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professional heat press machine. They are great as they have some really nifty settings and they do a fabulous job of applying heat evenly. Click here to see our full guide that will help you find the best home heat press. You will also need your Cricut machine, your Cricut cutting mat, a computer/laptop, and a weeding tool. 5. How to use Cricut Iron-On Vinyl Instructions Okay and finally, now that you understand what iron-on vinyl is and how you can use it, let's have a look at the steps involved of how to actually use it. If you have been browsing Vinyl Dom store whilst following along on this post, you would have probably realized that Cricut vinyl isn't really that cheap. This is probably why you are here - to find steps on how to use the product - because you don't want to waste money whilst trying to figure it out by yourself. The first step - create your design. You can either find a design that has already been created or whip one up yourself. Here is a great post about why you should grab a Cricut Design Space Membership. So head on over to Cricut Design Space and pick your design. This video will help you with the creation of your design. Conclusion On How to Use Cricut Heat Transfer Vinyl Congratulations - you're now equipped with all the skills to become a Cricut Iron-On Vinyl master! Remember, like any new skill, your first project might not be perfect, but don't let that discourage you. Just imagine the proud feeling when someone asks, "Where did you get that?" and you can confidently reply, "I made it myself!" So fire up that Cricut machine, let your creativity soar, and get ready to transform ordinary fabrics into extraordinary works of art. Happy crafting! Have you ever wanted to use Cricut Iron-On Vinyl but didn't know how to get started? If so, this article is for you. In this comprehensive blog post, I'll show you the simple steps to cut and apply Iron-On vinyl with your Cricut machine. I'll also give you my best tips and tricks so that you get great results every time. Iron-on vinyl is one of the most popular materials for crafting with a Cricut machine. You can use iron-on vinyl to make all sorts of projects, like custom vinyl shirts, hats, canvas tote bags, and so much more. But, when you're new to Cricut, iron-on vinyl can be a little intimidating. If you want to learn more about using your Cricut to create Iron-On vinyl projects but aren't sure where to begin, this blog post is for you. In this tutorial, we're going to go over how to work with iron-on vinyl. First, I'll explain the different types of vinyl and go over what materials you need for iron-on projects. Then, I'll show you a step-by-step how to design, cut, and learn more about vinyl decal. Finally, I'll give you tips and tricks for applying iron-on vinyl for the best results. I'll be making a simple library-themed canvas tote bag for this project. Feel free to follow along. But if you would rather make a vinyl shirt with Cricut, you may prefer this post: How to Make Shirts with Cricut Iron-On Vinyl Brand new to Cricut? You may want to read this Guide to Cricut for Beginners, or start with this article about which Cricut is right for you. Let's start at the very beginning with a bit of information about iron-on vinyl itself. Iron-on vinyl is a special type of vinyl material with a heat-activated adhesive. It's sometimes called heat-transfer vinyl or HTV, for short. You can use iron-on vinyl on a variety of base materials, including fabric, metal, paper, and even wood. To apply iron-on to your project, you'll press it with a heat source, like a household iron or a Cricut EasyPress. Iron-on vinyl is a thin, flexible material that comes in pre-cut sheets or rolls. When you look closely, you'll see that iron-on vinyl is made of two layers: the colorful vinyl layer and a clear plastic backing (sometimes called a plastic carrier sheet or clear plastic liner). To tell these two layers apart, look at the sheen of each side. You'll see a dull side and a shiny side. The dull side is the vinyl, and the shiny side is the clear plastic carrier sheet. Note: There are two main types of vinyl - adhesive vinyl and iron-on vinyl. This post is about iron-on vinyl. For a complete tutorial on adhesive vinyl, click here. If you are new to the work of craft vinyl, you may be wondering: What is the difference between iron-on and heat-transfer vinyl? The answer is simple: nothing! "Iron-on vinyl" and "heat transfer vinyl" (or HTV for short) are just different names for the same