Introduction to Silhouette Cameo

Instructor: Kenny Duray   kduray@aapld.org   847-458-3146

Course Agenda

- **Introduction to the Silhouette Cameo, Materials, and tools**

- **Introduction and tour of Silhouette software**

- **Practice with drawing tools**

- **Find a picture to make into a vinyl sticker, download and save**

- **Open image in silhouette software and prepare for cutting**

- **Resources**

https://www.youtube.com/user/SilhouetteAmericaInc

**2600 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
847-458-6060
www.aapld.org**

**Mon-Thur: 9am - 9pm
Fri: 9am - 6pm
Sat: 9am - 5pm
Sun: 12pm – 5pm**

Silhouette Cameo

http://www.silhouetteamerica.com/

Similar to the printer we connect to our computers but uses a small blade to cut paper, cardstock, vinyl, fabric, and other material up to 12 inches wide and 10 feet long. Can also be used with sketch pens to sketch elaborate designs or add a hand-drawn look to your projects.

Here are some examples of it's uses:

- **Design your own custom apparel**
- **Make custom decorations or cards**
- **Give your home decor a signature look**
- **Build 3D prototypes**
- **Cut fabric for quilting or crafts**
- **Decorate with vinyl decals**
- **Construct a school project**
- **Create custom invitations**
- **Create a stencil for painting**
- **Make unique stamps**

Materials

- Vinyl for stickers and stencils
- Cardstock for custom cards
- Adhesive cardstock for scrapbooking and signs
- Magnet paper for custom magnets
- Heat transfer for iron-ons
- Glass etching to create custom glassware or window signs
- Rhinestone template and transfer paper
- Fabric stabilizer for keeping fabric stiff while making elaborate cuts
- Pens for sketching
- Many craft papers, faux leathers, and thin metals

Tools

- Cutting or embossing mats
- Blades or embossing tools
- Hook is used for poking small bits of material from the cut
- Spatula is used for removing material from its backing
- Scraper is used to make sure material is flat and free of bubbles
- Pick-me-up is used to pick up small pieces or place rhinestones

Software

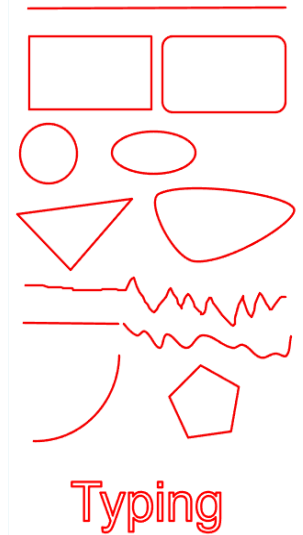Silhouette Studio is drawing/editing/output software that enables the creation of objects and text, and the output of the created image to the Silhouette electronic cutting tool for a variety of applications including cutting and perforating media materials and sketching line art. Free software can be found at the link here.

http://www.silhouetteamerica.com/software

Left Side Menu

Selection Tool: make sure you're on this tool when you need to move an object

Create edit points: create points on a line that can be moved to change the shape

Create lines: create lines, draw shapes or curves

Shapes: Draw shapes to cut or to use as a path for text to follow

Freehand draw: scribble a line or draw a masterpiece

Type text: font can be changed with a option on the right

Notes: take notes on your project

Erase: take away lines or imperfections

Cut: cut lines or objects to separate use the welding tool to put back together

Right Side Menu

Page Setup: measurements of the size material , add a grid, add registration marks for printing then cutting

PixScan: A way to use your phone camera or scanner to have Silhouette cut around images

Fill: fill in shapes or text with paint colors, gradient, or patterns for printing or just to see how it will look

Lines: Choose the color of drawn lines, their style; solid vs dotted, their thickness, corner types, and how they end

Trace: Use this tool to trace around an image to create the cut lines; use trace, outline, or trace and detach

Image Effects: This can be used on imported images to adjust brightness, contrast, invert, etc, to help get a better cut

Text: After you've inserted text using menu on left, use this to adjust font, font spacing, and size

Transform: use to align objects to guides or other objects, resize, rotate, or space from other objects

Replicate: lets you make multiples of an object, create shapes by rotating, mirror an object and help you fill a page

Modify: use this to weld objects together or to use shapes to remove or create new objects and lines

Offset: use this if you need spacing around your cut object for a border

Popup: create a quick popup from any shape and adjust cut lines for the depth of he popup

Stipple: create a stipple outline or stipple fill within your object

Emboss: Only works on Curio which the library does not currently have

When you're ready to create your vinyl cut out, select the TRACE button.

- Click on **SELECT TRACE AREA** (buttlerfly found in right menu) and draw (left click and drag) a shaded box around your image
- If the image is not full of yellow, adjust the high pass filter
- If your image has holes choose **TRACE** if it doesn't then choose **TRACE OUTER EDGE**, to separate objects, choose **TRACE AND DETACH**
- Fix problem areas by using the line drawing or eraser tools