

Tips of the Day Related to the SOLO

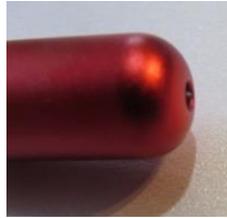
July 4, 2022

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Tip of the Day - 12/3/21: HTV, vinyl, and copy paper need only the tiniest tip of the blade showing

– about half the thickness of a credit card. Too much blade leads to tearing of the material, lifting off of small cut shapes, and buckling of the material when cutting matless.



Tip of the Day – 12/4/21: 3 Important Don'ts

1. Don't ever move the blade carriage with your hand when the SOLO is powered on. Use the arrow keys on the Control Panel, instead.
2. Don't pop up the pinch wheel lever in the back. Use your hand to move it up and down with control.
3. Don't use a different power adapter with your SOLO (it can fry the mainboard if the specs are wrong). In fact, you should label your SOLO power adapter just to make sure:



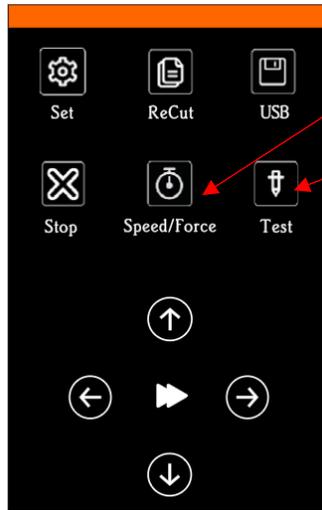
Tip of the Day – 12/6/21: TEST Button Uses Control Panel F & S

Test Cuts are important: please do them!

When you use the **TEST** button to optimize your force (pressure) and speed, remember that you need to be using the **Speed/Force** screen on the control panel. What you have set in CREATE's window will not be sent for that TEST. Then, if you have "**Use software speed and pressure**" enabled in CREATE, you should then match the force (pressure) and speed setting you determined in your testing.

Alternatively, you can test directly from the computer by choosing a test shape in CREATE's **Library** to use or create your own. I use the donut/ring shape set to 0.4" in size. Having an internal path in your test shape makes it much easier to see if the cut was too deep, indicating you need to reduce the blade exposure.

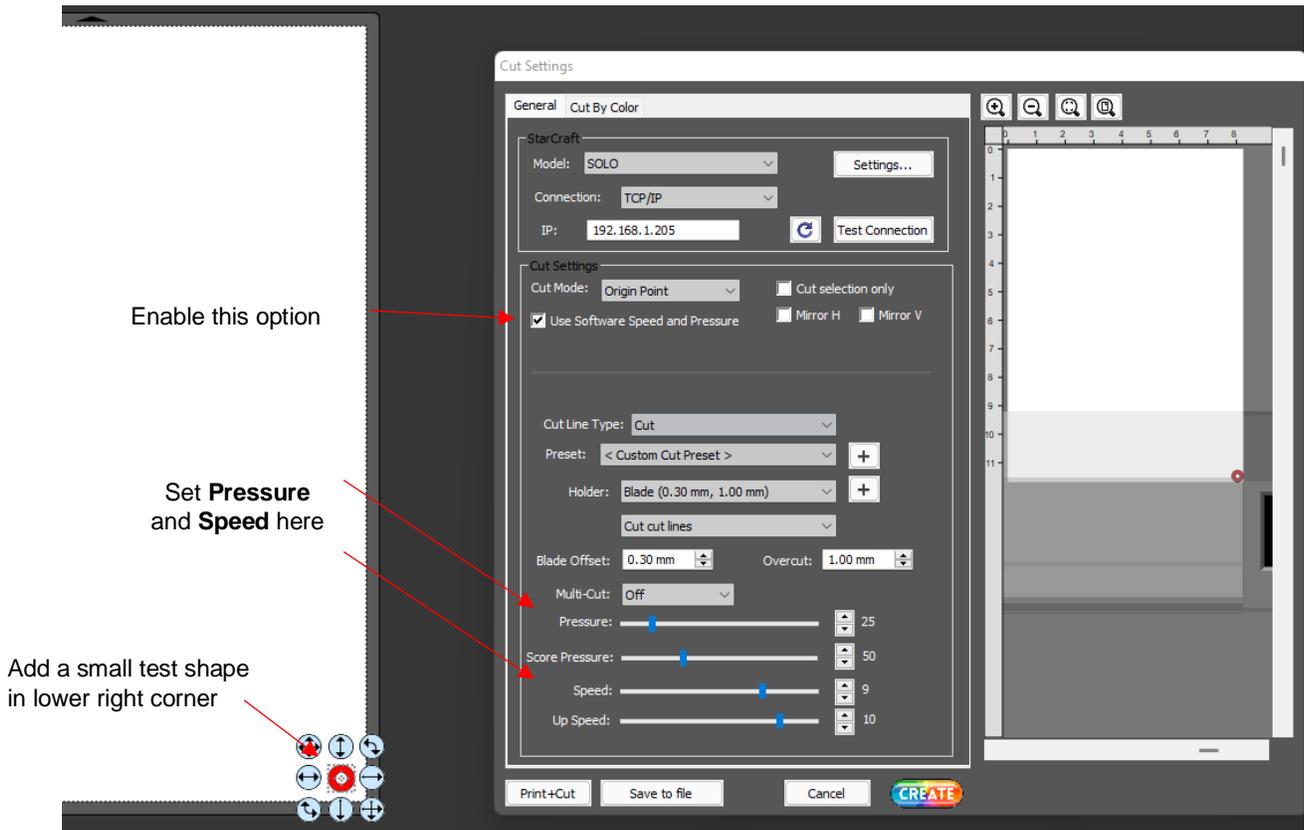
Option A for Test Cut: Control Panel



Set **Force (Pressure)** and **Speed** using this button

Press here to use those settings for the **Test** cut.

