Makerspace

GLOWFORGE

Available at the Brambleton, Gum Spring, Rust, and Sterling branches

*LCPL staff have the right to refuse or halt production of designs and materials at their own discretion in accordance with LCPL policy. More information can be found at **library.loudoun.gov/makerspace**.*

To request a reasonable accommodation for a disability, call 703-777-0368. Three days' notice is requested.

The Glowforge is an easy-to-use machine that uses a beam of light to cut and engrave designs on a variety of materials.

Go to **glowforge.com** for more specifications, detailed safety information, a user manual and video demonstrations.

*Join one of our free programs to learn more. Visit **library.loudoun.gov/calendar** for a complete list of upcoming programs.*

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Using the Glowforge

Maker staff will help you upload your designs onto our exclusive Glowforge account.

The Glowforge allows limited design modification, so it is very important that you have your design ready when you visit the makerspace.

To print a file, just drag and drop it directly into the app and adjust the cut and engrave settings to your liking.

Helpful Design Resources

Paid software:
- Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop (adobe.com/creativecloud)
- Silhouette Studio Business Edition (silhouetteamerica.com)
- Autodesk 360 (autodesk.com)
- CorelDraw (coreldraw.com)

Free software:
- GIMP (gimp.org)
- Inkscape (inkscape.org)
- SketchUp (sketchup.com)
- Photopea (photopea.com)
- Tinkercad (tinkercad.com)

Glowforge can cut SVG files only but can engrave JPG, PNG, SVG and PDF files. Save designs on a USB to upload on the Glowforge app or find designs on **thingiverse.com** (SVG format only).

Material Dimensions

The Glowforge bed accommodates materials measuring 12 inches by 20 inches and ¼ inch thick. The maximum printable area is 11 inches by 19½ inches. It can engrave up to ½ inch deep depending on the material.

Acceptable Materials

For best results, materials ¼ inch (6 mm) or thinner are recommended.

Cutting and engraving:
- Wood
- Cardboard, paper and cork
- Natural fabrics

Engraving only:
- Anodized aluminum
- Titanium
- Ceramic tile
- Marble and stone
- Corian and slate

The library does not supply materials. You can purchase materials at any craft store or hardware store, or shop Glowforge's line of Proofgrade materials at **shop.glowforge.com.**

Prohibited Materials

For the safety of patrons and staff, the following materials cannot be used:

- All plastics, rubber, PVC (emits noxious fumes, catches fire, melts, or all three)
- Most acrylic (emits noxious fumes)
- Some leather (emits noxious fumes)
- Food (emits noxious fumes or catches fire)
- Epoxy (emits noxious fumes or catches fire)
- Materials with sticky glue backing, MDF (coats/cracks lens, emits noxious fumes)
- Coated carbon fiber (emits noxious fumes)
- Soft metal (does not cut or engrave well)

If you have questions about a material, contact the makerspace.