thing. Cricut uses the name "Iron-on," while most other brands use the term "HTV." Either way, it's the same type of material. Less commonly, you may also see iron-on referred to as heat transfer material and iron-on transfers. Iron-on vinyl comes in a wide variety of colors and finishes. You can buy iron-on vinyl in a rainbow of colors, patterns, and finishes - even metallic foil and glitter. It's available to purchase in sheets, rolls, and packs. Here are a few of the different types of iron-on vinyl: Sportflex Iron-On: thin, lightweight, and designed to stretch and flex on activewear fabrics like polyester and nylon. Foil Iron-On: has a shiny, reflective finish in a variety of metallic colors. Glitter Iron-On: has a shimmer, metallic effect in a variety of different colors. Patterned Iron-On: comes in a huge variety of trendy and classic patterns Holographic Iron-On: has an eye-catching multi-color finish that changes in the light. Smart Iron-On: can be cut without a mat on the Cricut Maker 3, Cricut Explore 3, and Cricut Joy models. Multi-Layered Vinyl Designs: You can apply multiple layers of vinyl on top of each other to create multi-layer designs. But, it's important to apply the layers in the correct order to avoid bubbles or ripples. For example, you can apply regular iron-on on top of regular iron-on. And you can use regular iron-on as the base layer with different types of specialty iron-on on top. But you can't use regular iron-on on top of glitter iron-on, for example. Many people start out with the Cricut brand. Everyday Iron-On Vinyl. Cricut vinyl is very easy to work with, and I've had good results with it. You can find it online and in most craft stores. Another popular brand of iron-on vinyl is Siser Easyweed Vinyl, which is available in more than 50 colors at Expressions Vinyl. In the rest of this article, I'll show you step-by-step how to cut and apply iron-on vinyl with a Cricut machine. I'll go over what materials you need, and give you step-by-step instructions for how to design, cut, and weed your vinyl decal. You can use the following instructions as a guideline for a wide variety of iron-on projects. For t-shirt-specific tips and instructions, check out: How to Make Shirts with Cricut Iron-On Vinyl. Here are the supplies and tools you'll need to make a project with iron-on vinyl. If you'd like to follow along with me, you'll need some black iron-on vinyl and a cotton canvas tote bag. Cricut Iron-On Vinyl Project base material, like a t-shirt or cotton canvas tote bag. Cricut machine (I use both the Cricut Maker and the Cricut Joy) Fine Point Blade Cricut Design Space LightGrip or StandardGrip Cutting Mat Weeding Tools Cricut EasyPress, regular household iron, or heat press Cricut EasyPress mat or a folded towel to protect your work surface For more information about the Cricut tools you really need, read my Ultimate Guide to Cricut Tools and Accessories. Note: In the photos that follow, I'll be using the blue LightGrip mat. You can also use a green StandardGrip mat, which has a little more stickiness to grip the iron-on. For the best results, prewash your fabric base materials without fabric softener. Prewashing will pre-shrink the fabric and remove any oils or chemicals that may interfere with proper adhesion. The following step-by-step instructions will show you how to cut iron-on vinyl with your Cricut machine. Open Design Space and create a new project. You can browse the Cricut Image library for a pre-made design, create your own design using the Design Space tools, or upload your own SVG cut file. For my library-themed tote bag, I created a typography-based design using the text tool in Cricut Design Space. I didn't like the size of the period characters, so I added my own circle shapes instead. Then, I attached everything together so it would stay in the same position when I sent it to the mat. After you create your image, you can resize it using the Resize handle or the Width and Height boxes in the Top Toolbar. When your design is complete, click the Make it Button to send it to the mat. On the next screen, you'll see the mat preview. Make sure to turn on the Mirror toggle so that your design is mirrored on the cutting mat. It will look like the design is flipped upside-down, like a mirror image. Why do you mirror iron-on vinyl? It's important to flip the design on the mat because we cut vinyl "upside-down." To make sure the design looks right when applied to the final project, we need to mirror the design before cutting. On the next screen, you'll select your specific