# How to use the designer

Everything the SLC Print designer can do, in plain steps. Search above, or pick a topic from the list. Words in **gray boxes** are buttons or labels you'll see on the screen.

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# 1. Getting started

## Pick what you're printing

1. Go to **design.slcprint.com**, or click **Design it online** on any product page at slcprint.com.
2. Across the top are the product groups: **Signs** , **Banners** , **Banner Stands** and so on. Click one and choose the exact product.
3. The white area in the middle is your sign, at its real shape and size.

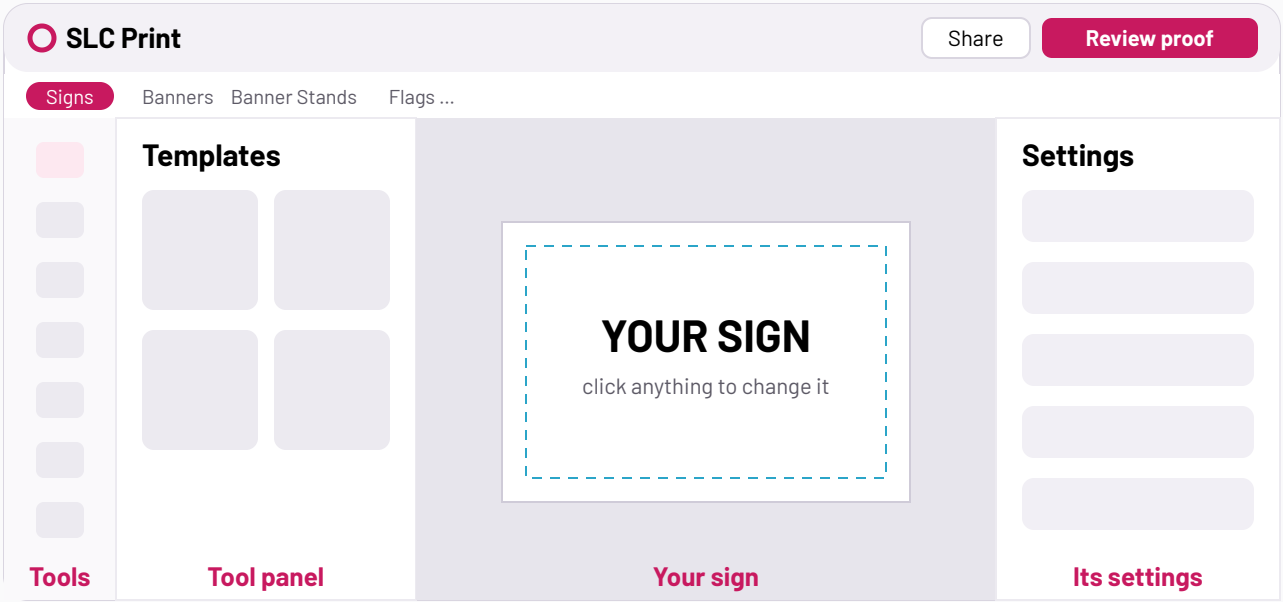
If you came from a product page in our store, the designer is set to that product and size for you, so the cart always matches what you designed. To design something else, pick it on slcprint.com.

## Custom size

1. Click **Custom size** at the end of the product groups.
2. Type the width and height. Choose **inches** for anything printed, or **pixels** for screens and online ads. You can also pick from **Common sizes...** .
3. Click **Start designing** .

> **Good to know:** custom printed sizes are priced by hand. When you're done, **Request a quote** sends us your file and size. Pixel designs download as PNG or JPG for ads and social posts.

## The three areas of the screen




Tools on the left, your sign in the middle, settings for whatever you click on the right.

- **Left:** the tools (Templates, Text, Uploads, Shapes and more). Click one to open its panel.
- **Middle:** your sign. Click anything on it to change it.
- **Right:** the settings for whatever you clicked. With nothing clicked, it shows the size, safe area and print quality.

# 2. Moving, sizing and the basics

## Select, move, resize and turn

- **Select:** click it. Round handles appear around it.
- **Move:** click and drag it. Or use the arrow keys for small nudges, and `Shift` + arrow for bigger steps.
- **Resize:** drag a corner handle.
- **Turn:** drag the round handle on the line above it, or set an exact angle under **Rotate & transparency**.
- **Delete:** press `Delete`, or click **Delete** at the bottom of the right panel.
- **Copy:** **Duplicate** makes a copy right next to it.
- **Layers:** **Bring forward** and **Send back** move an item in front of or behind others.
- **Center it:** **Center ↔** and **Center ↕** put it in the middle of the sign.




Click an item to select it. Round handles mean you can move, resize and turn it.

> **Exact size:** while you drag a corner, a small label under the item shows its size in inches (pixels for screen designs).

## Several items at once

Hold `Shift` and click each item, or drag a box around them. Then you can move them together, line them up with **Align items to each other**, space them evenly, or combine them (see Combine shapes).

## Put words in or around a shape

Select some text and a shape together (Shift+click both). Under **Text and shape**:

- **Center on shape**: moves the words to the middle of the shape.

- **Fit inside shape**: sizes the words to fill the inside of the shape, like writing on a post-it. Works on circles, stars, badges, hearts, post-its, ribbons, pictures and more.
- **Wrap around top** / **Wrap around bottom**: bends the words along the edge of a circle, seal or round logo.

