DESIGN BASICS: SILHOUETTE STUDIO

The Silhouette Studio is the design software that accompanies the Silhouette CAMEO®, one of the DIY electronic cutting machines available in the Makery. EPL cardholders, District 205 teachers and students, Elmhurst College students, Work Perks and Business cardholders are welcome to use the space. Guests accompanying Elmhurst patrons may use the Makery for certain programs, clubs, and activities. Adult supervision required for anyone below middle school age.

DESIGN BASICS: SILHOUETTE STUDIO

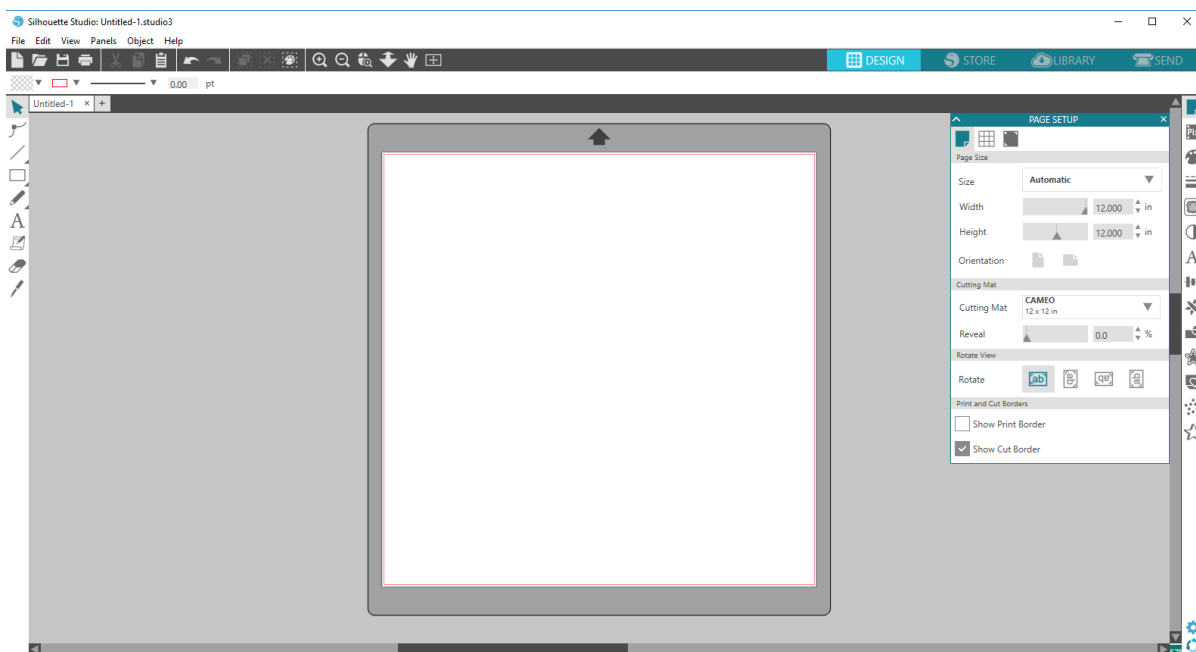## What is Silhouette Studio?

Silhouette Studio® is a software program that gives you the ability to design projects to send to any of The Silhouette DIY electronic cutting machines, like the Silhouette CAMEO®. The basic edition is included with the purchase of each Silhouette. You can also download Silhouette Studio for free even if you don't have a Silhouette electronic cutting machine.

What does Silhouette Studio do?

With the Silhouette Studio software, you can 1) upload design files from the internet into the library, 2) purchase designs from Silhouette's Design Store; or 3) create your own text or design using the tools available around the workspace. Then, the software sends your design to a Silhouette cutting machine to cut your design out of a variety of materials such as paper, cardstock, vinyl or fabric.