material from the list of materials. You'll see that there are slightly different pressure settings for different types of vinyl, so be sure to select the correct one. If you are using Cricut Everyday Iron-On like I am, choose Everyday Iron-On from the materials list. Next, make sure that you have the Fine-Point blade loaded into your machine. After that, you are ready to load your cutting mat into the machine and start the cut. Tip: When using a new-to-you material, it's always a good idea to start with a test cut. Make a small test cut with a small basic shape to verify you have the correct cut settings before you commit to cutting the whole project. Place the iron-on vinyl onto the cutting mat "shiny side down." In other words, with the plastic carrier sheet facing down. You'll remember that iron-on vinyl is made up of two layers: the dull vinyl layer and the shiny plastic carrier sheet. Since we only want the Cricut to cut through the dull and leave the shiny plastic carrier sheet intact, we place the vinyl onto the mat with the carrier sheet facing down. Next, use a brayer to make sure the vinyl has firmly adhered to the mat. If you don't have a brayer, you can use a scraper to do the same thing and just use gentle pressure so you don't accidentally scrape the vinyl. Load the cutting mat into the machine. If you're using Smart Iron-On with the new Maker 3, Explore 3, or Joy, you can load it into the cutting machine without a mat. Press the flashing Go button to cut your design. When the cut is complete, press the Load/Unload button to unload the mat. Now it's time to weed the design. The next step is to weed the design. Weeding is the process of removing any excess vinyl that's not part of the design. You'll remove the extra vinyl around the outside of your design and small pieces inside the design - like the insides of certain letters. To weed, press the pointing tip of the weeding tool into an area of vinyl you want to remove. Grab it with the weeding tool, and gently pull up and peel it away. You can use the hook-shaped weeding tool, tweezers, an X-Acto blade, your fingers, or whatever works. I often use multiple weeding tools, depending on the intricacy of the design and the size of the pieces I'm trying to remove. Start by weeding the vinyl around the outside of your design. Then, remove the pieces on the interior of the design. Keep weeding until you've removed all the excess vinyl, and all that's left on the plastic carrier sheet is your design. Then, flip the sheet over and see how your final design will look once it's right-side up. This is a good chance to double-check your work and make sure you have weeded everything you don't want on your final project. If you're having trouble seeing the lines of your design, try bending the sheet slightly to catch the light. Or, hold up the piece of vinyl to a bright window to help you see the lines. Cricut even makes a lightbox tool called a Brightpad, which is designed to help you see cut lines to make weeding easier. Now it's time to apply the vinyl to the project. For this step, you'll need a firm pressing surface, a pressing mat to protect your surface, and a source of heat. In this section, I'll show you how to prep your materials for the best results and apply the vinyl. First, set up your workspace. Choose a firm, flat pressing surface. You'll want a solid surface that won't wiggle or shake when you apply pressure - so avoid flimsy ironing boards. Next, protect your work surface with an EasyPress mat or a clean, folded towel. (I prefer using a pressing mat because folded towels have lumps and bumps that can interfere with your transfer. Then, preheat your EasyPress or iron. Use the Cricut Heat guide, which will tell you the exact temperature and pressing time you need according to the type of vinyl and base material you have. If you are using a household iron, adjust the temperature to the best of your ability. In most cases, you'll choose the Cotton/Linen setting, which is usually the highest temperature. Make sure to turn the steam setting to OFF. Next, prep your base material. Lay it out flat on the clean EasyPress mat, and smooth out any wrinkles. Use the EasyPress to preheat the fabric for 5 seconds. (This will also help remove any wrinkles.) Now that everything is prepped and ready to go, we can actually apply the vinyl. First, center the vinyl design on the base material. You can use a ruler to find the center of the base material. Or, you can fold it in half and make a crease to mark the centerline. Then, place the vinyl