

# Transcript: SVGs Made Simple: Lesson 1 - How to Find & Download SVG Cut Files

Hello, everyone. JenniferMaker here. It's a beautiful day to learn all about SVG cut files, and I think that we should get up close and personal with this one. So please pull up a chair here at my desk and we'll get started.

So every day I get emails from lovely people who are so eager to make one of my designs, but they just can't quite figure out how to get from point A to point B. Here are some of the other questions that I've received.

What is the secret to making beautiful crafts? Why do some crafters seem to create so freely while others are stuck spinning their wheels? How do you find beautiful templates, patterns, and tutorials for those amazing projects you share? And how are you supposed to know what to do, in what order when all seems so complicated?

Those are big questions, but the thing is, those are questions that nearly every single crafter has asked themselves at one point or another, including myself. We all have questions, but when it comes down to it, I know you love to make beautiful things, awesome things just like me. And I think despite all the different ways the questions are worded, what folks are really saying and asking is this, how do I make beautiful things that are fun to put together and get noticed, appreciated and loved?

Hello, my name is JenniferMaker and I'm the award-winning designer at the JenniferMaker.com blog, Academy, and YouTube channel.

Welcome to my video series, SVGs Made Simple.

I designed this video series to help answer those very questions. And here in this first video, you're going to learn all about how to find those coveted patterns and files that take your crafts from bland to beautiful.

So the way it works is that designers like myself can save and share their detailed patterns, the ones that allow you to recreate something with perfect precision into what are known as SVG cut files, and you're going to learn how they can transform your crafts. You'll also learn how to find and download SVG files to help you cut and make gorgeous jaw dropping creations. And once you get this down, you will blow everyone away with the things that you can make, and you'll also totally make someone's day when you give them something that you made with your own two hands and a little help from your cutting machine, of course.

And that means if you're the owner of a Cricut, a silhouette Brother Caesar, or another cutting machine, whether it's a blade cutting machine or even a laser cutting machine

and you're struggling with this whole file thing, you're going to be able to start making amazing creations right away with SVG cut files. My goal for the SVGs Made Simple video series is to help you make beautiful creations that you can use to decorate your home, and share with your friends and family, you are gonna blow them away.

Now, as many of you know, I design and share my free SVG cut files through my blog at JenniferMaker.com, and sometimes the issue is knowing where to find the file. But other times people struggle with downloading files or even finding them after they've downloaded. It's not always as easy as we'd all like it to be now, is it? But the reality is that I can totally relate to that struggle because that has a lot to do with my own story too.

The day that I bought my very first cutting machine, I took it out of the box, set it up, did the first project. I was so excited and it was so amazing, but a couple of days later, and I wanted to make something really beautiful, just something that would make people go, wow, that's so cool. And I looked around online and I discovered that it was possible to make flowers a paper. I had no idea you could make paper flowers, and I was instantly drawn to it and hooked, but it was like a total mystery to me.

So I started poking around online reading blogs, visiting sites, and eventually I discovered a wonderful blogger who was sharing some paper, flower SVG files. I had no idea what an SVG was, but with some time and persistence, I figured it out and I figured out how to get it and use it. And that day I made my very first paper flower.

It isn't this one. It was a while ago now, but it looks a lot like this one. And when I showed this paper flower I'd made to everyone that evening, they were all so impressed and so was I. I was really impressed with myself. But this story doesn't stop with me.

The tutorial that I'm about to share with you is my method of using SVGs to make all of these gorgeous creations. Everything you see here in my studio, everything in my blog and my channel, they all began as SVG cut files because I want you to be able to make things like this too. And you probably wouldn't be watching this if you weren't struggling at least a little with how to make these unique creations. But luckily, there is a solution.

The purpose of SVGs Made Simple is to help you quickly overcome this frustration so that you can get to making all the awesome stuff that you love faster.

It's that simple. So as we go through these tutorial videos, I want you to identify obvious areas of opportunity for your current situation, how things are right now for you, what is it that you want to get out of this? Are you ready? Let's get started.

So let's begin with the basics. What is the SVG cut file? An SVG is a file with a pre-made design that you can download to your computer or device, upload to your

favorite design software such as Cricut, Design, Space Silhouette Studio Sure cuts a lot or make the cut. The file contains all or most of the imagery and directions needed to cut a project exactly as designed. And it's this exactness that makes SVG cut files so appealing. It allows designers to make something precisely and share it with others so they can make the same thing.

So here on the left side of my screen is the SVG cut file for my Penguin paper bomb in Cricut Design Space, just as it was designed by me. And on the right side of the screen is the completed penguin cut from the directions in the SVG file. And by the way, SVG stands for Scalable Vector Graphics svg, and it is an open standard file that has been in use since 1999.

I love SVG files because they are so precise. Now, you may be wondering where do you find SVG cut files? As it turns out, they are all over the place. I myself have a big collection of free SVG files on my blog at JenniferMaker dot com. I keep them all in my free resource library, and many other bloggers do something similar and are happy to share their designs with you via SVG cut files as well.

