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Laptop251 is supported by readers like you. When you buy through links on our site, we may earn a small commission at no additional cost to you. Learn more. So, you just bought an old Cricut Expression machine for an amazing deal but can't figure out how to connect it to a computer? Or maybe you found this dusty old machine somewhere in the attic, and a wave of nostalgia swept over you. Well, there's some good news and some bad news. Let's start with the bad news first: the official software, Cricut Craft Room, released by Cricut, has been discontinued. But the good news is that there is various third-party software that you can use to connect your Cricut Expression to your computer. You'll need to use third-party software to connect your Cricut Expression to your computer. This software would run on your computer and help send out instructions to make the cuts per your needs. Although these third-party solutions are not recognized by Cricut officially, they are tested by fellow Expression owners and are actually going to work just fine. So, what software apps can I use? Let's find out! We've compiled together a list of third-party software which you can use to easily connect the Cricut Expression to your computer. Let's dig right in: Think of Cricut DesignStudio as the younger version of the Cricut Craft Room. Though both Cricut Craft Room and DesignStudio have been shelved by Cricut and don't receive active updates, you can still use Cricut DesignStudio to connect Expression with your computer. Here's how to use this software for Cricut Expression: 1. Download the software using the link. 2. Double-click the application's installer and press "Next" until you've completely installed it. 3. Open up the "Cricut DesignStudio" from your Desktop. 4. Take a look at the application - it's just the same as your Cricut Expression. 5. Simply connect the Expression machine to your computer with the USB cord provided with it (the USB port is right beside the AC connector on your device). 6. That's it - Windows will automatically download everything else it needs to help you use Cricut Expression on your computer with ease! Here's how I selected a custom figure from one of the hundreds of available cartridges on the Cricut DesignStudio: If Expression won't connect to the computer, retry a different USB cable cord. Cricut DesignStudio won't connect the Expression to your computer? "Make the Cut!" is another software that made it to our list of third-party applications you can use. Here's how you can do so: 1. Download the latest release of Make the Cut! from their website and install the application by double-clicking the installer. 2. Once done, open the application. Draw or import shapes you'd like to cut. 3. To cut the shape in Expression, you'll be needing a plugin which helps connect the software to your cutter. You can download the plugin using this website. Though I'm just playing around with basic shapes here, you can import SVGs, JPEGs, and even documents to cut them out using your Cricut Expression. The latest release of Make the Cut! has discontinued support for Cricut machines due to which your Expression won't connect to the computer. Wondering what software can I use if not MTC? Read ahead. Sure Cuts A Lot (SCAL) is our show-stopper for the list of applications you can use to connect your Expression to the computer. SCAL's version 2 is compatible with the older Expression machines. If you've purchased a license, then install the application on your system. Source: USCutter Videos, YouTube Once installed, you'll need one last plugin to connect the SCAL application and your cutter together. Steps to set up the Libcutter plugin are outlined here and there's an excellent YouTube video with visual instructions on how to connect Cricut Expression to your computer using SCAL. Source: Sweet Craftylicious, YouTube Using Sure Cuts a Lot 5 with Cricut Legacy Machines and Libcutter | Source: sweetcraftylicious1450 It can be very troublesome setting up Sure Cuts A Lot version 5 with the Cricut Personal, Expression, Create, or Cake machines. You can use Sure Cuts A Lot version 2 to connect Cricut Expression to your computer or send designs from v5 to v2 to cut them using Expression. You've got questions - we've got answers! Let's quickly go through some of the most commonly asked questions on how to connect Cricut Expression to computers: Sure Cuts A Lot (SCAL) 5 does not work with Cricut Expression. Support for the Expression machine has been officially dropped. If you have, however, purchased the latest release of SCAL, you can transfer your designs to the SCAL v2 to cut the designs using your Cricut Expression. We've covered the question in detail above. Be sure to check out the section on it. Using plugins like Libcutter, you might just be able to design and cut your custom artwork using SCAL. You can use Cricut Design Studio, Sure Cuts A Lot, or Make the Cut to use your Cricut Expression with your computer. Though these apps are not officially supported by Cricut, they can help explore personal and customized designs for cutting. If you're wondering how to use Cricut Craft Room with Cricut Expression, unfortunately, that's not possible anymore. The application has been discontinued by Cricut and is unavailable for download or usage. No, the Cricut Expression does not have support for Bluetooth or other wireless adapters to be installed on it. Though wireless adapters were supported for the Expression 2 machine, they were later discontinued due to low demand, and manufacturing was halted. Cricut does, however, release a wireless Bluetooth adapter for the Explore series of their cutting machines. Hopefully, I've resolved your query on how to connect Cricut Expression to computers. To sum it up, you need software applications to connect your Expression to a computer. Since Cricut has officially ended support for the old Expression model, you can use third-party software solutions to connect your systems together. We covered Cricut DesignStudio, Make the Cut!, and Sure Cuts A Lot. So what are you waiting for? Quickly set the apps up and have a fun time completing those DIY projects! The Cricut Expression machine is an old machine that doesn't require a computer