Option B for Test Cut: CREATE software



Tip of the Day – 12/7/21: You only need to calibrate the camera ONE time

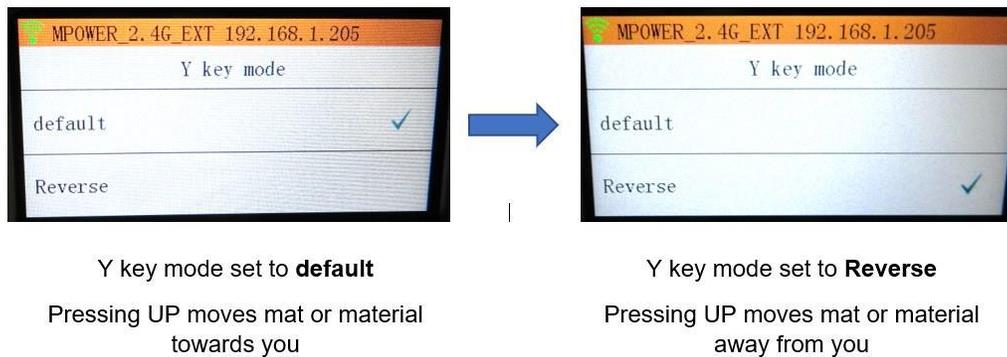
Repeatedly calibrating the camera doesn't do anything different because the camera takes over and finds the grid center on its own. The only time you might need to recalibrate is after a firmware update (separate from any and all CREATE updates) or if the SOLO has been shipped or otherwise handled roughly during transportation.

Here is Rhonda's video on the calibration procedure:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rvbwb3QC8UeNyn_P98bhYet6JZrg84Sk/view?usp=sharing

Tip of the Day – 12/8/21: Don't get frustrated, change that arrow setting!

If you find that you're continually pressing the wrong up/down arrow key on the Control Panel, you can reverse the direction. To do this, press Set>Advanced Settings>Y Key Mode and switch from "default" to "Reverse":



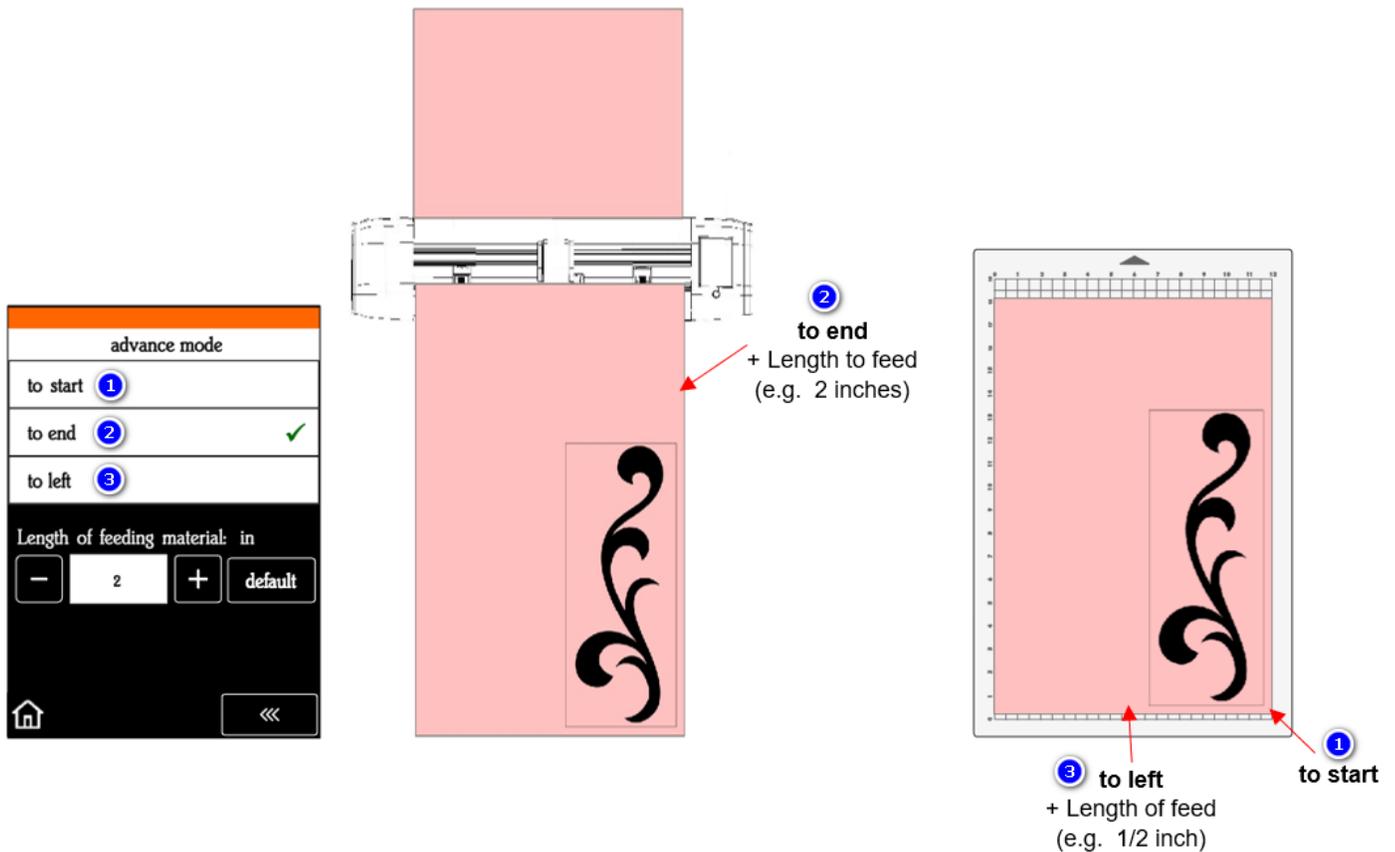
Tip of the Day – 12/9/21: Controlling where the blade moves after the cut

On the control panel, select **Set** and then **Advance Mode**. There are 3 options which allow you to control where the blade holder moves after the cut is completed:

To start: the blade holder returns to the origin (where it was positioned before the cut began). This one is very important in the event you are doing a two-stage process where you need the SOLO to pause for a tool/pen changeout before processing the next part.

To end: the blade holder moves to end of the project and can advance by whatever amount you have entered. For example, in the screenshot, I have 2 entered and because I've also set the **Units** to be inches on the control panel, the blade holder moves to the top part of the project and another two inches is fed forward. This is useful in long vinyl cuts (with no mat) where you probably do not want the entire length of the vinyl to be fed back through the SOLO to the start.

