

CRICUT DESIGN SPACE UPDATE

New Layers Menu and Combine Menu October 2022

Cricut will be rolling out a new update soon that will change how we do many things in Design Space. This is an exciting time as it will give us even more design possibilities!

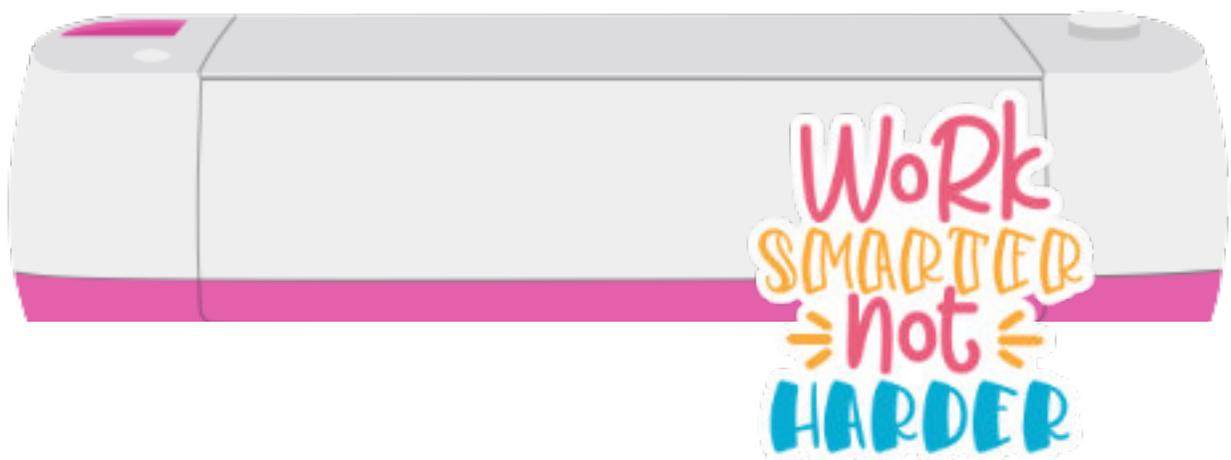
The new update is currently in Beta with no release date given. You can easily switch to Beta mode at any time to see these updates.

If Beta becomes too buggy for you simply switch back to live mode and continue crafting as usual.

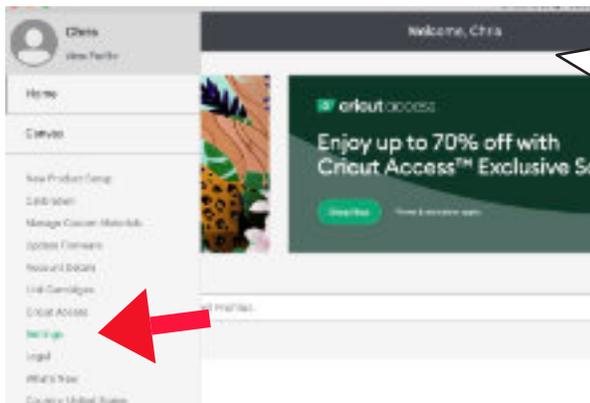
However once this update (or any future updates) goes live you will not be able to switch back to the old style. So it's a good idea to start playing around with it now.

Another note, Beta version along with the updates are currently only available with a PC or Mac, this will not work on mobile devices.

To see all the new functions in action watch this video >
<https://youtu.be/AS15HETJQoA>



SWITCHING TO BETA MODE

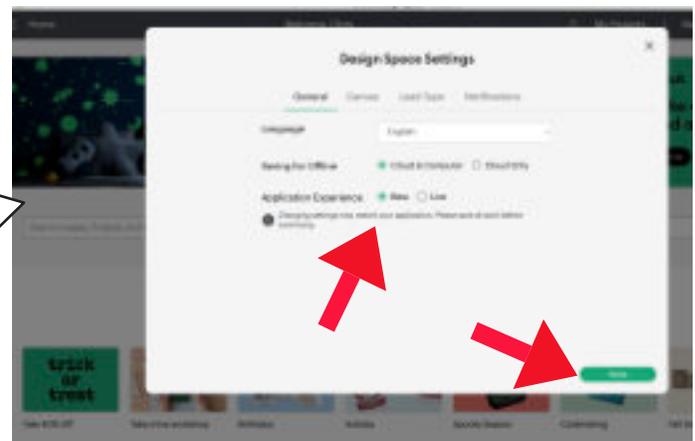


Open Design Space and on the top left click the three lines to open up the menu.

