QuickStart

Version 003

MacSign Cut™

Welcome

MacSign Cut™ is a "bridge" program that makes it possible to import and either cut or plot the following types of files[1]:

- Adobe Illustrator files (*.ai version 3.0)
- Corel Presentation Exchange files (*.cmx)

This Quick Start Guide supplements the information in the user's guide which can be found on the CD

Macsign Cut™ needs to be registered within 30 days after installation. This registration is free and the procedure is explained in this manual.

This supplied version is a light version. No objects can be created or edited, however you can import your designs and they can then be cut or plotted.

The complete package facilitates the design and production of vinyl signs, rubylith stencils, and other related products. The complete package supports also the OPOS function (with special plug-in for Illustrator). For more info contact the company SofTeam via www.softeamweb.com.

MacSign Cut™

Installation

Installing MacSign Cut™

There are two CD's one for OS 9 and one for OS X.

Installing MacSign Cut™ on OS 9 system

1. Open folder SofTeam MacSign™ .
2. To install another version then the English version go to step 5.
3. Click on Install MacSign™ XP-X v x.x to install the English version.
4. Follow instructions on screen..
5. Open folder with the desired language.
6. Click on installation program and follow instructions on screen.

Installing MacSign Cut™ on OS X system

1. Open folder which contains the program in the desired language.
2. Drag the SofTeam MacSign™ XP-X folder to a folder on your hard disk for which you have write permission. Typical folder is the "Applications" folder.

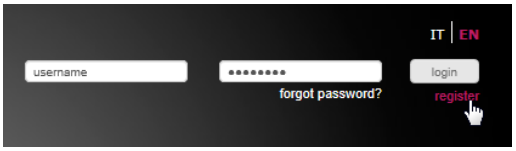
NOTE: It is recommended to download the latest version of MacSign Cut for OSX and not to install from CD that was delivered with the cutter.

Downloading and installing latest version of MacSign Cut™

MacSign Cut™ can only be downloaded from the site of the manufacturer of MacSign. There is also a registration necessary on this site before the download area can be accessed.

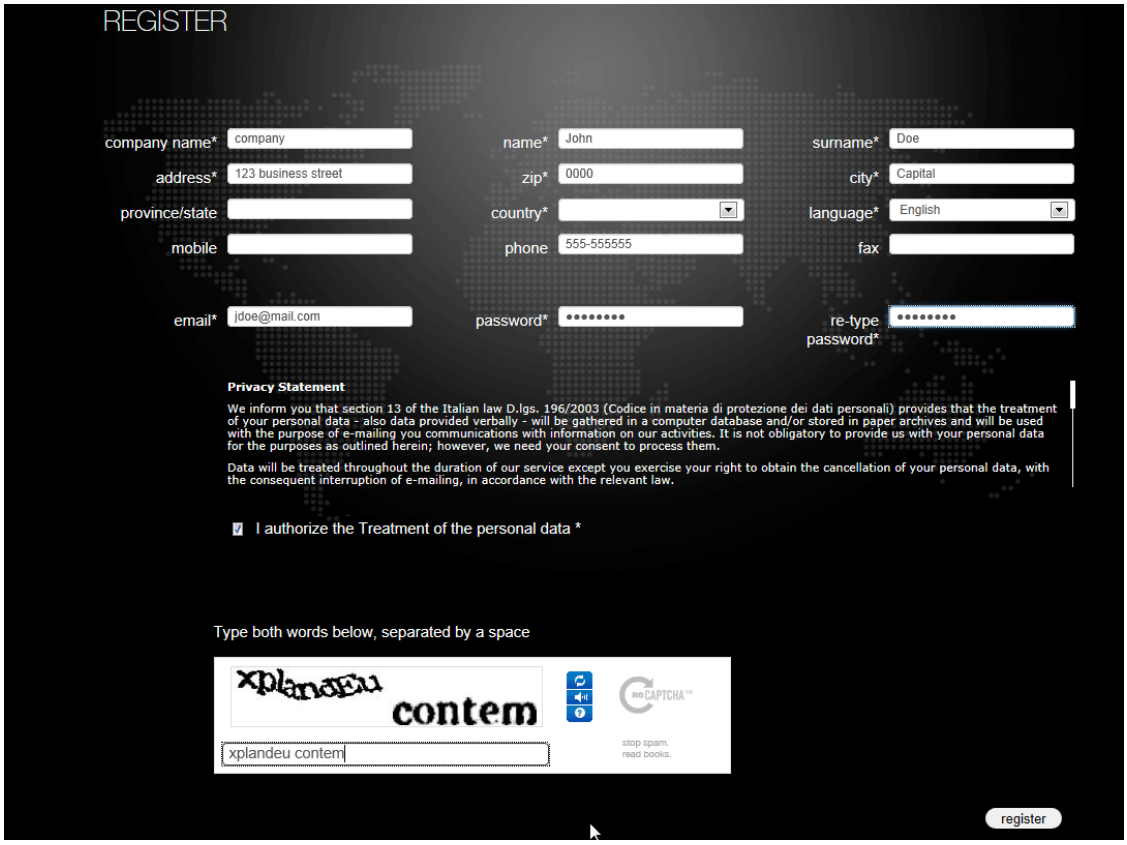
1. Go to www.softeamweb.com.

2. Register first by clicking on the register icon in the upper right corner.



3. If the security setting of your browser prevents showing all content, then click on show all content.

4. Fill in the form (do not forget to check the personal data authorization and the security check) and click on accept.



5. A page is shown that the registration has been accepted

6. Wait for a mail, and then click on the link (clicking here) in the mail to complete the registration.

NOTE: It possible that the mail arrives in the spam or junk email folder. Check this folder also. If it was there, then do not forget to put the sender in the 'save senders' list so further mails from Softeam come directly into the inbox

Dear John

below you can find the summary of your registration request:
Name: John
Surname: Doe
E-Mail: jdoe@mail.com
Password: xxxxxxxxxx

For security reasons, before being able to log in using your e-mail address and password, you have to confirm them clicking here

If you have not required this registration or if you do not confirm your registration request within 48 hours, this will be discarded and you will have to submit a new registration request.

Please store this e-mail in a safe place for future use.

