

Laser Cutter Standard Usage Guide

The following instructions are steps for sending jobs to the standard Epilog **24 x 36"** and **36 x 48"** laser cutter machines:

Starting Up Machine:

1. Login on lab PC
2. Turn on laser (right side)

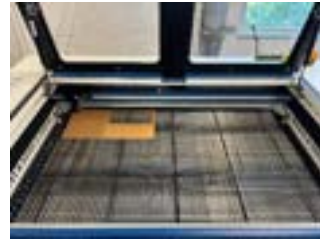


3. Turn on air assist (back wall)



Leveling the laser bed:

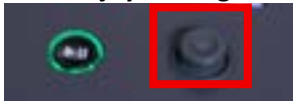
1. Before setting up your laser job, you need to level your bed first.
2. Load the material into the upper left corner of the laser bed.




3. On the laser control panel go to the **Focus Menu**. Do this by selecting the second icon in the bottom row.



4. In the **Focus Menu**, select the **Auto Focus icon**. The laser will automatically level the bed to your material. If you need to lower your bed before putting the material in, use the joystick right below the console.



5. To exit the Focus Menu, select the four bars at the top of the menu , this will take you back to the main screen.

Opening Software:

1. Open template .AIT file on upper left-hand corner of the desktop.

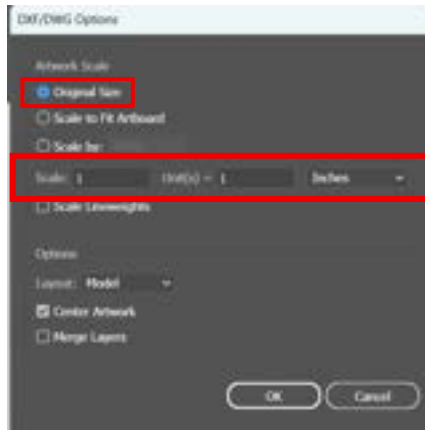
This will automatically open Illustrator.

(Laser 24 x 36" Template) or

(Laser 36 x 48" Template)



2. If you are using our Illustrator file template .AI, open it. *Note: do not print from the template file. You must be working and printing on the file found on the desktop.*
3. If you are using a .DWG file, make sure you have **Autodesk DWG** selected as the file type when opening. *Note on file type: If this is not selected, you will not get the import options in the next step.*
4. Illustrator will ask how you want to import. Select **Original size** under **Artboard Scale**, make sure the **scale is at 1** and **units at 1** and in **Inches**. Select ok.

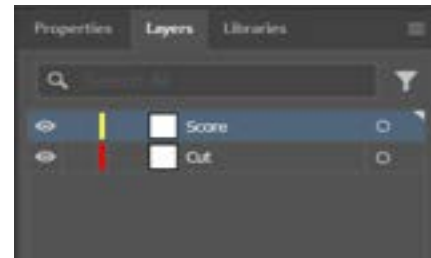


Final File Prep:


1. Keep lines within 1/8" margin of template to prevent errors
2. **Copy and paste your lines into the desktop template file.**
3. Have your lines set up under the **Score** or **Cut** layers.
4. Consolidate lines to upper-left corner of template

5. Place cut lines into **red "laser cut" layer** and place score lines into **yellow "laser score" layer.**

The layers are for student organization; the laser separates out your lines by color not layers.

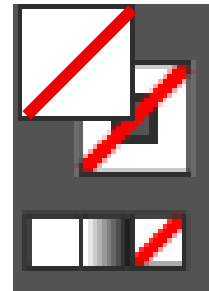


6. To have the laser see color mapping you will need to change your **Cut** and **Score** lines into different colors. You can do this by **double clicking the Stroke icon** in

the left-hand toolbar. 

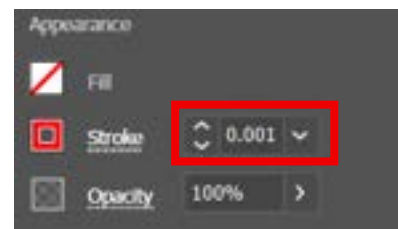
7. Use **Red for Cut** and **Yellow for Score**. Make sure to have **solid fill turned off**. 

Note on color mapping: You do not necessarily need red or yellow for color mapping to work. You just need two different colors for the laser to see.