design on the base material with the shiny side up. (Remember, this means that the plastic carrier sheet is up, and the dull vinyl side is down, with the heat-sensitive adhesive touching the fabric.) Next, apply heat to the vinyl design as instructed by the Cricut Heat Guide. The Cricut Heat Guide will tell you exactly what time and temperature to use for your specific type of vinyl and base material. Then, flip the project over and apply heat to the back of the design as instructed by the Cricut Heat Guide. Example: For cotton canvas bags, press with light pressure at 340°F for 30 seconds. Then flip and press for an additional 15 seconds. After that, let the project cool to the touch. Then carefully peel off the plastic transfer sheet. Tip: If you're using new-to-you materials, I encourage you to do a small test in an inconspicuous area before committing to the entire design. Some types of vinyl are labeled "warm peel." Some are labeled "cool peel" or "cold peel." These labels refer to the temperature at which you should remove the plastic carrier sheet from the project for best results. For example, Cricut Everyday Iron-on is "Cool Peel." This means that you must allow the shirt to cool to the touch before removing the plastic liner. If you remove the liner while it's still warm, the iron-on vinyl may not adhere correctly. Other types of vinyl call for a "Warm Peel," which means you must remove the plastic sheet while it's still warm. Make sure to read the package to know what kind of vinyl you have! After making your iron-on projects, you'll want to wash them carefully to ensure they last as long as possible. Here's some advice for washing iron-on projects: First, make sure that you have the correct heat settings. Vinyl can bubble or distort if you press it with too much heat for too long. Then, make sure to peel off the plastic carrier sheet at the right time. Remember how we talked about that some types of iron-on vinyl are Warm Peel, and some are Cool Peel? Vinyl can bubble or peel if you peel off the plastic carrier sheet at the wrong temperature. Make sure to double-check the package instructions and peel the plastic sheet at the correct time. If the edges of the vinyl are lifting after washing, they did not adhere properly. You can reapply the vinyl by repeating the initial application steps. Since you don't have the plastic carrier sheet anymore, you'll want to cover the design with a Teflon cover sheet or a clean pressing cloth. We hope this article was useful for you! If you have any additional questions, feel free to join my Facebook Group. We created this group for you to share pictures, ask questions, and help each other out. I hope this article was useful for you! If you have any additional questions, feel free to join my Facebook Group for Cricut Crafts. Join the group to share pictures, ask questions, and help each other out. If you love to craft with Cricut, you'll enjoy these related posts. Pin this post: Save this tutorial to your Pinterest boards so that you can come back to it later. Leave a comment: You love to hear your feedback. Tell me in the comments below! Share on Instagram or Facebook: When you make this project, share it on social media and tag me @sarahmaker . We love to see what you make! Cricut Iron-On Vinyl Base material, like a t-shirt or tote bag Cricut machine Fine Point Blade Cricut Design Space LightGrip or StandardGrip Cutting Mat Weeding Tools Cricut EasyPress, regular household iron, or heat press Cricut EasyPress mat or a folded towel Prewash your base material, and prepare your workspace.Create your design in Cricut Design Space. After clicking continue, Cricut Design Space will connect to your machine, and ask you to select your iron-on material. If you're using a Cricut Maker, select the iron-on type from the drop-down menu. If you are using a Cricut Explore, then just rotate the dial on your machine to Iron-On. 5. Prepare the vinyl on your cutting mat Place the iron-on vinyl design on the base material with the shiny side up. Apply heat as instructed by the Heat Guide. Leaving the liner on, flip the base material over and apply heat to the other side as instructed by the Heat Guide.Wait for the vinyl to cool to the touch, then peel away the clear liner. Click here for the Cricut Heat Guide. Please leave a comment on the blog or share a photo on Instagram For Mothers Day I had given a friend a pack of Cricut's Iron-On Vinyl and guess what she told me? She had never opened it! I thought I was giving her a gift, or some fun new vinyl to play with, but