

# Glass Etching for the Cricut®

*Special Thanks to Susan Goolsby for her assistance in preparing these notes.*

This project is **NOT** recommended for children. Hazardous materials are used to etch the glass. **Please use extreme caution with this project.**

## Supplies List:

- Rubber Gloves
- Safety Goggles
- Vinyl (any color)
- Transfer Tape
- Cricut
- Cartridge of Choice
- Sticky Mat
- Reg. Housing Blade (green)
- Cricut Tool Kit (optional, but the tools are awesome for this job).
- Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream
- Paint Brush (sponge type is fine)
- Glass (preferably a smooth flat surface)
- Masking tape



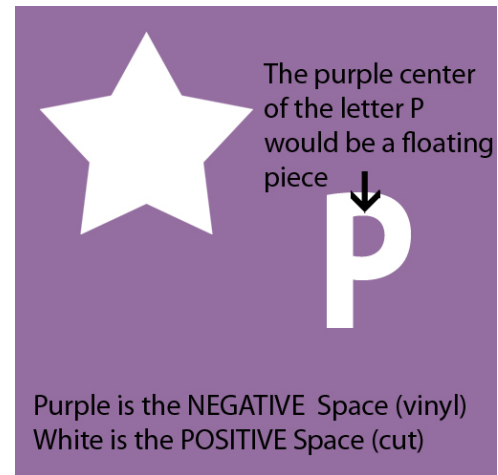
## Pre-project Preparation

Make sure the surface of your glass is clean. Use soapy water. The ammonia found in glass cleaners may not be safe with the glass etching chemical. Make sure the surface is clean and dry before beginning.

## Glass Etching Instructions

1. **Blade:** For this project the regular blade (green housing) is fine.
2. **Sticky mat:** Make sure vinyl doesn't slide during cutting. If you are using an old mat, you may want to use masking tape to adhere the vinyl to the mat.
3. **Vinyl:** Place your vinyl colored side up on the mat. (**DO NOT REMOVE** the paper backing.) Make sure you leave at least a half inch border around your design.
4. **Cricut Settings:** Speed 5, pressure med (4), blade depth 4, Size (you decide based on size of project).

5. **Picking Design:** Simple designs work best for beginners. Make sure your negative space is in one piece. (see illustration)



The negative space is the area that is left after you cut your design. Therefore, make sure your design does not have a lot of floating positive pieces (i.e., the center of the letter P in the illustration). Keep it simple for the first project, as you become more advanced you can use the more intricate designs.

## Tip provided by Cindy Eckhardt

Cut the design from scrap paper first to figure out the exact size and placement. This will also let you know if your design is too complex before cutting on your expensive vinyl.

6. **Cut the design** and remove the mat from the Cricut, however, **DO NOT** remove anything from the mat.
7. **Transfer Tape:**
  - a. Trim your transfer tape to fit over the entire sheet of vinyl on the mat, leaving at least a quarter inch border overhanging the negative space.

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- b. Remove the paper backing from the transfer tape and adhere the transfer tape sticky side down over the vinyl.
  - c. Apply the transfer tape to the vinyl while it is still secured to your mat. For best results start from the center and using your scraper tool in the tool kit, scrape from the center to the ends making sure to remove all air pockets and creases between the transfer paper and the vinyl.
8. **Removing the vinyl from the mat:** Carefully lift the vinyl from the mat using your spatula for best results. Make sure you do not leave behind any of the cuts or paper backing from the vinyl. All your pieces should be adhered to the transfer tape at this point, and there should be nothing on the mat.
9. **Remove the positive design:** Using the pick in the toolkit, remove the positive areas of the design (if the paper is still adhered you can use this for another project).

## Tips provided

by Tonya Gibbs

- 1. If the paper backing gets removed from the Positive image, then adhere it to the shiny side of freezer paper or wax paper, to save for future use.
- 2. Transfer tape can be used multiple times if you are careful with your storage after each use. Transfer tape can also be stored on the shiny side of freezer paper.

### 10. Place vinyl on glass:

- a. **SAFETY:** Put on your safety goggles and gloves. You do not want to risk the cream splashing into your eyes, or causing a skin rash. Always use extreme caution when handling glass, rough edges can leave glass fragments in your skin.

- b. Again follow the instructions in step 7 to make sure you remove air bubbles and creases. **BE VERY CAREFUL.** The vinyl will stretch or tear.
- c. Once the vinyl is secured and you see no trace of air pockets, remove the transfer tape.
- d. If you need to provide yourself with a wider border apply masking tape those areas. (The etching cream reacts almost immediately, when in doubt mask the edges with tape.)

### 11. Glass Etching:

- a. Shake the Glass Etching Cream vigorously before using. This product is like GOLD. Be careful not to waste any product.
- b. Using the paint brush, apply a generous amount of cream into the positive space of the vinyl directly onto the glass.
- c. Wait 60 seconds and then rinse the cream off the glass with water. It will appear that the design is not etched, but it is, do not panic. The longer the cream is left on the glass the darker the image becomes (it will turn white and not look so attractive).

12. **Remove the vinyl** and masking tape from the glass and discard. Dry the surface with a towel.

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