
Cricut Crafts: Layering Iron-On Vinyl with Amber of Damask Love

Chapter 1 - Layering Vinyl

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hey there, it's Amber from Damask Love and I'm excited to be bringing you another project using the cricut maker. Today, I'm gonna be answering one of the most popular questions I get, which is, how do you layer vinyl? Well, in today's class, I'm gonna show you how to slice and contour in design space. I'm gonna show you how to layer vinyl on an iron-on project, and I'm gonna show you how to use the cricut easy press to apply the iron-on to your project. It's easy and it's a great way to use less vinyl, 'cause that stuff can be expensive. Today, we're making a tote bag, which is one my favorite projects. It's easy and it's functional, so once you're done, you can tote all of your fancy stuff to the beach. (upbeat music)

Materials

- To make our tote bag, you're gonna need a few supplies. You'll need some iron on vinyl. And I just have some scraps here which is great for a project like this. A piece of scrap fabric that's at least 12 by 12, a weeding tool. You'll need your laptop computer or some other way to access Cricut Design Space. You'll need your Cricut maker, the Cricut Easy Press, the Cricut Easy Press Pad. You'll need a cutting mat as well as a canvas tote bag.

Design and cut out pieces on Cricut

- Before we get started cutting anything, we're going to open up Cricut Design Space. I already have it open here on my laptop. And I'm gonna click New Project to open up a new canvas. I know that for this project I want to use a palm tree. So I'm gonna click over on Images and then search the word palm tree. Right here is the image I want. And you'll notice there's a little A in the top left corner. That means this image is part of Cricut Access. Which is a subscription program that you can use to get the most out of your design space. Essentially you pay a yearly fee and get access to thousands of images. Once I've selected my image, I'm going to click Insert Images. Now my image pops up right here on my canvas. Here's a little tip. Because I'm designing a tote bag, I want to make sure that my image is sized to the tote bag I'm making. I know that my tote bag is 13 by 17 inches. And so I'm just gonna make a square that's 13 by 17 inches on my canvas. I'm not gonna use this square for anything other than sizing, but it is a helpful template so that I know that everything is the right size. Now that I've sized the square to the size of my tote bag, I'm gonna go ahead and move my image on top and drag it until it's about the size I want. That looks good to me. Now I can delete that square because I don't really need it anymore. Now it's time to start prepping our project to layer. When you enter your image into Design Space, go over to the top right corner and click Ungroup. As you drag each layer of the project, you'll see that there's several layers that comprise each image. You've got this big palm tree image in the back with another palm tree image on the front. And they get smaller as you go. Now we don't want to have to cut all of these out because it wastes material and it creates bulk when we pile them on top of each other on top of our tote bag. So I'm gonna show you how to separate them so that you only have what you need. First, let's start with the largest two layers. So I'm gonna put that dark brown palm tree on top of the light brown. Then I'm gonna drag and select them both. And move down to the bottom right corner and click Slice. By slicing, I have separated out the non essential pieces from the essential pieces. So I

can delete what I don't need. Like I don't need that piece. I don't need these little things over here. But when you notice here, you have on your image the sliced image, you have these little things I like to call shards. I don't know if that's actually what they're called, but that's what I, that's the word I've made up for them. And we don't want those to cut when we cut our vinyl. So I'm gonna click on that image and show you another cool trick. Go down to the bottom right and click Contour. The contour feature is essentially something that divides up each piece that makes up a single image. Now since I don't want those little shards, I'm just gonna click on them one at a time, and design space is gonna remove them from my image. This way I only cut out what I want. And I don't get those little extra bits in my image. Once I'm done, close it. And now you see, I have that bottom piece there which is all I need to make the sand on my palm tree. Now let's move to isolate the trunk. We're going to layer the brown and the green. I'm gonna move that green piece up front by just moving it forward. And I'm gonna layer it on top. Now I'll select both of those, and click Slice. So we're repeating that same technique over and over again to isolate the pieces that we need. And deleting the things we don't. I don't need that. And again, you see here we have all those shards. So I'm gonna go over to Contour and I'm gonna delete them just by clicking on them. It's pretty simple. (clicking) All right, that should do it. And there we go. Now we have the tree trunk. That fits right on top of the sand. And the last thing we want to do is isolate the palm fronds. So to do that I'm gonna move the smaller palm frond on top of the larger one. Just like that. Again, go to Slice. Separate. Delete what I don't need. And then, go back into Contour and get rid of those little shards. There we go. Now you can see instead of having a bunch of large layers, we have isolated just what we need to assemble a full palm tree image. Your pocketbook will thank you because this way you use a lot less material on your project. Now, as much as I love a palm tree, I do feel like I think my bag should say something on it so I'm gonna head back over to Images on the left side. And I'm gonna type in the word beach. Let's see what comes up. There's lot of choices for what I could put on my beach bag. But I want to find one that's kinda simple and is just one layer. Here's one that says Trip 2 the Beach, which is great for our theme on our tote bag and also it's a part of the Cricut Access subscription, which means we can get it without paying extra money. Now that we've got our project designed in Design Space, it's time to start cutting. You want to make sure your laptop or mobile device is connected to your Cricut Maker and that your Cricut Maker is loaded with the fine point blade. Now I'm gonna move up to the top right corner of Design Space and click Make It. This is now gonna show me all of the mats required to assemble my project. You'll want to make sure that you click Mirror on each layer because we're using iron-on. Whenever you're using an iron-on material, you always need to click mirror. Trust me, if you don't, you will be very unhappy because you will have wasted that precious material. Now that I've clicked Mirror, I'm ready to go to Continue. I'll select the device I'm using. In this case, it's my Cricut Maker. And wait for the two to connect. Then, I want to select the material I'm using. So I can go to Browse All Materials. So I'm gonna type in iron and that should pull up all of the iron-on results. For this layer, I'm just using a standard iron-on material, so that's what I'm gonna choose and click Done. Now, I've got everything ready to go and it's time to put my material on to the mat. You're gonna place the material face down, which means shiny side down. Rub it in to place. Then bring it over to the machine, place the mat under those two guides on the left and right side until you meet resistance and then press the arrow. (machine whirring) Now we're ready to cut. Just click the flashing C and you're ready to go. (machine whirring) We've already cut our first layer. You see how quickly that goes because we did all of that slicing? We don't have to wait for big pieces to cut. Press the flashing arrow to unload. And now we're ready to move on to the next piece of iron-on. (machine whirring) For the palm