Scroll down and click on Settings.

In the pop up menu select Beta and then click Done.

Design Space will then reboot and you'll be in Beta Mode. To switch back to live follow the same steps and select Live and then Done.



All of the changes are in the left layers menu. We'll go through each one step-by-step.



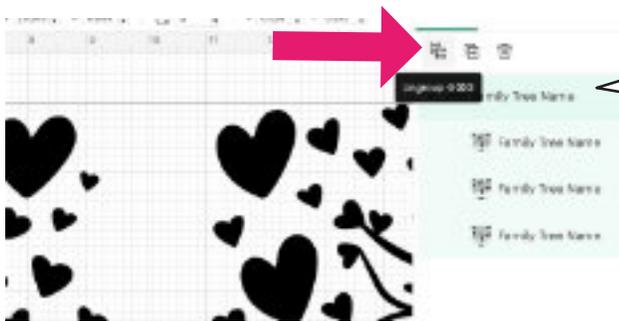
HOW TO GROUP AND UNGROUP

Previously on the top menu there was a button for both group and ungroup.

Now there is one “smart” button that will do both functions. If you select objects that are in a group the button will change to “ungroup”

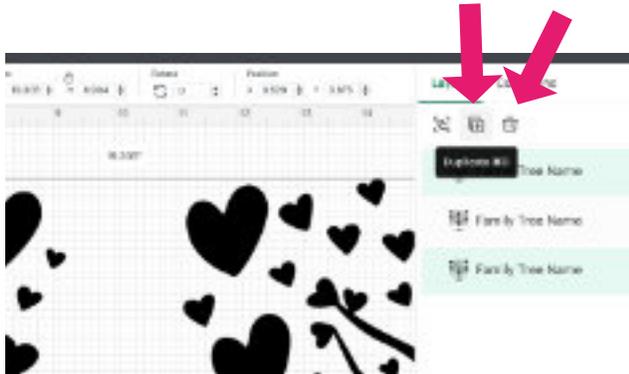
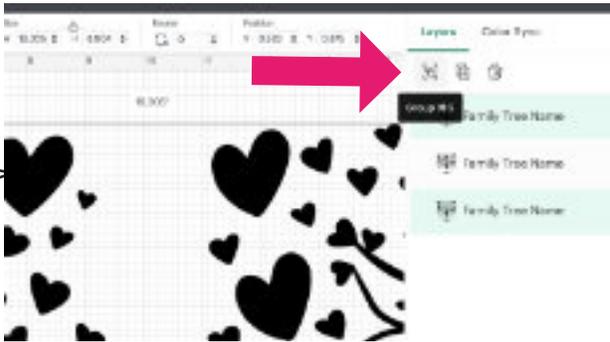
If you select multiple objects that aren’t grouped, the button will switch to group.

Grouping objects allows you to move multiple parts of a design around together. Ungrouping them allows you to move one element at a time. Grouped or ungrouped objects do not have any effect on how they are cut.



The new “smart” group and ungroup button. The SVG in Design Space is grouped. So the button shows the option to ungroup.

When multiple parts of a design that are not grouped are selected, the smart button will work to group them together.



The other two buttons on the top of the layers menu remain the same. The middle button will duplicate and the trash can will delete selected objects.

OPERATION SETTINGS & LAYERS

You may have noticed the layers panel looking a little naked. There used to be words next to the layer telling you the operation type. (ie cut, draw, score etc.) That is no longer there.

But you can still see the operation type in the top menu.



Each row represents a different color, shape, image or object in your design.

