CraftyFunParties.com
Cricut Maker
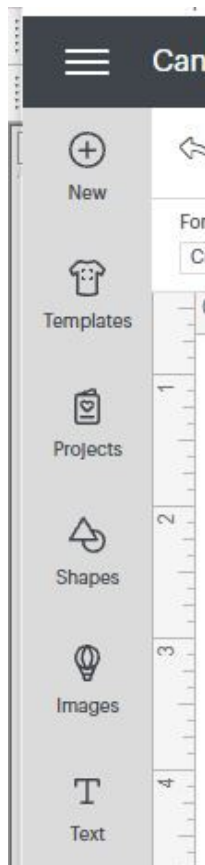## Pens and filling in letters

The Cricut Maker gives you the option to use pens or markers to draw the lines as opposed to cutting or scoring them. Cricut sells pens to use in the Maker, or there are also ways to use non-Cricut pens in your machine.

The key thing to remember is that the pen will follow the same line as the cut line would. So if you are doing letters and they are thick you will end up with outlined letters that look like bubble letters. If you select a really thin font it would not be an issue.
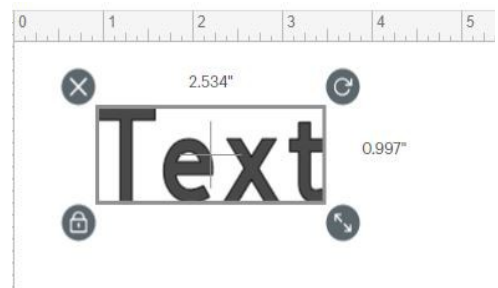
So let's try it!

Open Design Space and start a new project.

Select Text from the left side tool bar.

A new Text box will appear on canvas.

I typed in Have a Great Day!

Default text for DS is Cricut Sans. Click the arrow button next to it and it will bring you to the Font Screen.
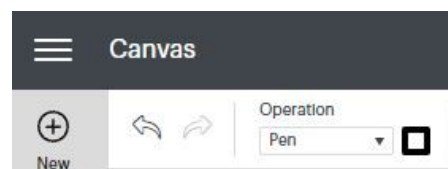
Default for this screen will give you All Fonts. This will include both the fonts on your computer and the fonts available in Cricut Access. If you select a font that is a Access Font it will allow you to work with it, but when you get to the Make It screen it will ask you to Checkout before you can complete your project. So be mindful of that if you do not subscribe to Access or even if you subscribe there are some fonts that you have to pay additional for even with Access. They do show you under the text name if it is a Access Font (The a under Cricut Sans, Cult Std, and DNI 145) in the picture above. It also shows the Download button to download those that aren't already on you system.   Next to the a is shows the price of the font. Cricut Sans is default and free to everyone. Cult Std is $4.99.

I have gotten myself into the habit of clicking on System at the top so that the only fonts I see are those on my computer. I have chosen Gabriola as it is a Microsoft font that everyone using Microsoft should have. This will make your letters really big. You can resize a few different ways. You can use the arrow key on the bottom right of the box on the canvas. You can use the Size in the top tool box, or you can use the Font Size in the top tool box. I have resized my font to 15.

The default Operation is set to Basic Cut. When you are Drawing you need to switch the Operation to Pen.

Clicking on the square next to Pen will open a drop down box so you can select your size of pen. This controls the line size that shows on your canvas. This will show you if you will end up with bubble letters or if it will be filled in. You will also need to select a color for your pen.
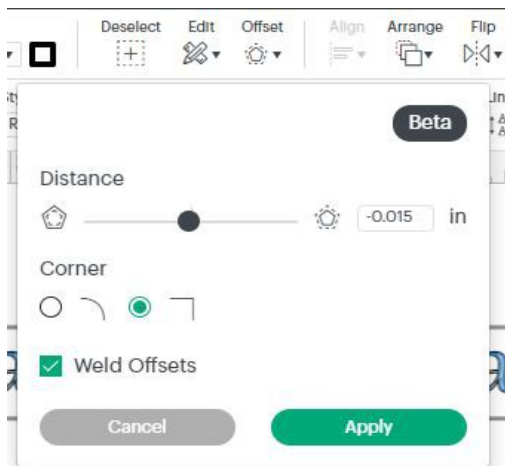
Have a Great Day!

Have a Great Day!

