Laser Cutting Reminders

- Use the [Digital Lab Project Request form](#) to submit a request for your project.
- Time required to complete your project will be dependent on the complexity and size.
- These processes and materials are experimental, so some results may be unexpected and hard to replicate. We will do our best to work with you but shop staff are not responsible for these unexpected results.
- If any of these processes are new to you or you have any questions about your project, please see shop staff.
- Your file must be ready to run. Whether your file is ready to run is at the discretion of shop staff. Problems with your file may increase how long it takes to complete your project.
- Save file for Illustrator (ai, psd, jpg, tiff, pdf, etc.)
- Send your file and request form to the Digital Lab at digitallab@mcad.edu
- Drop off your material to the 3D Shop Digital Lab
- Set up your file with the correct colors and line weights
    - To cut out shapes: RGB 255 **Red** and .001" line thickness
    - To engrave lines: RGB 255 **Blue** and .001" line thickness
    - To engrave photos or solid shapes: **Black and Shades of Gray**
        - Line thickness can vary based on how wide you want the line to look
        - The darker the shade of Gray the deeper the engraving and the darker the burn
- Be aware of max. size limitations
    - Large laser cutter: 24" x 36"
    - Small laser cutter: 18" x 32"
    - Max thickness for cutting through:
        - Small Laser: ¼"
        - Large Laser: ½"
    - Max thickness for engraving: 8" (small) & 12" (large)
- Check with shop staff about your material choice. Some materials aren't able to be laser cut or create toxic fumes. Doing some research on the internet beforehand can be helpful.
- The cost of laser cutting is based on the time to run your project. The cost has increased this semester to $1.00 per minute. This is to cover increased maintenance of the machines and shop technician time.
- Appointments are available if you would like to be present for the start of your project. Please offer a few times that you are available when you send in your request. Digital Lab staff will coordinate a time with you.
- Please keep an eye on your email. Shop staff will contact you with any questions or next steps.
- If you choose to receive a cost estimate or test cut, you will receive an email when they are ready for approval. You will need to approve them before we will run your full project.
- Please confirm that your papercut account has enough funds for your project. Your account will be charged before it is started.
- You will receive an email when your project is ready to pick up. Completed projects will be available for pick up on the shelf next to the Digital Lab desk.