



MakerSpace Software Guide

Roland VersaWorks Studio



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Before You Start

What is VersaWorks Studio?

Roland VersaWorks Studio is the software that communicates directly with the vinyl printer (Roland BN-20a). It takes the design file you prepared in CorelDRAW and sends it to the printer with the correct settings for material type, print quality, and contour cutting.

VersaWorks is the bridge between your finished design and the physical print. CorelDRAW is where you create; VersaWorks is where you print and cut.

What is VersaWorks Studio used for?

- Loading your exported .PDF design file into a print queue.
- Selecting the correct material type and print quality settings.
- Adjusting layout, orientation, spacing, and number of copies.
- Setting cutting force for contour cutting.
- Sending the final job to the vinyl printer for printing and cutting.

What to Expect

- **Skill level:** Beginner-friendly, if you have prepared your file in CorelDRAW first.
- **Time:** 5–10 minutes to set up a print job in VersaWorks. Printing time varies by project size and cutting amount.
- **Prior knowledge:** You should be familiar with the CorelDRAW Basics and Vinyl Printer guides.

What You Need

VersaWorks Studio is pre-installed on the MakerSpace computer connected to the vinyl printer. You do not need to install anything.

Before Opening VersaWorks

Your file must already be prepared in CorelDRAW:

- Design is complete and correctly sized (max 18" wide).
- Any cut lines are vector paths set to the CutContour colour.
- File is exported as a .PDF. Refer to the CorelDRAW Basics guide and the Vinyl Printer guide for file preparation details.

Key Concepts

RIP (Raster Image Processing)

Before the vinyl printer can print your file, VersaWorks must process (or RIP) the design. This converts your file into instructions the printer can follow. RIP happens automatically when you click Print.

Queues

VersaWorks organizes jobs into queues. Each queue is pre-configured for a specific material type. Placing your file in the correct queue ensures the right colour profile and settings are applied:

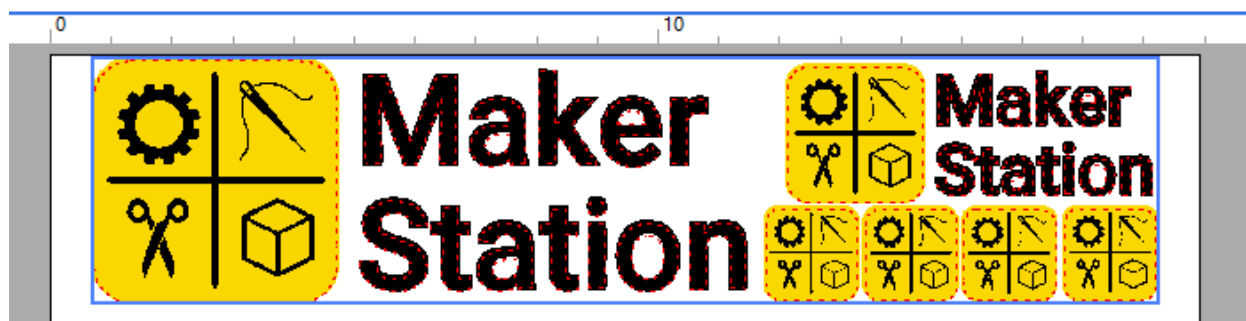
- **Queue A:** Permanent Vinyl (Matte, Glossy, Clear)
- **Queue B:** Static Cling Vinyl (White, Clear)
- **Queue C:** Heat Transfer Vinyl
- **Queue D:** Paper Adhesive & Holographic
- **Queue E:** Canvas

Get Media Width

This is a critical step. Clicking **Get Media Width** tells VersaWorks to check the vinyl printer and detect the actual width of the material currently loaded. Click this every time before printing to make sure your design fits on the loaded material.