connection but what if you want to upload your own designs to this older machine? You'll need to connect it to your computer to do so. Cricut products are powerful tools for creating custom crafts from paper, fabric, wood, cardstock, vinyl, vellum, chipboard, thin foils, and more. The Expression is a stand-alone cutting tool that uses Cricut cartridges. The physical cartridges have built-in intricate designs that allow you to create professional-looking projects quickly. But you're limited to the designs on them. Let's face it, there are a lot of free fonts and free images out there that you'd love to try out. But how do you use them with your Expression and a computer? To use Cricut Expression with your computer, you need to use third party software such as Sure Cuts a Lot (SCAL) or Make the Cut (MTC). These programs allow you to create your own images, manipulate existing images, and save them in a format that the Expression machine can read. In this blog post, I will walk you through the basics of setting up your Cricut Expression machine with your computer, loading a project, and cutting it with the machine. I get commissions for purchases made through some of the links in this post. There is no extra cost to you. See my full disclosure here. Read on to find out the different methods you can use to set up and use your Cricut Expression with a computer. Sure Cuts A Lot (SCAL) is a great program for creating, editing, and manipulating designs for your Cricut Expression or another legacy machine. Uploading the SCAL software system to your computer should take about one or two minutes. SCAL is not limited to use in only Cricut. You can also use it in other die-cutting machines like the Sizzix, Silhouette, and Brother Scan N Cut. Make The Cut (MTC) is another third-party software you can use with older Cricut machines. It has many of the same features as SCAL, but it also offers additional features such as creating SVG files and cutting multi-layered projects like cardstock boxes and 3D objects. In addition to having more features than SCAL, MTC is also more user-friendly. The interface is easier to navigate, and the program is a bit more intuitive. It's also less expensive than SCAL, which may be appealing to those on a budget. Unfortunately, the bad news is, Design Space software isn't compatible with older models like Expression. In fact, any machine that was created before the Explore family of machines won't work with Cricut's Design Space. Either you can upgrade to one of the newer Cricut machines or use the other two software options mentioned above. Once you've chosen your machine software, setting up the Cricut Expression with a computer is fairly straightforward. Unlike with a new machine, you will need to connect the Expression to your computer via a USB cable, install the drivers for your software and then load the svg file from your computer files into your program of choice. When you're ready to cut, you will need to make sure your Cricut Expression is powered on, and the USB cord is connected. Just press the power button. Then, you'll want to select the design you want to cut from either SCAL or MTC and set up the machine settings (blade depth, speed, pressure) accordingly. Set up your cutting mat with the material of your choice, like paper or vinyl. Customize the image by increasing or decreasing the image size or adding text to the svg. Once everything is set up properly, you can send the design to your Cricut Expression, see it displayed on the LCD screen and cut your project using the cut feature. Now that you know how to use your old Cricut Expression machine with a computer, the good news is that you can start creating beautiful projects. From intricate paper cutting designs and funny mugs to unique fabric banners and one-of-a-kind t-shirts, the possibilities are endless with the help of these versatile machines. As long as you have some imagination and creativity, the Cricut Expression can help you bring your ideas to life. Cutting machines are great to have if you're creative and crafty. And using an older machine like Cricut Expression with a computer is an easy and convenient way to create beautiful projects quickly. With the help of programs such as Sure Cuts A Lot (SCAL) and Make The Cut (MTC), you can design, manipulate images, and save them in formats that your Cricut Expression machine can read. I hope this post has helped you understand the basics of setting up and using your Cricut Expression with a computer. Get more tips to connect Cricut to your computer. No, Cricut Design Space is not compatible with the Cricut Expression machine. Cricut Expression uses a different software and is not supported by Design Space. The two perfect ways to use Cricut Expression with a computer are: 1. Using third-party software that is compatible with Cricut Expression, such as Sure Cuts A Lot (SCAL) or Make The Cut. 2. Converting your designs to SVG or GSD file formats and using them with Cricut Craft Room (if it's still available) or other compatible software. The Cricut Expression is one of Cricut's most popular cutting machines. While most Cricut machines are quite easy to hook up to a computer just like how most accessory machines are, the problem with the Expression is that it is now a legacy machine that Cricut no longer supports. But that doesn't mean that you can't use it with a computer anymore. So, how do you connect your Cricut Expression to a computer? You will need third-party software to connect your Cricut Expression to your computer. The software that you can use includes Sure Cuts a Lot and Make the Cut. As long as you have these software on your computer, you will be able to hook up your Cricut Expression with your computer and use it normally. The problem with the Cricut Expression is that, even though it might be pretty popular and is very simple to use, it is no longer supported by the company behind it. That means that you will have to find other means to use this machine so that it won't end up becoming useless lying around in your home without being able to do what it was specifically designed to do. With how the world has been moving forward technologically, even those who are into arts and crafts and DIY projects have been able to make use of computers for their own hobbies