

Fabric Tip Sheet for the Cricut®

This project is **NOT** recommended for children since this is a heat bonding technique. **Please use extreme caution when using an Iron.**

Supplies List:

- **Heat 'n Bond Ultrabond no-sew adhesive by Therm-O-Web**
You can find it at any store that carries fabric or craft supplies.
- **Fabric of choice**
Make sure you use natural fiber NON stretchy fabrics. Cotton works best.
- **New Blade or a blade designated for fabric**
- **Clean very sticky mat**
- **Iron – NO Steam**
- **Ironing cloth or old pillow case**



Pre-project Preparation

Washing Tips - If the project is going to be washed at any time after fabric is adhered to it, then pre-wash all fabric to allow for shrinkage. After washing, iron out wrinkles for both the base fabric and the material that you plan to cut (do not use a spray starch or fabric stiffener). **DO NOT** use FABRIC SOFTENER when washing fabric or the bonding agent will not adhere properly. Washing instructions are provided on the Heat 'N Bond packaging. Post projects can be washed in cold water, but do not dry them, since the adhesive will lose its bond in a heated dryer.

Tips for Cutting Fabric

1. **Sharp Blade:** Don't use the same blade you use on paper. Paper dulls the blades and fabric requires a sharp blade. Refer to the Provo Craft's Cricut owner's manual for detailed instructions on replacing blades. **Tip:** I label my blades with an **F** for fabric so I know not to use it for paper.
2. **Sticky mat:** Depending on the depth of the fabric, you may need a bond stronger than a new mat. You also want to make sure your mats are **CLEAN**. You don't want residue on your fabric. You also want to prevent your fabric from sliding on the mat. The heavier fabric requires stickier mat.
3. **Direction of Fabric:** Fabric needs to be cut going in the right direction or the needle will drag and possibly snag depending on the gauge of the weave. I try to cut in the direction the fabric is already cut. I think it's called cross grain.
4. **Fabric Thickness:** I have cut thin cotton fabric and thick felt. Thinner fabric works best, if the material is thick like felt, the deep cut housing blade may be necessary, or you may need to cut the design more than once. Look for tightly woven fabrics for best results. Tiny details cut better on thin material when the final design is larger than 2 inches. Also see tip#8.
5. **Adhesive:** Fabric cuts can be adhered in several ways. The Xyron is great if you are attaching the fabric to paper, or you can use a heat bond adhesive. For projects that will require a lot of wear (i.e., album covers, t-shirts, lamp shades, throw pillows) I recommend the heat 'n bond. Yes, you can iron onto paper!
6. **Iron Settings:** Use common sense when dealing with an **IRON** you will get **BURNED** or ruin your fabric, project or furniture. Use the recommended heat setting for the fabric you are using. No steam. For the thin cotton I used a med – high heat. Make sure the iron isn't too hot or it will scorch the fabric or the project. Follow the directions on the Heat 'n Bond. You want to adhere the

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Heat 'n Bond onto the back of the fabric. Once the fabric has **cooled**, remove the waxed paper coating before using the fabric in your Cricut. Don't discard the paper until your project is finished. You may need to reheat your fabric or make layered appliques, and this paper can be re-used. **Tip:** I bought a cheap iron from the dollar store that lives in my craft room so I don't gunk up my good iron.

- a. Make sure your adhesive is completely covered with fabric when you iron it. You don't want to leave the adhesive on your iron or ironing board. You can use an old pillow case to protect the surface.
 - b. If you're ironing the applique onto a synthetic surface, protect the project by placing a pillow case or ironing cloth between the project and the iron.
 - c. DO NOT iron directly on furniture.
7. **Placement:** Remove the paper backing from the adhesive before adhering the fabric to the mat. Place your fabric on the mat like you would if you were cutting paper. You can either place the fabric side down or the adhesive side down. If you place the fabric side down, remember to cut the image mirrored for objects like letters or welded words. You will need Design Studio to do this. There are other tips out there for reversing images. So I will not cover that here.

I normally put the adhesive side down except on fabric like felt where the needle gets caught in the fibers.

Also, if you are not using the full mat size, you may want to tape the edges of your project to your mat so that it doesn't slide when cut.

Tip: Do not place your fabric into the dark green border of the mat (See pink arrows in figure). This is the path for the rollers during the cutting process and the Cricut could jam or the rollers may pull the fabric from the mat. (Same thing goes for paper).



8. Cricut Settings:

- a. **Design Studio** At this time, Design Studio ignores setting on the Cricut. Hopefully Provo Craft will release an update soon that corrects this problem. However, I have not noticed any trouble when I chose simple designs and the thinner cotton fabric.
- b. **Cricut** For the t-shirt project I set my blade depth to 4, pressure dial to 4, and speed to 2. Everything cut fine. If your fabric is heavier you may want to go to a deeper setting like 5 on the depth and 5 on the pressure, but keep a slow speed for finer details. Always experiment on a sample first.

9. Most of all HAVE FUN!

Disclaimer: Psycho Moms Scrapbooks & More, Xyron, Provo Craft, and/or Therm-O-Web are not responsible for any personal or property damages as a result of the tips in this tip sheet. Please test the products before using, and exercise extreme caution when using an iron. Not all fabric is recommended for your Cricut when in doubt don't use it. This project is not recommended for children. Please use all products as they are directed by their manufacturers. The tips provided are from personal experimentation and may not work in all case. All products used in this tip sheet are property of their respective companies and all rights are reserved.