

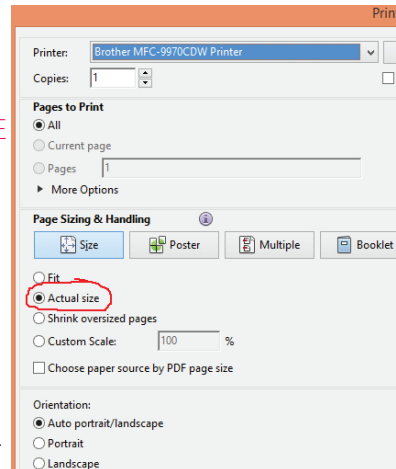
Instructions *for* Print & Cut Files PDF & DXF

IMPORTANT: Please Read these instructions BEFORE beginning your print-and-cut project. You will avoid much frustration and wasted time.

These instructions are based on the Silhouette SD and Silhouette Studio and Adobe Reader/ Acrobat Pro software.

CUSTOMIZING & PRINTING EDITABLE PDF FILES

1. Open PDF in Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat Pro.
2. Add desired text to text fields (blue boxes). Font style, size and color is preselected and cannot be changed.
3. Save.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Click on FILE>PRINT and make sure that you have **ACTUAL SIZE** checked in the Print Dialog Box. In Adobe Acrobat Pro, make sure **PAGE SCALING is set to NONE**. If you have the scaling on, the Silhouette SD will not be able to detect the registration marks properly.
5. Make sure your Printer Quality Preferences are set to HIGH-QUALITY or PHOTO. The Silhouette may have a harder time finding registration marks if you use a lower setting.
6. Print.. Most of my projects are printed on cardstock. Always print a few extra pages just in case you have problems during cutting.
7. If your printed pages curl up after printing, flatten them out well before attempting to cut.

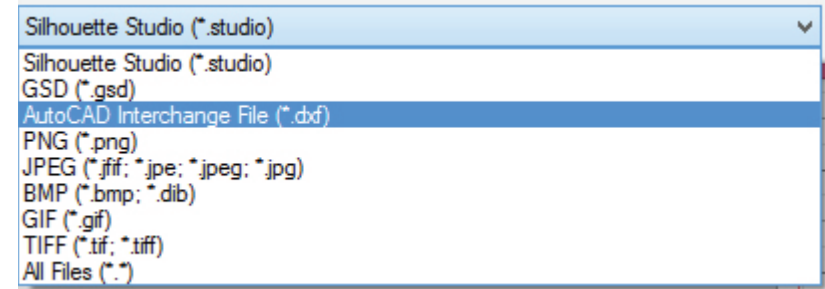


PREPARING THE CUTTING MAT

1. Make sure your cutting mat is sticky enough. If it isn't, you will not get a good cut. To re-stick your mat, try washing it gently with hand-dishwashing soap and letting it dry OR spraying your mat with temporary spray adhesive. If your mat is too sticky, gently brush it with a dish towel to add a little lint.

USING SILHOUETTE STUDIO

1. Connect Silhouette SD machine to your computer. Plug in and turn on the Silhouette SD machine.
2. Open Silhouette Studio or Silhouette Studio Designer Edition software.
3. **IMPORTANT:** Click on FILE > PREFERENCES > IMPORT OPTIONS. Under **WHEN IMPORTING DXF**, make sure the **CENTERED** radio button is checked. If you do not do this, the cut lines will not match up with the printed file.
4. Click on FILE>OPEN and select DXF in the FILES OF TYPE pull-down menu at the bottom of the box.
5. Navigate to the location of the desired DXF file (cutting file that matches your printed pages) on your computer. Click on the file and select OPEN.

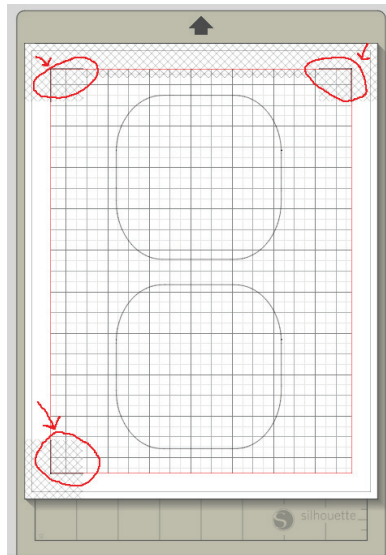
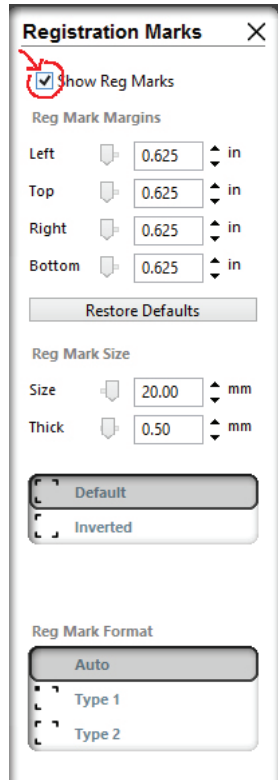


6. Once the file is open, click on the REGISTRATION MARKS box in the upper right-hand corner of the menu bar. It looks like three registration marks in a white box.

