Glowforge Projects: Engraved Wooden Sign with Lauren Marcinek

Chapter 1 - Glowforge Projects: Engraved Wooden Sign

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, everyone. My name is Lauren Marcinek, I'm a member of the Creativebug team and I'm gonna be showing you how to make an engraved wooden sign using the Glowforge. I'll show you how to upload a design to the Glowforge design library, adjust your settings, add your materials, and creative a one-of-a-kind memento for your home or office. (upbeat music)

Engrave a Wooden Sign

- To make your sign, you'll need a few materials. I purchased this wooden sign at my local Jo-Ann's. It already came with a piece of twine attached to the back so that I can hang the sign when I'm done. I also have a pencil. I have a ruler. Laptop and Glowforge. Some additional materials that are optional that you can use include Windex and a rag. You'll use the Windex to remove any burnt areas that are on the sign, because the sign does not have masking on it. And lastly, cutting board oil. That's really gonna help to enrich the engraved area and give some additional contrast. Start by logging in to your Glowforge account at app.glowforge.com. To upload your design, you can hit upload in the upper left hand corner, locate your design, hit open, and you'll see down here, the Glowforge software is beginning to upload that design, and momentarily, it will display on the screen. The design that I'm using, I designed using Vecteezy, but there's a lot of different other platforms that you can use. Some are free, some are paid. I like Vecteezy because they make it simple. They had a wreath that I was able to use. I was able to download it as an SVG file, and it works very well with the Glowforge. So now that I've uploaded my design, I'm gonna go ahead and enter my settings. I'll start with this piece of it. Again, you'll see that there are different layers that are showing up here. That's because with the SVG file, there were different layers to the design, so we an pick and choose which we want to engrave, and which we do not. I'll start with the C for Chao family. I want to engrave. I'm gonna enter manual settings, because I'm not using Glowforge proof grade material. And I wanna go full speed and full power. And lastly, I want this engraved area to be a little bit deeper, and not just surface level, so I'm gonna do two passes. I'll hit back, click out, and head to the next. This panel is just a block; we're gonna ignore that. So the Glowforge will not print that. You can click ignore. For the wreath, I'm also going to engrave, and enter my own settings. I want full speed, full power. Also, two passes. And then lastly, there's the stem. I'm actually gonna ignore this. I like the look with just the leaves; perfect. So now that we've got all of our settings entered, we'll just go back and confirm one more time that everything looks good. So we've got ignore, full power, full speed, ignore. It looks like the settings did not pick up here. We'll do that one more time, engrave, manual, full speed, full power, two passes. All right, and it looks like it stayed. Next I'm gonna need to prep my material that I'm gonna place in the Glowforge. Move my laptop to the side. Move over my sign. And I'm gonna us this ruler and this pencil to mark the center point on this sign. That's really gonna help me when I put it in the Glowforge chamber and need to identify how to lay my design out on the material. So this sign is about eight and a half, eight and a quarter. I'm gonna mark half of that. I'm gonna go four and a quarter. Just gonna place a line here so I know the center point. I'll do the same thing this way. Yep, it's 11 on the dot. I go five and a half here. I'm gonna make a T shape; perfect. So that I can see what the middle area on the sign is. Once we print this, we can use some tools to get the pencil off, no problem, so I'm not worried about that. It's just

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important that I make enough of a mark so that it's visible when I put it in the Glowforge chamber. Next I'm ready to turn on my Glowforge and load the material into the chamber. Open the lid and then close the lid. Now I'm gonna head back over to my computer and we can see that it's registered the material. Next, I'm going to take the design that I have here, the wreath with the C, and I'm gonna position that on the material. You'll see, just to the right of the C here, some little lines. Those are the markers that we used our pencil to draw so that we can locate the middle of the sign. So you'll see it here. I really wanna center that up with the C. Position this right in the middle of the sign. This looks good. Again, I'm looking at my indicator right here, and we can see it's running through the middle of the bottom portion of the C, so feel good about the placement. The next step is to select the material. The material that we are using was not purchased from Glowforge, which means that we'll need to go ahead and manually enter our settings. I'll click specify material height. Use uncertified material, and I'm going to enter .25 as my material thickness. And I use this setting for any type of material that I'm engraving on that does not require me to remove the crumb tray. I'll click submit. I'm almost ready to print. My last step is to turn on the filter. (motor whirring) Now the project is complete. I'm gonna go ahead and turn off my filter and my machine. And then remove the sign from the Glowforge chamber. You can see around the wreath and the lettering, there's a little bit of burn residue. I've got some tips and tricks that I can show you to remove that. Windex is a really good item that you can use on wood items to remove that. You can simply just spray it on. And you can already see very quickly that it will start to lift a lot of the marking. Wipe it off. You want to do so gently around the lettering, especially. Just because you don't want to chip that. You can use as much Windex as you need to. So if you want a secondary coating, that's fine. I'm gonna get a little bit more. Sprayed my rag this time. Great, and you'll see that it just leaves a lot more of a defined design. Perfect, and I like how that's turning out. You can also use the Windex to remove the little marks that you put on the sign. Scrub those off. Then the last thing that I do to finish the sign to give it a little bit more of a pop and even out the engraved areas. You'll see this is a little bit darker than here. Same on the wreath. Is you can add just a little bit of cutting board oil to the sign, and use your rag to blend it in, but it will even it out and create a lot of contrast between the engraved area and the surface of the sign. So, don't need a lot of this, just a couple drops is more than enough. Take my hand and kind of work it in to the engraved area. I'll put some specifically in to the C. Mop it up. Okay, and your sign is complete. I really like this project, because there's so many different ways that you can customize it for different events. For example if you're hosting a baby shower, you can do a welcome message on this and just lay it in the front entrance. If you're going to a bridal shower, you could do something customizes with the newlyweds' last names, or if you're welcoming a new neighbor, you'd be able to make this as a customized house warming gift.

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