



QuickStart

MacSign™ is a “bridge” program that allows you to import and either cut or plot the following types of files¹:

- Adobe Illustrator files (*.ai)
- 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. For more info contact the company SofTeam via www.softteamweb.com.

Installing MacSign™

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

Installing MacSign™ on OS 9 system

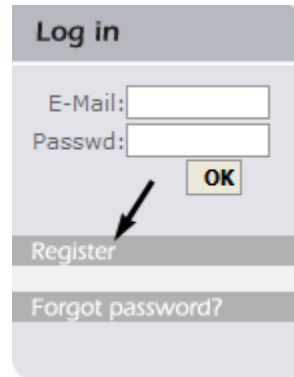
1. Open folder SofTeam MacSign™ .
2. To install another version then the English version go to step 5.
3. Click on Install MacSign™ XP-X v x.x to install the English version.
4. Follow instructions on screen..
5. Open folder with the desired language.
6. Click on installation program and follow instructions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

Installing MacSign™ 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.

Registering MacSign™

1. Registering your copy of MacSign is a procedure in three steps.
2. First register yourself Go to www.softeamweb.com and click on “Register”.
3. Fill in the form confirm and wait for a confirmation via email.
4. Log in with email address and password at the same place.
5. Then register your Summa product to get your registration code. Registration is free. Click on the picture “Register your (product) licence”.
6. Wait again for an email from softeam.



Log in

E-Mail:

Passwd:

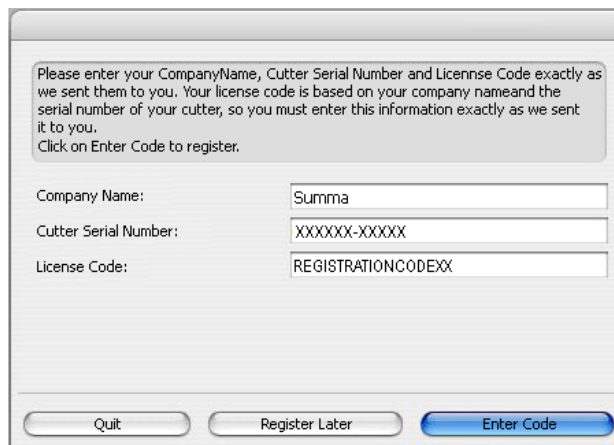
OK

Register

Forgot password?



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



Please enter your CompanyName, Cutter Serial Number and License Code exactly as we sent them to you. Your license code is based on your company name and the serial number of your cutter, so you must enter this information exactly as we sent it to you.
Click on Enter Code to register.

Company Name:

Cutter Serial Number:

License Code:

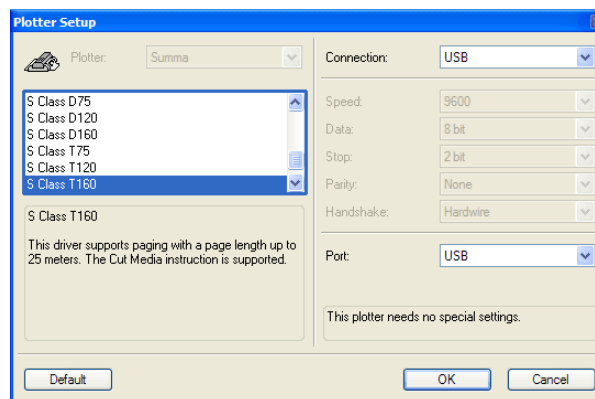
Quit Register Later Enter Code

Configuration

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

Installing a cutter

1. Start MacSign™.
2. Click on Plotter -> Plotter Setup.
3. Click on your cutter model inside the "Plotter Setup" window and select the appropriate port from the list.



- If a USB port is being used, the "Port Settings" will appear grayed-out and therefore cannot be modified.
 - If a serial port (COM) is being used, the "Port Settings" will not be grayed-out and therefore can be modified. The default COM settings are:
 - Baud Rate = 9600
 - Flow Control = RTS/CTS
 - Parity = None
 - Data Bits = 8 Bits
 - Stop Bits = One
- NOTE:** These are standard settings that should work with any Summa cutter when it leaves the factory. Also, make sure that your cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation.
4. Click **OK** to exit "Plotter Setup". MacSign™ is now ready to communicate with your cutter.