### Undo, zoom and guides

- ↶ undo and ↷ redo at the top (or `Ctrl`+`Z` and `Ctrl`+`Y`). On phones they float on the sign.
- **–** and **+** zoom out and in; your mouse wheel zooms too. **Fit** shows the whole sign.
- The small bar at the bottom left of the design has a zoom slider and the **hand**: while the hand is on, dragging moves you around the design without moving or picking anything; tap it again to edit. On a phone or tablet, pinch with two fingers to zoom and slide two fingers to move around (if one finger had started moving something, it goes back).
- **Select more** (the two squares on that bar): while it's on, each tap adds an item to the selection or takes it out, like Shift-click on a computer. Drag to move the selected items together; anything you didn't tap stays put. Tap it again when done.
- 📌 **Keep in place** (in an item's settings, by Duplicate and Delete) pins it, typically a background photo, so taps and drags go past it and it never moves by accident. The 📌 chip on the design unpins.
- Words or a shape over a photo: just tap the words and use **Fill with the photo behind them**; there's no need to select the photo too.
- **Labels, the quick way:** pick a size from Labels and the Templates panel opens as a 2-step label kit. **1 · Pick a layout** (simple ones with previews: 11 for the Avery address labels, like Return address, Monogram, Holiday, Navy & gold, Business with a logo spot and Framed; 3 for the others. Switching keeps your words and your list). **2 · Upload spreadsheet (CSV)**: choose one or more files at once and every row becomes a label in that layout (address labels: columns like Name, Company, Address, City, State, ZIP; product and round labels: the first column is the big line, the second the small line). There's also **Or paste a list** and **Download a sample spreadsheet**. When the labels are ready: **Preview all** and **Review proof & print**.
- **Labels** (the Labels button next to Custom size): shipping labels (4 × 6), address labels (4 × 2 and 2⅝ × 1, the Avery 5163 and 5160 sizes), product labels (3 × 2 and 2 × 1) and round labels (2 and 3 in). Each starts with a ready layout whose words stay locked in their spot (you can still type, and change fonts and colors; click a piece and choose **Unlock** to move it). Shipping and address labels include a QR code that opens Google Maps directions to the address, for couriers. For many addresses, open **Set** and choose **Add addresses** (paste them, an empty line between each) or **Upload a spreadsheet** saved as CSV (Name, Company, Address, City, State, ZIP): every address gets its own label and its own QR code, and long addresses shrink to fit. In Review proof, **Request a quote** to have us print them, **Download PDF** for a label printer (one label per page), or **Print on label sheets** for US Letter label sheets (print at 100%, actual size). The QR maker also has a new **Map directions** type.

- **Layers** (on a computer; the last tool on the left): everything on your design, front to back, each with a small picture. Click a row to select it, even a tiny item or one buried under others. Tick rows (or Ctrl/⌘+click) to pick several. The **eye** hides an item while you work on what's under it (hidden items don't print, and the proof reminds you). The **pin** keeps an item in place. Drag a row up or down to put it in front of or behind others. Click the pencil (or double-click a name) to rename it, like "Sponsor logos". Filter the list to Text, Photos or Shapes & art. The background is always the bottom row; click it to change the background.
- **Guides** shows the dashed **safe area**. Keep words and important things inside it, so nothing gets trimmed or hidden by grommets, hems or stands.

# 3. Templates

1. Click **Templates** on the left.
2. Pick a group like **Real Estate** or **Events**, or browse **All**.
3. Click a template. It fills your sign and fits your product's size.
4. Click any word on the sign to change it, and any picture to swap it.

**Blank page** starts over with an empty white sign.

### Design it for me (AI)

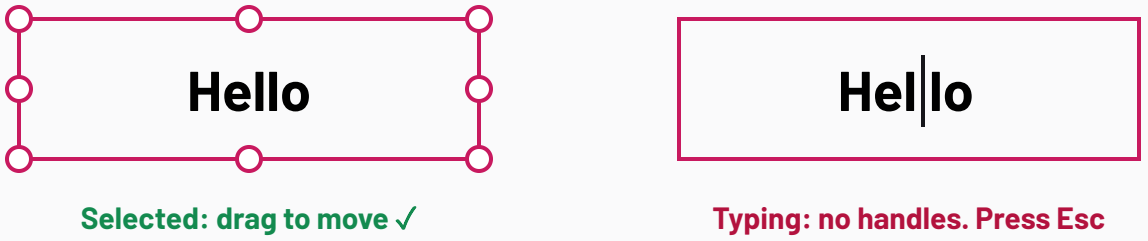
1. At the top of **Templates**, find **Design it for me**.
2. Pick a kind of business or event, like **Food & restaurant**, **Office & business** or **School & sports** (optional).
3. Type what the sign should say: the name, event, date and time, phone, website, and any colors you want.
4. Press **Make 3 designs**. In about 20 seconds you get 3 different layouts made for your product's size.
5. Click one to use it. Every word, color and shape stays editable, just like a template.

> **Good to know:** each visitor can make 10 AI designs a day. Write your exact words and numbers: the AI uses what you type and doesn't make up phone numbers or prices.

# 4. Text

## Add and change words

1. Click **Text** on the left, then **Add a headline**, **Add a subheading** or a ready-made style.
2. Type your words in the **Words** box on the right, or double-click the text on the sign to type right on it.
3. When you're done typing on the sign, press **Esc** or click an empty spot.




Left: ready to move. Right: you're typing in it. Press Esc first.

**Text won't move?** If it has a box but no round handles, you're still typing in it. Press **Esc**, then click it once and drag.