To left: the blade holder moves to the left side of your cut project and, like "to end", can be advanced by the distance you entered. I've not personally used this particular option but I could probably make up some scenarios for it.

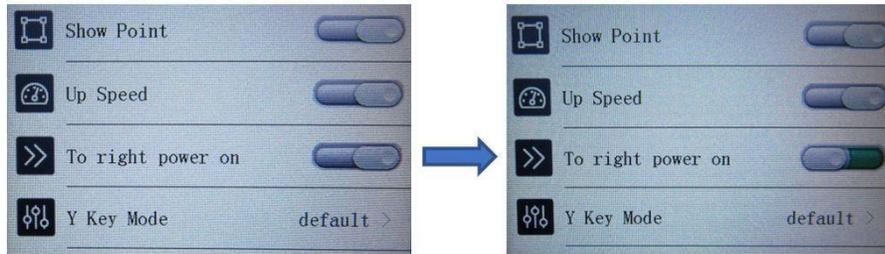


Tip of the Day – 12/11/21: Options for the Blade Carriage Location when Powered On

Warning: **never** attempt to move the carriage by hand when the SOLO is powered on. Only move it by hand when powered off.

There are two options for what happens with the blade carriage when the SOLO is first turned on. Changing that option is located on the Control Panel. Press **Set**, then **Advanced Settings**, then you'll see **"To right power on."**

- (1) The default should be off. That means the blade carriage will remain wherever it was located when you powered off the SOLO. On the other hand, if you move it by hand while the SOLO is OFF, then that's where it will be when you turn it back on.
- (2) If you make that setting **"to right power on"**, you'll see the button on the Control Panel turn green. Now any time you power on the SOLO, the blade carriage will move to its **Home** position which is over on the right side, and providing you the maximum 15.6" cutting width range. This is typically near where you would want to start a regular cut on a rolled material such as HTV or vinyl that's loaded into the cutter. But you can also move the blade carriage to the left, as needed, to place the blade tip at a new starting point on the material. This is called "setting the origin." However, any distance you move to the left, reduces that maximum cutting width available. So, be aware of your project width versus this remaining available width.



To right power on: OFF

Blade carriage stays in place when SOLO is powered on

To right power on: ON

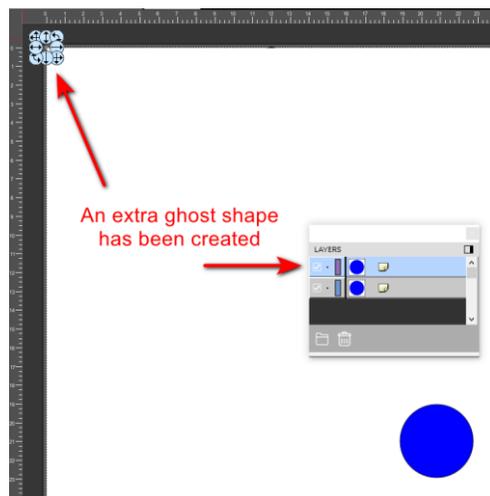
Blade carriage moves to the right side when SOLO is power on

Tip of the Day – 12/12/21: Causes of Red Light + Beeping

Right Side: If a printout for a print-and-cut application is too close to the right side of the SOLO, the cutter will exceed the right-side limit when the camera moves over to photograph the reg mark. The SOLO's light will turn red and it will begin beeping. You need to press **Stop** and then move the printout so that the reg mark is about 3" from the right end cap.

Left Side: If the same red light and beeping occur when the carriage is on the far-left side, again you'll need to press Stop and make a correction of some kind. The causes of left-side beeping are typically one of the following:

1. You sent a project that is wider than the allowable 15.6 inches.
2. You had the blade carriage moved too far to the left before starting the cut. For example, if your project is 12" wide and you've already moved the blade carriage, say, 5 inches to the left before starting the cut, there's isn't enough cuttable room remaining.
3. You inadvertently created a teeny tiny "ghost shape" in CREATE, which is easier to do than you might think. For example, if you add a basic shape using the rectangle tool from the left side **Tools Panel** and then left click on it before returning to the **Select** mode, one of these little ghost shapes will be created in the upper left corner of the mat area and will typically also be sent to cut. Because it's off to the left side, it can then cause the head to exceed the left-side limit depending on the size of your mat and where the blade carriage was located at the start of the cut.



Tip of the Day – 12/15/21: Moving the Pinch Rollers

Reminder that you need to make sure the pinch rollers are clearly over the dark gray grit shafts. You don't want a pinch wheel to be half-on, half-off a grit shaft as it can leave a tracking mark in vinyl AND it can throw off the accuracy of a Print+Cut project.

Also, if you are struggling to move them, I have found that they are easier to pull or push towards or away from you versus trying to slide one left or right as you face the SOLO. Thus, I stand at one of the endcaps and use one hand to grasp the pinch roller in the front and the other hand to grasp the pinch roller assembly in the back and then I just tug or push.

[My Quick Video](#)

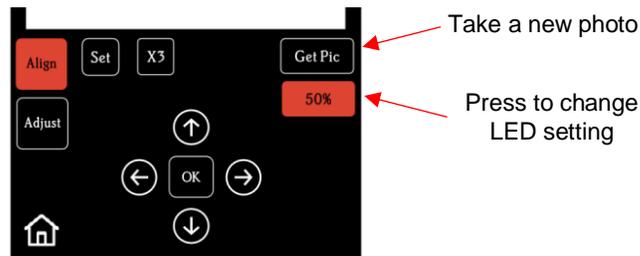
Tip of the Day – 12/16/21 Adjusting the LED on the Camera

In a typical well-lit room, the camera will not have issues successfully identifying sharply printed black registration marks on a white paper printout. But the SOLO's camera can "see" so much more! The factory has successfully tested transparent materials, slightly mirrored materials, glossy materials, and light-colored reg marks on dark materials (mark the Inverse option under **Set>Camera>Align>Set**).

Glossy materials and certainly slightly mirrored materials can have an issue with the **LED** reflecting too much light. A low light room or darker materials may need more light.

Thus, you'll see that the **LED** button on the camera screen has 4 options: LED (light is off), 20%, 50%, 100%.

