

Roland GS-24 Vinyl Cutter Quick Reference Guide

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Part 1: Adobe Illustrator

- i. Open Adobe Illustrator CC
- ii. Select an image that has 2 drastically different tones, light and dark.
- iii. Click Object > Image Trace > Make and Expand
This will give you vector lines, which the vinyl cutter will be able to read. To check all the available cut lines on your image, click 'Ctrl + Y' to reveal all vector lines.
- iv. The lines created are what will be read by the Vinyl Cutter and will be cut. If you would like to remove some lines/curves, click the 'Ctrl + Shift + G' command to ungroup the lines.
- v. Select individual lines and delete them.

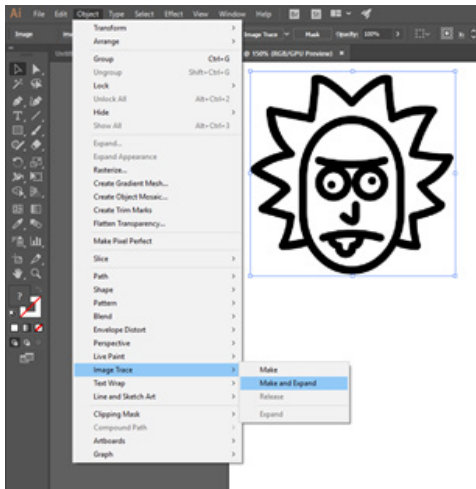


Figure 1: The drop down menu which contains the 'Make and Expand' Command

Entering Text

- i. Type out your text in Illustrator using the type tool
- ii. Select the arrow (Selection Tool) in the top left of the left hand menu.
- iii. Click on your text
- iv. Click Object > Expand
- v. Your text is now a vector which can be read by the Vinyl Cutter.

Saving your Design

- i. Click the 'File' button in the Menu Bar and click 'Save As'. Or simply click 'Ctrl + Shift + S'
- ii. Under 'Save as type:' select the 'Illustrator EPS (*.EPS)' option. Also rename your file to whatever you like, and click 'Save'.

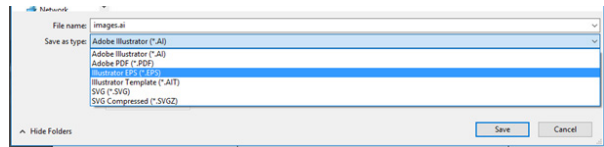


Figure 2: Drop Down Menu with the Illustrator EPS (*.EPS) Option Highlighted

- iii. A new window will open named 'Illustrator Options'. Under the Version section, select the 'Illustrator 8' option.
- iv. Click the 'OK' button on the bottom right next to 'Cancel'

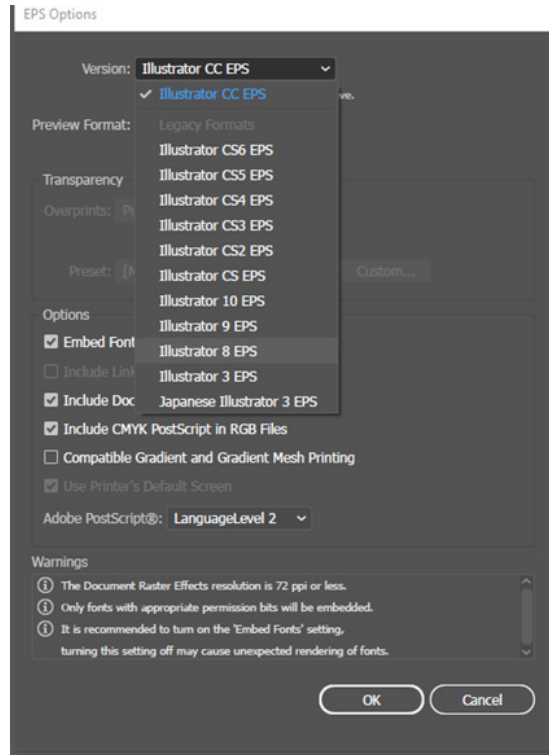


Figure 3: Illustrator Options with the 'Illustrator 8 EPS' Option Highlighted

Tips for a Successful Design

- i. The larger the single mass of vinyl, the easier it will be to weed and adhere
- ii. The more detailed and smaller the cuts are, the more likely it is to move and fall off
- iii. When Image Tracing, larger sized files will pick up more details, and thus clarity
- iv. The more cut lines there are, the longer your weeding process will take (The Unleash Space record is close to an hour!)



