

Introduction to Creating Objects to Sell with the Laser Cutter

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The laser cutter can quickly **cut** paper, fabric, leather, wood and plastic. It can also **engrave** these materials (along with glass and metal) with text and/or images. This workshop will provide you with ideas and skills needed to quickly create small, inexpensive items to sell or give as gifts.

Cut (and optionally engrave):

- Intricate, detailed, complex geometric patterns in paper, cardstock, wood, plastic
- Decorations (party, home decor)
- Cards
- Earrings and pendants
- Letters and signs
- School / team logos and mascots
- Shirt buttons
- Leather tags
- Steampunk gears
- Drink coasters
- Wooden puzzles
- Photo puzzles
- Luggage tags out of wood or plastic
- Business cards
- Wood or plastic boxes
- Magnets
- Magnetic mats
- Rubber stamps
- Mid-century breeze block patterns

Engrave:

- Existing wooden items (cutting boards, coasters, boxes, etc)
- Existing plastic items (knife handles)
- Glass (flat and cylinder)
- Pseudo stained glass (colored with glass ink)
- Water and wine glasses
- Water bottles
- Metal items with coatings (business cards, pet tags, etc)
- Ceramic tiles
- Pottery and clay pots
- Rocks with one flat surface

Google whatever you can think of and most likely someone has done it. Use their projects for inspiration, but do not “rip-off”. Respect their designs.

Techniques:

- Maximize use of material; minimize waste
 - popular material size = 12 x 12 inch
 - reduce item size if necessary
 - save large scrap material for other, smaller designs
- Can use laser cutter software's replicate function
 - but laying out in Illustrator may be effective for odd shapes
- Set up registration guides for bulk production
 - Blue tape or honeycomb pins
- Multi-layering of wood to add 3rd dimension
- Wood Staining
- Removing top coating off metal or wood
- Laser marking spray
- Multiple passes for depth (tape down material)
- Think about packaging

Websites:

Printables.com
Thingiverse.com

Google "laser cutter projects" and select IMAGES

Makercase.com
boxes.py
box.laserbiz.ru

Geometric.com
OpenArt.ai