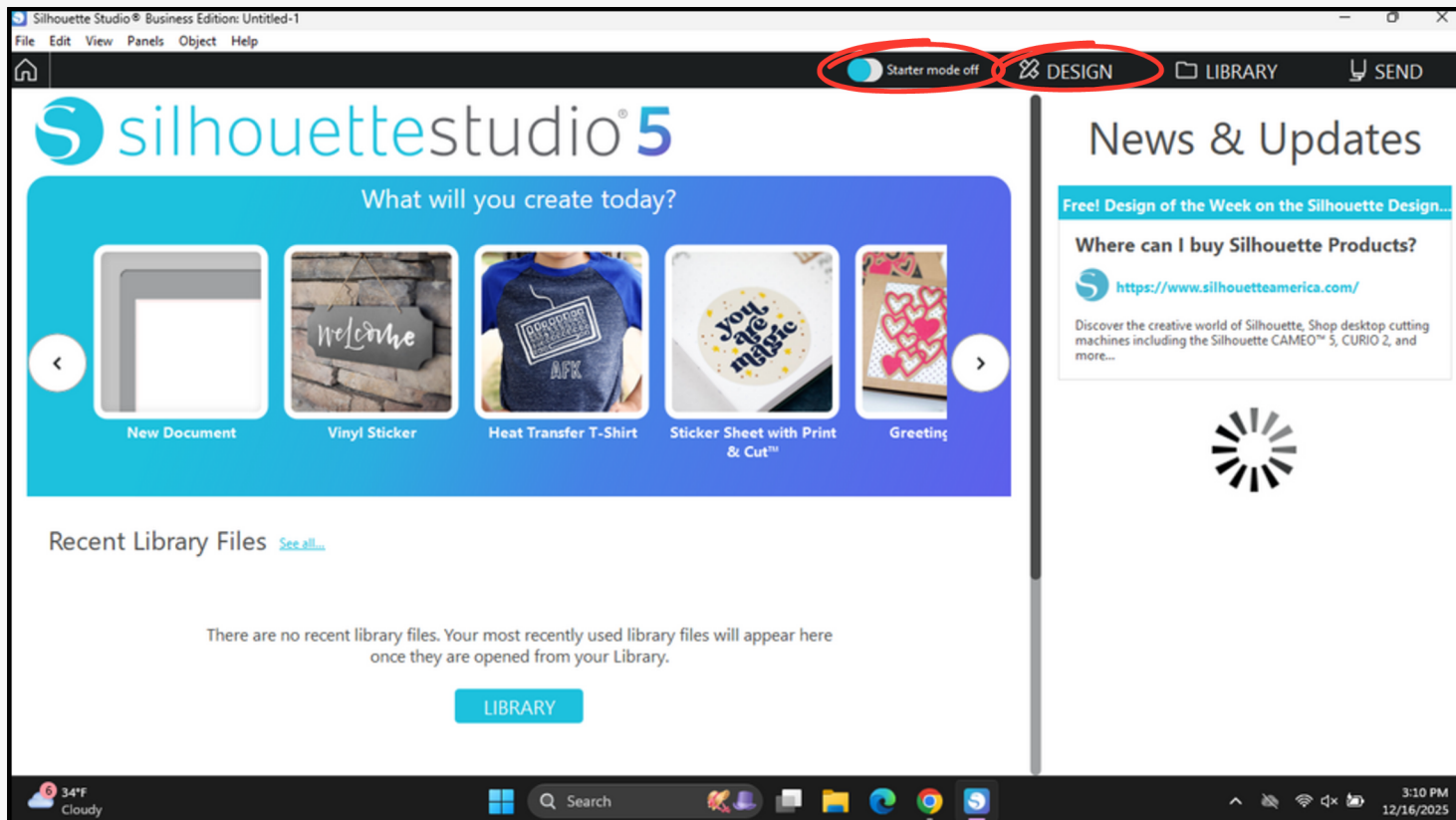# GETTING STARTED WITH
SILHOUETTE STUDIO

LOADING YOUR FILE

This machine takes the following file types: .studio, .svg, .dxf, .eps, .jpeg, .pdf, .png, and more. The more simple the design, the better!

When this screen pops up, ensure that
**Starter Mode** is turned off and click **Design**.

