



# LASER CUTTER

## Quick Guide

### Set Up:

1. Check your design file - vector cut/etch lines should be **.001" stroke thickness and one of 8 approved RGB colors**. Any other settings will raster etch.
2. Find a piece of scrap material that fits your design.
3. Use the power/speed boards to choose initial settings.
4. Check the time estimate in the UCP software - **it must be less than 90 minutes**. Simple cuts usually take less than 20.

### Use:

1. On the laser cutter computer, open your design in Illustrator and go to File > Print > Setup > Preferences.
2. Input power/speed settings for each color in your design.
3. Click 'Set' and 'Apply' > Print > Print to send to UCP software.
4. Calibrate the laser to your material with the focusing tool.
5. Confirm ventilation and air flow are turned on for the machine.
6. Using UCP, double-check that your time estimate is under 90 minutes and that your design fits on your chosen material.
7. Close the machine door and press the green button in UCP.

### Clean Up:

1. Remove material from laser cutter, return unused scrap, close all software windows, and notify a BeAM staff member.

***Want more detail with photos of the process?***

[https://beam.unc.edu/files/2019/04/LaserCut\\_Ebook\\_V1.pdf](https://beam.unc.edu/files/2019/04/LaserCut_Ebook_V1.pdf)