

# A Complete Starter Guide to the Epilog Zing



## Contents

Dos and Don'ts .....	page 1
Setting Up the Laser .....	page 2
Printing Basics .....	page 3
Engraving VS Cutting .....	page 6
X/Y Home (Advanced) .....	page 8
Center-Engraving .....	page 9
Saving & Best Practices .....	page 10

# Dos and Don'ts

## Don'ts



NEVER run a print on the Epilog without both the external filter and air assist turned on.



NEVER leave the Epilog unattended while its actively running.



NEVER use prohibited materials.



NEVER consume laser-engraved food.

## Dos

Report machine issues or safety concerns to staff immediately.



Know what to do in the event of a fire (pg. 5).



Have fun and reach out if you have any questions!

# Setting Up the Laser

## TURNING ON THE MACHINE

Flip the power switch on the side below the control panel.



## FOCUSING THE LASER

1. Open the lid and place your stock material inside.

Ensure the surface is flat and press the FOCUS button on the control panel:



2. Release the focus gauge (spring) on the gantry so it hangs freely. Use the UP/DOWN arrows to adjust the bed height until the gauge just barely makes contact with the top of the material:



3. The laser is now focused! Latch the gauge back and return the gantry to its Home position by pressing the RESET button:



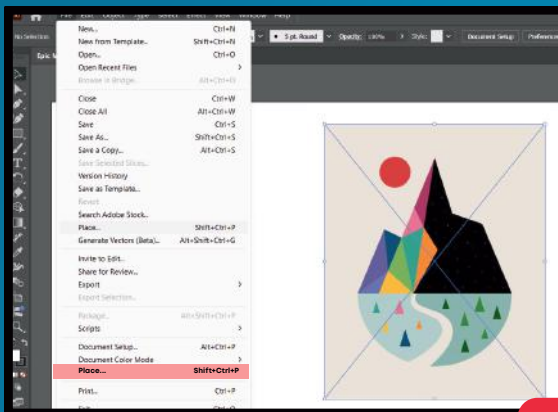
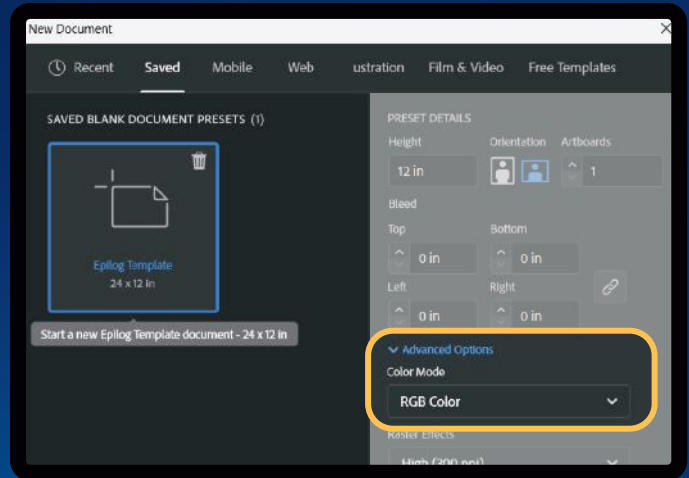
# Printing Basics: Pt. 1

## CREATE A NEW PROJECT

In Adobe Illustrator, create a new document. Default settings work just fine, but ensure **Color Mode** is set to RGB instead of CMYK.

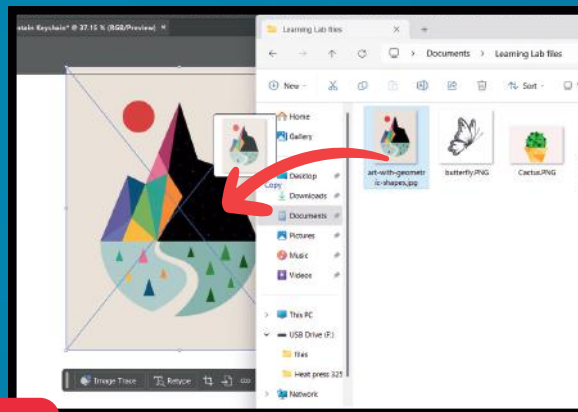
## IMPORT YOUR ARTWORK

PNG, JPG, SVG, DXF, PDF, etc.