**Download a design file from the internet
or from Silhouette's Design Store**

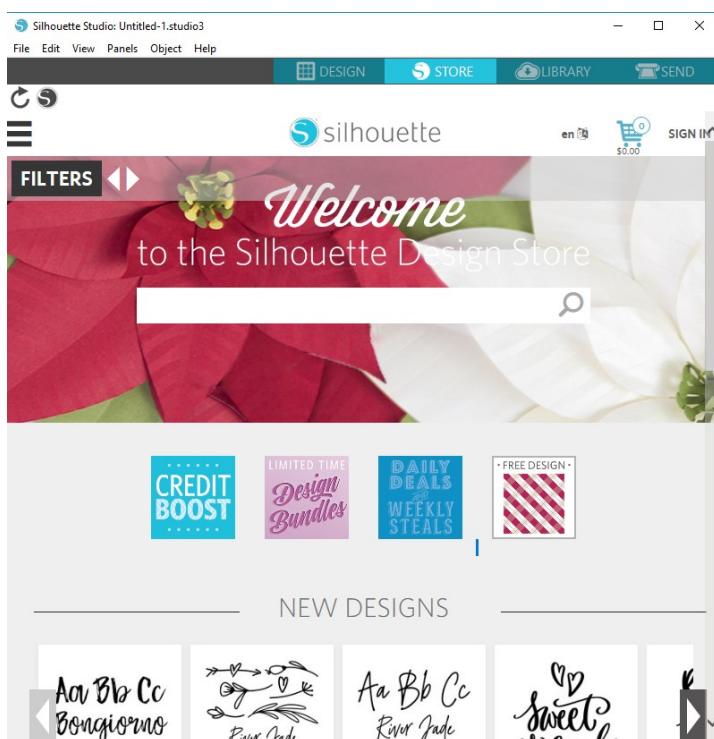**To Download a design file from the internet:**

1. You will need to add your download to the **Library.** The **Library** will save designs that have already been uploaded. There are several blogs and websites that offer free or paid design file downloads. Browse and download the design you want to use.

2. From the home screen, choose (**File** > **Open**) and choose your design file to open it in a workspace.

Accepted design file types:

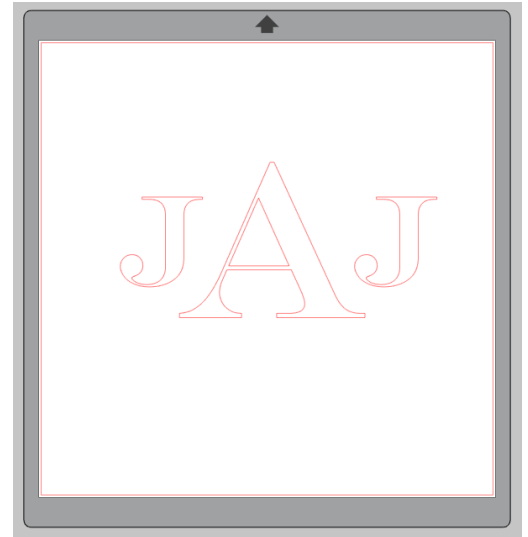**.studio (native)**

.dxf

.gsd

To Download a design file from Silhouette's Design Store:

1. From the home screen, choose **Design Store** in the upper right.

2. You will need a Silhouette Design Store account to use the **Design Store**. There are some free designs available but most cost $1-10.

3. Browse and purchase the design you want to use.

4. Now your design is open in the **Library**.

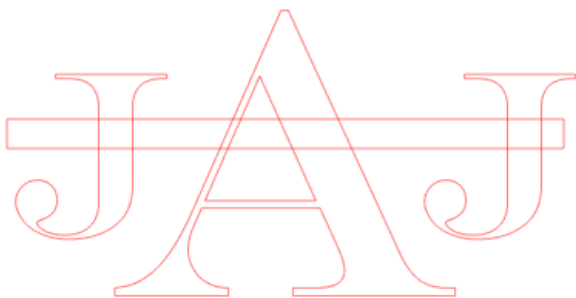## Use the workspace tools to create your own design

1. Open Silhouette Studio. Start with the blank workspace on the home screen.

2. Draw your design using the tools in the toolbars. To see the description of a tool, hover your mouse over the icon. Different tools may appear based on which part of your design you have selected. You can draw lines, rectangles, circles, add text, erase, and more. In this example, we've used the **text tool** to create a monogram.

How to Weld

Joining or **welding** design elements is one of the most fundamental functions of using Studio. **Welding** links things together so they cut as one object instead of individual pieces. Your elements may appear to overlap already, but that doesn't mean they will cut as one piece.