Preparing a graphic to cut

Using Illustrator

There are two ways by which a graphic may be brought into MacSign™:

- By copy & paste and drag & drop into MacSign™.
- By importing the graphic into MacSign™ (preferably in *.ai file format)

Exporting from Illustrator and importing in MacSign™

Make sure all objects are outlines and preferably not filled.

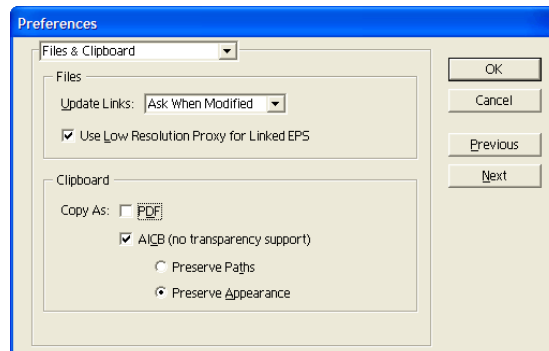
Select all text and go to menu “type” and click on “create outlines”. It is also recommended to make sure they are not filled and that the outline gets a color.

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

- 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: Go to “File“ menu save as. Choose as file type Adobe Illustrator. In the Illustrator Options window, choose Illustrator 3.

Drag & drop into MacSign™

In order that copy and paste works with illustrator CS, change the following in Illustrator CS: 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 CS to MacSign™.

Cutting a graphic

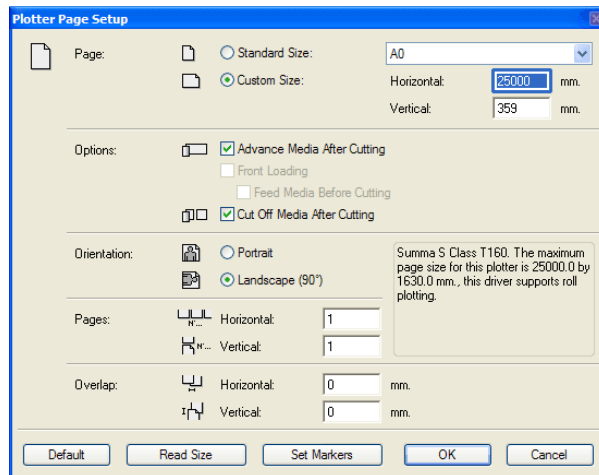
The following procedure lists the basic steps necessary to cut a graphic. For information about MacSign™'s additional cutting features, read the user's guide.

Importing a graphic

Open MacSign™. Click File -> import -> saved file type. Or drag directly from Illustrator into the working area.

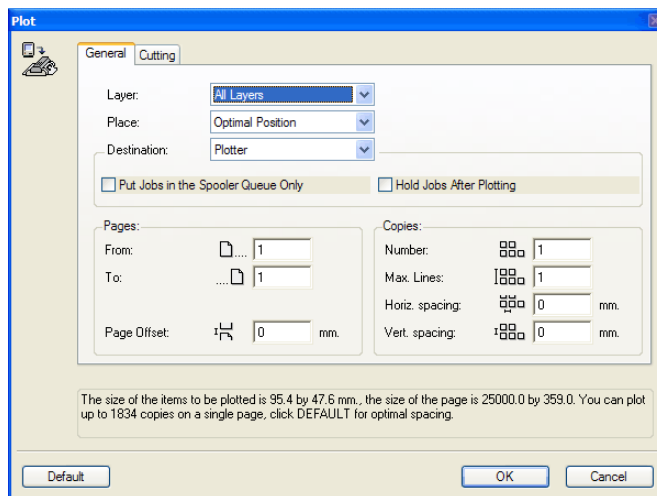
Page Setup

Click Plotter -> Page Setup. Set Orientation to Landscape to force origin in the right corner. It is also advised to check on "Read Size" to avoid unexpected clipping or tiling.



Cutting a graphic

Click Plotter -> Plot. Make sure that chosen place is set to "Optimal Position". This ensures that the design is cut out in the lower right corner of the loaded vinyl and not as placed on the workspace. The second tab can be used to set cutting options like speed and tool (pressure) It is recommended to use the control panel on the cutter to set those parameters and not in the driver program.



Preparing a graphic for OPOS contour cutting

Creating a graphic

See the user's manual of your cutter for more detailed information about preparing a graphic for OPOS contour cutting.