File → Place  
(Shift+Ctrl+P)

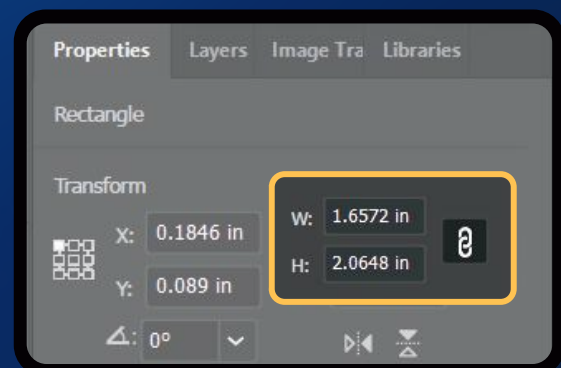
OR



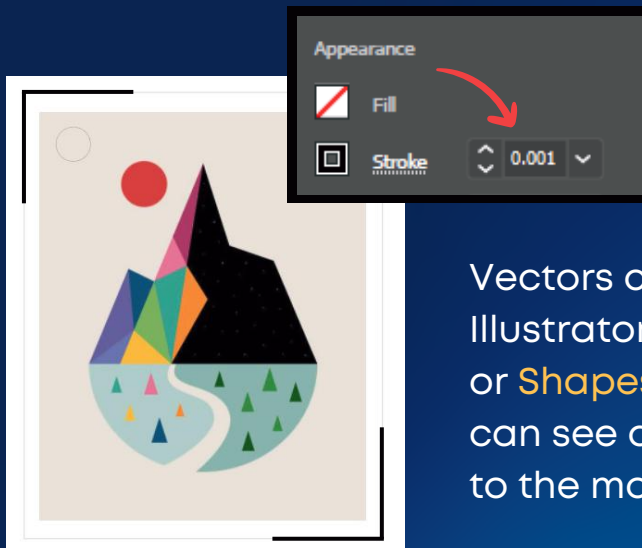
Copy/Paste File  
(Ctrl+C → Ctrl+V)

## ARRANGE YOUR DESIGN

Using the default **Selection Tool** ("V") — scale, position, and rotate your art as needed. Artwork and artboard dimensions can be typed manually using the Properties menu.



# Printing Basics: Pt. 2



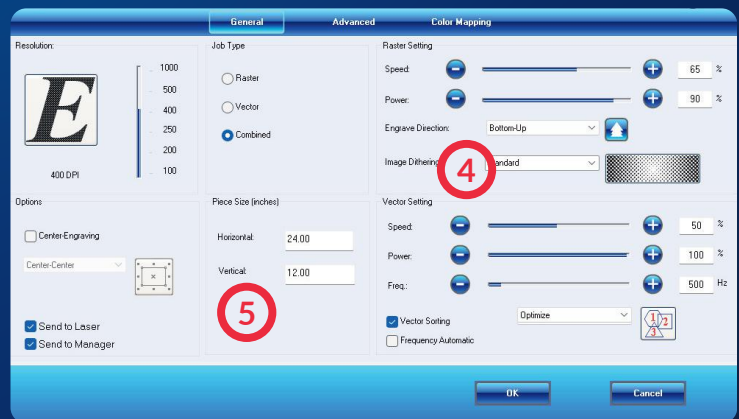
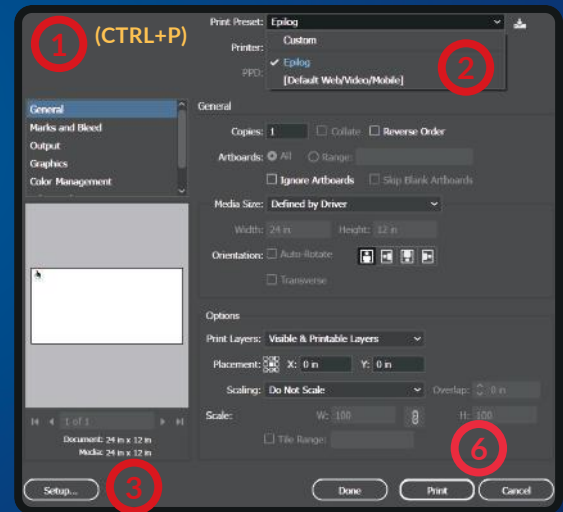
## DRAW CUTLINES

All cutlines must be set to a **Stroke Width** of 0.001.

