

User Manual & Assembly Instructions



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS







Do not place any magnetic objects in the vicinity of the cutting head; otherwise uniform contact pressure is not ensured.

Do not remove the connection cable to the computer while plotting is in progress.

Do not reach into the unit with your hands when the power is connected.

Never open the housing or attempt to modify the unit yourself.

Ensure that liquids and metal objects do not get into the cutter.

Ensure that the wall socket used is grounded and protected with a ground fault switch.

Ensure that the connected voltage (110V) does not deviate by more than ±10%. Otherwise install a voltage stabilizer.

Never reach into the unit in the vicinity of the blade holder during the cutting operation!

Discontinue any printing jobs in progress before readjusting the blade holder!

Always ensure that the vinyl cutter is out of reach of children during operation and never leave the unit or individual parts of it switched on without supervision.

Do not touch the tip of the sliding blade to avoid injury.

Always place the unit on a stable base to prevent it from falling down.

Do not operate the unit during thunderstorms; it can be damaged or destroyed by lightning.

#### Intro

- 4 Where to use and store your vinyl cutter
- 5 What's in the box
- 6 Assembling the stand
- 10 Getting to know your cutter
- 12 Connecting to a computer
- 13 Setting up media
- 20 Blade set up
- 21 Control Panel
- 22 Making your first test cut
- 24 Contour cutting
- 26 Troubleshooting
- <sup>28</sup> Maintenance
- 9 Cut and place vinyl like a pro

Thank you for purchasing the SC2 vinyl cutter. Please read this manual completely and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

For Accessories, Supplies, and replacement parts please visit our website at www.uscutter.com



ORACAL 65

# Where to use and store the vinyl Cutter

Location, Location, Location! It's not just important for real estate. Where your vinyl cutter "lives" in your home or business is a vitally important element of your success.

- You need access to a 110 volt grounded electrical outlet. That's the standard household kind with three holes, not two. Be safe... don't plug your cutter into an already over-crowded powerstrip or system of extension cords.
- 2 Dust and dirt will limit the useful life of your cutter. If you use it in a dusty or dirty environment the cooling fans will suck in the dust and it will get inside the machine and gum up the works.
- Operate on a stable surface. A solid flat surface is needed for your vinyl cutter to do its best work. If it wobbles or vibrates during operation your cut is not going to be as sharp and clean as it could be.
- Access is important. The SC2 Cutter is a large machine, but it doesn't belong in the corner during use. You'll need to access the front and back of the cutter to operate it and change the vinyl rolls.
- 5 There will be some noise when the cutter is in use. Take that into account when you locate your vinyl cutting headquarters.
- 6 Position the SC2 Cutter near enough to your computer to be able to attach it via USB cable or 9-pin serial cable. Internet access will be necessary for downloading drivers and software.

# Before starting work, please check whether the following items are all present.



If any parts seem to be missing from your package please contact support @1-888-975-2047



# **Before you begin:**

Read the assembly instructions from beginning to end. Give yourself plenty of time. Gather the tools you'll need that aren't inluded in the box:

1. A Phillips head screwdriver.



Here's how to assemble the stand:

# Step 1.

Attach the feet (A) to the legs (F).



Attach the foot to the leg with four #1 screws.



Notice there are more than four holes on the foot.

Line up the foot and the leg so that the four holes in the leg that look like this line up with the four holes on the foot.

Which end of the leg do I attach the foot? They both have holes.

Good question. See those two holes that are further toward one end of the leg? That's where your cross piece is going to attach and hold the two legs together. Attach the foot to the other end.



One side is rounded and the other has sharp corners? Which side should face out?

The rounded edge side should face out. If you look closely at the holes you will see that one side is biger than the other. The small holes will attach the cross piece and you'll screw them in through the larger hole.



Attach the foot to the leg with four #1 screws using the Phillips screwdriver. Repeat with the other leg and foot making sure the rounded edge faces out and the holes for the cross piece are close to the top.

# Step 2.

Attach the cross piece (D) to the legs (F) with 8 #1 screws (4 for each leg).

This is where making use of a chair or bench to hold the cross piece in place while you attach the first leg will come in handy.