SILHOUETTE STUDIO 101

This is your design space. The **mat/media** is your design area. The default is 12"x12", but can be made up to 12"x24".
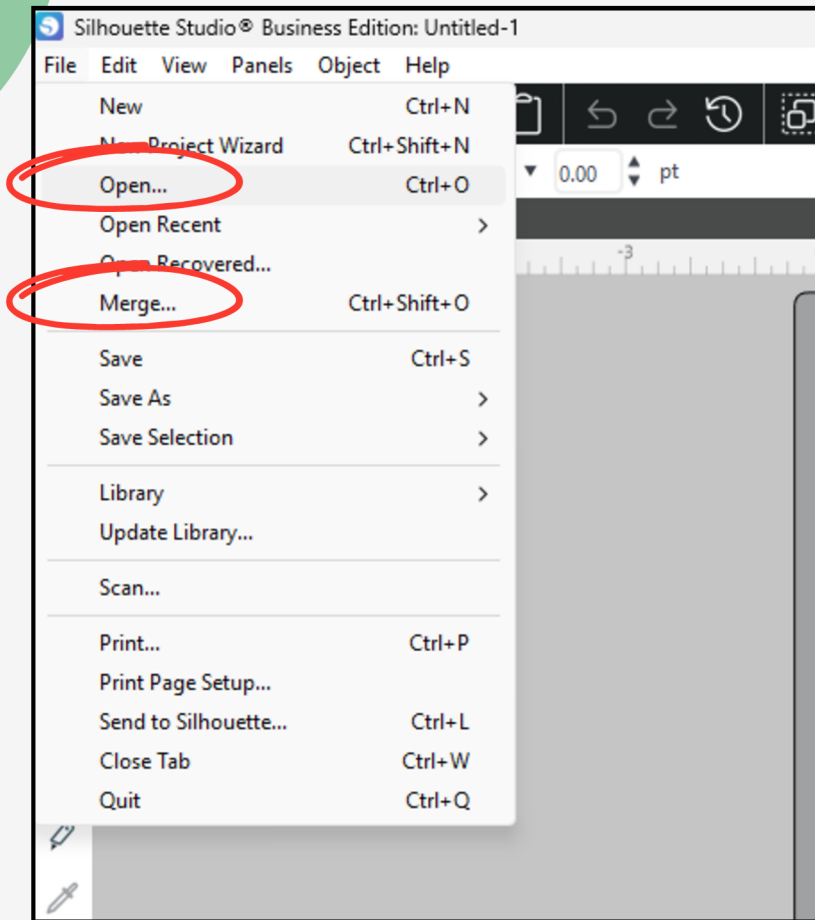The icons on the left are your **creation tools** – selection, lasso, edit vectors, add shapes, draw, add text, etc.
The icons on your right are your **modify tools** – page setup, trace, text options, transform, replicate, etc.
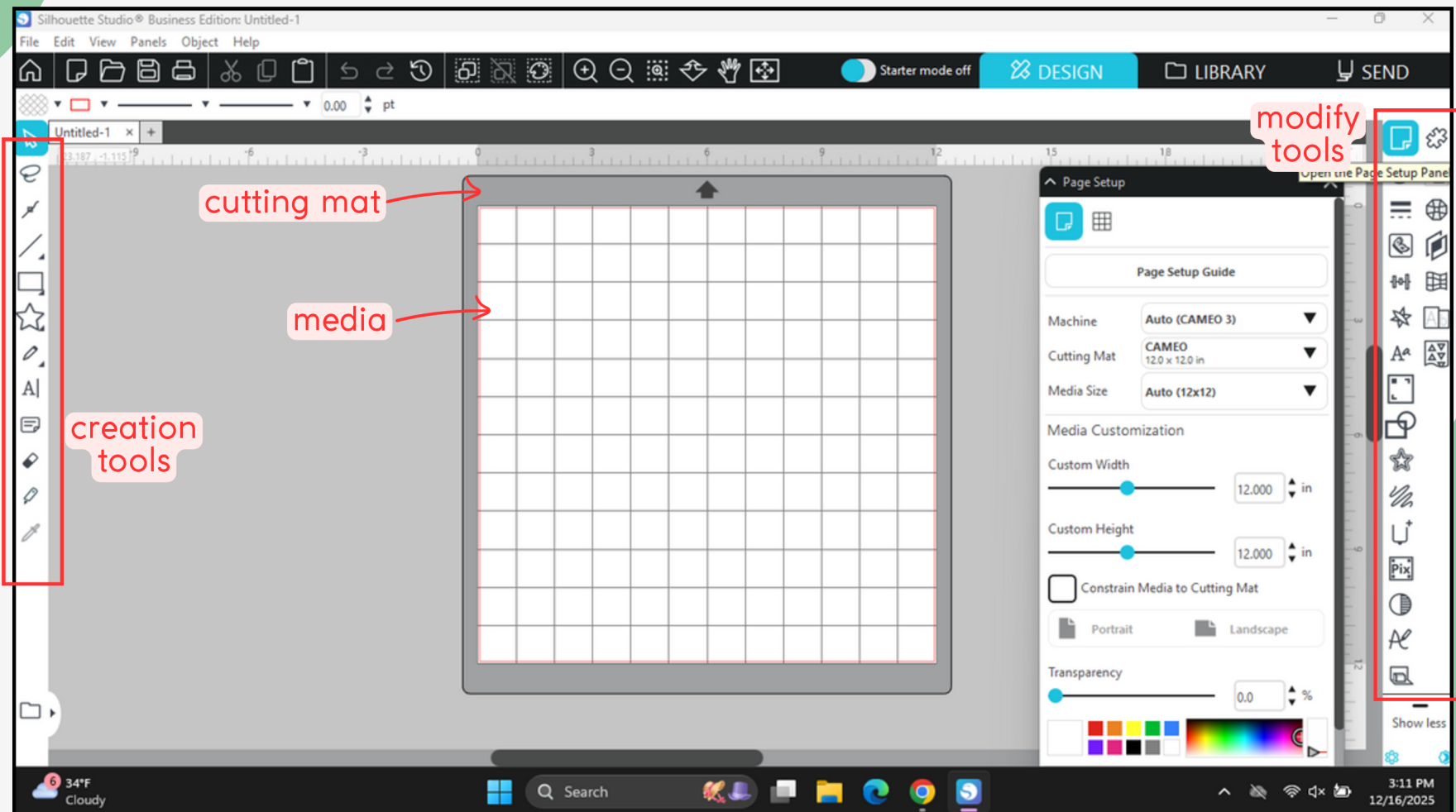
IMPORT FILE