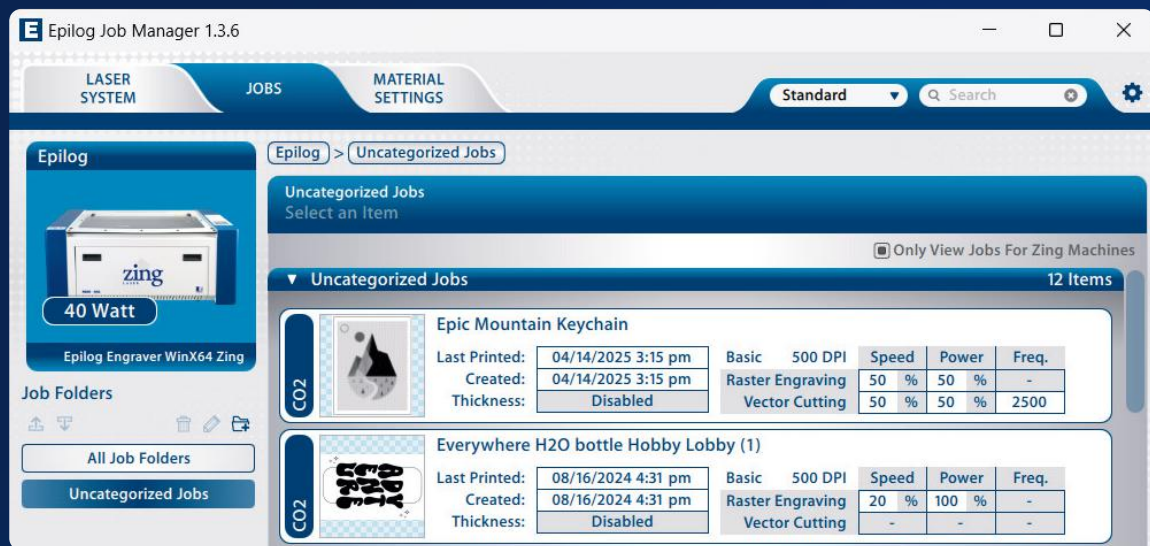
Vectors can be created easily in Illustrator using the **Pen Tool**, **Brush Tool**, or **Shapes Tool**. If you look closely, you can see a thin rectangle and circle added to the mountain image.

## SEND PRINT JOB

1. Go to “File” → “Print” (Ctrl+P) to open Adobe Print Menu.
2. Choose the “Epilog” Print Preset from the drop-down.
3. Click “Setup” and then “More Settings” for laser settings.
4. Use the **Epilog Materials Guide** to choose the right Speed, Power, Frequency, and DPI.
5. Ensure Piece Size matches your artboard.
6. Confirm settings and select “Print” on the original menu.