really I had given her a problem: she needed a Cricut heat press guide! So... I wrote up this tutorial on exactly how to use Cricut Iron-on vinyl to make shirts (or hoodies, onesies, etc) with your Cricut machine. (Sorry, it took me a long walk!) I'll go over what materials you need, and give you step-by-step instructions for how to design, cut, and weed your vinyl decal. And then I'll show you how to apply the vinyl with a household iron, EasyPress, or any other heat press. Consider this tutorial as atonement for a troublesome gift! Using Cricut Iron-On Vinyl While we're calling this our Cricut heat press guide, you'll be able to follow along even if you don't have a Cricut press (or any heat press, really). A regular iron works great, too! What is Cricut iron-on vinyl? Cricut Iron-on vinyl, also called heat transfer vinyl (HTV), is a type of vinyl with a heat-sensitive adhesive. You simply cut out your design, hit it with a hot iron or heat press, and voila! It permanently sticks to any fabric. Heat Transfer Vinyl is backed by a clear, plastic transfer sheet, also known as the carrier sheet. The cut vinyl design is weeded (excess vinyl removed) while it's still on this sheet, and then flipped over and ironed onto your fabric. You'll remove the carrier sheet after ironing. So unlike regular adhesive vinyl, you don't need to use transfer tape or transfer paper, because the carrier sheet does the job. Iron on vinyl comes in all sorts of colors, patterns, and textures. There's the regular Everyday Iron-on, which we'll use in this tutorial. But there's also glitter, mesh, flocked, glow in the dark, and even holographic HTV. Like regular vinyl, heat transfer vinyl can come in individual sheets or large rolls. You can find HTV in a variety of colors and textures: smooth, flocked, glittery, metallic, printable, even holographic! It's irreplaceable for making DIY t-shirts, bags, jackets, jerseys, basically any fabric that you want to permanently decorate with a vinyl design. If you grew up in the 80's, you know about vinyl t-shirts, if not... you missed out. I promise that by the end of this tutorial you'll not only know how to use iron-on vinyl, you'll be an expert! What can you make with iron-on vinyl? You can make so many different projects with iron-on vinyl! It can stick to all sorts of fabrics (cotton, polyester, felt, leather, etc) as well as wood, metal, paper, cardstock, & more! Some iron-on projects to consider: Personalize t-shirts, onesies, hoodies, hats, etc. Make matching jerseys and jackets for a sports team. Design a tapestry for your baby's nursery. Decorate luggage tags and backpacks. Create a wooden or metal sign. You can apply Cricut Iron-on vinyl to most fabrics that can handle a hot iron for about twenty seconds. The exact fabrics depend on the specific type of HTV you are using, so you'll want to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Cricut Iron-on vinyl can be applied to: 100% cotton 100% polyester Poly-cotton blends Leather (check the label) Lycra/spandex (check the label) Nylon (check the label, and test first!) Iron-on vinyl is generally not recommended for: wool silk acetate acrylic If it seems like a lot of information to remember: don't worry about it! HTV is super easy to use and I learn by experimenting so we'll just dive right in together. How to cut Cricut Iron-On vinyl Iron-on vinyl is actually really easy to work with, especially if you know the correct technique. So I'll start with which materials you need, and we'll get into how to use it. Supplies you'll need: For cutting a design out of vinyl, you will need: A computer with Cricut Design Space installed. SVG or design ready to use. You can search for images and design your decal completely within Cricut Design Space. Cricut Explore Air 2 or Cricut Maker. Any other vinyl cutter you know how to use will work as well, but this tutorial shows how to use a Cricut machine. Cricut Everyday Iron-On Vinyl or Cricut Glitter Iron-on. If you have Smart Iron-on you'll be able to follow along without using a mat. Cutting mat. Either the green standard grip or the blue light grip mat will work for iron-on vinyl. Weeding tool. A weeding hook is the easiest way to lift up corners and grab tiny pieces of vinyl. For applying the iron-on, you'll need: A shirt (or other fabric you want to decorate). The fabric needs to be pre-washed without fabric softener and completely dried. Iron, Cricut EasyPress, or heat press. I recommend the Cricut EasyPress to take all the guesswork out, for a perfect application every time! If