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## GLOSSARY



# INTRODUCTION

Having the ability to create your own artwork can be very beneficial, even if you use clip art as a starting point but customize it to suit your needs. With that in mind this book was created to not only show you ways to create artwork for vinyl cutting but more importantly to show you how to create it properly so that it will cut smoother and quicker and will be weed-friendly to reduce production time. The more time you save in production, the more profitable you will be!

The first part of the book discusses information that pertains to vinyl cutting in general whether it's a single color vinyl cut design or a print/cut image. What's the difference between vector artwork and raster artwork, and how does it apply to vinyl cutting. How using traditional clip art isn't always the best choice for vinyl cutting. How does producing large quantities of vinyl cut images versus cutting and weeding just a few such as for crafting affect how detailed your image can be? You'll find out about all of this and more.

The additional sections of the book are set up as step-by-step lessons to demonstrate various specifications, techniques and ways to create artwork for vinyl cutting. One section focuses specifically on vinyl cutting using individual vinyl materials, and the other section focuses on printing/cutting. While printing/cutting is a slightly different process in that a full color design is digitally printed before it is cut, some of the same techniques needed to create a vinyl cut design will be used to create the cut line that is necessary for cutting a print/cut design.

The lessons in this book deal primarily with Adobe Illustrator. However, because of the full-color nature of printing/cutting, Adobe Photoshop is introduced. Lessons that require the use of Photoshop are noted with a small Photoshop logo in the introduction section of the lesson. While you don't need to be an expert in these programs to follow along with the lessons, a basic knowledge is suggested to help you navigate through them easier.

In general the lessons discuss individual techniques or processes. They demonstrate skills using basic designs. However to create a complete vinyl cut image or layout, the functions will be used in conjunction with each other to complete a design. For this reason, it is recommended to read the lessons in order, as later lessons may reference an earlier technique that was outlined in more detailed in an earlier lesson. As you start using these processes and understanding how they work and are used in conjunction with one another, it will be easier to create more intricate designs.

The directions offered in this book are ways that we have found that work. However, keep in mind there's always more than one way to get to the same end result. You may know a different key stroke or command or process to achieve the same outcome. Feel free to use what you are familiar with to get where you need to be. Once you get the big picture of how and why the art is created the way it is, and how certain functions work together to create a vinyl cut design or a print/cut outline, you can use whatever tools and techniques you are familiar with to complete your design.