# Printing Basics: Pt. 3



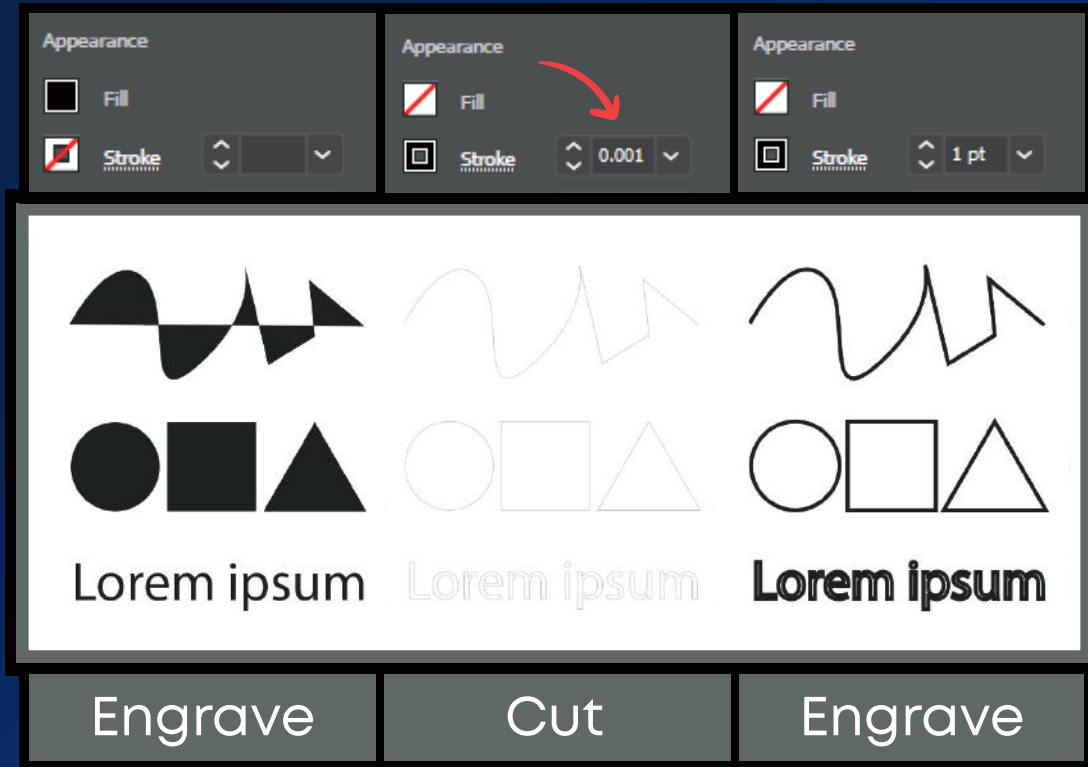
Before starting the laser, open the **Epilog Job Manager** ( **E** icon) to double-check your settings and cutlines. You should see your print at the top of the print queue. Carefully follow the steps below before activating the laser.

## Machine Operating Checklist

- Focus the laser (see page 2)
- Review **Power/Speed** settings
- Turn on the **Filter** and **Air Assist**



# Engraving VS Cutting:



Whether your design will engrave or cut is based on the object's **Stroke Width** in Adobe Illustrator. Only vector elements set to a weight of **0.001** will cut. Everything else on the artboard will engrave by default.

Engrave	Raster Images (bitmap): .JPG, .PNG, .BMP, .TIFF
Engrave, Cut, & Score	Vector Images: .SVG, .ESP, .PDF, .AI, .DXF