fronds on our project, we're using glitter vinyl. So before we cut it, we're gonna go up here and change the material setting. Because glitter vinyl is a little thicker than standard. Again, type in the word iron. I find Glitter Iron-On. And now that's the material that my machine is ready to cut. (machine whirring) Now that we've cut out all of our vinyl pieces, it's time to prep for assembly.

Assemble vinyl pieces

- Before we place our design onto our tote bag, we'll need to weed away all the excess vinyl that's left behind on the design. When you're doing that, you wanna look to see if there are any big chunks of unused vinyl, because it's kinda smart to go ahead and trim those away with scissors. Because once we peel away the vinyl, you can't use it, and so this way, we can maybe salvage a few scraps that we can use for another project. Now I'm gonna grab my weeding tool and start weeding away the excess vinyl. Now that I've got all of my pieces laid out, I want to go ahead and kind of do a sample layout to see how they all layer together. So I'll start with the trunk and then bring in those palm fronds to make sure they fit right on top, and they do. And then I'll kind of see how this piece fits in. It's kind of like putting together a puzzle, but with vinyl. And then the sand will fit just down here, and look at that. It's perfectly layered. So now we can actually iron this into place. Now I'm gonna place my mat underneath my project and set my Easypress to the recommended settings. For this project, I'm going to set the temperature to 270 degrees and the timer to 30 seconds, and then wait for it to come to temp before I start ironing on my vinyl. (beeping) It's a good idea before you start placing your vinyl onto your project to use the Easypress to just warm up the fabric a little bit. I find that this helps the vinyl adhere a little bit better and it's a quick fix, so why not do it? To adhere our vinyl, I'm just gonna start with the trunk since that's kinda the base of our tree and place it onto my canvas bag. Then I'll grab my Easypress, place it directly on top, press the green start button, and that will kind of start that timer. So I don't have to keep track of anything. I just need to wait until it beeps and I'll take it off. (beeping) Now that that beep has gone off, I know that I can take off my Easypress. I like to let this cool just a minute and then remove the backing. I love the Easypress. It takes all the guesswork out of getting perfect vinyl application every time. Now we're going to add the next layer, which is the palm frond, and I'm gonna nest it right on top of the trunk. Since I'm using glitter vinyl, the settings on my Easypress do change. For glitter vinyl, it's recommended to set your Easypress at 340 degrees, so I'm gonna do that, and then, again, wait for it to come up to temperature. (beeping) Now that I've got my palm fronds in place, I do wanna use that carrier sheet that I removed from the trunk to cover up that exposed vinyl. The reason for that is when I put my Easypress onto my project, I don't want it to have any direct contact with any vinyl. That would ruin everything (laughs) and you would be really upset. (beeping) Okay, another successful layer adhered. Peel back. Peel back that carrier sheet we placed. Now it's time to add that second layer of palm fronds and here you just wanna kind of move it in until it fits, just like a puzzle, and there we go, and here's where I like to use a piece of scrap fabric. Because, again, I don't want my Easypress to touch any of those exposed pieces of vinyl. So I'm gonna cover the entire thing with a piece of fabric to protect it. (beeping) The last thing we have to do is add the sand and our lettering. Now since they both are on different parts of the design, we can iron them on at the same time. It also helps that they're both the same material. I'll cover up again with that scrap piece of fabric and then place my Easypress on top. (beeping) And there you have it, your beautiful tote bag using that layered vinyl technique. Now I prefer the Easypress for this project because it has even heating and it has that awesome temperature and timer feature. But if you don't have an Easypress at home, you can use your iron. Just make sure there's no steam, because that will affect

the iron-on process and it usually doesn't work. All right, my project's done. I am taking all my fancy things and I'm headed for my trip to the beach.