You can press each one and see the light change under the blade carriage. Thus, if you are having issues with the camera failing at one or more reg marks AND it appears from the photo on the screen that perhaps the lighting is too dark or too light, then try adjusting the **LED** setting first. You can then press the **Get Pic** button to have a new photo taken at that same location.

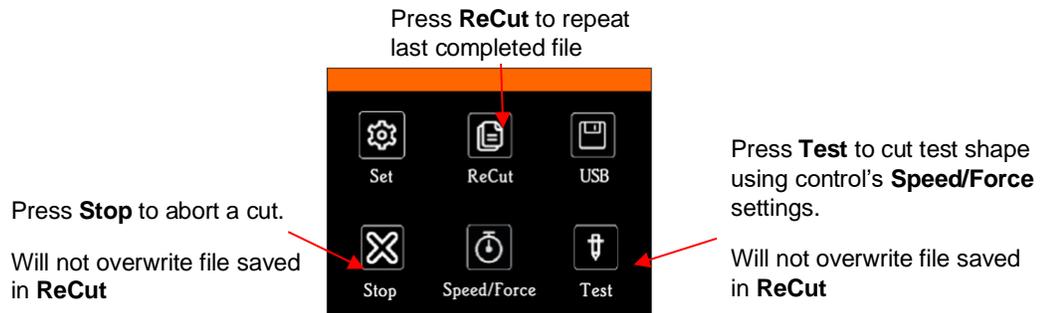


Tip of the Day – 12/18/21: How the ReCut function works

The **ReCut** / Repeat function on the control panel retains the last completed cut sent from CREATE or loaded and cut from the flash drive, even after being powered off.

This saved cut will not be overwritten by a test cut using the **Test** button on the control panel, nor will it be overwritten by a cut that had to be stopped before completion.

The **ReCut** also works on Print+Cut applications. After loading a new printout and setting the blade tip over the lower right reg mark, press **ReCut** and a new scan will begin.



Tip of the Day – 12/29/21: Use the Cameo’s Auto-Blade as a Guide for Blade Depth

The SOLO is NOT a Cricut, thus do not use the Cricut as a guide for cutting. Cricut uses a different technology for controlling the head on the cutter.

Instead, if you have access to a Cameo’s blade holder, you will be able to more accurately set the SOLO blade holder for cutting vinyl, HTV, and other thin materials.

Why is this important? Using too much blade, offset by low force settings, can result in inconsistent cutting across a material, lifting of small shapes off the backing sheet, and difficulty in weeding.

Here are some photos of the Cameo 4’s Auto-Blade set at the Silhouette recommend **Blade Depth** of 1 for vinyl cutting and set at the recommended 2 for HTV cutting. This matches what you should be using on the SOLO’s blade holder, as well. Then adjust the cutting pressure accordingly.



Tip of the Day – 1/2/22: Using the Camera to Set the Origin

In cases where you need a very precise setting of the origin (such as engraving on a dog tag), select the “spot” that you want to use as the origin and then use these steps:

- (1) Move the blade (or tool) tip to the approximate location of that origin.
- (2) Go to **Set>Camera** and press **OK** to take a photo.
- (3) Tap the “spot” in the photo and press **OK** again.
- (4) Press **X3** to zoom in, tap the “spot” again and use arrow keys to move the red “+” to the dead center of the “spot”.

(5) Press **OK** and the blue dashed lines should be centered now with the “spot”. If needed, repeat these last two steps.

(6) Press the **Home** button and the blade (or tool) tip will now be over that “spot”.

In the event I want to do this with the first reg mark for a P+C application, only steps 1-3 and then 6 are needed. The camera will now successfully locate that first reg mark and will proceed from there.

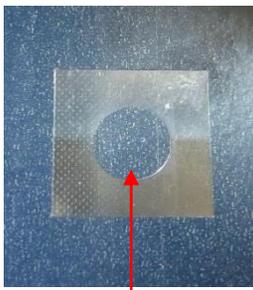
[Set the Origin Using the Camera Video](#)

Tip of the Day – 1/3/22: Lift Off the Entire Test Cut

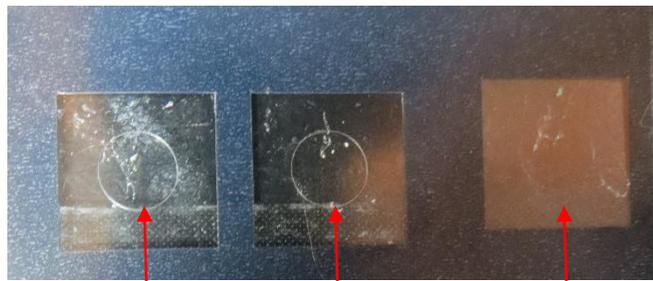
When someone uses the **TEST** button, they tend to weed the outer shape only, without then lifting that inner circle which is equally important in determining the success of the test.

That inner circle indicates if the blade depth / **Force** combination was too aggressive or just right. The goal is to get a clean cut but not to have the blade cutting into the backing sheet (when cutting vinyl or HTV) nor cutting into the mat (when cutting cardstock, fabric, magnetic sheets, etc.).

If you have a very clean test cut and no blade marks at all (or very light marks, as if the blade tip barely grazed the backing sheet or mat), you're good to go! But if the marks are deep enough to feel with your fingernail, reduce the blade exposure and test again. Experience shows that maintaining higher forces with less blade exposure results in more consistent cutting across the material. Less lifting of tiny shapes, and less tearing of paper materials in tight corners.



Remove the inner cut circle, as well



Too much blade exposure

Better

Perfect (cut line is barely visible)

Tip of the Day – 1/4/22: Setting a “Return-to” Origin

The SOLO allows you to set other origins besides the one at the start of the cut. For example, at the end of a cut, you might want to move the material (or mat) forward so that you can examine the cut for completion and then return the material (or mat) to the same location so that you can cut it again.

You will need the coordinates showing so go to **Set>Advanced Settings** and activate **Show Point**.

