

Chipboard Tip Sheet for the Cricut®

Standard Housing Unit (green) The Cricut is only capable of cutting materials with a maximum thickness of 1/16 inch. However, the regular housing unit will not allow materials with this thickness to pass through to the rollers. Cereal boxes are about half the thickness of standard chipboard and in some cases can be cut with a single pass using the standard housing unit. For thicker materials you may need to cut multiple times. **The deep cut housing blade (blue)** has a shorter shaft which allows for thicker material to pass through. The maximum blade depth setting is a little deeper and allows the blade to penetrate thicker materials. You may have to cut the material more than once depending on its thickness.

The blades for both housing units are different. The standard blade has a red cap, and the deep cut blade is beveled deeper and has a blue cap.

Chipboard Facts:

1. Not all chipboard is acid free.
2. Chipboard has different grades based on the fiber density. Not all chipboard is designed for cutting or craft projects.
3. Clay coating (white glossy surface) is sturdier than reg. chipboard. It has a smooth side perfect for stamping, or gluing.
4. Here are some Stats I downloaded from Sarah at <http://www.plainandsmall.blogspot.com>
 - .022- this is like a heavy cardstock, blade:5-6, pressure: max, speed: 4, multi cut:2
 - .024- think cereal box- same as .022, if clay coated, multi cut:3
 - .028- IDEAL for Cricut usage blade: 6, pressure: max, speed: 4-5 multi cut:4
 - .032- depending on the way your blade was cut (some are cut with a deeper bevel than others) this will work with the above settings. A long bevel works better, than a shorter one. With a short bevel, the blade on some sections of the cut did not make it all the way thru (like you'd see cutting cardstock with a dull blade) and I needed to go around it lightly with my craft knife. It was just

barely attached. I did get a very clean edge running around it with the craft knife though. Compared to the .028 the difference in thickness is nominal.

.040+ is too thick; the blade depth is insufficient to make it through the thickness. It will go thru the machine, but you will have to hand cut it the rest of the way. ANYTHING thicker than .040 is too thick and will damage your machine rollers! I do NOT recommend anything thicker than .032! It's just not worth damaging your machine and voiding the warranty.

Cutting Tips

1. It is recommended that you choose simple designs that do not have a lot of tiny or thin details.
2. Thick designs and thick letters are recommended.
3. Remember to keep the chipboard away from the green borders of your mat. This area is reserved for the guide rollers to move up and down the mat during the cutting processes.
4. You want to make sure you have a VERY STICKY Mat. I also recommend that you press the chipboard firmly with a brayer or rolling pin and secure the edges with masking tape.

Remember!

Chipboard is **NOT** acid free, avoid use on archival projects.

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