1. Press the power button on the Cricut™ machine. This will open the doors but will not turn the machine on because the cord is not plugged in.
2. Remove the cardboard inserts on either side of the car. Remove the green cutting blade assembly from its bag. Make sure the black arrow on the blade assembly points to the number 4 on the adjustment knob, and ensure that the cutting blade has been inserted into the assembly with the sharp end pointing down.
3. The blade assembly fits into the black cradle to the left of the car. Locate the silver thumbscrew and turn it counter-clockwise until it loosens enough that you can swing the thumbscrew to the right. Be careful not to loosen the screw too much, or it will fall out.
4. Open the left arm of the black cradle and position the cutting blade assembly inside as shown. Close the cradle, swing the thumbscrew back to the left, and tighten it by turning it clockwise. Plug the machine in and press the power button to place the blade assembly in cutting position. Refer to the User Manual for detailed instructions about how to use your new Cricut™ machine.
Your Animal Kingdom™ cartridge package should include:

- Cartridge
- Keypad Overlay
- Binder
- Handbook

Content may vary slightly from illustrations shown.
The shapes and phrases on the Animal Kingdom™ cartridge were designed by: Marie Cole

I’ve always loved to draw. Whether it’s a paint brush, pen or computer at my hand, my muse has taken me from tole painting, to home décor, to scrapbooking and card making. I’ve enjoyed all the friends I’ve met along the way, and I treasure the experience of taking an idea, watching it transform into a product, and being inspired by your use of it. I hope you’ll enjoy my latest creations.

I’ve been married to my husband and friend for 34 years and have four great kids—two girls and two boys. We live in a peaceful place in rural Utah.
This simple orientation will help you get started with Cricut™ cartridges.

TIP: For more detailed instructions, refer to the User Manual included with your Cricut™ machine.

1. Plug in and turn on your Cricut™ machine. Place the Keypad Overlay on the Cricut™ keypad.
2. Insert the cartridge.

TIP: It is recommended that you turn your Cricut™ machine off before removing a cartridge, and that you wait to turn it back on until after inserting a new cartridge.

3. Prepare the Cutting Mat.

Tip: The surface of the mat has been treated to make it slightly tacky.

A. Remove the dear plastic cover.

B. Place a 6" x 12" sheet of paper on the Cutting Mat. Press and smooth from the center to the edges of the mat.

C. Gently press paper and mat against the roller bar. (You will feel a slight resistance.)
4. Press the **Load Paper** key.
The paper will be pulled into the Cricut™ machine.

**TIP:** Your Cricut™ machine needs 12" of clear space in the front and back for paper movement in and out of the Cricut™ machine. If your paper does not load correctly, press the **Unload Paper** key and try again.
5. Select shapes or phrases you want to cut.
(You can select up to 16 shapes or phrases. They will be displayed on the LCD screen above the keypad.)

6. Select size.
Roll the Size Dial on the right-hand side of the Cricut machine until the desired size appears in the LCD screen. For example, if the LCD screen displays 3\text{"}, your shape or phrase will be cut 3\text{"} tall.

TIP: For detailed instructions and advanced applications refer to the Creative Features section of this handbook.
7. Press the **CUT** button.

TIP: Only one size may be selected per cut, and that size will be applied to all characters on the LCD screen when you press CUT.

8. Press the **Unload Paper** key.

The paper and mat will be ejected from the Cricut™ machine.
9. Remove paper from Cutting Mat.
TIP: Cricut™ Tools are available to help you remove your cuts from the Cutting Mat.

The capabilities of your Cricut™ Personal Electronic Cutter™ are very broad and versatile!
The next section, Creative Features, will introduce some of the exciting advanced techniques available to you.

TIP: We suggest that you practice on less expensive paper first, until your expected results are consistent.
Important Keys and Buttons
These will help you with advanced cuts.

The STOP button adjacent to the CUT button will stop any operation in progress. The Blade Navigation Buttons move the blade to any location on the paper.

