

# Maintaining your Plotter

This will be changed more often than any other part on your machine.

## All about the blade



### Signs of a dull blade:

- The test cut edges look the same no matter how you change the offset.
- Stretchier materials will snag and have perforated cutlines.
- Cuts will be inconsistent in general.

### Maintain your blade:

- Always make test cuts before plotting- digging too far into the cut strip below will dull it faster.
- Cutting glitter or flock can result in small bits of material sticking to the blade and up inside the blade and cause inconsistent cuts. Blasting them out with canned air can elongate the life of your blade and blade holder.
- Some materials can cause more wear and tear on your blade, like reflectives and glitter, so keep in mind you will have to change the blade more often when working with these materials.
- Keeping extra blades around is a worthwhile investment- there is nothing more frustrating than needing to finish a job but not having enough blades to do so.

## The Scoop on Cut Strips

This is the strip that lies directly underneath the blade and runs the entire width of the cut space.

### When to replace:

Cutting too far into the strip over time can create gouges, which can lead to shallow and inconsistent cuts at those points along the strip.

When replacing, remove the old cut strip, clean up all remnants, and then smooth the new one down.

### For longer wear:

Cut only materials that have a plastic carrier sheet, unless you are using a craft plotter and sticky mat.

Only use enough blade force to cut the material and score the clear plastic carrier.

## Blade Holder

The blade holder is what allows the blade to spin freely in all directions as it cuts.

If the blade is sharp and the cut strip is not damaged and there are still problems with cutting, the blade holder could be to blame.

To remedy this take the blade out and clean the inside with rubbing alcohol and blast with canned air. If this does not work, replace the blade holder.

## Pinch Rollers

The pinch rollers hold down the media and roll it back and forth while cutting.

To prolong use, be sure to unclamp the rollers if the plotter is going to sit unused for a while.

The rollers can accumulate grit over time. To improve gripping ability, clean with rubbing alcohol and a sponge q-tip made for cleaning equipment.

If there is a great deal of slipping call the service provider for your plotter.



If you take care of your plotter, your plotter will take care of you for many years to come.

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