Remember those holes about 3⁄4 of the way up the leg? That's where you'll attach the cross piece.



We've got the rounded edge and sharp edge situation again? Which way do I orient the crossbeam?

It actually doesn't matter, but the rounded edge looks a little more aesthetic, so we like to make that the front-facing side.

Here's the tricky part: You need to insert the #1 screws through both holes in the stand legs (the outside and the inside), so the screw will be recessed while you attach it to the cross piece. The leg is hollow and if your screw falls into the hole, turn the leg upside down so your screw falls out and you can try again.

# Step 3.

Now let's mount the roller brackets (I) to the legs (F). They'll attach at the crosspiece and will create a place for the rollers to sit.

NOTE: If your roller brackets arrived in four pieces instead of two, simply attach the black plastic roller guides to the metal brackets with those extra six #3 screws (the smallest ones).

Use 4 #1 screws (2 on each side) to attach the roller brackets to the stand legs. The metal brackets have a "lip" which the roller guide sits on. When you attach the bracket, make sure the lip faces outward like this:



# Step 4.

Attach the mounting brackets (G) to the top of the legs (F). This is where you will mount your SC2 Cutter. Almost done!!

Use 4 #1 screws (2 on each bracket) to attach the mounting brackets to the legs. The brackets have a staircase-like shape. you will screw the lower "stair" to the standleg and will attach your SC Cutter to the upper "stair" in a later step.



Since you're only using two screws, position them so that if you drew a line between them it could make a diagonal line.

# Step 5.

Attach the wheels (C). You won't need any screws for this because the wheels have screws already attached. Simply screw them into the bottom of the stand feet(A)., two wheels for each foot.



# Step 6.

Mount the SC2 Cutter (B) to the mounting brackets (G) on the stand. Lift the SC2 Cutter onto the brackets so that the plastic end pieces rest on the lower 'stairs' and then use 4 #2 screws (2 on each side) to secure the cutter to the brackets. The upper "stair" will appear to have many more slots than you will need but just use the holes that line up with the slots.

Remember to take the four rubber feet off from the bottom of the SC2 Cutter. Some users place the rubber feet between the screwhead and the bracket so that the rubber feet remain with the bracket when it is connected to the stand.



Before you start cutting, you should familiarize yourself with the cutter along with its basic parts and functions.



CONTROL PANEL	Used to provide input directly to the cutter. Covered in detail in the "Control Panel" section of this manual.
CARRIAGE ARM	Holds the blade (or pen) carriage.
PINCH ROLLERS	Holds the media tightly to the feed roller below.
FEED ROLLERS	Positions the cutting material during operation.
LASER	Used by the cutter to determine the location of cut contours
LEFT SIDE COVER	Contains the power cable port, power switch, and fuse cartridge for the cutter.
RIGHT SIDE COVER	Contains the USB and serial cable ports for the cutter.





Allows access to the blade/pen carriage slots for exchanging/replacing carriages.
Allows ac blade/pen for exchang carriages.

LOCKING KNOB

# Attach the power cord to the cutter and then plug in the unit and turn on the power.



# If using the Serial Cable to connect your cutter to a computer:

If you are using a Serial Cable to connect your cutter to a computer then no further setup is necessary. Simply connect one end of the cable to the cutter and the other end to a computer and setup is complete. If you have more than one serial connection on your computer or you are experiencing communication issues between your cutter and computer then you may wish to verify that the correct COM port is being used in your software setup, but for most users the COM port will be COM1.



# If using the USB Cable to connect your cutter to a computer:

You will need to download and install drivers for the USB connection to work properly. Go to **www.uscuttersupport.com** and select the driver that supports your Windows version.

#### INSTALLING VINYL MASTER SOFTWARE

Your Vinyl Cutter comes bundled with **VinylMaster Cut** software, an easy to use software with the tools to help you take your projects from concept to a ready to cut computer image file.

You can download and install the VinylMaster Cut software at www.uscutter.com/download, and you will need the key code packaged with this cutter to activate the software. You may need to download drivers to support your operating system. Drivers are available at http://support.uscutter.com

Training for VinylMaster is all done via short videos accessed through the software. To access the videos, click on the SUPPORT link in VinylMaster, then further on HELP TOPICS.