- **Paper Saver**: Automatically arranges your selections to minimize paper waste
- **Real Dial Size**: Cuts each shape or phrase in the literal size selected
- **Shift**: Allows a shape or phrase on the upper right corner of a key to be selected
- **Shift Lock**: Allows repeated selection of shapes or phrases on the upper right corner of a key
- **Space**: Enters an empty space
- **Clear Display**: Clears the contents of the LCD screen
- **Repeat Last**: Inserts the last selections that were cut on to the LCD screen
- **Back Space**: Deletes the last entered selection
- **Reset All**: Clears the display and resets the Cricut™ machine to default settings
- **Sound On/Off**: Turns the chirp on or off
- **Set Paper Size**: Use with paper sizes smaller than 6” x 12”
- **Load Last**: Returns cutting blade automatically to where the previous cut ended
- **Load Paper**: Pulls the paper and mat into the Cricut™ machine
- **Unload Paper**: Ejects the paper and mat from the Cricut™ machine
Selecting Shapes

How to Use the Shift and Shift Lock Keys

To select a shape from the upper right corner of a key, use the Shift key on the keypad. You don’t need to hold it down. Just press Shift once and make your selection.

Use the Shift Lock key to select more than one shape at a time from the upper right corners of keys. Press the Shift Lock key again to deselect it.
What Is Real Dial Size?

All characters are measured from the lowest possible point to the highest. In Animal Kingdom™, all black (non-shifted) characters are created at the same height. The grey (shifted) characters are layers that fit proportionately to the black. If Real Dial Size is selected all characters will be cut according to the selected dial size. Characters will no longer be proportionate and they will not fit together.
What Are Creative Feature Keys?

The top three pairs of keys on the left panel are reserved for the Creative Feature effects of each set. These features vary with each specific cartridge, providing greater versatility and thousands of options!

The Creative Feature keys included on the Animal Kingdom™ cartridge are Head, Sound, Bookmark, Border, Shadow, and Blackout.

To use a Creative Feature key, just select it prior to pressing the CUT button. The shapes or phrases displayed on the LCD screen will then be cut in the style of the selected Creative Feature. Due to their sizes and shapes, a Feature may not work with all shapes. Please refer to the Icon Gallery for Creative Feature details.

TIP: A Feature can be selected before or after a shape or phrase has been selected, but before the CUT button is pressed. Once pressed, a Feature key will remain lit until it is turned off in one of the following ways: the Feature key is pressed a second time, the Reset All key is pressed, or a different Feature is selected. Only one Creative Feature key can be selected for each cut, and that Feature will be applied to all characters on the LCD screen.
What Is a Foundation Key?

Your Animal Kingdom™ cartridge contains one Foundation key with two shapes on it.

Foundation shapes are the solid version of images that were used as Creative Features. In Animal Kingdom™, the Foundation shapes are bookmarks. They can be used alone or they can be enhanced by adding shapes to them.
Frequently Asked Questions (For updated information about the Cricut® Personal Electronic Cutter™ visit www.cricut.com)

How does the Cricut™ machine work and what size images can it cut?
The Cricut® Personal Electronic Cutter™ is a cartridge-based cutting system. The blade is guided by an electronic cutting process. The Cricut® machine cuts letters, shapes, and phrases ranging from 1" to 5 1/2" tall, as well as titles and borders as long as 11".

What kind of paper can the Cricut™ machine cut?
The Cricut® Personal Electronic Cutter™ can cut a wide range of paper from vellum to cardstock up to 0.5 mm thick. Provo Craft has created cardstock pads and designer paper pads that coordinate with the Cricut® shape cartridges. These papers fit perfectly in the Cricut® machine.

Will I waste paper trying to get just a few images cut?
No. The Cricut® machine has an option called Paper Saver that cuts letters, shapes, and phrases in an arrangement that minimizes the amount of waste from every cut.

Do I have to hold down the Shift key to use it?
No. Just press it down once and it will be backlit in green, indicating that it is in use.

Are the Creative Features the same for each cartridge?
Only the Shadow Feature is the same for each set. The other five Creative Features are unique to each individual cartridge.

