

Creative Silhouette Series: Glass Etching



*with Jennifer Priest
MCC Faculty*

Lesson One:

Have you ever wanted to learn the art of glass etching but aren't sure where to start? Are you etching but not getting the finish you'd like? We'll explore how to use the Silhouette Cutting System to create vinyl masks and stencils for etching. Then we'll use etchall's family of products to create beautifully etched glass gifts, keepsakes, and heirlooms.

- Create an image in the Silhouette software to cut from vinyl to use as a mask or stencil with the etching creme
- How to apply vinyl to the glass item to be etched
- How to safely and accurately apply etchall crème to glass; plus tips and tricks
- How to use Dip N Etch

Etching with Vinyl

Glass etching is a great way to customize any project. Think wedding, kitchen, gifts, monograms...the possibilities are endless. Etch-All etching cream will also etch ceramics and other materials so there are lots more possibilities than just glass. Ikea, Dollar Tree, and 99 Cent Only Stores are great sources for glassware with clean lines that can be easily customized with etching cream and vinyl. Plates, Canisters, Jars, Mirrors and Frames are all great "canvases" for etching.

Silhouette offers several cutting files that were designed specifically to create glass etching projects, such as the Santa Cookie Plate file. But you are not limited to these files alone—you can create an etched item with any font, My Library file, or a file you create.

In glass etching, the vinyl that is cut out acts as a stencil for you to apply the etching cream to. You can do the same thing to other projects with paint, spray paint, or ink. Etching cream can also be used to prepare a surface to accept paint or ink because it creates a rough texture for these media to attach to.

In this lesson, we will create a simple etched plate, then apply an all-over image to a vase, and then use Dip-N-Etch to etch a small glass item. I'll also share two projects from past classes – a button jar and table – but there are no videos for these project ideas.

Tips and Tricks:

- Etchall's Etching Crème is caramel brown in color. As you use it over and over, it will darken to an almost black brown color. That is perfectly normal.
- Etchall's Etching Crème is reusable – save as much as you can from project to project to make it last. I have had bottles of Etching Crème last 3 years!
- Wear latex or surgical gloves to protect your hands if you have dry or sensitive skin. Glass etching is a chemical process so follow the directions on the bottle and take precautions when using it.
- It is easiest to apply vinyl to items that are flat or curved in only one direction, like the vase in this lesson. Items that have curvature both vertically and horizontally are more difficult to apply vinyl to – these would be things like wine glasses or glass ball Christmas ornaments. Start with simple projects until you are comfortable using etching crème.
- You can use Etchall Etching Crème for large scale projects, like shower doors and mirrors once you get comfortable using it.
- Stay away from other items that can be etched when using etching crème – for example, porcelain sinks and tile counters can be etched if you choose to rinse your etched items in these areas. I happen to have tile counters and porcelain sink – just take care when working around these.

Etched Plate

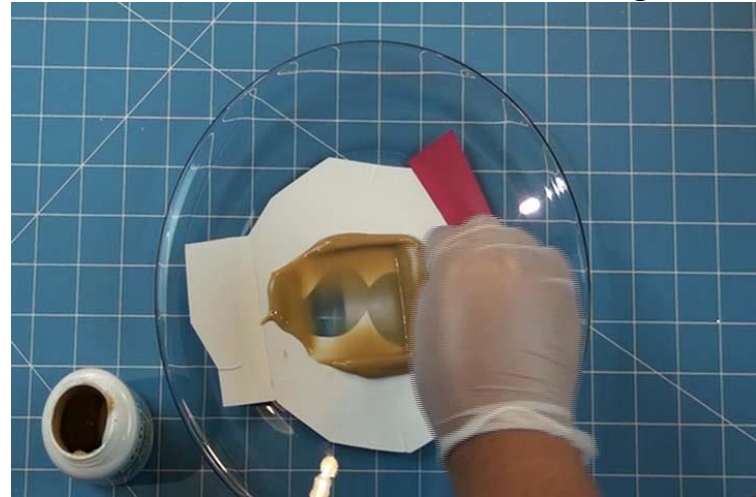
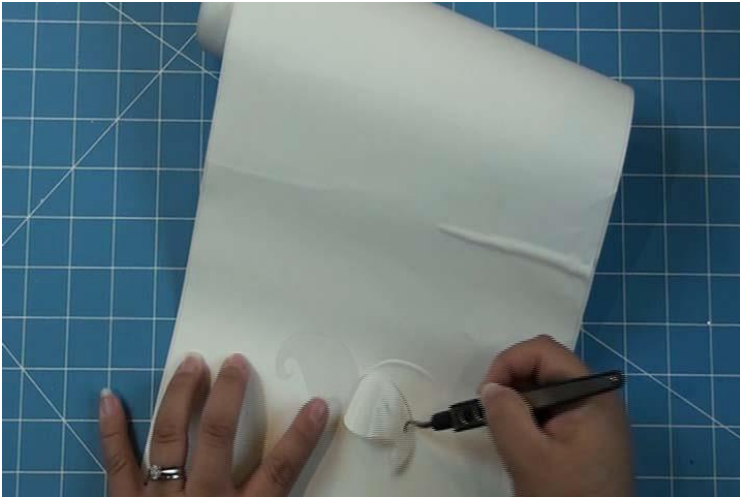
Supplies:

- Silhouette Vinyl
- Etch-All etching cream
- Protective Gloves for Hands
- Old Credit Card or Mini Squeegee
- Glass Plate (Target)

Select an image from My Library in the Silhouette software and cut from vinyl on the Silhouette, using the vinyl settings.

