

DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

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Cutting Paper with the Silhouette Cameo



The Silhouette Cameo setup for cutting paper includes a computer with Silhouette Studio installed, the Cameo, cutting mat, and your choice of paper or cardstock.



Just a few things you can make with the Silhouette Cameo as a paper-cutting tool

1 Connect Cameo to Power and Mac

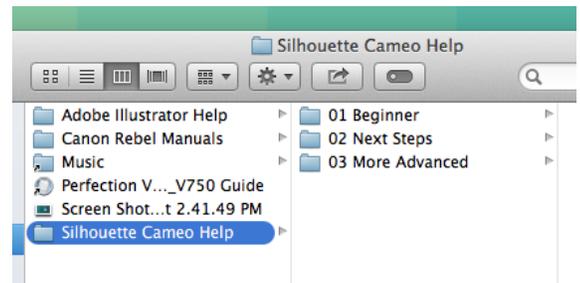
Both the iMacs and Macbooks have the Silhouette Studio software installed on them. Plug the Cameo into a power source, and connect its USB cord to the iMac or Macbook that you are using.

2 Watch Tutorial Videos

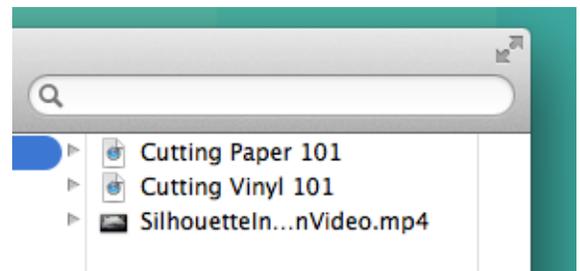
Find the "Silhouette Cameo Help" folder on the Desktop.



Double click it to open. You'll see a list of folders by skill level.



Click the "01 Beginner" folder.



If this is your first time using the Cameo, double-click "SilhouetteInstructionVideo.mp4" to launch the official orientation video. Next, double-click "Cutting Paper 101," which will launch an excellent 10-minute YouTube video tutorial. You must watch this before using the Library's Cameo, as it will hopefully prevent a host of user errors

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and make your experience go smoothly. Because it does so many things, the Cameo can be a tricky piece of equipment to use. Silhouette's YouTube Channel is a great resource in case you get lost.

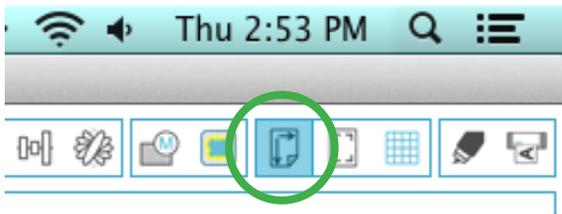
3 Launch the Silhouette Studio



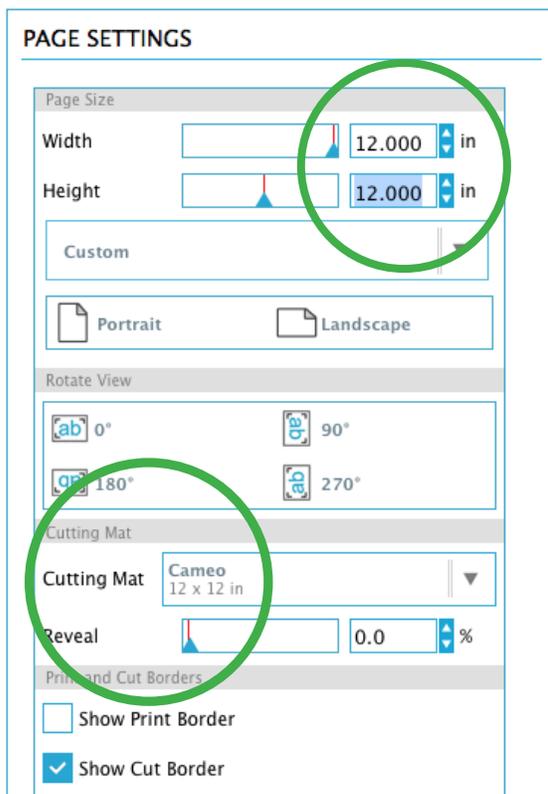
Find the circular blue icon for Silhouette Studio (shown) in the dock, and click it to launch the software.

