

SCAL6 Welding Expanded Tutorial

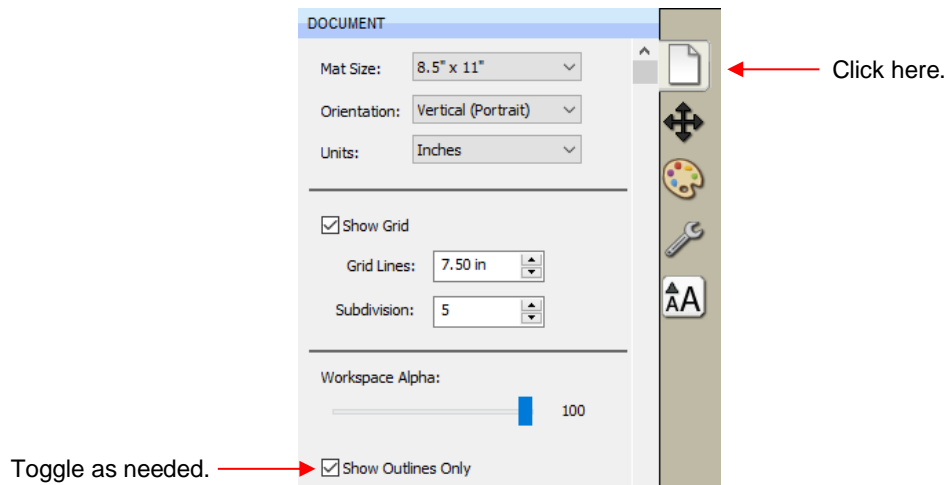
- This tutorial contains an alternative method for welding text plus some additional examples of welding text.

Creating a Connected Letter Title (alternative method)

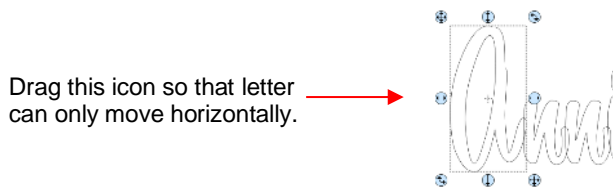
- Using the instructions from *Section 4.04.1*, type the letters of your title:

Happy Anniversary

- Because you will be working with the letters individually, select the title and apply **Object>Ungroup**.
- With the letters split, you can select one or more and use the left and right arrow keys to change the spacing between letters, overlapping as desired. It is advisable to zoom in on the text to get a more accurate view of the actual positioning of the letters. You may also want to check the text both with and without **Show Outlines Only** option turned on (which can be changed on the **Document Panel**):



- Also, you should turn off **Snap to Grid** so that you can more freely move letters. This is located under **View>Snap To**.
- Begin overlapping the letters. It's usually advisable to move letters either by using the arrow keys on the keyboard or by using the left center icon:



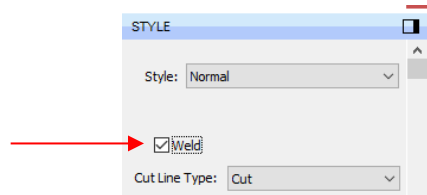
- Continue arranging letters as desired. Remember that you can customize freely to get the desired look. For example, in this font called 1 Bean Sprout DNA, the vowels tend to be a bit oversized compared to other characters in the font. Thus, the uppercase "A" can be sized smaller to better match the other letters:

Happy Anniversary → Happy Anniversary

- When you are satisfied with the overlap, select all of the letters and go to **Path>Union**. The overlap will be removed:

Happy Anniversary

- Alternatively, if you do not want to make the weld permanent, you can select the shapes and mark the weld option on the **Style Panel**:



- To create an outline/shadow for titles and other shapes or if you need to thicken a font that turns out to be too thin for cutting, refer to *Section 7.23*.

Incorporating Shapes into a Title

- A quick way to incorporate a shape into a welded title is to use any of thousands of dingbat fonts available from the Internet for free or even check the **SCAL Library** for a shape. In this example, a script font is being used for the title and a turkey, found in the **Library** under the *Fall* folder, will be used for the shape.
- Using the steps in *Section 4.04.1*, create the title:

Happy Thanksgiving

- Select the title and go to **Object>Ungroup**. Then move the “Thanksgiving” part to the right to add some spacing for the turkey. In this example, other parts were also moved so that all letters in “Happy” and all letters in “Thanksgiving” overlap.

Happy Thanksgiving

- In the **Library**, locate the turkey shape and click on it to add to the **Cutting Mat**. Resize and arrange to overlap with the lettering:

Happy  Thanksgiving

- Go to **Path>Union** or press **Ctrl+Shift+U** to remove the overlap or mark the **Weld** option on the **Style Panel**:

Happy  Thanksgiving

- Note that dingbat fonts and **Library** shapes are not the only shapes that can be welded to letters. Any shape imported or created within SCAL can be used!

Welding Titles in Imaginative Ways

- Some fonts simply do not work well with the traditional overlapping of the letters to be welded into one piece for cutting. For example, let's take an extreme case with Arial font and the name, "Billy". Note what happens when you overlap the letters in this particular font:



- Most crafters will start looking for a different font... one with ligatures (extenders) that easily connect the letters to one another. However, many fonts with ligatures are script fonts and may not convey the desired look. Instead, look for objects that can be used to connect the letters. A basic thin rectangle is an easy solution. Just align it along the bottom of the letters and weld:



- However, the objects to use as a base do not have to be so basic. Look for objects that will tie into a theme. Here are just a few examples:

