

Tracing by Color, Cutting by Color and Layering Using your Silhouette Cameo

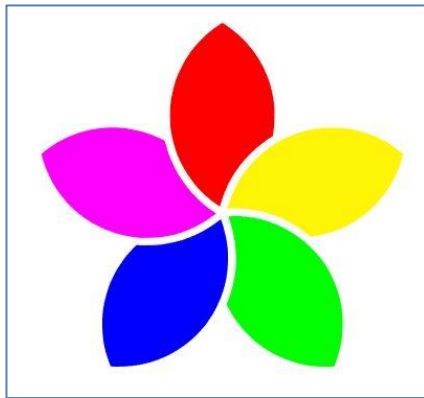


Silhouette Cameo Coaching, 130 Lloyd Road, West Grove, PA 19390

Visit me on FB@ www.facebook.com/SilhouetteCameoCoaching

“One on one, personalized coaching”

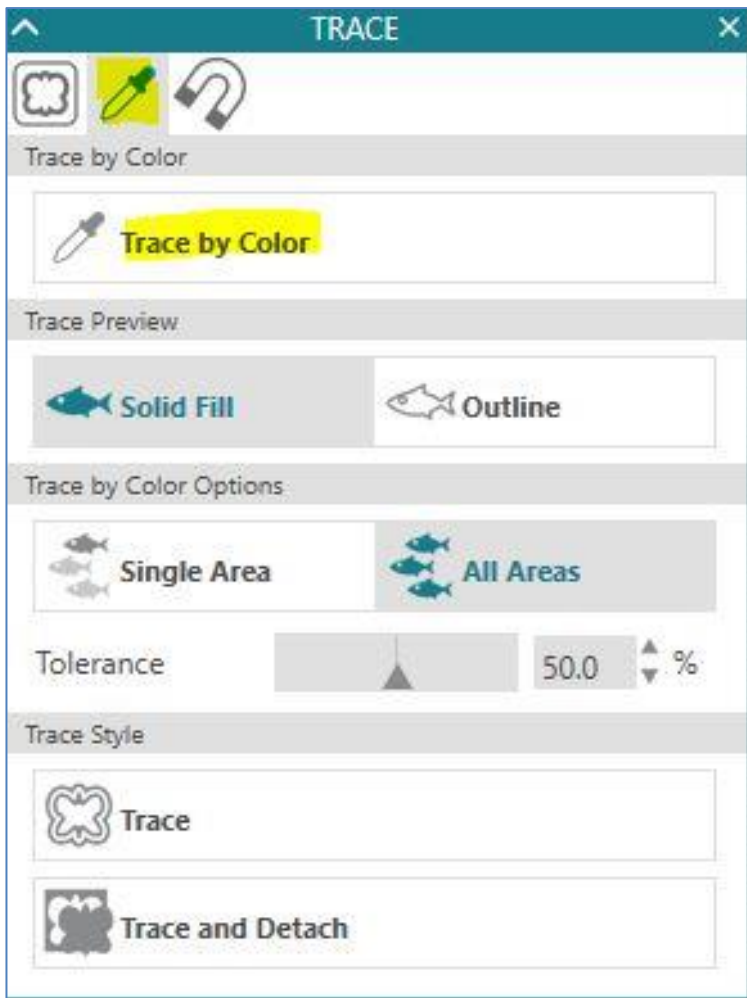
Silhouette has a really great Trace feature in Designer Edition and above. It is called **Trace by Color**. Below are the steps to trace by color, **add manual registration marks, cut by color and then bring each color of your vinyl back together again to make a decal**. This example will use a 5 layer (color) design which has no cut lines when it is brought into Silhouette software.



1.) **Open your multi-colored design in Studio**. This tutorial presumes the design is a SVG, JPG, PNG or PDF file type which is of reasonably high quality and does not already have any cut lines. You may purchase these types of files or you may find them on Google and save them for use in Silhouette. Please remember that many images available on Google will be copy written. 😊 Make a duplicate copy of your design and pull it off the mat. To select it, right click and choose “duplicate”. (This is just for safe keeping purposes). If you would like this design to use to practice please send me a p.m. and I

will send it to you. You may also choose to begin with a 2 or 3 color design or work on cutting and aligning 2 or 3 colors only from this design.

