

HTV Anything Guide

Instructions for use with a cutting machine

Are you ready to make some incredible, dishwasher-proof heat transfer vinyl (HTV) stickers? “Stick” around to learn how, with this HTV Anything guide. HTV Anything is a special vinyl that you can melt HTV into, converting any HTV design into a permanent adhesive sticker!

What you’ll need:

1. HTV Anything
2. Heat transfer vinyl (HTV)
3. A cut file or design
4. An electronic cutting machine (the Silhouette Cameo 4 is used in this guide)
5. A smooth, flat surface for your sticker (such as a tumbler, a phone case, etc)
6. A weeding tool or tweezers
7. A teflon sheet (preferably 2)
8. A heat press

Recommended materials with HTV Anything (all HTV):

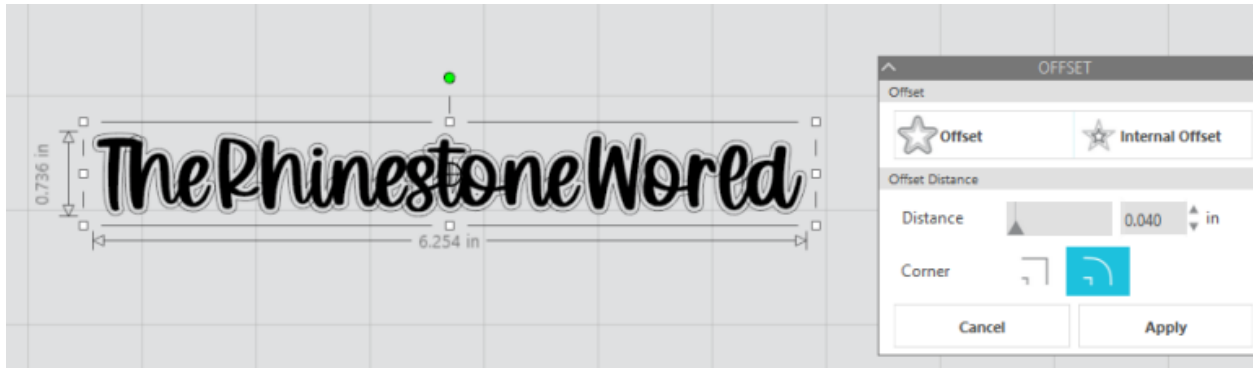
- Glitter
- Brick
- Strip Flock
- Holographic
- Opal
- Easyweed (in small sections)
- Textured Vinyl

* This guide specifically describes use of a Silhouette Cameo 4 with Silhouette Studio software. Other cutting machines can also be used, the software and steps may differ slightly. *

Prepare your design:

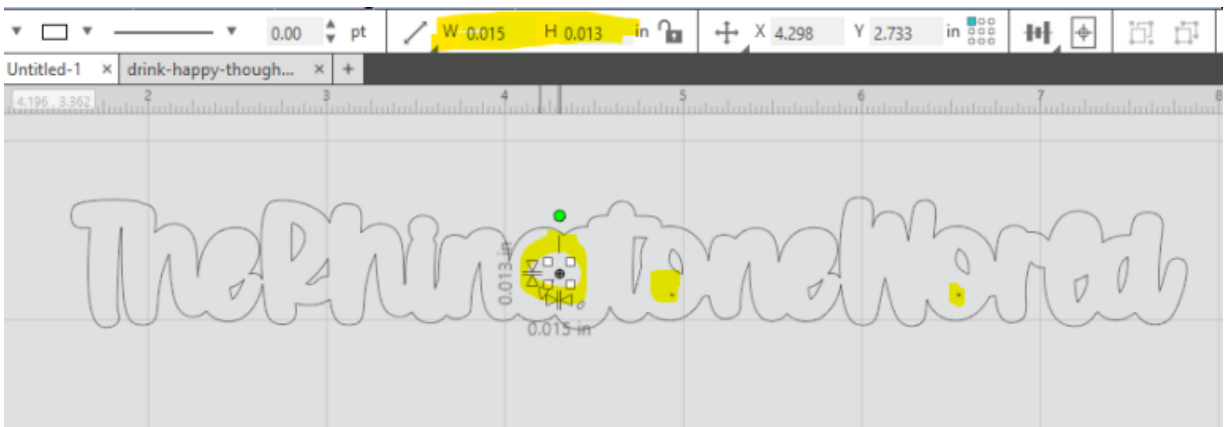
To get started, open Silhouette Studio (or the design software for your cutting machine) and import your design file. Make a copy of your design so there are two copies in the cutting mat view. The first copy will be cut from your HTV material. Like a normal heat transfer design, it’s cut into the back of the media. So, the design must be mirrored. (HTV Anything would not be mirrored) Do this in Silhouette Studio with **Object > Mirror > Flip Horizontally**. Then weld and group everything in the design and move it to the side of the mat. Now, select the copy you made of the design. This one will be cut from HTV Anything. It needs to be slightly offset from your design. Imagine it like a double-scoop ice cream cone. The bottom scoop needs to be a bit

bigger to support the top one. In Silhouette Studio, use the External Offset tool to create and apply a small external offset to your design.