## Look and style

- **Font**: about 240 fonts. The font list on the left (Text panel) shows them by style, including Big & bold display, Glitch & grunge, Neon, retro & pixel, Modern & editorial, and More scripts. On the right, the **Font** menu shows every font in its own lettering: point at one to try it on your text, click to keep it, or type in the search box to find one by name.
- **Letter height**: how tall the letters print, in inches.
- **Fill**: a solid color or a gradient (two or more colors blending).
- **Style** and **Align**: bold, italic, and left, center or right.
- **Letter & line spacing**: space between letters and lines.
- **Outline**: a line around the letters, inside, centered or outside.
- **3D effect**: a block or bevel look. **Drop shadow** and **Inner shadow** add depth.
- **Texture**: chalk, distressed, glitter or metallic. **Fade to clear** fades it out on one side.

## Curve, arch and warp

- **Curve & warp** bends the words along an arch: drag the slider, or use **Arch up**, **Bend down** or **Straight**.

- **Words that follow any shape** (around a banana, along a road or a wave): in **Curve & warp**, click **✏️ Follow a line I draw**, then click points along the shape from where the words start to where they end and press **Done** (or double-click the last point), or press and drag to draw the line freehand with a mouse or stylus. The words follow a smooth line through your points. **Line** switches the whole line between **Curvy** and **Straight** (straight lines from point to point). **Letters sit** puts the words on the line, through it, or hanging under it, and **Slide along the line** moves them toward either end. **✏️ Edit points** shows the dots: drag one to move it, click one to make it a smooth **Curve** or a sharp **Corner** or to delete it, and click the line between dots to add one. The line itself doesn't print, and words longer than it shrink to fit.
- **Warp** bends the letters themselves: **Arch**, **Bulge**, **Arc top** or **Arc bottom**.
- Words can also go around a circle, or be stacked top to bottom with **Stacked (vertical)**.

### Bullets and lists

**Bullets, numbers & capitals** turns lines into a bulleted or numbered list and changes capitals.

### Text on a ribbon or a post-it

With a ribbon banner or a post-it note on your sign, click your text and press **Fit to ribbon** or **Put text on the post-it**. The words move onto it and follow its curve; their size stays yours.

# 5. Photos and logos (Uploads)

## Add a picture

1. Click **Uploads** on the left.
2. Drop files on the box, or click it to browse. You can also paste a copied picture with `Ctrl` + `V`.
3. It lands on your sign. Click it to change it.

Works with JPG, PNG, WebP, SVG, PDF, Illustrator (AI) and camera raw (DNG). Your files open on your own device, so big files are fine. iPhone HEIC photos need to be shared as JPG first.

## Free photos

1. Click **Photos** on the left.
2. Search for what you need (like "pizza" or "football"), or click a quick pick. Choose **Wide**, **Tall** or **Square** to match your sign.
3. Click a photo. The full-size version is added to your design and to **Uploads**, ready for effects and background removal.

> **The rules for free photos:** add your own words, logo or design (a photo can't be printed on its own as a poster or print), don't use one as part of a logo or trademark, and don't use photos of people in a way that suggests they endorse something.

## Photo collage

1. Click **Collage** on the left and pick a layout: 2 to 12 photos, one big photo with smaller ones, a frame or a heart.
2. Choose **Room for words** (top, bottom or a side) if you want space for a name or a message, then the **Photo shape** (square, rounded or circles) and the space between photos. With no space, the photos run to the edge of the sign.
3. Click **Add photos...** and pick them all at once. They fill the boxes in order, each one cropped to fit. You can also drop a photo right onto a box.
4. Click a photo on your sign to zoom it or slide it in its box, swap in another one, or empty the box. Every photo tool (looks, background removal, borders) still works on it.

For a relaxed look, pick a **Scattered** layout: the photos land overlapping and tipped a little, like a stack of prints dropped on a table. Slide **How messy** from neat to messy, and click **Shuffle the pile** for a new arrangement. **Photo style** turns them into Polaroids (white card, wide bottom edge), or a Mix of both, in any layout.

Changed your mind? Pick another layout or shape any time: your photos move into the new boxes. Empty boxes print as gray "+ Add photo" boxes, so the proof warns you about any you've missed.

## Textures

1. Click **Photos** on the left and scroll down past the photos to **Textures**.
2. Pick a group (Wood, Brick, Stone, Concrete, Metal, Rust, Paint, Plaster, Fabric, Leaves & grass, Decorative) or search, like "oak" or "red brick".
3. With **Fill the whole sign** on, a click covers the sign with that texture, behind your words. It's cropped to fit, never stretched; drag it to change which part shows. With **Add as a picture**, it goes in like a photo you can size and move.

Textures come from Texture Ninja and are public domain (CC0): free to print on anything, no credit needed. To fill words or a shape with one, add it as a picture, then use **Background → Make a photo seamless → Use the selected photo** and fill your words with that pattern.

## Will it print sharp?

Click the picture: the top of the right panel shows its **DPI at this size**. Green means sharp. Orange or red means it may look soft up close: use a bigger original, or make it smaller on the sign.

## Picture tools

- **↺ Rotate 90°** and **↻ Rotate 90°**: turn a sideways photo upright.
- **Fit inside** shows the whole picture; **Fill piece** covers the whole sign.
- **Flip ↔** and **Flip ↕** mirror it.
- **Border around the picture**: a frame in any color and thickness.
- **Remove background**: **Logo / object**, **Click the object** (then click the thing to keep), or **A person**. It runs right on your device.
- **No ghost boxes around logos:** faint, nearly invisible pixels around an uploaded PNG (left over from glows, shadows or background removers) are cleared automatically, and in the print file every near-black becomes true black, so all the blacks on your design print the same. If a picture still has its own background box that's close to, but not the same as, the color behind it (a dark grey box on a black card, say), **Review proof** warns you, and **Remove its background** clears the box in one click.
- **Outline around the outside**: a sticker-style edge, white or any color.