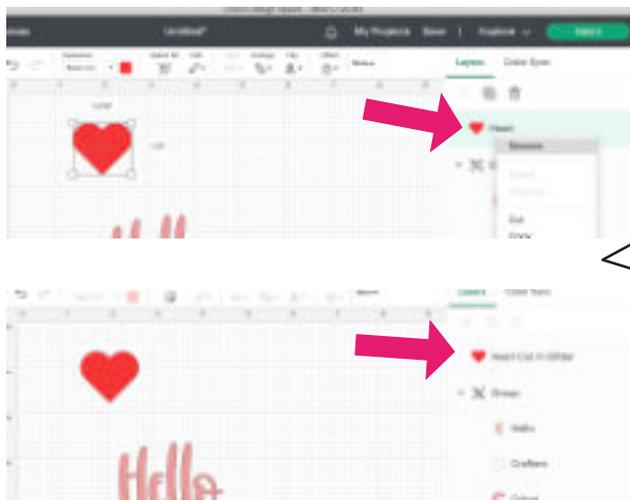
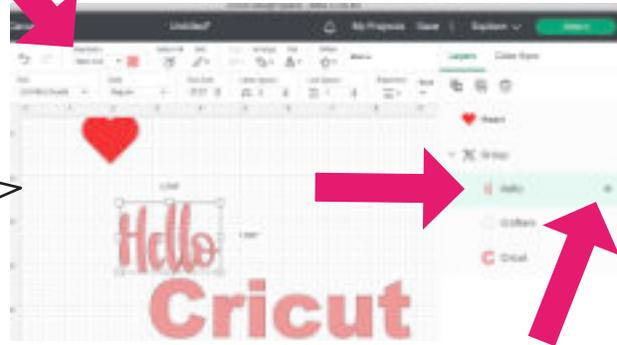
Select an item from the panel and look on the top menu to see and change the operation. The selected layer "Crafters" is set to pen.

You can also select the object on the canvas instead of hunting for it in the panel and see the same.

In this example the selected layer "Hello" is set to cut.

The "eye" icon is still there so you can hide selected layers if you wish.

However you have to hover over the layer for it to become visible.



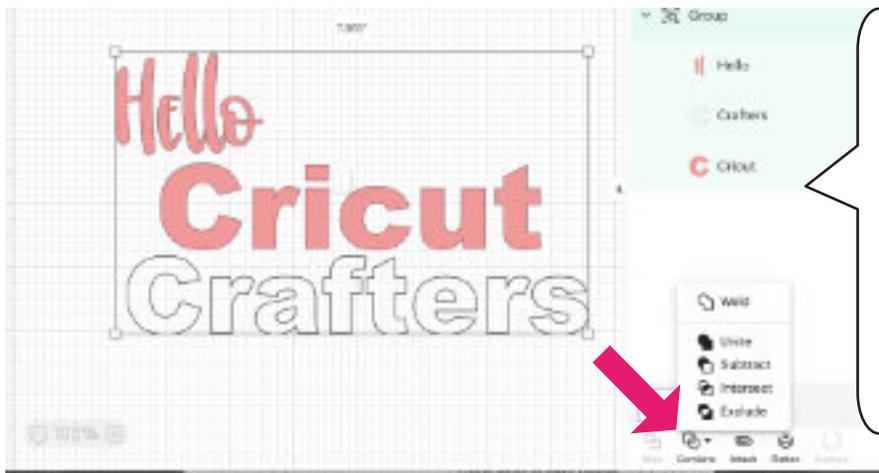
One cool new feature is the ability to rename your layers. You can either double click or right click on the layer and then click rename.

This is handy to leave yourself notes about what material you want to cut it in or to rename to something easier for you to find.

COMBINE MENU

The most exciting change is at the bottom of the layers menu. Cricut added several new controls that will make it even easier to make custom designs. Weld, Slice, Attach, Flatten, and Contour are still there. So if you prefer to use those functions and craft as usual you can.

We'll take a look at the cool new functions Unite, Subtract, Intersect, and Exclude one by one.

