

Addendum to KNK/ACS User Manual¹

February 2011

1.3 Parts Diagram: Modification: the 24" Maxx now comes with 4 pinch wheels versus 3.

1.4 Keypad Panel: Addition: pressing the **Menu** button three times on a 15" or 24" Maxx will now display **Load UDrive?** The purpose of this function is to allow cutting on a Maxx without direct connection to a computer. Refer to *Section 4.9* below.

Step 6: In Online Mode, press the Menu button three times.

Press again to turn off Menu function.



Press the **Origin** button to read the file names on the flash drive. When the desired file is queued, press the **Origin** button a second time to begin the cut.

4.9 Cutting to a Maxx without Computer Connection (new section)

The newest Maxx models have a USB flash drive port located on the right side of the cutter, between the USB and serial ports. This port can be used to connect a USB flash drive and any .plt files on the flash can be cut on the Maxx.

USB Port for connecting via USB to a computer

USB Flash Reader for reading PLT files from a USB storage device.



Serial Port for connecting via serial cable to a computer

What It Can Do and What It Cannot Do:

- It's important to note that the function of this feature is to repeat a cut already executed from within the KNK or ACS Studio software. This means that the cut file cannot be modified once it is selected from the control panel on the Maxx. Instead, upon selecting the .plt file, the Maxx will immediately cut the file.

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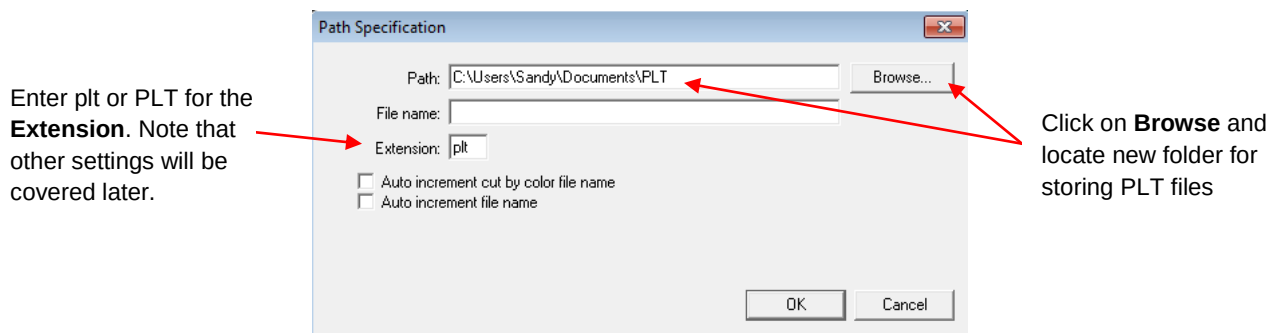
- The primary uses for this feature are when the Maxx cannot be physically located next to the computer hosting the KNK Studio software or when the same files are going to be cut repeatedly and it is convenient to read the files from the flash drive rather than opening them in the software.
- Note that print and cut applications using the jogging process in KNK/ACS Studio cannot be saved to PLT since it requires direct communication between the software and the machine to identify the precise location of the registration marks with each new cut.

Setting Up KNK/ACS Studio:

(videos for the next 2 sections available at <http://www.iloveknk.com/FreeVideos/Features/>)

Before setting up your software to create PLT files, make sure that you have all of your default settings made, including Machine Limits, Overcut and Trailing Blade settings, and Resolution Calibration. Refer to Sections 2.2 and 2.4 of the user manual. Also make sure you can successfully cut to your Maxx directly from KNK/ACS Studio before proceeding.

