

DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

at the NEW LENOX PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cutting Vinyl with the Silhouette Cameo



The Silhouette Cameo setup for cutting vinyl includes a computer with Silhouette Studio installed, the Cameo, your choice of vinyl, hook tool, and scraper tool



Our Digital Media Lab window decal was made using Silhouette-brand vinyl in white

1 Connect Cameo to Power and Mac

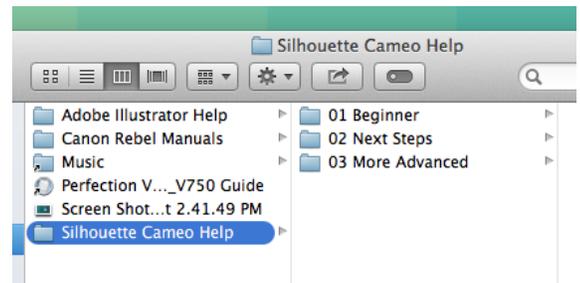
Both the iMacs and Macbooks have the Silhouette Studio software installed on them. Plug the Cameo into a power source, and connect its USB cord to the iMac or Macbook that you are using.

2 Watch Tutorial Videos

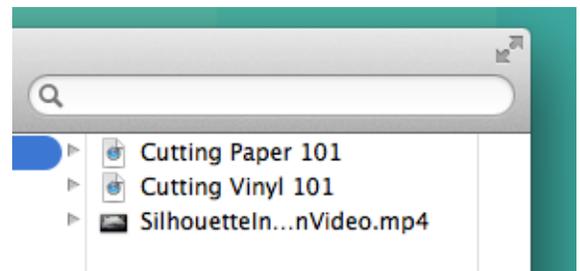
Find the "Silhouette Cameo Help" folder on the Desktop.



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 Vinyl 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



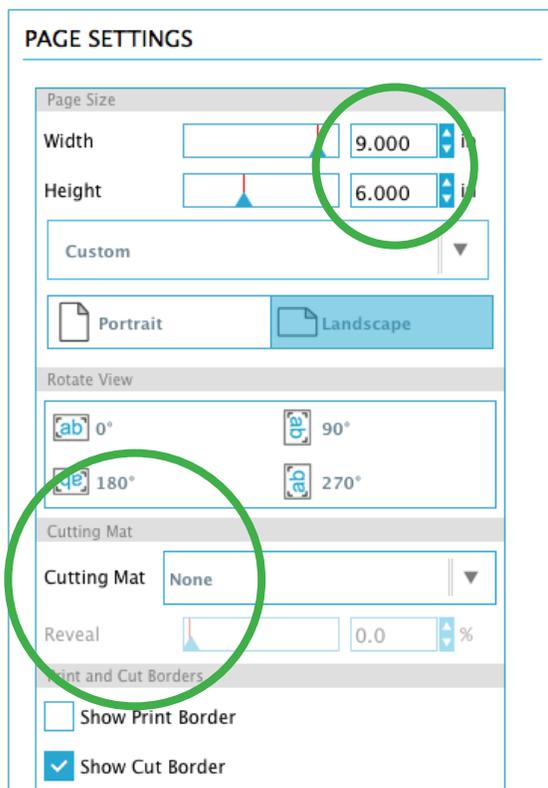
Find the circular blue icon for Silhouette Studio (shown) in the dock, and click it to launch the software.

4 Correct the Page Size

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



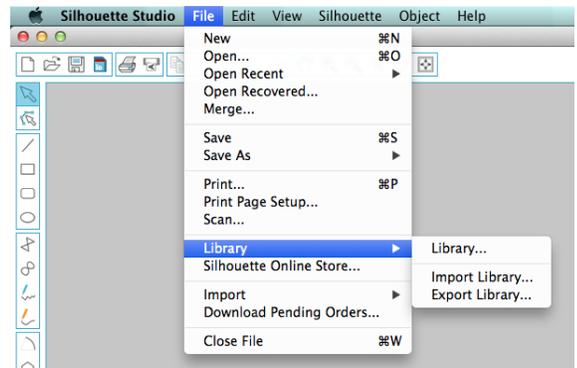
Because we are using vinyl that is 9 inches wide (lengths will vary), that is how we will set up the page. We will also choose Landscape, and to not have a cutting mat. Make sure "Show Cut Border" is checked, so you know to keep your design inside the red line.



