



Laser Cutting/Engraving

on the Epilog Zing Laser



Match the artboard size to the material size.

- Measure the length and width to the material that you will cut/engrave
- Select File > New
- Set the width and height of the document to match the length and width of the material
- Allow .25in from the border of the material

Will your product be ...



Laser cut only?

- Create a Layer and name it "Cut".
- On the Cut Layer, draw every path you would like to have laser cut using:
 - Stroke Color: Black
 - Fill Color: None
 - Stroke Weight: .001pt

Minimum cut width

It is recommend that minimum cut widths be no smaller than the thickness of the material. For example, if cutting from 3mm acrylic, its best not to allow cut widths less than 3mm. You can go smaller but things can get quite fragile and in some cases can cause the material to warp during cutting.



Maintaining continuous vector geometry

Make sure that all your vector paths are continuous. If shapes are constructed from more than one path, make sure that you close the paths by joining open endpoints.

- To do this, use the Direct Selection Tool and select the open endpoints
- Select Object > Path > Join (Cmmd+J)



Laser engraved only?

- Create a Layer and name it "Engrave".
- On the Engrave Layer, draw or place all images/text that you want engraved.
- It is recommended that you use only black, white, and shades of gray for stroke and fill colors.
- The minimum Stroke Weight is .5pt on engraved lines.

Resolution/Grayscale

Images need to be at least 150dpi and in grayscale. Carry out any image editing in Photoshop prior to placing the image into Illustrator.



Embed linked images

- Select the image you placed in the file
- The Linked File editing tools will appear in the Panel Bar
- Click the Embed button



Reduce anchor points/simplify drawing

Draw with the least amount of anchor points possible without sacrificing the drawing appearance. The machine will process your drawings quicker. Too many anchor points can also impact quality.

- You can reduce the number of points with the Simplify tool
- Select the path you wish to simplify and select Object > Path > Simplify
- Adjust the sliders until you have maintained a balance between preserving appearance and reducing the number of anchor points

Cleaning up drawing/remove overlapping lines

- Ensure that there are no duplicate paths stacked up on one another. If you don't get rid of them the laser will cut/engrave these lines repeatedly, ruining the material and damaging the laser bed.
- View in Outlines (toggle Cmmd+Y.) This mimics how the laser cutter will "view" and process your file. If there are any paths that you don't want to cut or engrave, remove them.
- Delete all unnecessary artwork from hidden layers.



Outline all text

All text used needs to be converted to paths. This is to convert the text to vectors and preserve your font.

- With text selected, select Type > Create Outlines



Save your file

- Select File > Save As
- Format: Adobe Illustrator (.ai)

Save your files in the following named format, replacing the fields with the relevant information:

LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_MATERIAL_PROJECTNAME.ai