Cut Line Verification

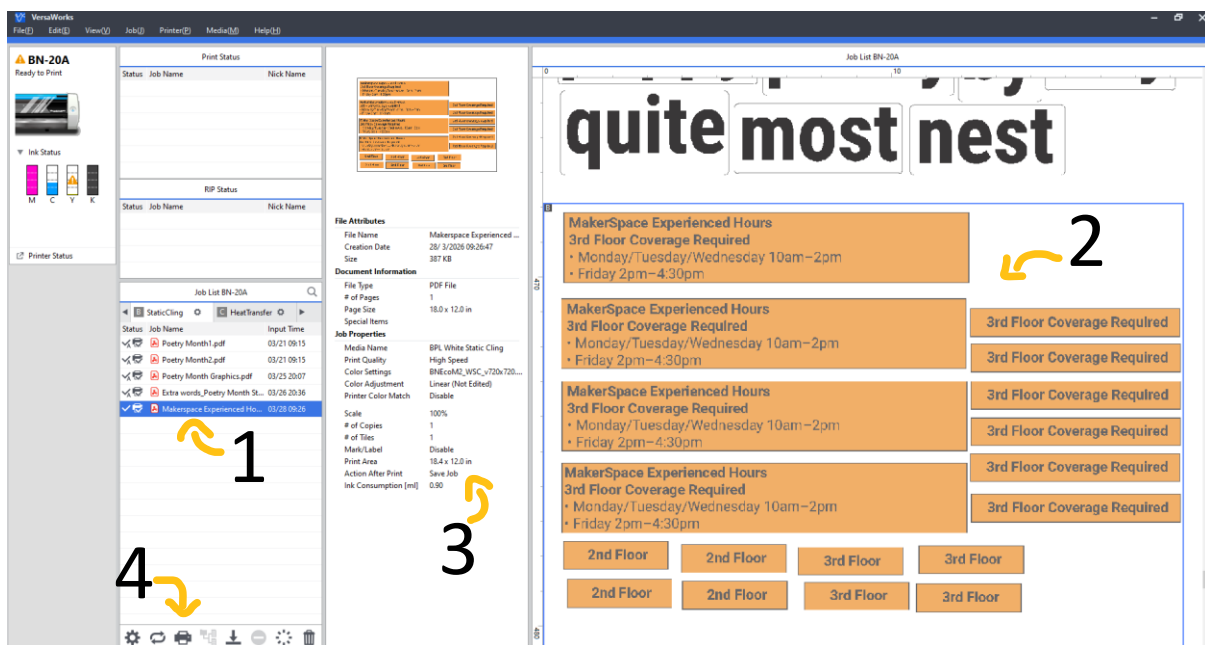
In the VersaWorks preview window, a properly applied CutContour will appear as a moving (animated) pink line. If the pink line is solid (not moving), the cut line was not properly set up in CorelDRAW and will need to be fixed before printing.



A screenshot of a properly applied CutContour, showing as a moving (animated) pink line.

The Workspace

1. **Job List (left panel)** — Shows all jobs in the selected queue. Select a job here to view or edit its settings.
2. **Preview Window (right panel)** — Shows a visual preview of the selected job, including any animated cut lines.
3. **Settings Tabs (left column inside settings)** — Tabs for layout, media type, print quality, operation mode, and cutting settings.
4. **Print Button (bottom of left panel)** — Sends the job to the printer after RIPping.



A screenshot showing the workspace in VersaWorks Studio.

Getting Started

1. Add Your File to a Queue

1. Open VersaWorks Studio.
2. Go to File → Add Job to Queue, or drag your .PDF into the correct queue.
3. Select the queue that matches your material (see the Queues table above).
4. Your job will appear in the Job List on the left and in the Preview Window on the right.

2. Open Print Settings

Select your job from the Job List and double-click to open the Print Settings. Here you can adjust:

- **Get Media Width** — Click this first. Always.
- **Copies** — Set the number of copies. You do not need to duplicate your design in CorelDRAW.
- **Spacing and Orientation** — Adjust the gap between copies and rotation to minimize wasted material.
- **Media Type and Print Quality** — Ensure these match the loaded material. Most materials can use the High Speed option, except heat transfer vinyl, which must use Standard speed.

3. Verify Your Cut Lines

In the preview window, confirm:

- Cut lines appear as animated (moving) pink lines.
- If the pink line is solid, go back to CorelDRAW and re-apply CutContour.

4. Print

1. Confirm the correct material is loaded in the printer. If not, ask staff for assistance.
2. Click the Print button at the bottom of the left panel.
3. VersaWorks will RIP the file, then print. After printing, the machine will automatically cut along the provided cut contours.
4. The printer will finish and your project and will move the material forward leaving it the hang out of the front edge of the machine. Using an exacto knife, cut the material by running the blade along the front edge of machine.

Tips for Success

- **Always click Get Media Width.** This ensures VersaWorks knows the actual material size. Skipping this step can result in designs printing off the edge.
- **Print shorter lengths when cutting.** For projects with contour cutting, limit prints to 24"–36" at a time. The printer finishes all printing before cutting and longer prints may have slight cut misalignment.
- **Let the ink dry.** After printing, leave the material in place for a few minutes before handling to allow the eco-solvent ink to fully dry.
- **Add a colour bleed.** To avoid white borders after contour cutting, extend your background colour about 1/8" (3 pt) beyond the cut line.
- **Use VersaWorks for copies.** If you need multiple copies of the same design, set the quantity in VersaWorks rather than duplicating in CorelDRAW. This is faster and uses material more efficiently.
- **Heat transfer vinyl must use Standard speed.** Never use the High Speed option for heat transfer material.

Common Issues & Quick Fixes

Problem	What to Do
Cut line is solid pink in the preview (not animated)	The CutContour was not properly applied in CorelDRAW. Go back, select the cut line, and right-click the CutContour swatch. Re-export as .PDF.
Design printed but did not cut	The cut line may not be a vector, or CutContour may not be applied. Check the file in CorelDRAW.
Blade cut through the backing paper	Cutting force is too high. Reduce by 3–5 in the Cut Condition Settings. Ask staff before adjusting.
White border around design after cutting	Add a colour bleed in CorelDRAW: extend the background colour about 1/8" past the cut line.
Design is misaligned after cutting	Print shorter lengths (24"–36"). Longer prints can cause slight drift between print and cut positions.
Design printed off the edge of the material	Click Get Media Width to sync VersaWorks with the loaded material size before printing.

Need More Help?

If you need additional support, ask MakerSpace staff for assistance at All Levels Access hours.