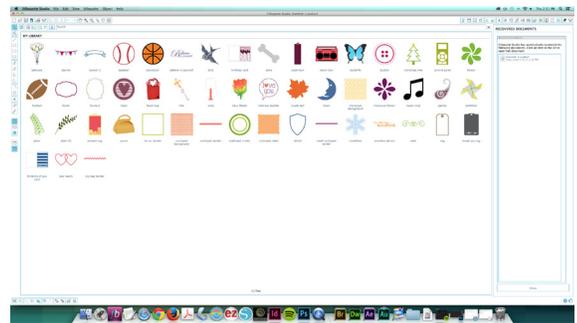
5

Look Through the Library

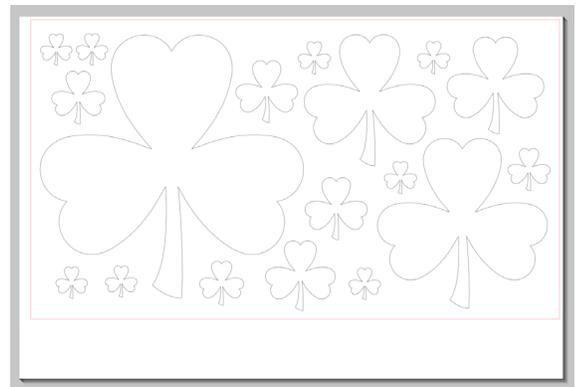
In the Studio software, click on "File," and then "Library."



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 created a shamrock.



I positioned multiple shamrocks across the top of my page, and click-and-dragged the corner handles to make them a little bigger or small at will. If you are using words or need a decal to face a certain direction,

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you may need to reverse it (if you will be sticking it on the inside of a window, and want to see it from the outside). If a design has a lot of detail, don't shrink it *too* small, or it either won't show or may choke up the Cameo.

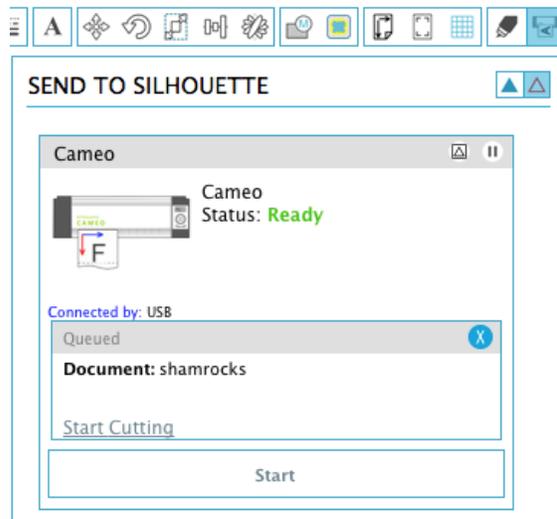
6

You'll be able to get the hang of this as you use the Cameo. Don't forget—failing is part of the exploration and learning process, so buy extra vinyl to play with. We're now ready to send the design to the Cameo!

