Cricut Maker 4 Overview

What is the Cricut Maker 4 and what can you do with it?

The Cricut Maker 4 is an electronic cutting machine. Cricuts are great for cutting thin material like paper and vinyl. You may create any number of projects with the Cricut including cards, stationery, decorations, iron-on decals for t-shirts, hats, mugs and much more.

Safety and Rules

The Cricut Maker 4 uses blades for cutting a variety of material. Carefully change and store blades as they can be a cutting hazard.

A few of rules to keep in mind before you get started:

- Makers must go through training before they can use the Cricut.
- Respect the space and equipment, other makers' projects, and yourself.
- Projects must be library appropriate.
- Please do not run your business out of the NBPL MakerStudio.

Reserving the Cricut Maker 4

Once you've finished your training, you may reserve time on the machine. Request a reservation online at newberlinlibrary.org/makerstudio, or you can call to reserve a time. If the Cricut is not reserved, it is first come first served. Check with staff for availability. The Cricut may only be used during open studio hours.

Meet the Cricut Maker 4

Anatomy of the Machine

- The Cricut must be plugged into a power source and a laptop vis the USB cord or connected via Bluetooth.
- The On/Off switch is on the top of the machine under the lid.
- The other buttons on the top of the machine are the Load/Unload button, the Go button (play symbol), and the Pause button. The Load/Unload and Go buttons will flash when it's time to press them. You may press the pause button as needed.
- Inside the Cricut: The print head will move back and forth and use the tool designated by the operation you choose to create your project.
    - A/B Clamps: There are two clamps on the print head for tools – the A and B Clamps. Clamp A is for accessories, and is used to hold tools like the scoring tool, pens, markers, etc. Clamp B is for blades and is used to hold blade cartridges. We currently have five blades, and they are kept in the toolbox (See Tools for specific blade types).
- There is a camera on the print head which will measure your material and align your project.
- Mats and material will be loaded into the front of the Cricut under the print head. There are two tabs on the left and right under the roller, where the mat will be held as it's moved back and forth in the Cricut. (See Tools for specifics mat types and details). The back of the Cricut is open to allow the mat to move

all the way through the machine while cutting. Make sure nothing is behind the Cricut as it may hook or block the mat or material.

Tools and Cleaning

MakerStudio staff will clean the Cricut Maker 4 regularly. Please alert staff if cleaning is needed.

Various tool kits are available for checkout to use in conjunction with the Cricut Maker 4. The Cricut Basic Kit is included with all Cricut reservations. If you need the Cricut Fabric Kit, be sure to select that add-on when you make your reservation. Staff will retrieve the kit(s) when they set you up with the Cricut at the time of your reservation.

Cricut Basic Kit

- **Weeding tools**: These sharp tools are used to pick or weed tiny pieces out of your project.
- **Scraper**: This tool may be used to peel material off the mat or backing.
- **Spatula**: The spatula is used to help adhere material to the mat, to a project, and to help with transferring material.
- **Pens**: Several types of pens may be used in Clamp A to draw or write on material.
- **Scoring stylus**: This tool may be put into Clamp A on the print head and used to score paper for a folded line.
- **Blades**: Blade are used in the B Clamp. This kit comes with the fine point blade and the knife blade.
- **Mats**: Mats are used to load material into the Cricut. This kit comes with the LightGrip and StandardGrip mats.

Cricut Fabric Kit

- **Blades**: Blade are used in the B Clamp. This kit comes with the rotary blade.
- **Mats**: Mats are used to load material into the Cricut. This kit comes with the FabricGrip mat.
- **Fabric scissors**: Please be sure to ONLY use these scissors with fabric. Paper and other materials will damage these scissors.

Material

The library does not provide consumable materials. Please bring in your own to work with, as well as any extra to test settings on before the final project is made.

Meet Cricut Design Space

The Cricut Design Space (CDS) software is meant to be used exclusively with the Cricut machines. With this software, you may create your own project, set up an existing project, and purchase projects. There are many free elements available to use Cricut Design Space, and purchases are not necessary. Cricut Design Space is free to download, and you may create a free account.

Dashboard

The main page of the app is the Dashboard. You will find ideas for projects, advertisements for Cricut designs and options to start a new project.

Starting a Project
You may start a new project by clicking the green "New Project" button in the upper right corner of the dashboard. On the lefthand side of the dashboard, you may look at your previous designs or explore learning guides and projects.

The Canvas
The Canvas is your main workspace in the CDS software. This is where you will build your project. You may zoom in or out or pan the canvas as needed.

> Tips: Make sure you save regularly. Projects do not automatically save. Also, make sure you have the correct Cricut machine selected. Both Save and the machine selection tool are on the upper right side of the canvas next to the large "Make" button.

Left Side Tool Bar
The tool bar on the left side of the canvas provides options for adding elements to your project. You may add templates to help you design a specific type of project, shapes, images, text and more.

Top Tool Bar
The tools in the top tool bar will allow you to zoom in and out, choose an operation, and add additional elements to your project. From left to right:

- **Undo and Redo**: Undo or redo an action.
- **Operation**: Choose your operation from this drop-down menu. You may choose a number of options including basic cut, perforated cut, or chose to have the Cricut draw. Make sure the correct operation is selected or the Cricut will perform the wrong action.
- **Select all/Deselect**: This button will allow you to select or deselect objects. You may also hold down the Shift key and click on each piece you'd like selected.
- **Edit**: You may use this menu to copy/paste/delete objects. Keyboard shortcuts work as well.
- **Align**: Align objects with one another.
- **Arrange**: Move layers to the front or back as needed.
- **Flip**: Flip your project horizontally or vertically. You may also rotate objects by hovering the cursor at an angle away from the corners of the object. The resizing cursor will change to a rotation cursor.
- **Offset**: This tool creates an offset outline around your project. This is mainly used for print then cut projects like stickers.
- **Size/Rotate/Position**: This section allows you to set size, rotation and position on the canvas to a specific measurement.

Layer Panel and Tools
On the right side of the canvas, you will find your layers and additional tools at the bottom of the layer panel.

- **Group**: When more than one object on your canvas is selected, you may use this tool to group them together.
- **Duplicate**: Duplicate a layer.
- **Delete**: Delete a layer.
- **Layers**: The layer panel will show you each individual layer on your canvas, as well as any grouped layers.
- **Blank Canvas**: Change the color of your canvas here.

- **Slice/Combine**: When multiple overlapping layers are selected, you may slice and combine these layers, cutting away unwanted shapes to create a different shape.
- **Attach**: When cutting more than one later, select both layers and click "Attach." This function tells the Cricut that you want the layers cut in a specific way or alignment.
- **Flatten**: Flatten selected layers so that an outline is cut around them.
- **Contour**: Delete details of an image individually.

Resources

Youtube   youtube.com/officialcricut
Cricut   Cricut.com