



# QuickStart

Version 004

# MacSign Cut™

---

## Welcome

MacSign Cut™ is a “bridge” program that makes it possible to import and either cut or plot the following types of files<sup>1</sup>:

- Adobe Illustrator files (\*.ai version 3.0)
- Corel Presentation Exchange files (\*.cmx)

This Quick Start Guide supplements the information in the user’s guide which can be found on the CD.

Macsign Cut™ needs to be registered within 30 days after installation. This registration is free and the procedure is explained in this manual.

This supplied version is a light version. No objects can be created or edited. However, you can import your designs and they can then be cut or plotted.

The complete package facilitates the design and production of vinyl signs, rubylith stencils, and other related products. The complete package also supports the OPOS function (with special plug-in for Illustrator). For more info contact the company SofTeam via [www.softteamweb.com](http://www.softteamweb.com).

### Installing MacSign Cut™

There are two CD's: one for OS 9 and one for OS X.

#### Installing MacSign Cut™ on OS 9 system

1. Open the folder SofTeam MacSign™.
2. To install another version then the English version go to step 5.
3. Click on Install MacSign™ XP-X v x.x to install the English version.
4. Follow the instructions on the screen.
5. Open the folder with the desired language.
6. Click on installation program and follow the instructions on the screen.

#### Installing MacSign Cut™ on the OS X system

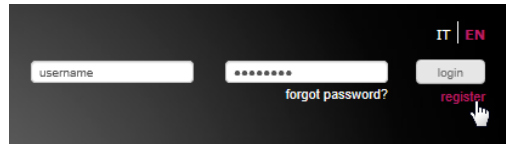
1. Open the folder, which contains the program in the desired language.
2. Drag the SofTeam MacSign™ XP-X folder to a folder on your hard disk for which you have write permission. A typical folder is the "Applications" folder.

**NOTE:** It is recommended to download the latest version of MacSign Cut for OSX and not to install from the CD that was delivered with the cutter.

## Downloading and installing the latest version of MacSign Cut™

MacSign Cut™ can only be downloaded from the site of the manufacturer of MacSign. Also a registration on this site is necessary before the download area can be accessed.

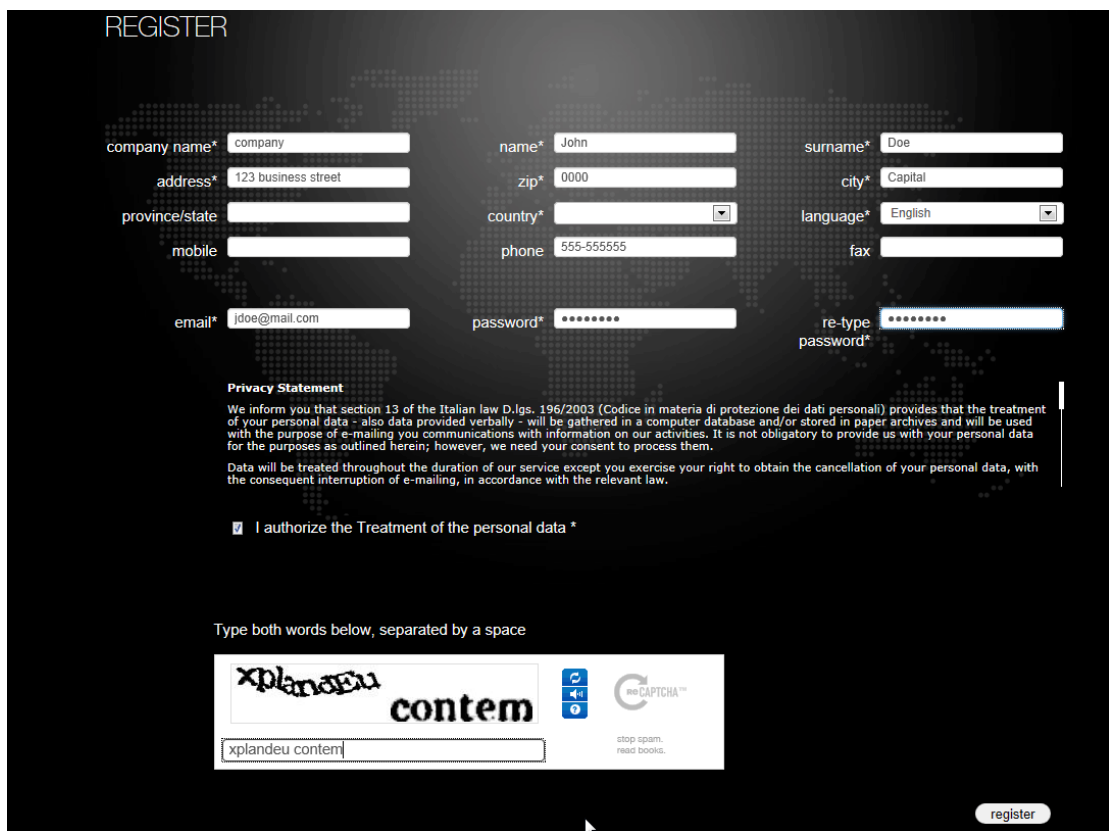
1. Go to [www.softteamweb.com](http://www.softteamweb.com).
2. Register first by clicking on the register icon in the upper right corner.