# BONUS: Tips to Avoid Disaster

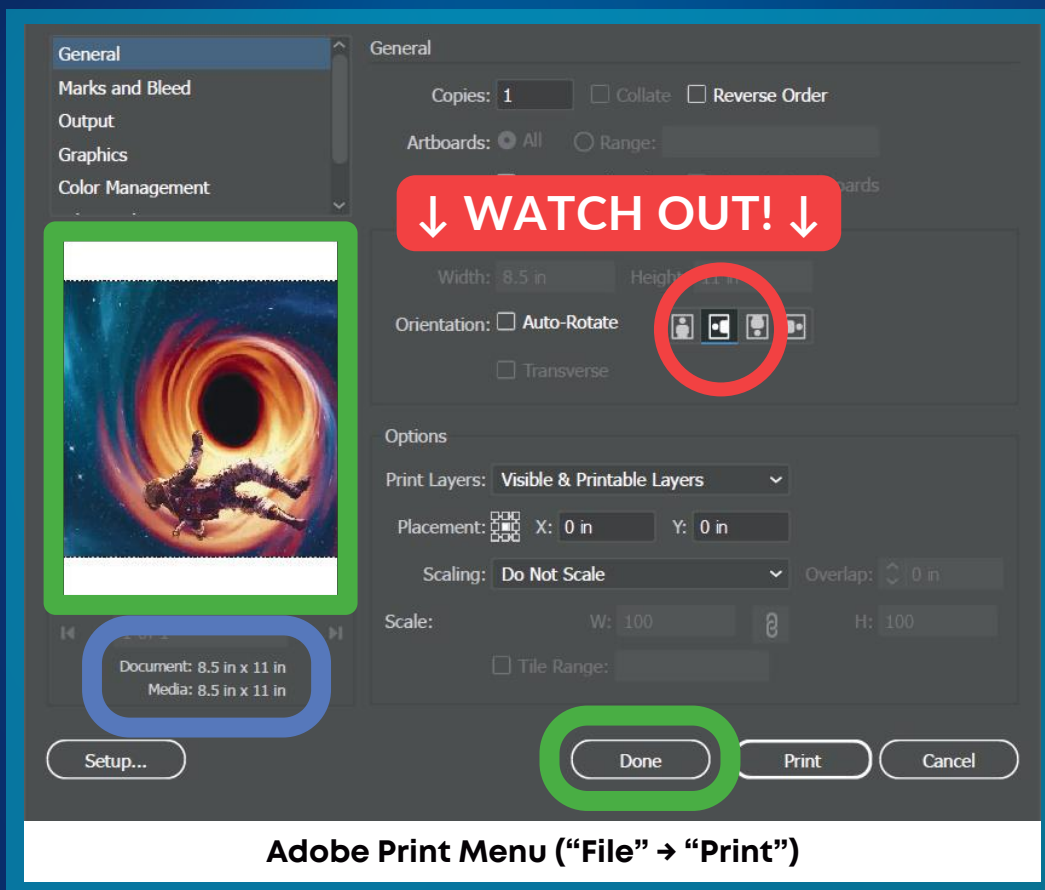
## DOUBLE CHECK YOUR SETTINGS

- Always verify your settings, placement, and cutlines using the Epilog Job Manager app ( **E** icon). Almost all mistakes can be caught in job preview.
- **TEST, TEST, TEST!** Use scrap, or print directly over taped material at 5% power. OR run at 0% power and just watch the path of the LED pointer!



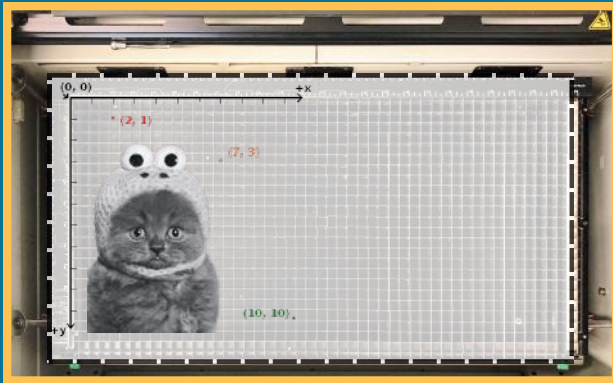
## BUG INSPECTION 🐛

- Media size and document size should always match →
- Is your design rotated correctly? →
- Is the preview accurate? Sometimes you need to refresh the Print window.  
“DONE” → “FILE” → “PRINT” →



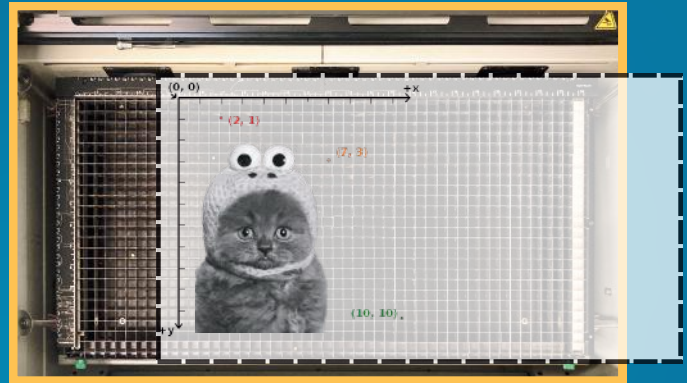
# X/Y Home (Advanced)

The Epilog's default Home (or rest position) is the top-left corner of the bed ( $X=0, Y=0$ ). The Home position acts as a starting point for your artwork; thus, moving it also moves the engraving. This is great for more precise engraving or working around holes/knots in the material.



## Default Home Position

Resets to here after power cycle or using this command:

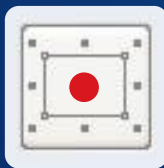


## Custom Home Position

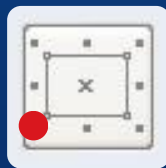
Created by unlocking the gantry and moving it manually to a new position (see next page).

**Beware! DO NOT engrave beyond the bounds of the crumb tray!**

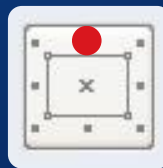
Choosing a different alignment option may also come in handy when working with irregular shapes. To do this, follow the same steps as “Center-Engraving” but choose a different option on the last step.



