BAY STENCIL

Contents
Depending on your download type, this .zip file contains the following files.

Filename	Description
all-cuts.svg	Typically, **this is the only SVG file you need**. It contains all layers, all panels, and all masks for everything you could want to cut, sized just the way you want it.
original.png	Scaled *raster* version of your *original image* that you uploaded to Bay Stencil
cyan.svg magenta.svg yellow.svg black.svg	You probably don't need these. **Use all-cuts.svg instead.** These are all the halftone stencils for a CMYK color separation. You may see other versions, like red-green-black or red-yellow-blue-black.
mask.svg reverse.svg	These are **included in all-cuts.svg** and are cuts you can use to mask off the entire subject of your stencil, or the entire background.
all-layers-together.svg	The **vector** version of the file above. You might use it for making your own stencil with your own bridging.
simulation.jpg	A simulation of the painted stencil along with the stencils used for painting..
simulation.png	A flat simulation of all the layers applied to a white surface, showing where bridge masking occurs as well
card.svg	BETA test: If your preset color-separated stencil has 2 or 3 layers in it, then a special file has been added to your download. You can cut and paint it as a **stencil card** to send to a friend.
1-bridged.jpg 2-bridged.jpg …	The full-size **raster** images of each layer **fully bridged.** You can print out these files to cut your stencils by hand.
1.svg 2.svg …	The **vector** image that shows the unbridged layers as cut files. Viewer discretion is advised: we don't recommend cutting from these files.
1-1.svg 1-2.svg 2-1.svg 2-2.svg ….	You probably don't need these. **Use all-cuts.svg instead.** It's much easier. These are the full-size **vector** images for **all the panels** of each layer, in a multi-panel download. The format is <layer#>-<panel#>.svg.

How to Use the Files

Chances are, you came to Bay Stencil looking to download SVG files to cut your stencil on a craft or laser cutter. You'll want the SVG files for this, and they are in the directory called *svg-layers*. Here are instructions (where you'll also find links to videos) for how to use the SVG files in the most common programs.

- [Uploading SVGs to Design Space](#)
- [Using SVGs with Silhouette craft cutters](#)
- [Sure Cuts a Lot and your SVGs](#)
- [SVGs and Lightburn](#)

JPG versus SVG

You may be wondering why all the files are supplied as JPG and SVG. JPG is a *raster* format, which means that it is made of pixels on a grid. SVG is a *vector* format, which means that it is made of points and curves described by mathematical formulas.

JPG is good for some things, like dropping into PhotoShop for a quick edit, or uploading to the web as your new profile picture (!); SVG is good for other things, like making a super-huge version of the image that looks as good as the small one. You can open a JPG file in any application where you would expect to use an image. SVG files are a bit more special: you can use programs like Adobe Illustrator or CorelDraw or Inkscape to open and manipulate SVG files.

Read more about [vector and raster files.](#)

Bridged vs Unbridged

Each layer of your stencil is provided to you in unbridged form, in case you want to bridge it yourself. (See if you can beat the bridging algorithm—good luck!)

Each layer is also provided with bridges included. In the JPG version of the bridged file ('2-1-bridged.jpg, for example), you can tell the bridges from the pure stencil forms because the bridges are grey and the pure stencil form is rendered in black and white. This is to help you with cutting by hand. You may not want to use every bridge that is created by the bridging program; some of the bridges are more distracting visually than others, and usually pieces are connected by more than one bridge. Seeing the bridges in grey helps you decide whether you need to cut that piece or not.

By Layer or All Together

There is a JPG and an SVG image that contains all the color layers together. You may find this useful if you have some application in mind other than cutting a stencil. Lots of folks like to make paper collages and paper sculptures from the images from Bay Stencil. Others want to paint a mural, and project the JPG image onto a wall using a projector, and then paint freehand based on the outlines shown in the projected image.

Having Trouble?

In the email that this zip file came in, there is a link to report issues or trouble with this download. It can help you troubleshoot, and offers a way to escalate to get help if you still don't find what you're looking for.

Looking for More?

Find step-by-step instructions for cutting your stencil **by hand** at [Bay Stencil's How-To](#). New to stenciling? You can start with our [Stenciling 101](#).