A snippet of a web form with a dark background. It includes a 'username' input field, a password input field with masked characters, a 'forgot password?' link, a 'login' button, and a 'register' link with a mouse cursor pointing to it. In the top right corner, there are links for 'IT' and 'EN'.

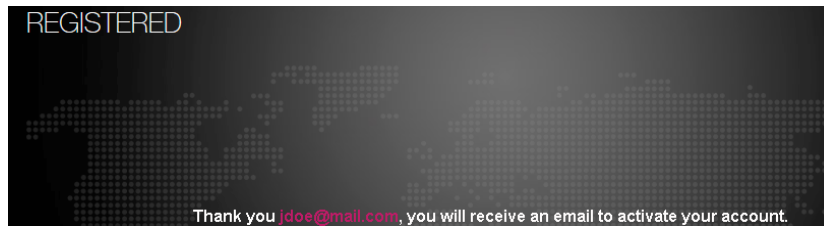
3. If the security setting of your browser prevents you from seeing all content, click show all content.

A horizontal security warning bar with a yellow border. It contains the text 'Only secure content is displayed.' followed by a blue link 'What's the risk?'. On the right side, there is a button labeled 'Show all content' and a close icon 'x'.

4. Fill in the form (do not forget to check the personal data authorization and the security check) and click accept.

A full registration form titled 'REGISTER' on a dark background. The form is organized into three columns. The first column contains fields for 'company name\*', 'address\*', 'province/state', 'mobile', and 'email\*'. The second column contains fields for 'name\*', 'zip\*', 'country\*', 'phone', and 'password\*'. The third column contains fields for 'surname\*', 'city\*', 'language\*', 'fax', and 're-type password\*'. Below the form fields is a 'Privacy Statement' section with a checkbox 'I authorize the Treatment of the personal data \*'. At the bottom, there is a CAPTCHA section with the text 'Type both words below, separated by a space' and an image showing the words 'xplandeu' and 'contem'. A text input field contains 'xplandeu contem'. To the right of the CAPTCHA is a 'register' button.

5. A page is shown, mentioning the registration has been accepted.



6. Wait for a mail and click on the link ([clicking here](#)) in the mail to complete the registration.

**NOTE:** It is possible that the mail arrives in the spam or junk email folder. Check this folder also. If it has, do not forget to put the sender in the 'save senders' list, so additional mails from SofTeam immediately arrive into the inbox.

*Dear John*

*below you can find the summary of your registration request:*

*Name: John*

*Surname: Doe*

*E-Mail: [jdoe@mail.com](mailto:jdoe@mail.com)*

*Password: xxxxxxxxxx*

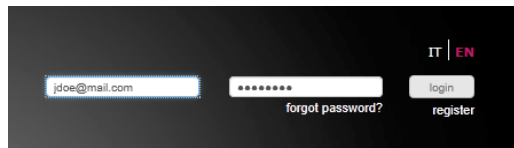
*For security reasons, before being able to log in with your e-mail address and password, you need to confirm them by clicking here.*

*If you have not required this registration or if you do not confirm your registration request within 48 hours, this will be discarded and you will have to submit a new registration request.*

*Please store this e-mail in a safe place for future use.*

*Thank you  
SofTeam Staff*

7. A tab opens in the internet browser and displays the message that the registration was successful. Click home to go to the home page. If the registration is not done immediately, go to [www.softeamweb.com](http://www.softeamweb.com) and fill in the login name (email) and password and click on login in order to log into the site.



8. A recent version of MacSign cannot be downloaded if the cutter has not been registered. If the cutter has already been registered, go to step 15 to download the needed version of MacSign Cut. After installation of the downloaded version, return to step 9.

9. To register the cutter click on the register icon.



10. Fill in the form to register the cutter. If the serial number of the cutter cannot be found, then check [http://www.summa.be/html\\_en/support/serial\\_find.html](http://www.summa.be/html_en/support/serial_find.html) to find out where the serial number label is situated on the cutter. Cutters delivered between November 2004 and June 2005 had a dongle delivered with them.

REGISTER LICENSE

If you have a dongle, please enter the digits you find on the label.

If you are registering a MacSign Cut without dongle, please enter the serial number of your cutter (e.g. 123456-00000).

xxxxxx-xxxxx

REGISTER



MADE IN BELGIUM

**Summa** CE AC

MODEL

SERIAL NO. 000000-00000

100-120/220-240V~; 50/60Hz; 2.0A/2.0A

11. Click on register. A new window opens with the message that the registration was successful.

REGISTER LICENSE

Dear jdoe@mail.com,

Your licence registration request was successfully completed.

In a few minutes you will find in Manage licences:

- License Code, if you submitted the serial number of your cutter
- Dongle Activation in download area, if you have registered your security key number

An e-mail will be sent to your account confirming availability of the above.

Thank You  
SofTeam Staff

**NOTE:** If the correct version of MacSign is already installed, then proceed with the registration. Otherwise jump to step 15 first to download and install the latest version and afterwards come back to step 12.

12. Wait for the mail to activate the installed version on the computer. To activate the installed version of MacSign Cut do as described in the mail.