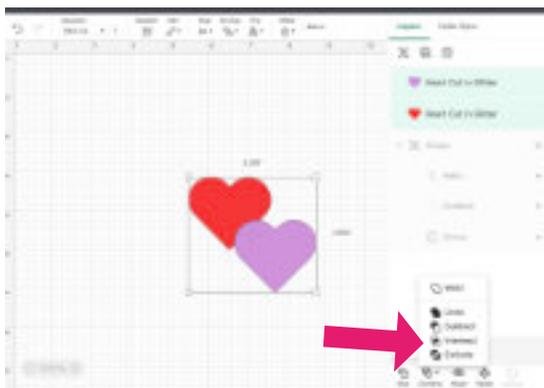


You'll be able to use the Combine menu when two or more objects are selected.

If it's greyed out it's because you don't have two or more objects selected.



UNITE

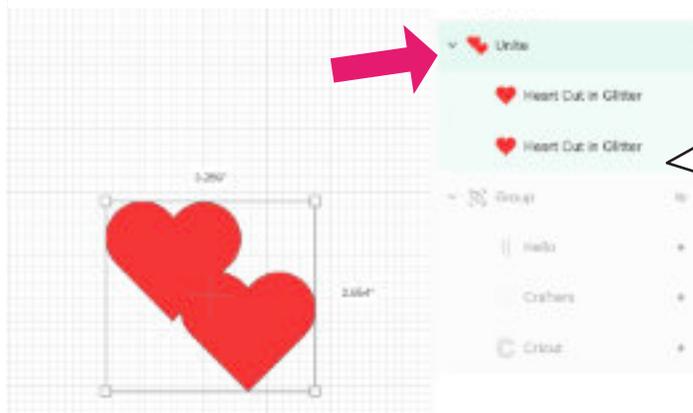


Unite works much like Weld, it combines two or more objects into one.

But it has one really cool difference.

To use Unite select two or more objects and then click combine > Unite.

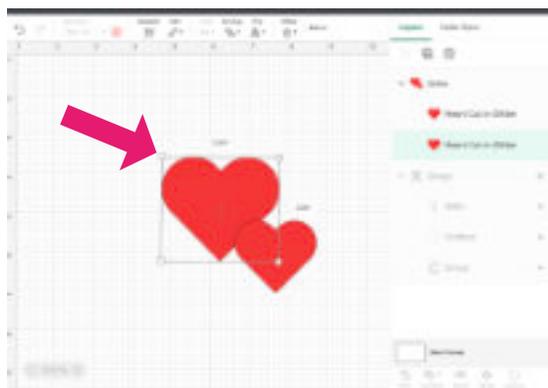
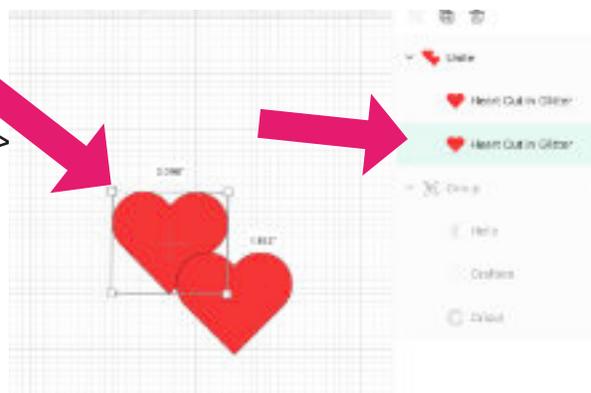
UNITE



The two hearts became one continuous shape. And you see in the Layers Panel that they are United with each heart shown underneath. This is the cool part.