In the top banner, choose f**ile**, then **open**.
To open another file on the same page, click **merge**.
Otherwise, your file will open in another tab,

Silhouette Studio accepts many different file types. SVGs are the best as they are ready to cut files. However, you can also use other files like PNGs or JPGs, but they need a bit more work before cutting.

TRACE YOUR FILE

If you are importing an SVG or DXF, you can skip this step. All you need to do is size and position your file on the mat/media, then skip to **Add Text and Resize** page.

If you have a PNG or JPG, you'll need to trace your file. Select your file, then choose the **trace** icon on the right side. Then select **select trace area** in the panel that pops up. Draw a box around your image. It should turn yellow. If some parts of your image did not trace, increase the threshold percentage until it does.
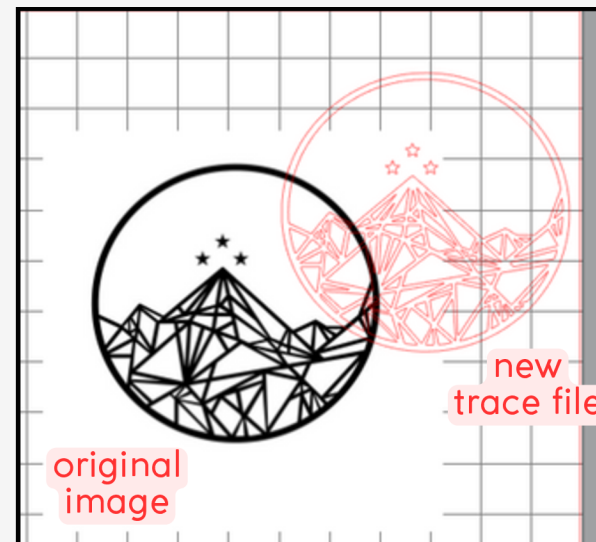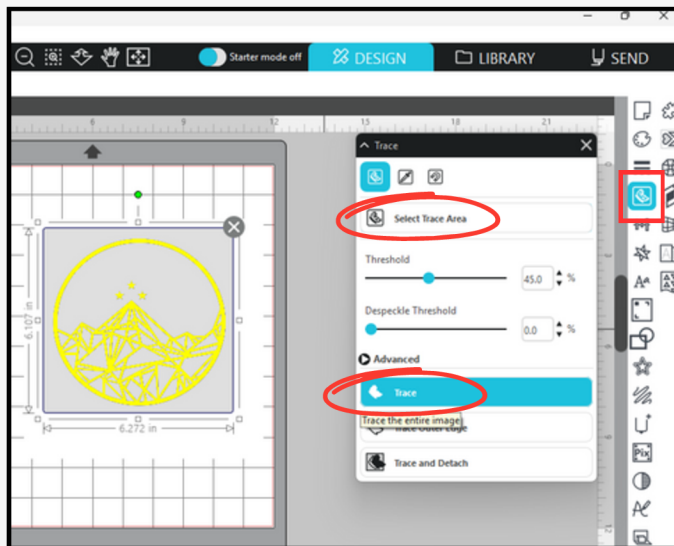
Once you're happy, click, **trace** at the bottom of the panel. Your image is now traced! The image can be separated and deleted from your trace.

