

Acrylic Tip Sheet for the Cricut®



Housing Differences:

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.

Supplies Needed:

1. Safety Glasses (protect those peepers, acrylic produces a fine glass dust when it is cut).
2. Latex Gloves. Dust particles from acrylic can irritate skin. Sharp edges may cut.
3. Sticky Mat – The weight of the acrylic can lift from the mat. Air pockets can causing the acrylic to slip.
4. Masking Tape – Apply Masking tape to secure the edges of the acrylic to the mat.
5. Deep cut blade housing unit & Deep cut blade.
6. Acrylic at 1/16 inch or thinner. (If it has a protective film, then remove the film from the side that sticks to the mat, but leave it on the cutting surface.

Cutting Tips

1. It is recommended that you choose simple designs that do not have a lot of tiny or thin details. Thick designs and thick letters are recommended.
2. Remember to keep the acrylic 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.
3. You want to make sure you have a VERY STICKY Mat. I also recommend that you press the acrylic firmly with a brayer or rolling pin and secure the edges with masking tape.
4. You have to cut at least 4 – 6 times, depending on the thickness of the acrylic, you may never cut all the way through. Follow these steps:
 - a. **Baby Bug:** DO NOT unload your mat after the first cut, instead, hit load paper, then repeat last. Repeat this process until you are satisfied with the depth of the cut. Remember that if you unload the paper, it will be difficult to line up the design for the second cutting.
 - b. **Expressions & Create Models:** Before making you first cut, make sure you set the repeat feature to at least 4 – 6 depending on the depth of the acrylic. If you are not satisfied after it cuts, then hit load paper and repeat the process.
5. Depending on the thickness of the acrylic, it may never cut all the way through. This is a due to the limitations of the blade depths. With rubber gloves and safety goggles on, you can pop the design out by pressing away from the cut edge. Then use a piece of sand paper to smooth the edges if necessary. During this process so slow around sharp edges. They may crack or cut you.

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