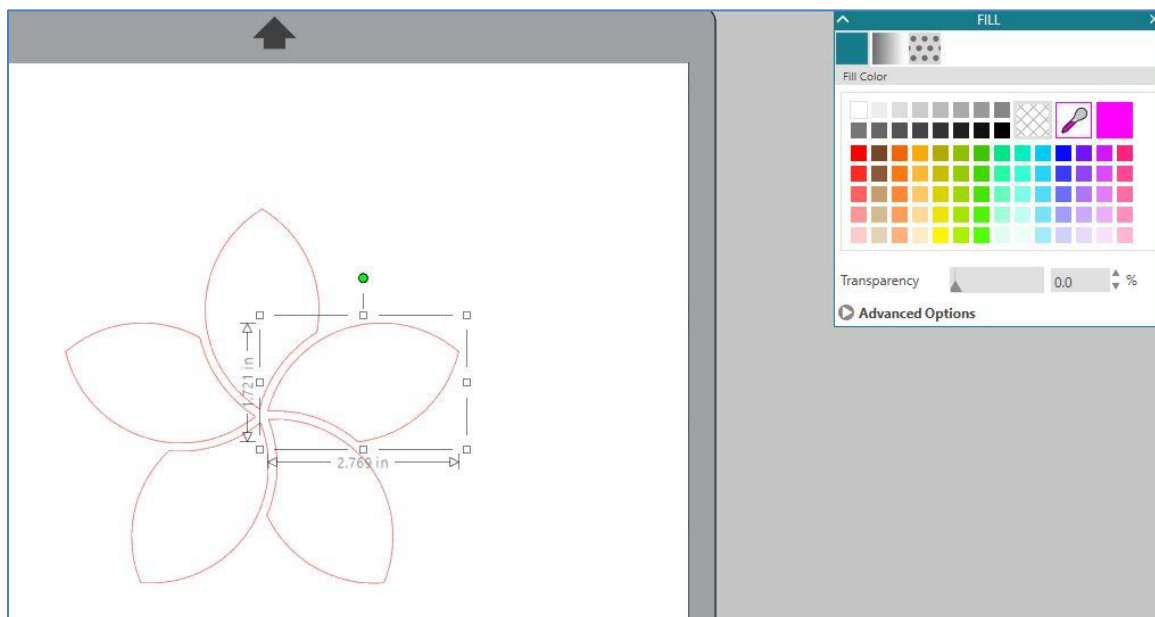
2.) **Select the image using the selection tool (top of the left tool bar). Open the Trace tool (right tool bar, and it looks like a little butterfly). A box will pop up with options. At the top of the box choose the eyedropper tool. Left click (select) the color you wish to trace.** Adjust the trace using the slider if needed. You want a clean all yellow line around the edge of the color. Use your zoom tool to look more closely if you need to. Then choose “Trace” or “Trace and Detach”. If you choose Trace, the trace will be placed underneath your colored image as a separate object. If you choose Trace and Detach, the same will happen AND that piece will be removed from your original design.



3.) Continue to choose colors in your design until all have been traced. Each piece you have traced will be separate from the others. When you are finished tracing each color remove your original design from your mat and move it to the side. If you chose the trace and detach option, your design will be gone but you will still have the duplicate copy we made in step one.

4.) Select one or more pieces of your design and fill them with color. Please remember that your pieces are NOT grouped at this point and so it is important not to move them out of their place. While using the fill by color tool you may choose to use the eyedropper tool to “sample” the color from your original