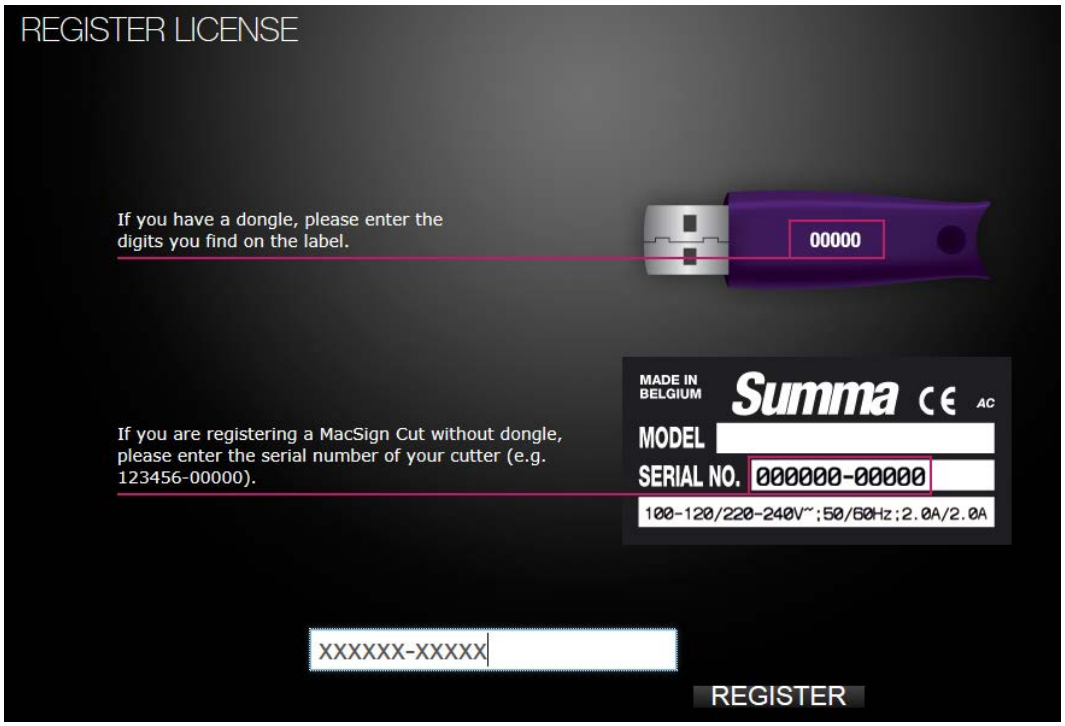
Thank you
SofTeam Staff

7. A tab in the internet browser opens and displays the message that the registration was successful. Click home to go to the home page. If the registration is not done immediately, go to www.softeamweb.com and fill in login name (email) and password and click on login to login to the site.

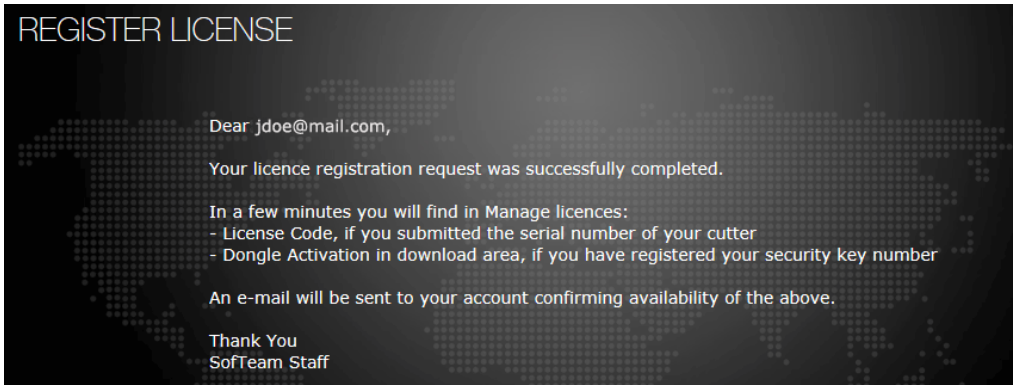
8. A recent version of MacSign cannot be downloaded if the cutter has not been registered. If the cutter has already been registered, go to step 15 to download the version of MacSign Cut that is needed. Then return to step 9 after that the downloaded version is installed.

9. To register the cutter click on the register icon

10. Fill in the form to register the cutter. If the serial number of the cutter cannot be found then check http://www.summa.be/html_en/support/serial_find.html to find out where the serial number label is on the cutter. Cutters delivered between November 2004 and June 2005 had a dongle delivered with them.



11. Click on register. A new window opens with the message that the registration was successful.



NOTE: If the correct version of MacSign is already installed, then proceed with the registration. Otherwise jump to step 15 first to download and install the latest version and afterwards come back to step 12.

12. Wait for the mail to activate the installed version on the computer. To activate the installed version of MacSign Cut do as described in the mail.

Dear Sirs,
please follow these simple steps to activate your license:

1) if MacSign Cut is running please quit and restart it.

2) at start-up when the "Registration" dialog box appears click on "Register Now".

3) fill-in the fields exactly as below:

Company Name: company
Cutter Serial Number: XXXXXX-XXXXX
License Code: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

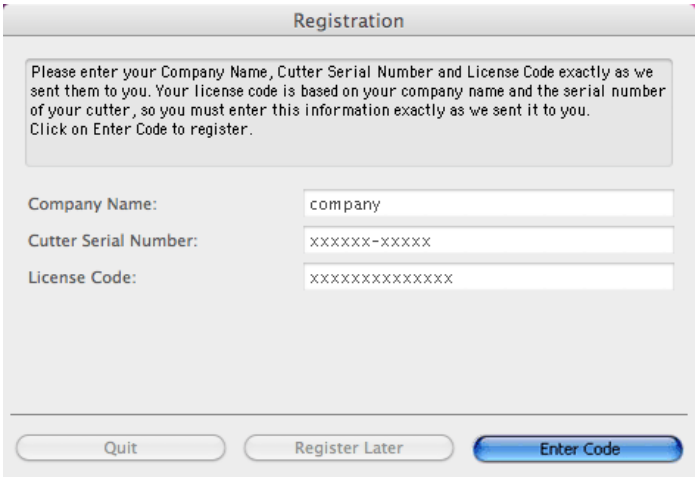
4) click the "Enter Code" button to complete the activation procedure.