## Photo effects

- **Look**: Original, Black & white, Sepia or Vintage.
- **Remove white**: **Background only** removes the white around your subject and keeps white inside it (eyes, teeth). **All white** removes every white area, good for logos.

- **Halftone dots**: comic or screen-print dots, in one color or full color. Set the dots per inch, shape, size and angle.
- **Polaroid frame**: white, cream or black, wider at the bottom.
- **Remove all photo effects** puts the original back.

### Change the colors of a vector logo

1. Upload an SVG, PDF or AI logo and click it.
2. Press **Edit the colors**.
3. Under **Colors in this art**, click any color to change it everywhere it's used. Point at a color to see where it is.
4. To make two colors the same, drag one swatch onto the other, or use **Make two colors the same**.
5. **Separate by color** splits it into one item per color; **Separate the pieces** splits it into every shape.

> **Blurry logo?** **Get a clean vector file ($3)** sends it to our Logo to Vector page.

### Already have a finished, print-ready file?

1. In **Uploads**, scroll to **Already have a finished file?** and press **Choose print-ready file**.
2. A small picture of your file appears so you know it arrived.
3. Press **Review proof**. You'll see your file, and we'll tell you if its size matches the product (a 1/8 in bleed is fine).
4. Tick the box and **Add to cart**. We print your file exactly as it is.

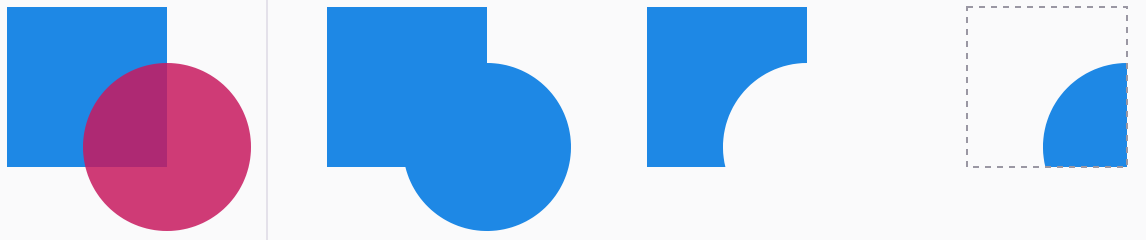
> **Good to know:** PDFs and pictures show in the proof. AI, EPS, PSD and TIFF files can't be previewed in a browser, but they're still attached and printed as-is.

# 6. Shapes

- Click **Shapes**, then any shape. Change its **Fill** color and **Border** on the right.
- **Rectangles:** **Round corners** from **Square** to 1 inch; the corners stay round however you stretch it.
- **Adjustable shapes** have their own settings: arrows (head length, both ends), stars (points, depth), speech bubbles (tail), starbursts, and the **ribbon banner** (length, arch, notched or pointed ends, up to 5 folds on each end, up or down, hard or soft folds, and torn edges for an old look).
- **Water drops and flames:** one, a row, or spread out over the whole sign like rain. Change how long and fat, bend and tip curl, and for flames the look (Cartoon or Natural), tongues and layers.
- **Patterns:** checker, stripes, dots, sunburst rays and 3D tunnels. **Fill the whole sign** makes it a background.
- 🖍️ **Draw your own shape**: drag all the way around, let go, and it fills in.
- **Swoops & waves**: curved bands that run edge to edge, like a sports or senior banner: swoops, arches, dips, waves, slants, zig-zags, torn paper, scallops, mountains and corner swooshes, some with a second-color stripe. Pick **Along the bottom** or **Along the top**, then click one. It goes behind your words. Click it on the sign to change it: the **Style** (swoop, arch, dip, wave, zig-zag, scallops, torn, mountains, slant, corner), **How many** bumps, teeth or peaks, **How extreme**, a **Transparency** slider (to let a background or photo show through), a **Second color** (a stripe, two stripes or a band behind) and both colors (solid or **Gradient**, with a **Balance** slider for where the colors meet, the same as on sunbursts, tunnels, patterns, drops and flames). Stretch it to any size and it redraws to fit; **Flip ↕** puts it along the top. Themes and Quick colors recolor it too.

### Combine shapes

Select two or more items (hold `Shift` and click), then under **Combine**:




What each Combine button does to a square (behind) and a circle (in front).

- **Weld together**: one solid shape.
- **Front minus back**: the top item, with the ones behind cut out.

- **Back minus front**: the bottom item, with the ones in front cut out. Great for cutting words out of a box, or trimming a photo with a shape you drew.
- **Overlap only**: just where they overlap.