*Dear Sirs,  
please follow these simple steps to activate your license:*

- 1) if MacSign Cut is running please quit and restart it.  
2) at start-up, when the "Registration" dialog box appears, click "Register Now".  
3) fill in the fields exactly as below:*

*Company Name: company  
Cutter Serial Number: XXXXXX-XXXXX  
License Code: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX*

- 4) click the "Enter Code" button to complete the activation procedure.*

*Thank you for registering your MacSign Cut license.*

*SofTeam Staff*

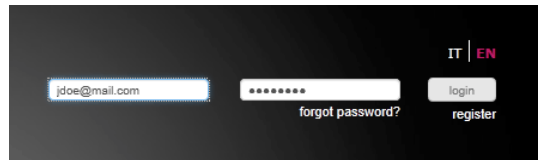
*SofTeam Distribuzione - [www.softeamitalia.com](http://www.softeamitalia.com) SofTeam Development -  
[www.softeamweb.com](http://www.softeamweb.com)*

*1 via Don Gnocchi - 20050 Macherio (MI) Italia tel +39 03920789.1 - fax +39 0392078964*

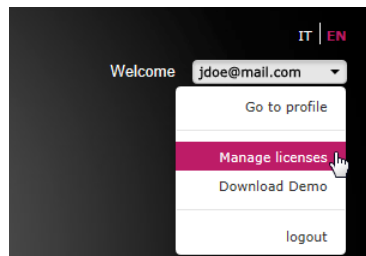
13. Fill in the registration code as in the figure below when the program is started.

14. If there was no need to download the latest version, go to the next paragraph (setup MacSign).

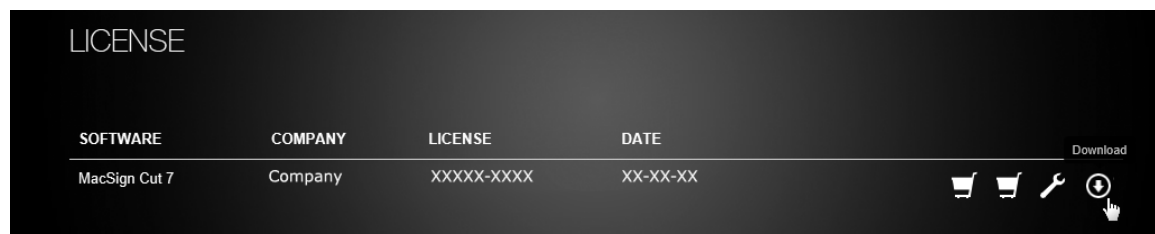
15. To download the latest version, go to [www.softteamweb.com](http://www.softteamweb.com). If the login is not automatically, then fill in your login name and password.



16. Once logged in, click the drop down arrow at the right side of the login name. Choose manage license.




17. A new window opens. The licensed cutters are displayed. There are three options. Click a shopping cart to purchase an upgrade for the current installed version of MacSign Cut. Click the wrench to ask for support. Click the download icon to download the latest version of MacSign Cut.



18. A new window opens. Fill in the necessary fields and click on the filter icon.




**SofTeam®** | software

IT | EN  
Welcome jdoe@mail.com

## DOWNLOAD AREA

We suggest you to select the desired operating system for a faster detection of the available downloads for your license

You can also look for the other downloads selecting the filters below

software

MacSign Cut

version

10

operating system

Mac OS

language

English

Filter

✕ Restore

MacSign Cut V10 [ rel. 10.2.0 ]	English	application	Mac OS	OS X 10.5 to 10.8	73 MB	13/03/2013	download
Plug-in Illustrator CS2-6	English	application	Mac OS	OS X 10.5 to 10.8	1.5 MB	13/03/2013	download
Dongle Driver [ ver. 2.2 ]		driver and tools	Mac OS	up to OS 9	42 KB	12/01/2001	download
Dongle Driver [ ver. 1.91 ]		driver and tools	Mac OS	OS X 10.3 to 10.5	650 KB	11/01/2007	download

**19.** Click on the download icon to download the latest version of MacSign Cut.

**20.** The plug-in can also be separately downloaded if the installed version of MacSign is up to date. However if the complete program is downloaded, the plug-ins are also included in the dmg file.

**NOTE:**

The plug-in installs a script in order to quickly export a drawing from Illustrator to MacSign. It opens it also if it wasn't open already. The plug-in also has the ability to set OPOS marks around the objects. However, if MacSign Cut does not send the OPOS parameters directly to the cutter or if a complete functionality of OPOS is needed, an update to MacSign lite or an upgrade to the full version of MacSign is necessary (see last page options/version table).

## ***Installing MacSign***

### ***Operating system 10.5 or higher ( Mac with Intel processor):***

Double click the downloaded file. The computer will automatically mount the dmg file. Install the desired language version of MacSign Cut from there.



### ***Earlier operating systems:***

Unstuff the downloaded file and place it in the application folder.

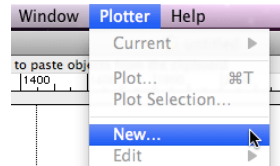
**21.** Use the registration code to register the latest installed version (return to step 12).

### Configuration

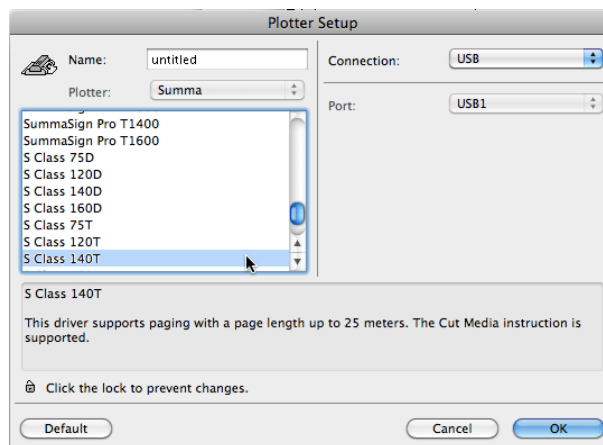
After MacSign Cut™ is installed, it must be configured to work with a Summa cutter/plotter.