Thank you for registering your MacSign Cut license.

SofTeam Staff

SofTeam Distribuzione - www.softeamitalia.com SofTeam Development - www.softeamweb.com
1 via Don Gnocchi - 20050 Macherio (MI) Italia tel +39 03920789.1 - fax +39 0392078964

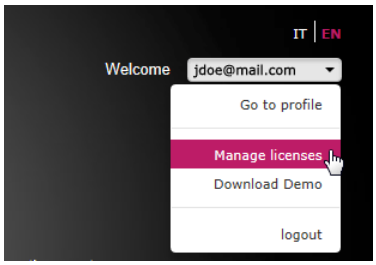
13. Fill in the registration code as in figure when the program is started



14. If there was no need to down the latest version, then go to the next paragraph (setup MacSign).

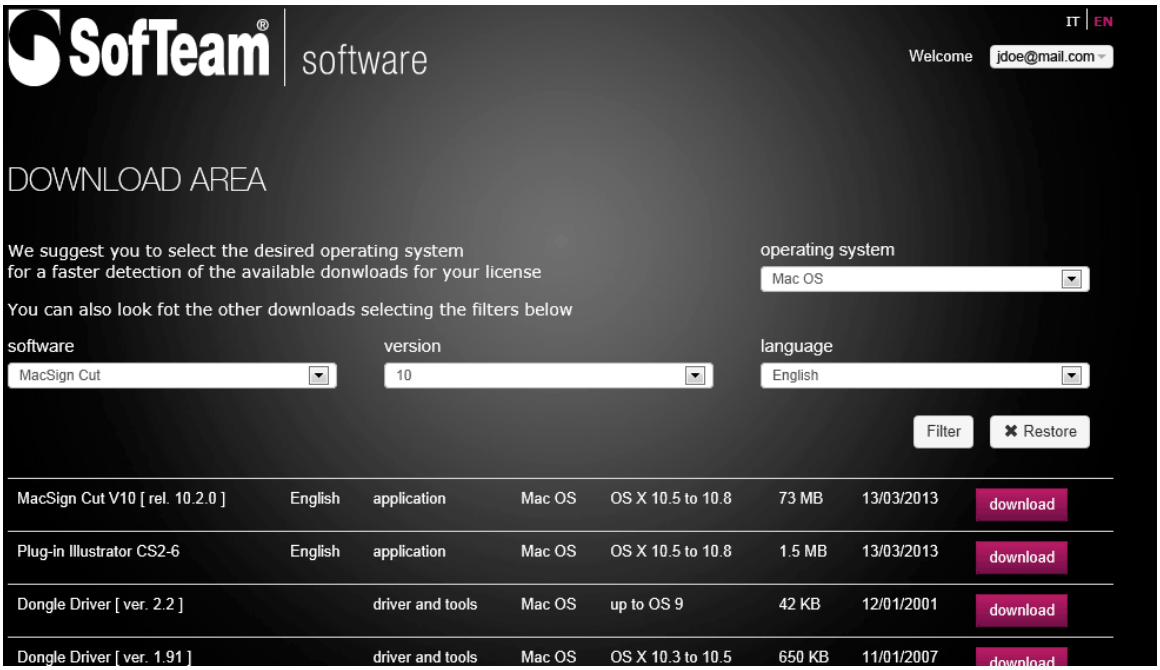
15. To download the latest version, go to www.softeamweb.com. If the login is not automatically, then fill in your login name and password.

16. Once logged in, click on the drop down arrow at the right side of the login name. Choose manage license.



17. A new window opens. The licensed cutters are displayed. There are three options. Click on a shopping cart to purchase an upgrade for the current installed version of MacSign Cut. Click on the wrench to ask for support. Click on the download icon to download the latest version of MacSign Cut.

18. A new window opens. Fill in the necessary fields and click on the filter icon.



19. Click on the download icon to download the latest version of MacSign Cut.

20. The plug-in can also be separately downloaded if the installed version of MacSign is up to date. However if the complete program is downloaded, then the plug-ins are also included in the dmg file.

NOTE:
The Plug-in installs a script to quickly export a drawing from Illustrator to MacSign; it opens it also if it was not already open).
The plug-in also has the ability to set OPOS marks around the objects, however, it MacSign Cut does not send the OPOS parameters direct to the cutter. An update to MacSign lite is necessary for that, or an upgrade to the full version of MacSign if the complete functionality of OPOS is needed (see last page for options/version table).

Installing MacSign

Operating system 10.5 or higher (Mac with Intel processor):

Double click the downloaded file. The computer will automatically mount the dmg file. Install the desired language version of MacSign Cut from there.

Earlier operating systems:

Unstuff the downloaded file and place it in the application folder.

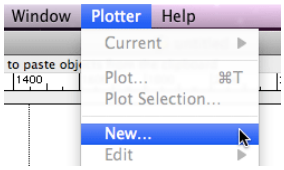
21. Use the registration code to register the latest installed version (go back to step 12).

Configuration

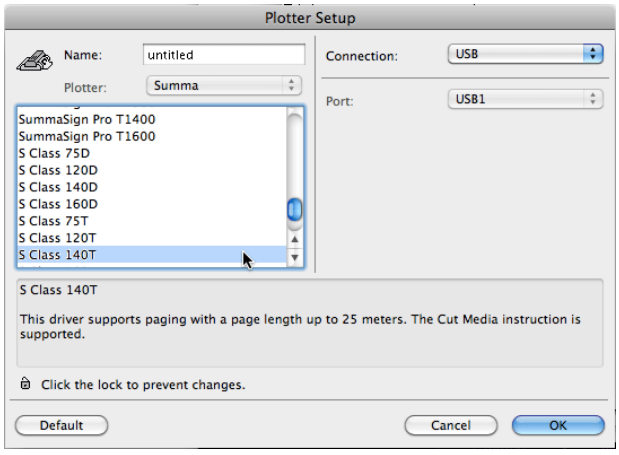
After MacSign Cut™ is installed; it must be configured to work with a Summa cutter/plotter.