MODIFY TRACE

Modifying your trace is not always necessary. However, if you have parts that need altered or deleted, you can do that by right clicking on your trace, then selecting **release compound path**. This breaks up your trace into individual parts, allowing you to delete what you don't want.
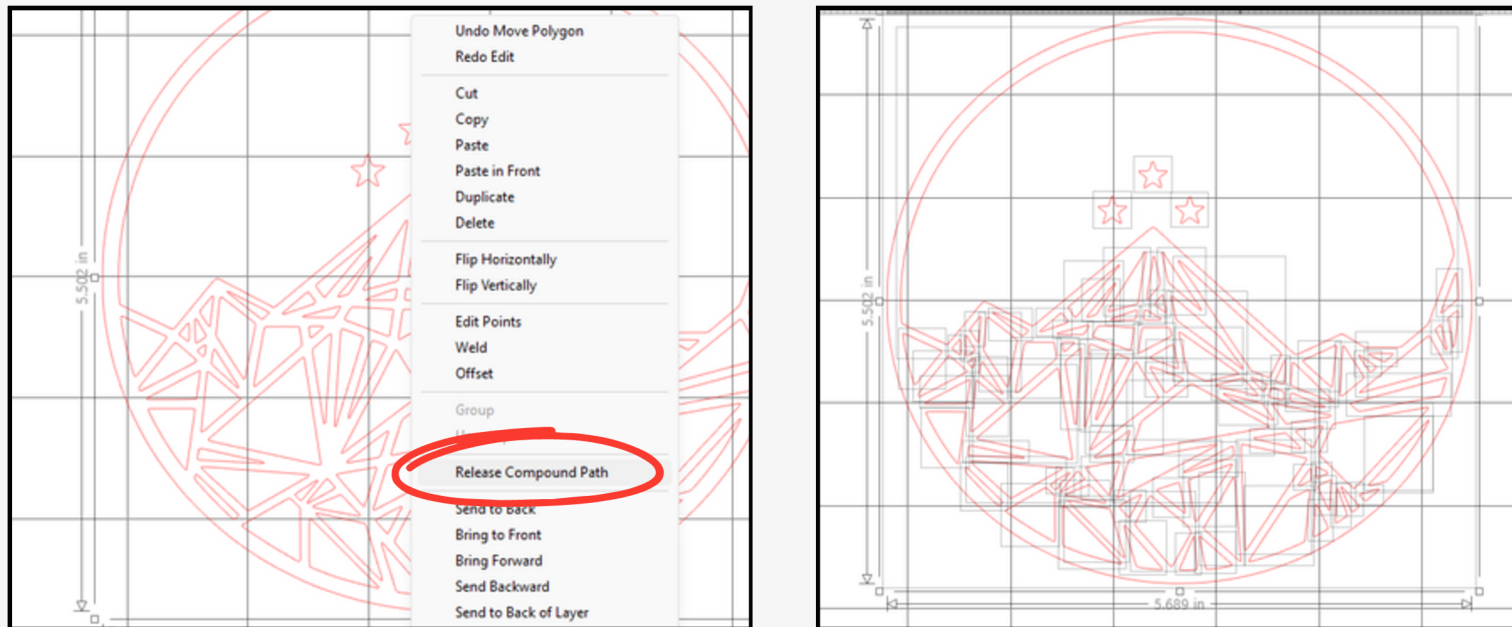
If you do this, be careful! Each part can now be moved. Once done, select the entire design, right click, and choose **make compound path**. Now your file is one piece again.
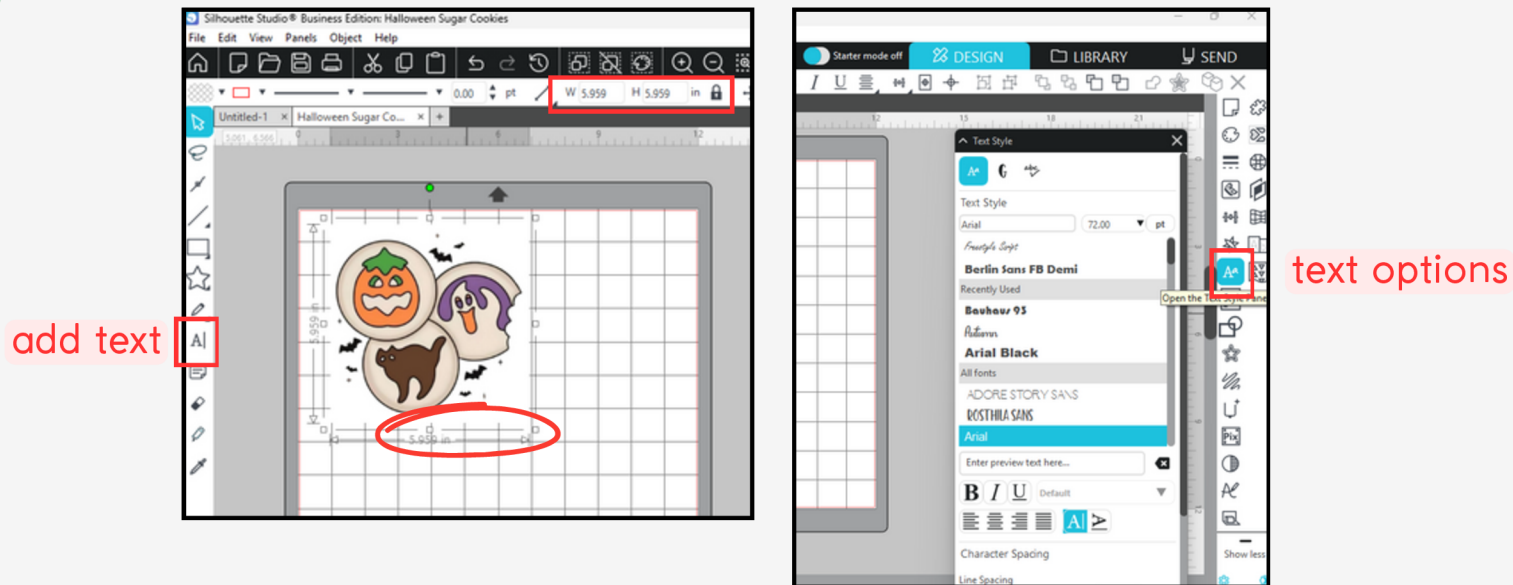
ADD TEXT AND RESIZE