4 Correct the Page Size

Select the "Page Settings" box in the upper right corner:

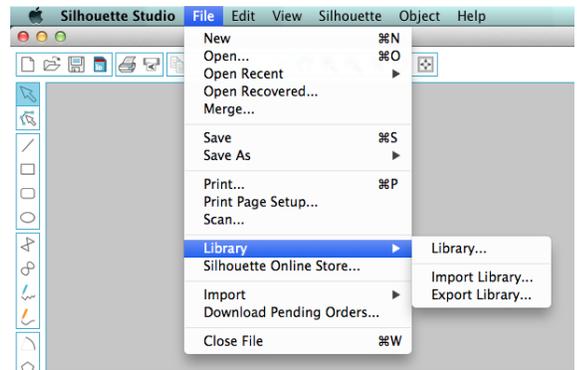


Because we are using scrapbooking paper that is 12 inches by 12 inches, that is how we will set up the page. We will also select the 12 by 12 cutting mat.

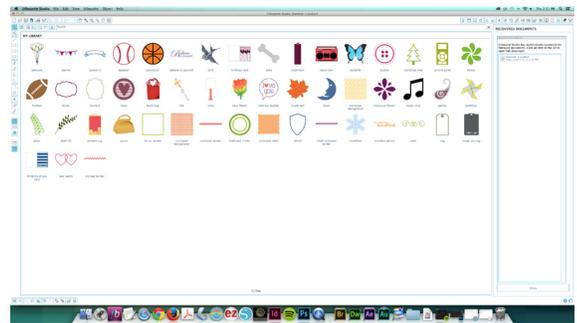


5 Look Through the Library

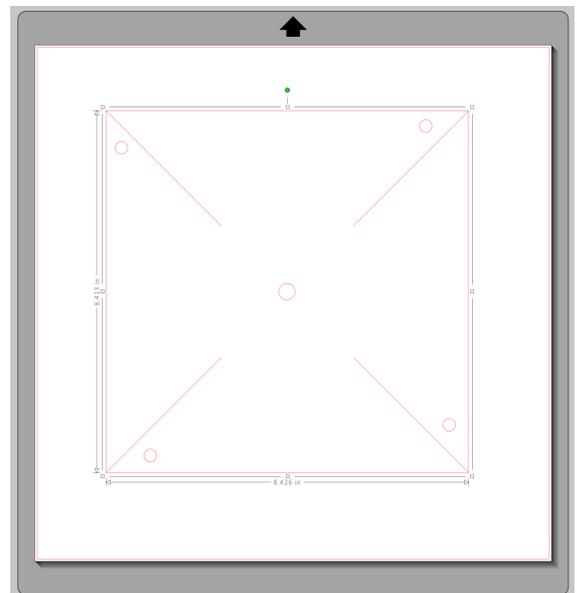
In the Studio software, click on "File," and then "Library."



This will open the Library, which will look something like this:



You can choose an image from the library, or load one of your own. (This tutorial does not go into customizing your own image, only how to use the basic cutting options.) For this tutorial, I chose the pinwheel.



