

Contour Cutting Using Cutting Master 2

Cutting Master 2 allows you to use a cutter to cut a contour on printed output generated on a separate printer. This produces output similar to that of a hybrid printer/cutter device.

In order to cut a contour on a printed job, you need to do the following:

1. Create the design for the job in your design application.
2. Add registration marks that will allow Cutting Master 2 to align the cut contour with the printed job.
3. Output the printed parts of your design.
4. Load the printed media into your cutter.
5. Output the contour part of your design on your cutter.

Designing a Job for Virtual Hybrid Output

When designing a job for virtual hybrid output, the most important thing is that you should be able to separate the printed parts of the job from the cut parts of the job.

This can be done in two ways:

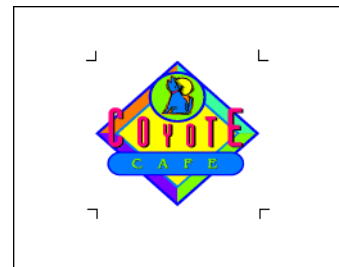
- By placing printed and cut elements on separate layers and then hiding the layers you do not want to output.
- By manually selecting the elements you want to print or cut, and then printing or cutting only the selected elements.

Of these two methods, we recommend using separate layers to isolate printed and cut elements, as this works much better with complex designs.

Adding Registration Marks to the Print Job

The Cutting Master 2 plug-in allows you to add registration marks to your design. These registration marks can then be used to align a contour cut with the printed output.

The registration marks are added in their own separate, locked layer of the design.



Do not change the name assigned to the layer containing the registration marks.

The registration marks must be printed out in order to be used for automatic alignment of a contour cut. The marks themselves will not be contour cut.

There are two ways to add registration marks to a design:

- Adding registration marks automatically.
- Adding a rectangle to the design and replacing it with registration marks.

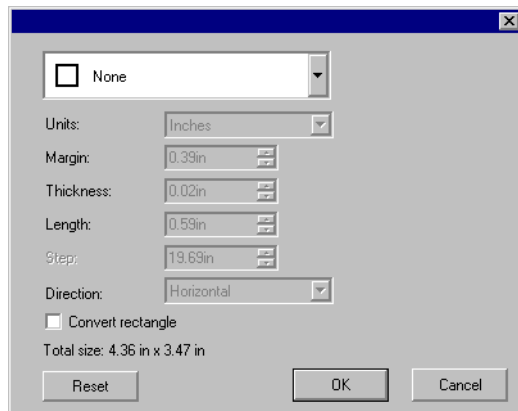
If the design is changed or resized after the registration marks are added, you will need to remove the registration marks and add them again in order to properly indicate the new size of the job. Registration marks do not automatically update when a job is edited or resized.

Adding Registration Marks Automatically

If no object is selected, Cutting Master 2 will automatically add registration marks around your design.

To add registration marks to your design:

1. Open your job in the design application.
2. Access the Registration Marks dialog using one of the following methods:
 - In Adobe Illustrator, from the **File** menu, select **Cutting Master 2** then **Registration marks**.
 - In CorelDRAW, select **Registration Marks** from the Corel Application Launcher. The Corel Application Launcher is a list in the standard toolbar that lets you launch other applications from within CorelDRAW. It uses the following icons, depending on your version of CorelDraw:



3. Select the desired registration mark from the topmost list.

<input type="checkbox"/>	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Graphtec Type 1 Automatic

<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphtec Type 2 Automatic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Graphtec Segment Area Type 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphtec Segment Area Type 2

Graphtec Segment Area Type 1 and **Graphtec Segment Area Type 2** marks are for CE5000 and FC7000 cutters only.

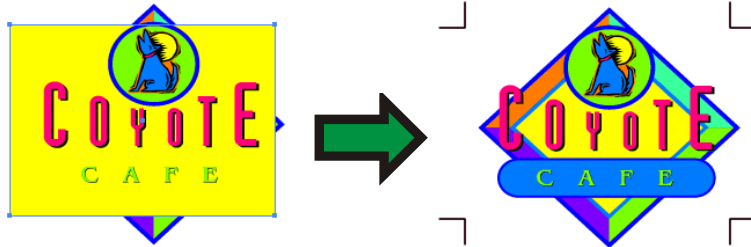
4. Set the following options:

Units	The unit of measurement.
Margin	The distance between the registration marks and the job.
Thickness	The thickness of the line that makes up the registration marks.
Length	The size of the registration marks, measured along one side.
Step	For the segment area type marks, the maximum distance between segment marks.
Direction	If checked, Segment Area type marks will be rotated 90 degrees
Convert Rectangle	If checked, the registration marks will be placed around the border of the selected rectangle. The rectangle will then be deleted, leaving only the registration marks.
Total size	The dimensions of the area covered by both the job and the registration marks together.

5. Click **OK**.

Replacing a Rectangle with Registration Marks

If a rectangle is created in the design application, and is selected when the Registration Marks dialog is opened, Cutting Master 2 can use it as a bounding box for the registration marks. The registration marks will be placed on the border of the rectangle, and then the rectangle will be deleted, leaving only the registration marks.



To replace a rectangle with registration marks:

1. Open your job in the design application.
2. Draw the rectangle that you want to use as a bounding box.
3. Access the Registration Marks dialog (see previous instructions).
4. Make sure the **Convert Rectangle** option is checked.
5. Set any other desired options (see previous instructions).
6. Click **OK**.

Removing Registration Marks

To remove the registration marks, do one of the following:

- Repeat the procedure used to add the marks, but select **None**.
- Unlock and delete the layer that contains the registration marks.

Outputting the Printed Parts of the Design

To output the printed parts of the design:

1. Hide the layer or layers which contain the contour cuts.
2. Make sure the layer or layers which contain the printed part of the design are visible.
3. Use the standard printing function of the design application to send the job to your printer.

Loading the Printed Media into Your Cutter

Once the printed parts of the job have been output, allow the ink to dry (if necessary), then remove the media from the printer and load it into your cutter.

Be sure to orient the printed media so that the registration marks are not upside down, as this can cause problems.



Load the media into the cutter then position the head over the registration mark located at the bottom right corner when facing the cutter.

Outputting the Contours to Your Cutter

To output the contour cut part of your design:

1. Hide the layer or layers that contain the printed part of your design.
2. Make sure the layer or layers that contain the contour cuts are visible.
3. Use the Cut/Plot dialog to send the output to Cutting Master 2.
4. Send the cut job to the cutter from Cutting Master 2, if necessary.