Installing a cutter

1. Start MacSign Cut™.
2. Click on Plotter -> New

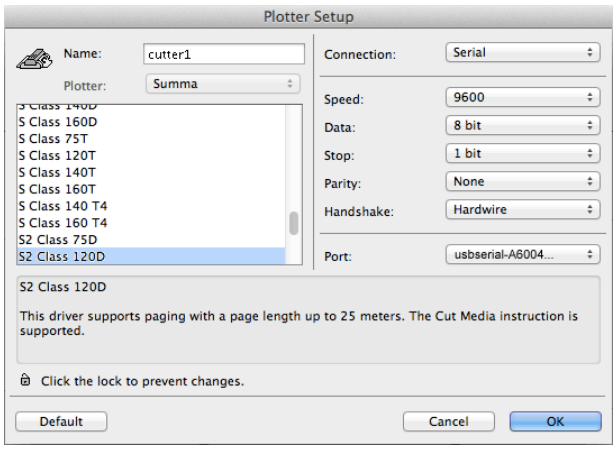


3. Click on cutter model inside the "Plotter Setup" window and select the appropriate port from the list. Fill in a name if necessary.
   - If a USB port is being used, then the port will be defaulted to USB1 (make sure USB class on the cutter is set at USB1 that the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation).

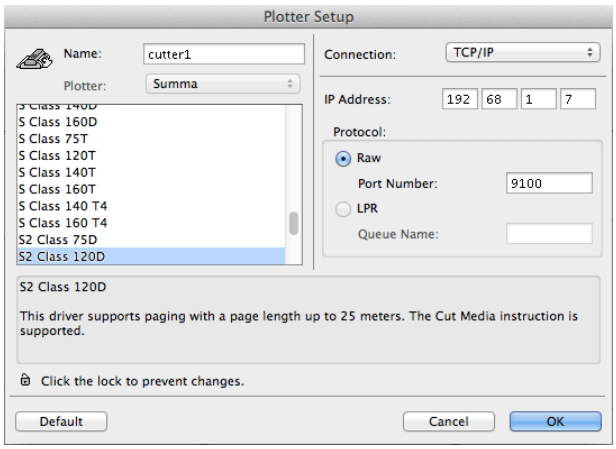


NOTE: There are no options to fill in if the connection is USB, if more than one cutter needs to be connected to one computer, then an upgrade must be purchased.

- If a serial port (COM) is being used, then there are some options that can be set. (make sure that the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation).
  The default COM settings are set in the figure, they are the same as in cutter when it leaves the factory. :



- If a TCP/IP connection is being used, then the correct IP address can must be filled in, check for the correct IP address on the cutter (make sure that the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation).



4. Click **OK** to exit "Plotter Setup". MacSign Cut™ is now ready to communicate with your cutter.

Using Adobe Illustrator

There are three ways by which a graphic may be imported into MacSign Cut™:

- By using the plug-in (for Adobe Illustrator CS2 and higher)
- By copy & paste and drag & drop into MacSign Cut™.
- By importing the graphic into MacSign Cut™ (*.ai file format version 3.0)

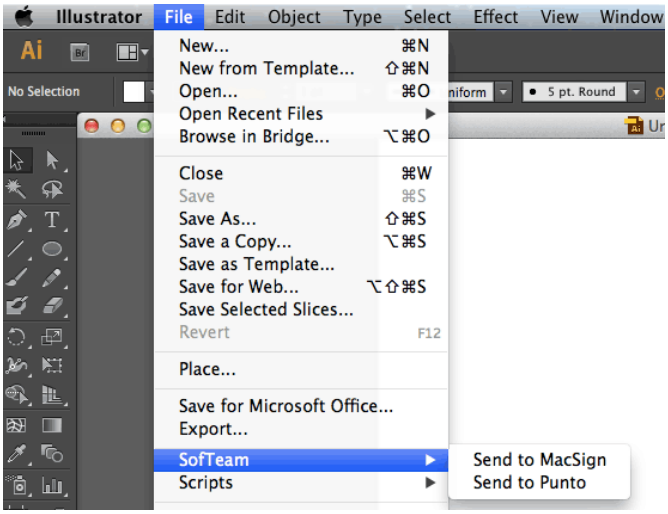
Using plug-in for Illustrator

If the used version of Illustrator is CS2 or higher and the version of MacSign Cut™ is 10, then a plug-in (see section installation) can be used for importing the graphic into MacSign Cut™. An upgrade to a full version is recommended for OPOS jobs; go to www.softeamweb for more info.

Bringing a graphic into MacSign Cut™:
When the graphic is brought into MacSign Cut™ with the plug-in, then following things happen:

- Objects are grouped per layer; the groups cannot be ungrouped afterwards in MacSign Cut™.
- Invisible layers are not exported to MacSign Cut™.
- If objects are selected, then only the selected objects are exported to MacSign Cut™.
- Bitmap objects are ignored.

With the current version of the plug-in, the top option has to be selected.



Exporting from Illustrator and importing in MacSign Cut™

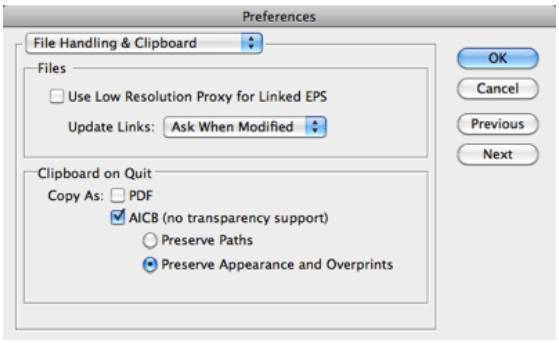
Make sure all objects are outlines and preferably not filled.
Select all text and go to menu "type" and click on "create outlines". It is also recommended to make sure they are not filled and that the outline gets a color.

Make sure to export to the correct version of adobe illustrator in order to work with MacSign Cut™.

- For Illustrator versions up to 10: Go to menu File and save as illustrator file version 7
- For Illustrator versions CS: Go to "File " menu export. Choose as file type Adobe Illustrator Legacy. In the Illustrator Legacy Options window, choose Illustrator 3.
- For Illustrator versions CS2 and higher: Go to "File" menu save as. Choose as file type Adobe Illustrator. In the Illustrator Options window, choose Illustrator 3.