If you are going to cut from a scrap or single sheet instead of a roll, then skip the next step on placing a vinyl roll. All other steps will be the same.





2

Release the pinch rollers release levers.



Feed the vinyl underneath the pinch rollers (if working from a single sheet instead of a roll, the vinyl can also be feed from the front).





Adjust the pinch rollers so there is one roller located on each side of the vinyl (and, on models with 3 or more rollers, one roller near the center). Avoid lowering a pinch roller to the gap between the two feed rollers.





If the cutter is not already on, turn it on now.

## Installing VinylMaster drivers





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## Installing VinylMaster drivers





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The latest release of Vinyl Master Cut has a new installation wizard that may already have installed the correct cutter driver for you. If your cutter driver is already installed and functional via the wizard, you may use the above instructions whenever you wish to add a new cutter model.

Newer versions of Vinyl Master Cut also have extensive help menus and context sensitive videos that will help train you and help guide you through any software issues you may experience.

## Blade Set Up



Unscrew the cap from the Blade Carriage.



Set Brass Ring on Blade Carriage to the fully down position.



Remove the protective cover from a new blade.



Insert the blade into

the top of the Blade Carriage.





Screw the cap back onto the Blade Carriage.





Adjust the Brass Ring until it fits snug against the Cap. This will help keep the cap in place during operation.







Blades should be replaced every **6 months**. Your blade may need to be replaced more often if you are cutting thicker material such as flock, glitter, or reflectives.

# Control Panel

The control panel allows direct control of the cutter state (Local/Paused), change Speed/Pressure, perform an immediate test cut, make a copy by repeating the last cut job and turn on the laser to assist with accurate positioning of the blade for contour cutting. The various buttons and functions of each button are oulined below.



Some screens/buttons use different terms which all mean the same thing. This might help: LOCAL = Idle = Online = Automatic = Waiting for commands from Computer or User at Control Panel PAUSE = Paused = Offline = Manual = Waiting for co-ordinates from User at Control Panel

# Setting the Origin Point

Changing Speed and Pressure

The origin point of the cutter can be set whenever the cutter is in the PAUSE state by moving the cutter head with the navigation keys on the control panel and then pressing the ORIGIN key. The cutter will store a new origin point at the location of the cutter head and use this point to start cutting. Pressing RESET or power cycling the cutter will clear the current origin point, reposition the cutter head at the Home (0,0) location and store that as the new origin point.

You can manualy set the speed and pressure of the cutter when you are in the LOCAL state. Use the up and down arrows to adjust the speed and the left and right arrows to adjust the cutting pressure.

A typical cutting speed setting is 500, and a typical cutting pressure setting is 100. Changing the speed and pressure while cutting is possible. The cutter may pause briefly and resume cutting once the new settings have been entered.

### A Basic Guide To Vinyl Cutting

Now that you've got your system fully assembled let's take a moment to test it and also take moment to learn a bit about how to "fine tune" the machine so that it will do quality cuts on the different materials you'll be cutting. To do this we'll do a standard test cut, which when competed will a simple triangle inside of a square. Load the material roll and adjust the pinch rollers. Remember to make sure the top roller is placed so that there is a bottom roller (called the "grit roller") beneath it. Remember to line the material up so that it is moving straight through the feed area, and resist the temptation to run the material close to the edge of the cutter feed area or you

increase the risk of a mis-feed that will wrinkle your vinyl. (See the graphic on the top of pg. 21 for an example.)

Assuming you're cutting standard signage vinyl, you'll want to use your 45° blade. If you received vinyl along with your cutter package, chances are very good it's a standard GreenStar or Oracal signage vinyl. Now, find the TEST button on the cutter control pad and press it. It should cut a diamond inside a square pattern: This Test Cut will help you to calibrate the machine for this material. Examine this cut and use a weeding tool or exacto knife to weed the square out while keeping the triangle on the paper. ("Weeding" is the word for removing the cut vinyl in the design.) Use this simple diagram to make adjustments. There's a certain amount of trial and error to it at first, but you'll quickly get a feel for it.





