

## Silhouette Cameo 3 and Cricut Computer Die Cut Machines

### Age Restrictions

- 13 and older
- 9 and older with adult supervision.

### Consumables Needed (and restrictions)

You must supply your own consumables for the die cut machines, and STEAM Central staff will need to inspect your material to insure it can be cut safely in the machines.

- Cricut: Allowable materials include vinyl, iron-on, cardstock, vellum, leather, bonded fabric, and more. For a complete list of cuttable materials, visit <https://home.cricut.com/materials-list>
- Silhouette Cameo 3: The Silhouette is designed to cut a variety of materials including vinyl, paper, specialty patterned papers, cardstock, vellum, iron-on heat transfer material, fabric (when using our Interfacing products) and sticker paper among other materials. It will also cut a variety of other specialty materials, some of which may be purchased directly from the Silhouette Company.

The Silhouette has a cutting force of 210gf and includes a blade that can extend to approximately 1 mm in depth when using the standard blade, or up to 2 mm in depth when using the Deep Cut Blade to accommodate thicker material types.

However, there is still a limitation depending on the material type's density and make up. Certain materials that are overly dense (such as thin metals or acetate, for example) may not be able to be cut well or at all and can impair the blade. Certain materials that have abrasive natures (such as thicker chipboard or sandpaper) may also impair the blade or dull it very quickly. On the other side of the spectrum, certain fibrous materials (such as select felt materials or handmade papers) may not be held together densely enough for successful cutting.

Testing can be performed on special material types to find whether or not they can be cut successfully by using the Test Cut feature.

For further discussion of cuttable materials, visit <https://www.silhouetteamerica.com/faq/solution/materials-silhouette-can-cut>.

### Before Use

- Schedule an appointment to use either machine.

- Show STEAM Central Staff the material you intend to cut.
- Check out the MacBook Air and appropriate USB Cable from STEAM Central Staff (required to run the machines.)
- Inspect power cord and machine before use. Do not use if cord is damaged or the machine is not working properly, and notify STEAM Central Staff of any issues immediately.

### **During Use**

- Notify staff if material is being cut poorly—a blade change may be necessary.
- Do not force materials in or out of the machines. Contact a STEAM Central staff person if materials are not loading/unloading properly.
- Insure the area both in front of and behind the machine is clear to allow the mat to move easily through the machine.

### **After Use**

- Unload the mat from the machine.
- Power off the machine, and disconnect the USB cable from the machine and the MacBook Air.
- Unplug the machine.
- Return the MacBook Air and USB Cable to STEAM Central Staff.

### **Resources**

- Cricut Explore Air 2—manual, tutorials, and software: <http://learn.cricut.com/explore-air-2/getting-started>
- Silhouette Cameo 3—
  - PixScan: <https://www.silhouetteamerica.com/pixscan>
  - Print and Cut: <https://www.silhouetteamerica.com/print-and-cut>
  - FAQ: <https://www.silhouetteamerica.com/faq/topic/silhouette-tips-tricks>
  - How-Tos and Projects: <http://blog.silhouetteamerica.com/>