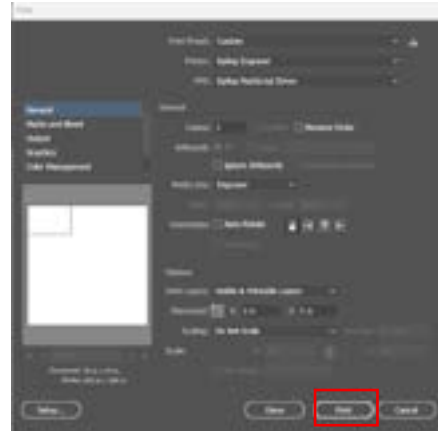
8. Change all line width to **"0.001"**. Do this by going under the **Properties tab** on the right-hand side and going down to **stroke** under **Appearance**.

Note on line width: if this is not set, the laser will engrave your lines instead of cutting or scoring.



Epilog Dashboard Setup:

1. File > Print.
2. **Select print** at the bottom of the page.
Do not touch anything else on this menu!



3. The Epilog Dashboard will pop up.
This is an example of the interface.




4. Select **Air Assist** at the bottom of the settings.
You can **skip this step if using the 36 x 48** as the air assist is automatically turned on.



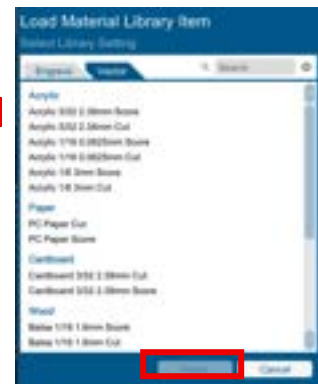
5. **If you are cutting and scoring, Go to Split by: Color to turn on color mapping.** This will separate out your layers. If just cutting skip this and go to step 6.
Note on color mapping: Epilog will see the colors on a black and white scale. This is fine, if the colors are different, they will separate out.



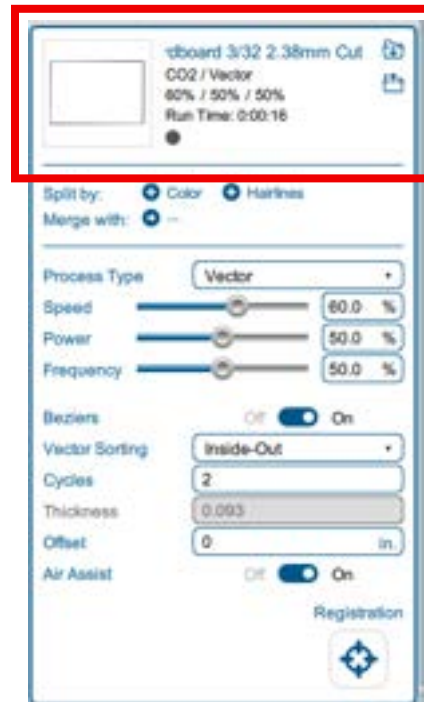
6. To change settings, **click on the top folder** next to your layer name. 



7. Select either the **Cut** or **Score** setting for your material.
8. Hit **Import**.



9. **Double click on the setting** to open the menu. *Here you can make any adjustments to your settings if necessary. If not continue to the next step.*



Note: Steps 10-11 are optional, you do not have to do this to laser cut.

10. When your job first comes in it will be grouped together as one single object. If you wish to ungroup your design to move items individually select the **Ungrouping**



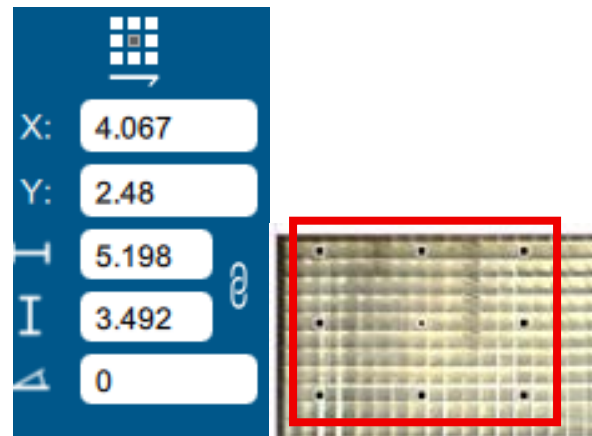
Icon on the toolbar.

To bring your items back together select the



Regroup Icon next to it.



11. You are also able to adjust and move your design around the template using either your mouse or the tool bar on the left-hand side.



12. When ready **select Print** at the bottom of the screen.



Starting the Sent Job:

1. Make sure the job you want to run is selected. It will be highlighted **blue**.
2. Press the **Go/Stop button**  below the console to begin the job.
3. To pause a currently running job, **press the Go/Stop button again**.
4. To end and reset a paused job, press the **RESET icon**  on the control panel.