# **CUT SPEED**

This setting determines how fast the design is cut out and is usually measured in miliimeters per second.

small intricate designs



DECREASE CUT SPEED

large simpler designs INCREASE CUT SPEED



# FORCE/PRESSURE

outer square

This setting determines how hard the blade comes down onto the material.



won't weed blade digging too

lightly scored carrier



INCREASE FORCE

far into carrier weeds easily with a

FORCE



DECREASE



**PERFECT!** 

## **Contour Cutting**



### Calibrating the laser

Remove the blade holder from the carriage and insert the plotter pen into the carriage holder. Place a piece of paper under the plotter pen, press the pen down so that it makes a mark on the paper. Your cutter should be in the Local/Idle state at a previously saved origin point.



#### Adjusting the offset

Start by placing the test paper flush against the right side of the cutter and secure the pinch rollers. Turn the power off and then back on while holding down the right arrow key. If you are successful you should see the words "Verify Offset" on the start up screen. Next, make a new impact mark with the pen.

Turn on the laser by pressing contour cut key and use the arrows to move the cartridge to center the laser directly over the pen mark and press the "Enter" button. Once you have verified the calibration it's time to print your image.





Laser centered







#### This section applies when contour cutting:

Load your image into the VinylMaster software. Make sure your art is centered and the size of the cutting mat in your software is the same size as the media you are going to be using. Press Shift+Alt+F to start the Contour Cutting Wizard. Select your printer and make sure you have checked the box that says "Print Registration Marks". Press "OK" to send the job to your printer. You should now have your printed image with four cross marks at the corners. Place media in cutter as shown so that the blade would come down just outside the black square. Also set your origin point on the cutter here (just outside the black square).



# **Contour Cutting**



#### This section applies when contour cutting:

4

Within the Contour Cutting Wizard of VinylMaster, make sure that Cutting Device is set to Manual (fig 1.)

You should have already previously used Build to create a contour around you image (fig 2).

Press the contour key on the cutter control panel, which will turn on the laser. Press Enter on the control panel to use the Mark By Computer alignment method.

Using the arrow keys on your computer move the laser so that it appears in the center of the crosshairs (fig 3). Press the Next key on your computer (fig 4) so that you can repeat the laser alignment for all four registration marks.

Note that you can select finer increments of movement in VinylMaster to be more precise (fig 5).

# Precision laser alignment matters a great deal when contour cutting. Take the time to get it right.

Press Cut Now to execute your contour cut. Contour cutting will cut an outline around your image as might be the case when creating peel and stick labels for your customers.





## PROBLEM

# SOLUTION

The cutter performs erratically during cuts, stops cutting before the cut is finished, or cuts lines that do not appear in the design.	Some older computers do not work well when connected via the USB port of the cutters. If you are having problems while cutting and are using the USB cable to connect from your cutter to computer, you may wish to try the serial cable connection to avoid further problems. If a serial cable connection is not available on your computer, you can try a third party USB to serial connector or a PCI card serial adapter for your computer.
After the first cut is made, subsequent cuts are made over the top of the original, or vinyl is fed backwards until it loses contact with the rollers.	After a cut is made, you will need to reset the origin of the cutter. If the origin is not set again, the first origin will remain in the cutter and the cutter will return to this position before making any further cuts. To reset the origin; from the main screen of the cutter, press the Local/Pause button, move the cutting head to desired location and then press the Origin button.
Cuts are jagged or inconsistent.	The Blade may be dulled or damaged. Replace with a new blade and try again. Make sure that the blade can turn freely (by attempting to turn it with your fingers while the release button of the Blade Carriage is pressed). Adjust the blade depth of the Blade Carriage (page 17) and Force setting on the cutter (page 15) until you are getting solid, uniform cuts. Start with a blade depth of around 1/64th of an inch and a pressure setting of 100g and try an increased pressure setting before attempting to increase the blade depth.
Slashes are made across the vinyl from the blade movement during cutting.	If the blade is protruding too far from the Blade Carriage then it can score and cut material during normal operations. If this is occurring, the blade needs to be adjusted so that it is protruding a minimal distance from the carriage. Also, check to see that your software is registered correctly.
Vinyl not feeding straight and the rightmost Pinch Roller will not move.	Sometimes, during shipping or movement of the machine, the right pinch roller will become stuck on a screw located on the back of the machine. If this occurs and is affecting your cutting, press forcefully against the pinch roller until it becomes dislodged from its position. If needed, remove the screw to reposition the pinch roller in the desired position.
Cuts are warped and inconsistent.	Sometimes, during shipping or movement of the machine, the Carriage Arm can be dislodged from its track. Make sure that the 2 white wheels behind the carriage arm are both resting securely on top of (not in front) of the track. If the wheels are not on the track, gently lift the carriage arm and press back until both wheels are resting on the track.