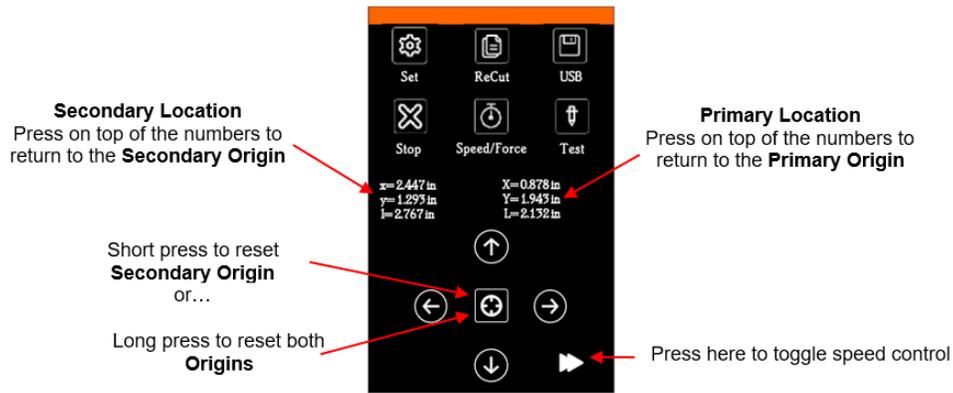
On the control panel, the middle button which is normally used to toggle the arrow button speeds will be moved to the bottom right and replaced with the **Origin Set** button.

xyl represents a **Secondary Location** and can be reset by a quick press of the **Origin Set** button.

XYL represents a **Primary Origin** and can be reset by a long press of the **Origin Set** button which also resets the **Secondary Origin**.

Either before you start the cut or immediately after the cut, press the middle button to set the **xyl** origin at (0,0,0). You can now move the material (or mat) as needed to examine the cut. If you need to return to the **xyl** origin, press you

finger over the **xyl** numbers and the carriage will return to (0,0,0). More about this is covered in Appendix B2 of the [SOLO User Manual](#).



Tip of the Day – 1/10/22: Use Score and Cut on Denser Materials

The **Score** assignment in CREATE allows you to cut one or more layers at one pressure and other layers at a different pressure. I decided to test this out by cutting 1/32" basswood on the SOLO.

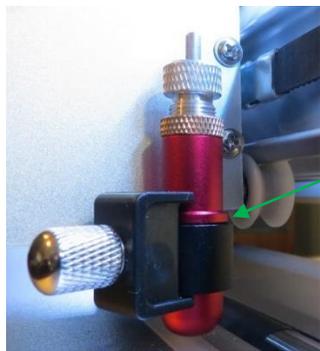
Copy/Paste in Place was applied on the shape so that I could assign one of the copies to **Score** and the other to **Cut**. In the **Cut Settings** window, **Multi-Cut** was set to 2 passes, **Score Force** to 30 and cut **Force** to 90. **Speed** was set to 1. The blue capped 60° blade was used. Right before tightening the front screw on the SOLO, I pulled up on the blade holder to help raise the blade tip above the wood so that it wouldn't scratch it.

The sheet of basswood was brayered well to an extra sticky mat and the outside edges taped. Then the following cuts were made, with really great results:



Tip of the Day – 1/11/22: Mounting the Blade Holder

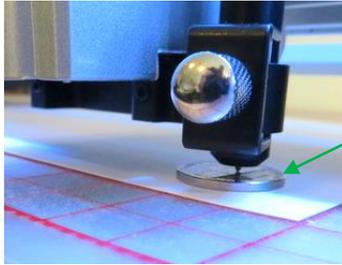
- There are four positions in which one can mount the blade holder into the clamp/blade holder seat on the SOLO:



1. Rim rests on the seat

Normal use without the mat or very thin materials on the mat

Insert blade holder so that its rim is positioned on the seat before tightening the front screw.



2. Blade tip rests on a nickel or quarter or use 15 sheets of copy paper (or Post-It notes)

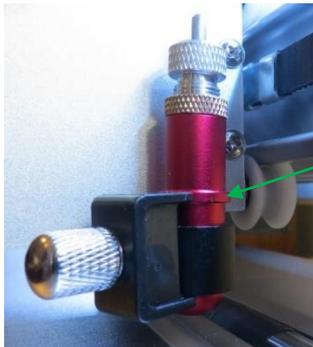
Use this method to prevent scratching of vinyl, copy paper, or when using the test pen, engraver, or scoring tool

Insert blade holder or other tool and allow it to rest on the coin which itself is resting on the material. Tighten the front screw and remove the coin.



3. Rim is positioned just below the clamp

Use this method for thick materials and/or to prevent scratching if method 2 above fails. You may need to increase the **Force** by ~5 – 10.



4. Rim is positioned so that it is locked in by the clamp

Use this method for extra-thick soft materials like 2 mm craft foam

Raise the blade holder up until it is even with the upper blade plate and then tighten the front screw.

- It's also worth noting the causes of scratching:
 - ◇ The blade exposure is more than what's needed to penetrate the material
 - When conducting a test cut, be sure to check your mat (or the top of a backing sheet) for cut lines after the test. You should be able to set the blade exposure to get clean cuts but with only fine lines or no lines in the mat or backing sheet. If you do see deep cut lines, retract the blade length ~1/8 turn counterclockwise and repeat your test cut.
 - ◇ The mat is drooping so much that there is significant bowing where the blade is cutting (you may need to support the mat)

Tip of the Day – 1/17/22: Think Small... At First

The first time you drove a car, were you out on the freeway during rush hour?

The first time you cooked dinner, was it a Thanksgiving feast for 8?

After starting with a new cutter and new software, it's very easy to make mistakes. In fact, you should be making some mistakes as part of the learning process. Thus, start off with easy materials and small projects. Nothing makes me cringe more than a post from someone who damaged their blade trying to cut chipboard or wasting 6 feet of vinyl on their first cut! Don't do that to yourself!

