[1]Wishblade 201

Print and Cut AND the Reverse Cut and Print

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A. What are these, how do I pick, and why do I need to use them?

- The Wishblade comes with an optical eye. In doing a Print and Cut, an image is imported, traced, printed on your final media, and then fed into the Wishblade and cut out. The optical eye reads registration marks that are printed with your image and uses those marks to know where to cut.

- In the Reverse Cut and Print, the image is first printed onto normal computer paper. The image is also cut from your final media using the Wishblade. This cutout is then adhered to the computer paper in the same location and fed through the printer again for a second printing.

- In some cases one or the other will be a better choice depending on the application. For example, if you're cutting from a sheet of cardstock longer than what your printer will allow, then the Reverse Cut and Print is a better choice. Once you become familiar with both methods, stop and think before you start any project that involves both cutting and printing. Ask yourself how it's going to proceed, how many copies are you making, how many of the same item will fit on a page, is there something uniquely different about this project, etc. It should become apparent to you which of the two methods will work more efficiently. If not, then just proceed with one and see how well it's working for you! It may not matter.

- Suggested uses for Print and Cuts include:

  - Cutting out colored clipart
  - Cutting shapes or text from pre-cut cards
  - Cutting outlines from actual photos
  - Printing in specific locations on cutouts

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B. Details on Print and Cuts[2]

- Step-by-Step Procedure

1. Import or scan a graphic image as described in Wishblade 103.
2. Trace the image, again as described in Wishblade 103. Note that once you get the image traced, you must leave the tracing in the exact spot as the image so the Wishblade will know where to cut.
3. Select the media you want for the Print and Cut. Place it in the appropriate tray in your printer.
4. Select the Output Settings icon from the taskbar and click on the Printer tab.
5. Select your printer from the top of this window and the click on the Properties button. Make the appropriate changes according to your own printer's specifications. In general, you will select the highest quality print option.
6. Check or uncheck "Print Cut Lines" depending on whether or not you want them to show.
7. Select Output to Printer and then OK to print your image.
8. Place the printout on the mat noting the direction printed on your output sheet and feed into the Wishblade as normal.
9. Again select Output Settings icon from the taskbar but click on the Cutting Settings tab.
10. Click on "Cutline Settings" to verify your line color choices and styles. Then click on "Output to Plotter."
11. Select your settings for thickness, speed, cap color, etc, as normal. Click on Search Registration Marks.
12. Click on Cut. The Wishblade will now use the optical eye to search for the three registration marks and establish the precise location of your image. At this point it may fail. If so, follow the directions on the screen. The optical eye is much like the scanner at the grocery store. Sometimes it just doesn't read the marks the first few times. Note the tips below.
13. If the scanner is having a difficult time reading the registration marks, then move the blade into the area with the dot. The arrow keys on the screen can be used to do this. (See additional info under Tips and Tricks.)

[2] Credit for the details in this section go to Julie Zvanut (or "Jules" as we all know her! ☺)

- Tips and Tricks

  - Two myths about Print and Cuts are that you have to use white cardstock and you have to print at the highest quality print setting. Both are untrue. I often do Print and Cuts on colored cardstock or even ordinary printer paper (when testing). I also often forget to change the quality of the print settings. Instead, note the following two items which will greatly aid in successful reading of the registration marks.
    - Too much light will make it difficult for the scanner to see the marks. Close the lid and try dimming the lights or using light from another room as your only source. Cover the lid with a dark sheet of cardstock or some other item to block additional light. It really helps.
    - Inserting the printed sheet too far into the scanner can also prevent the optical eye from seeing the marks. Try not rolling it in quite as far. In fact, just roll it in so that the end of the mat is about half-way across the cutting strip.

  - If the Wishblade continues to fail in finding the Registration Marks:
    - Uncheck the box next to “Search Registration Mark.”
    - Use the arrow keys to manually move the blade so that it’s sitting over the rectangular area defined by the registration marks and the dot. (Note that this is in a different location depending on whether you have a Portrait or a Landscape orientation.)
    - Click on the button marked “Registration Mark Setting” and the Wishblade will search for the registration marks. Again, make sure the room is not brightly lit.

  - If all else fails, consider the Reverse Cut and Print described below. It does NOT require the optic eye.

C. Details on the Reverse Cut and Print

(1) Import or scan a graphic image as described in Wishblade 103.
(2) Trace the image, again as described in Wishblade 103.
(3) Cut out the image as normal.
(4) Select the Output Settings icon from the taskbar and click on the Printer tab.
(5) Select your printer from the top of this window and the click on the Properties button. Make the appropriate changes according to your own printer’s specifications.

(6) Mark a sheet of computer paper so that you know its orientation in the printer. I normally mark “TL” in the top left corner.
(7) Check “Print Cut Lines” so that you know exactly where your cutout should be placed.
(8) Select Output to Printer and then OK to print your image.
(9) Apply a small amount of repositionable adhesive on top of the printed image. Align your cutout from Step (3) to fit precisely on top of the image.
(10) Insert your sheet of computer paper so that your orientation mark (the TL) is again in the same location.
(11) Repeat your printing. Decide whether or not to have your cut lines printed and change the print quality accordingly.

D. Cut and Print Colored Titles

(1) An alternative to cutting letters from colored cardstock is to color them within the software and then perform a Print and Cut. This can also be done to other completed images (circles, rectangles, images traced with closed splines, etc).
(2) To color text, create your outlined letters as normal. NOTE: they must be in Outline format to fill with color!
(3) Highlight your title and click on the Paint Bucket icon (Fill Settings) at the bottom of the screen.
(4) Change from Transparent to either Solid or Gradient and then click on Modify Color. The gradient option can be used to create some nice two color effects.
(5) Proceed with your Print and Cut.