How long will the cutting blade last?
Anywhere from 500 to 1500 cuts, depending on what kind of paper/cardstock you use. Replacement blades are inexpensive and easy to change. Refer to the “Replacing the Cutting Blade” section in the Cricut® User Manual.

How long will the Cutting Mat last?
Between 25 and 40 full-page cuts, depending on the size of the cuts and what kind of paper/cardstock you use. We recommend that you use several mats, rotating them often. This will extend the overall life of each mat.
Frequently Asked Questions  (For updated information about the Cricut” Personal Electronic Cutter” visit www.cricut.com)

Can I use paper smaller than 6" x 12"?
Absolutely! Just align a corner of the smaller paper to the bottom left corner of the Cutting Mat. Once the mat is loaded, use the Blade Navigation Buttons to move the cutting blade down to the upper right corner of the paper. Then press Set Paper Size on the keypad overlay.

Do I have to finish cutting a full page before unloading?
No. You can unload the paper and remove just the pieces you need. You can then reload the paper at a later time and navigate to any open area to resume cutting. If you immediately use the same paper for your next cut, press the Load Last key instead of Load Paper. This will automatically return the cutting head to the last place it was cutting from.

What is the Paper Saver mode?
Paper Saver adjusts images upward or downward to minimize paper waste. This may result in an inaccurate “negative” shape left in the paper, but if you don’t need to use the negative cut, this function works great. EXAMPLE: The tail on a lowercase “y” usually extends into the paper below the rest of the letters selected, indicating accurate readability. With Paper Saver selected, your Cricut” machine will automatically raise the “y” up so that the tail doesn’t extend below the baseline of the other letters.

What does Real Dial Size do?
By default, your Cricut” machine will cut characters in proportion to each other. However, if you want to “break” this proportion and get any character to cut at the literal dial size, press the Real Dial Size key. EXAMPLE: With the Size Dial set at 2”, a lowercase “a” will actually cut out at approximately 1” to fit proportionately with any other cut letter. With Real Dial Size selected, that same “a” would cut at a full 2”.

How is a letter, shape, or phrase cut measured?
From the lowest possible point to the highest possible point.

What is the best way to transport my Cricut™ machine?
The Cricut” machine weighs only 9 lbs. and is easily transported. A specially designed tote is available with handy pockets and soft-touch zipper closures. It has in-line wheels for easy maneuvering and a pull-up handle. It is well padded to protect your Cricut” machine.
Troubleshooting  (For updated information about the Cricut Personal Electronic Cutter visit www.cricut.com)

Problem: The Cutting Mat won’t load when I press the Load Paper key.
Solution: Try pressing the mat slightly into the roller bar as you press the Load Paper key.

Problem: The mat didn’t load when I pressed Load Paper. Now, when I try to press it again, it doesn’t do anything.
Solution: You need to press Unload Paper first. Your Cricut machine “thought” that it loaded the mat, even though it didn’t pull it in. So it needs to be given the command to unload before another paper load attempt is made. Pressing the Unload Paper key will reset the roller bar, allowing for another paper load attempt.

Problem: The blade is not cutting all the way through the paper.
Possible Solution 1: Increase the cut pressure using the Pressure Dial on the left side of the Cricut machine.
Possible Solution 2: Adjust the blade depth. This may be necessary if you are trying to cut through thicker stock. Refer to the “Adjusting Blade Depth” section in the Cricut User Manual.
Possible Solution 3: The cutting blade may be dulled by use. Refer to the “Replacing the Cutting Blade” section in the Cricut User Manual.

Problem: I can’t get a letter, shape, or phrase to cut with the Creative Feature selected.
Solution: Refer to the Icon Gallery to see which Features work with which letters, shapes, and phrases.
Troubleshooting (For updated information about the Cricut® Personal Electronic Cutter™ visit www.cricut.com)

**Problem:** The paper lifts off the mat as the Cricut® machine is cutting.
**Possible Solution 1:** Make sure you press the paper firmly onto the Cutting Mat when setting up the cut.
**Possible Solution 2:** Try using a new mat. Each mat will last between 25 and 40 full-page cuts, depending on the size of cuts and the kind of paper/cardstock that you use.

