

Printing a P+C Project from Outside of SCAL

February 23, 2023

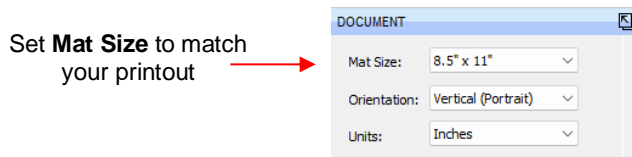
- Sometimes users prefer to print their designs from other applications, such as Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Corel Draw, etc. or for submission to a professional printing company to print. The following procedures cover this process somewhat generically. If you have problems, do not hesitate to post in one of the forums or groups mentioned in the SCAL6 User Manual.
- This document has 3 sections:
 - ◇ A. Designing and Printing in Another Application
 - ◇ B. Designing in SCAL6 but Printing from Another Application
 - ◇ C. Creating a PDF to Provide to a Professional Printing Company

A. Designing and Printing in Another Application

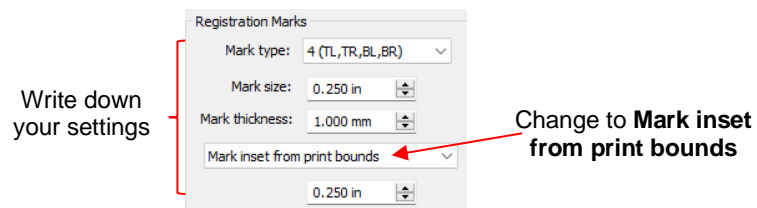
- In this situation, you are using an alternative program, besides SCAL6, for designing your project.
- Basic steps in this procedure are:
 - ◇ Export the correct registration marks from SCAL6. (This step only needs to be performed once and the same file can be used for all future projects, as long as the same registration mark settings are always used for scanning and cutting.)
 - ◇ Import this registration mark file into the alternative program, center on the page, and print along with your project.
 - ◇ Export the registration marks and the cut lines from the alternative program, import this file into SCAL, align to the page, and hide or delete registration mark layer.
 - ◇ Place printout onto the mat and proceed with the scanning and cutting in SCAL.

- Detailed steps are as follows:

(1) In SCAL, set the **Mat Size** (on the **Document Panel**) to match the dimensions of the printout. In this example, **Letter** size will be used:

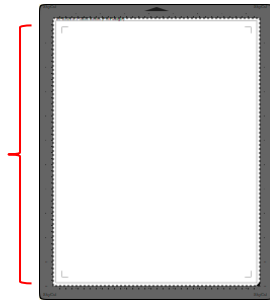


(2) Go to **Cutter>Cutter Settings** and change the **Mark Offset Reference** to **Mark inset from print bounds** and enter a suitable distance. Note ALL of your settings as it's important that you do not make any changes to them before you cut the project.

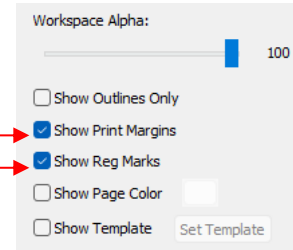


(3) On the **Document Panel**, mark the options for **Show Print Margins** and **Show Reg Marks**. Confirm that both appear correct:

Verify you see print margin and reg marks

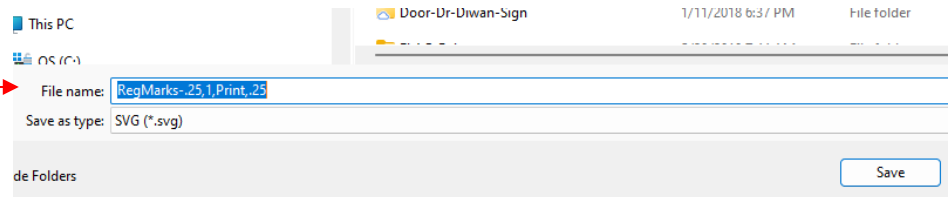


Enable both **Show Print Margins** and **Show Reg Marks**



- (4) Go to **File>Export** and name the **Reg Mark** file to save. Note that including the reg mark settings in your file name can be a handy way to remember what to use when you later return to cut the project. Also, this SVG file can remain as a reusable template to import into your alternative software:

