Cricut Crafts: Get to Know Your Machine with Natalie Malan

Chapter 1 - Get to Know Your Machine

Overview

(upbeat pop music) - Hi my name is Natalie Malan. I'm a illustrator and surface designer and I am here to tell you about the Cricut Wild Rose and some of the really fun projects and things you can create with this machine. In this class we're gonna be unboxing this fun machine and showing you everything that's included in the bundle, three different ways to connect your machine to cut out your projects, and then how to apply your Cricut hashtags that come included in the bundle, and also how to cut your own. You're gonna love it! Opening your box and getting started is definitely the most intimidating part but you will be so excited to see how many fun projects you can make with just this one machine. (whimsical pop music)

Unboxing the Cricut Wild Rose bundle

- One thing I'm really excited about with this particular bundle is the fact that it comes with a huge selection of vinyl. It even comes with printable vinyl, so you can play with that too. It comes with the tools you need, and it even has something that you can apply your first project to. All right, let's get started and open this box. The first thing is your Light Grip mat. This is so perfect for vinyl and paper. Got our fun Creativebug subscription right there. This is the removable vinyl that comes included in the machine. This is the premium permanent vinyl. This is dishwasher-friendly. That's the difference between the two. So, there's two different kinds, and it's nice that they're packaged and labeled. This is your StrongGrip Transfer Tape. This is what you're gonna use to transfer the shimmer vinyl onto your projects. This is just your regular transfer tape. You'll use this for just normal vinyl. The shimmer vinyl has a little bit of texture, so you'll want to make sure that you're using a StrongGrip tape. This is the shimmer vinyl. Everyone's so excited about this, and it's beautiful and it cuts beautifully, so I'm pretty excited about it, too. And then inside of this bag come your precut hashtags. There's five hashtags included inside of here. There's #fearless, #selfmade, #original, #bold&beautiful, and #momboss. This paper shows you if you're looking for the #wildrosecommunity, that's the hashtag that we're using to share projects made with this particular machine, so put on your hashtag and tell us what kind of creator you are. This is your Cricut Explore Air 2 welcome guide, and it shows you all the fun projects and different inspirational photos, and things that you can make with your new machine. There's a great little section here about the different colors of mats, and what they mean, and what they're used for. There's a great reference guide also on how to insert different tools into your machine. And then this one is the printable vinyl, which I am super excited about making projects for this. Let's take out our Cricut. So exciting. Now, down in the bottom of the box you'll find the gold weeder, which I'm thrilled about. I've wanted a gold weeder forever. And it even comes with a gold scraper tool, as well. You'll be using this a lot in your projects if you're doing paper cuts and intricate patterns. This is your USB cable for connecting to a computer via the cable, and this is your power cord. Your machine also comes with a .4 tip black pen. Alright, now let's move this box out of the way, and open up the Cricut. It comes in a reusable bag that you can use to protect your Cricut, keep it free of dust, and you can even travel with it. ("Symphony No. 9 in D Minor" by Ludwig van Beethoven) Inside of your machine there are these handy little spots to keep your tools. There's also another spot in the top corner where you can place your tools while you're working. This other little door has a great little spot to keep

© Natalie Malan and Creativebug Inc., 2026

your deep cut blades or your extra cutting blades. Now, we're gonna open it one more time because it's so satisfying. ("Symphony No. 9 in D Minor" by Ludwig van Beethoven) This is everything included in the Cricut Wild Rose bundle. You don't even have to worry about mixing up your vinyl because it's labeled on the back for you, removable versus permanent.

Connecting your machine

- Lets start with connecting your Cricut to your computer. First thing you wanna do is to plug in and power on your machine. Next we'll plug in your USB port to your computer. And then we will head to cricut.com I have already logged into my account but if you haven't created one yet you'll wanna your email and setup an account on cricut.com We're gonna head to design space and new project. The first thing that it prompts you to do is to download a design space plugin. It seems kinda scary but it's totally fine that just helps us keep your design space running smoothly. So I downloaded it. Once it's downloaded I will double click the zip file to open it and then double click that opened file to install. You can read through the terms of use it talks about all the different policies and then click install. And then done. If you want to there's a included tutorial you can go through and start the tutorial or you're ready to go ahead and start your project. You can also connect via Bluetooth. First you go to system preferences and then you'll find the one that says Bluetooth, click on that. Right here it says this is our CricutAIR2, the 03D9 is actually part of your serial number on the bottom of your Cricut machine and right next to the machine name it will say pair. Click on pair. And wait for your machine to connect. Now head back into design space, click on new project and you're ready to start creating. The third way you can connect is using your mobile device. Like an iPhone or an iPad. The first thing we wanna do is go to settings, Bluetooth, you'll see all your Bluetooth devices right here and then at the bottom your CricutAIR will pop up. Click on that CricutAIR. And then it will ask you for your pin, your pin is always gonna be 0000 and then hit pair. Now that you're connected, you can go on into the Cricut design space app and start creating. The design space app is available for free on the App Store.