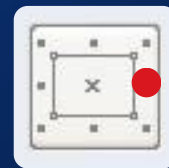
Center-Center



Bottom-Left



Center-Top



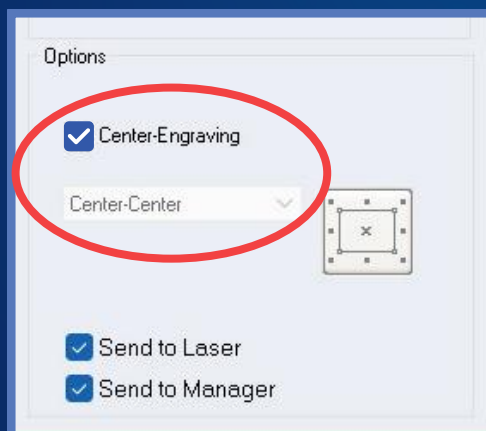
Center-Right

# Center-Engraving

Center-engraving is when you use the center of your material as the Home position instead of the top-left corner. This helps with engraving designs onto round objects and other shapes.

## Step 1: Set New X/Y Home

- Turn ON the **Red Laser Pointer** (#7)
- Select the **Unlock X/Y button** (#8)
- Physically move the gantry and laser belt until the red dot aligns with the center of your material
- Press the **Go** button to confirm the new Home position
- Turn OFF the **Red Laser Pointer**
- Select the **Back/Reset** button to return to the main screen



## Step 2: Enable Center-Engraving

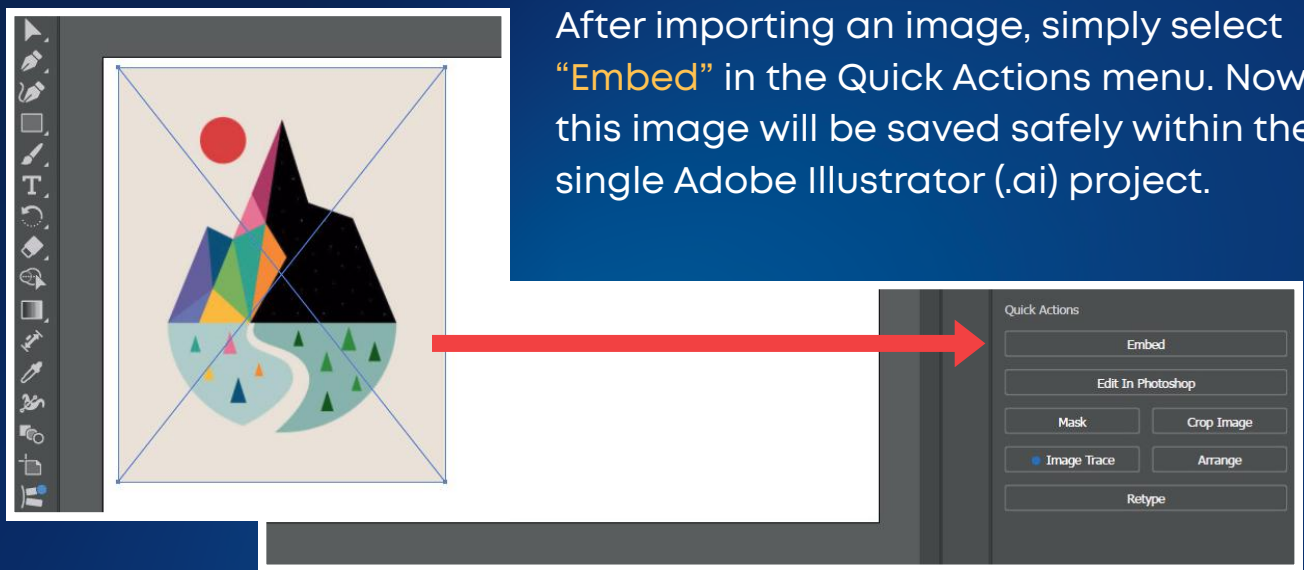
- Open Epilog settings as usual
- Check the Center-Engraving box
- Leave option as Center-Center

# Saving Files and Best Practices

All projects should be saved to external storage or cloud service.



It's also important to know that photos are not “embedded” by default (indicated by the large X across the image), making it easy to lose them.



After importing an image, simply select “Embed” in the Quick Actions menu. Now, this image will be saved safely within the single Adobe Illustrator (.ai) project.

Similarly, “Create Outlines” will flatten text into a vector path. This way, you’ll never need to re-download the font.

