TIPS FOR THE VINYL CUTTER

These tips will help you with some of the nuances of this machine. As always, the following rules apply:

- This machine may be used ONLY with the assistance of the SHOP TECH on duty.
- All vinyl used MUST BE paid for prior to the retrieval of your project.

With that said, let us begin:

Make sure that all text is EXPANDED.
Make sure the STROKE WEIGHT is .001.
There should be NO FILL COLOR.

When saving your files to the desktop to cut, make sure you DO NOT use COMPRESSION. Notice here it is unchecked, your files should be the same way.

Also, ensure that your file correlates to the size of the vinyl. Vinyl here in the lab has a workable area of 339 mm W (X), the length will be dictated by the size of your design.
SIGN CUT SOFTWARE TIPS

Always have the **ORIGIN** of the cutter set to the **LEFT** hand side of the machine. In the vinyl cutter packet provided during training there are more instructions on how to load the vinyl and set your origin. Once your vinyl is loaded and you have opened your ai file in sign cut there are a few things to note while setting up your cuts.

**FIG 1:** The **SCALE RATIO** should always be at 100% by ensuring the blue button shown above is on. Any desired changes to scale should be done in Illustrator, re-saved, and brought back into the program for maximum control.

**FIG 2:** **POSITION ON VINYL** should always be 0.00 X, 0.00 Y. This can be done by ensuring that the blue button shown above is on.

**FIG 3:** **READ FROM CUTTER** will not work. When setting your origin on the machine it will show you the dimensions of your piece of vinyl. These numbers should be manually entered above. If using a roll, the Y dimension should be 10 mm greater than the Y dimension of your image, but the width still needs to come from the machine.

**FIG 4:** **THE X & Y HOME MUST BE SET TO 0 DEGREES AS SHOWN ABOVE!** That is the bottom left of the machine. For ease of use, this is where the home position **SHOULD BE SET.**

**NOTE:**
If the machine is set to 90 degrees and not 0 you can click the **GREEN CUTTER** icon and change the **ROTATE** setting to 0. From there **CLICK OK** and you will be all set.
If you see a **BLUE DOTTED LINE** in your file it is showing the edge of your usable material.

The software will automatically tile the cuts to fit the material, otherwise you will need to rotate your file to fit the material.

**NOTE:** the **ROTATE** function will appear at the bottom of the screen when you have the **ARROW TOOL SELECTED**.

If you get confused about the orientation of your file relative to the machines **HOME POSITION** this diagram will help.

**NOTE:** There are no more blue split lines. It has been rotated 90 degrees to better fit the material.

It is recommended that you run a preview of your cuts prior to sending the job to the cutter.

Go to **FILE > PREVIEW ONE COPY**.

This will bring you to a window where you can see what your cut will look like on the machine.
In the preview mode one can see the difference between the file that has been rotated 90 degrees to fit the material and the one that has not.

The PLAY button runs the file so you can see in what order objects will be cut.

If you feel good about your layout and the preview, before you cut, add some WEEDING LINES to help you extract your final object. Clicking the W will bring up the menu seen below in the bottom left of the screen. Try different weeding options by clicking in and around your image. If you don't like a line, RIGHT CLICK to remove it.

After running one more preview with the weeding lines in place you are ready to cut. Click the SCISSORS at the bottom which will prompt the CUT OUT menu.

Make sure that SORTING is on and set to WIDTH within ADVANCED SETTINGS. Also make sure that CUT INNER OBJECTS FIRST is selected. Run a TEST FEED, if the machine feeds the vinyl through without any snags click CUT OUT, and enjoy.