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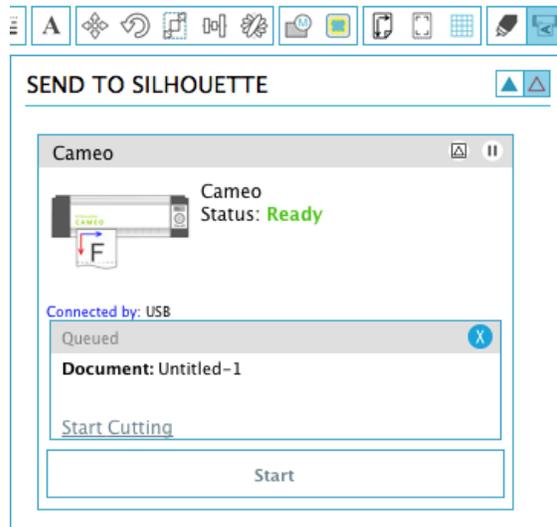
I positioned the pinwheel in the middle of my page, and click-and-dragged the corner handles to make it a little bigger.

What a simple project—I'm ready to send my design to the Cameo!

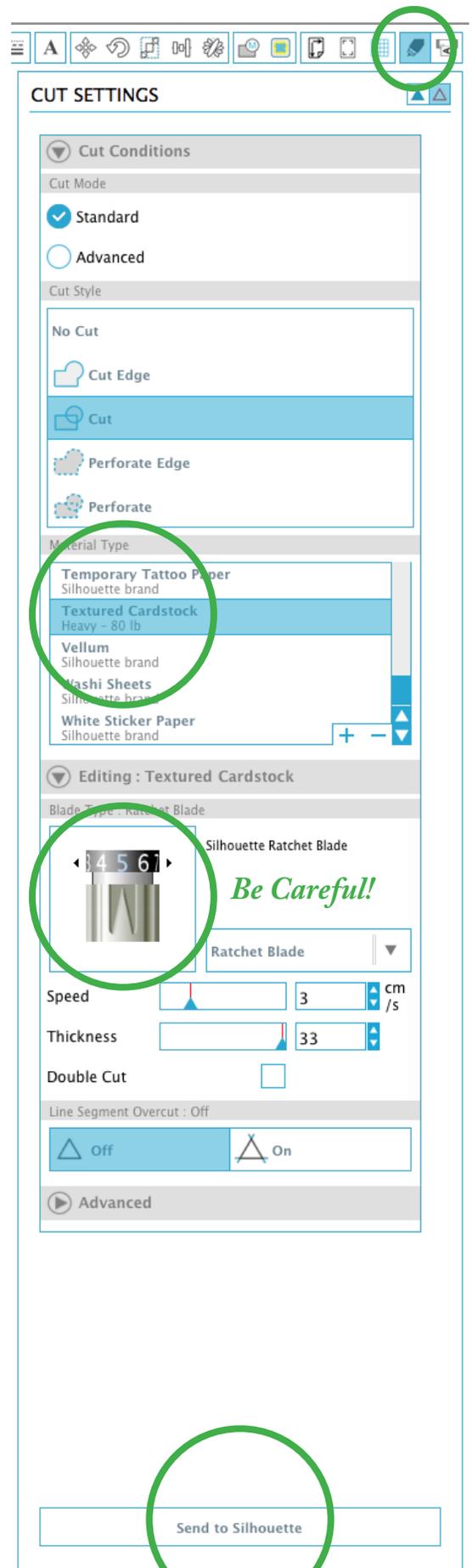
6 Sending to the Cameo for Cutting

Select the “Cut Settings” box in the upper right corner (shown here in the right column). I am using a textured cardstock, so I have selected that as well. However, it is not that heavy—so the suggested “5” blade is too big for my paper. (I found that out the hard way.) I used a 2. You may have to send a test paper (or more) through before figuring out which blade length is the correct size for the paper you have.

Once you are satisfied with your selections, click the “Send to Silhouette” button at the bottom of the column. The next screen will look like this:



Don't click the “Start” button yet—first, we need to set up the paper.