### ISSUE

Cut has dashes or looks perforated.

## EXAMPLE

### CAUSE

Damaged cutting strip (groove in strip) or too much blade is exposed (friction build up).

## SOLUTION

Replace the cutting strip or decrease the blade depth.

### ISSUE

Cut line tapers and not cutting towards the end.

EXAMPLE

#### CAUSE

Dull blade or blade holder isn't secured properly in slot.

## SOLUTION

Replace blade, check the blade force, and secure the blade holder.

## ISSUE

Blade is skipping turns and corners.

## EXAMPLE

## CAUSE

Part of the blade is dragging on its side during turns.

## SOLUTION

Clean the inside of the blade holder by coating the blade with WD40 and moving it in and out of the blade holder. Clean off any debris that comes out. Replacement blade holder may be needed.



Cutting Strips for your vinyl cutter will need to be replaced periodically - we recommend it be done every six months if you use your vinyl cutter continuously.

You might need to change out your Cutting Strips sooner if you start experiencing an uneven depth of cut, or your material is peeling up even on slow speeds.

To replace your Cutting Strip:

- USCutter stocks replacement cutting strips. Go to USCUTTER.com and search using the keyword: Cutting Strip.
- Use a weeding tool or other pointed tool to pry up the existing strip.
   (For best results, start at either end of the strip.)
- Lay replacement into the channel and use a heat gun or hair dryer to heat the strip up as you squeeegee it into place.
- Use a knife to trim the ends of the strip so that it fits in the channel.

Cutting Blades wear out with use and the tips of the blades can snap just like the point of a sharp pencil. (This is particularly true of the 60 degree blade.) You should also periodically visibly inspect your blades and if you see visible chips in the edge it's best to replace the blade with a new one. (This is also a good time to wipe away any vinyl debris that has built up inside the blade holder.)

You might also consider the replacement of your blade if you develop problems weeding or otherwise experience problems with cut quality.

## Refer to the manual section on

Blade Set-up for instructions on how to install replacement blades and remember to dispose of your old blade safely by putting it in an aluminum can or other closed hard container.



# GET EVERYTHING FOR YOUR VINYL CUTTING NEEDS



425.481.3555



#### USCUTTER WARRANTY POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES SC2 SERIES VINYL CUTTER WITH VINYL MASTER CUT SOFTWARE (Limited Warranty) USCUTTER GUARANTEES TITAN SC2 CUTTERS AND ASSOCIATED SOFTWARE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS STATED BELOW

USCutter will repair or replace parts and equipment found to be defective in materials or workmanship during the warranty period subject to the following:

The standard SC2 series warranty is 1 year from day the product is received. In the event of a purchase of an extended warranty, extended warranty begins day after last day of initial warranty period. Extended warranties must be purchased during the time initial warranty is in effect.

On Cutter equipment, USCutter will supply new or rebuilt parts to replace parts that are found to be defective within the warranty period instead of replacing the equipment outright. USCutter will ship these parts via FedEx ground shipping with no cost to the customer as long as the shipment is within the United States. Full telephone based support will be given by USCutter representatives to aid the customer in the replacement of any parts sent.

If USCutter, at its sole discretion, determines that the equipment is not able to be repaired, then an RMA number will be assigned and the customer authorized to return the equipment for replacement.

Any equipment older than 30 days may be replaced with a certified refurbished unit at our discretion.