As I posted in yesterday's tip, I urge the use of pen and paper first to learn how to control where shapes will cut. When you're ready to start cutting, pick something small to cut from an easy and inexpensive material. With the SOLO it also takes some experience to learn how to set a suitable blade exposure and tweak the pressure. You'll get there! Just do it step-by-step and remember, "Don't get frustrated, get help!" 😊

Tip of the Day – 1/18/22: Un-Du Disarms Mat Adhesives

I jokingly say that my 3 favorite liquids are coffee, wine, and Un-du. No, I do NOT drink Un-du! But I do use it several times a week for various reasons, some of these related to cutting:

+ Temporarily disarm the adhesives used on cutting mats. Squirt some Un-du wherever the material is stuck, allow a second or two for it to sink in and then lift off the material. Be careful not to scrape the mat at all because the adhesive will be temporarily dissolved into the Un-du. But after about 20 seconds, the Un-du will be fully evaporated, leaving behind your adhesive, sticky as ever.

+ Clean your blades, scissors, palette knives and other tools that get sticky.

+ If you are a paper crafter, Un-du is great for removing stickers, glue dots, red line tape, pop dots, and stick-on embellishments.

+ Remove vinyl, postage stamps, mailing labels, and stickers on envelopes, boxes, or hard surfaces such as glassware or metal.

Note that I'm not associated with the manufacturer in any way. Un-du is just a great product and I've been using it for at least 20 years. I thought I'd share it here in case any of you have never heard of it.

https://www.amazon.com/Original-Formula-Sticker-Remover-California/dp/B003TZQPTS/ref=sr_1_2?crd=361U9OBVJWAZQ&keywords=un-du%2Badhesive%2Bremover&qid=1642537705&srefix=Un-Du%2Caps%2C130&sr=8-2&th=1

Tip of the Day – 1/19/22: Troubleshooting a Problem

When something goes wrong with a cut, and you're not sure if it's the design, the material, your blade, your blade holder, etc., please try a back-to-basics approach:

1. Repeat the Test Cut you performed before you cut this project to see if you still get a very clean cut without cutting too deeply.
2. Cut a material you've cut before – everyone should have a standard material that they've cut with enough success that they know what settings to use.
3. Cut one or two basic shapes (circle, square) instead of your project. Issues like a chipped blade or a blade that's not swiveling will show up in simple shapes, too, and then you won't waste material by trying a recut of your entire project.
4. Use your test pen to draw the design on paper instead of cutting it. Comparing the drawing to the cut can help eliminate a lot of possibilities.

5. Post photos or videos and explain the issue which isn't always obvious in a photo. Provide details such as the name of the material, a screenshot of your project in the main window and a screenshot of the Cut Settings window.
6. Be patient. We WILL help you resolve the issue! 😊

Tip of the Day – 1/20/22: Use the SOLO and CREATE User Manuals as Reference Guides

Am I a wordy person? Yes, I am.

Do I cover things in great detail? Yes, I do.

Do I get unsolicited compliments on my user manuals by those who “give them a chance?” Often.

I write step-by-step instructions in enough detail that users should be able to follow any given tutorial. Also, the SOLO is loaded with SO much functionality and CREATE is loaded with SO many fun designing features and editing tools that there's just a lot to write about!

BUT... that doesn't mean you need to read it all. Quite the opposite. Download these PDF manuals to your desktop and then use **CTRL+F** (or **Command+F** on a Mac) to search and find all locations for any given word you enter. Also, once saved to your computer, the Table of Contents should be linked to the pages making it fast to click and go to particular sections of interest.

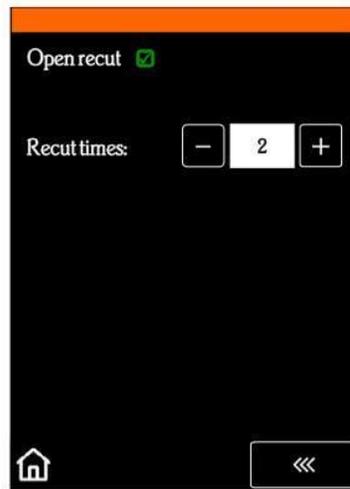
Here's a link to my SOLO/CREATE support page with access to the latest versions of both manuals, plus links to other resources, such as videos, look-up tables, cut settings, and more.

<https://www.iloveknk.com/support/starcraft-solo-and-create/>

Tip of the Day – 1/25/22: Activating Passes on the Control Panel

While StarCraft CREATE has the **Multi-cut** option in the **Cut Settings** window, you can also have **Multi-cut** (aka **Passes**) set on the Control Panel, if the need arises. To add it to the Control Panel:

1. Press **Set>Advanced Settings>System Mode**.
2. Press the button labeled **cmd**. Then press **Input**.
3. Input the code **031** and press **Run**.
4. Back on the **Home** screen, press **USB** and you'll now see a **Passes Set** option to press.
5. Mark the option for **Open recut** and then set the desired passes. Unfortunately, the default is 255! So, make sure you change that back to something like 2 before using. Lol
6. Also, note that the **Open recut** option will always default back to off when the SOLO is powered off.



Tip of the Day – 2/3/22: Video on Setting the Blade Exposure

I've posted past Tips of the Day (on 12/3/21 and 12/29/21) regarding blade exposure being an important setting on most drag blade cutters, including the SOLO. While you can attempt to offset too much blade with a low pressure, this can often lead to inconsistent cutting across the material and/or difficulty in weeding.

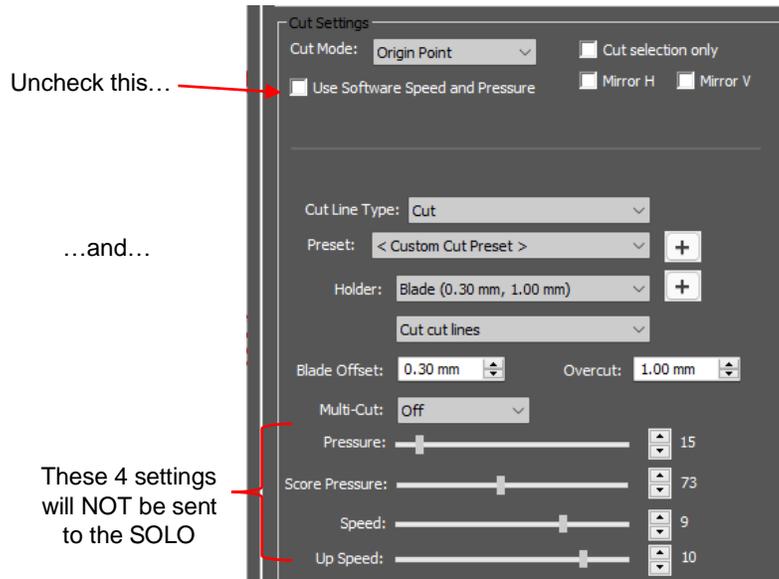
This video by SignCut Academy popped up on my FB feed this morning and is one of the best I've watched on how to manually test your blade exposure. Note that those cutting paper products can perform the same kind of test by folding the material over onto itself and then cutting by hand to see if the blade cuts into the layer beneath.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7GDSMAKcfQ>