and personal endeavors. From using scissors and box cutters to cut out intricate designs on papers, DIY experts are now using Cricut machines that basically act as printers but cut out different designs on papers instead. The popularity of Cricut can be traced back to more than a decade ago. Back then, one of the most popular Cricut machines was the Expression, which is a simple machine that a lot of people have been able to easily use to cut out designs on their favorite types of paper. However, the thing you need to know is that it has already been more than a decade since Expression was released. Like most other companies that continuously release new models of their machines, Cricut has since continued to produce different paper cutting machines to the point that they eventually phased the Expression out. However, that didn't mean that they completely stopped supporting the Cricut Expression as, even though Cricut stopped producing the Expression, you could still use it with your computer using Cricut's own software called Craft Room. However, Cricut stopped supporting the Craft Room as well, and that has made it almost impossible for people to use their Cricut Expression because they couldn't connect the machine with their computers. After all, there was a point in time when the Cricut Craft Room was the only way for you to connect your Expression to a computer. And the Expression isn't even compatible with Cricut's current software called Design Space. In that regard, does that mean that you can no longer connect your Cricut Expression to a computer? Was the phasing out of the Cricut Craft Room the final nail in the coffin for Cricut Expression machines out there? So, the good news here is that, even though the Cricut Craft Room was once thought of as the only way for you to connect your Expression to your computer, there are other ways for you to actually connect the two machines with one another so that you could use your Expression with your computer. But the thing you need to know here is that connecting your Cricut Expression to your computer will require you to make use of third-party software that aren't licensed by Cricut but are still very much compatible with the Expression. And you also need to know that it might take a bit of work for you to be able to connect an older machine with third-party software that are pretty old as well. Now that you know that you could still connect your Cricut Expression to a computer, let's now look at how you can do so. Again, the Expression can only be connected to a computer using third-party software. The two that we have in mind here are Sure Cuts a Lot (SCAL) and Make the Cut (MCT). Let's look at how you can use these software to connect your Cricut Expression to your computer. What you need to know about SCAL is that this is a pretty popular software used for plenty of different die-cutting machines as people who may own different cutting machines are big fans of this software. And the reason why SCAL is so popular is that you have full control over your designs and that you can use it even when you are offline. However, the problem with SCAL is that it is no longer compatible with the latest Cricut Expression firmware, which was the final one before Cricut discontinued the Expression. That's because Cricut made it a point to make sure that you couldn't use SCAL with your Expression. As such, the only way for you to use your Expression on SCAL is to downgrade the machine back to its firmware version 2.1. Downgrading the Cricut Expression to version 2.1 should be impossible according to Cricut. However, there is a workaround that you could use to actually downgrade your Expression back to 2.1. See our detailed guide on how to downgrade the Expression back to 2.1. After you have downgraded it, you can now connect your Expression to your computer through SCAL. Make the Cut or MCT is also a pretty popular software that you can use with die-cutting machines such as the Cricut Expression. And it is also compatible with the machines sold by other brands as well. The thing that makes MCT stand out is that it has plenty of different tools that will allow your cutting machines to have an easier time when you finally use them to cut out your designs on the paper of your choice. MCT isn't as easy to use as SCAL but it also has its good sides as well. To use MCT, what you need to do is download the software on your computer and then connect your Cricut Expression to it. But the problem here is that you will have to look for a specific plugin that will allow MCT to become fully compatible with your Cricut Expression. This can be a pretty difficult process to do because the newer MCT versions no longer support that Cricut plugin. As such, the only way for you to use MCT is to look for an older version of the software and then find the Cricut plugin so that you could use it to connect your Expression to your computer. This is a bit more tedious than using SCAL, which has a more detailed and easier process. That's why, if you want to connect your Cricut Expression to your computer, the best way to do it is to use SCAL. Be sure to check out some other nifty functional craft ideas through our other posts here on Craft-ILY as well as checking out some videos on DIY and How To's over on YouTube. Look for "Crafting Unedited" or just click the name in blue to see! link to Sublimation Ink Comparison for Converted Printers link to Why is Your Cricut Ripping Paper? How to Fix It The Cricut Expression machine is an old machine that doesn't require a computer connection but what if you want to upload your own designs to this older machine? You'll need to connect it to your computer to do so. Cricut products are powerful tools for creating custom crafts from paper, fabric, wood, cardstock, vinyl, vellum, chipboard, thin foils, and more. The Expression is a stand-alone cutting tool that uses Cricut cartridges. The physical cartridges have built-in intricate designs that allow you to create professional-looking projects quickly. But you're limited to the designs on them. Let's face it, there are a lot of free fonts and free images out there that you'd love to try out. But how do you use them with your Expression and a computer? 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