Glowforge Projects: Engraved Slate Tray with Lauren Marcinek

Chapter 1 - Glowforge Projects: Engraved Slate Tray
Overview
(upbeat music) - Hi, everyone, my name is Lauren Marcenik. I am a member of the Creativebug family, and I'm gonna be making a slate tray using the Glowforge. Slate is one of my favorite materials to engrave on. I really the love the contrast between the slate and the design, and the Glowforge makes it super easy to create a personalized gift for a friend or for yourself. I'm gonna walk you through how to upload your design, enter your settings to engrave on slate, and assemble the tray with the hardware. (upbeat music)

Etching and constructing the tray
- You'll only need a few things to get started with this project. The materials I have here I found online. They include a slate tray, along with the hardware. You'll also need a screwdriver to assemble the handles, a piece of chalk, a measuring tape, your laptop, Glowforge, and filter. I'm using the Glowforge Pro, but you can use any of the versions of the Glowforge to complete this project. I've already gone ahead and turned on my Glowforge and logged into my design library, so now I'm ready to upload my file. When you're thinking about the type of file you wanna use, .SVG is always the best, but you could always use .JPEG and .PNG as well. You're just not gonna get as defined of lines with those types of files, so I'm gonna hit upload, MapleLeaf.svg, I'm gonna open, and it's gonna process and upload. In terms of how to design this file, there are a lot of platforms that you can use. Some are paid, some are free. I personally like to use Vecteezy to design my files. There's also tons of free and paid files that are available online. You can search for those using free SVG files, and there's a lot of variety that'll come up that way. The Design Library has gone ahead and uploaded my artwork that I'm gonna be using. I can drag this back and forth. At this point, my next step is going to be prepping my material to add to the Glowforge chamber so that I can position this on there and then print, so I'm going to take my slate mat. I'm gonna use my tape measure and my chalk to mark off the center point on this slate. That'll make it a lot easier for me to center the design on the slate plate to ensure that I placed it in the right place, and it's gonna come out straight, and lookin' good. So the tray is 14 inches, I'm gonna go ahead and mark a seven, approximately. And then we go, the 10, so I'm gonna mark at the five. I'm gonna bring these two together, so that is my approximate center point. Now we're ready to place the slate into the Glowforge. Now that the camera's showing my slate tray, I am good to go ahead and position the design on the tray. You'll see the white little cross right here, that's my center point, so I'm gonna position this right over that, we'll see that the stem runs right through it, so we're good on that front. You can also compare where these dots line up with that, move it up just a bit, and it looks centered. Since I didn't purchase my materials through Glowforge, I'm gonna have to manually enter my settings, so to do that, I'll click over on the lefthand column on the design, Enter Settings, I want to engrave, I'm gonna click Manual. I want full power, so the speed will read 1,000, and I want that to indicate full power as well. The lines per inch, it defaults to 225, that's okay. And the number of passes, the number of passes is really gonna influence the contrast between the slate and the design. I always say it's better to go with more passes than less, just because if it does its first pass, and you feel like there's enough contrast, or it's engraved deep enough, you can stop the machine using the button, and then you can cancel it, and then you're good to go, but it will continue on to

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that additional pass if you need it. It's very hard to do an engraved piece, and then decide to reprint to do a second pass to get the lines to add up identically. That presents some challenges, so I'm gonna go with two passes, just to be safe, and we can stop it after one if we need to, but that way, it's there if we need it. All set up there, I'm gonna hit Back. The next is I need to enter in some information about the type of material that's in there, so right now, it's reading Unknown. If we click on that, it's gonna give us some options. We're gonna click this Use Uncertified Material. It's gonna ask for the thickness. The default that I use when it fits on the crumb tray, if I don't have to take it out because it's super thick, is .25. I'm gonna Submit. Make sure our settings are in there, all right. Perfect, so you'll see that it's illuminating blue and purple, and so that means that it acknowledges that the artwork is uploaded, that it is placed on the item, and it means you're good to go, so you'll see the Ready that is in the upper right-hand corner. At this point, we're ready to turn our filter on, and hit Print. (fan whirring) Click on Print. When the button starts flashing, you're ready to start engraving. (fans whirring) My slate tray only needed one pass, so it's done, and ready to be taken out. I've turned my machine off, and you'll see that on the slate tray, there's still a little bit of chalk and dust residue. We're gonna go ahead and just wipe that off. You can use a wet baby wipe, or just a rag. Now we're gonna go ahead and assemble the tray by adding the handles, so in advance, you'll just need to unscrew the backs. Next, I'm gonna take the tray, I'm gonna hold the handle. I'm gonna feed the screw through the back. At this point, I'm just gonna secure it a little bit. I'll finish off with a screwdriver, I'll do the same on the other side. Now I'm gonna take my screwdriver to really secure it. And you wanna be careful, you want this to be tight, but you don't want it to be too tight. If you tighten it too much, then it will start to have the handle on the front scrape the slate, and you don't want that to chip. I'm gonna do the same thing on this side. All right, test it real quick, and you're all done. Now you're ready to wow your guests at your next gathering.

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