Tip of the Day – 2/7/22: Reviewing the Control Panel “Biggies”

Today's post covers a few of the important tips regarding the SOLO's Control Panel:

1. Always use the arrow buttons to move the blade carriage left and right. Do NOT use your hand to move the blade carriage when the SOLO is powered on.
2. If the up/down arrow key movements seem backwards to you, go to **Set>Advanced Settings>Y Key Mode** and change it.
3. To control whether or not the blade carriage remains in place when powered on versus moving to the right side, go to **Set>Advanced Settings** and press **To right power on**.
4. By default, the blade carriage will advance to the end of the cut when the project is completed. However, many users (including myself) prefer the blade carriage to return to the origin (location before the cut began). Change this by going to **Set>Advance mode** and selecting **To start**.
5. The **Speed/Force** button on the Control Panel lets you set the **Cut Speed** and **Force** (aka **Pressure**) that will be used for a **TEST** button cut plus what will be used if you do NOT have the **Use Software Speed and Force** setting enabled in CREATE.



Tip of the Day – 2/9/22: SOLO and CREATE Video Page

I added a new page to my web site dedicated to SOLO and CREATE video links so that I could organize them and, hopefully, make it easier for you to find a video you need. Naturally, this page will be updated as more videos are provided that I find are both accurate and helpful.

This page is also linked on my SOLO Support page for those accustomed to going there to access the latest user manual version, tables, tutorials, videos, and other information.

<https://www.iloveknk.com/support/starcraft-solo-and-create/solo-and-create-videos/>

Tip of the Day – 2/11/22: Don't Assume "It" Can't be Done

I first met Paul Zingah in 2014 at the MTC forum and quickly realized he enjoys two things as much as I do: 1. Helping fellow cutter owners and 2. Working on challenges. Since that time, Paul and I have taken on quite a few situations where someone wanted to be able to do something and we had to stop and think to ourselves, "Hmm. Is it possible to do that?" If there's ever been a case of "2 heads are better than 1", it's with us. Invariably, we'll approach a problem separately and then begin to compare possible solutions. In most cases, when one of us looks at what the other has started, the light bulb will come on with a new idea to make it work easier, faster, or more successfully. Back and forth we'll keep working an issue until it's figured out. Ah... so satisfying!

So, if you're wondering about the possibility of the SOLO being able to perform a task or CREATE being able to design a particular kind of file, ALWAYS post and ask. No blue-sky idea will ever be rejected without serious consideration. This is how the cool stuff is born!

Tip of the Day – 2/12/22: Can the SOLO Cut This? A Litmus Test

There are hundreds of materials that cutter owners ask about cutting. I never mind answering, other than sometimes I'm not really sure because either I've not personally tested that material or I haven't tested the same thickness that the customer is asking about.

So, years ago, I came up with a litmus test that is as close to an accurate determining factor as anything else. Take a craft knife like an X-Acto knife and try cutting it by hand. If you can cut through it in 2 passes, then the SOLO should be able to, as well. For example, I can cut through 0.03" chipboard with two slices of my X-Acto knife but I can't manually cut through 0.06" chipboard in 3 passes.

Now, one of you is going to try it on your SOLO and will be able to use, say, 20 passes at a combination of a score pressure and full pressure, with a speed of 1 to get a slightly wonky Test cut from 0.06" chipboard and then claim victory. Great... go for it if you want to. But don't be surprised if your blade is quite dull by the second project or when you try something larger, the repeated passes start to offset from the prior ones. In other words, I won't argue with your initial test cut success. But I will still urge you to have realistic expectations. 😊



0.03" (0.75 mm) chipboard cut in 2 passes by hand, thus the SOLO can cut this

versus



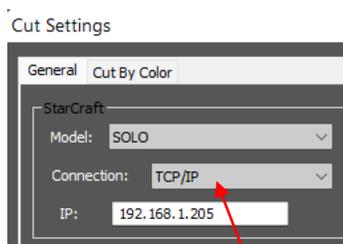
0.06" (1.5 mm) chipboard would not cut by hand in 3 passes. Thus, the SOLO shouldn't be used to cut it either

Tip of the Day – 2/23/22: Switching from Wi-Fi to USB

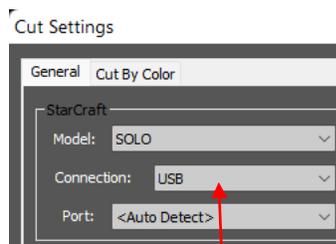
This question has come up a few times so I thought I'd make a quick Tip of the Day about it.

What all do you need to do in order to switch from Wi-Fi to USB on your SOLO? Answer: not much. There's no "turning off" or reset needed. Just plug in the USB cable and, in CREATE's **Cut Settings** window, switch the connection from **TCP/IP** to **USB**. Done! 😊

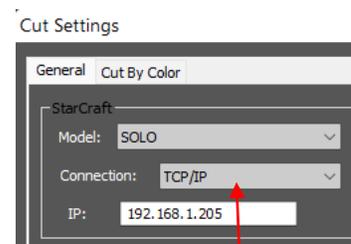
Switching back is equally simple. Just make sure that when you go back to **TCP/IP**, the SOLO's assigned **IP Address** is also present. You can even leave the USB cable plugged in, if convenient.



Wi-Fi



Select **USB** after plugging in your cable and ready to cut!



