Helpful Tips For Using SVGs

SVG Basics

SVG stands for Scalable Vector Graphic which simply means an SVG can be scaled from any size and does not get pixelated or lose its quality.

SVGs are used in cutting machines. The most popular machines are Cricut and Silhouette among other brands.

SVGs support a transparent background making them useful in many projects such as printables and digital designs.

SVG Software

Each cutting machine comes with its own software. The two most popular brands are Cricut and Silhouette each coming with its own software.

Cricut Design Space allows you to import and use SVG files for cutting. You can use the file immediately and do not need to trace an SVG file prior to use.

Silhouette Software has tiers to their software. With the basic software, an SVG file is not supported. However, you can use a DXF file if your design files come with this file type. However, when you import the design you will only see the design lines of the file. SVG files are supported in Designer and Business Tiers of the Silhouette software but you will need to upgrade your Silhouette software to one of these editions. With the Designer or Buisiness editions, you can import your SVG file and use immediately, without needing to trace the SVG file.

Importing an SVG File

For Cricut Design Space, you will choose uplaod and browse to select the SVG file you wish to work with.

For Silhouette software, you will choose file and then open to open the SVG file.

Basic Edits and Adjustments

For both software versions you can ungroup the file if you need to separate elements of the SVG file.

You can make the SVG file bigger or smaller depending on your project needs. Remember, you will not distort or lose the quality of your SVG file when doing so.

Depending on your project you may choose to use different colors than the current file offers. You can adjust these colors on your screen or simply use the correct color on your cutting mat when cutting your SVG file.

Preparing For Your First Cut

- Ensure your SVG file is set the way you want it to cut. Is it arranged the way you need it to be?
- Ensure your settings are correct? Is the correct medium selected? Do you have the correct color loaded in your machine?
- Always do a test cut on scrap material or on a small area that will not affect your project. This ensures your settings are correct and you will not waste materials.

Troubleshooting Tips

If you are unable to see the file, ensure you have not uploaded the incorrect file type such as an .PNG or .JPG file. You should only upload the SVG version unless you have the basic version of silhouette in which you would want to select the DXF version if available.

If it appears you are missing part of the file, try ungrouping the file to see if there are hidden elements in the design.

What can I create using SVG files?

SVG files are so versatile and can be used in many projects. They can be used for decals (many times you see these on vehicles, t-shirts, mugs, home decor signs, textiles, and paper crafting. You can also use them as wall art, invitations or greeting cards, and stickers. Please always be sure to research the terms of use for any SVG files you own/use. Designers work hard on their designs and may have restrictions to what you can and cannot use an SVG file for.

What is a great way to organize SVG files?

There are many ways to organize your SVG files.
- By SVG Designer especially if you have favorite designers you purchase graphics from. Use the name of the designer as the folder name. This is a great way to distinguish terms of use between designers.
- In folders by themes such as baby, marriage, faith-based, etc

It is always a good idea to keep a backup of your files on an external hard-drive or cloud storage.

For more tips and/ or questions reach us at info@addisonlanenovelties.com.

@designsbyaddisonlane
www.designsbyaddisonlane.com

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Addison Lane