Cutting mats

Cricut Explore® machines use 12” x 12” and 12” x 24” Cricut® adhesive cutting mats. With the precision of Cricut Explore®, you can cut basic shapes as small as a 1/4” by 1/4” and as large as 1/2” less than the size of your cutting mat (i.e., on a 12” x 12” cutting mat you can cut as large as 11.5” x 11.5” and on a 12” x 24” cutting mat you can cut up to 11.5” x 23.5”).

Cricut® 12” x 12” mats are available in three varieties:

- **LightGrip mats** are specially formulated so you can easily cut and remove lightweight materials such as office printer or copy paper, vellum, light cardstock, and more.
- **StandardGrip mats** are perfect for a wide range of medium-weight materials, including patterned paper, vinyl, iron-on, and cardstock.
- **StrongGrip mats** offer a strong hold surface perfect for heavyweight materials such as specialty cardstock, glitter cardstock, chipboard, and fabric backed with interfacing. These are our longest lasting mats, featuring double life adhesive technology.

Cricut® 12” x 24” mats are available in StandardGrip only.

Follow the steps below to place material on the mat and load it into the machine.

**Step 1:** Position the machine on a flat surface with at least 10” of space behind it so your mat can move through the machine. (More space is required for 12” x 24” mats.)
**Cutting mats**

**Step 2:** Remove the clear plastic cover from the mat and save it. This cover keeps your mat clean during storage.

**Step 3:** Smooth the material you will use onto the mat in the top left corner inside the grid.

*Tip:* You can use the scraper from the Cricut® Basic Tool Set to smooth the material onto the mat for a stronger grip.
Cutting mats

**Step 4:** Position the mat underneath the mat guides on the machine.

**Tip:** You can load the mat with the Cricut® logo toward the rollers or in the opposite direction. To lengthen the life of your mat, alternate between the two.

**Step 5:** Keeping the mat pushed firmly against the rollers, press the “Load/Unload” button on the machine.

**Step 6:** When the cut is complete, press the “Load/Unload” button again and remove the mat from the machine.