Cricut Crafts: Make an Affirmation Tote with Natalie Malan

Chapter 1 - Make an Affirmation Tote

Overview

(lighthearted music) - Hi, my name is Natalie Mailen. I'm an illustrator and designer, and I'm here with Cricut to teach you how to make this cute affirmation tote bag out of patterned iron-on vinyl. We'll use Design Space to manipulate your files so you can use even more files than you think you have 'cause you can cut 'em up and change 'em in different ways, and that's really fun. We will cut out your pattern iron-on, and then we'll use an iron or an EasyPress to adhere it to your bag. I first made this project for my daughter's birthday, but then I've seen a lot of different uses and things that we could do with the same exact image, and I think you'll enjoy it as much as I do. (lighthearted music)

Materials

- For this project, you will need a Cricut Explore Air 2, a computer, patterned iron-on vinyl, scissors, a weeder, pre-washed cotton tote, a light grip Cricut mat, an EasyPress, and an EasyPress mat. Pre-washing your tote bag is important if you plan on washing it in the future. When you buy a tote bag or a fabric item, it has something called sizing on it that you want to wash off so that you get the strongest bond possible for your iron-on.

Customizing and cutting

- To start the project you'll want to open up Design Space. I like to launch it by clicking on the icon at the top of my computer. And then we'll click on New Project. And then we need to insert the images that we're using for this project. The first image we're using is called Strong. And we're gonna click on it and insert the image. And we'll start playing with this image first. So what we wanna do on this image, is called Hide Contour and it's this little icon down in the corner. And when you click on Hide Contour, Hide or Show Contour, it'll bring up all of these different segments of the image. All these different cut paths. And so what we're doing right now is taking an image and masking out what we don't wanna see so that we just have the cut file left that we want to use. You can also do it along the side right here. And we're going to turn off everything except for the very top flower. As you mark them they turn from dark gray to light gray and when they're light gray you know that they're no longer part of your cut file. And then we'll exit out. And see on this one I didn't click on the last one for the word Strong. So I'm going to go back into the contour and click it again. And click this tiny little piece. So don't worry if you didn't click 'em all the first time, you can go back in and do it as many times as you need. Now we have our flower ready to go. Up in the corner there's a button with a star and two pieces of paper. That one's called duplicate and that's basically your copy and paste button. We've copied and pasted it by using the duplicate button and now you're going to rotate it using the shift button. That helps you keep it at 45 and 90 degrees. So I'm just going to go all the way round, let go of the shift button, and then I can move my image down. If you click and drag to select both images you can also come up to the align tool and center them. Now we're ready to add the middle image and it is under Dream. It's this one right here. You wanna select it. The way you know it's selected is when it turns green around the edges. And insert that image. Then if you use this arrow in the bottom corner, you can drag and select it and it won't skew, it won't shrink and expand your image in weird ways. So we're gonna expand that a little bit more.

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And then we're just gonna zoom out and put these images where we want 'em. (mouse clicking) Now this image, we need to start hiding these stars. So we're going to go to Contour again. On this star layer. Right now these are on two different colors of vinyl so currently this is a three color cut of vinyl and we're gonna end up making it into just one. So we're going to click on the stars, click on the Hide Contour, and start clicking on the stars to hide them. And then exit out. And the next thing we need to do is change this Believe. Right now it thinks it's going to a gold mat and this one thinks it's going on to a navy blue mat so we're going to change them all to this raspberry pink color. So that our Cricut knows that they're all being cut from the same material, and not from three different materials. And then I personally like to center everything again, just to make sure it's nice and straight. And then the last thing you'll want to do is attach all of those images together and make sure it's going to fit on your tote bag. I think about 10 inches is a great size for this project and we'll make it. Something to keep in mind. If you're using a print that has a certain direction, let's say you're using something with words or a bird or a butterfly or some kind of pattern that has a top and a bottom, make sure that the top and bottom of your letters correspond with that print on your mat. Since we're using iron-on vinyl, we're going to click Mirror, because basically what we're doing is pulling it away from the carrier sheet that's already there. So the adhesive is on the back of the vinyl and you have to cut it backwards. Otherwise it will be backwards on your tote. Turn your machine on. Make sure it's connected to your computer. Our dial is already set to custom so we're going to browse all materials for Patterned Iron On. You wanna place the patterned iron on vinyl shiny-side down onto your light grid mat and then smooth it out really well with your hands and with even pressure on the back of your mat load it into your Cricut. (machine whirring) Our dial is set to custom and our Cricut light is blinking so we're ready to cut. (Cricut cutting) Once your design is finished cutting we'll unload the mat. Now that you're done cutting, take your weeding tool, put away your mat and start weeding the outside edges first. I've already done that on the project shown here. And then I like to start weeding all the fine details. (vinyl rustling) Now that we've got all the tiny pieces weeded out of our project, we're ready to put it on our tote.

Asssembly

- Now we're ready to iron our image onto our tote. If you have a Cricut EasyPress, there's a really great interactive guide online, but you can also use an iron if you have that already available. If you have an EasyPress, you can search for the EasyPress Reference Guide. And there is a quick interactive way to find all the settings for your machines. We're using Patterned Iron-On, so I'm selecting Patterned Iron-On. Select Cotton Canvas/Muslin. And then the surface is our EasyPress Mat. And right here it will show you all of the steps in order and the heat settings that we need. So the first thing I do is turn on my machine. I'll select temperature and change it up to 340 degrees. Now it's preheating because the red light is lit. And then I will change the timer up to 50 seconds and wait. And as soon as the red light turns green, we're ready to start. (EasyPress beeps) Our EasyPress is ready, so now we'll bring our tote bag over and do a five-second press to warm it up. Hitting the Cricut (EasyPress beeps) starts your timer. And it resets your timer as well. We'll take our project. We'll center our project where we want it to go. And this project's a little bit longer than my EasyPress is, so I'm gonna do it actually in two sections. Now that my button's green, my press is ready to go. (EasyPress beeps) And I'm gonna start the timer and apply gentle pressure while it's counting down. (EasyPress beeps) And now I'm just gonna press the other side. Right here wasn't hit with the heat, so I'm gonna do that side next. (EasyPress beeps) Next, you need to turn your object over and heat press it for 15 seconds on the back to seal it in. (EasyPress beeps) And then I'm

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gonna slide this down because, remember, my image was a little bit larger than my press. So I wanna make sure it's sealed in really well. And I'm gonna start my timer over (EasyPress beeps) by pressing the green Cricut button. Let your piece cool for about 30 seconds to a minute, and then you can peel off your carrier sheet. And here's our finished tote bag. Another thing that I like to do with this same technique is to make things like T-shirts. This is the exact same technique that we were doing. Same image, same high contour, same iron-on with patterned vinyl. It's just a different color. And one other thing I wanna show you is you can put different words and things inside as well. There's a million different projects you can make using these techniques, and we really hope that you share them with us on the Cricut community and using the hashtag #WildRoseCricut.

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