- (1) Set up a new folder on your hard drive for storing your PLT files. It can be on your Windows Desktop, inside My Documents, or anywhere else, as long as you remember where you have created it. While you could save them directly to your flash drive, you cannot always depend on your computer assigning the same letter designation to your flash. So, it is recommended that you first save the PLT files to your computer and then copy/paste them to the flash. This also provides you a back up of your PLT versions. You can name your new folder anything you wish. In this tutorial, the location will be c:\000 PLT Files so that it is easily found.
- (2) In KNK/ACS Studio, go to **Cut>Plotting Defaults** and click on **Setup**.
- (3) Click on **Create Custom Copy of Selected Driver** and then, in the popup window, name your new driver something like "Create PLT File" or "PLT for USB Flash".
- (4) Click on **Apply** and **OK**. You will then return to the **Plot** window. From the drop-down menu for **Selected Driver**, switch to your new driver.
- (5) Click on **Setup** and then select the **Port** tab. In the **Port location** dropdown menu, switch from your current COM Port assignment to **File**.
- (6) Click on **Set Path** and then note the following settings:



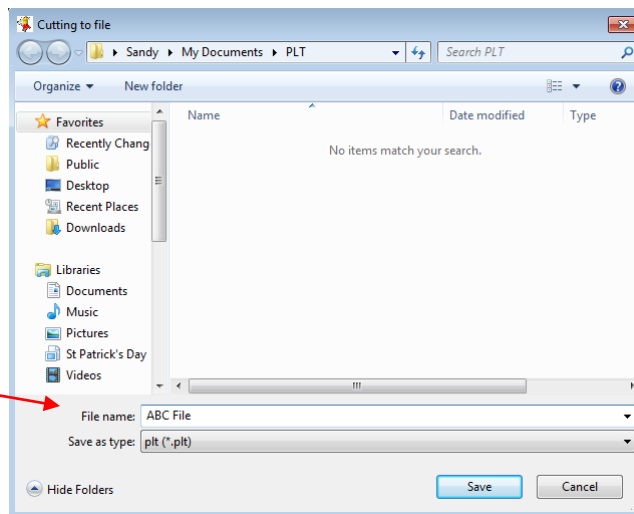
- (7) Click on **OK** to close. Click on **Apply** and **OK** to close **Port** window. Click on **Apply** and **Close** to close **Plot** window.

Creating the PLT Files

- (1) Open the file you wish to cut or create it from scratch.
- (2) Check all of your cut settings, just as if you were cutting directly to the Maxx.

- (3) Click on the **Cut Tool** icon to send the image to the **Cut Preview** window. Note the location of the image on the screen and how it will be cut. You may wish to keep notes on your PLT files with information such as whether the file will cut in **Page** or **Sign Blank** mode, **Axis Swap** is on or off, and if only a portion of the file is being cut (e.g. you may only be cutting some of the cut lines, but not all of them).
- (4) Execute the cut, as normal, however, instead of cutting a popup window will appear. Enter the name of the file and then click on **Save**. Note: if you are only cutting a portion of your file, such as one particular color, you may wish to specify that in the file name or write it down in your notes.

Name the file and then click on **Save**.



- (5) The PLT file will now be created in the folder you set up, with the name you specified.

Cutting PLT Files on the Maxx

- (1) After you have created one or more PLT files, copy/paste them to your flash drive using conventional methods. Your flash drive can contain other types of files but you will have to scroll through all of the files to locate your PLT files. Thus it's advisable to minimize the number of other files on the drive. Also, your PLT files cannot be located inside of a folder on your flash drive. They must be at the highest level.
- (2) Insert the flash drive into the USB port on the Maxx. The cutter can be either on or off.



- (3) Prepare your material for the cut. Perform a test cut, if necessary, and set the origin for the cut.
- (4) To load the file, set the cutter to **Online** mode. Press the **Menu** button three times. The display on the Control Panel will read "**Load UDisk?**" as shown in the photo at the beginning of this document.

- (5) Press the **Origin** button to answer “yes”. Wait a second for the first file or folder to be displayed. To cancel reading the disk, simply press the **Menu** button again to return to the main **Online** display.
- (6) After pressing the **Origin** button, the first folder or file on the flash drive will be read. Use the top and bottom “+” and “-” buttons to scroll through the folders and files on the drive. Again, a folder cannot be opened, so any PLT files you wish to use must be saved at this top level.

