

Sticker making with Cricut

A practical guide to designing, printing, cutting, and finishing your first stickers.



Finished sticker example. Photo © Cricut, Inc. [1]

Your first project: a small batch of 2 in (5.1 cm) stickers on matte white sticker paper. Start with one design, test it, then make more.

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05 Print & cut / 06 Waterproof finish / 07 Fix problems
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Independent instructional guide. Official Cricut imagery is credited where used; screenshots may show an earlier interface. This PDF is a manual, not a cut-ready sticker file.

Sources: 1. Create Sticker

Gather & prepare

Start with a simple material and a small practice project.

Gather: a compatible Cricut, Fine-Point Blade and housing, correctly sized LightGrip mat, Design Space, an inkjet printer, printable sticker paper, and plain copy paper. A brayer or soft scraper is useful. [3]

Machine check. Explore and Maker models, Venture, Joy Xtra, and Joy 2 support Print Then Cut. The original Cricut Joy does not. Select your actual machine in Design Space. [3]

Printer check. Cricut printable sticker materials require an inkjet printer. Confirm which way the printable face loads by testing an ordinary sheet first. For Cricut paper, the blank face is printable; the grid is on the liner. [3]

Choose a material for the job

Practice / planner labels: start with matte white sticker paper.

Bottles / outdoor labels: use the matched printable vinyl and laminate in a waterproof sticker set; see page 6.

Older Explore machines: keep your first project on a matte material. [3, 6, 7]

Calibrate when prompted or if cuts are shifted

Open Design Space Settings > Machines > Machine Calibration (menu wording varies). Choose your machine and Print Then Cut. Use white, untextured copy paper and the printer you will use for stickers. Follow the on-screen cut-and-inspect prompts; keep the mat loaded until instructed otherwise. Save the result and repeat if the guide asks. [9]

Before moving on: your machine is selected, the printable side is identified, and your design can be read easily at its intended size.

Route A / Create Sticker

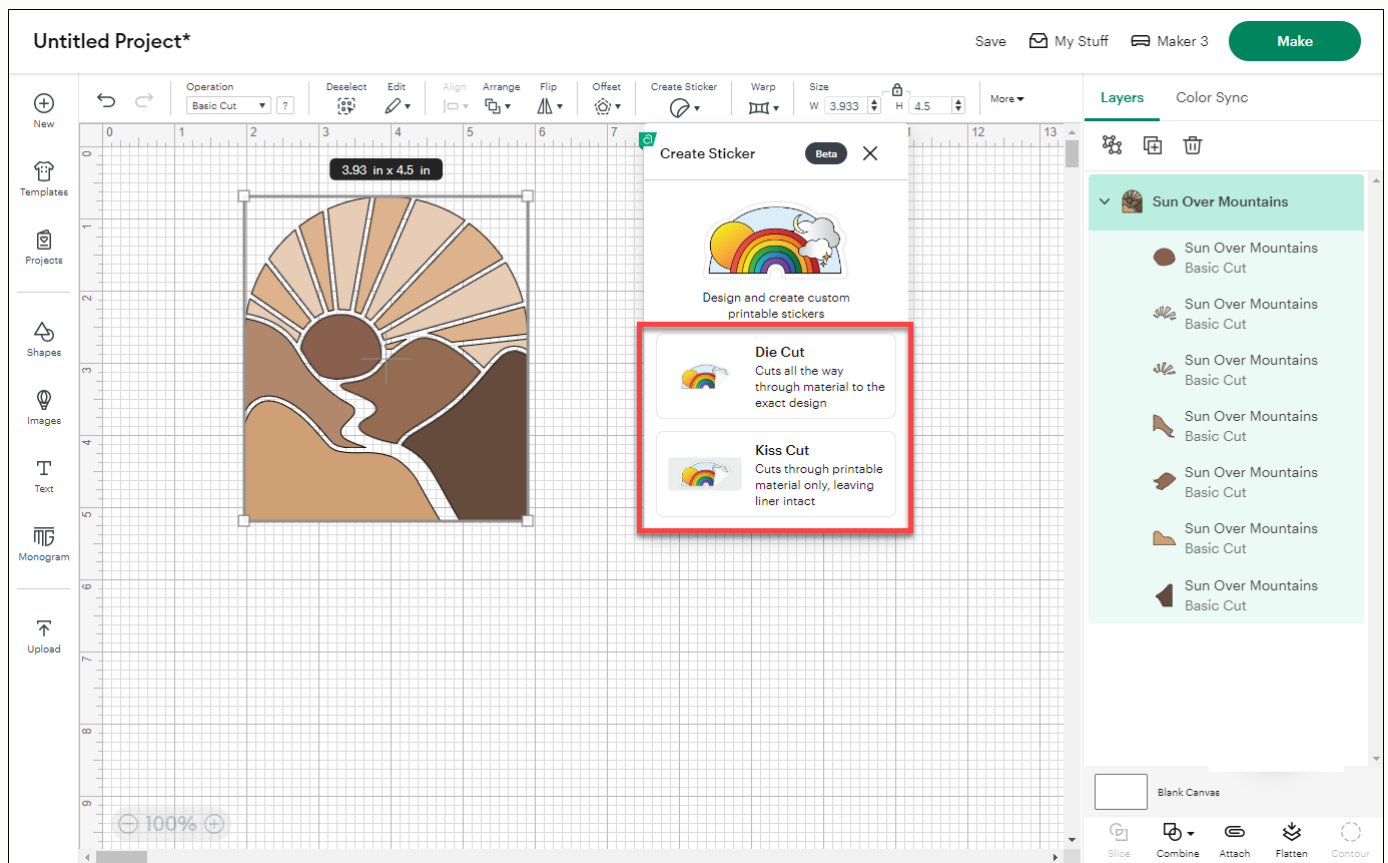
Use this route when Create Sticker is available in your Design Space.