**Problem:** The mat is too sticky. It’s ripping the paper when I try to remove it.
**Solution:** Use a craft knife or the Cricut® Tools (packaged as separate products) to successfully lift the paper/cardstock from the mat. (These are custom tools designed for lifting, pulling, or cleaning up the cut images.)

**Problem:** I’ve put a smaller sized paper on the mat and navigated the blade to the upper right corner, but when I cut a line of letters, the blade returns and starts cutting back at the top of the mat.
**Solution:** After you’ve navigated the blade to the upper right corner of the paper, and prior to pressing CUT, you need to press the Set Paper Size key. This will tell your Cricut® machine that you have selected a smaller paper size. Otherwise it “thinks” that a 6” x 12” paper is loaded.
Now you’re ready to try a project!

“Fishy Kisses” Valentine Card

I especially love to create designs for children. I have two daughters who are elementary school teachers, and I thought that a variety of animals would be fun for them to use in their classrooms. You’ll find animals from the jungle, circus, zoo, woods, farm and home—50 in all. They can be used on bulletin boards, calendars, posters, name tags, flash cards—wherever your imagination takes you!

Remember exchanging valentines with your classmates in grade school? The fish in the clear fish bowl with the heading “Fishy Kisses” would make a perfect valentine for someone special. Just follow these simple steps:

Materials:
Cricut® Animal Kingdom® printed papers
Cardstock: aqua, green
Vellum
Glue
Ink
Step One: Cut the following pieces:
- One 1" “Fishy kisses” phrase in both aqua and green. (To cut out “Fishy Kisses,” select the Sound Feature and then the Fish key. When done, deselect the Sound Feature key.)
- One 3 1/2" Fish bowl in vellum.
- Press the Shift key and cut one 3 1/2" Fish bowl in aqua to make the water.
- Two 1 1/4" fish from pink Cricut "Animal Kingdom" paper. (To cut a fish facing the opposite direction, cut one fish with the printed paper facing down on your Cutting Mat.)
- One 2" seaweed from green cardstock. (To cut out the seaweed, select the Head Feature and then the Fish bowl key.)
- One 2" Shifted seaweed from green cardstock. (To create this seaweed layer make sure the Head Feature is selected, then select Shift, then the Fish bowl key.)

Step Two: Hand-cut a 5" x 5" card base out of aqua cardstock and a slightly smaller green mat to layer on top.

Step Three: Ink all pieces to give them dimension and a little extra character!

Step Four: Layer your cut pieces as follows:
- Layer and glue the wave pattern on top of the vellum Fish bowl.
- Cut the green Fishy Kisses phrase so that the F and H in “Fishy” and the K and second S in “Kisses” are separated. Layer and glue them onto the aqua “Fishy Kisses.”
- Layer and glue the seaweed and seaweed layer as illustrated.
- Layer and glue all pieces to the 5" card base as illustrated.
In the Icon Gallery, you will find a diagram for every shape and phrase on your cartridge. The color change indicates that the image on the upper right is created using the Shift key and the image on the lower left is created without Shift. Using the Icon Gallery, you can see at a glance which Creative Features are available to use with the shape or phrase that you have selected.

You will find that some shapes and phrases are very detailed and cut better at a larger dial size.

Animal Kingdom™ Creative Features:

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Border
Shadow
Blackout
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Bookmark

Off to the Woods

Border

Shadow

Blockout

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www.cricut.com
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- Shadow
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For in-depth information about using your Cricut™ Personal Electronic Cutter™ refer to the User Manual included with your Cricut™ machine. If you don’t find the answers you need, support is available in the following two ways:

You will find the most current help and documentation on the Web site. Find answers to FAQs and Troubleshooting problems any time of the day.

**INTERNET:** [www.cricut.com](http://www.cricut.com)

Refer to the Customer Support information that came with your Cricut™ Personal Electronic Cutter™ or call for Customer Support options at:

**PHONE:** 1-877-7CRICUT (727-4288) Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., mountain time