Adding text and resizing your image is easy!
To add text, click the **text** icon on the *left side bar*, then click on your mat to start typing. Click on the **text** icon on the *right side bar* for font options.

add text

text options

To resize your design, select what you want to resize. Now you can see along the sides of your image and at the top the height and width. You can either drag the corners of your image or enter the size you want your design to be in the top bar.
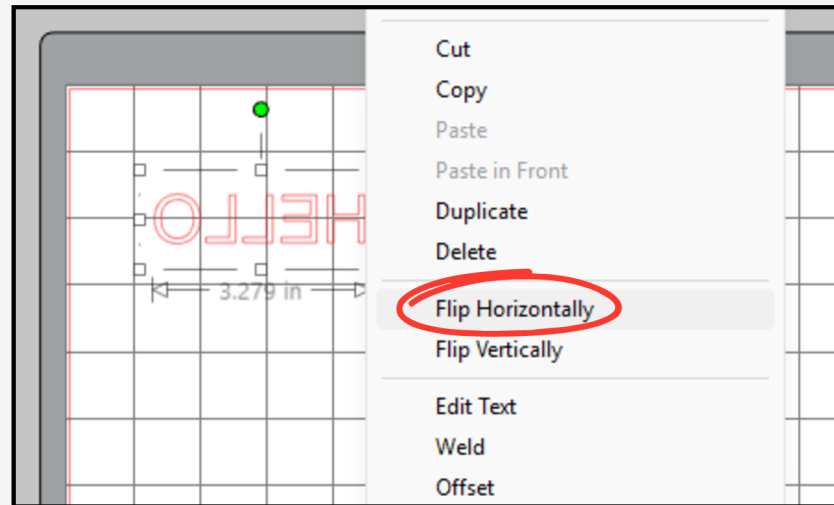****Dragging the sides will stretch and skew your image****

MIRROR AND POSITION

If you are using heat transfer vinyl (HTV, for shirts or bags), you will need to mirror your design before cutting. To do this, right click on your image and choose **flip horizontally**.
You ***do not*** need to do this for permanent vinyl (decals), cardstock, etc.


As stated before, your design area is your mat/media, so wherever you place your design in the software is where the machine will cut your material. This is important if you are using smaller pieces of material – you'll need to place your images where your material is on the mat.

LOAD MATERIAL AND MAT

Grab a cutting mat and place your material on the mat. Remember to place it where your design will be cut.

If you are using heat transfer vinyl, place the vinyl shiny side down.
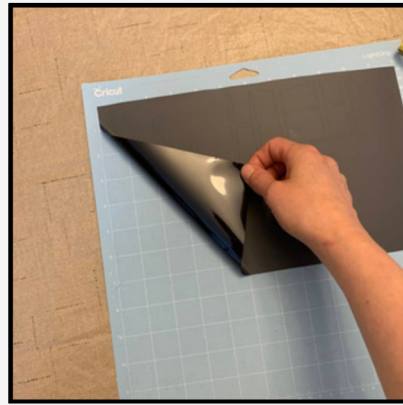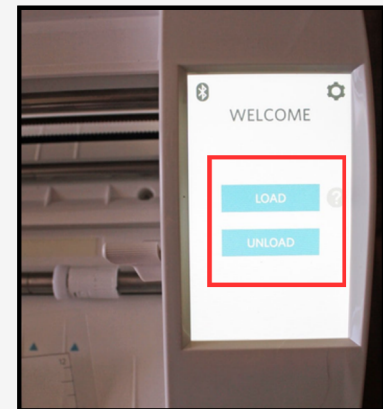

If you are using permanent vinyl, place the vinyl color side up.

Line the left side of the mat along the plastic piece and under the rollers.

While holding the mat, press **load** on the screen of the machine.