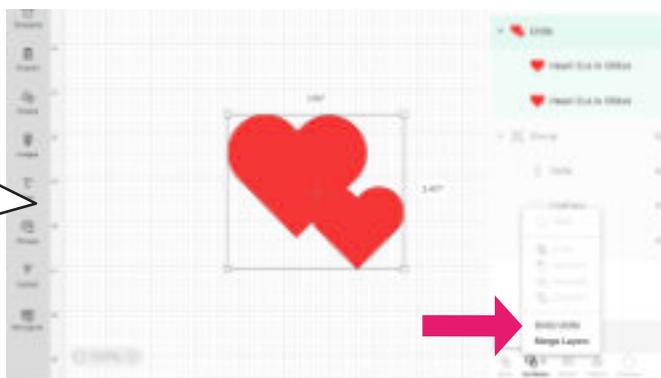
If you want to make any changes you can select the individual part of your design you want to change in the layers panel or Double Click it on the Canvas.

Once selected in the layers panel you'll see it selected on the canvas and vice versa. You can then move or resize that piece.



I'm making the top heart bigger by grabbing any of the corners and dragging out.

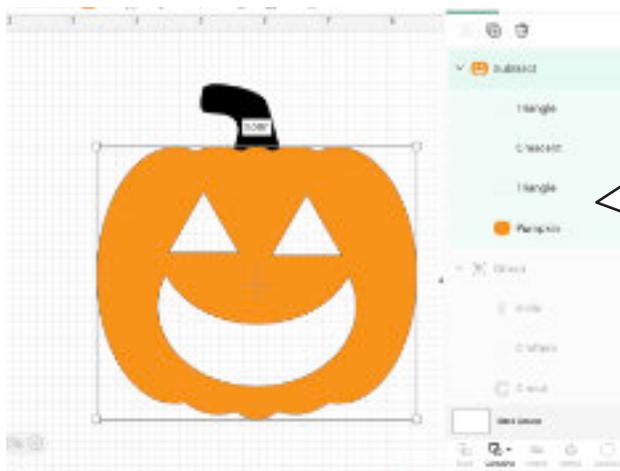
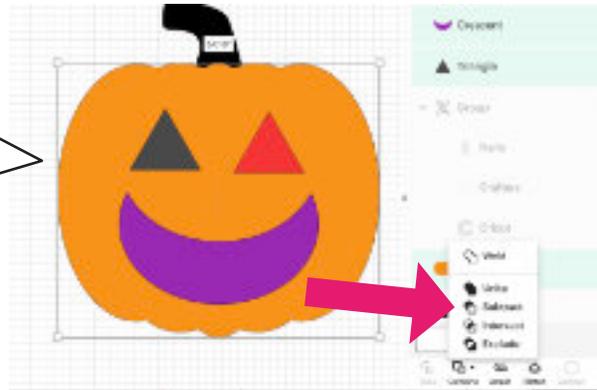
As soon as you click off the object you're changing, it snaps right back to United. There's no need to select them and Unite them again. You can also select Combine > Undo Unite to undo it at any time



SUBTRACT

Subtract works much like Slice only better. You can subtract multiple layers at once, and you don't have anything to delete afterwards!

Subtract will take all of the top layers away from the bottom layer.
I have my pumpkin face in different colors to show they are in fact different layers.
Select the pumpkin and the face and then click Combine > Subtract.

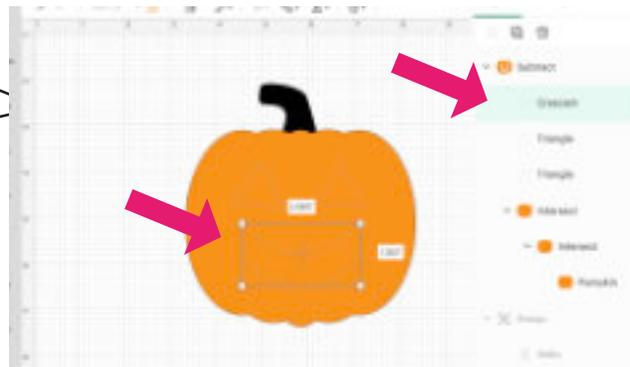


In one click Cricut subtracts the top layers from the bottom layer.

Things to watch out for: If you need a copy of the top layers you're removing, duplicate them first or use the Slice function instead.

When you have multiple layers selected at once, remember it will subtract from the bottom most layer.