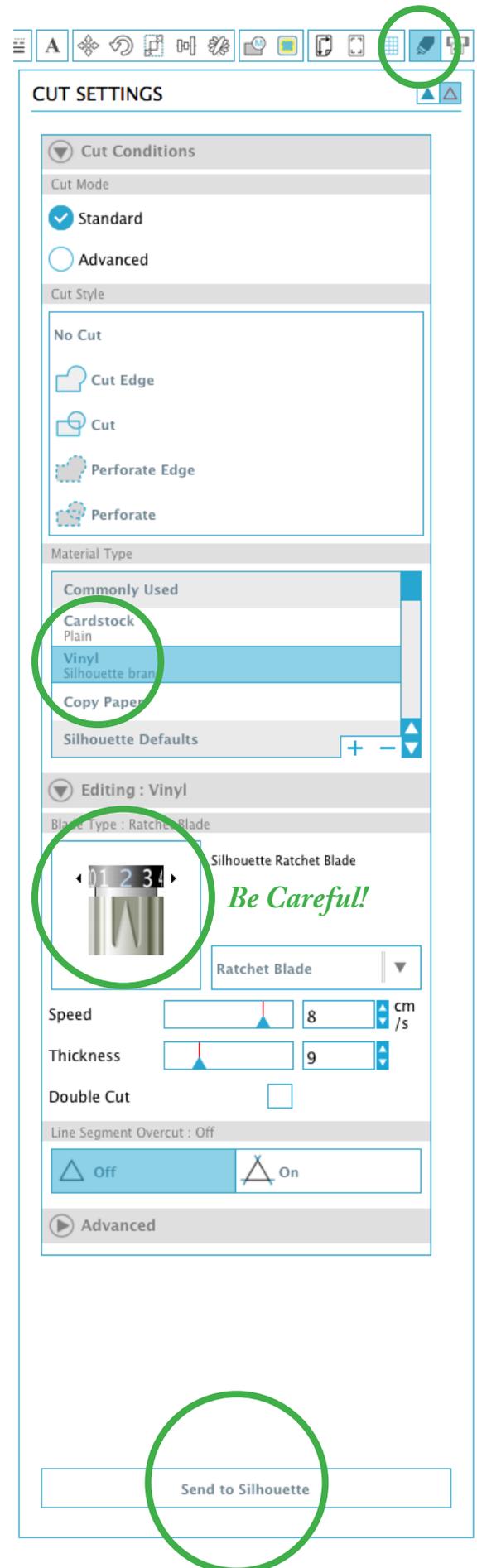
Sending to the Cameo for Cutting

Select the "Cut Settings" box in the upper right corner (shown here in the right column). I am using a 9-inch-wide roll of vinyl, so I have selected that. However, the suggested "2" blade is actually too big for my this vinyl. (I found that out the hard way.) I use a 1 for the vinyl. You may have to send a test piece (or more) through before figuring out which blade length is the correct size for the vinyl 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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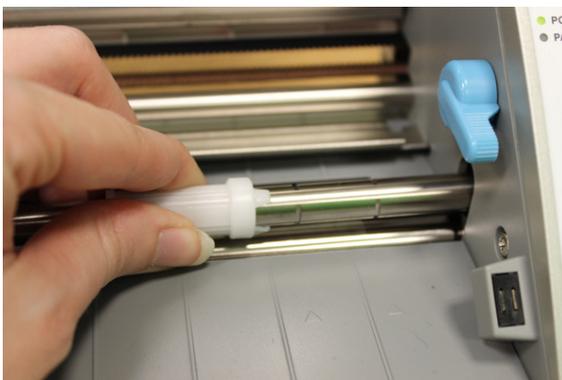
7 Making Sure the Rollers are in Place

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



If they're here (for 12-inch-wide vinyl or scrapbooking paper), you will need to move them to the narrower notches for 9-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.

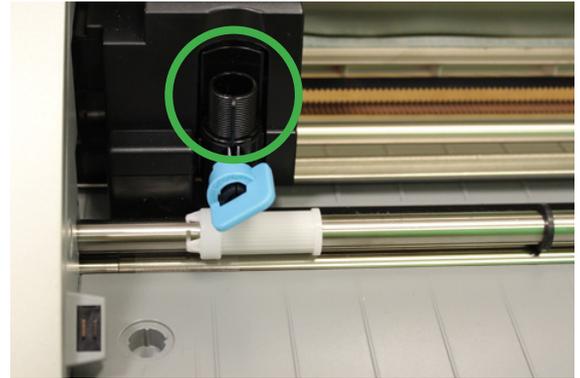


Slide the roller to the correct width at the other set of notches, and twist again to lock the pinchers into place. Return the blue release lever to its upright position in order to lock the main roller shaft into place.

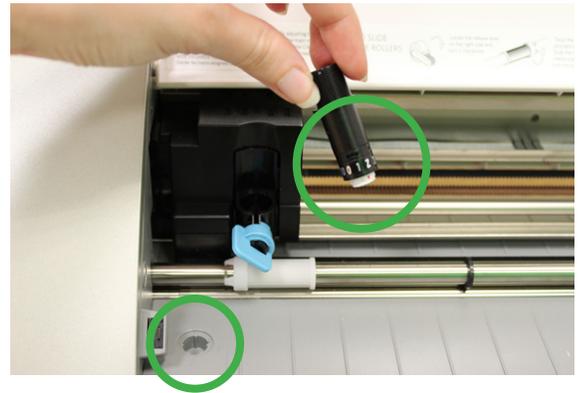
8 Adjusting the Blade

The blade is the cylindrical black piece

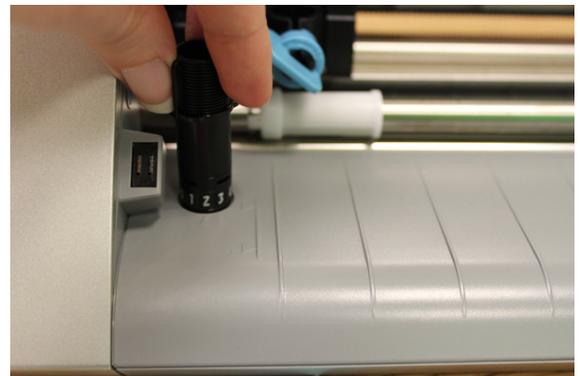
tucked into the black holder on the left side of the Cameo.



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.)