#### Installing a cutter

1. Start MacSign Cut™.
2. Click Plotter -> New

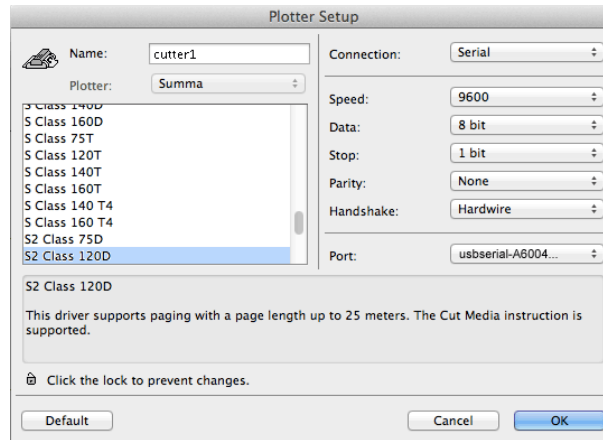


3. Click the cutter model inside the "Plotter Setup" window and select the appropriate port from the list. Fill in a name, if necessary.
- ☐ If a USB port is being used, the port will be defaulted to USB1 (make sure the USB class on the cutter is set at USB1 and that the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation).

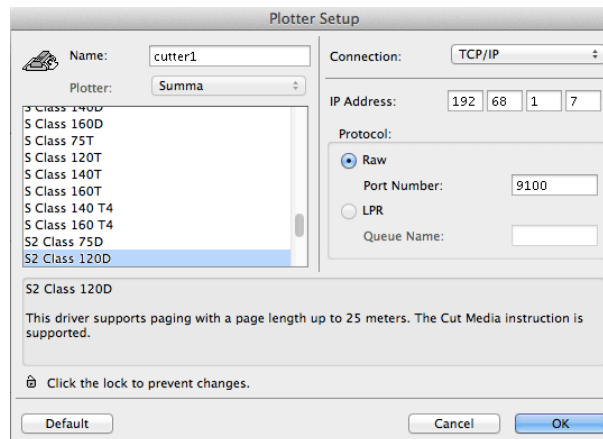


**NOTE:** There are no options to fill in if the connection is USB. If more than one cutter needs to be connected to one computer, an upgrade must be purchased.

- If a serial port (COM) is being used, there are some options that can be set. (make sure the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation). The default COM settings are set in the figure. They are the same as in the cutter when it leaves the factory:



- If a TCP/IP connection is being used, the correct IP address must be filled in. Check for the correct IP address on the cutter (make sure the cutter is set to AUTO or DMPL emulation).



4. Click **OK** to exit "Plotter Setup". MacSign Cut™ is now ready to communicate with your cutter.

### Using Adobe Illustrator

There are three ways to import a graphic into MacSign Cut™:

- By using the plug-in (for Adobe Illustrator CS2 and higher)
- By copy & paste and drag & drop into MacSign Cut™.
- By importing the graphic into MacSign Cut™ (\*.ai file format version 3.0)

### Using a plug-in for Illustrator

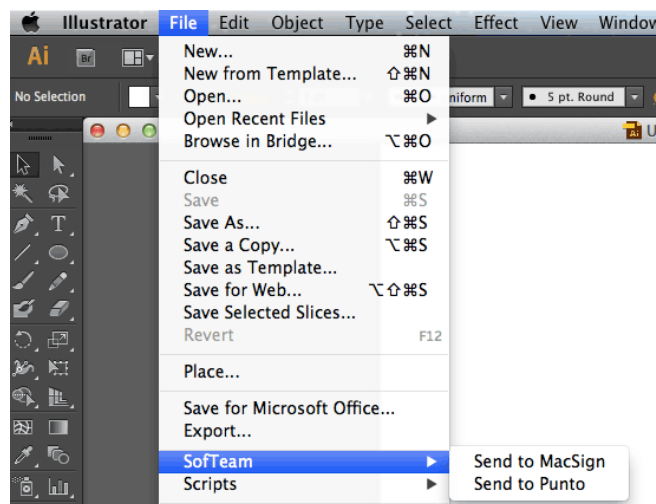
If the used version of Illustrator is CS2 or higher and the version of MacSign Cut™ is version 10, a plug-in (see section installation) can be used for importing the graphic into MacSign Cut™. An upgrade to a full version is recommended for OPOS jobs. Go to [www.softteamweb](http://www.softteamweb) for more info.

#### ***Bringing a graphic into MacSign Cut™:***

When the graphic is brought into MacSign Cut™ with the plug-in, following things happen:

- Objects are grouped per layer; the groups cannot be ungrouped afterwards in MacSign Cut™.
- Invisible layers are not exported to MacSign Cut™.
- If objects are selected, only the selected objects are exported to MacSign Cut™.
- Bitmap objects are ignored.

With the current version of the plug-in, the top option has to be selected.