After the Subtraction has been done you can still change the individual shapes by selecting them on the layers panel or double clicking on them on the canvas. This will allow you to re-size, move, or rotate.

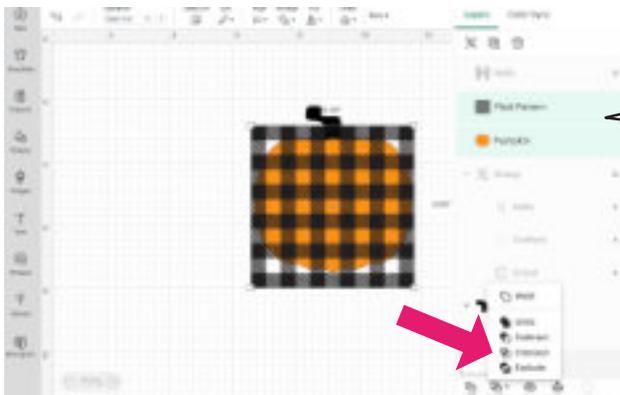
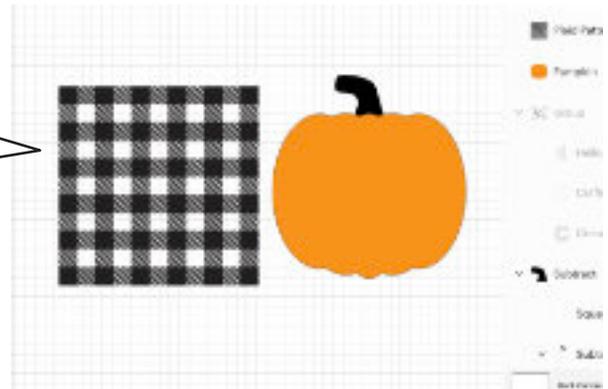


And like Unite, you can Click Combine > Undo Subtract at any time.

INTERSECT

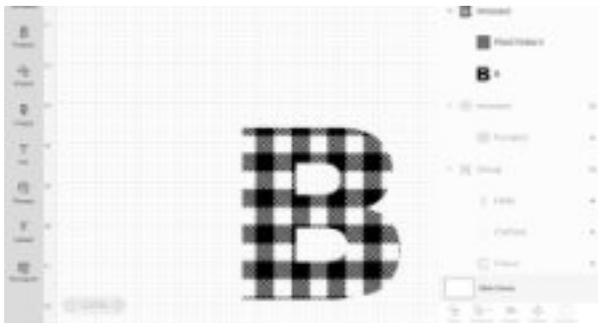
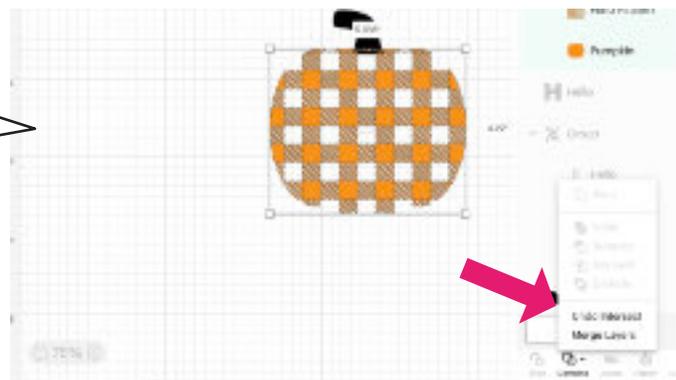
Intersect will allow you to combine the overlapping parts of two objects. This is perfect for adding a pattern design into a shape or word. This only works with SVGs or the images in Cricut, I tried it with a PNG and it was a no go.

I got both of these images in Cricut Access. We can turn the pumpkin into a plaid pumpkin by intersecting it with the Plaid.



