

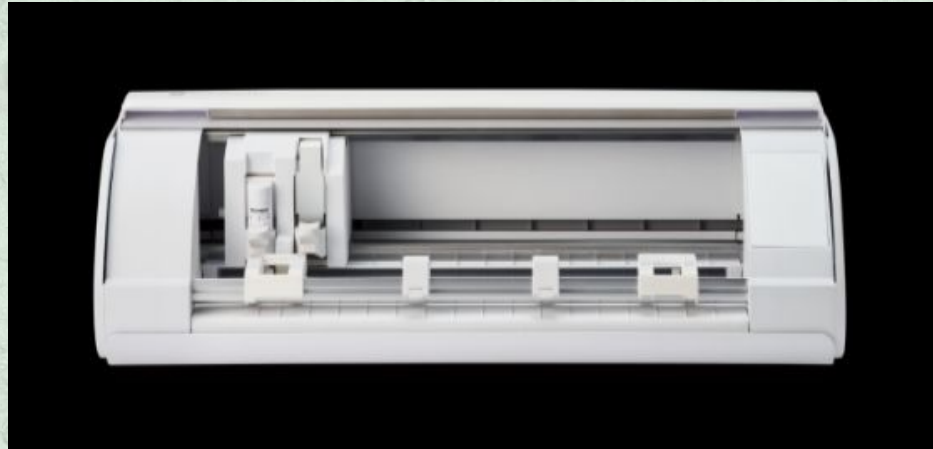


Using a cutter hints and tips

5TH CONVENTION - APRIL 04-06 -2025 - HANOI - VIETNAM

What is a CNC cutter?

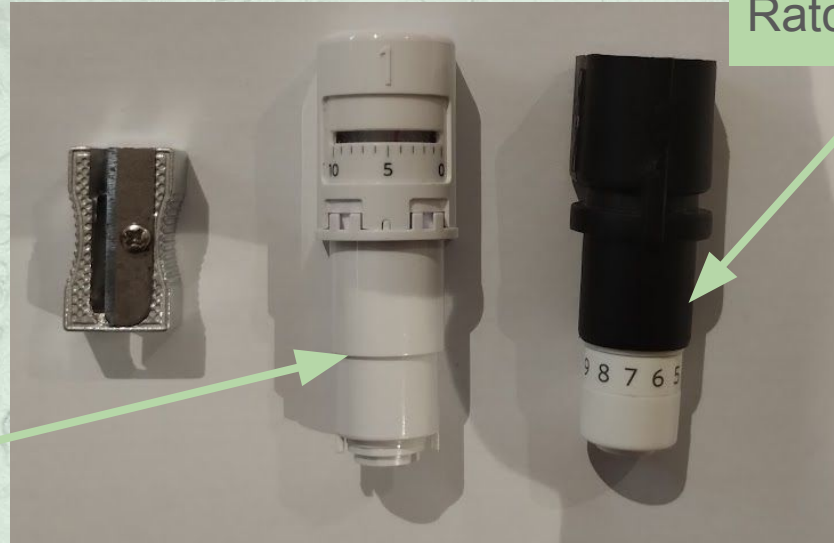
- Basically like a printer - but you replace the ink with a blade
- Professional vs Hobby machines
- Silhouette Cameo and Cricut being the most common hobby machines, and they work in similar ways
- Cameo comes in different width - 12 inches, 15 inches and 24 inches



Blades

- Removable - different types
- Auto-blade - only one that comes with machine
- **Ratchet blade - this is the one to use for scoring** (there is a premium / long life version with a carbide blade, and a deep cut version)
- Etching tool
- Scoring tool (Cricut only)
- Pen tool / Pen

