

Making Simple Stickers with the Roland BN-20 Vinyl Printer / Cutter

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The BN-20 is a high quality ink-jet printer with a knife blade for cutting vinyl. Depending on the material used, it can print posters, stickers, and heat transfer vinyl for making T-shirts.

The BN-20 interprets a very thin (0.25 point) Magenta line as a cut line. Any other colors or line width will be printed. This document describes how you import an image file (JPG, PNG, BMP, etc) and create a cut line in the *shape of a rectangle, circle or ellipse* outside of the image.

1. Open Adobe Illustrator.
2. Click on File, pull-down and select New.
3. Set units to Inches, set the width and height to a size slightly larger than the desired sticker size, set orientation to portrait or landscape, set mode to RGB, then click the Create button. This creates the art board.
4. Click on View, pull-down to Rulers, select Show Rulers. The rulers should appear on the sides of the art board. These will help you size the image for cutting and/or etching.
5. Click on File, pull-down and select Open. Browse to and select file. Click the Open button.
6. If necessary, use the selection tool (*black arrow pointer*) to select the image and move it to the center of the art board.
7. If necessary to resize the image:
 1. Click on Select and pull-down to All
 2. In the Properties tab(right side), in the Transform box, set the height (H) or width (W) to the desired size of the sticker. If the “chain” icon is shown, the width and height proportions will be maintained.
8. Click on Window, pull-down to Swatch Library, Select Roland VersaWorks. Move the window off to one side.
9. The Draw Area tool is the fifth icon from the top, just below the Text icon. It's usually a Rectangle. Left Click on the Rectangle Icon to draw a rectangle. Right Click to select a different shape. Use the Ellipse icon to draw a circle.
 1. Set the Fill color icon (top) and set to none (box with red slash).
 2. Click on the Stroke color icon (bottom).
 3. In the Roland VersaWorks window, click on the magenta color (the first color box) to set the Stroke color.
 4. Set the stroke size to 0.25 pt. This is very important.
10. Draw a rectangle or circle around the image leaving a small amount of white space around the image.
11. Click on the selection tool (black arrow icon), then click anywhere outside the artboard. The rectangle or circle should appear as a thin magenta line.
12. Click on File, pull-down to Save As. Save the file under a new name with an AI extension.
13. Click on File, pull-down to Print.
14. Verify Printer is set to VersaWorks
15. Check Ignore Art Boards, set Media Size to Custom. Click the Print button.
16. Minimize Illustrator.