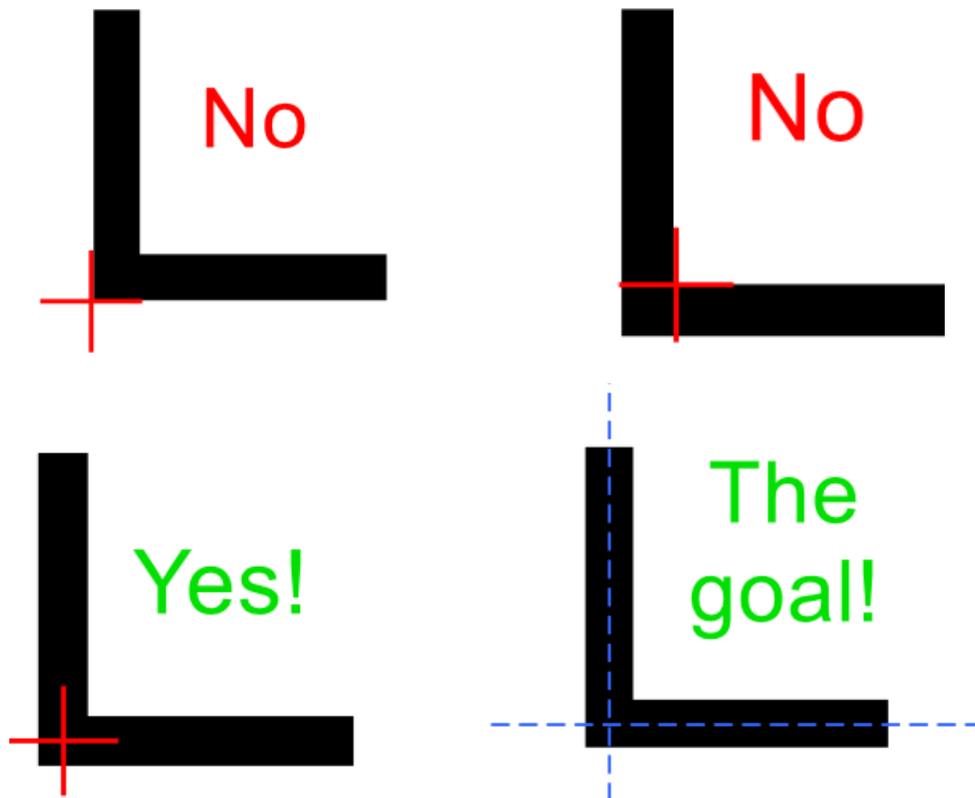
At any time you can change back to Wi-Fi.

Tip of the Day – 3/2/22: Manually Setting a Reg Mark

First let me emphasize that I want all SOLO owners able to have the camera successfully scanning all 4 registration marks automatically. If you are having issues, please post and Paul, Rhonda, or I will help you resolve the issue (which is typically a printer setting or driver).

However, in the event that you do need to manually “show” the camera where the reg mark is located, note two things:

1. You can use the arrow keys on the SOLO’s camera screen to precisely move the red “+” as close to the center of the reg mark as possible.
2. The center of the reg mark is right in the middle of the black part of the reg mark (versus along the edges), as shown below:



Tip of the Day – 3/3/22: 7 Reasons Why the Camera’s Auto-Scan Might Fail

The first three reasons are user errors but easily fixed:

Reason #1 The printout and/or mat are out of alignment with the SOLO. While everything doesn’t have to be perfectly aligned at the start of the cut, it helps eliminate the possibility of the camera missing one or more.

Reason #2 The reg marks are either too close to the edge of the printout (and the camera is confusing them with grid lines on the mat... refer to 12/20/21 Tip of the Day) or the reg marks are too close to the design.

Reason #3 The user doesn’t have the tip of the blade over the corner of the lower right registration mark.

The next four reasons are all tied to the reg marks not being printed with the correct spacing, based on CREATE's settings. One or more SOLO owners have had to do the following in order to correct the misprints:

Reason #4 Borderless printing has been activated but another setting, sometimes called **Extension** or **Expansion** or **Enlargement** or **Overspray**, hasn't been minimized or turned off.

Reason #5 One or more of the printer's **Settings** is causing the issue such as **Fit to Page**, **Scale to Fit**, **Zoom** to a set %, or other possibilities related to how large the printer will be using for that design. Look for **Actual Size** or **100%** if available.

Reason #6 An out-of-date printer driver – Use Google to search and find your printer's model, download and install the latest, reboot your computer and try again.

Reason #7 The wrong printer driver is in use – Sometimes the Microsoft IPP Class Driver gets control of the printer on a PC and this will lead to printer errors. Here's the solution:

1. Disconnect the printer connection - unplug the printer or disconnect from Wi-Fi.
2. In **Windows Settings > Devices** - select the printer and choose remove device
3. In **Windows Settings > Apps** - search for anything related to the printer and remove, except those not related to printing (e.g. scanner).
5. Google and find the genuine driver from the printer's support page. Install the driver.
6. Connect the printer and try again.

Tip of the Day – 3/10/22: [Pinch Wheel Placements Relative to the Cutting Mat](#)

For those of you who seem to be experiencing early warping of the mat, perhaps try this placement which is about where I place my wheels. Since I often cut from 12" x 12" cardstock, I prefer to not have the wheels pressing on the cardstock which can cause it to stick too well to the mat and be difficult to remove after cutting.

The wheels are most of the way to the outside of the grit shafts but not extending outside at all. Then the wheels are traveling along the outside of the SOLO mat.

If I switch to another brand of mat, then the wheels would need to be shifted inward a bit. But the idea is to keep them closer to the outside edges.





Tip of the Day – 3/15/22: Checking and Tweaking the Camera Calibration

After calibrating the camera using this video,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/136amVwGJrkuz4gjlWLSY8IRKI3XAUqpu/view?usp=sharing>

It's a good idea to do a quick test to verify the accuracy with the blade. Here's a simple file that reveals if you need to move the cut line up or down and left or right in order to have the most accurate results possible:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EQdAdJqM2MR9TZTqHGxHFsefSUfb8yoL/view?usp=sharing>

Download this file, open up in CREATE, print it out on copy paper and then perform the Print+Cut process.

If the arrows are not cut out along the printed lines, then please watch this video. It will help you in knowing how to adjust the cut line and be sure to keep repeating the arrow test as you narrow in on the best settings. Remember that repeating the initial calibration will NOT help you get better results.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1835VAAtZCV_Dq10G07xuNMpb5kzLvLd_5/view?usp=sharing