Drag & drop into MacSign Cut™

Drag and drop is recommended for Illustrator versions lower than CS2.
In order that copy and paste works with illustrator, change the following in Illustrator: Open the Illustrator Edit ->Preferences ->File Handling & Clipboard dialog box and turn on the AICB option.



Now it is possible to copy & paste and drag & drop artwork from Illustrator to MacSign Cut™.

Cutting a design

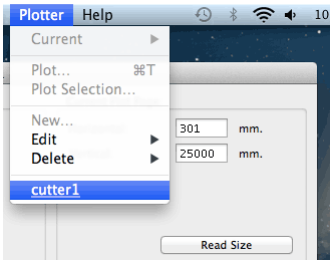
The following procedure lists the basic steps necessary to cut a design. For information about MacSign Cut™'s additional cutting features, read the user's guide.

Importing a graphic

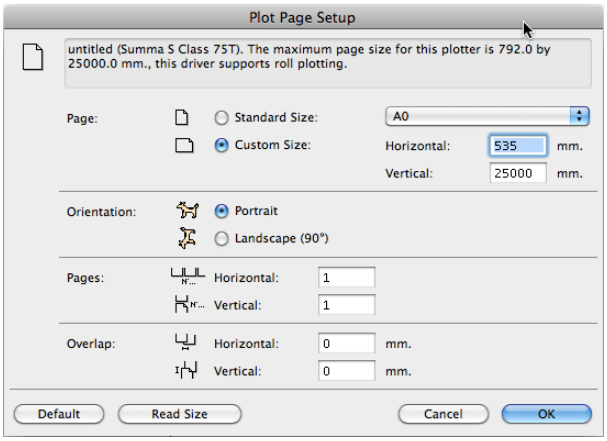
Open MacSign Cut™. Click File -> import -> saved file type. Or drag directly from Illustrator into the working area. Or use the plug-in (see previous paragraph).

Page Setup

If a job is not opened yet, then the page width (or size in case a sheet is loaded) can be set by going to Plotter -> name of installed plotter (cutter 1 in figure below). Then click on Read Size. If a job is then opened in MacSign, then a page will be opened with the correct width (size) in portrait and the job will be set at the lower left corner. Check next paragraph for explanation in the orientation.



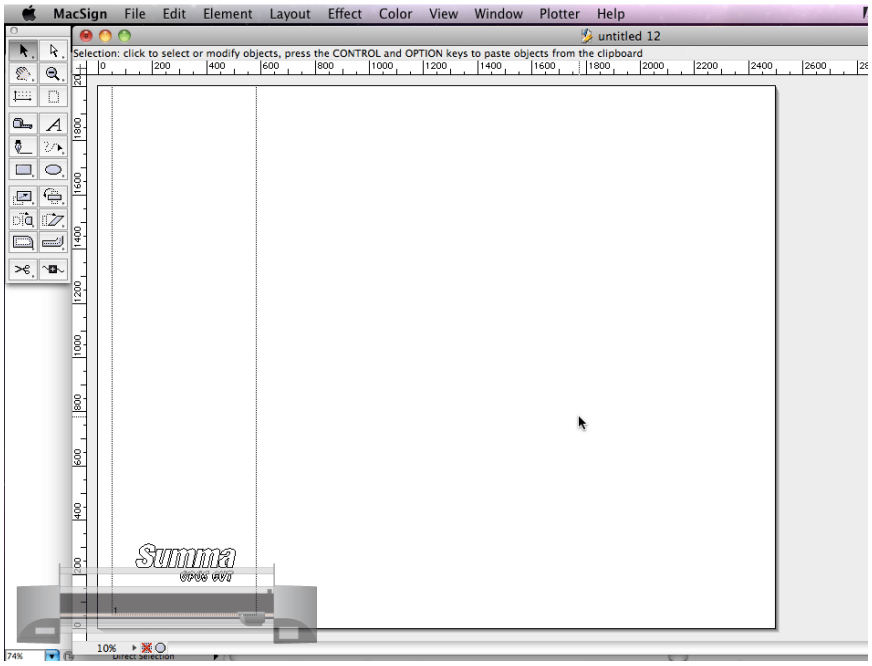
If a job is opened, then a complete page setup can be done by going to File -> Plotter Page Setup. It is advised to check on '"Read Size" to avoid unexpected clipping or tiling if it has not been done before. The page is made visible on screen with a dashed line; they are also number in case a job is divided over several pages.



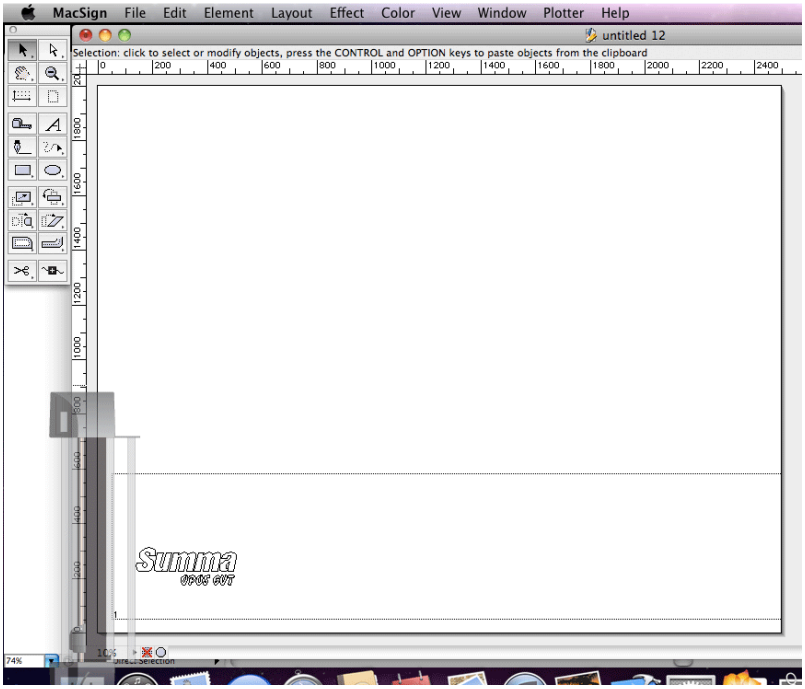
Orientation and position of the design

Following two figures have a picture of a cutter superimposed on the design. This shows how the design will be cut out on the cutter (orientation is very important when doing OPOS jobs).