If a design is being shared, the blogger will mention it in their blog post, and many bloggers will have resource libraries or free SVG file collections somewhere in their menu bar that you can look for beyond blogs. You'll also find files in SVG design shops. Most all shops have a free section along with their files for sale. If you don't mind paying a small price, SVG shops usually have what you need in their large collections.

Another place to look for SVG cut files is in Facebook groups devoted to Cricut, silhouette and other cutting machines. Most of these groups encourage their members to share files they've made themselves and members are allowed to download them.

So to help you find the locations of these blogs, shops and groups, I have a big list of great places to find SVG cut files on my blog at JenniferMaker dot com. Just come on over and search for free SVG files, or you can go directly to the blog post at JenniferMaker dot com slash free SVG files best.

Finally, my all time favorite place to get SVG cut files is to just make them myself. Yes, that's right. You can just make your own SVG cut files and precisely the way, size, style, and configuration you want without any compromises. Those SVG files aren't found online but are in your imagination just waiting to get out. And it's totally possible to make your own. I do it. You can do it too. If you've ever thought about it, I encourage you to try it. I'll be talking more about how you can learn to design and make your own SVG cut files in a future video in this training series.

Okay, so how do you get cut files? So now we get to the trickier part and the one that I get a lot of questions about because it's not always so obvious. If you haven't done it before, once you've done it, you'll be golden. So just how do you get the SVG cut files

from online into your design software? The first thing you need to do is download the files.

It isn't hard to do. So let me show you how to download a file from my library on four different devices, windows, Mac, iPhone, or iPad and Android. So we're going to do a Windows computer with the Google Chrome web browser and the Microsoft Edge web browser, a mace computer with the Google Chrome web browser and the Safari web browser, an iPad using the Safari web browser and an Android tablet with the Google Chrome web browser.

Let's start with how to download SVG files in a Google Chrome browser on a Windows computer, which is the most common scenario and the one that I recommend. If you are on Windows first, you'll wanna locate the file. Usually all you need to do is click a link or a download button and the file will download for you.

Here I am in my free library. I click the link for the project file that contains the SVG it downloads, and then I can locate it. Now, if you already know where your computer downloads its files, you can go right there on Windows. It's almost always going to download to your downloads folder, but if you're ever unsure, most browsers have a way to track downloads on Chrome.

Your recently downloaded files appear at the bottom of the window. Just click the little arrow next to the file name. You see right here, choose show folder and it takes you to your downloads folder. Now you'll notice that the file that downloads is a compressed archive. This is going to be true of virtually any S P G file that you download anywhere online because most designers like to bundle a variety of versions and formats to make sure everyone can use it.

But this file needs to be decompressed before it can be used. So to open and decompress a zip file on Windows, just right click with your mouse on the zip archive and select extract all from the menu that appears, or you can click the extract all button at the top of the window as shown here. You may be asked where you would like to extract your compressed zip file.

Go ahead and check the destination to make sure it's a place that you recognize and can find. Of course, if not, you can go change it with the browse button and then click extract. A new folder will appear with the same name as the zip file. Inside you may see something called Mac O S X. Just ignore that folder, but there's another folder in there with the same name as your download.

Double click that folder to open it and reveal its contents. Inside that folder, you may see many files, text files, image files, DXF files, and SVG files. The SVG file is the one that you want, but you'll notice on my screen here that it's not listed as an SVG under type. Instead, we see a file with the words Microsoft Edge html, this Microsoft Edge HTML file, this is actually our SVG file. Your SVG files may appear as Edge HTML files

just as mine are if you don't have an association saved for SVG files on your computer, and most people don't. All right, so you're really gonna look for either the letters SVG in the file name or the words Microsoft Edge HTML file.

So just remember, edge files are actually SVG files in this case, you know, if you downloaded it, you're looking for, that's what you're looking for, okay? So don't try to double click any kind of SVG file because if you do, it will search for some illustration software to open it, and most people don't even have that. So instead, we'll open this file in a special way and I'll be showing you how to do that in our next video in this series.

Okay, now let's switch to a Windows laptop running Microsoft Edge, which is the default browser, and some of you may still be using that rather than Chrome. So here I am in my library on my blog, I scroll the page and looking for my project. When I find it, I click the link to download it. A small box appears in the upper right corner of the web browser.

If you miss spotting this box because it does disappear after a moment, don't worry. You can click the three dots in the upper right corner, then choose downloads to see it again. So once you've found your downloads, click the most item. This will show you the folder. It's important to note that this folder is not yet decompressed. It's important that you click on Extract all to decompress it.

You can also just go to your downloads folder, find the file that you just downloaded, and right click it to select Extract All or click that extract all button in the top. Either way, you'll get the same sort of folder that I showed you earlier. Again, you can ignore that Mac OSX folder and double click the other folder to see all of the files.

Here's our list of files inside, and the S P G that you want to use is right here. Again, it shows up as a Microsoft Edge HTML document, but this is your SVG file. Now you'll notice that the file that downloads is a compressed archive that ends in Z ip. It's a zip file. This is going to be true of virtually any SVG file you download anywhere online because it's not usually possible to just have an SVG file uploaded to a blog.