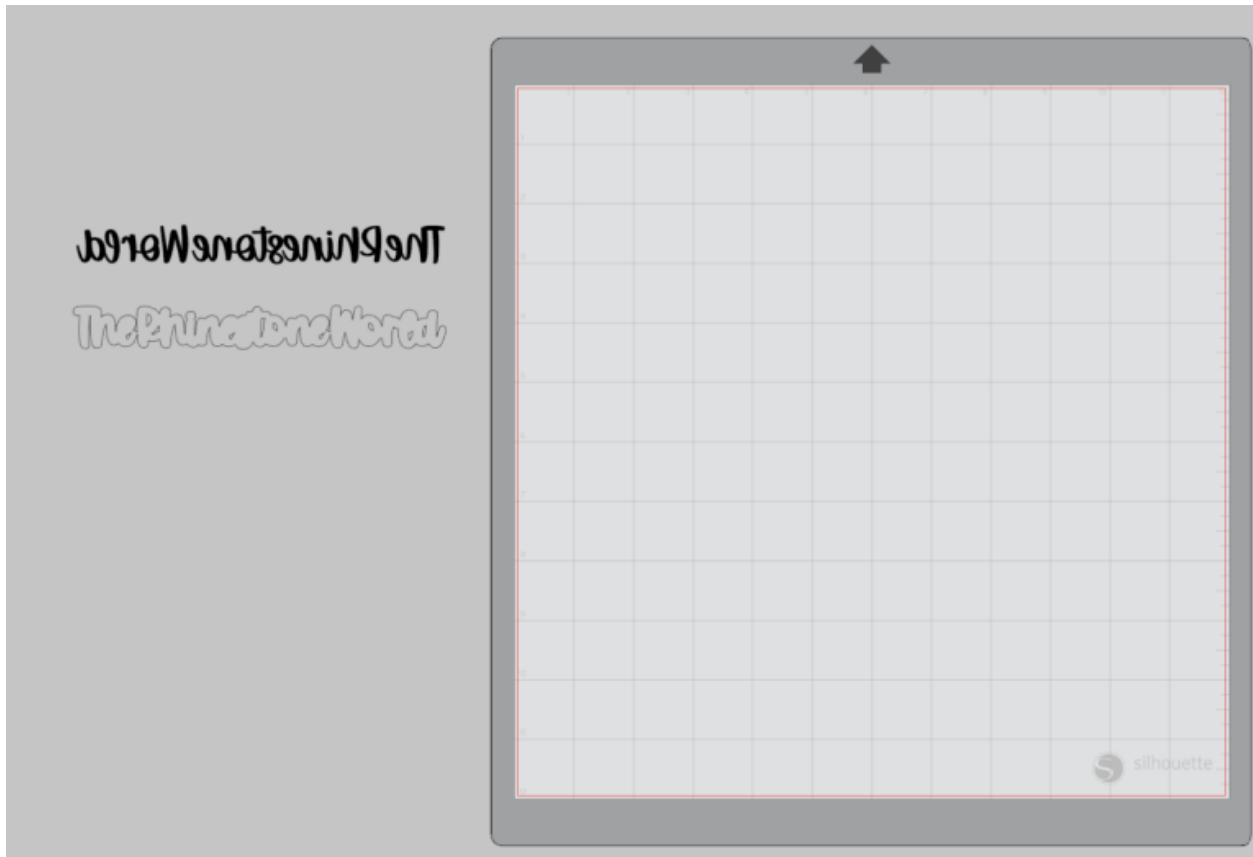


* The larger the offset size, the more forgiving the process is when it comes to matching things up. However, larger offsets also show more of the HTV Anything around your HTV design. Make it as small as you feel comfortable doing. The smallest offset recommended is 0.02 inches. *

Once the offset is created, click on the design inside it and delete it. Optionally, closely examine your offset shape for very small areas that would normally be weeded out of the design (smaller than 0.1 x 0.1 inches). These can be difficult to weed from HTV Anything, so we recommend that you remove these weeded areas before cutting. This results in the HTV Anything showing through in those places. In Silhouette Studio you can right click on the offset path and select "Release Compound Path", then use the "Select" or "Edit Points" tools to select and delete tiny offset areas.



Select everything in the offset path and group it all together. Move the offset group off to the side of the mat with the mirrored design. Your mat view should now be empty, with two designs beside it: one mirrored, and one offset path.



Cutting your HTV Anything:

Start by cutting your HTV. Check the size of material needed and place it on your mat, carrier side down. In the design software, drag the mirrored version of your design onto the mat view. Then send the job to your cutter with appropriate cut settings for the HTV media you're using.

* Be sure that your cut settings don't automatically mirror the design. Both designs to be cut are correctly configured at this point, and don't need any further mirroring. You could also allow the software to mirror it by itself when you choose the material you are cutting and skip that first mirrored step we did. *

When the cut job is complete, remove the HTV from your cutting mat and set it aside. Move the original (mirrored) design off the design mat and bring in the offset path. Verify its size and cut a piece of HTV Anything that's 1-2 inches wider and taller than the minimum size needed for the offset path. Place the HTV Anything shiny side up on your cutting mat. Send the job to the cutter with cut settings for HTV Anything. Remember not to allow the software to mirror this design.

