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**New Hermes**  
**2200 Northmont Pkwy**  
**Duluth, GA 30096**

Phone Toll-Free:	1-800-843-7637
Fax Toll Free:	1-800-533-7637
Email:	<a href="mailto:govbiz@gravograph-newhermes.com">govbiz@gravograph-newhermes.com</a>

# Using a Cutting Bed

There are times when you need to cut completely through a piece of material, such as when you are cutting out openings for sliders or letters for inlay signs. If you were to do this directly on the table surface, you would damage the tabletop, and probably destroy a cutter. For this reason, we use a piece of scrap material as a “sacrificial” surface when cutting out these items. The material you use for a cutting bed should be plastic, at least 1/16” thick, and larger than the material you are engraving.

1. Attach the cutting bed to the table and make sure it lies flat.
2. If you are cutting out letters, or some other shape which is completely contained within the engraving stock, apply a piece of low-tack adhesive transfer tape to the back of the engraving stock.

## Note

If you're cutting out a slot for a slider, you should apply the transfer tape to the front, since you will be cutting the material from the back. This will hold the cut-out shapes in place after they are cut.

3. Attach the engraving stock to the cutting bed using double-sided tape.
4. Be careful when setting the engraving depth. You want to cut completely through the stock, just barely touch the tape, and not cut into the cutting bed. For 1/32” stock, start out at 0.033” deep, and for 1/16” stock, start at 0.065”.
5. Remember to slow down the X/Y speed of the engraver if you are cutting through 1/16” material, and be sure to use a chip collector.
6. If you are cutting a shape out of the edge of the material, you do not need to apply the transfer tape to the back. For these jobs, window sign finger notches, for example, cut a little (0.002” or so) deeper. In this case, you will be cutting slightly into the cutting bed.
7. Keep the cutting bed; it can be reused many times.