Part 2: Loading the Vinyl

- i. There is a lever on the top left of the Roland GS-24 Vinyl Cutter. Pull the lever outwards (away from the machine) if it is locked.
- ii. Insert your desired coloured vinyl from the back of the machine.
- iii. Check if the vinyl is parallel with the lines on the front,
- iv. Check if the rollers are on the white areas marked on the Vinyl Cutter. Spread the rollers as wide as possible.
- v. Turn the machine on and press 'Enter' to calibrate the tool head.



Figure 4: Roland GS-24 Vinyl Cutter Turned On and Calibrated

Part 3: CutStudio

CutStudio is loaded on the computer next to the Vinyl Cutter. Open the CutStudio software located on the desktop (or search All Programs).

- i. Import your .eps file into CutStudio by selecting the 'Import' button and locating your saved .eps file.
- ii. Under the 'File' button in the Menu Bar, click on 'Cutting' and select 'Change'
- iii. Select Roland GS-24 under 'Printers'.
- iv. Lay out your vector file(s) to conserve the vinyl.
- v. Press 'OK' and your file will begin to cut.

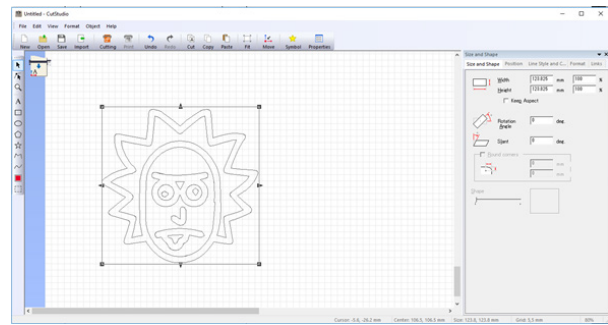


Figure 5: CutStudio with Your Loaded Design

Part 4: Weeding Tips

There is no one right way to weed, or remove unwanted material from a vinyl cut. However, here are a few useful tips that might help.

- i. There are 2 main methods: 'Peeling' and 'Picking'
- ii. Peeling involves removing the outline or large chunks of material without much detail
 - a. When peeling, pull the excess vinyl away as close to the horizontal as possible, this helps corners of the desired vinyl to be stuck down.
 - b. It may be necessary to cut sections out to remove separately, to avoid having a tennis ball size piece of vinyl to move.
- iii. Picking uses a scalpel instead of your fingers for smaller, more detailed areas
 - a. Stabbing small pieces of vinyl work if you are struggling to lift an edge away from the main vinyl
- iv. Make a 'Rubbish Ball' to stick all excess vinyl to help with the clean up
- v. Depending on the design of your vinyl cut, you may be able to pick and choose which section of the vinyl to keep (see picture below).



Figure 6: Peeling for the Top Vinyl & Picking for the Bottom Vinyl



Part 5: Using the Transfer Tape

The Transfer Tape keeps all spatial differences between the parts of your design throughout the cut and application stages.

- i. Cut off an appropriate size of transfer tape from the roll.
- ii. Take your transfer tape and lay it with the sticky side up
- iii. Starting from one corner, slowly place your transfer down flat on the transfer tape, ensuring no creases.

Part 6: Application

- i. Peel off the backing paper, at a horizontal angle, similar to the 'Peeling' described in 'Part 4: Weeding Tips'
- ii. Place it onto your surface starting from one corner, similar to when you applied the transfer tape
- iii. Rub it firmly onto the surface to aid adhesion of smaller parts
- iv. Peel off the transfer tape at a horizontal angle.

