Equipment Use and Project Preparation

The Silhouette Cameo 3 is free to use in the Launch Pad and is available to anyone with an Illinois library card registered at the Indian Trails Library.

Basics

- Max width 12 inches (cutting mat is 12" x 12")
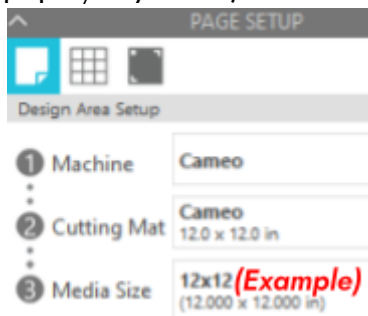- Can cut vinyl, HTV, most paper (from vellum to cardstock)

Software and File Preparation

Silhouette Studio is used to prepare and send files to the Cameo via standard USB. The software is free to download for both Mac and Windows (**silhouetteamerica.com/software**) and is available on Launch Pad laptops.
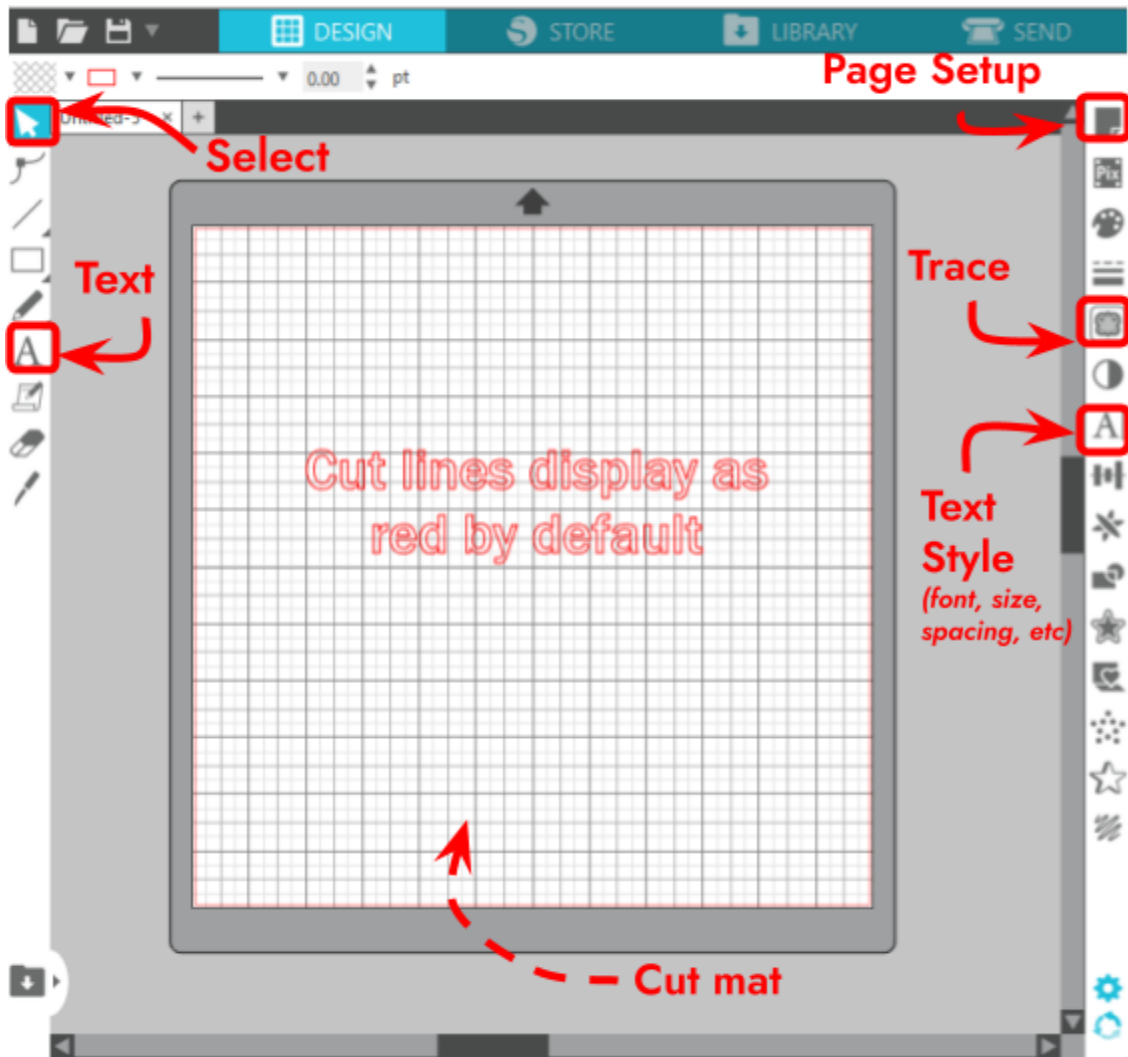
An introduction to Silhouette Studio can be accessed here (**my.nicheacademy.com/launchpad**) by selecting the "Silhouette Cameo Introduction" course.

Keep in mind that you will be weeding your design by hand. Try to choose designs and fonts with large, solid minimalist shapes and simplify as much as possible.

- In the Page Setup panel, under Design Area Setup, make sure the Machine is "Cameo," the Cutting Mat is "Cameo (12.0 x 12.0 in)" and the Media Size (dimensions of your paper/vinyl sheet) is correct.

- You can bring raster images (such as **jpeg** and **png**) into Silhouette Studio.

- High quality images with solid designs and clear contrast work best. *Note that vectors (**svg**) CANNOT be imported in the free version of the program.*

- Imported images must be converted into cut lines via the Trace tool . Image tracing is covered in depth in the Niche Academy course (link above).

- Text created with the Text tool will automatically be converted into cut lines. If you use a specific font and do *not* intend on bringing your own computer, be sure to right click on the text with the Select tool and choose Convert to Path.

Although bringing in your own materials is encouraged, members may choose to use one or both of their two weekly allotments of Launch Pad provided materials.

Material	Launch Pad Material
Vinyl	Glossy vinyl (assorted colors) 12" x 12" sheet
Heat Transfer Vinyl	Glossy vinyl (assorted colors) 12" x 12" sheet