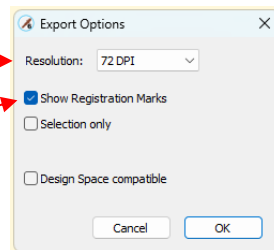
Tip: name your reg mark file based on reg mark settings



- (5) In the second window when exporting, make sure you have **Show Registration Marks** enabled and set the **Resolution** to 72 DPI:

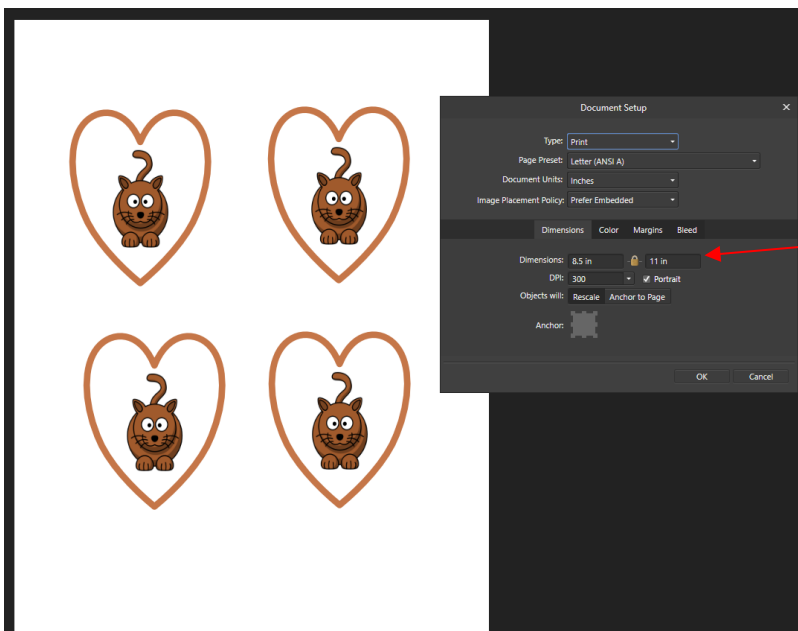
Set the **Resolution**

Enable **Show Registration Marks**



Important: Some programs may require a different **Resolution** setting. Refer to the check you should make in *Step 7*.