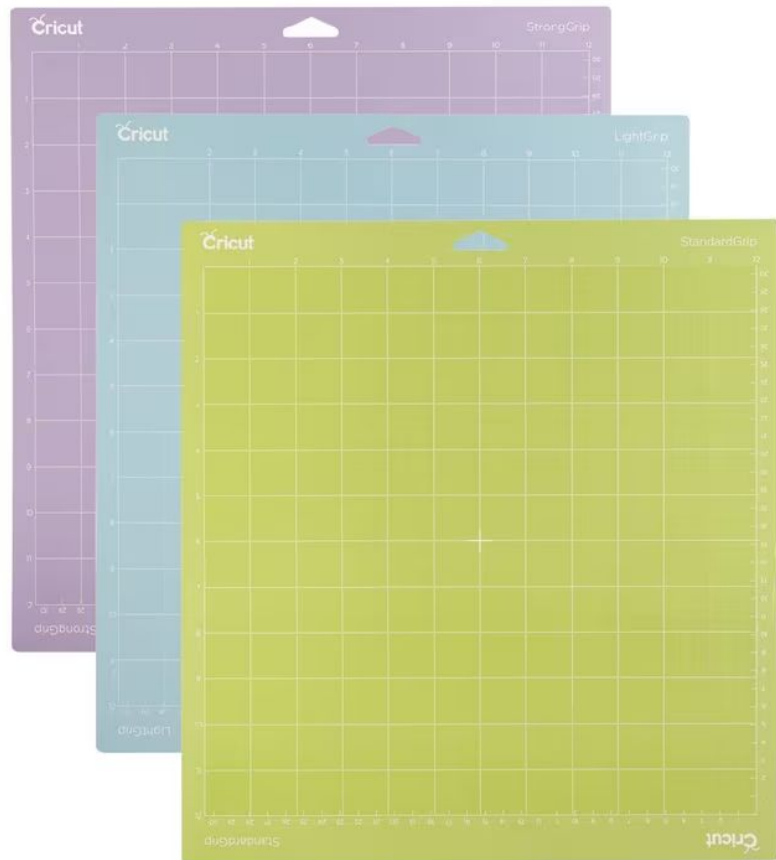
Autoblade



Ratchet Blade

Sticky Mat

- 3 types of tackiness, strong, medium (comes with machine - size depends on machine width), light
- **DO NOT USE STRONG** - it's designed for fabric and will damage your paper (basically too sticky and you can't pull your paper off)
- You can buy off-brand cutting mats which are cheaper. But don't use Crucit ones for Cameo because they are thicker and could damage your machine. And make sure the boundary of the cutting area is exactly as the Cameo expects

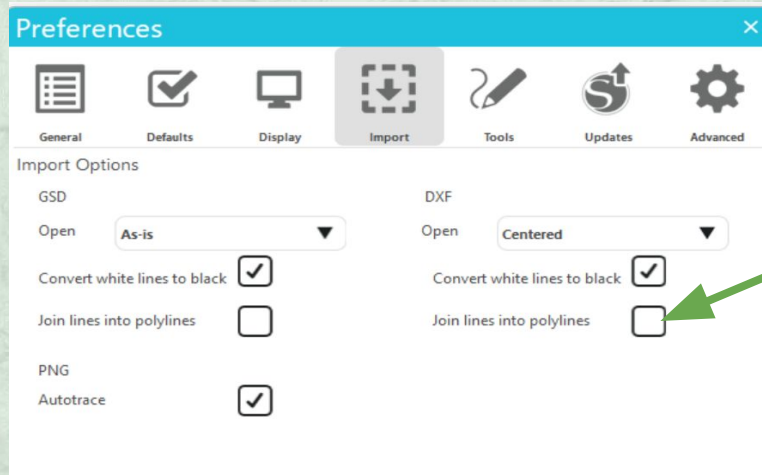


Paper

- Really important to choose the right paper
- Copy paper can work but not well because it's still a bit thin
- Papers I have used which work reasonably well:
 - Elephant Hide - smooth laminate (sandwich) with white core
 - Stardream - smooth laminate with solid core
 - TANT
 - Skytone
 - Canson Metallic
 - Mi-Teintes
 - Handmade thick recycled paper
- Works best with paper that are slightly thick to thick (80gsm+) and has some stiffness

Cutting File

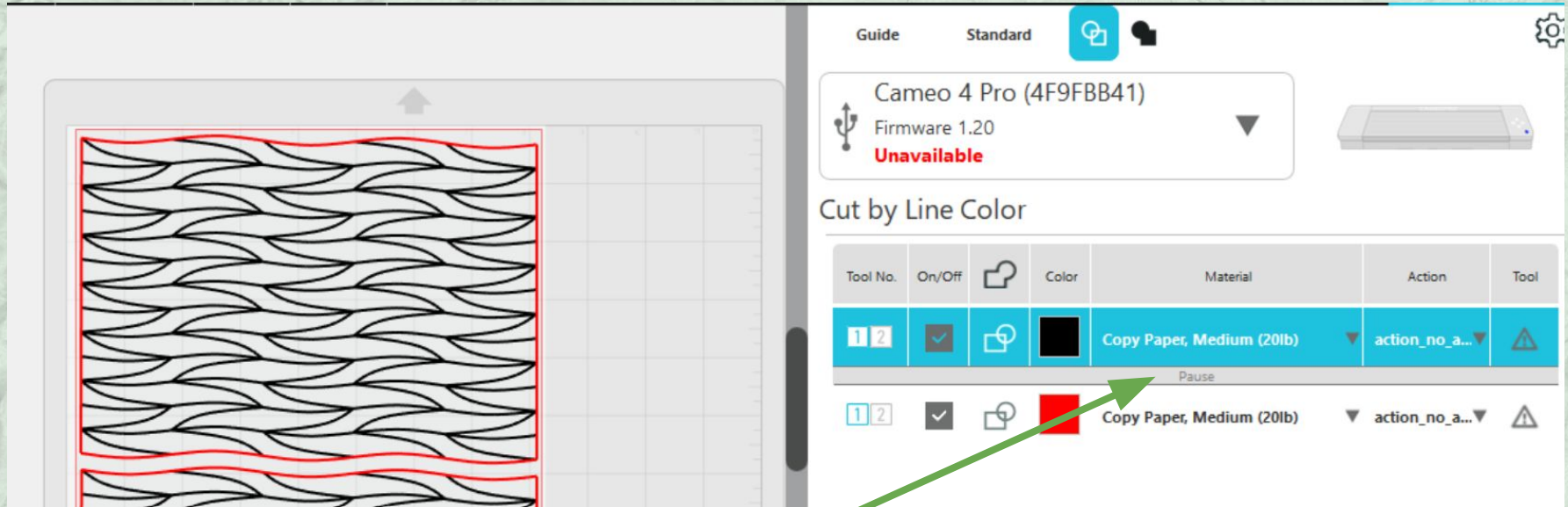
- For free version of software (Silhouette Studio), DXF (AutoCAD) and proprietary format only
- Paid version can take SVG and PDF files (can be worth the money because software does funny things and you could end up with horrible kinks when you want a smooth curve - unless you know how to set it up)