# 7. More tools

- **Borders:** a border all the way around the edge. Pick a style, colors, thickness and distance from the edge.
- **Draw:** draw freehand with a marker, pen, brush, chisel, highlighter, crayon, spray, airbrush or stamp brush. Pick the size, color, texture and opacity. A stylus draws thinner when you press lightly. Press `Esc` or **Select & move** to stop drawing.
- **Post-it notes** (in **Shapes**, press **Post-it notes**): sticky notes in many colors, with a curled corner and lined or grid paper. **← Back to shapes** returns to the other shapes.
- **Social:** Facebook, Instagram, review, payment and contact icons, in one color or full color.
- **Clip art:** pictures by category, including **Face fun** (lips, mustaches, googly eyes, hats, horns and more). Search it with the box at the top: below our own pictures you also get thousands of **free clip art pictures and icons** (open-source vector art, fine to print). Pictures keep their colors; icons come in one color you can change. Click any clip art and choose **Gradient** on the right to fade it from one color to another (pick a preset, up to 5 colors, the balance and the direction), just like gradient lettering.
- **QR code:** type a web address, phone number or text, and a QR code appears. Style it with **Dot style** (squares or rounded), **Corner squares** (square, rounded or circle) and **Background corners** (square or rounded). **Add a logo** puts your logo in the middle (or pick one from your brand kit), with a size slider; the code switches to the highest damage tolerance so it still scans. About 20% wide is safest. Test it with your phone before you order.
- **Charts & forms** (the **Charts** button on the left): **Chart** makes a pie, donut, bar, column or line graph. Type a label and a number for each item, pick a color set, and choose whether it shows percents, numbers (with a $ or other sign before or after) or nothing, plus an optional title and a color key. **Form** adds fill-in pieces: fill-in lines (Name: ____), checkboxes in 1 to 4 columns, a table with headings, a signature and date line, or lined notes. Everything is drawn sharp at any size. Click a chart or form on your design and the panel changes it right on the design; **Edit chart** / **Edit form** on the right opens it too.
- **Menus and price lists** (Charts → **Menu**): type one item per line as *Name* | *price* | *description* (the description is optional); a line starting with # starts a section (# Drinks). Items line up with dotted lines out to the prices, in 1 or 2 columns, in a Diner, Classic, Chalkboard, Modern or Rustic style. Click the menu on your design any time to change items or prices.
- **Themes** (the **Themes** button on the left): one click restyles your whole design. **Color combos** change just the colors; **Themes** change the colors and the fonts (Classic Navy, Grand Opening, Black & Gold, Chalkboard, Fiesta, Holiday and more). Words always get a color that reads well on what's behind them, and your layout stays put. Ctrl+Z undoes it. The same color combos are also under **Quick colors** on the right when nothing is selected (click the grey space around your design to let go of a selection).

- **Make a matching set** (on the right when nothing is selected): pick other products, like a banner, more yard sign sizes, a flag or a table cover, and your design goes on each one, fitted to its shape, with full-width bands still running edge to edge. Each is saved in **My designs** to adjust and order; your original stays as it is.
- 🌐 **Make a copy in another language** (on the right when nothing is selected): pick Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Tongan, Samoan, Portuguese, Korean, Japanese or Thai, and the words on your design (every side and page) are translated into a copy that opens right away. Each text keeps its spot, font and color, and a longer translation shrinks to fit the same room. Names, phone numbers, prices and websites stay as they are; charts, forms and menus keep their words. Your original stays in **My designs** (press **Back to the original**). Have someone who speaks the language check the words before you order.
- **Pattern:** repeat a logo or shape across the sign (step & repeat).
- **Photo inside a shape:** the same thing works with shapes, clip art and drawn shapes: put the shape over the photo, select both, and click **Photo inside the shape** (a heart filled with a family photo, say). Stroke, 3D and the drop shadow work the same as for photo letters.
- **Photo inside the words:** put words over a photo (big, bold letters work best), select both, and click **Photo inside the words** on the right. The letters become made of the photo, like "mushrooms" spelled in mushrooms. If the words are bigger than the photo, the photo is enlarged (never stretched) to fill every letter. For an edge on every letter, open **Stroke** on the right and pick a color, thickness and Behind (outside the letters) or Center; it follows each letter exactly, the insides of a, b and o too. **Outline around the outside** is a softer sticker-style edge around the whole word. **3D effect** adds a 3D block behind the photo letters (and their stroke), with its own color, depth, direction and shaded or solid look, just like 3D text. A drop shadow on photo letters stays out of the letters' openings (inside P, A, O) so the stroke looks even; uncheck **Keep the shadow out of letter openings** under Drop shadow to let it fall inside. Ctrl+Z brings the words back.
- **Sponsor logos:** put all the logos on the design, select them (drag a box around them, Shift-click each, or press Ctrl+A / ⌘A), and use **Line up logos** on the right. Every logo is fitted into the same size box in even rows and columns, empty margins around a logo are ignored, and a short last row is centered. Choose the whole piece, the top or bottom part, or where they are now; how many across; and the space between. **Even out sizes** keeps a wide logo from looking bigger than a square one.
- **Background:** a solid color, a gradient or a picture behind everything.
- **Seamless patterns** (in Background): click **Seamless patterns** to open it. The color sets and your 3 colors sit at the top, and the styles below open and close like the font groups (one at a time; a dot marks the style in use): Classic (polka dots, plaid, chevron, flowers…), East Asian (Japanese waves, hemp leaf, tortoise shell, lucky clouds, lotus…), South Asian (mandala, block print, jali screen), Middle Eastern (Moroccan ogee, arabesque star, zellige, paisley, lanterns, lattice screen, kilim), European (Delft tile, Nordic folk, Celtic rings, azulejo, edelweiss), African (kente, mud cloth, Adinkra-style, Ndebele, Kuba cloth), Latin (papel picado, Talavera tile, Otomi birds, Andean weave, serape stripes), Pacific (tapa cloth,