Create transfer tape using packing tape or use transfer sheets from Silhouette.





Weed the image – this means remove all of the excess vinyl from the parts of the design where you would like the glass etching to occur. Apply the transfer tape to the image and peel the vinyl from its backing. Apply the image to the glass and rub. Carefully remove the transfer tape.

Use strips of packing tape, contact paper, or vinyl scraps to cover any areas of the plate you wish to protect from the etching crème.

If you have sensitive skin, wear gloves for the rest of this process. Generously apply the etching crème to the design and spread evenly with the mini squeegee. Allow to set for 15 minutes.



After 15 minutes, use the mini squeegee to scoop off the etching crème and put it back into the container. It is reusable so save as much as possible.

Rinse the plate under warm running water and remove the excess Etching Crème. Then peel away the vinyl to reveal the design.



Etched Vase – All-Over Design

Supplies:

- Silhouette Vinyl
- Etch-All etching cream
- Protective Gloves for Hands
- Old Credit Card or Mini Squeegee
- Glass Vase (Dollar Tree)

Select an image from My Library in the Silhouette software and cut from vinyl on the Silhouette, using the vinyl settings. For an all-over project like this, measure the circumference (distance around) the vase. This vase happens to be just under 11” around. Use the SCALE tool in the Silhouette software to change the scale of the image so that it is about 11” long – this way it will wrap around the entire vase. You can trim the excess if there is excess vinyl but if the image is too short, there is no way to disguise the line that will be etched where the edges of the vinyl don’t meet when wrapped around the vase. More is better in this case.

Create transfer tape using packing tape or use transfer sheets from Silhouette. Weed the image – this means remove all of the excess vinyl from the parts of the design where you would like the glass etching to occur. Apply the transfer tape to the image and peel the vinyl from its backing. Apply the image to the glass and rub. Carefully remove the transfer tape.

If you have sensitive skin, wear gloves for the rest of this process. Generously apply the etching crème to the design and spread evenly with the mini squeegee. Allow to set for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, use the mini squeegee to scoop off the etching crème and put it back into the container. It is reusable so save as much as possible.

Rinse the plate under warm running water and remove the excess Etching Crème. Then peel away the vinyl to reveal the design.

How to Use Dip-N-Etch

Supplies:

- Silhouette Vinyl
- Dip N Etch
- Protective Gloves for Hands
- Water
- Disposable Plastic Container – I recommend a 2 liter soda bottle
- Wine Glass (Dollar Tree)





Select an image from My Library in the Silhouette software and cut from vinyl on the Silhouette, using the vinyl settings.

Create transfer tape using packing tape or use transfer sheets from Silhouette. Weed the image – this means remove all of the excess vinyl from the parts of the design where you would like the glass etching to occur. Apply the transfer tape to the image and peel the vinyl from its backing. Apply the image to the glass and rub. Carefully remove the transfer tape.



For Dip N Etch projects, you'll likely use the positive part of the image, not the negative part as we do in etching crème projects.

Fill the glass with pebbles or marbles to weight it down. Cut the top of the 2 liter bottle off with a craft knife and wash well. Insert the glass into the 2 liter container. Fill the container with water to the tip of the glass or to the point where you want the etching to



stop. Do not fill the glass with water. Remove the glass and pebbles. Mark the height of the water on the outside of the 2 liter bottle with a marker. Pour out the water and dry.

Fill the 2 liter bottle with Dip N Etch to the line. Now, insert the glass and pebbles again, being careful not to tilt the glass or get Dip N Etch inside the glass. Allow to set for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, remove the glass and pebbles. Rinse the glass under warm water to remove all of the Dip N Etch. Pour the Dip N Etch from the 2 liter bottle back into the Dip N Etch container – you can reuse it over and over. Remove the vinyl to reveal the image.

Assignment:

Create a project using vinyl, etching cream, and your Silhouette machine. Take a photo of the project and load it in the Student Gallery. Then go to the Forum and share what you did. What vinyl colors and types did you use? What shapes did you use from My Library or did you create your own? What did you create?

Questions? Please feel free to contact me at: hydrangeahippo@yahoo.com

909-648-9528 (I am on Pacific Time)

----Jennifer Priest