Make sure that is
unticked

Machine Setting 1

- Make sure your drawing has 2 colours - one colour for the boundary for cutting and one colour for the internal creases

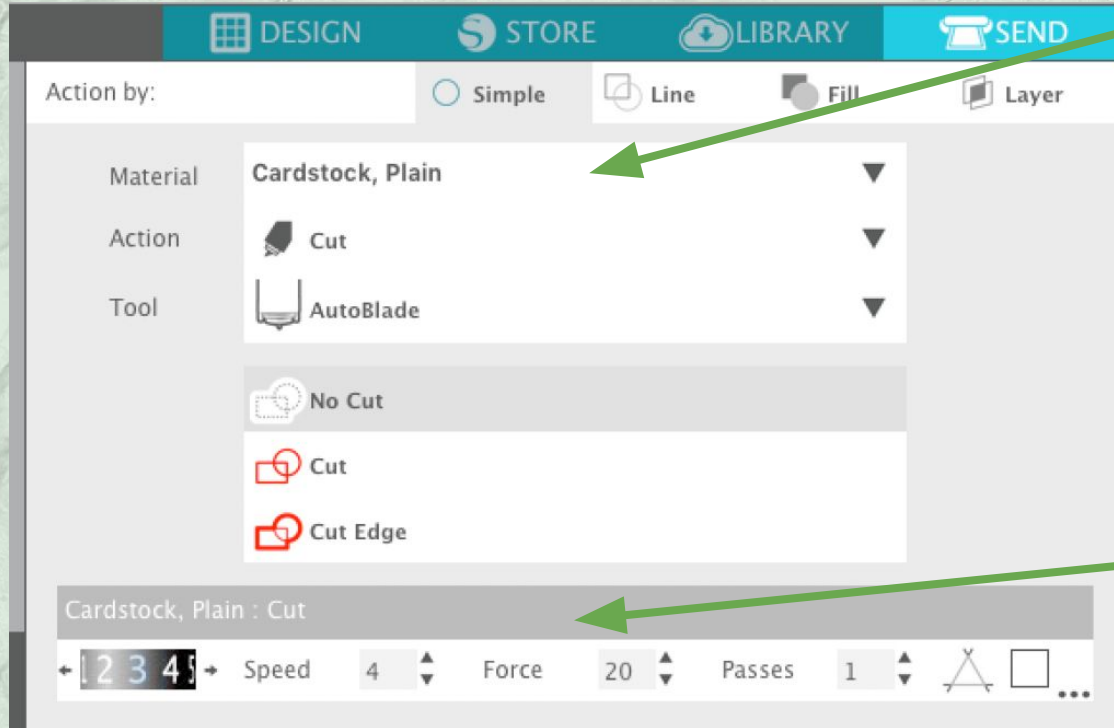


Add PAUSE to change ratchet blade depth, or to Autoblade.

Machine setting 2

Dropdown - I use Copy Paper Medium (20lb) for all my papers

I don't change the speed, force and passes.



Blade setting

Change the depth depending on paper thickness - this is the only thing I calibrate.

- Elephant Hide - a touch above 0 (move the dial beyond the “0” print on the blade)
- Stardream - same as Elephant Hide
- TANT - quite a bit below 0 (about the same distance halfway between 0 and 1)
- Skytone - about the same as Elephant Hide
- Canson Metallic - about 0 (it's a bit thinner than Elephant Hide)
- Mi-Teintes - about 0.5

**Always test before you try a new paper,
even if it is the same paper with different colours!**

Maintenance

Blade

- The blade can become blunt over time and will need to be replaced. But if you want an emergency fix, you can run your blade on some aluminium foil to slightly sharpen it

Mat

Because they are sticky, they will attract dust and debris, and lose some stickiness over time. To prolong its life you can:

- Put the cover sheet back on after each use
- Wash the mat with a bit of detergent and water to remove the debris
- Use a product called Aleene's Tack It Over and Over to create a new layer tacky glue - once you remove the old layer with acetone or other similar glue remover (the process takes time, and you have to thin out ATIONO with water at a 1:1 ratio) - aoit is probably cheaper and easier to just buy a new mat