Use + and – buttons to scroll through all files on flash drive until desired file shows in the display



File number / total files on drive

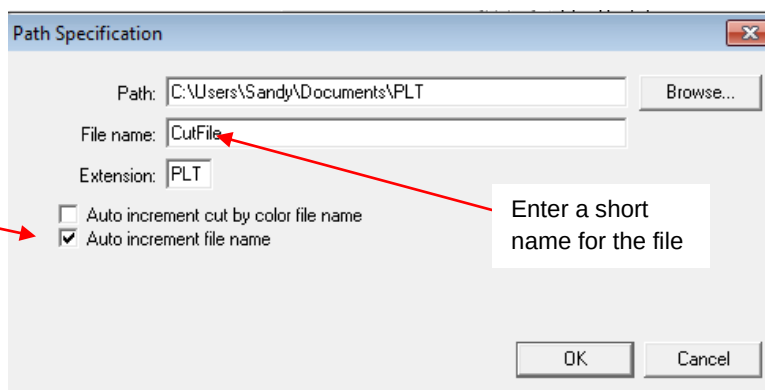
File name

- (7) When you locate the file you wish to cut, press the **Origin** button and the file will immediately begin to cut. This is why it's important to have all of your settings made and the origin set on the material before loading the file list into the display.
- (8) If you inadvertently select a file that is not a PLT file, information will be sent to the cutter and the control panel display will begin to flash. Turn off the machine to stop this transfer of data to the cutter and clear the memory.
- (9) If you need to repeat the same cut, go **Offline**, reset the origin (if necessary), and then press the **Repeat** button. Of course, you can also reload the same file from the flash drive using the method in Step (4).
- (10) If any software changes to the file are needed, such as changing **Overcut** and **Trailing Blade** settings, switching **Page / Sign Blank** mode, resizing or other image modifications, then those changes must be made in the KNK/ACS Studio software and the file regenerated as a PLT file and saved to your flash drive.

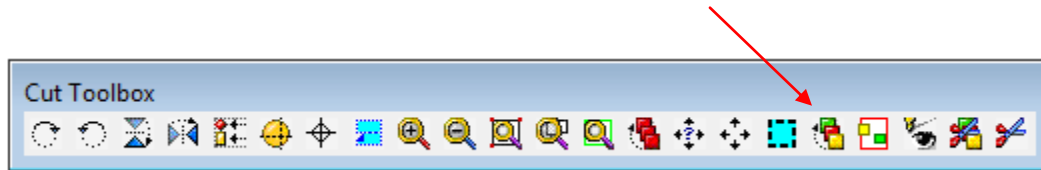
Other Settings

- If you are keeping notes on the PLT files being created, you may prefer to give a default name to the files and then have the software automatically increment numerically with each PLT created. To do this, go back to the **Port** tab (**Cut>Plotting Defaults>Setup** and then select the **Port** tab). Click on **Path** and check the box next to **Auto Increment File Name**. Enter a file name:

Check box to have auto incrementing beginning with 1



- Then, each time you send a file to cut, the popup window will be ready to save the file with this new name. Note that you will still have the ability to modify the file name before saving.
- The other setting available is useful when you have multiple colors in your file and each color needs to be cut separately, such as the case with paper piecing patterns. Check the box next to **Auto increment cut by color file name** (see prior diagram), uncheck the **Auto increment file name** box, and then, when you enter the **Cut Preview** window, click on the **Filter By Color** box:



- A window will pop open showing the first color to be cut. Proceed with that color or click on the down arrow to open the menu of all colors and select which one you wish to use first. You will then need to click the **Select** button and then click the **Cut** icon (scissors icon) you normally select to start the cut. Again, a popup menu will appear with the default file name and an incremented number. At this time, you may wish to modify the file name to include the color of cut line or some other text to indicate what is being cut with this color. Or you can also just indicate this in your notes.