CUT SETTINGS

Navigate to the **send** tab and confirm you are connected to the machine.
If it will not connect via Bluetooth, you can connect via the cable.
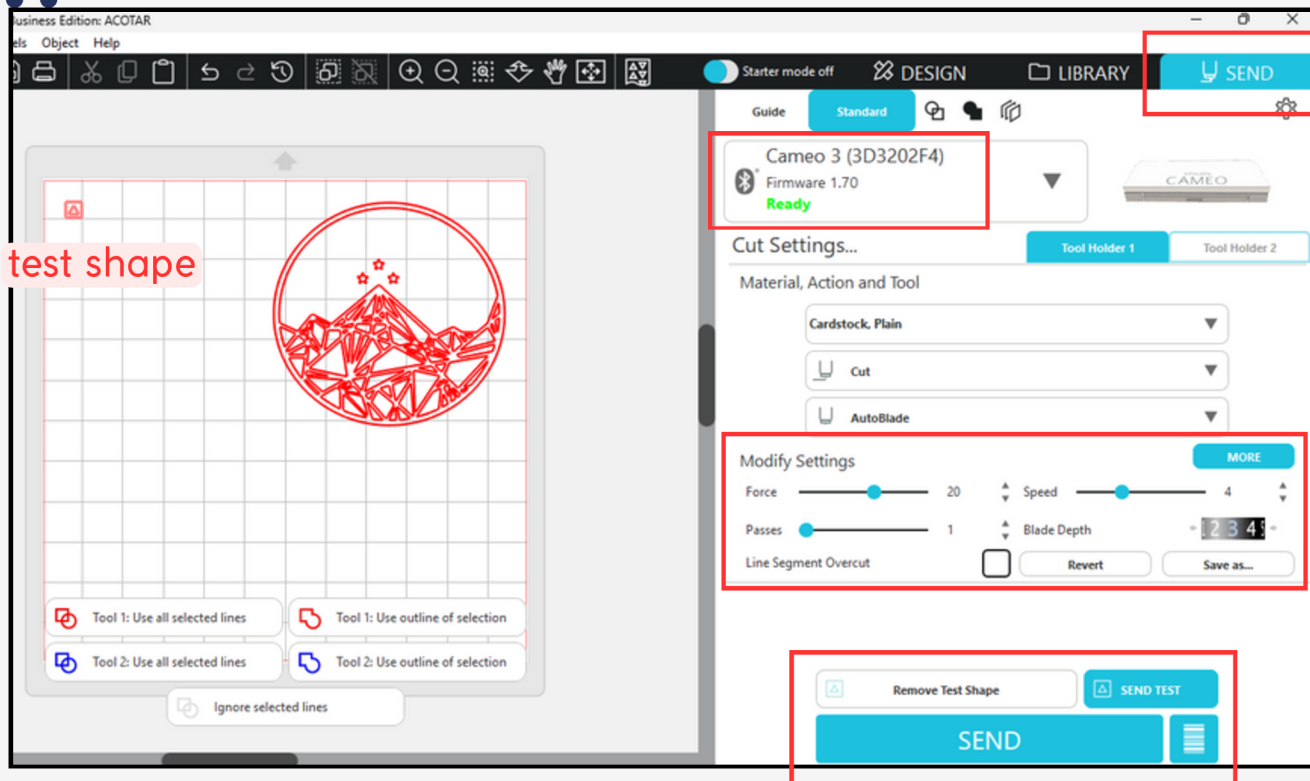
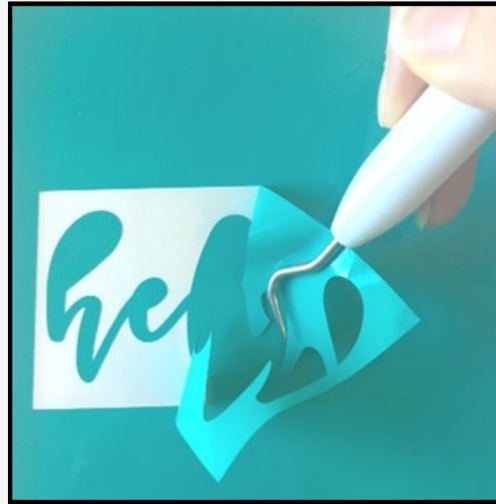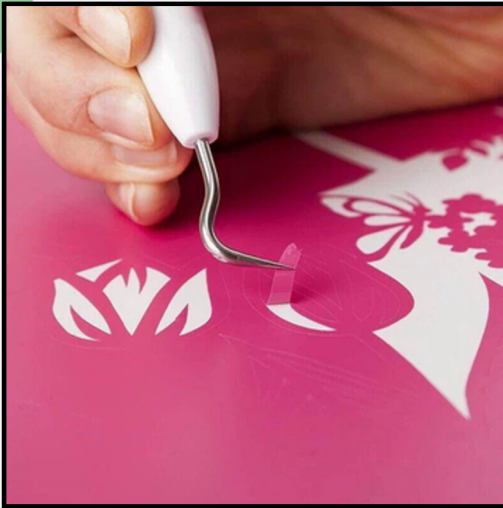| heat transfer vinyl	permanent vinyl	cardstock
force: 23	force: 25	force: 30
speed: 5	speed: 5	speed: 3
passes: 1	passes: 1	passes: 1
blade depth: 3	blade depth: 3	blade depth: 4

test shape

Now to input our settings! Settings can vary, but you can always do a test first. Input the settings you want to test, click **generate test shape**, then **send test** at the bottom of the screen.

WEED THE MATERIAL

Grab a weeding tool to pick out the pieces of material you **DO NOT WANT TO KEEP**. These are pieces that are not in your design, but the background of the design.

With heat transfer vinyl, you are now ready to heat press your design onto your material! Set the press for 315 degrees and 15 seconds.

TRANSFER PERMANENT VINYL

With permanent vinyl, grab a piece of transfer tape that is slightly larger than your design. Remove the tape from the backing and lay it over your design. Use a squeegee to firmly press onto your vinyl. Then, peel the tape off with the permanent vinyl attached.

You are ready to stick your design! Firmly press the vinyl onto your substrate, then gently peel back the transfer tape at a sharp angle, ensuring the vinyl is fully sticking.