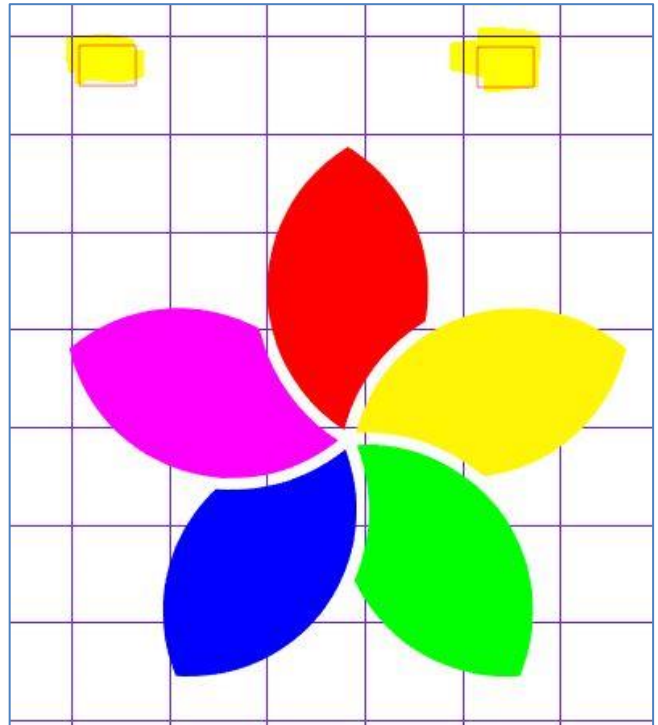
design or you may choose to pick new colors for the pieces of your design. In the end the vinyl from which you cut each color will determine your actual design colors. When you are done filling, select all the pieces and group them together. This is done by choosing the arrow



selection tool, left click and draw around all of the pieces. Right click inside the boundary box you drew and select “group”.

5.) Choose the shape tool on the left tool bar. Draw a small rectangle above your design. This is your first “registration mark”. Select that small rectangle, right click and choose “duplicate”. Move the duplicate rectangle to the right and over your design. Do NOT fill these rectangles with color. They are highlighted in the image below.

6.) Using your selection tool draw a square all the way around your registration marks AND your design. Right click within your boundary box and choose group. You now have a design and 2 registration marks which cannot be moved away from each other.



7.) Place a weeding box around your design, including your registration marks. You are now ready to cut your vinyl. Before you cut make sure you have tested your settings and gotten a clean “test” cut. You do not need to do this for every color you cut but if you are unsure of the proper settings it is definitely worth taking a few minutes to do this. You may choose to place your vinyl on a cutting mat or you may choose to cut without the mat. Select “SEND” in the upper right portion of your screen. You now have your cut options displayed. Choose your materials, make sure “cut” is selected and choose the cut by “fill” option. Uncheck all boxes and then check the color you wish to cut AND choose no color (so that your registration marks will cut as well. Continue this process until all colors are cut.

8.) Next weed each color, making sure to leave the registration marks in the design for each color. Do NOT weed them out.

9.) Then cut a piece of transfer tape a little larger than your entire design AND registration marks. Why? Because you will only use one piece of transfer tape for layering and it needs to be large enough to pick up every piece of the design. In the end you will have a multi-color design on one piece of transfer tape. In the example above, any color could be chosen as the “top” layer because no colors overlap. Lay the transfer tape over one of your colors and the registration marks and burnish.

10.) **Cut a piece of scrap vinyl backing paper.** It must be large enough to cover the transfer tape but not large enough to cover the registration marks. Why? Because you will be matching up your top layer registration marks with those on the layer you are picking up. Putting waxy paper backing on the sticky of first layer ensures that the two top and next layer of your design will not stick together until you are totally happy that you have got your registration marks lined up properly. With paper backing down, lay the weeded layer that you will be matching to your “top” layer on your cutting mat. The stickiness will help to prevent it from moving around while you are matching the “top” layer registration marks to the second layer registration marks. I like to move the design around so that the registration marks are closest to my body. Try to match the marks so that you cannot see any of the second layer vinyl under your second layer registration marks. Do not rub the registration marks together, just lightly press. (in case you want to separate and try again). Remove paper backing from the transfer tape and slowly move the top layer toward the second layer. If you are happy with your attempt, carefully press down your top layer onto the second layer. Repeat until all layers have been incorporated into your design. Cut away registration marks. When done you should have a multi-colored decal with placement of the colors exactly (or very close to) your original design.

Layering using registration marks is not a perfect process but **practice truly helps**. When I first learned I practiced with 3 layer designs. The more difficult layering jobs are those where one color of vinyl lays directly adjacent to another color of vinyl. In that case, there is no room for error. The easier jobs involve layered designs where there is space between the colors of the design. Like the example in this tutorial.