1. To **weld**, select all of the overlapping design elements you want to **weld**.

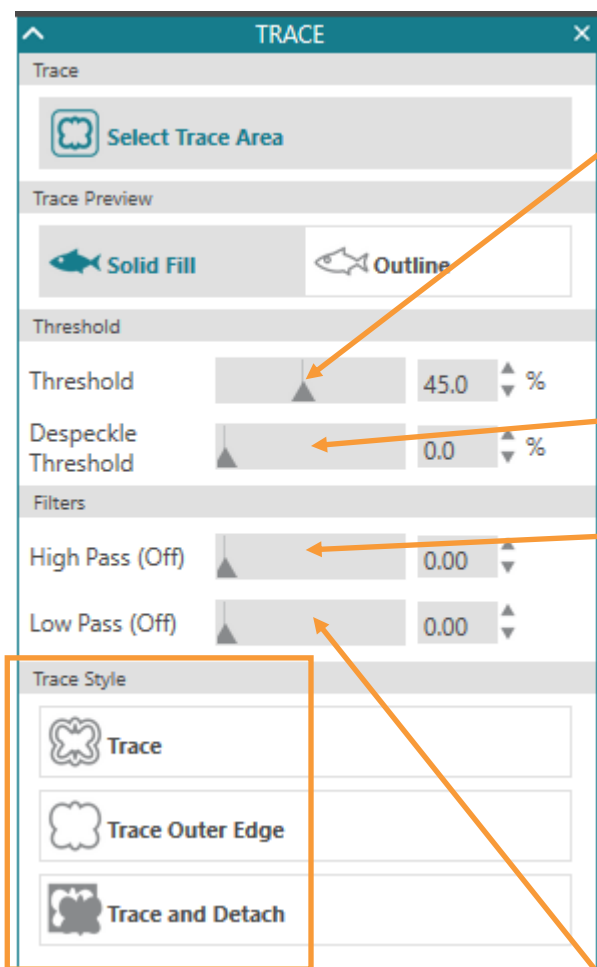2. **Right click** on your selection and then select **Weld**.

Not Welded

Welded

OPTION 3: TRACE A DESIGN FROM ANOTHER IMAGE

TRACE

Trace

Select Trace Area

Trace Preview

Solid Fill | Outline

Threshold

Threshold — 45.0 %

Despeckle Threshold — 0.0 %

Filters

High Pass (Off) — 0.00

Low Pass (Off) — 0.00

Trace Style

Trace

Trace Outer Edge

Trace and Detach

Applying the Trace Tool

- **Trace** will cut all of the edges inside and outside of the image

- **Trace Outer Edge** traces just the outer edge.

- **Trace and Detach** works like a cookie cutter and punches out the traced image (much like a **welded** element).
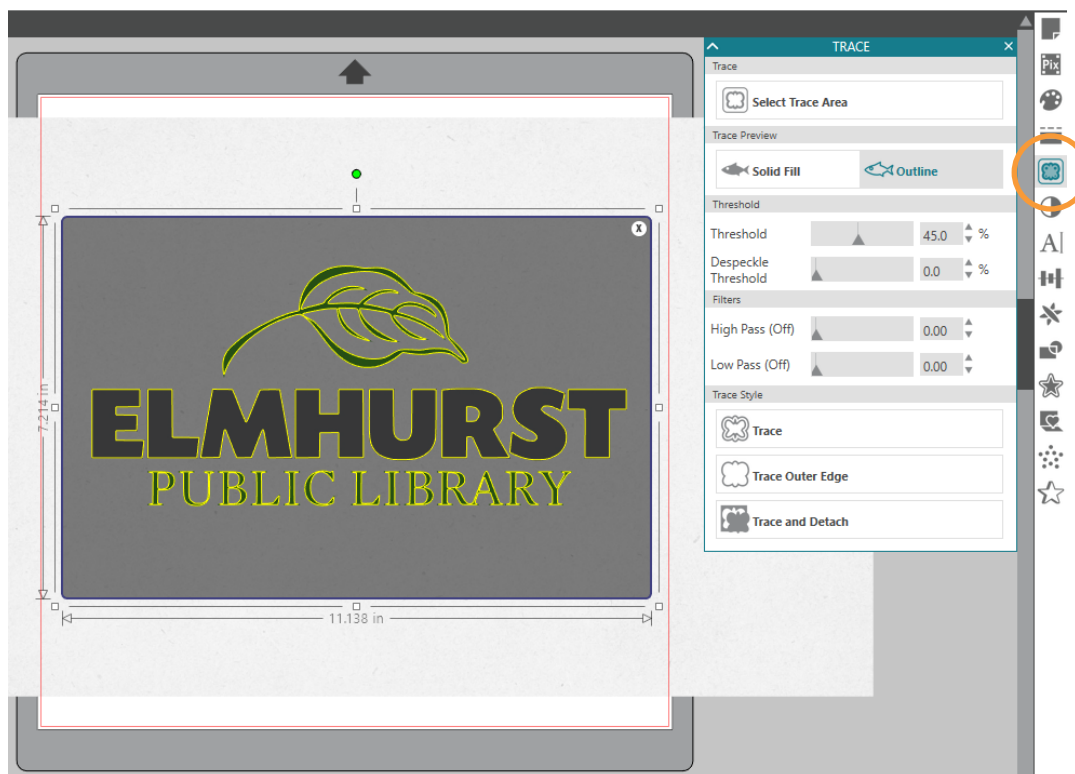
About the Trace Panel

The Threshold Slider determines how the **Trace Tool** reads dark areas. How you adjust the **Threshold Slider** depends on how broadly you want to apply the trace tool to your image. The lower the slider, the more dark areas are included.

