**Cricut Cutting Blades**

Cricut Explore® machines can use a German carbide premium blade for typical cuts or a deep cut blade for thicker or heavier materials. German carbide premium blades fit the housing included with the Cricut Explore® machine, while deep cut blades have a different housing. German carbide premium blades should be used to cut most materials, such as cardstock, vinyl, iron-on, poster board and light-weight fabrics. Deep cut blades provide better cutting results for thicker or heavier materials such as chipboard, magnet sheets, leather, stiffened felt, foam sheets, cardboard, and fabric backed with interfacing.

After continued usage, the blades will wear out and should be replaced. The number of cuts each blade can make varies depending on the material used. You will know when your blades are getting dull because your cuts will not be as crisp. Replacement blades are available in three varieties:

- **German carbide premium blades** fit the standard blade housing included with your Cricut® machine. This blade is designed to work with the Cricut Explore family of machines and are recommended to create the most precise cuts. The blade also resists wear and breakage for a longer life.
- **Deep cut blades** require the deep cut housing. These blades have a steeper blade angle (60° vs. 45°) of harder more durable steel.
- **Standard blades** fit the standard blade housing. While these blades are compatible with the Cricut Explore family, they will not give the same precision of cut nor last as long as the German carbide premium blades.

To replace blades, follow the steps below. The process is the same whether you are using a standard or deep cut housing.

**Step 1:** Open blade clamp B.
Step 2: Remove the blade housing by pulling up.

Step 3: Depress the plunger and carefully pull out the blade. Be sure to safely dispose of the blade.

Step 4: Drop a new blade into the opening. The sharp end will face you; use care to avoid injury.
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**Step 5:** Hold the blade clamp up while dropping in the housing. The blade housing should be flush against the top of the blade clamp.

**Step 6:** Close the clamp.