

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Proper Use of a Cutting Mat

- Anyone who does any kind of cutting or trimming in their Shop needs a cutting mat.
- Protects your table top, keeps your blades sharper longer, and allows for a nice cutting surface.
- Makes life much simpler -- cutting mats do not last forever and will wear out.

10 Commandments to Keep Your Cutting Mat in Good Shape and Make it Last Longer

1. Avoid repetitious cutting and always use a **Sharp Blade**, applying the proper pressure to cut through your material.
2. Use the proper knives with a sharp blade. Recommend slide knives with break-away blades (not the heavy-duty ones) and Xacto-type knives.
3. **Do Not Use** utility knives common to the trades that are designed to cut sheet rock and carpet.
4. Cut on your cutting mat using the same pressure you would use trimming vinyl on a vehicle when applying graphics without scoring the paint.
5. Proper training on how to cut through materials is a plus to keep your blades sharp and make your cutting mat last longer.
 - How to score vinyl with a knife without going through the liner.
 - How to cut through the vinyl and liner.
 - How to cut through all the vinyl and liners with pre mask and with just a light score on the cutting mat.
 - How to cut through any other material (e.g. banner) and lightly score the mat**More Pressure Is Not The Answer.**
6. Two of the hardest materials to cut are Coroplast and PVC without causing damage to your cutting mat.
 - Coroplast should be cut in three to four score marks, with each mark getting deeper but using the same pressure as the cut before it. With practice you can cut it without even touching the top of the mat.
 - PVC is usually 1/8 to 1/4 -inch thick. Anything thicker should be cut with a panel saw or router. The fastest way to cut PVC is to score it and then lay it along the edge of the table or mat and snap it off. This is quick and clean.
7. Cutting mats can be scored by using Dull Blades and too much Pressure on the Knife. Again, **Apply only the Pressure needed to cut through the item being cut.**
8. Cutting mats will last a long time if used properly. The person running the knife dictates how long it will last.
9. If you score the mat using the wrong knife or a dull blade, or apply extreme pressure, **The Magic healing fairy will not show up to fix it.**
10. Cutting mats are like a fine automobile—you must treat them right if you want them to perform.