least 2mm (0.08") between each individual piece in your design, because acrylic might re-fuse and wood might get charred at the point of contact. It is a good practice to group all parts of a piece, so it can be easily moved without tedious selection.

Use vector lines **under 0.3pt** (0.00416in or 0.10566mm) for line cutting and line etching. In CorelDRAW use hairline. An easy number to remember is 0.1mm.

Line Cut

RED stroke < 0.3pt (RGB value 0,0,255) cut.

Line Etch

BLUE stroke < 0.3pt (RGB value 255,0,255) light etch (for light marking).

GREEN stroke < 0.3pt (RGB value 0,255,0) medium etch.

MAGENTA stroke < 0.3pt (RGB value 255,0,0) heavy etch (for transparent acrylic). This weakens the acrylic as it cuts deep into it.

Raster Etch

10% Black fill or stroke > 0.5pt (RGB value 230,230,230) light etch.

50% Black fill or stroke > 0.5pt (RGB value 128,128,128) medium etch.

100% Black fill or stroke > 0.5pt (RGB value 0,0,0) heavy etch.

Please use solid colors only as described above. The colors must be RGB values and **not** CMYK. If your design requires special raster (like pictures) please request a quote.

Acrylic designs that don't have etching are cut with the mask on both sides, which results in perfectly shiny surfaces. If the design requires etching, the top mask is peeled off, and the laser cutting often deposits a light haze on the surface around each cut. So, if your design doesn't absolutely have to have engraving, it is best to leave it out.

Notice that if you have overlapping lines, they might appear as a single line, but to the laser they are still multiple lines, and they will be traced multiple times. Acrylic could re-fuse and wood would get charred. So, please make sure you don't copy and paste a design onto itself.

You can make your own custom palette, which contains only the colors specified earlier, using the settings below.

Creative Colour Mapping Palette

0 0 0 Black Deep Raster Etch
 128 128 128 50% Gray Medium Raster Etch
 230 230 230 10% Gray Light Raster Etch
 0 0 255 Blue Deep Line Etch (#0000FF)
 0 255 0 Green Medium Line Etch (#00FF00)
 255 0 255 Magenta Light Line Etch (#FF00FF)
 255 0 0 Red Line Cut (#FF0000)

Important - designs with text

If your design includes text make sure to convert it to curves before submitting it, to ensure the text looks as you designed it regardless of whether or not we have the font.

The command is:

Ctrl + Q in **CorelDRAW**

Ctrl + Shift + C in **Inkscape**

Ctrl + Shift + O in **Adobe Illustrator**

If you are building a 3-d piece, please make sure the thickness of the material is suitable. For alder wood use [kerf](#) radius of 0.01mm (i.e. offset/contour your parts 0.01mm to make them bigger in order to fit snug).

Remember to have fun! If you run into design problems, the internet is full of great tutorials and forums on vector design. If that does not help just [drop us a line](#).

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