

SILHOUETTE WATER BOTTLES

Course Topics

- About the Silhouette Cameo
- Types of vinyl
- Cutting a basic shape or text
- Silhouette Studio
- Weeding and Transfer Tape



What is the Silhouette Cameo?

The Silhouette CAMEO® is a DIY cutting machine used to create custom projects for home, business, school or hobby. It has a small blade to cut a variety of materials, such as paper, cardstock, vinyl and fabric. The Cameo can cut up to 12 inches wide and has its own software that you use to prepare and create your own designs.

Types of vinyl

Repositionable vinyl, like Oracal 631, is usually considered removable for up to 2 years. There are other brands but **read the descriptions carefully.** (Available at: Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Amazon.com)

Oracal 631 — This is a matte finish, **indoor wall-safe (removable for up to 2 years)** vinyl. It is for use on walls and other indoor items that will not be washed such as shadow boxes, picture frames, ornaments, etc. It is available in 94 colors (including white, black and clear).

Oracal 651 — This is a 5-8 year rated **outdoor safe permanent** solvent-based adhesive vinyl. It can also be used on items inside that you would like to be able to hand wash such as mugs, water bottles, cutting boards, etc. It comes in 60 different gloss colors, plus there is a matte finish available in a total of 63 colors.

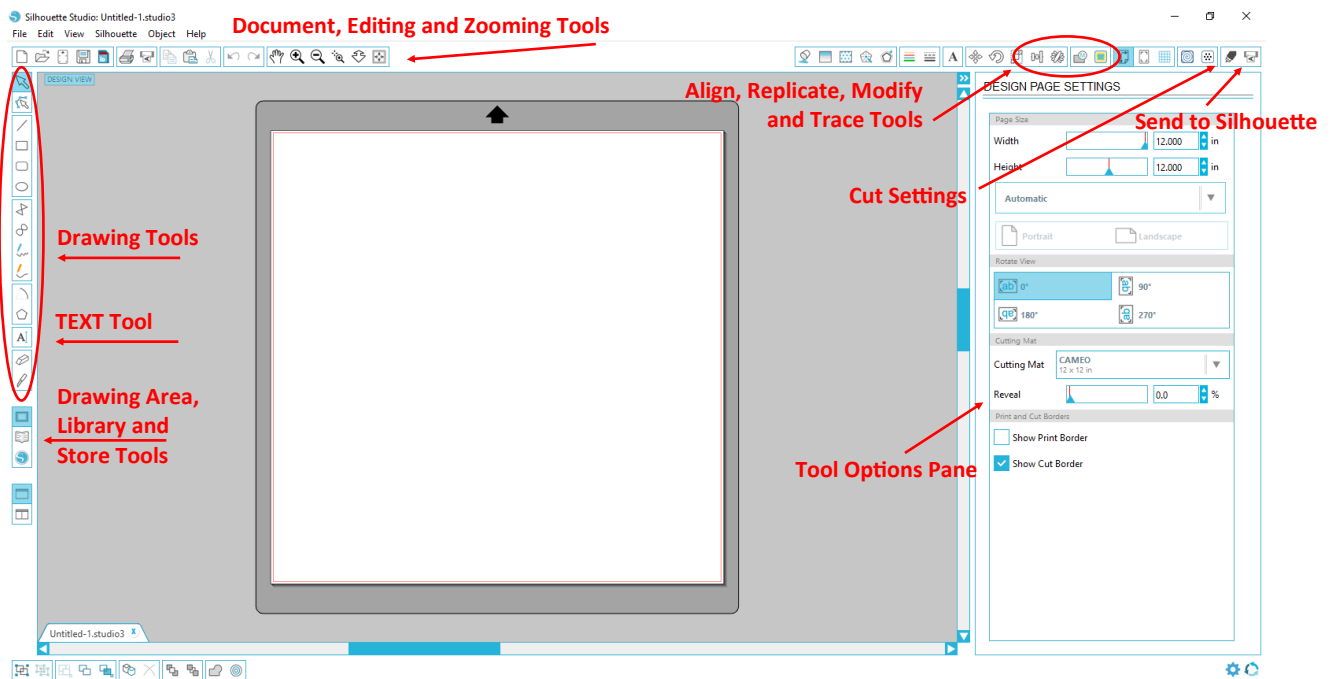
Cutting a Basic Shape or Text with the Silhouette Cameo

The four main components of the Silhouette Cameo are the machine itself, the blade, the sticky mat and the Silhouette Studio software. To cut a shape, you create or download a design using the software, adjust the blade depth for the media type, insert the media you are cutting (using the sticky mat for paper – materials like vinyl that already have a backing do not need the mat) and then send the design to the Silhouette for cutting. You may need to adjust settings to double cut the designs.

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Silhouette Studio

With the Silhouette Studio software, you can download a free shape from the library, purchase designs from Silhouette's Design Store or create your own text or design using the tools available around the workspace. The **A** symbol on the left navigation bar activates the TEXT function. You can select the font, font size, and direction of the text from the right side options pane. YouTube has lots of training videos.



Weeding and Transfer Tape

“Weeding” is the term used to describe the process of removing the extra vinyl from your design. Tools like X-ACTO knives, tweezers, and scissors can be helpful with this task. Transfer tape is used to transfer the entire design at once, as opposed to one letter at a time. Clear transfer tape can be useful, especially if you are layering designs.

The Makery

The Silhouette Cameo is one of the tools that will be available this spring in the library's new makerspace. The “Makery” is a place to invent, collaborate and design using tools, equipment and technology. In addition to the Silhouette Cameo, Elmhurst library cardholders will also be able to use a 3D Printer, a Laser Cutter, Embroidery and Sewing Machines, Prototyping and DIY Kits, and more!