

SagaCNC.us Vinyl Cutting Guide - Setup

Saga CNC Vinyl Cutter, Contour And Servo – New Customer Setup

When you receive your cutter, open the box from the top being careful not to penetrate the box with a razor blade so as not to scratch the contents inside. The banding straps will need to be cut with a pair of scissors or a cutting tool.

Contained under one of the box flaps on the top there may be documentation. Please save all documentation that comes with your vinyl cutter. Additional documentation may be contained in the box with the cutter or inside a smaller box packaged with the cutter.

Your vinyl cutter package will contain your vinyl cutter along with a small box of supplies such as the blade holder, blades, USB cable, software, etc.

Your stand and if ordered, your basket, **will be in a separate box in the bottom of the cutter box**, underneath the cutter.

In order to insure you have access to the latest revision of information, we have placed the setup instructions and the manual for your vinyl cutter online. These can be downloaded from the Saga CNC Tech Support Page available at the following address. You will need the free Acrobat PDF viewer to view the files. To install the free viewer, go to <http://www.adobe.com>.

<http://www.sagacnc.us/content/6-downloads>

The user manual for the cutter (also has stand setup instructions):

<http://www.sagacnc.us/download/Saga-User-Guide-2014-02-18.pdf>

Cutter setup instructions:

<http://www.sagacnc.us/content/6-downloads>

Setup your cutter on the stand, install your basket if you have one.

Plug your cutter into your computer using the USB cable. If you need a longer cable you can purchase one. Any high quality standard USB-Printer cable will work.

Plug in the power cord for the cutter. Turn your cutter on with the power switch at the end of the cutter. The cutter will go through a short setup and the LCD will glow blue.

Your cutter will use default drivers included in Windows. These drivers will self-install. Your cutter is now communicating with your computer.

Your cutter is oriented such that as you look at the front, the blue LCD display is to the right.

Vinyl rolls are placed on the stand rails in the back (alternatively you may place a roll bar through the vinyl roll. Vinyl is then fed from the back to the front of the cutter and as the vinyl cuts, vinyl comes out towards you. In general, vinyl is used from the right side to the left side. Positive X and Y go from right to left and from front to back.

If you purchased your cutter without sign cutting software:

If you purchased your cutter without sign cutting software, it is likely that you intend to use your cutter with a plug-in for running directly from Adobe Illustrator, Corel Draw, AutoCAD or other vector art graphics program. Please download the plug in from the Saga CNC downloads page:

<http://www.sagacnc.us/content/6-downloads>

If you purchased your cutter with Dragon Cut:

DragonCut is very intuitive and easy to use. We highly recommend that you watch the intro video and all of the training videos available here. Please watch the contour and ARMS training videos even if you aren't doing contour cutting as there is good information contained in all the videos:

<http://www.dragoncut.cn/>

<http://dragoncut.cn/intro/dragoncut.html> (Intro Video)

<http://www.dragoncut.cn/lessons.html> (Lessons Videos)

If you purchased your cutter with SignCut Pro (for Mac or PC):

- 1) Download the latest version of SignCut from:
 - a. <http://www.signcutpro.com/>
 - b. Select Downloads from the top menu
 - c. <http://www.signcutpro.com/download-signcut-productivity-pro/>
 - d. Open the "+" to see the files and select Windows or Mac version.
 - e. TIP: You can download the plugins for InkScape, Corel Draw and Illustrator here as well.
Do this after you have installed SignCut Pro
 - f. <http://www.signcutpro.com/download-available-plug-ins/>
- 2) Allow your explorer to run (install) the software
 - a. Alternatively you may save this file to your computer and install it after it has been copied to your hard drive. This can be done by selecting save to disk.
- 3) Agree to the license terms
- 4) Accept the default directory and install
- 5) Select yes to InkScape if you wish to install InkScape. InkScape is a free graphics program capable of bitmap vectorization somewhat similar to Corel Draw and Adobe Illustrator.

- a. TIP: SignCut may not install the latest copy of Inkscape. We recommend you go to www.inkscape.org to download and install the latest stable version directly from the Inkscape web site.
 - b. Accept all the defaults to install Inkscape when the Inkscape pop-up installation window appears.
- 6) If you purchased a permanent license of SignCut and have a dongle key (USB thumb drive), plug it in now.
- 7) Open SignCut
- 8) SignCut will ask you for your registration code.
 - a. If you purchased your cutter with a 1 year license, you will receive a bundle code on a bright yellow or green 8.5x11 sheet of paper included with your cutter. It may be in the small box inside the cutter box or included in the documentation packet. It will say "Document of Value" at the top and contain a bundle code (this is NOT the registration code). Follow the instructions on this sheet of paper to go to <http://www.signcutpro.com/register-bundle/> This will allow you to register your bundle code. You will then receive the actual SignCut 1 year license code through your email and listed on the registration screen. This process takes a couple minutes and the codes are issued right away. Copy the registration code and save it in notepad or other editor program.
 - b. If you purchased a dongle, Saga CNC will register your license with SignCut. Depending on timing, your activation code will either be with the dongle or it will be emailed to you. Enter this code into SignCut to activate the dongle license.
- 9) Once registered, you will need to select your cutter and communication port. This is done by selecting the Cutter button at the top right-center of the screen. Select the manufacturer, your cutter and the port.
 - a. Manufacturer – Saga
 - b. Cutter –
 - i. 24" Stepper – Saga 720I
 - ii. 48" Stepper – Saga 1350I
 - iii. 24" Servo – Saga 720II
 - iv. 48" Servo – Saga 1350II
 - v. 64" Servo – Saga 1750II
 - c. Port – USB00# where # is the USB port number of your cutter. (For MAC, this will be Saga USB)
 - d. The communication settings will grey out because this is a direct connection.
- 10) Remove your blade holder from the carriage (the blade holder is the metal tube in the carriage that holds the blade). This can be done by unscrewing the thumb screw and pulling the blade holder up and out of the carriage.
- 11) In SignCut, select the text button on the left side of the screen. Type an X in the text box and say OK. SignCut will display an X on the screen.
- 12) Select the cut icon on the left side of the screen
- 13) The cut / plot pop up window will display