This shows the difference between the Fine Point Pen and the Marker.

So what do you do when you don't want bubble letter and would like to have them filled in. This is where Cricut's Offset feature comes in.

With your text selected click on the Offset arrow on the top tool bar.
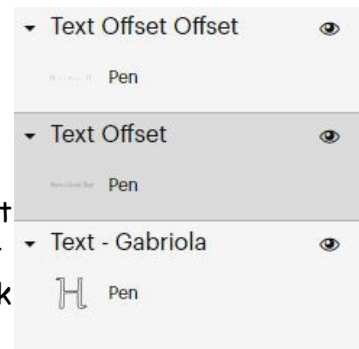

We are actually going to do an inset. To do that in DS you will need to turn the distance to a negative number. You can slide the dot over to the left after the vertical line or you can type in a – before the number.

The fine point pen is .4 mm. The offset tool uses inches. So it converts to .015748. We will go with .015. Design space will show you in blue where the offset will be.

There are still some gaps. So we will go ahead, and while the Offset is still highlighted, select offset again. DS does keep the information from the last offset so we just need to click apply again.   You will now have three items in your right hand tool bar.

If you click on the 2 offsets and click on the box next to Pen, you will see that DS has made these fine point pen lines, but has given them a different color. So when you go to draw this it will ask for the other color pen. To avoid this make sure that offsets and original text are all the same color. You can select all of them and click on the box to set to one color. It may look like you are ready to draw you text, but just like everything else in DS if you do not Attach everything DS will break it up.

With everything highlighted select attach from the lower right hand tool bar.
Now you are ready to Make It!

Set Material Size and select Continue.
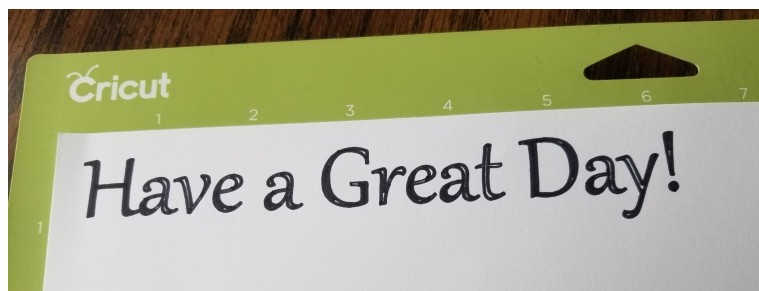Set Base Material

Unhook lever Labeled A

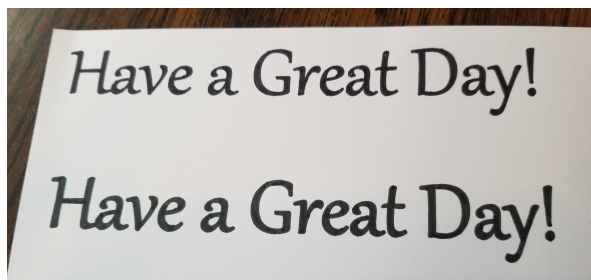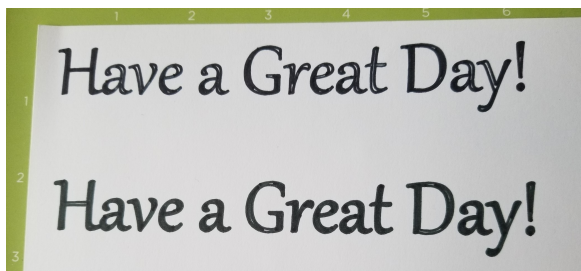Insert pen with the triangle facing toward you.

Push pen down. You will here it click into place and the arrow will no longer be visible. Close the lever.

Click the C button to start your drawing.

Cricut filled in most of it. With this fine of a pen you will need go back over and fill in some blank spots by hand.

I repeated the same process with the pen set to Marker and an offset of .03.

The thicker marker fills in much better. Once again with just a little touch up they can be all filled in.

The marker I used was a Crayola SuperTip marker with a Pen adapter. Links for both are available on the website.

We hope that you have enjoyed the tutorial and hope it assists you in having Fun with your Cricut. Please Follow us on Facebook to keep up with other tutorials that we post on the site, and join our Group **CraftyFunParties.com "Look What I Can Do" Group** to share with us the projects you used the drawing on!

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