Test Cutting a Material Using the Force Blade Holder

1. Perform the test cut.

- Open a file with a small shape.
- Set the Z Origin with the blade tip on the cutting mat and right pinch wheel down.
- Press material onto a clean and sticky mat.
- If cutting a rolled material without using a mat, set the Z Origin with blade tip on top of the material instead.

Start with conservative settings. Refer to a similar material in the Suggested Cut Settings at the end of Chapter 3.

Set the XY origin in the lower right corner of the material.

Cut was clean!

Check mat for cut lines.

If you have an intricate project, you may wish to repeat using a partial section of the project. Otherwise you are done! Record your settings!

Cut was mostly clean but had some tearing and/or crumpling

Check mat for cut lines.

Try one or more of the following:
- Decrease the BT by 0.5.
- Make sure the mat is clean and sticky.
- Try a different blade in case current one is chipped.
- Material could need drying.
- Material might cut better with 2 passes and lower CD.

Partial cut (cut through in some spots but not in others)

Increase CD by 5. If you’ve increased several times, try setting Passes to 2 (or higher on dense materials and lowering the CD).

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- Decrease the BT by 0.5.
- Make sure the mat is clean and sticky.
- Try a different blade in case current one is chipped.
- Material could need drying.
- Material might cut better with 2 passes and lower CD.

Did not cut the test shape. Did not cut through the material.

Increase CD by 10. If you’ve increased several times, try increasing BT by 0.5.

There are deep cut lines in the mat.

Lower CD by 5.

Return to 1.

There are no cut lines or faint lines.

Reduce BT by 0.5 and CD by 5.

Return to 1.

There are deep cut lines in the mat.

Increase CD by 5. If you’ve increased several times, try setting Passes to 2 (or higher on dense materials and lowering the CD).

Return to 1.

Increase CD by 10. If you’ve increased several times, try increasing BT by 0.5.

Return to 1.

There are deep cut lines in the mat.

If a stuttering sound occurs during the cut and/or the mat is skewing, increase the cut and use a lower CD/ED and CS so that the blade can work its way through the material.

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