Lesson 1

Intro to the Vinyl Cutter

Welcome!

- This short course about the Vinyl Cutter is designed to familiarize you with the process of using the vinyl cutter so you will feel comfortable using the equipment as well as understand the limitations of the design and creation process

- There is a short quiz to be completed after reading all the modules.

What is the Vinyl Cutter?

- The vinyl cutter cuts vector designs into vinyl material that can then be weeded and stuck to various surfaces depending on the type of vinyl

- You may be familiar with the Cricut, which is a personal sized vector cutter

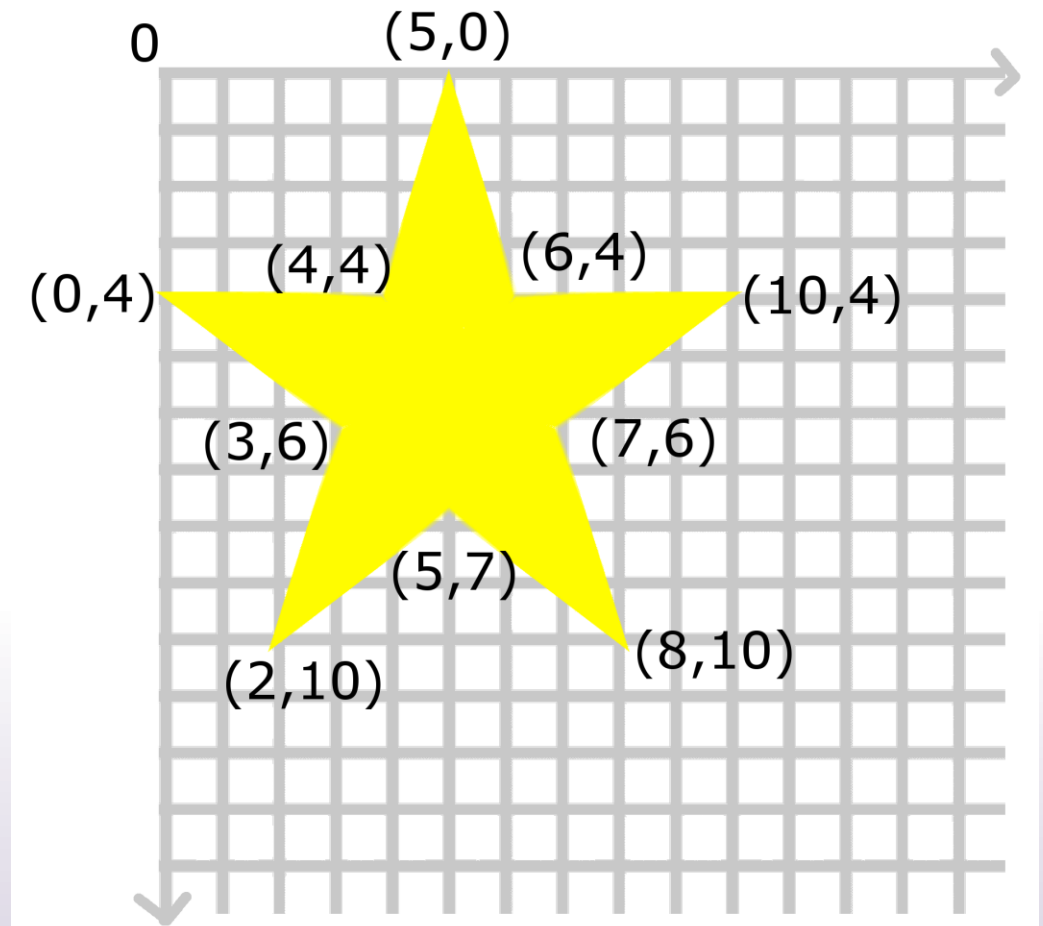- The cutter only cuts, it can't print on vinyl

What can I make with it?

- The Pickering Public Library provides two types of vinyl: Heat Transfer Vinyl and Sign Vinyl.

- Designs made using Heat Transfer Vinyl can be heat pressed onto cotton or polyester materials such as shirts and bags.