## Exporting from Illustrator and importing in MacSign Cut™

Make sure all objects are outlines and preferably not filled.

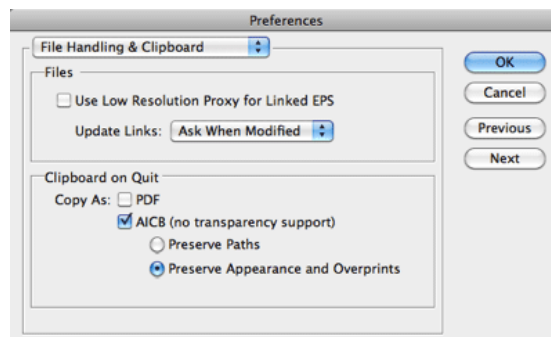
Select all text and go to menu "type". Click "create outlines". It is also recommended to make sure they are not filled and that the outline gets a color.

Make sure to export to the correct version of adobe Illustrator in order to work with MacSign Cut™.

- For Illustrator versions up to 10: Go to menu File and save as Illustrator file version 7
- For Illustrator versions CS: Go to "File " menu export. Choose as file type Adobe Illustrator Legacy. In the Illustrator Legacy Options window, choose Illustrator 3.
- For Illustrator versions CS2 and higher: Go to "File" menu save as. Choose as file type Adobe Illustrator. In the Illustrator Options window, choose Illustrator 3.

## Drag & drop into MacSign Cut™

Drag and drop is recommended for Illustrator versions lower than CS2. In order to copy and paste works with Illustrator, change the following in Illustrator: Open the Illustrator Edit ->Preferences ->File Handling & Clipboard dialog box and turn on the AICB option.



Now it is possible to copy & paste and drag & drop artwork from Illustrator to MacSign Cut™.

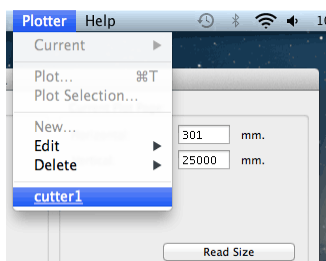
The following procedure lists the basic steps, necessary to cut a design. For information about MacSign Cut™'s additional cutting features, read the user's guide.

### Importing a graphic

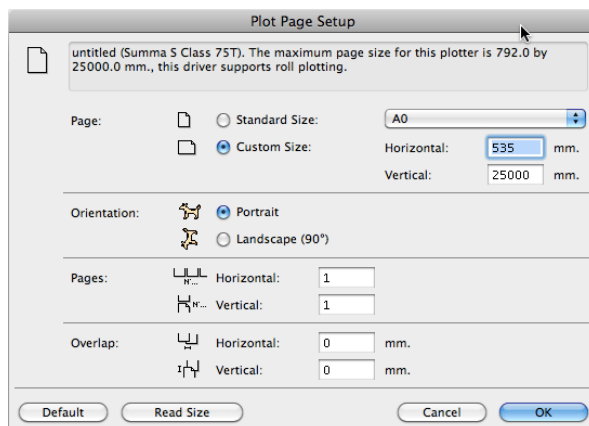
Open MacSign Cut™. Click File -> import -> saved file type or drag directly from Illustrator into the working area. You can also use the plug-in (see previous paragraph).

### Page Setup

If a job is not opened yet, the page width (or size in case a sheet is loaded) can be set by going to Plotter -> name of installed plotter (cutter 1 in figure below). Then click on Read Size. If a job is opened in MacSign, a page will be opened with the correct width (size) in portrait and the job will be set at the lower left corner. Check the next paragraph for explanations about the orientation.



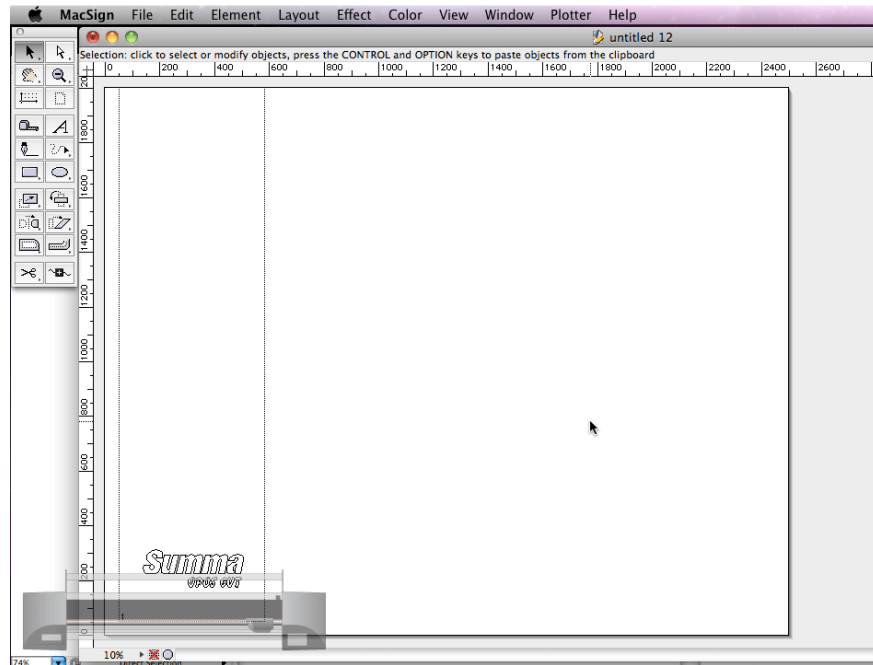
If a job is opened, a complete page setup can be done by going to File -> Plotter Page Setup. It is advised to check "Read Size" to avoid unexpected clipping or tiling if it has not been done before. The page is made visible on screen with a dashed line. The pages are also numbered in case a job is divided over several pages.



