



GRAVOGRAPH NEW HERMES

Routed Braille

You can also make Braille in the older, routed fashion. This method involves removing an “island” of material, leaving the Braille dots standing above the new surface.

Note

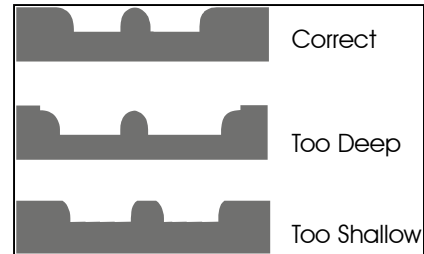
This can only be done on a solid piece of material, at least 1/16” thick, it is far more time-consuming than the Raster method, and it doesn’t “read” as well.

1. To set up for routed Braille, you need to set the Z in a slightly different fashion. Because the cutter will be removing a large amount of material around the Braille dots, the nose cone cannot be touching the surface of the material. You need to set it to “float” above the surface slightly.
2. Set the micrometer to 0.030”. Move the spindle over the area where the Braille will be. Place a piece of paper under the spindle, and lower it until it is not quite touching the paper (you should feel a slight drag when trying to move the paper under the nose cone). Press the check mark to set the Z. Loosen the spindle spring until about ¼” of the spring is showing.
3. Install the .030 Dome Braille cutter (white label) in the spindle.
4. GravoStyle can create routed Braille tool paths automatically. In the Braille dialog box, click on the left picture button instead of the right. The computer will figure out an “island fill tool path” for you, which will show up on the screen as a box with the Braille dots inside it. (For more information on tool paths, see your software’s instructions or Help guide.)
5. Make sure you have some scraps of material to practice on, because it can be tricky to set the machine to cut routed Braille properly.



6. Choose Machining, and then Run. The machine will make a great many cuts, gradually cutting away everything between the box and the Braille dots.

7. The shape of the finished dots is entirely dependent on the depth of the cut. If the dots are flat-topped, you need to cut a little deeper. If the edges of the box have a slight “crown” on top, you need to cut a little shallower. The dots should be almost a perfect hemisphere sticking out of the material.



Because of the difficulty of this setup, and the time involved in cutting out the Braille, we strongly recommend you use the Raster method to add Braille to your signs.