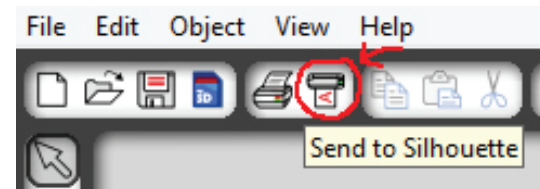


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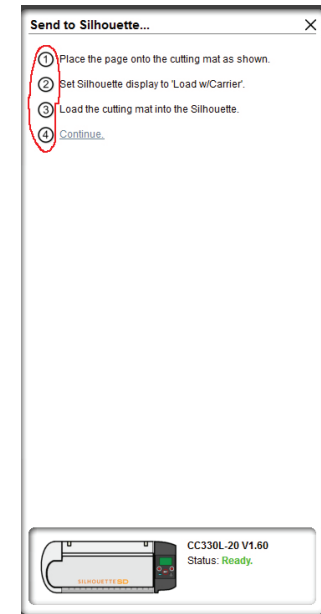
- The REGISTRATION MARKS box will appear. Make sure the settings are as follows: Check the SHOW REG MARKS box. REG MARK MARGINS should be all set to 0.625. Make sure DEFAULT and AUTO are clicked. Registration marks should appear on the cut file. Now you are ready to cut.



- Load paper/mat into Silhouette SD, top edge (two registration marks) first. Press ENTER on the machine.
- In Silhouette Studio, click on the SEND TO SILHOUETTE icon in the menu bar.



- The first dialog box that appears will ask you if you want to print the image. Select SKIP PRINTING.
- Click CONTINUE when the SEND TO SILHOUETTE dialog box appears.

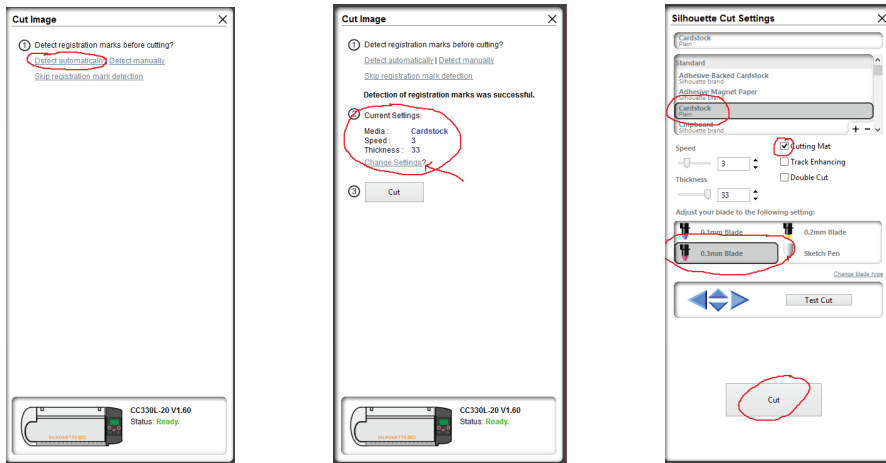


CUTTING

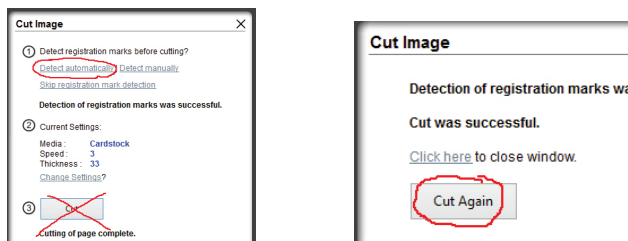
- Place page printed from PDF onto cutting mat, making sure it is lined up and in the correct position, printed-side up. Make sure you have two registration marks at the top and one in the lower left-hand corner. Rub the page down on the cutting mat so it is stuck well.

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6. A CUT IMAGE dialog box will appear. Select DETECT AUTOMATICALLY to detect registration marks. The Silhouette should move the paper/mat around and detect all three registration marks. If you have problems detecting registration marks, see TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS at the end of this document.



7. In the next CUT IMAGE box that appears, make sure you have the correct cutting blade, correct media and DOUBLE CUT selected. I like to use double cut to make sure everything is cut nicely, especially when using cardstock. If you want to change the current settings, click CHANGE SETTINGS. Select the type of paper from the dialog box, check the CUTTING MAT box and the DOUBLE CUT box, and make sure you have the correct blade installed. Click CUT.
8. **IMPORTANT:** After you've cut once, DO NOT simply reload the Silhouette with a new piece of paper and click CUT. Instead, after loading the new page, click DETECT AUTOMATICALLY first, and let the machine detect the registration marks on the new page then click CUT AGAIN.



TROUBLESHOOTING PRINT & CUT FILE PROBLEMS

There are many things that can go wrong with the print-and-cut file process. Here are some tips I've found that help me:

- Always print a few extra pages to allow for problems.
- Clean out the cutting blade. I've found that small slivers of paper stuck in the blade cause problems.
- Make sure when you load the paper and cutting mat it is loaded in straight and that it is aligned correctly.
- When using a print-and-cut file, ensure you are feeding the top edge (with two registration marks) of the printed page into the machine, not the bottom (with one registration mark). Load paper printed-side up.
- Make sure paper is stuck down well. Clean cutting mat if it is not tacky enough. I clean my cutting mat with hand-dishwashing soap and hot water. If the mat is too sticky, gently tap it with a dish towel to reduce tackiness. If it is not sticky enough, spray the mat with temporary (not permanent) spray adhesive.
- Change your cutting blade if you get spurs, skips and cutting mistakes.
- Dark paper can make it difficult for the Silhouette's detector to "see" the registration marks. Print on white or light-colored paper.
- Use the DOUBLE CUT option, especially when cutting cardstock.
- Be sure to print the print-and-cut file using your printer's highest-quality setting. You need solid, dark registration marks.
- Clean the area around the "eye" which detects registration marks. Small particles of paper can block it.
- Update Silhouette Studio/Designer and Windows software to the most recent versions.
- Make sure your print-and-cut file was not scaled-to-fit when you printed it.
- Too little or too much light in the room can affect the ability of the Silhouette to detect and "see" registration marks. Make sure there is good light. Harsh or too bright overhead lighting can cause problems as well. Close the cover. I've found daylight to be the best..