When orientation in page setup is set at portrait:



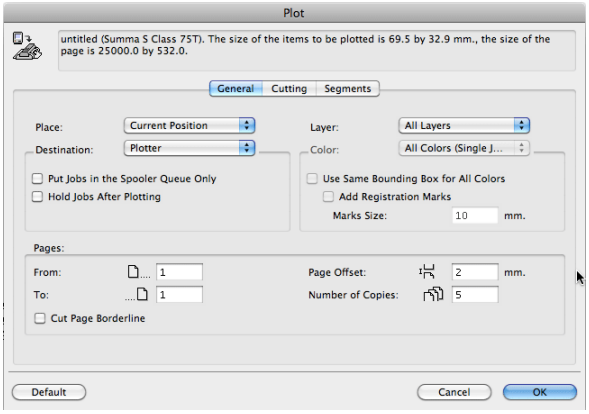
When orientation in page setup is set at landscape:



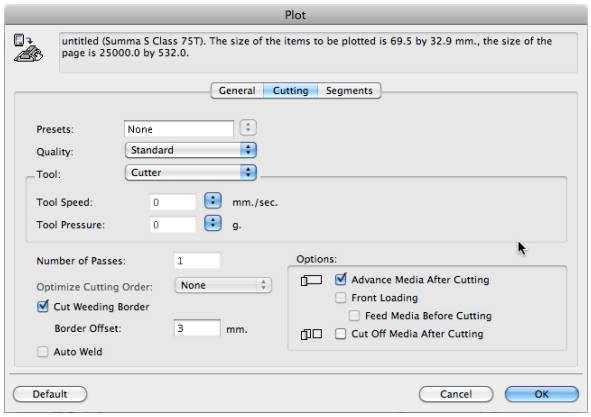
Cutting the design

Click Plotter -> Plot. There are three tabs in this plot window.

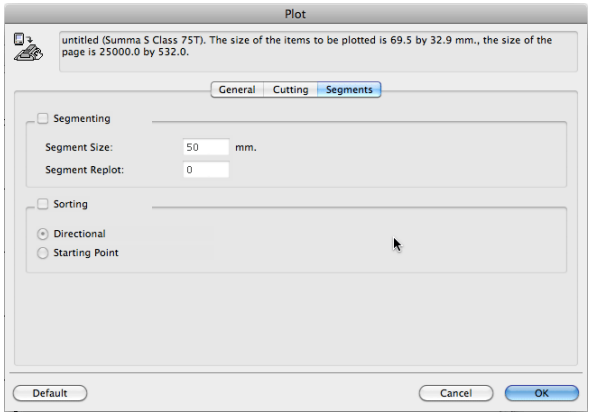
The first tab has the general settings.
Most important one is "Place". If set at Current Position, then the place where the design is cut is the same as seen in the window on screen. If Optimal Position is selected, then the design will be cut out as close to the origin as possible. The origin when the page setup is set at portrait is the lower left corner of the loaded sheet/roll in the cutter. When the page setup is set at landscape, then it is the lower right corner of the loaded sheet/roll.
The other options are more or less self-explainable. The "Copies" option is the number of copies of the complete job. This will not enable the user to set multiple copies onto one sheet. A resetting of the origin of a reloading of the sheet/roll is necessary before each copy. This means that multiple copies are cut one after the other. If multiple copies in both directions are needed, then it is recommended to draw the multiple copies in the design software or choose to buy an upgrade so that all the functions of the software are available.



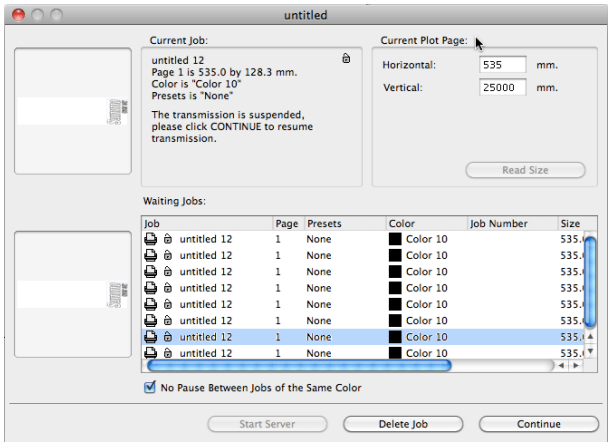
The second tab is used to set specific cutting paramters.
Most used here is the cutting border, the media advance after cutting and the cut off media. The other paramters are best changed on the cutter itself. Some options are not active in the Cut version, an upgrade is recommended to activate all options.



The third tab is used to control the internal panelling function of the cutter.
Panneling can be done eitehr with the intelligence of the cutter or with MacSIgn Cut™ itself. If the panelling of MacSign Cut™ itself needs to be used, then set this up in the plot page setup window. There a 'page' can be seen as a 'panel'. Like this panelling in both X and Y direection is possible. The internal panelling in the cutter is only used for panelling in one diection (the media movement direction).



If all options are set correct, then click on OK. The job is then placed in the spooler queue. Here the size of the loaded sheet/roll can be polled again. The upper left preview shows the job that will be sent next to the cutter. The lower left preview panel can be used by selecting a job from the queue. The queue can be run in the background with any intervention (choose option no pause) or if this option is not checked, then the user has to start each job individually.



Preparing a design for OPOS contour cutting

Creating a design

See the user's manual of the cutter for more detailed information about preparing a graphic for OPOS contour cutting.
However it is recommended to upgrade MacSign Cut™ for print and cut jobs. The full version of MacSign™ is accompanied by a plug-in for Illustrator to set the markers automatically around the print and cut job (with several option). MacSign™ itself then sends automatically the needed OPOS parameters to the cutter and all options of the OPOS functionality (like automating multiple OPOS tasks and the barcode option) can then be used. Go to www.softeamweb.com for more info on the upgrade.

NOTE: The procedure below cannot be used if the cutter is a S Class 2 series cutter since it it is not possible to change the OPOS parameters on the control panel of the cutter.

