**Introduction to xTool**

**What is a xTool**

A machine that cuts, scores and engraves materials such as wood, leather, and acrylic using a 55w CO2 laser. Using dual cameras the machine can show the printable area (print bed) in the xTool’s Creative Suite software to make it easy to align designs with materials. The P2’s cameras measure materials to set an exact focal height for your specific material. This allows for greater control over the cutting, scoring, and engraving settings.

The software uses .svg files (scalable vector graphics). .SVG files save images and text as mathematical formulas based on points and lines on a grid, making it possible for the tool to cut, score, or engrave based on those lines. The machine can work with other files types including .png or .jpeg files, but it might not be possible do more than engrave with these on the material provided.

**The xTool software**

The xTool software (xTool Creative Suite) is available for anyone to download. Users can create projects using a handful of very helpful graphic design and image editing tools. Files can be exported as a working file, which saves any settings the machine needs to complete the project, or can be exported as .svg files.

The xTool’s Creative Suite is not cloud-based, so designs made at home will need to be transferred to the library’s computer via USB. Any files created using the library’s computer will also need to be saved on an USB by the user or it will be deleted.

The Creative Suite also links to xTool’s DesignFind database that houses a library of designs both free and for purchase. These projects can be a good way to gain comfort with using the machine without having to learn how to design for it.

**Materials**

The library provides practice materials for users including plywood and clear acrylic for learning. Makers are allowed to use materials but should not consider these as the primary source for projects. Materials brought by makers should be laser safe. Maker Room staff **must** approve all materials before being used on the machine. **The library reserves the right to refuse materials we are uncertain of or deem to be unsafe.**

* Maximum thickness for cutting is .78 inches
* Maximum thickness for engraving or scoring is 8.5 inches
* Bed size is 12 (height) x 23.6 (width) inches

Click [here](https://www.xtool.com/blogs/xtool-academy/laser-cutting-materials-list?srsltid=AfmBOoozMU4pQOaIylRBmGwrAcClYE-dzedrLl3IZ7dr4uGyTeQVHNvh) for more information on materials safe to use with the library’s xTool.