Laser Cutting

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About

The Laser Cutters in the Technology Lab are only available to current students, faculty, and staff in the School of Architecture community. Use of the laser cutters requires certification and a current Digital Fabrication Subscription. The Technology Lab has five Epilog Fusion Pro Laser Cutters with a cutting bed size of 48" x 36". Details about the material types, along with directions on how to become certified and subscribed, and reserving time are listed below.

Material Vendors

- **Please keep in mind with the vendors listed below that the individual items you purchase must still be on the Approved Materials List and labeled as such along with MSDS**
- **Something on the Prohibited Materials List purchased from one of these vendors is still prohibited**
- **Unverifiable items from the Material Exchange won't be approved to laser cut, even if it appears that the material was previously laser cut**

	Austin Plastics & Supply	Blick	Cerulean Tides	Fine Lumber	GS2 Awards	Home Depot	Interstate Plastics	Inventables	Joann	Johnson Plastics Plus	Lowe's	MakerStock *	W
Acrylic	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Alumamark										Yes			
Anodized Aluminum								Yes		Yes			
Brass (Painted)										Yes			
Bristol									Yes			Yes	
Chip		Yes							Yes			Yes	
Cork		Yes								Yes			
Corrugated Cardboard		Yes											
Glass						Yes							
Leather									Yes	Yes		Yes	
Marble						Yes				Yes			
Matboard		Yes							Yes				
Museum Board		Yes											

Material										
PlywoodNAUF**	Yes			• Yes; Columbia Forest's Purebond (NOT MDF core) • Yes: CanUSA's Sandeply			Yes; "Laserable"			
Solid Wood	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stainless Steel with Cermark Coating							Separately			
Twill						Yes				

*Student discount available.

**MUST have no added formaldehyde (NAUF) (look for soy-based glue)

FAQ

- **Can I cut without making a reservation?**
  - No, you can make a reservation at the Tech Desk if you didn't create one ahead of time
  - Walk-ins must create a reservation on the WebCheckOut portal first
  - You must finish cutting <u>before</u> the next reservation begins
- **Can I sign up for back-to-back timeslots?**
  - We only allow 90 minutes of reserved laser cutter time per day
  - If you need longer, schedule your cuts over multiple days
  - Signing up for more than 90 minutes per day counts as a policy offense
- **Can I pick which laser cutter I want to reserve?**
  - No – the system does not allow you to request a particular machine
  - The reservation types match you to the correct laser cutter ventilation system for your materials
- **But Laser Cutter #X doesn't work well!**
  - If you are having problems with the performance of one of the laser cutters, please let the Tech Desk Staff know immediately so that we can address the problem
  - You <u>must</u> perform a materials test each time you cut
- **Why can't I reserve a Laser Cutter from 11 AM to 12 PM on Tuesdays or Thursdays?**
  - Our team meets from 11 AM to 12 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - In the interest of safety, we lock the laser cutter rooms and don't schedule reservations during that time
- ***What is the Greylist?**
  - Being placed on the Greylist is a consequence of breaking Tech Lab rules as a first warning
  - Placement on the Greylist lasts indefinitely
- ****What is the Blacklist?**
  - Students on the Blacklist lose all privileges to the Tech Lab equipment
  - Being placed on the Blacklist is a consequence of either breaking Tech Lab rules while already on the Greylist or breaking a major rule
  - Students are either on the Blacklist for a two-week period or an entire semester
    - Following the suspension, students are placed back on the Greylist

Support

- Front-line support for Laser Cutting is currently provided by the Technology Desk
  - SUT 1.100
  - soatechdesk@utexas.edu
  - 512-471-1189
- Tier 2 support for Laser Cutting is currently provided by TRIG (Technology Resources and Innovation Group)
  - trig@utexas.edu
  - SUT 1.120

Documentation

How-to Articles

Title	Last Updated
How to Prepare the Laser Cutter	Spring 2023
How to Prepare Your File for Laser Cutting	Fall 2023
How to Prepare Your File for Laser Engraving	Spring 2023
How to Release a Job from the Laser Cutter	Spring 2023
How to Reserve a Laser Cutter	Spring 2024
How to Sign into Patron Portal	Spring 2024
How to Submit a Job to the Laser Cutter	Spring 2023

Processes

Title	Last Updated
Patron Portal Billing	Spring 2024

Troubleshooting

Title	Last Updated
Troubleshooting Laser | C02 Air Assist	Spring 2023
Troubleshooting Laser | Rhino Linework & Objects Not Showing	

Policies

Title	Last Updated
Approved Laser Cutter Materials	Spring 2023
Laser Cutting Policies	Spring 2024
Prohibited Laser Cutter Materials	Spring 2023
Sales Policies	Spring 2024
Suggested Material Settings	Spring 2024

Examples

Title
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