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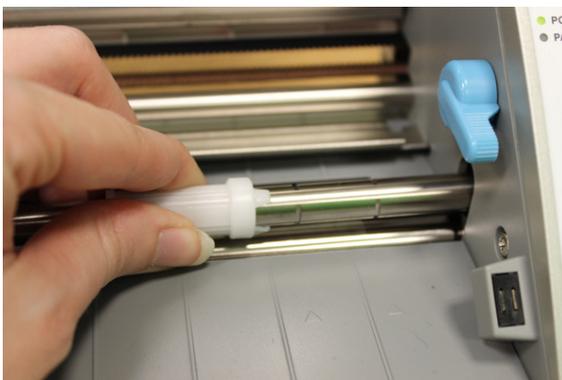
7 Making Sure the Rollers are in Place

If the Cameo has been used for vinyl cutting recently, you may see the white sliding rollers in this narrowed position:



If they're here (for 9-inch-wide vinyl), you can either leave them there or move them to the wider notches for 12-inch-wide materials. To do this, turn the blue release lever on the right side of the main roller shaft to point towards you instead of up. (This lever is shown pointing up on the right side of the above photo.) This will lift the main roller shaft.

Grip the bar with one hand and the right white roller with the other. Twist the white roller so that its pinchers are no longer in the notches.

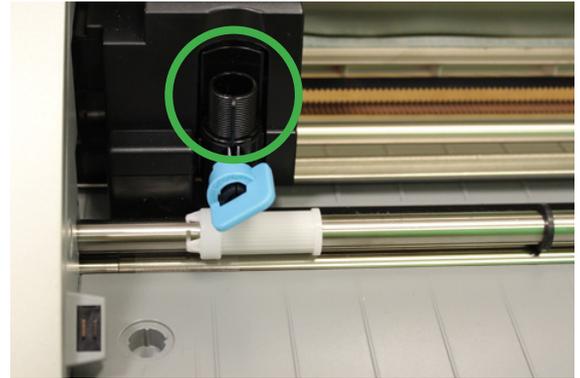


Slide the roller to the correct width at the other set of notches, and twist again to lock the pinchers into place. Return the blue release lever to its upright position in order to lock the main roller shaft into place.

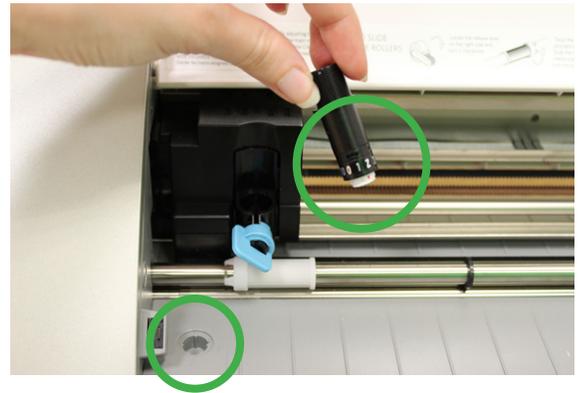
8 Adjusting the Blade

The blade is the cylindrical black piece

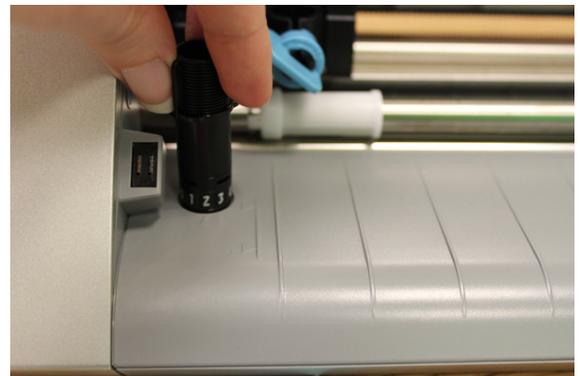
tucked into the black holder on the left side of the Cameo.



The blue toggle is shown here in locked position. To unlock, twist it to the left. Pull out the blade, and look at the numbers along the bottom.