It actually is restricted, so we need to put it into an archive. And also because most designers like to bundle a variety of versions and formats of the files to make sure everyone can use it. So to open and decompress is zip file on the Mac, simply double click it. A new folder will appear with the same name as the zip file.

Double click the new folder, and inside you will see all of the contents. The file that ends in SVG is the one you'll want to work with, but don't try to double click or open an SVG file. If you do, it will search for an illustration software on your computer. It can use to open it, and most people don't even have this.

Instead, we'll upload this file just as it is, and I'll be showing you exactly how to do that in the next video. Okay, so we've done a Mac desktop computer running Chrome. Let's see how it looks running Safari.

So here at Safari, I'm at my blogs resource library. I'm going to download the file and you can see it download. And again, I could go right to my downloads folder, but if you are ever not sure where your download went, you just click this little down arrow at the top of your screen and it shows you the latest downloads. Click the magnifying glass and it takes you to your downloads folder. Finally, let's talk about how to get SVG cut files.

If you're using an iPad or even an iPhone first, you should know that it is possible to download these files on these devices, and you can even download and upload directly from your iPad or iPhone. Let me show you how to do this on my iPad. So first, make sure your iPad is updated to at least OS version 15. Now we need to download an SVG cut file, tap on Safari, and go to my blog at JenniferMaker dot com. From there, tap on libraries over on the right and enter my library. If you don't have a password yet, you can request one free on the same page.

Once you're in the library, you can scroll the page down to look for the file that you want, but I think it's a lot easier to search the page for it to search. Just tap on the bar at the top of the screen, tap in the word that you wanna search for such as owl and tap on the line under that says on this page in the window below the bar, this will find all instances of that word on the page. Tap the down arrow until you see this search result that you want, like the owl shadowbox card.

Now to download the file, just tap the word itself. Your iPad will ask if you want to download it, and you should tap download to continue. Now you're not quite done yet. Go up to the downloads icon at the top of your window. It looks like a circle with a down arrow in it and tap it. This will show you all of your recent downloads, including the one that you just did, which will be at the very top. Tap it to view it in your files app. Now locate that file on the screen and tap the file icon once more to extract to unzip it. And inside you'll see the files including the S V G cut file, and that's all there is to downloading and extracting zip files on your iPad.

And finally, let me show you how to download an S V G cut file on an Android device. So first, make sure your Android is updated to the latest version. Now we need to download an S V G cut file. To do this, I recommend you tap on Chrome and then go to my blog at JenniferMaker dot com. From there, tap on libraries over on the right in the red bar and enter my library. If you don't have password yet, you can request one free on the same page. Once you're in the library, you can scroll the page for the file you want, but I think it's easier to search the page for it to search.

Just tap the three dots in the upper right corner and select bind in page in the dropdown menu that appears. Then tap in the word that you want to search such as

owl and press the magnifying glass icon on the keyboard to start searching. This will find all instances of that word on the page. Tap the down arrow until you see the search result you want, like this owl shadow box card to download the file. Just tap it. Your Android device will show you the download progress.

When it's all done downloading, tap open to go to my files. And now be careful. Now you're not quite done yet. You must first extract the files from the zip folder. So just tap extract over here on the right to unzip and extract the files that are inside this folder. And inside you'll see the files, including the SVG file. You're welcome to keep it where it is or move it to another folder in my file so it's easier to locate when you wanna upload it later.

To move the file, press and hold the SVG file that you see on the screen until the checkbox appear on the left. Now select another folder on the left and tap move to move it over there. And that's all there is to downloading and extracting SVG files on your Android device.

Okay, so now that we've worked on finding and downloading SVG cut files, the big question is how do you upload and use these files, right? I mean, just downloading the file does not make it magically load itself into your software or into your machine and begin cutting. Now, does it? Imagine if it did, that would be something.

So how do you get an SVG cut file into say, Cricut, Design Space or Silhouette Studio or the Glowforge app? What do you do if you're on an iPad or an iPhone? Can you upload it at all?

Well, that's exactly what I'm gonna show you in video number two of the series. I'm also going to give you actual examples of SVGs being uploaded in a variety of different ways and provide you with a handy SVG reference guide that you can download and use as an ongoing reference in tool solving.

The problem of getting SVGs into your design software is easy, and I'll show you how in video number two. Now, before we go today, I want you to leave a comment right below this video and tell me what you struggle with when it comes to SVG cut files. I'm gonna read every single one, and I'll respond to as many as I can.

And if you found this video useful, please share it on Facebook or YouTube or even by sending a friend a link to this page. And remember, creating gorgeous crafts is not nearly as complicated as people make it out to be. Truly, all you really need to do is simplify the process. And SV Cut files can do just that. You can start right this very moment.

In fact, you can find and download some SVG files for your projects that you'd really love to make. And next up, I'll show you exactly how to upload those files into your software so you can actually use them. Remember this, when you're feeling frustrated

without some struggle, there could be no progress. You can turn your breakdowns into breakthroughs. You absolutely can.

Alright, I cannot wait to see you in the next video. Until next time, this is JenniferMaker reminding you to craft a life you love.