you don't know how to use one, I have an article that explains how to use a heat press in detail! Cricut EasyPress mat or a folded towel. Let's get to it! Here are the step-by-step directions for cutting Cricut Iron-on vinyl: 1. Load your design. First, open up Cricut Design Space and load your design. You can: upload files (SVGs or JPGs) that you've found online, search the Cricut Image Library (hint: you can Filter by "free" to find free images!), or create a unique design from shapes and fonts directly in Design Space. If you don't have a design already in mind, check out the list (cutcutcraft.com/free-svg-images-cricut-silhouette) I put together of free SVGs that you can import. For your first design, I recommend trying a basic shape. It will be a lot easier to weed and transfer, letting us focus on the heat transfer parts of this tutorial. After you've gotten the hang of simple shapes, you can move on to more complicated designs. If you'll be using lettering in your design, you'll want to make it as easy on yourself as possible for your first time. I recommend using a large, bold font because thin lettering is more difficult to weed. 2. Adjust your design. Resize your images to fit your project. You can use a t-shirt template within Design Space to see how the design will look on a shirt. Select your entire design and adjust the size on the top toolbar to set the dimensions. A decal that is 9 inches wide will fit well for a standard t-shirt. Then, hit Color Sync in the top right and make sure that all the parts of your design will be cut from the same color. Once your design is finalized, click the green "Make It" button in the top right to take you to the preview screen. 3. Mirror your design. Select the "Mirror" option on the left panel. (It should be green when selected.) Then hit the green "Continue" in the bottom right. Don't forget to mirror your design! I made this its very own step because it's so easy to forget. 4. Select the material. After clicking continue, Cricut Design Space will connect to your machine, and ask you to select your iron-on material. If you're using a Cricut Maker, select the iron-on type from the drop-down menu. If you are using a Cricut Explore, then just rotate the dial on your machine to Iron-On. 5. Prepare the vinyl on your cutting mat Place the iron-on vinyl design on the base material with the shiny side up. Apply heat as instructed by the Heat Guide. Leaving the liner on, flip the base material over and apply heat to the other side as instructed by the Heat Guide.Wait for the vinyl to cool to the touch, then peel away the clear liner. Click here for the Cricut Heat Guide. Please leave a comment on the blog or share a photo on Instagram For Mothers Day I had given a friend a pack of Cricut's Iron-On Vinyl and guess what she told me? She had never opened it! I thought I was giving her a gift, or some fun new vinyl to play with, but really I had given her a problem: she needed a Cricut heat press guide! So... I wrote up this tutorial on exactly how to use Cricut Iron-on vinyl to make shirts (or hoodies, onesies, etc) with your Cricut machine. (Sorry, it took me a long walk!) I'll go over what materials you need, and give you step-by-step instructions for how to design, cut, and weed your vinyl decal. And then I'll show you how to apply the vinyl with a household iron, EasyPress, or any other heat press. 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Leaving the liner on, flip the base material over and apply heat to the other side as instructed by the Heat Guide.Wait for the vinyl to cool to the touch, then peel away the clear liner. Click here for the Cricut Heat Guide. Please leave a comment on the blog or share a photo on Instagram For Mothers Day I had given a friend a pack of Cricut's Iron-On Vinyl and guess what she told me? She had never opened it! I thought I was giving her a gift, or some fun new vinyl to play with, but really I had given her a problem: she needed a Cricut heat press guide! So... I wrote up this tutorial on exactly how to use Cricut Iron-on vinyl to make shirts (or hoodies, onesies, etc) with your Cricut machine. (Sorry, it took me a long walk!) I'll go over what materials you need, and give you step-by-step instructions for how to design, cut, and weed your vinyl decal. And then I'll show you how to apply the vinyl with a household iron, EasyPress, or any other heat press. 