If the number you need isn't selected (the red marking indicates the blade number), you can place the white section into the ratchet hole with the red mark facing forward (indicated by the arrow) and turn to select the correct number. You will hear a click when a new number is selected. (There is also a separate gray ratchet cap available for use.)

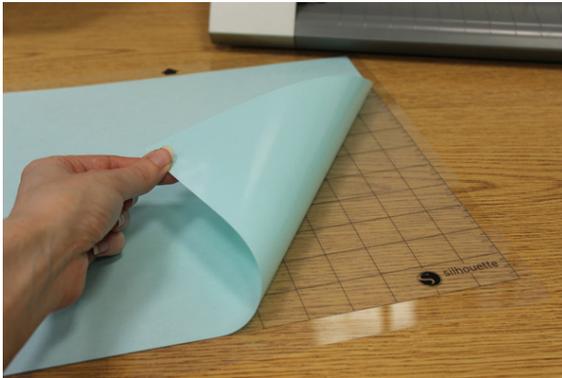


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Once you've selected the correct number, place the blade back into its holder with the protruding piece facing forward. Turn the blue toggle to the right to lock it in place.

9 Placing Paper onto the Cutting Mat

Peel the blue protective paper off of the sticky cutting mat.

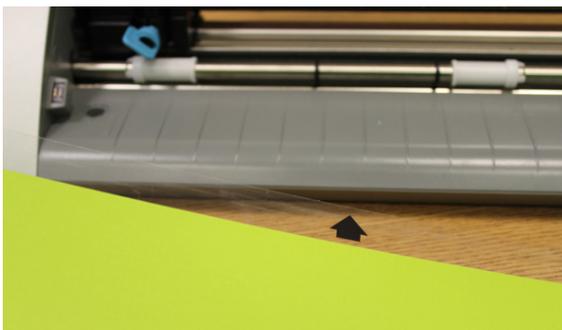


Take your paper and carefully line it up with the grid of the cutting mat. Roll it down onto the mat, and press it to stick.



10 Inserting the Paper & Mat

Turn on the Cameo by pressing the Power button. Make sure the arrow on the cutting mat is facing forward (away from you, towards the Cameo).



Line up the edge of the cutting mat (not the edge of the paper) with the double arrows on the left side of the Cameo, next to the ratchet hole.



Place the cutting mat snugly against the rollers. Make sure the display screen on the Cameo has a dot next to "Load Cutting Mat." If not, use the arrow buttons to select it. Once selected, press "Enter."

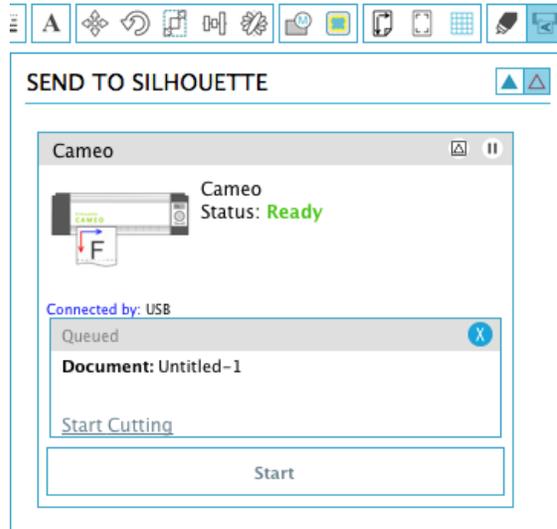


After loading, the screen will say "Unload." If the cutting mat loads at an angle accidentally, you can press "Enter" again and the Cameo will release the cutting mat. Then, you can adjust the mat and reload.



11 Send to Silhouette

Once the paper is in position, it's time to turn back to the computer screen. Remember this box?



Time to hit “Start” and watch the Cameo work its magic!



12 Peel Off & Enjoy!

Once the Cameo is finished cutting, click “Enter” to unload the cutting mat. Carefully peel off your paper, using the hook if necessary, and enjoy your project.