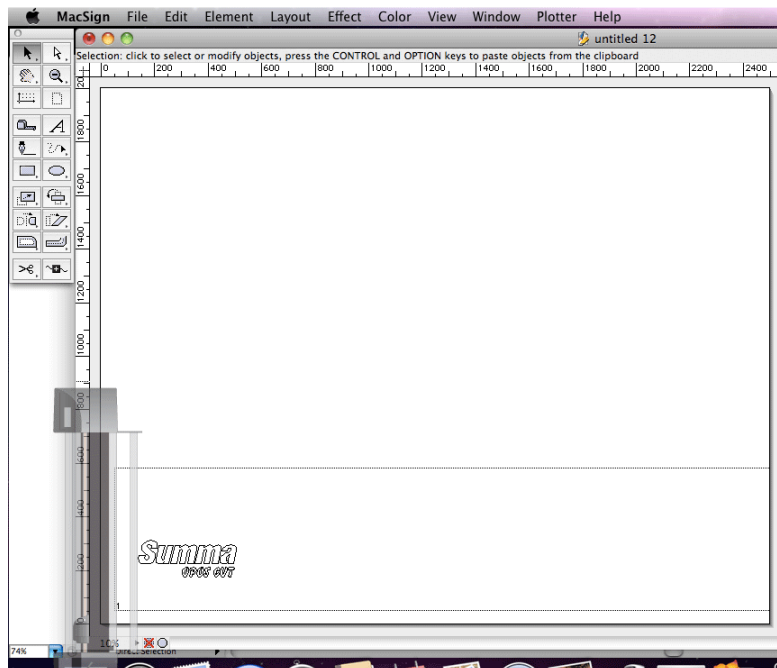
## Orientation and position of the design

Following two figures have a picture of a cutter superimposed on the design. This shows how the design will be cut out on the cutter (the orientation is very important when doing OPOS jobs).

When the orientation in the page setup is set at portrait:



When the orientation in the page setup is set at landscape:





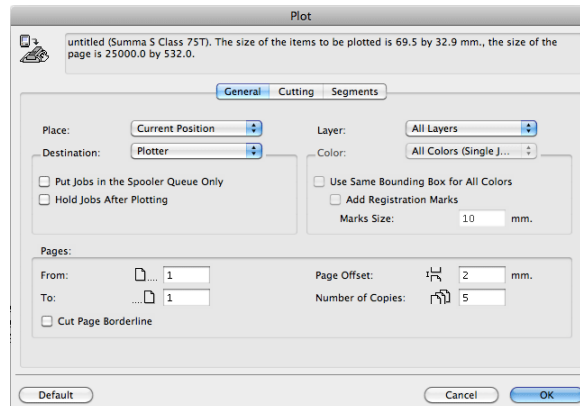
## Cutting the design

Click Plotter -> Plot. There are three tabs in this plot window.

*The first tab contains the general settings.*

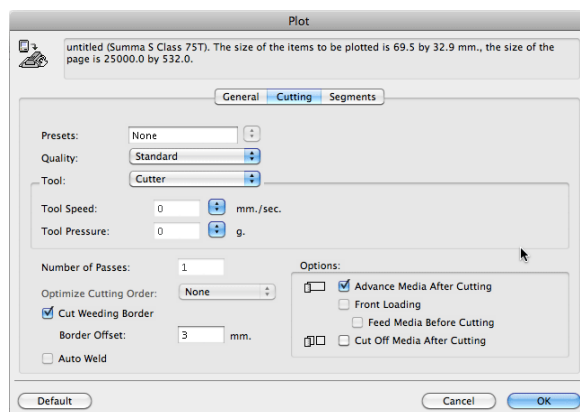
The most important one is "Place". If it is set to Current Position, the place where the design is cut, will be the same as the one seen in the window on screen. If Optimal Position is selected, the design will be cut out at the origin of the loaded media. When the page setup is set to portrait, the origin is situated at the lower left corner of the loaded media.

When the page setup is set to landscape, the origin is situated at the lower right corner.



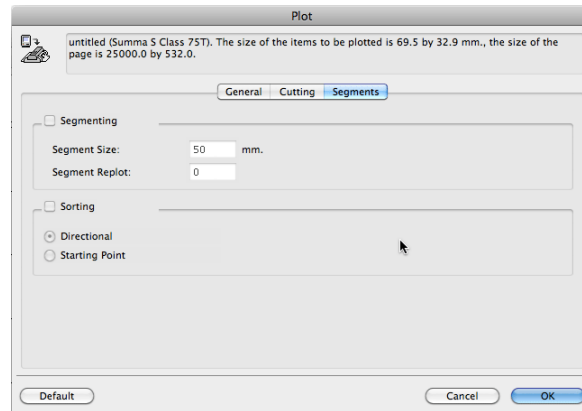
*The second tab is used to set specific cutting parameters.*

The most used parameters are the cutting border, the media advance after cutting and the cut off media. It is best to change the other parameters in the cutter itself. Some options are not active in the Cut version. An upgrade is recommended to activate all options.