Software: The warranty on this product covers the software diskette/CD, not the software application. Thiscopyright protected software shall be warranted as free of material defects and shall conform to currentpublished specifications for a period of 90 days after original purchase only. If the disc is determined to bedefective a digital download for the item may be supplied at the discretion of USCutter. This warranty coversonly customers and products delivered within the United States. It will not be honored outside of the 48 contiguous US States, Hawaii and Alaska.

USCutter reserves the right to discontinue the sale of "Extended 1 Year Warranty" as part of original purchaseor purchase during warranty period at any time and for any reason.

Warranty and Exchange Process:

If you are having issues with a product or service purchased from the company, please contact the support department at USCuttersupport.com. The site features the latest contact information, links to our knowledgebase, live chat, troubleshooting documents and a system for submitting a "ticket" to request customer and product support services or to obtain a product return authorization.

Cross-Ship Method: For items being exchanged or replaced the most common method of replacement is "cross-shipment." Using this method, USCutter is able to verify the item being exchanged or replaced has been received at a shipping facility for return. USCutter will apply the value of the returned item toward the cost of the item being shipped to the customer. If no additional payments are required the item will be shipped to the customer on the current business day if confirmed before the 2:30pm (PST) ground shipping cut off. Returns confirmed after the shipping cut off it will be shipped on the next business day. Expedited shipping is available at additional cost. (Call for details.) The shipping cut off for expedited shipping is 2:00pm pacific time. Returns must be verified by USCutter using a verified tracking number before replacement will be shipped.

If for any reason customer chooses not to follow the cross ship process, the customer may opt to pay full price for a replacement item, and once the returned items are received and inspected a refund for the due amount will be processed. All returns must be authorized by an USCutter representative before the product shipped. The USCutter representative will issue a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number that must be put on the outside of the returned item packaging.

Any item being returned to USCutter (excluding items over 70 lbs which require freight shipping) are eligible for a flat rate ground shipping label at the market rate. Items determined to be defective within first 30 days or improperly shipped will receive this label free of charge. The customer may choose their own shipping method as long as tracking information is communicated to and acknowledged by USCutter.

US Cutter will not be responsible for any item sent back without an RMA in place. In the event that an item is sent without an RMA, it may be returned to customer only if they will be responsible for any shipping costs.

Items should be returned in their original packaging. Items returned in other than the original packaging may be assessed additional restocking fees of up to 50% and USCutter will not be responsible for any damage of returned items that is a result of improper shipping methods.

Restocking Fees: Any item returned as defective or under warranty will be assessed a 10% restocking fee if returned for cash refund. Any other returned item will be assessed a 20% restocking fee that will be deducted from the refund amount.

Items returned for refund will be processed within 3 business days of the time the item is received at our warehouse. Once a refund is processed it will usually be returned to the originating account within 2-3 business days, depending on the customer's bank.

Warranty Exclusions and Verification:

Warranty does not include coverage of "consumables" or any item that is commonly subject to wear and tear. This would include blades, blade holders, cutting strips and vinyl once packaging is opened.

Defective Items: If any item arrives in unusable condition, USCutter must be notified within 30 days or receiving the product or replacement may not be provided.

USCutter reserves the right to request proof in the form of photos as proof of defects or to document failure of parts replaced under warranty.

USCutter DOES NOT COVER ANY INDIRECT DAMAGES OR LOSS OF PRODUCT OR REVENUE. Repair or replacement of defective parts or components is under the terms of this warranty is the EXCLUSIVE REMEDY.

USCutter is not liable for any incidental, consequential, or indirect damages of any kind, including without limitation personal injury, death, property damage, environmental damage, theft or loss of product, loss of revenue or profits, business interruption, or any other business or commercial loss. USCutter is not liable for any claims or lawsuits asserted against our customers or any claims or lawsuits related to the unlawful or fraudulent use of our product.

Damage suffered to equipment due to neglect, abuse, misuse, power surge or act of nature is not covered.

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# WE RECOMMEND USAGE OF THE FOLLOWING VINYL WITH YOUR NEW SC2 CUTTER:



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