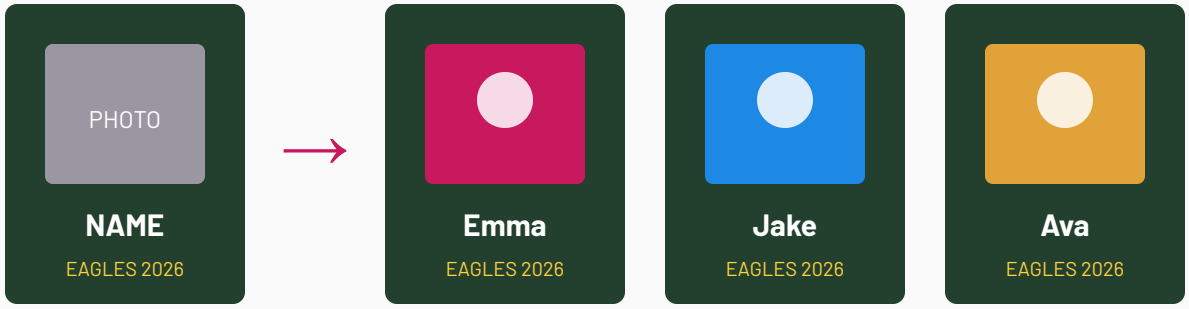
hibiscus, palm leaves), Renaissance (damask, fleur-de-lis, harlequin, medallion, scrolls…), Modern (terrazzo, Memphis, Bauhaus, blobs, mosaic…), Vintage (art deco fans, houndstooth, ticking, rosebuds, madras…) and Animal & nature (leopard, zebra, cow spots, leaves, paw prints, bubbles). Use them in your own 3 colors or a ready-made color set, at the repeat size you choose. **Your own lines** makes stripes from as many colors and thicknesses as you like, running up and down, across, diagonally or crossed into a plaid. Leave **Line up** on, and whole repeats fit across and down, so prints of the same size placed side by side or stacked carry the pattern straight on, like wallpaper strips.

**Make a photo seamless** turns a photo (wood, grass, marble, fabric…) into a tile with no visible seams, either by blending its edges or by mirroring it. **Download one tile** saves the tile to use anywhere.

**Patterns inside words or shapes:** click the words or shape and open **Pattern fill** on the right: pick a color set, open a style and click a pattern, and set its repeat size. Or select them and click any pattern in Background → Seamless patterns, which has more options: it fills them instead of the background, and colors, color sets, lines and repeat size update it live. Its strength and size are also under Texture on the right, and an outline on the words stays solid.

# 8. Sets: one design, many people

For team, class and senior banners or signs: the same design with a different photo and name on each one.




Design one. Each person gets the same design with their own photo and name.

1. Design one, with a sample photo and name.
2. Click the photo and tick **Changes on each one (Set)**. Do the same for the name, and a number or grade if you have one.
3. Click **Set** on the left, then **Add photos** and choose everyone's photos at once. Each becomes its own, named from the file (Emma Smith.jpg → Emma Smith). Or **Add names** and paste a list.
4. **From a spreadsheet:** **Upload a spreadsheet (Excel or CSV)** makes one sign per row. Pick which column goes in each text that changes (First Name + Last Name together, Number, Grade…). Long names shrink to fit the space the sample name used, so nothing runs off the sign.
5. **Check each sign:** tabs above the board list every sign (‹ › to step through them). Click one to see it on the board and fix it there: edit the words, or change its size and that sign keeps it. Tabs marked ⚠ are worth a look: a long name that had to shrink a lot, or a blank text. Ordered too many? Click the ✕ on a tab to take that sign out of the set (it asks first).
6. Fix any name in the list. Click a thumbnail to see that person on the sign and adjust their photo. 📷 swaps a photo, ✕ removes someone.
7. 👀 **Preview all** shows every one side by side, and 📑 **Download all as one PDF** saves them as one PDF, a page per sign. **Remove background on all** is optional.
8. Review proof and Add to cart include everyone, in one print file with a page each.

**Save your set!** A set isn't kept if you close or reload the page. Use **Share** → **Save design file** to keep it and come back later.

# 9. DTF transfers (for shirts)

DTF prints only your design on clear film, which is then pressed onto a shirt. Nothing behind your design prints, so the background is just a preview.

1. Click **DTF transfer** (top row, next to Custom size) and pick a size, like **Left chest · 4 × 4** or **Adult front · 11 × 11**, or type your own. One side can be up to 22 in.
2. Design as usual. With nothing selected, the right side shows **DTF transfer** settings:
   - **See it on**: see-through checks, a color, or a shirt.
   - **Shirt color** and **Where on the shirt** (center front or left chest).
3. Press **Download PNG (300 DPI)**, or **Review proof** then **Request a quote** to have us print the transfers.

### Gang sheets (many designs on one sheet)

1. Click **DTF transfer** and pick a gang sheet, **22 × 12** up to **22 × 120** in.
2. Put each design on the sheet once, at the size you want it pressed. A logo with words? Select both and press **Make these one design** so they stay together.
3. Click empty space. Under **Gang sheet**, type how many copies of each design you want (or click a design and set **Copies on the sheet**).
4. Set **Space between** (like 0.3 in) and **Space from edge** (like 0.1 in), then press **Arrange sheet**. Everything is laid out for you, biggest first.
5. Leave **Make the sheet just long enough** on and the sheet picks the shortest length that fits.
6. **Turn designs sideways to fit more** (on to start) tries turning designs and keeps whichever layout uses the least film. It only turns them when that helps.

> **Changed a design?** Edit the original and press **Arrange sheet** again: every copy updates.

### UV DTF (cups, bottles and hard surfaces)

Click **UV DTF** (top row, next to DTF transfer) and pick a gang sheet: 22 in wide by **2, 4, 6, 8 or 10 ft**. It works like the DTF gang sheet above: put each design on once, set how many copies, press **Arrange sheet**, then **Download PNG** for a see-through 300 DPI file. There are no shirt or dot options, since UV DTF prints solid on clear film.