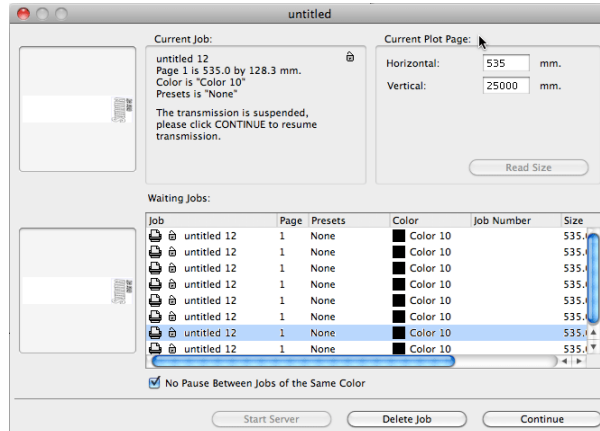


*The third tab is used to control the internal paneling function of the cutter.*

Paneling can either be done with the intelligence of the cutter, or with MacSign Cut™ itself. If the paneling of MacSign Cut™ itself needs to be used, set this up in the plot page setup window. In this window a 'page' can be seen as a 'panel'. This way paneling in both the X and Y direction is possible. The internal paneling in the cutter is only used for paneling in one direction (the media movement direction).



If all options are set correctly, click on OK. The job is then placed in the spooler queue. Here the size of the loaded sheet/roll can be polled again. The upper left preview shows the job that will be sent to the cutter. The lower left preview panel can be used by selecting a job from the queue. The queue can be run in the background (choose option no pause). If this option is not checked, the user has to start each job individually.



## Comparison table existing versions

### General

Manage illustrations more effectively with easy-to-use, time-saving floating palettes.	*	*	*
Correct unwanted changes with multiple levels of undo/redo.	*	*	*
Keyboard shortcuts for many operations, commands and tools (user-definable).	*	*	*
Get feedback from the on-screen status line on cursor position, currently selected tools and job attributes.	*	*	*
Open multiple files or multiple versions of the same file at once and switch between windows.	*	*	*
Easily view, search, select, and open multiple designs with the Design Browser window.	*	*	*
The Scroller palette allows you to quickly move around complex documents.	*	*	*
Lasso tools to create irregularly-shaped selections.	*	*	*
Marquee zoom in or out to your preferred viewing level for precise editing.	*	*	*
Measure distances between any two points.	*	*	*
Cut and paste between graphics design applications, like Adobe Illustrator, Corel CorelDRAW, Macromedia FreeHand, etc.	*	*	*
Drag and Drop between graphics design applications, like Adobe Illustrator, Corel CorelDRAW, Macromedia FreeHand, etc. (Mac OS X only)	*	*	*
Adobe Illustrator and Corel CorelDRAW plug-ins to send the artwork directly to MacSign.	*	*	*
Cut and paste between application's windows.	*	*	*
Drag and Drop between application's windows.	*	*	*
Import files in Adobe Illustrator's EPS and default native formats, Corel Presentation Exchange (CMX) format, HP-GL format.	*	*	*
Export files in Adobe Illustrator 3.0/3.2 EPS format.	*	*	*
Optional on-screen rulers.	*	*	*
Pull horizontal and vertical line guides out from rulers.	*	*	*
Create grids for precision drawing.	*	*	*
User-controlled snap-to-grid and snap-to-point features.	*	*	*
Libraries can be used to store jobs and cliparts. 1,000 logos, symbols and artworks included free of charge.	*	*	*

### Drawing

Scale, rotate, reflect, and shear elements interactively by dragging the bounding box handles.	*	*	*
Move, scale, rotate, reflect and shear elements precisely with the Transform palette.	*	*	*
Align or distribute elements by using the Align palette.	*	*	*
Set constraints to move or transform elements at any user-defined angle.	*	*	*
Move shapes in precise distances at exact angles.	*	*	*
Create artwork from scratch with the Pen or Pencil tools.	*	*	*
Manually trace over scanned images with precision drawing tools.	*	*	*
Automatically trace over black-and-white, grayscale or indexed color (up to 256 gray levels or colors) images with the Trace command.	*	*	*
Create rectangles, squares, rounded rectangles, rounded squares, circles, ellipses, stars, polygons and spirals with basic shape tools.	*	*	*
Parallel paths, outline and inline tools.	*	*	*
Instantly edit straight lines and smooth curves with maximum control, using the full-featured Pen tool.	*	*	*
Change corner points to smooth points or vice versa.	*	*	*
Adjust Bézier curves by moving the anchor points or direction handles.	*	*	*
Delete anchor points or add anchor points to any path for tighter control.	*	*	*
Cut paths at any user-defined place and elements in pieces.	*	*	*
Join any two terminal anchor points.	*	*	*
Group and ungroup elements.	*	*	*
Lock or hide any element or set of elements for easy editing.	*	*	*
Compound paths to create transparent holes in elements.	*	*	*
Multiple layers to overlay graphics and text, for greater design freedom and control.	*	*	*
Create, name, delete, move, lock, hide, and merge layers quickly with the easy-to-use Layers palette.	*	*	*
Create, name, delete, edit and select colors quickly with the intuitive Colors palette.	*	*	*
The Envelopes palette brings you powerful transformations: elements in perspective views, receding into the distance, bridging,...	*	*	*
Use the Pathfinder palette to create new elements by combining, subdividing, or isolating parts of overlapping elements.	*	*	*