Creating a design

1. Use the design software to create the graphic that needs to be print and cut.

Graphic to be printed and cut afterwards

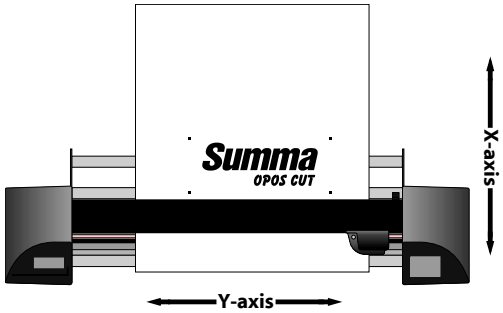
2. Set the page setup in mm. Insert contour and then OPOS registration markers around the graphic. It is recommended to set the markers and the contour lines on individual layers, different from the layer with the design that needs to be printed.

Inserting first contour and then the OPOS markers

- The markers must be square.
- Recommended size of markers is 3mm (not less than 1.5mm or more than 10mm).

- The markers should be dark in color (preferably black) so that they are easy to see when printed filled and no outline.
- Should not be more than 1300mm apart along the X-Axis (the axis along which the media travels). Make sure the distance is a whole number when set in in mm.
- Should not be more than 1600mm apart along the Y-Axis (the axis along which the head travels). Make sure the distance is a whole number when set in in mm.
- Write down the size of the markers, the distance from one marker to another (center to center) and the number of markers in the X axis.

! If imaginary lines are drawn from marker to marker around the graphic (forming a box around the graphic), it is important that no part of the graphic cross any of the lines.



Cutter axis diagram

Printing the design

Printing a graphic

If the design was made on separate layers, then print out the layers with the printing information and the layer with the markers on

1. Make sure there is <u>at least</u> a 1cm (0.4in) margin beyond each of the graphic's four OPOS markers and before the first marker. A 2cm (0.8in) margin is preferable.

2. Leave a margin of <u>at least</u> 8cm (3.15in) following the print when using sheets or when cutting the print off a roll.

3. Print the graphic and its markers with a printer (scale = 100%).

4. If possible use the same orientation (axis diagram) as the cutter has.

Cutting the design with OPOS

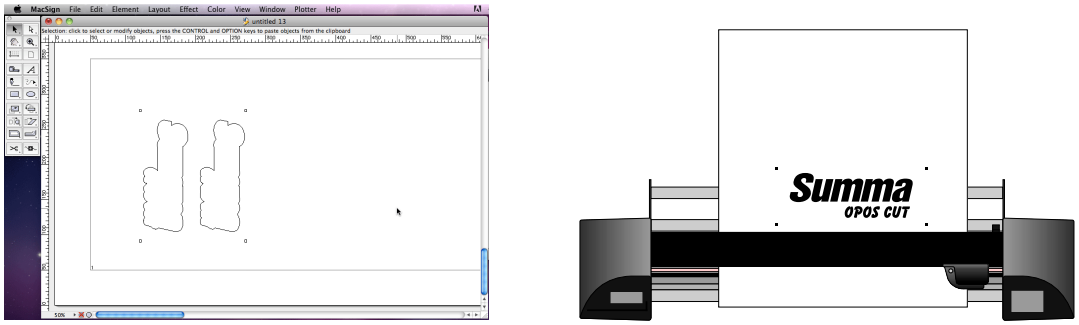
1. Import the layers with the markers and the layer with the contour cut information in MacSign Cut™.

2. Set de page setup in landscape. If necessary, rotate the graphic so that its orientation on the screen matches its orientation in the cutter. See section on orientation and position for more info.

3. Set OPOS parameters correct with the control panel of the cutter. (Distance X markers; Distance Y markers; Size markers X; Size markers Y; number of markers).

4. Initiate Media alignment procedure.

5. Send design with MacSign™ to the cutter set in output window the option place to "optimal position".



The graphic's orientation on the screen must match its orientation in the cutter

Comparison table existing versions

General

Manage illustrations more effectively with easy-to-use, time-saving floating palettes.	•	•	•
Correct unwanted changes with multiple levels of undo/redo.	•	•	•
Keyboard shortcuts for many operations, commands and tools (user-definable).	•	•	•
Get feedback from the on-screen status line on cursor position, currently selected tools and job attributes.	•	•	•
Open multiple files or multiple versions of the same file at once and switch between windows.	•	•	•
Easily view, search, select, and open multiple designs with the Design Browser window.	•		
The Scroller palette allows you to quickly moving around complex documents.	•	•	•
Lasso tools to create irregularly-shaped selections.	•	•	•
Marquee zoom in or out to your preferred viewing level for precise editing.	•	•	•
Measure distances between any two points.	•	•	•
Cut and paste between graphics design applications, like Adobe Illustrator, Corel CorelDRAW, Macromedia FreeHand, etc.	•	•	•
Drag and Drop between graphics design applications, like Adobe Illustrator, Corel CorelDRAW, Macromedia FreeHand, etc. (Mac OS X only)	•	•	•
Adobe Illustrator and Corel CorelDRAW plug-ins to send the artwork directly to MacSign.	•	•	•
Cut and paste between application's windows.	•	•	•
Drag and Drop between application's windows.	•	•	•
Import files in Adobe Illustrator's EPS and default native formats, Corel Presentation Exchange (CMX) format, HP-GL format.	•	•	•
Export files in Adobe Illustrator 3.0/3.2 EPS format.	•	•	•
Optional on-screen rulers.	•	•	•
Pull horizontal and vertical line guides out from rulers.	•	•	•
Create grids for precision drawing.	•	•	•
User-controlled snap-to-grid and snap-to-point features.	•	•	•
Libraries can be used to store jobs and cliparts. 1,000 logos, symbols and artworks included free.	•	•	