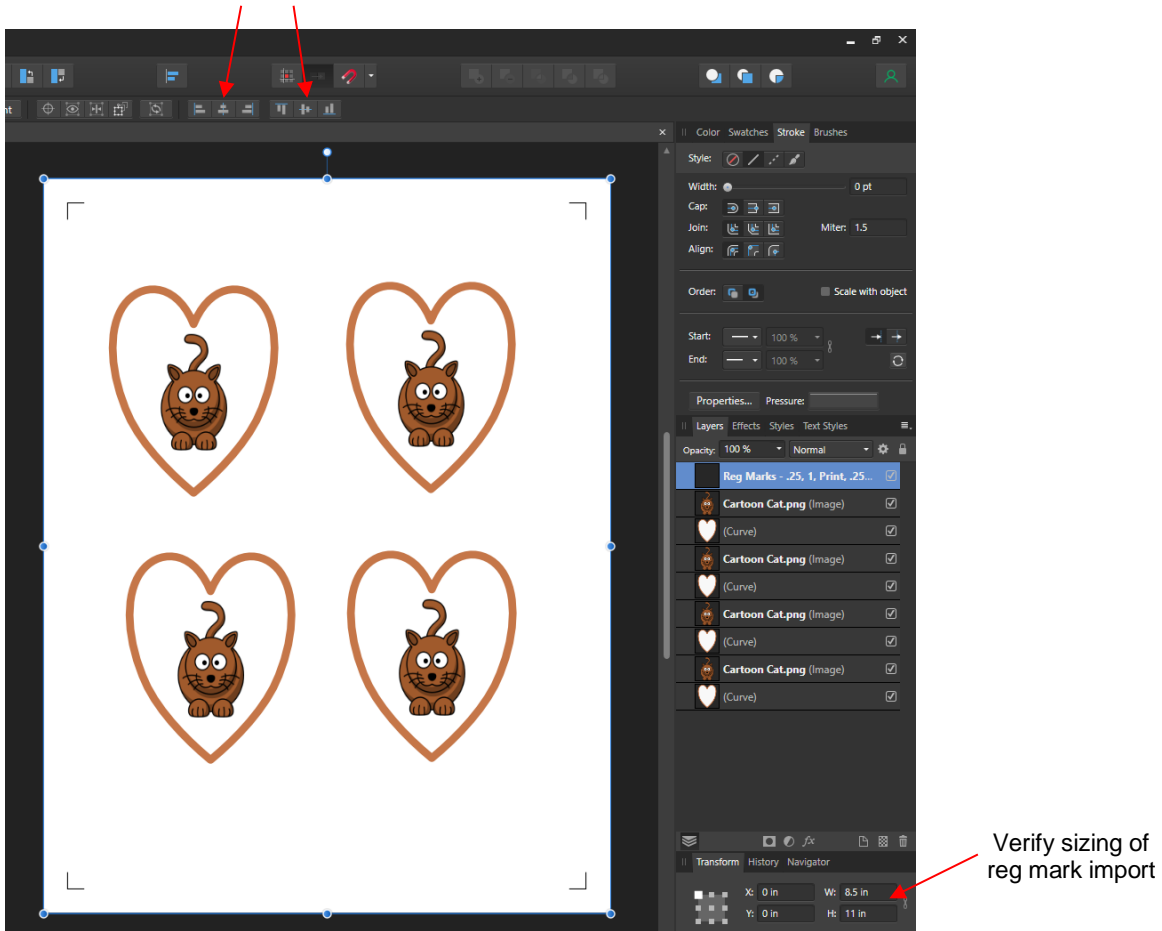
- (6) Open the original design file in your alternative program. Make sure the **Document Size** (or **Canvas Size**) matches that which will be used for printing.



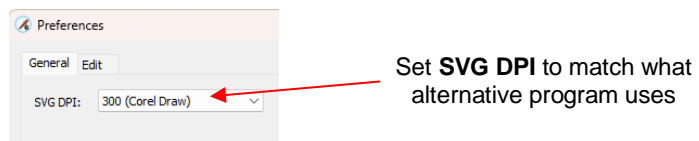
Match your **Document Dimensions** to your printout

- (7) Go to **File>Place** (or possibly **File>Open** or **File>Import**, depending on the alternative program in use). Select the SVG file of reg marks and import. Center the reg mark file in the document area and make sure its size matches your document dimensions:

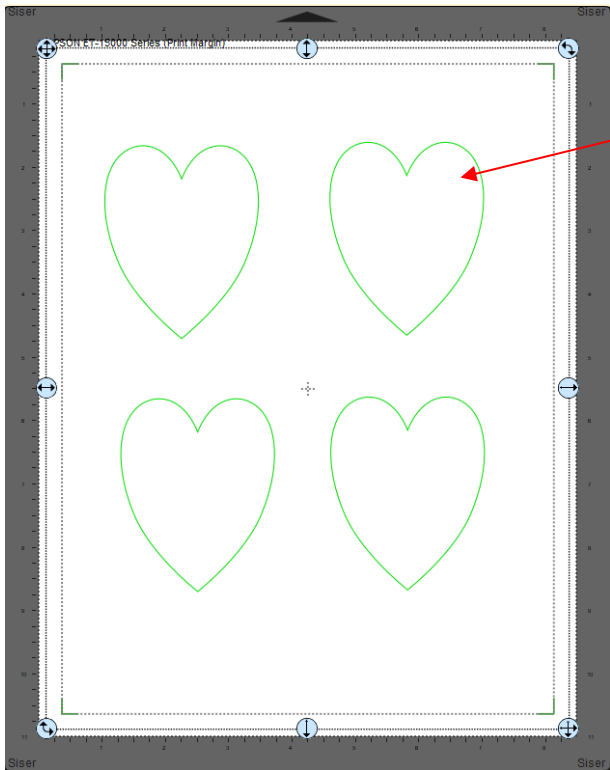
Import reg marks and center on the page



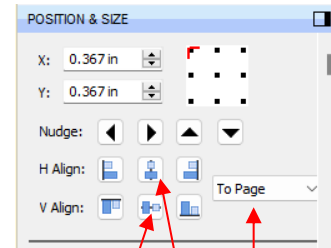
- (8) Proceed with printing your project using your desired print settings.
- (9) Select the reg mark layer and whatever cut line layers you will need. Export those as an SVG file from your alternative program.
- ◇ By only selecting cut line layers, you avoid creating an unnecessarily large export file.
 - ◇ In some programs, such as Affinity Designer, the stroke line **Width** on these exported cut lines needs to be set to 0. Otherwise, they will be rasterized.
- (10) In SCAL, go to **Edit>Preferences** and set the DPI to match what the alternative program uses. In this case, Affinity Designer uses 300:



- (11) Import this file and immediately center on the **Page**, verifying the imported reg marks align perfectly with those being displayed using **Show Reg Marks**:



Hover your mouse over imported SVG to see cut lines



3. 2. 1.
Center imported SVG on the **Page**

(12) You can now hide or delete the imported *Reg Marks* layer on the **Layers Panel** as it will not be needed.

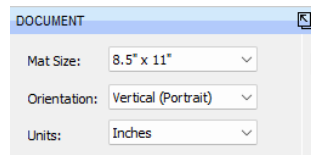
(13) Proceed with the scanning and cutting process.

B. Designing in SCAL6 but Printing from Another Application

- In this situation, you have your project designed in SCAL6, but you wish to use another program to print your project.
- Basic steps in this procedure are:
 - ◇ Export the registration marks and the project together from SCAL.
 - ◇ Import this file into your alternative program and print.
 - ◇ Place printout onto mat and proceed with the scanning and cutting in SCAL.

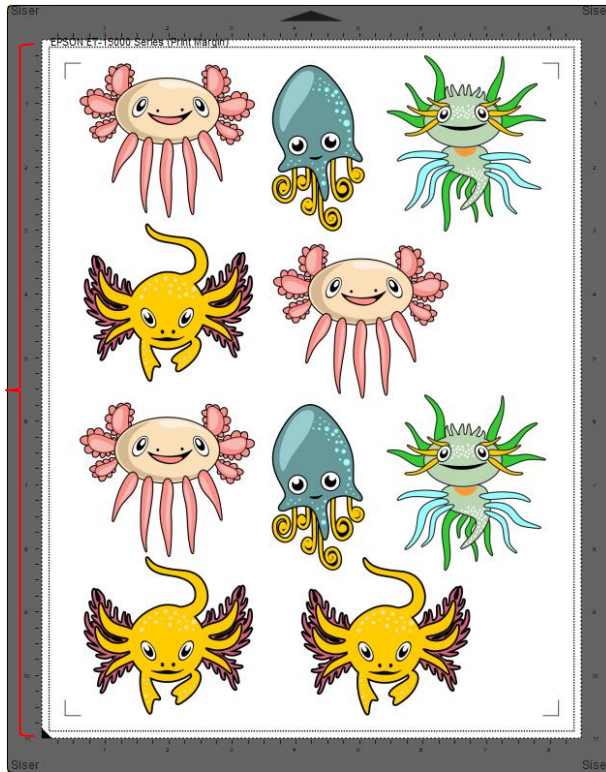
(1) In SCAL, set the **Mat Size** (on the **Document Panel**) to match the dimensions of the printout. In this example, **Letter** size will be used:

Set **Mat Size** to match your printout →

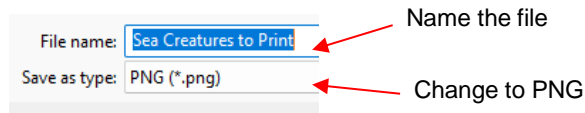


(2) On the **Document Panel**, mark the options for **Show Print Margins** and **Show Reg Marks**. Prepare your project and arrange on the **Page** as you wish for it to be printed. Remember that after you export this project and print it in your alternative program nothing should be resized or moved:

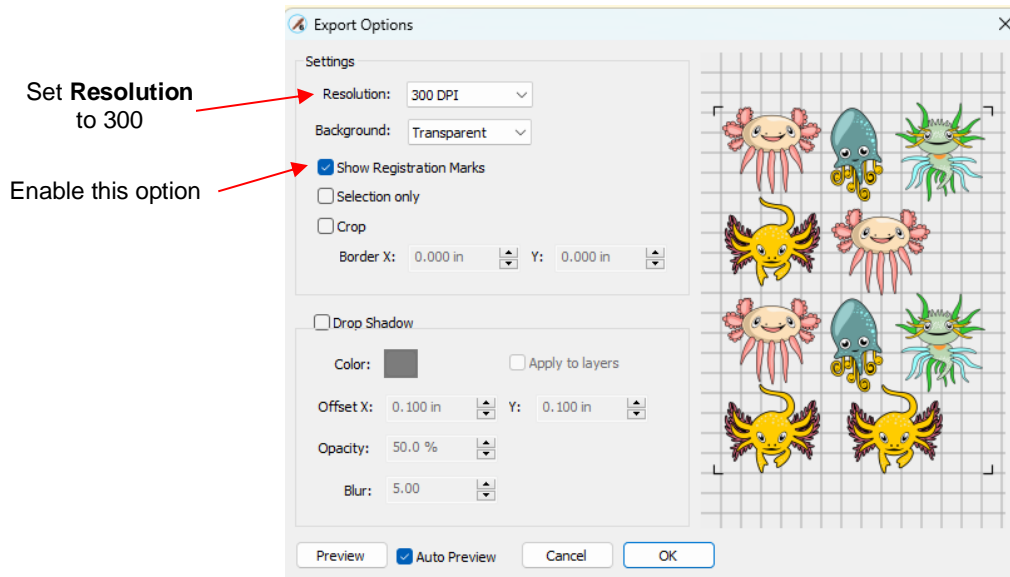
Verify the print margins and registration marks appear correct



- (3) Go to **File>Export**. Change the **File Type** to PNG and name the file to save. Also, note where you are exporting this file.



- (4) Click on **Save**. In the next window, set the **Resolution** to 300 and mark the **Show Registration Marks** option. Verify that any other options/settings match the following:



- (5) Click on **OK** and allow time for the file to be saved to your computer.

- (6) In your alternative program, go to **File>Open** (or possibly **File>Place** or **File>Import**, depending on the alternative program in use). Select the PNG file saved in the prior step. Verify the file appears to have imported at the correct size.



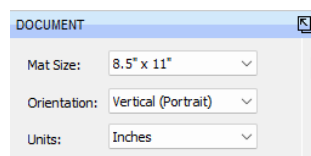
- (7) Proceed with printing your project using your desired print settings.
- (8) Place your printout in the correct orientation on your cutting mat and proceed with the scanning and cutting process in SCAL.

C. Creating a PDF to Provide to a Professional Printing Company

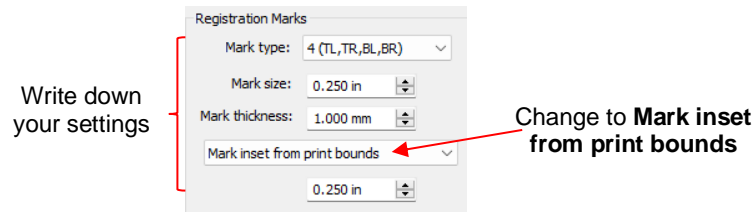
C1 Initial Steps

- There are two ways to export a PDF from SCAL. I recommend that with any given project, you test both and compare the results on screen before deciding which one you wish to use as certain anomalies can occur with either:
 - ◇ Use **File>Export** and change from SVG to **PDF** as the file type
 - ◇ Go to **File>Print** and use a **Print to PDF** option
 - With either one, begin with the following five steps to prepare the project and then proceed to the alternative you wish to use.
- (1) In SCAL, set the **Mat Size** (on the **Document Panel**) to match the dimensions of the printout. In this example, **Letter** size will be used:

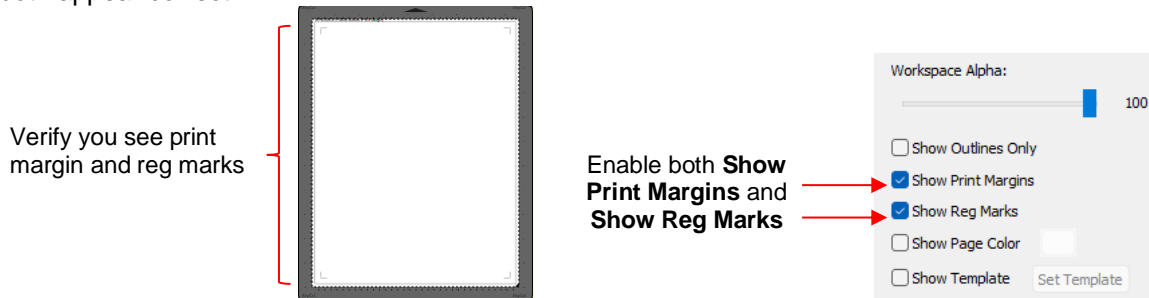
Set **Mat Size** to match
your printout →



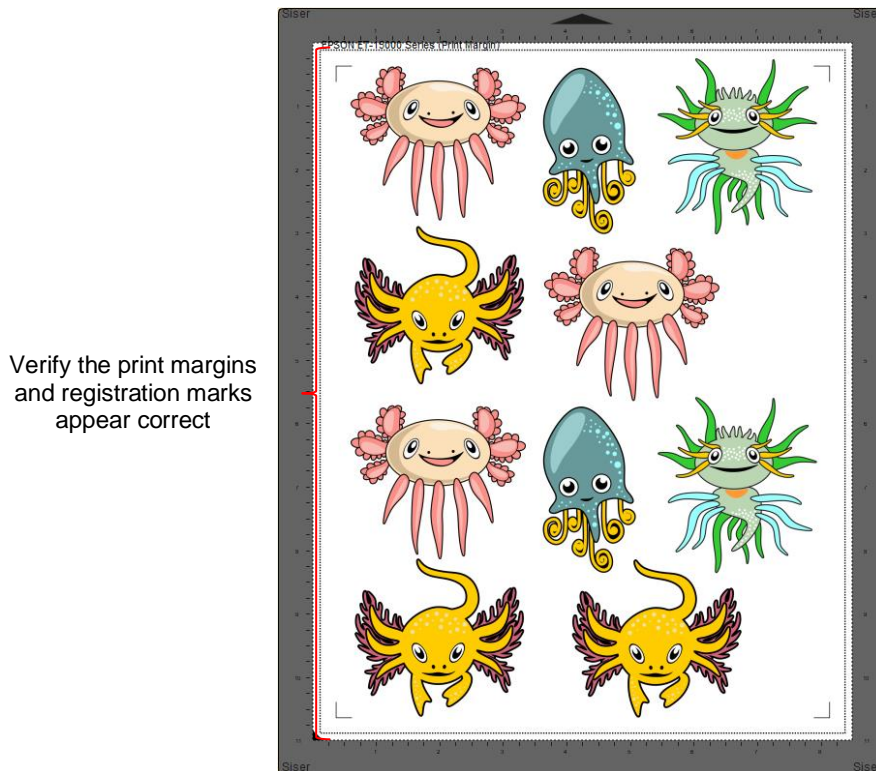
- (2) Go to **Cutter>Cutter Settings** and change the **Mark Offset Reference** to **Mark inset from print bounds** and enter a suitable distance. Note ALL of your settings as it's important that you do not make any changes to them before you cut the project.