- Designs made using the Sign Vinyl can adhere to walls, windows and most surfaces.
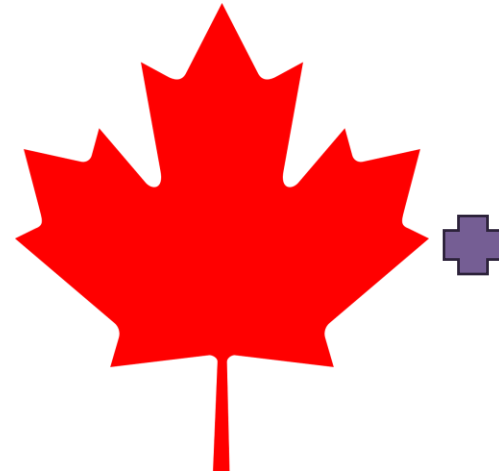
Vector Graphics

- The vinyl cutter can only cut vector graphics, not regular image files like PNGs and JPGs

- Vector graphics contain data about the dots and lines that make up the shape. The cutter uses this data to cut the shapes

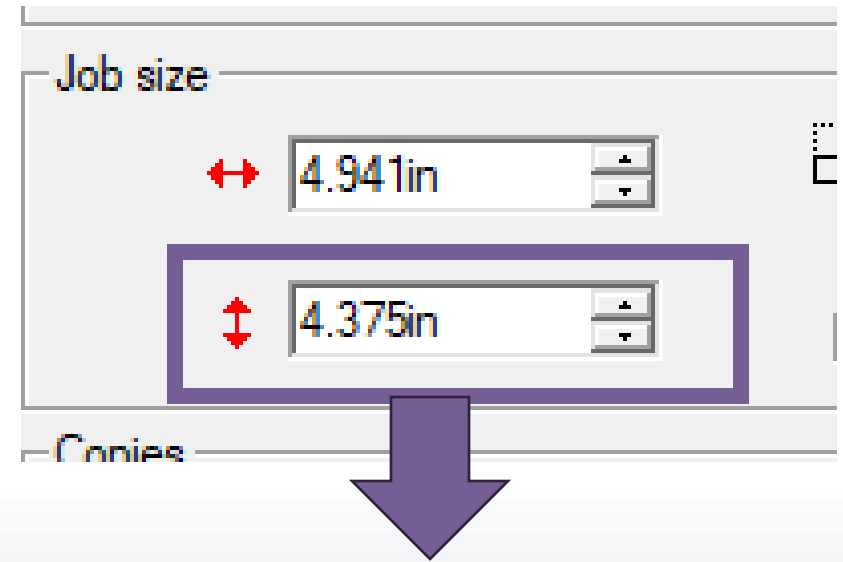- Regular images are made up of pixels that the cutter can't use

Can I convert an image to a vector?

- Maybe. This will be covered in a later module, but it might be possible to convert your image into a vector graphic by tracing it

- Only one colour of vinyl can be loaded so your design will only be the colour of loaded vinyl regardless of the colour of the file (e.g. a red maple leaf with black vinyl loaded results in a black maple leaf)

Costs

- Costs is based on linear inch of vinyl used; this means only the length of the roll used is counted

- The cost is currently $0.25 per linear inch of vinyl

- It is recommended to fit multiple copies of your design, if possible, in any empty space since the cost will be the same and in case of any mistakes

Job size

4.941in

4.375in

Copies

0.25 x 4.3 inches = $1.08

Other Materials Your Need

- The library only supplies the vinyl

- You need to bring your own material to put the vinyl on (e.g. shirt, mug, pillowcase, etc.)

- Heat Transfer Vinyl is only confirmed to work with Cotton and Polyester materials, other fabrics aren't guaranteed.

Summary

- The vinyl cutter isn't a plotter. It only cuts, it doesn't print
- Your design must be a vector graphic
- Your design will be in a single colour
- Price is $0.25/linear inch of vinyl
- The library only supplies the vinyl, you need to bring your own material for the vinyl to be applied to