1. Build one sticker

Add an image or text to the Canvas. Select every part of that one sticker and choose **Create Sticker** (mobile: Edit > Create Sticker). [1]

2. Choose the cut

Kiss Cut leaves the liner intact; **Die Cut** cuts through it. Add a Border if wanted. Kiss Cut can also add a Die Cut Edge for individually backed, easy-peel stickers. Select **Apply**. [1]



Official Design Space screenshot © Cricut, Inc. The red box identifies the two cut choices. [1]

3. Make a test

Use Make, then Project Copies to repeat the sticker. Create Sticker handles flattening automatically. Choose a matching material from the Compatible list. Continue on page 5. [1]

If you cannot use this tool, follow the manual route on page 4. Start with one test sticker before filling a sheet.

Sources: 1. Create Sticker

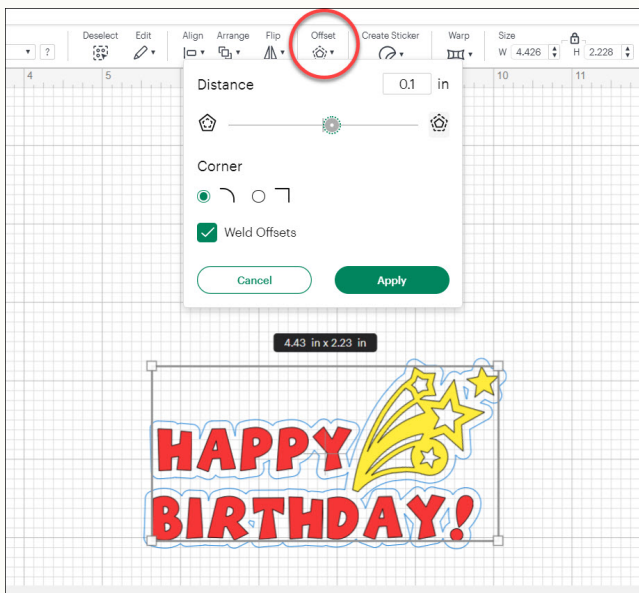
Route B / Offset + Flatten

A manual way to create a printable sticker with a border.

Add a Cricut library image using **Images > Filters > Operation Type > Print Then Cut**, or use your own artwork. [2]

1. Make a backing shape

Select the artwork, choose **Offset**, and adjust its distance and corner style. Try 0.10 in (2.5 mm) as a practice border. Apply the offset and set it to white. Hide unwanted holes with Contour before flattening. [4]



Official Offset screenshot © Cricut, Inc. [4]

2. Flatten one sticker

Select the artwork and its offset together, then choose **Flatten**. This merges them into a printable sticker with the offset as its outline. [4]

Check the result

The backing must join all parts you want to stay together. A solid circle or rectangle behind the artwork is another simple shape to flatten it onto.

3. Keep the stickers separate. Repeat the completed sticker as needed. Do not flatten an entire sheet onto one large background if you want individual sticker outlines. Inspect the print-and-cut preview before using sticker paper.

Cut depth is a separate choice. Offset controls the outline; it does not set kiss-cut pressure. Use a matching material preset and test on page 8. [8]

Print, load & cut

Use the same device and Design Space session from print through cut. [2]

1. Review the page

Select **Make**. Match the page size to your printer, material, and machine. Increase Project Copies to fill the page. Resolve size warnings with Auto-Resize or a supported larger sheet; sensor marks need their own space. [5]

2. Print from Design Space

Choose Send to Printer. Use portrait, one page per sheet, and unchanged scale. Disable fit-to-page and borderless printing. On desktop, Use System Dialog exposes printer options. Do not export the sticker sheet to PDF and print separately. [2]

Bleed: this extends edge color beyond the cut line. Standard Print Then Cut generally benefits from it. For Create Sticker without a Border, Cricut recommends turning Bleed off. [1, 2]

3. Let ink dry; place the sheet

Set the printer for the material; start with high quality and feed one sticker sheet at a time. Let the print dry. Place it smoothly on the LightGrip mat in the exact orientation shown in Design Space. [3]

Placement matters: Explore, Maker, and Joy Xtra use the top-left adhesive corner; Venture uses the bottom-left. Follow your machine preview, especially on Joy 2. [7]

4. Select the material and cut

Match the material name, finish, and liner version. On Explore Air 2 or older, set the dial to Custom. Load the mat, follow the blade prompt, and press Go. Let scanning and cutting finish, then unload. [3]

5. Peel and apply

Peel a test sticker and inspect its edge and liner. Apply to a clean, dry surface by hand. Printable sticker paper does not use transfer tape. [3]

Stop before a full batch: confirm the test peels cleanly and the cut follows the intended outline.

Add a waterproof finish

Use the printable sheet and matching laminate from a Cricut Waterproof Sticker Set. [6]

Compatible machines: Maker models, Explore 3 and later, Venture, Joy Xtra, and Joy 2. These sets need the stronger sensor; they are not the waterproof route for Explore Air 2 or older. [6]

1. Identify the two sheets

Print on the vinyl sheet with the grid and Cricut logo on its back. The laminate has a QR-code sticker and a liner slit near one edge; it is not the printable sheet. [6]

2. Print first, then laminate

Let ink dry. Peel the narrow liner strip from the laminate, align and anchor that edge over the printed vinyl, then gradually peel the remaining liner while smoothing with a brayer or soft scraper. [6]

PRINT

Printable vinyl

LAMINATE

Smooth over dry ink

CUT

Both layers on mat

3. Choose the exact set

Select the matching Waterproof Sticker Set preset, including white, transparent, or holographic variant. Place the laminated sheet on the mat as shown in Design Space and cut. [6]

4. Apply and care

Peel by hand onto a clean, dry surface. Skip transfer tape. Handwash decorated items. [6]

Practice tip: begin with a flat surface. Avoid placing a sticker across a sharp seam or tight curve. Test adhesion on the intended object before making a large batch.

When something goes wrong

Change one variable, then run one more test.

The machine cannot find the marks

Check for smudges, wrinkles, glare, and incorrect sheet placement. Move direct light away from the sensor. Make sure the mat is properly loaded. If needed, gently clean the sensor light with a clean, dry watercolor brush. [7]

Cuts are shifted from the print

First check printer scaling and whether the sheet moved. Then run Print Then Cut calibration with the same printer. Follow the calibration guide for your exact machine. [2, 9]

Tiny letters or pieces cut separately

In the manual route, flatten the art onto a solid backing or offset for each sticker. Inspect any holes or disconnected parts before printing again. [4]

A kiss cut slices through the backing

Confirm the material preset, then reduce cut pressure and retest. If it will not peel, increase pressure cautiously. Record each change; blade condition and material construction affect results. [8]

Ink smears or paper jams

Print one sheet at a time. For older, thick gray-liner Cricut paper, use the appropriate thick-media setting or manual feed. If excessive ink smudges, reduce print quality from best to good. [3]

The design is too large

Use the warning in Layers to auto-resize, or choose a supported larger page that your printer and material can actually use. Maximum width and height do not necessarily form one usable rectangle. [5]

Your test-cut worksheet

Keep this page beside your machine. Write down the combination that works.

Date / project

Machine / blade

Printer / print quality

Material brand / finish / liner

Laminate, if used

Target cut: kiss / die / kiss + die edge

Test in small steps

Choose a close material preset. Cut one sample, unload, and inspect. Change only pressure or passes before a fresh test. Save a successful custom material setting if needed. [8]

Try	Preset / pressure	Passes	Peel / liner result
1			
2			
3			

PASS: clean outline, easy peel, and the intended liner result.

Saved setting name: _____

Sources: 8. Cut pressure

Official help & credits

Click a source title to open the current Cricut instructions.

- 01** Create Sticker
- 02** Print Then Cut
- 03** Printable Sticker Paper
- 04** Offset
- 05** Page sizes
- 06** Waterproof Sticker Sets
- 07** Sensor troubleshooting
- 08** Cut pressure
- 09** Calibration

Images used in this manual

Cover: finished mountain-and-sun stickers, from source 1.

Page 3: Create Sticker cut-choice screenshot, from source 1.

Page 4: Offset controls screenshot, from source 4.

All three images © Cricut, Inc. Page 6 process diagram is original.

How to use the examples

The screenshots illustrate controls, not a promised match to every app version. Use the written steps and your machine prompts together. The 2 in sticker and 0.10 in border are practice suggestions; choose dimensions that suit your project.

Prepared September 22, 2026 using Cricut Help Center guidance. This independent manual is not published or endorsed by Cricut.