### Text

Input text using TrueType, OpenType .otf and Type 1 PostScript fonts.	*	*	*
Combine different attributes such as character's font, style and size in the same block of text.	*	*	*
Precisely control leading, horizontal scale, letter and word spacing.	*	*	*
Use the Kerning window to specify customized spacing between pairs of letters.	*	*	*
Automatically align text as centered, flush-left, flush-right or justified.	*	*	*
Adjust text to fit into an area.	*	*	*
Measure text attributes in points, inches, centimeters, millimeters or tenths of millimeters.	*	*	*
Convert TrueType, OpenType .otf and Type 1 PostScript fonts to fully editable outlines to create customized letterforms.	*	*	*
Text on a path allows you to place typefaces along curves, around circles, or along vertical or diagonal lines.	*	*	*
Apply envelope distortions to text elements without converting them into outlines.	*	*	*
300 TrueType and/or PostScript Type 1 fonts included free of charge.	*	*	*

### Rhinestone

Place rhinestones manually by using the Stone tool.	*	*	*
Automatically arrange rhinestones along any path.	*	*	*
Automatically fill areas with rhinestones using hatch, island and pixel fills.	*	*	*
Precisely control stone diameter and spreading, spacing, overlap, corners, pitch, hatch angle, ...	*	*	*
Use the Effects palette to create, edit, delete and/or apply stone effects.	*	*	*
Use the Effects Libraries palette to create and re-use collections of your own stone effects.	*	*	*
Use the Stones palette to select stones from a range of stone catalogues.	*	*	*
Major stones manufacturers' catalogues included free of charge.	*	*	*
Create, edit, and import pre-set or your own stones catalogues.	*	*	*
Easily adjust overlapping stones.	*	*	*
Calculate and export the number of stones to create cost estimates.	*	*	*

## Production

Use the Vinyls palette to select colors from vinyls libraries.	*	*	
Create, edit, and import pre-set or your own vinyls color charts libraries.	*	*	
Match colors to automatically find the vinyls whose colors are the closest simulation of the design's colors.	*	*	
Obtain exact size of material from plotter.	*	*	*
Automatic or manual paneling, each with optional weed borders and overlaps.	*	*	• (1)
Manually adjust, add and remove panels by dragging the panels lines.	*	*	
In roll plotters, the paneling allows continuous cutting along the entire length of a roll of vinyl.	*	*	*
Use the Serialization feature to produce personalized items for a sports team or club.	*	*	
Automatic step & repeat with spacing.	*	*	*
Automatically fit or fill copies to cutter page for better media savings.	*	*	
Colors separation with optional material optimization.	*	*	
Advanced colors separation with colors bounding box and registration marks management.	*	*	
Automatic removal of intersections of overlapping elements of the same color.	*	*	
Cut by color, panel and layer.	*	*	• (4)
Cut of entire job or selected elements.	*	*	*
Set the desired quality to cut the artwork.	†	†	†
Set the desired tool speed and pressure to cut the artwork.	*	†	†
Cutting order optimization to improve the tracking performance during long plots and/or to reduce time wasting head movements.	*	*	
Segmenting to improve the cutting through and/or the tracking of difficult media.	*	*	
Set how many times the knife cuts each path of your artwork to cut very thick media.	*	*	
Support of cutters' optical alignment methods to guarantee precise contour cutting around pre-printed graphics (Summa's OPOS, Graphtec's	*	*	
Adobe Illustrator and Corel CorelDRAW plug-ins to add registration marks and barcode to your artwork for print and cut workflow (Summa's	*	• (1)	• (1)
Automatic detection of optical alignment methods' registration marks and origin point alignment.	*	*	
Support of automatic "contour cutting" jobs with bar code workflow through a "bar code server" (Summa's OPOS BARCODE and Mutoh's	*	*	
Direct setup and control of the cutter's cut through (die-cut) features (Summa's FlexCut and Mutoh's Cut Through).	*	*	
Create, recall, edit and delete cutting presets ("snapshots" of all choosen cutting settings).	*	*	
Plotter setup to configure the plotter vendor and model and provide connection information.	*	*	*
Support of the Raw TCP/IP printing protocol to communicate with the plotter.	*	*	*
Quickly plot jobs with a plot spooler (aka the plot queue) running in background.	*	*	*
Install and manage multiple plotters, the application maintains a plot spooler for each plotter you have installed.	*	*	
Support of the most common cutters: Summa, Mutoh, Graphtec, Roland, Houston, Mimaki, Zünd, Aristo, Wild, ANAgraph, Ioline, GCC, and	*	*	• (5)
Integration with RIPs to automatically manage "print and cut" jobs workflows. (3)	*	*	

First column: MacSign

Second column: MacSign Lite

Third column: MacSign Cut

(1) Automatic only.

(2) For list of supported models and connections on each OS, refer to Read Me files included in the software or contact SofTeam. (3) For list of supported RIPs contact SofTeam.

(4) Cut by color is disabled.

(5) Manufacturer's models only.

### New feature available in MacSign 10.

©SofTeam S.r.l., 2011. Trademarks are the property of their respective owners.