- (3) On the **Document Panel**, mark the options for **Show Print Margins** and **Show Reg Marks**. Confirm that both appear correct:



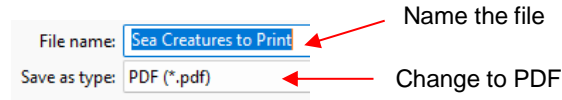
- (4) Prepare your project and arrange on the **Page** as you wish for it to be printed. Remember that after you export this project, nothing should be resized or moved:



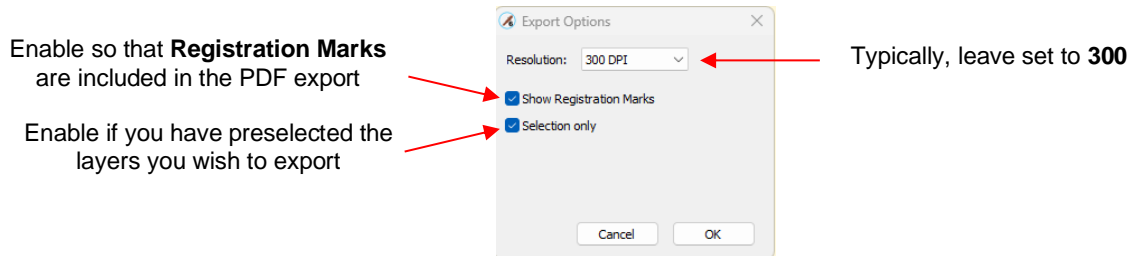
- (5) Proceed to either of the following sections: C2 or C3.

C2 Using Export as PDF

- (1) Before exporting, take note of any visible layers you may have assigned, on the **Style Panel** as **None**, **(Print+Cut) Cut Only**, **Score**, or **Draw**. If you were sending these layers directly from SCAL to a printer, they would, of course, not print. However, with a PDF export, everything is included in the export unless it is either hidden on the **Layers Panel**, or you only select the layers you wish to send and then enable the **Selection Only** option.
 - ◇ **IMPORTANT:** Take note of the registration mark settings under **Cutter>Cutter Settings**. These exact same settings must be used when you complete the cutting process for your **Print+Cut** project.
- (2) Go to **File>Export**. Change the **File Type** to **PDF** and name the file to save. Also, note where you are exporting this file:



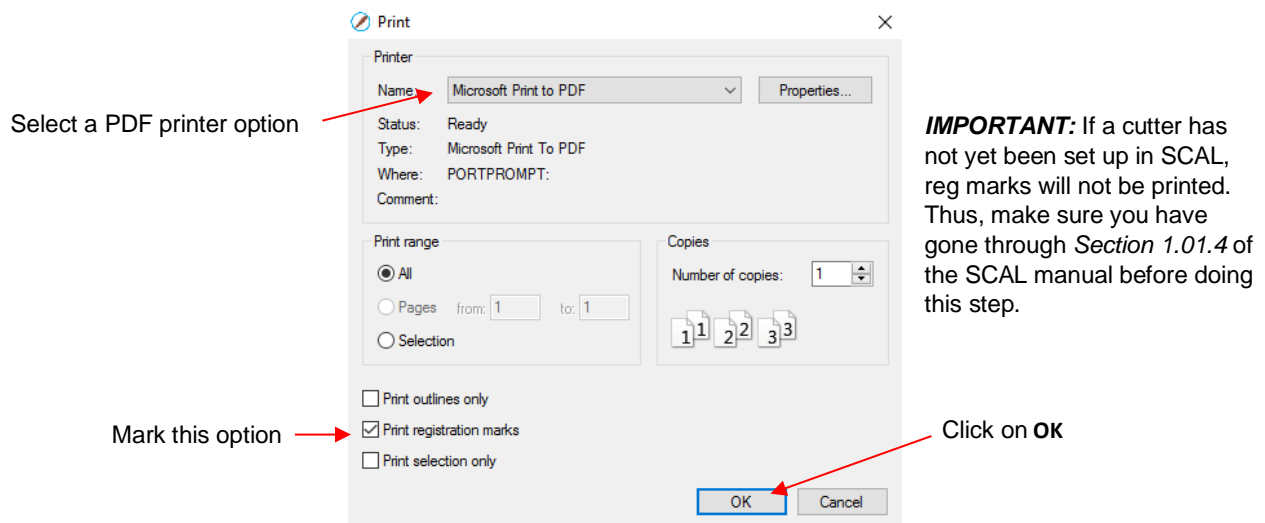
- (3) After clicking on **Save**, the following window opens. Select the settings you wish to use:



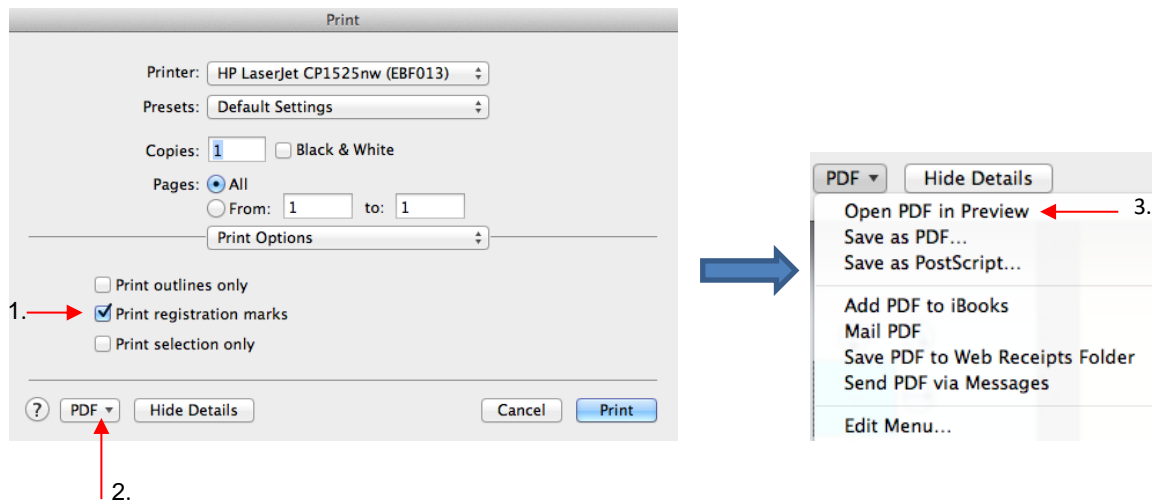
- (4) Click on **OK** and the PDF file will be exported to the location you chose.

C3 Using Print to PDF

- (1) **IMPORTANT:** Take note of the registration mark settings under **Cutter>Cutter Settings**. These exact same settings must be used when you complete the cutting process for your **Print+Cut** project.
- (2) For PC owners: Go to **File>Print** and mark the option for **Print registration marks**. For printer, select **Microsoft Print to PDF**. (If you have an older version of Windows, you may need to download and install a PDF printer. There are free ones like Cute PDF.) Click on **OK**.



- (3) Name the file and note where it is being saved.
- (4) For Mac owners: Go to **File>Print** and mark the option for **Print registration marks**. Click on the **PDF** button in the lower left corner and, in the popup menu, select **Save as PDF**:



- (4) Before submitting your PDF file to the printing company, open the PDF in Adobe Reader or whatever default program you use for viewing PDF's and verify that the reg marks are present and you will be getting the parts of the design you need printed.
- (5) Once you have the printout(s), place onto your cutting mat and proceed, from SCAL, with the cutting process under **Print+Cut**. Remember that it's very important to maintain alignment so do not alter or move the shapes to be cut or any of the registration mark settings under **Cutter>Cutter Settings**.