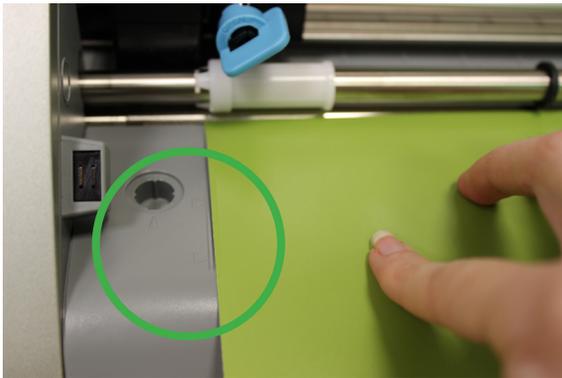


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Once you've selected the correct number, place the blade back into its holder with the protruding piece facing forward. Turn the blue toggle to the right to lock it in place.

9 Inserting the Vinyl

Turn on the Cameo by pressing the Power button. Line up the side edge of the vinyl with the double arrows on the left side of the Cameo, next to the ratchet hole. Place the top edge of the vinyl snugly against the rollers.



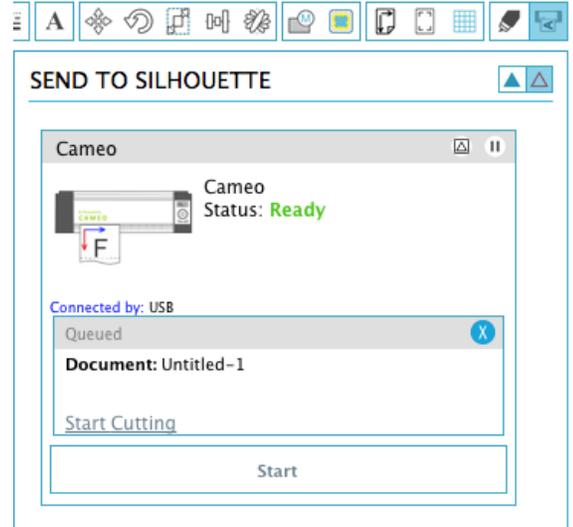
Make sure the display screen on the Cameo has a dot next to "Load Media." If not, use the arrow buttons to select it. Once selected, press "Enter."



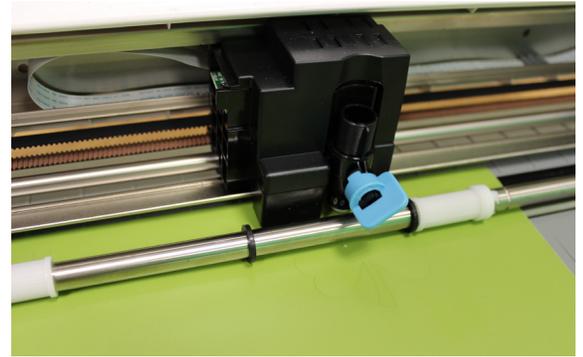
After loading, the screen will say "Unload." If the cutting mat loads at an angle accidentally, you can press "Enter" again and the Cameo will release the cutting mat. Then, you can adjust the mat and reload.

10 Send to Silhouette

Once the vinyl 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!



11 Trim and Transfer

Once the Cameo is finished cutting, click "Enter" to unload the cutting mat. If you have excess vinyl, you can use the paper cutter to trim it at this time. Also take this time to trim your transfer paper (the gridded paper), if necessary.

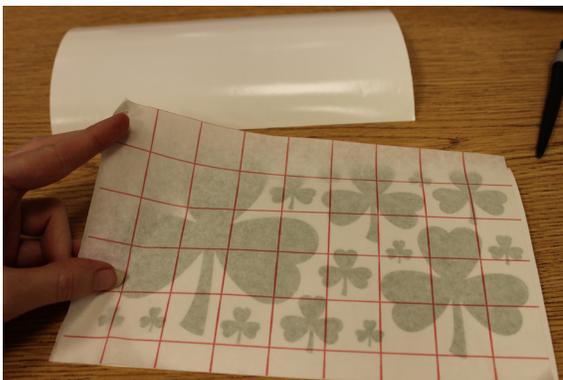


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Peel off the excess vinyl from your project.
Use the hook tool for delicate or detailed sections of your design.



Peel off the heavy backing from the transfer paper (you will be using the gridded part).
Sticky-side down, place the gridded paper on top of your decal.



Use the scraper tool to secure the transfer paper against the vinyl decal.

You'll notice that I have a lot of little shamrocks on my decal. I can transfer this as one big decal (very useful if you have a saying or pieced design), or I can cut the shamrocks apart and use them individually.

Happy crafting!