- 14) Select to “Cut out” in the bottom left corner to send a test cut to your cutter.
- 15) Your cutter should move around as if it were cutting the X.
- 16) Your cutter is now communicating with SignCut and is ready!

If you purchased your cutter with Flexi Starter (for PC only):

- 1) You will receive a USB Dongle with Flexi Starter. **Do not** plug this into the computer until you have installed Flexi Starter first.
- 2) You will receive a disk that contains Flexi Starter. This disk will also have a long license code attached to it. Flexi Starter can also be downloaded from the tech support page here in section <http://www.sagacnc.us/content/6-downloads>
- 3) Insert the Flexi Starter disk and open it with Windows File Explorer.
 - a. Navigate to the “Autorun” file and launch the Flexi installation.
 - b. Flexi will take a long time to install, especially on older or slower computers.
 - c. If you have mistakenly plugged the driver into a USB port please remove it.
 - d. Welcome to the InstallShield Wizard for Flexi Starter (click Next)
 - e. Accept License Agreement (Click Next)
 - f. Accept default file location (Click Next)
 - g. Accept default files to install (click Next)
 - h. Accept default folder name (click Next)
 - i. Installation proceeds and shows Setup Status screen... (wait for completion)
 - j. The Setup Status will then show configuration of the installation... (wait for completion)
 - k. Screen will show if the USB dongle is connected to the computer, please remove it now, so that the dongle driver can be installed. (remove the dongle if you plugged it in, select OK)
 - l. Setup Status shows configuration screen and dongle driver installation... (wait for completion)
 - m. Installation screen will disappear, **your computer won't show anything but installation is still completing in the background**, please wait.... (wait for completion, this may take a little while)
 - n. Eventually, the Install manager screen will pop up. Input your password into the password box. Your user number (6 digit code which should match with the 6 digit code on the side of your dongle) will display and the Product will populate. (Select Done)
 - o. Install manager will allow you to install to desktop and to clear preferences. (select OK)
 - p. Install manager will process... (wait for completion, do not press Done)
 - q. When this is complete, a green installation bar on a white background will display (wait for completion)
 - r. Eventually, the green bar will disappear, **nothing will display on the computer**, Flexi is finishing installation in the background. Please wait... (wait for completion, this may take a little while)
 - s. Eventually, the install shield wizard will show a complete screen. You are done! Click Finish.

We recommend you restart your computer.

Plug in your dongle. The Safenet Drivers will install when they detect the dongle.

Run Flexi Starter.

Note, we have noticed that some Bluetooth drivers can interfere with the Safenet Dongle Driver. If your dongle is not recognized, disable your Bluetooth driver and try running Flexi again.

Note, we have noticed that some anti-virus programs and firewalls can interfere with Flexi and the install process. If this happens, please disable your virus protection and try again.

Note, we have noticed that sometimes, the dongle driver gets overwritten with Windows default drivers and Flexi cannot find the dongle. If this occurs, follow these steps to reinstall the Safenet Driver:

- 1) Download the Safenet Sentinel Protection Installer driver file using link below (first selection):
- 2) http://www.safenet-inc.com/support_and_downloads/Download_Drivers/Sentinel_Drivers/
- 3) Remove the key from the computer
- 4) Run installation file
- 5) Plug the key back to the computer and start the software.

Note, in the event you need to reinstall Flexi, please go to Add / Remove programs and uninstall using this tool. Uninstall both Flexi Starter and the Safenet Driver from the Program list. Reboot after uninstall and when asked, click yes to delete / remove user settings.

When you go to cut something, Production Manager will open up. You will need to select your cutter. The communication port will be USB_Printer_# where # is a number. Usually it is 0 if you don't have any other USB Printers on your system. If you have another USB Printer, the port may be USB_Printer_1 or perhaps another number. Usually, start with the highest numbered printer first. Send a test cut without a blade holder installed in the carriage. If your cutter responds, you are connected. If your cutter doesn't respond, change to another USB_Printer_# port number.

Finishing Up

With your software installed, and your cutter setup on its stand and connected to your computer, we highly recommend you contact your distributor for detailed instruction or training. Training sessions vary by distributor and can cover SignCut, Flexi, InkScape (text on path, offsets, vectorization), contour cutting and your cutter functionality.