Creating a graphic

1. Use your design software to create the graphic that you want to print and cut.



Graphic to be printed and cut

2. Insert OPOS registration markers around the graphic.

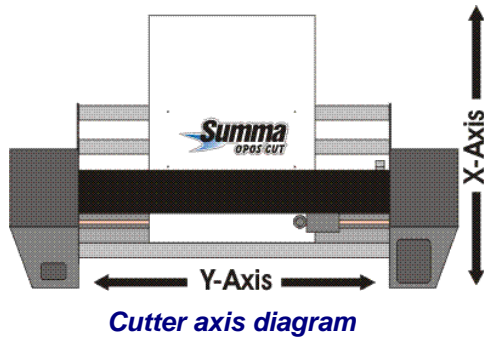


Inserting OPOS markers

- The markers must be square.
- Each of the markers' four sides should measure 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.
- The markers...
 - Should *not* be more than 1.3m apart along the X-Axis (the axis along which the media travels)
 - Should *not* be more than 1.6m apart along the Y-Axis (the axis along which the head travels)

Add additional markers if necessary. Please see the illustrations at the top of the next page.

- 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.



Printing a graphic

Printing a graphic

1. Make sure there is at least 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 at least 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%).

Defining a cut contour

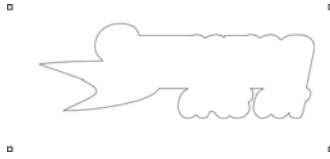
Determine whether a cut contour should be created:

- Sending the entire graphic from MacSign™ to the cutter will result in every vector element in the graphic being cut.



Without a defined cut contour, all elements will be cut

- Sending a contour-only file from MacSign™ to the cutter will result in only the contour being cut. This technique will result in the contour being cut around the graphic, leaving the internal elements uncut.



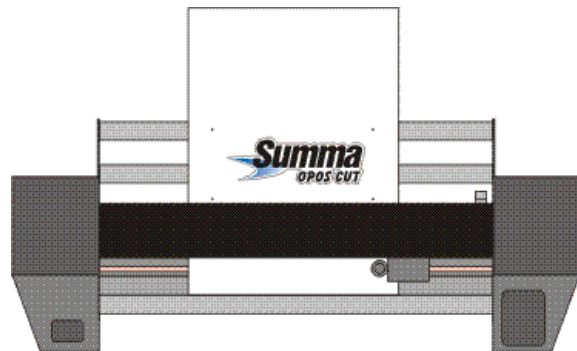
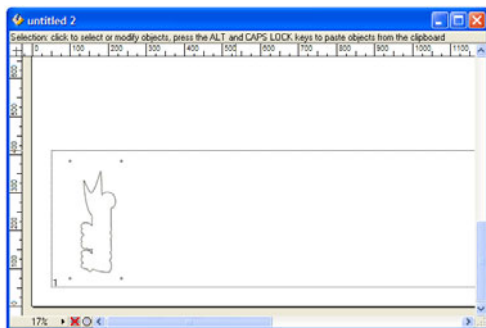
With a defined cut contour, only the contour will be cut

Defining a cut contour

1. Create the cut contour as a separate layer (or file) and assign it a unique color. This is the layer (or file) that will be brought into MacSign™ and then sent to the cutter. The documentation supplied with your design software should provide additional instruction about creating contours.
2. Leave space between the graphic's contour and the cut contour. This buffer will allow for slight cut deviations should the material shift during cutting.

Cutting a graphic with OPOS

1. Import or drag the defined contour together with markers in MacSign™.
2. If necessary, rotate the graphic so that its orientation on the screen matches its orientation in the cutter.
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 (S class cutters) or Align load (SummaCut cutters).
5. Send design with MacSign™ to the cutter.



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

Comparison table existing versions

	MacSign	MacSign Lite	MacSign Cut
Drawing			
Rotate elements by any increment.	•	•	•
Scale elements uniformly or nonuniformly in any direction.	•	•	•
Reflect elements along any axis to create mirror-image effects.	•	•	•
Shear elements at any angle.	•	•	•
Align elements.	•	•	•
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 fonts.	•		
Input text using OpenType .otf and Type 1 PostScript fonts. (1)	•		
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. (1)	•		
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.	•		
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.	•	•	•(2)
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.	•	•	•
Built-in full color separations, with optional material optimization.	•	•	
Cut by color, panel and layer.	•	•	•(3)
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.	•	•	
Support of plotters' alignment methods to guarantee precise contour cutting around pre-printed graphics (including Summa's OPOS).	•	•	
Plotter setup.	•	•	•
Cutting multiple jobs with background spooler.	•	•	•

(1) Some platforms require Adobe Type Manager.

(2) Automatic only.

(3) Cut by color is disabled.