### Knock out a color

Got a picture with a black background going on a black shirt? Click the picture, open **Photo effects**, and use **Knock out a color**:

- **Solid**: removes that color cleanly.
- **Fine halftone**: colors close to it fade into tiny dots, so shadows and glows melt into the shirt for a soft, natural look.
- **Shirt color** or **Pick from picture** chooses the color; **How close a match** sets how much is removed; **Dot fineness** sets the dot size.
- **Dots all over**: the whole picture becomes tiny dots. Colors far from the shirt get big dots and colors close to it get small ones, so the shirt shows through everywhere for a soft, vintage feel. **Biggest dots** keeps the brightest parts as separate dots or lets them go solid, and **Colors** (8, 6, 4 or 2) snaps every dot to the nearest main color for a screen-print look.

Want the same look on everything, words and shapes included? With nothing selected, set **Whole design** to **Dots all over**. You'll see it in Review proof and in the PNG. With Fine halftone edges or Dots all over, the **Dot size** slider goes from 25 (bigger, bolder dots) to 60 (finer, smoother) per inch; 45 is the average and a good place to start.

**Use the shirt color instead of ink:** once you pick a shirt color, choose **Use the shirt** under **Parts of your design that are black** (or yellow, or whatever the shirt is). Wherever your design is that color, no ink goes down and the shirt itself shows: softer to wear, and it matches the shirt exactly. **How close a color counts** sets how similar a color has to be (10% suits most designs; raise it if dark shadows still print). Review proof shows the result.

**Grey haze or mesh on dark shirts?** Film puts white ink under everything it prints, so barely visible pixels (from glows, photo effects or background removal), dots too tiny to print and dark parts almost the shirt's color can show as grey specks. With nothing selected, set **Clean up faint pixels and specks** to **Light** or **Strong**, then zoom in on Review proof to compare. With a shirt color picked, it also leaves off colors almost the same as the shirt, so the shirt itself shows there.

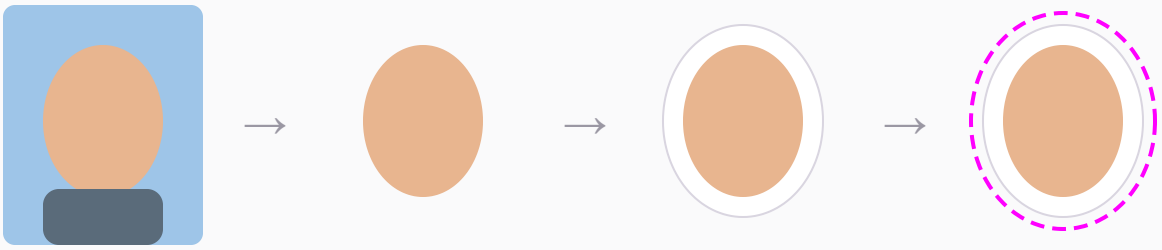
**Soft edges and shadows:** film can't print half see-through. In the DTF settings, set **Soft edges and faded parts** to **Fine halftone** (natural) or **Solid** (crisp) before you download.

## 10. Embroidered hats

1. Click **Embroidered hats** (top row). Pick a style: dad hats, truckers, snapbacks, beanies and more.
2. Pick the hat color, the front size (**Standard** or **Large**) and, if you like, **3D puff** for raised stitching. The price per hat shows as you choose.
3. Press **Start designing**. You design right on the hat's front, inside the dashed box.
4. Click your words or shapes and pick a **Thread color**. Up to 6 thread colors per design.
5. Press **Review proof** to see it stitched, tick the box and press **Add to cart**. A one-time setup fee is added for a new design (free on 25 or more hats). Shipping is $5, free on orders of $100 or more.

> **Stitching tips:** keep text at least 1/4 in tall, use solid colors (no photos, gradients or shadows), and keep lines at least 1 mm thick. A new design has a one-time setup fee.

# 11. Cut-out products (big heads, masks, stickers)




Cut out the head, add a white outline, turn on the cut line.

1. Upload a front-facing photo, straight from your phone camera, ideally on a plain background.
2. Click it and press **Head**, **Head & neck** or **Whole body**.
3. Add a white **Outline around the outside**.
4. Turn on the **Cut line**. The dashed magenta line shows where it gets cut; it isn't printed.
5. ⤢ **Fit to board** makes it as big as the board allows.
6. For a mask, 👀 **Add eye holes**, then drag and size them over the eyes. The distance between them is shown.

On regular signs and banners, these tools are tucked inside **Cut-out products only**.

# 12. Brand kit

Click **Brand** on the left to keep your logos, colors and fonts in one place, ready for every design.

- **Logos:** **Add a logo**, or click a logo on your design and press **Save the selected image**. Click a saved logo to add it to the design.
- **Colors:** pick one and press **Add color**, or press **Add the selected item's color**. Click a color to use it on the selected item (or on the background when nothing is selected). Your colors also show up in every color picker (in Chrome and Edge).
- **Fonts:** add up to 6. The first one is your headline font. Click a font to use it on the selected text.
- **Put my brand on this design** changes a template to your fonts and colors in one click. Ctrl+Z undoes it.

Your kit is kept in this browser on this device.