Place the plaid over the pumpkin, select them both and then click combine > Intersect

The result is a plaid pumpkin! If you're not happy with the result you can Click Combine > Undo Intersect at any time. Or adjust from the layers panel



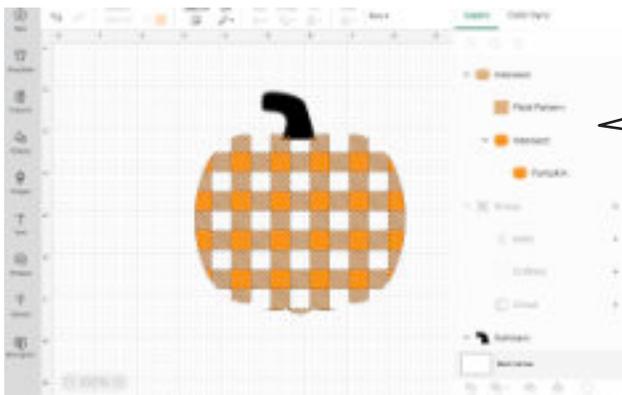
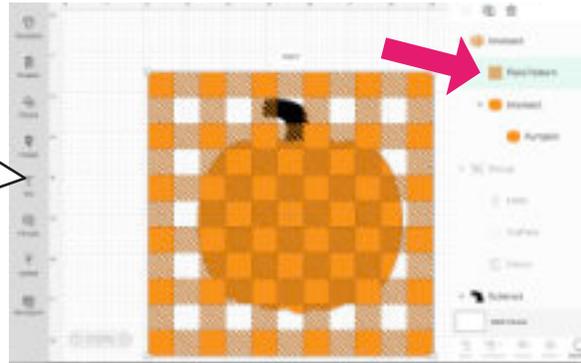
You can do the same with letters too!

INTERSECT

To make adjustments from the layers panel select the layer you want to adjust. This selects the pattern layer and makes it adjustable again on the canvas.

Or you can double click on the object.

From any corner adjust the size or rotate. When you click off it will automatically go back to the intersected shape.



You can adjust to your hearts content without having to redo all of the steps.

EXCLUDE

Exclude is the exact opposite of Intersect. It takes the top layer out of the bottom layer instead of adding it.



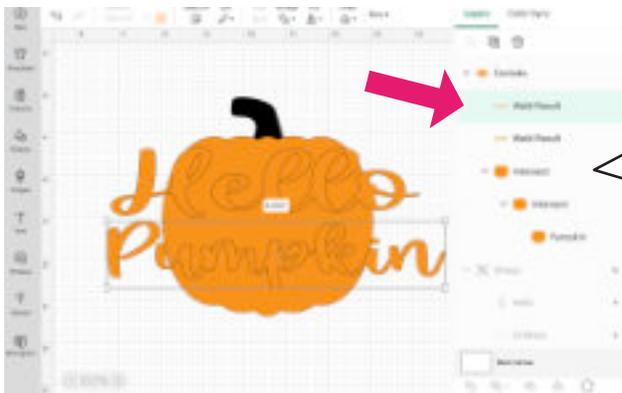
This is a cool effect to use with words.

Type out words and place them over a shape, make sure they extend past the shape.

Then select all of the words and the shape. Click Combine > Exclude

EXCLUDE

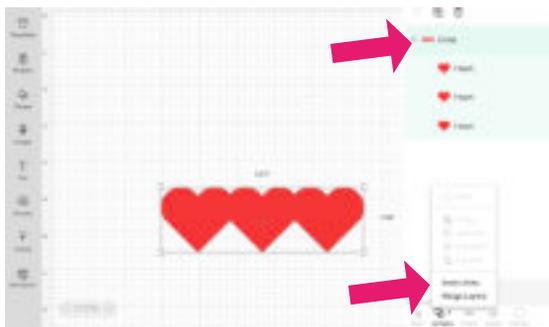
The top layer will be removed from inside the shape, but remain on the outside of the shape. Super cool!