The Despeckle Threshold removes isolated pixels known as "noise."

The High Pass Filter finds the details of the edges of the image and works from the outside in, making a frame around the pieces of the image.

If you **lower** the slider, the frame becomes thinner and less detailed.

If you move Value slider **higher**, it finds **more detail** and usually results in a thicker frame. The **High Pass Filter** is useful when tracing line art.

The Low Pass Filter works the opposite of the High Pass Filter. Tracing begins at the center of your image sections working its way out. It also **smooths** the tracing lines, resulting in a cleaner edge.

Trace (almost) any image to create a design using the Trace Tool

1. Choose an image you'd like to trace. Ideally, you want to choose an image that is both high quality and has clear, crisp edges. (**File > Open**) .

2. Click the **Trace symbol** (circled) on the right toolbar to open the **Trace Tool Panel.**

3. Click on **Select Trace Area. Click and Drag** the box around the area that includes everything you want to trace. The default trace settings will apply automatically, highlighted in yellow, with the **High Pass Filter** checked.

4. **Adjust** the **Trace** settings

Accepted file types for the workspace:

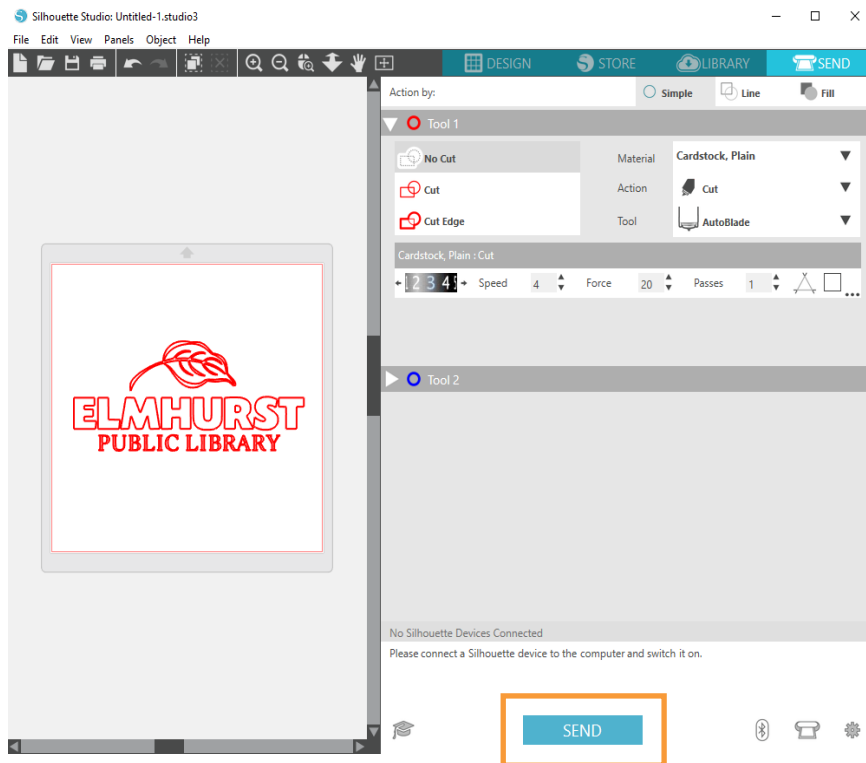|	
.jpg	.gif
.png	.psd
.tif	.pdf
.bmp	

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE: LET'S CUT!

Important tips for before you send your design to your cutting machine.

1. Click **Send** from the main menu and to see a cutting preview of your design. The cut path will be outlined with the **thickest** red line.

2. Make sure you delete any part of the design that you don't want the blade to cut. Remember—you're creating a line for the blade to cut along.

3. If you're cutting single objects, make sure all your lines are connected so the finished cut is clean.

4. Check again and **click Send**!

   Note: For more info on how to prep and load your materials and which cut settings to use (speed, depth, and blade type) please visit The Makery.

To Learn More!

Access tutorials from the Silhouette Studio menu