# 13. Proof and ordering



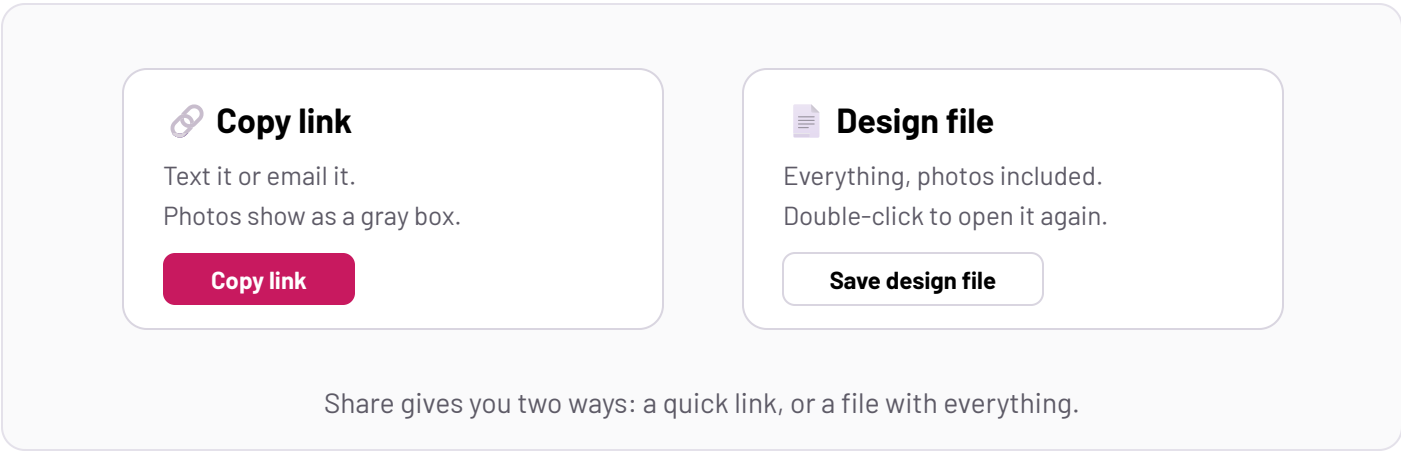

Four steps from design to checkout.

1. Click **Review proof** (top right).
2. Look over the proof picture and the checks. The proof reads your words for **spelling mistakes**, a **day that doesn't match its date** ("Saturday, March 14" when the 14th is a Sunday), **phone numbers with a digit missing**, and **the same word twice**. It also flags words too close to the edge and blurry pictures.
3. On signs and banners, **Readable from how far?** shows how far away your biggest words, phone number and smallest words can be read (each inch of letter height reads easily from about 10 feet). **See it from 10 / 25 / 50 / 100 ft** shows your design as it looks from there, so you can make the important words bigger before you order.
4. For signs, banners, flags, stands and table covers, click **In real life** above the proof to see it where it will be used. For many products (yard signs, retractable and X-frame stands, banners) that's your design on our own photo of the product; for the rest it's a sketch at true size: a banner on a fence, a flag outside a shop. It's a good way to judge whether the words are big enough to read from the street.
5. If the product has choices (material, base, quantity), pick them; the price shows below.
6. Tick **I've checked spelling, phone numbers and dates**.
7. Click **Add to cart**. Your print file uploads and you go to checkout.

- **Download PDF** saves the print file to your computer, free.
- **Custom sizes:** **Request a quote** opens an email to sales@slcprint.com with your size and file.
- **Pixel designs:** **Download PNG** or **Download JPG** at the exact size.
- **QTY** (top right) sets how many.

# 14. Saving and sharing your design

Click **Share** at the top. Nothing is stored on our servers; it all stays with you.




### Copy link

Makes a link with your whole design inside it. Paste it in a text, email or chat; whoever opens it gets your design, ready to edit. Uploaded photos are too big for a link and show as a gray "photo goes here" box.

### Save design file (everything, photos included)

1. Click **Save design file**. In Edge and Chrome a Save window opens; pick where to keep it. In Firefox it goes to Downloads.
2. To open it again: double-click the file (it ends in **-design.html**) and press **Open in SLC Print Designer**. Or drag the file onto the designer, or use **Share** → **Open a design file**.

### My designs (saves itself)

Your design saves itself in your browser a moment after every change. If you reload the page, it comes right back. Click **My designs** at the top to see your last 30 designs; click one to keep working on it, or **Start a new design**. They're kept in this browser on this device only: to move a design to another computer, save a design file.

### Reorder

Every order includes an **Edit or reorder** link (you'll see it on your order). Open it to get that exact design back, change anything you like, and order it again.

> **Tip:** clearing your browser's history or site data also clears My designs. Keep a design file of anything important.

# 15. Logo to Vector ($3)

1. Go to **design.slcprint.com/vectorize**, or click **Need your logo traced to vector? Click here** in Uploads.
2. Drop in your logo. In a few seconds you'll see a free preview (with a watermark).
3. Click the preview or **🔍 Zoom in to check the edges**, and switch between **Vector** and **Your picture** to compare.
4. Happy? **Buy the vector files** ($3) and check out.
5. Your order email has a **Download your vector files** button: SVG, PDF and EPS, no watermark.

# 16. Troubleshooting

### My text (or anything) won't move

If it has no round handles, you're typing in it: press `Esc`, click it once, and drag. If the screen says **Drag all the way around your shape**, press **Done** first.

### My picture came in sideways

Click it and press **↺ Rotate 90°** or **↻ Rotate 90°**.

### The quality says “may look soft” or “will look blurry”

The picture is small for its size on the sign. Upload a bigger original (from the camera, not a screenshot), or make it smaller on the sign.

### I lost my design

The designer doesn't save by itself. Next time, use **Share** → **Save design file** before closing the page.

### The design file opens as a page of code

That's an older file (ending in .slcdesign). Drag it onto the designer instead. New files end in -design.html and open with a double-click.

### The design file's button says the new tab was blocked

Your browser blocked the pop-up. Allow pop-ups for that page and press the button again, or drag the file onto the designer.

### Add to cart isn't working

Make sure the approval box is ticked, and if the proof shows options, pick ones that are offered. Custom sizes are quoted by hand, so they show **Request a quote** instead.

### Still stuck?

Email sales@slcprint.com or call us, and we'll walk you through it.