How Do I Get Started?

Choose your material

- Purchase engravable materials and blanks at local craft and hardware stores; or,
- Order online from LaserBits and other suppliers
- Library provides a limited stock

Choose your artwork

- Text, graphics, image, or any combination

Prepare the design in Corel Draw

- Set up job dimensions
- Scale and place artwork to fit
- Determine engraving and/or cutting requirements

Send the job to the laser engraver

- Select “Print” and determine “home” location on the material
- Set print direction (defaults top-to-bottom)
- Determine speed and power settings (raster, vector, or both)

Prepare the Laser Engraver

- Verify job name in display
- Place material on grid
- Set focal length
- Power on fume extractor
- Press “GO”

Laser it!

- No charge to use the laser engraver
- Nominal fee for library-supplied material

What is a MakerSpace?

Laser engraving is just one of many hands-on activities, kits, and pieces of equipment the library offers the public. It is our intention to create a MakerSpace environment to stimulate creativity and innovation while building a community of tinkerers who share ideas around common interests. We invite you to grow your talents as we grow our MakerSpace.

MakerSpaces are finding their way into classrooms, DIY shops, and libraries all over the country.

The library’s MakerSpace resources may be used to help your business. People are welcome to use these for creating prototypes and promotional items; however, please do not use them for commercial production.

Contact Us

Phone: (817) 249-6632
Email: reference@benbrooklibrary.org
Web: www.benbrooklibrary.org

Learn more about laser engraving by visiting these websites:

- LaserBits.com
- EngravingConcepts.com
- 123dapp.com

LASER ENGRAVING & CUTTING WITH THE EPILOG ZING 24
Benbrook Public Library
MakerSpace
Inform Imagine Innovate

3D PRINTING WITH MAKERBOT REPLICATOR 2
Benbrook Public Library
1065 Mercedes
Benbrook, Texas 76126
LaserBits.com

Browse LaserBits.com to select from a wide variety of engravable materials and accessories, including gift sets and sample packs. While the Epilog Zing 24 cannot cut or engrave metal, it will engrave coated metals, including anodized aluminum.

The library will maintain a limited stock of generic material, mostly so visitors who are curious about laser engraving/cutting can walk away with something right away. However, since there are so many objects that can be engraved and/or cut with the equipment, it is better that the user provides their own materials. Library staff must qualify the material prior to using the laser, because some materials, like some plastics, are too likely to catch fire.

The library will provide accessories to enhance the work, such as jigs, metal coatings, templates, and printed and web-based instructional resources.

So, What’s Next?

The library chose the Epilog Zing 24 – 50 watt because it offers impressive features, while keeping a relatively mild learning curve. Users can quickly create designs and continuously improve their skills and techniques over time and repeated practice to be able to create elaborate projects.

While the Epilog Zing 24 cannot cut or engrave metal, it will engrave coated metals, including anodized aluminum.

While learning how to use the CorelDraw interface and Zing 24, it is wise to practice on materials that can be discarded if and when the design is not quite prefect.

The library purchased the rotary attachment so tinkerers can engrave images on cylindrical objects too!

Engraving Concepts of Arlington offers a monthly class for $40 per person. Here users get expert training from the distributor. They also offer a free monthly open-house where enthusiasts gather to share tips and insight. Users should contact Engraving Concepts directly at (817) 460-8122 for registration and more information.

The library will provide accessories to enhance the work, such as jigs, metal coatings, templates, and printed and web-based instructional resources.

Also, there are a great many instructional videos on CorelDraw and engraving that are easily available for free online from LaserBits YouTube and LaserU YouTube Channels.

Get Certified!

When you can demonstrate that you can:

- Open/create design in CorelDraw;
- Load, move, orient, and scale your design;
- Determine speed & power; and,
- Set focal length
- Activate fume extractor

You can operate the equipment on your own. Until then, we are glad to assist you!