Applying vinyl

- It's time for our first project. You don't even have to have your machine plugged in for this one. The machine bundle comes with five pre-cut and weeded hashtags, all ready to go. I'm gonna use the fearless hashtag and we're gonna place it right here on the machine. The first thing I need to do is measure and cut my transfer tape. So I'm just gonna do a rough cut, it doesn't have to be the exact same size as my hashtag... (paper cutting) as long as it's larger than the image you wanna transfer. (scissors cutting) So we'll begin by pulling this tape from the corner. This is the piece that we actually wanna use. If you have a hard time getting that corner to start, you can use the tip of your weeder and kind of pop it open. (tape peeling) So I saved this and I like to reuse it again later. We'll just place it centered and use our scraper to burnish it down. (scraping) You want really good adhesion right here. (scraping) And then we'll turn it over. (tape peeling) And one of my favorite tips is, instead of doing it this way and pulling it off, I always make sure I turn it over and remove the backing at a really sharp angle right here. (tape peeling) You'll have better success getting all of the pieces to pop right onto your transfer tape. Now we're ready to apply it to our machine. (scraping) So we're just gonna stick it on right where you want it and then burnish it again with our Cricut scraper... and then I like to use the tip of this, and peel it off. (tape peeling) And now your first project all done, hashtag fearless.

© Natalie Malan and Creativebug Inc., 2026

Cut your own vinyl
- Now I'm going to show you how to cut these hashtags on your own. On your computer you'll notice this fun little Cricut icon and if you click on it it says Launch Design Space which pulls up Design Space. Now I'm already logged in right here but if you haven't logged in it'll pop up and say two different things. It'll either say log in with your username and password or it will ask you to create a new login. I'm gonna click on New Project and I've got a blank canvas here. And I want to add an image. The image we wanna use is the empowerment hashtag. And then I'm gonna look through and find the image that I wanna use, this cute one that says original. It's all the way down at the bottom. I'll click on it. You can select more than one image at once. If you wanna do more than one you can. I'm just gonna select the one and click on Insert Image. And then right here I will size my image to six inches. You can drag it and it will tell you the current size as you drag. Or if you wanna type it into a really specific exact dimension you can click the width and the height up in the top menu bar. And then we'll click on Make It. And we're ready to cut. Let's go over to our machine. First you'll wanna set it to custom for our shimmer vinyl. The next thing you'll see is to set your material. You have a couple options right here. You can click on Favorites and add certain things that you do a lot to your favorites category. I've been doing a lot of shimmer vinyl, a lot of patterned iron-on. You can select those and add them here, I'll show you how. Or Popular will give you just a whole bunch of different ones. We're gonna look exactly for the material we're using by going to Browse all materials and typing in shimmer or vinyl. And right here it pops up Premium Vinyl Shimmer. If you wanted to add this to your Favorites you would click the star and then you would see it appear in that Favorites menu from now on. Then we'll click Done. The Pressure menu right here, let's say that your blade is really, you've been using it for a while and it's gotten a little bit dull. You could click on More pressure so it would cut a little bit deeper. Default has always worked really well for me. And we're ready to put our shimmer vinyl onto our mat. The Cricut design space is gonna automatically put you into paper saving mode. What does that mean? That means it's gonna put your image in the top left-hand corner. But let's say I was using this sheet of vinyl and I'd already used this top corner piece, you can come into Edit right here on your computer and then you can move your image around to anywhere on the vinyl that you want. And this mat corresponds to the mat that you're gonna be putting into your machine. So you just have to keep those things in mind when you're working on this. We want it in the top left corner. So we're gonna click Done. Now we're ready to load our mat. The first thing I like to do is take my protective cover off. I always make sure I save this because it keeps your mats nice and sticky. You don't want them to get dusty or dirty 'cause they won't last quite as long. Another tip that I love is rolling up your vinyl makes it a lot easier to place it onto the mat. So I'll roll it up. Sometimes I even keep the paper tube inside the middle of it and just roll it straight down onto my mat. Now we're ready to load it in. You need to press the Load/Unload button and at the same time you want kind of an even pressure right here on the end so that your mat doesn't skew as you're placing it in the machine. As soon as your mat is loaded you just need to press the blinking Cricut light. Now that your machine's done cutting we'll unload the mat. This is a brand new mat so it's gonna be a little bit stickier than the rest of the times you're using it. Again, I like to pull this way. Or the very best way you can unload your mat is to turn it over and peel the mat away from whatever it is that you're cutting. The mats are really nice and bendy and you're not gonna hurt your mat by doing it this way. Let's prep this for weeding by cutting it out. Now you wanna weed off everything that's not a part of your image. So where all this white space is, everything that's right there is what we wanna pick off with our weeding tool. Because we're using the shimmer vinyl we wanna make sure that we're using strong

© Natalie Malan and Creativebug Inc., 2026

grip transfer tape. If you use the regular transfer tape, it's just not gonna stick to the texture of your shimmer vinyl. Cut your strong grip transfer tape the same size as your image or maybe just a tiny bit larger. And then we're ready to peel. You wanna place your strong grip transfer tape on top, burnish it really well with your Cricut scraper, and then my favorite tip again is to turn it over and remove the paper backing with the paper backing on top. Now we're just ready to apply it to our project. Gonna get it nice and centered, burnish it, and then slowly peel this off. If you can peel it at a sharper angle it will peel off a little bit more easily. All done. Now that you've seen some of the fun projects you can start creating with your new Cricut Wild Rose, I have one last tip for you before we go, and that is to put your clear protective sheet back on your mat so it stays nice and sticky for your next project. And also be sure to hashtag Wild Rose Cricut so we can see the fun things you create.

© Natalie Malan and Creativebug Inc., 2026