Drawing

Scale, rotate, reflect, and shear elements interactively by dragging the bounding box handles.	•	•	•
Move, scale, rotate, reflect and shear elements precisely with the Transform palette.	•	•	•
Align or distribute elements by using the Align palette.	•	•	
Set constrains to move or transform elements at any user-defined angle.	•	•	•
Move shapes in precise distances at exact angles.	•	•	•
Create artwork from scratch with the Pen or Pencil tools.	•		
Manually trace over scanned images with precision drawing tools.	•		
Automatically trace over black-and-white, grayscale or indexed color (up to 256 gray levels or colors) images with the Trace command.	•		
Create rectangles, squares, rounded rectangles, rounded squares, circles, ellipses, stars, polygons and spirals with basic shape tools.	•		
Parallel paths, outline and inline tools.	•		
Instantly edit straight lines and smooth curves with maximum control using the full-featured Pen tool.	•		
Change corner points to smooth points or vice versa.	•		
Adjust Bézier curves by moving the anchor points or direction handles.	•		
Delete anchor points or add anchor points to any path for tighter control.	•		
Cut paths at any user-defined place and elements in pieces.	•		
Join any two terminal anchor points.	•		
Group and ungroup elements.	•		
Lock or hide any element of set of elements for easy editing.	•	•	
Compound paths to create transparent holes in elements.	•		
Multiple layers to overlay graphics and text, for greater design freedom and control.	•	•	•
Create, name, delete, move, lock, hide, and merge layers quickly with the easy-to-use Layers palette.	•	•	•
Create, name, delete, edit and select colors quickly with the intuitive Colors palette.	•	•	•
The Envelopes palette brings you powerful transformations: elements in perspective views, receding into the distance, bridging,…	•		
Use the Pathfinder palette to create new elements by combining, subdividing, or isolating parts of overlapping elements.	•		

Text

Input text using TrueType, OpenType .otf and Type 1 PostScript fonts.	•		
Combine different attributes such as character's font, style and size in the same block of text.	•		
Precisely control leading, horizontal scale, letter and word spacing.	•		
Use the Kerning window to specify customized spacing between pairs of letters.	•		
Automatically align text as centered, flush-left, flush-right or justified.	•		
Adjust text to fit into an area.	•		
Measure text attributes in points, inches, centimeters, millimeters or tenths of millimeters.	•		
Convert TrueType, OpenType .otf and Type 1 PostScript fonts to fully editable outlines to create customized letterforms.	•		
Text on a path allows you to place typefaces along curves, around circles, or along vertical or diagonal lines.	•		
Apply envelope distortions to text elements without convert them into outlines.	•		
300 TrueType and/or PostScript Type 1 fonts included free.	•		

Rhinestone

Place rhinestones manually by using the Stone tool.	•		
Automatically arrange rhinestones along any path.	•		
Automatically fill areas with rhinestones using hatch, island and pixel fills.	•		
Precisely control stone diameter and spreading, spacing, overlap, corners, pitch, hatch angle, ...	•		
Use the Effects palette to create, edit, delete and/or apply stone effects.	•		
Use the Effects Libraries palette to create and re-use collections of your own stone effects.	•		
Use the Stones palette to select stones from a range of stone catalogues.	•		
Major stones manufacturers' catalogues included free.	•		
Create, edit, and import pre-set or your own stones catalogues.	•		
Easily adjust overlapping stones.	•		
Calculate and export the number of stones to create cost estimates.	•		

Production

Use the Vinyls palette to select colors from vinyls libraries.	•	•	
Create, edit, and import pre-set or your own vinyls color charts libraries.	•	•	
Match colors to automatically find the vinyls whose colors are the closest simulation of the design's colors.	•	•	
Obtain exact size of material from plotter.	•	•	•
Automatic or manual paneling, each with optional weed borders and overlaps.	•	•	• (1)
Manually adjust, add and remove panels by dragging the panels lines.	•	•	
In roll plotters, the paneling allows continuous cutting along the entire length of a roll of vinyl.	•	•	•
Use the Serialization feature to produce personalized items for a sport team or club.	•		
Automatic step & repeat with spacing.	•	•	•
Automatically fit or fill copies to cutter page for better media savings.	•		
Colors separation with optional material optimization.	•	•	
Advanced colors separation with colors bounding box and registration marks management.	•		
Automatically remove of intersections of overlapping elements of the same color.	•		
Cut by color, panel and layer.	•	•	• (4)
Cut of entire job or selected elements.	•	•	•
Set quality with which the artwork is cut.	•	•	•
Set tool speed and pressure with which the artwork is cut.	•	•	•
Cutting order optimization to improve the tracking performance during long plots and/or to reduce time wasting head movements.	•	•	
Segmenting to improve the cutting through and/or the tracking of difficult media.	•		
Set how many times the knife cuts each path of your artwork to cut very thick media.	•		
Support of cutters' optical alignment methods to guarantee precise contour cutting around pre-printed graphics (Summa's OPOS, Graphtec's	•	•	
Adobe Illustrator and Corel CorelDRAW plug-ins to add registration marks and barcode to your artwork for print and cut workflow (Summa's	•	•(1)	•(1)
Automatic detection of optical alignment methods' registration marks and origin point alignment.	•		
Support of automatic "contour cutting" jobs with bar code workflow through a "bar code server" (Summa's OPOS BARCODE and Mutoh's	•		
Direct setup and control of the cutter's cut through (die-cut) features (Summa's FlexCut and Mutoh's Cut Through).	•		
Create, recall, edit and delete cutting presets ("snapshots" of all choosen cutting settings).	•		
Plotter setup to configure the plotter vendor and model and provide connection information.	•	•	•
Support of the Raw TCP/IP printing protocol to communicate with the plotter.	•	•	•
Quickly plot jobs with a plot spooler (aka the plot queue) running in background.	•	•	•
Install and manage multiple plotters, the application maintains a plot spooler for each plotter you have installed.	•		
Support of the most common cutters: Summa, Mutoh, Graphtec, Roland, Houston, Mimaki, Zünd, Aristo, Wild, ANAgraph, Ioline, GCC, and	•	•	• (5)
Integration with RIPs to automatically manage "print and cut" jobs workflows. (3)	•		

First column: MacSign
Second column: MacSIgn Lite
Third column: MacSIgn Cut

(1) Automatic only.
(2) For list of supported models and connections on each OS, refer to Read Me files included in the software or contact SofTeam. (3) For list of supported RIPs contact SofTeam.
(4) Cut by color is disabled.
(5) Manufacturer's models only.

New feature available in MacSign 10.