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Iron on vinyl comes in all sorts of colors, patterns, and textures. There's the regular Everyday Iron-on, which we'll use in this tutorial. But there's also glitter, mesh, flocked, glow in the dark, and even holographic HTV. Like regular vinyl, heat transfer vinyl can come in individual sheets or large rolls. You can find HTV in a variety of colors and textures: smooth, flocked, glittery, metallic, printable, even holographic! It's irreplaceable for making DIY t-shirts, bags, jackets, jerseys, basically any fabric that you want to permanently decorate with a vinyl design. If you grew up in the 80's, you know about vinyl t-shirts, if not... you missed out. I promise that by the end of this tutorial you'll not only know how to use iron-on vinyl, you'll be an expert! What can you make with iron-on vinyl? You can make so many different projects with iron-on vinyl! It can stick to all sorts of fabrics (cotton, polyester, felt, leather, etc) as well as wood, metal, paper, cardstock, & more! Some iron-on projects to consider: Personalize t-shirts, onesies, hoodies, hats, etc. Make matching jerseys and jackets for a sports team. Design a tapestry for your baby's nursery. Decorate luggage tags and backpacks. Create a wooden or metal sign. You can apply Cricut Iron-on vinyl to most fabrics that can handle a hot iron for about twenty seconds. The exact fabrics depend on the specific type of HTV you are using, so you'll want to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Cricut Iron-on vinyl can be applied to: 100% cotton 100% polyester Poly-cotton blends Leather (check the label) Lycra/spandex (check the label) Nylon (check the label, and test first!) Iron-on vinyl is generally not recommended for: wool silk acetate acrylic If it seems like a lot of information to remember: don't worry about it! HTV is super easy to use and I learn by experimenting so we'll just dive right in together. How to cut Cricut Iron-On vinyl Iron-on vinyl is actually really easy to work with, especially if you know the correct technique. So I'll start with which materials you need, and we'll get into how to use it. Supplies you'll need: For cutting a design out of vinyl, you will need: A computer with Cricut Design Space installed. SVG or design ready to use. You can search for images and design your decal completely within Cricut Design Space. Cricut Explore Air 2 or Cricut Maker. Any other vinyl cutter you know how to use will work as well, but this tutorial shows how to use a Cricut machine. Cricut Everyday Iron-On Vinyl or Cricut Glitter Iron-on. If you have Smart Iron-on you'll be able to follow along without using a mat. Cutting mat. Either the green standard grip or the blue light grip mat will work for iron-on vinyl. Weeding tool. A weeding hook is the easiest way to lift up corners and grab tiny pieces of vinyl. For applying the iron-on, you'll need: A shirt (or other fabric you want to decorate). The fabric needs to be pre-washed without fabric softener and completely dried. Iron, Cricut EasyPress, or heat press. I recommend the Cricut EasyPress to take all the guesswork out, for a perfect application every time! If you don't know how to use one, I have an article that explains how to use a heat press in detail! Cricut EasyPress mat or a folded towel. Let's get to it! Here are the step-by-step directions for cutting Cricut Iron-on vinyl: 1. Load your design. First, open up Cricut Design Space and load your design. You can: upload files (SVGs or JPGs) that you've found online, search the Cricut Image Library (hint: you can Filter by "free" to find free images!), or create a unique design from shapes and fonts directly in Design Space. If you don't have a design already in mind, check out the list (cutcutcraft.com/free-svg-images-cricut-silhouette) I put together of free SVGs that you can import. For your first design, I recommend trying a basic shape. It will be a lot easier to weed and transfer, letting us focus on the heat transfer parts of this tutorial. After you've gotten the hang of simple shapes, you can move on to more complicated designs. If you'll be using lettering in your design, you'll want to make it as easy on yourself as possible for your first time. I recommend using a large, bold font because thin lettering is more difficult to weed. 2. Adjust your design. Resize your images to fit your project. You can use a t-shirt template within Design Space to see how the design will look on a shirt. Select your entire design and adjust the size on the top toolbar to set the dimensions. A decal that is 9 inches wide will fit well for a standard t-shirt. 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