As with the other functions you can either select one of the Excluded objects from the layers panel or double click it on the canvas to make adjustments. To undo the Exclude Click on Combine > Undo Exclude

MERGE LAYERS

Merge Layers works much like weld. It will combine multiple layers permanently and once done it can't be undone. The big difference is Weld is always available in the menu. You'll only have the ability to Merge Layers after performing one of the new functions, Unite, Subtract Intersect, or Exclude

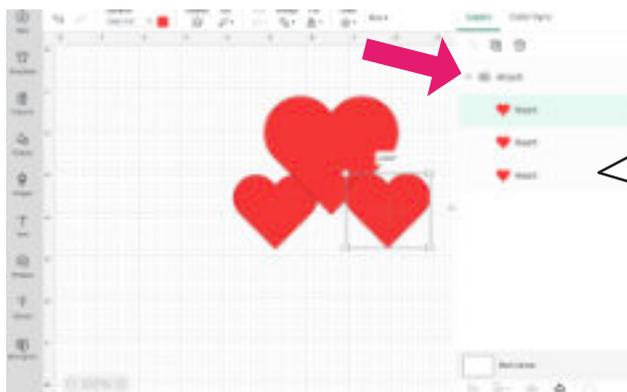


I have these hearts United. I can also go to Combine > Merge Layers. Once they are merged they will not be able to be adjusted again and the Merge cannot be undone.

This is handy if you're sharing your designs within Design Space and you don't want others to mess them up.

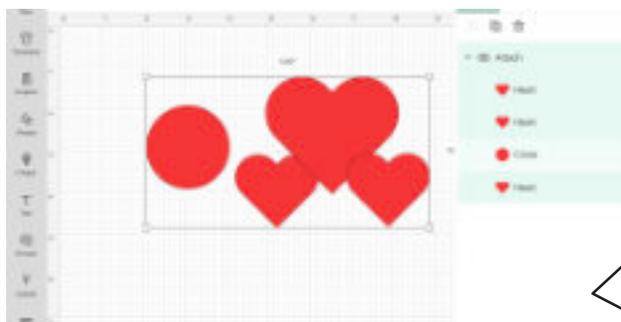
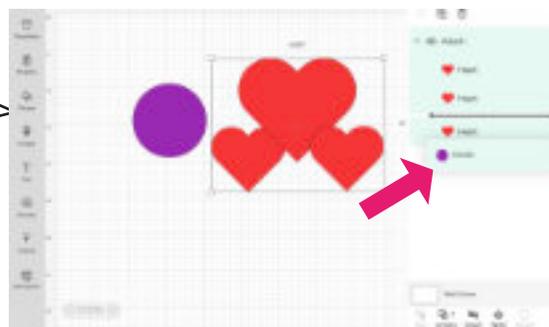
ATTACH

Attach is not new, but in the new layers panel you can now make adjustments after you attach, just like with the others.



These hearts are attached. But you can click on the individual hearts in the Layers Panel or double click them on the canvas. This will allow you to rotate, resize or move them. Once you click back on the canvas they will be reattached with no other additional steps.

From the Layers Panel you can also drag and drop objects into existing groups or attached elements. Here I am dragging the circle up into the attached hearts.



The circle is now a part of and attached to the group of hearts. You **can not** remove it the same way. You will need to click detach at the bottom of the layers panel to remove it from the group. You *should* also be able to drag it over the group on the Canvas and it will become attached. However that is not working for me at the moment. Remember this is the Beta version, which means it's still in testing. There's bound to be a few glitches. You can switch back to the live version up until this update is rolled out.

STOP UNDER-
estimating
YOURSELF

THOUGHTS AND THANKS!

Though I don't have insider information on Cricut's future plans..... I can see them eventually removing the Weld, Attach, and Slice functions. With the new functions you'll be able to do all the things of the old functions and even more.

So I would definitely try them out soon and get used to using them. I'm still hopeful for the ability to draw and do even more design functions in Design Space. Hopefully that will be coming soon, and I'll update you every step of the way!

Thanks so much for downloading my guide for Cricut's latest update! Once the update goes live I'll be updating my best-selling Cricut Guidebook Conquer Your Cricut.

You can find it here - conquyourcricut.com

If you have any questions about this update or Cricut Crafting in general reach out to hello@dailydoseofdiy.com and we'll help you the best we can.

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Thanks again!

Xoxo,
~Chris