* When you're testing your cutter settings for HTV Anything, set a depth and force that cuts through the thick shiny plastic, but not through the paper backing. Remember to do a test cut before cutting the whole material! *

Our recommended settings for using HTV Anything on the Silhouette Cameo are as follows:

Blade Depth	3
Speed	10
Force	20-24
Passes	1

Weeding your design:

Weed your HTV as usual. When you're done, trim the carrier sheet to within ¼ inch of the edges of the vinyl, but be sure not to accidentally cut into your design. This makes the HTV carrier smaller than the HTV Anything design, which helps reduce sticking!

Next, carefully weed the HTV Anything. Do the same kind of weeding you just did for the HTV: remove the excess around your design and inside any empty areas. For example, if your design includes the word TheRhinestoneWorld, remove all the extra clear plastic around the outside of the letters, and the pieces inside the letter's "e", "R", "o", and any other sections with cavities caused by the font choice.

The offset process can create areas to weed that are a different shape from your HTV design, or that weren't present. Be sure to get them all!



When you think you're done weeding, go over everything once more. Check each cavity that should be weeded to make sure it's been done. If you can't see clearly, run a weeding tool along the edges to feel for a difference in height!

Aligning the pieces:

This next part is very important for getting a good outcome, so take your time!

Place your HTV Anything on a flat surface, shiny side up. Then, place your weeded HTV design on top of the HTV Anything, shiny side up. The mirrored HTV design now perfectly matches the HTV Anything design. Like the double-scoop ice cream cone, the top HTV layer is slightly smaller than the bottom HTV Anything layer. Take a few moments to line things up carefully and ensure there's the same amount of HTV Anything visible on all sides of your HTV design.

Click [here](#) for a quick video showing you the process!

Pressing everything together:

Once you're ready, turn on your heat press and heat it to 305°F. While it heats up, clean your project surface with isopropyl alcohol (or another degreasing cleaner if isopropyl alcohol isn't safe for your project). Take that design you just layered together and press it for 6-8 seconds with a Teflon sheet. Remember, HTV Anything goes on the bottom and the HTV material on top!

* To avoid accidental adhesion, teflon sheets are recommended instead of parchment paper. If you only have one sheet of teflon, try folding it in half so you use it for both the top and bottom layers. *

Your layers look like this:

- Top layer: Teflon
- Under the Teflon: the HTV
- Under the HTV: HTV Anything
- Bottom layer: Teflon

If you're using the Cricut Easy Press, avoid dragging it across the surface. Instead, lift and place. If the whole design doesn't fit under your press, carefully lift, and reposition it, pressing each section for 6-8 seconds.

Cool and peel:

Let the project cool enough that you can handle it without burning yourself (HTV Anything requires a cool peel), then remove part of the HTV carrier sheet to make sure the HTV is completely melted into HTV Anything's shiny top surface. We recommend letting the newly pressed decal cool, then flip the decal over and roll it off of the HTV's carrier sheet. This process is very helpful when using thinner HTV or even plastisol transfers on HTV Anything! If your design has cut out sections in the middle, it's possible that the gummy glue from your carrier sheet has adhered to the clear HTV Anything sticker material. Use tweezers or your fingernails to pry the HTV Anything (and the now-attached HTV) away from the HTV's carrier sheet!

* If you plan to use a more flexible transfer tape, you can remove the carrier sheet. Otherwise, keep it at least partly connected so you can apply the sticker to your project. *

Apply your design:

Your design is now similar to a decal/sticker. If you treat it as a decal, use transfer tape to transfer the design. If you treat it as a sticker, carefully peel off the design and apply it to any smooth surface.

For this example, the design will be treated as decal. Different vinyl materials need different types of transfer tapes. This example needs [ColorSpark's Application Tape - Super High Tack](#) (strong transfer tape for the textured glitter vinyl). Peel off the backing of the tape and place the tape on the design, then run a squeegee over the design to ensure the design sticks on the tape.

* Be sure to use the correct transfer tape for your design. We recommend using [ColorSpark Application Tape - Medium Tack](#) for most standard vinyl decal projects. [ColorSpark's Application Tape- High Tack](#) is used for specialty vinyl's such as ColorSpark's Metallic Vinyl, Holographic Vinyl, and Opal Vinyl. [ColorSpark's Application Tape-Super High Tack](#) is specially designed for use with ColorSpark's Glitter Textured Vinyl. *

Next, flip the sticker over so the paper backing faces up. Now, remove that paper, being careful not to touch the sticker glue with your fingers. Place the HTV Anything sticker on your previously cleaned project surface and remove the transfer tape or HTV carrier sheet!

Avoid getting your project wet or subjecting it to any extreme conditions for the next 48 hours.

This gives the HTV Anything sticker time to cure completely and form a permanent bond with your project surface.