



THE *Ultimate* GUIDE
TO
PRINTABLE
SUPPLIES

WWW.PRINTABLECRUSH.COM



This e-book contains affiliate links to some of my favorite products. That means if you click on a link and purchase an item, I get a small commission at no extra charge to you.



HEY FRIEND!

I'm Erin with **Printable Crush** and I'm here to save you from your printable woes. Trust me, I've been there!

It would take me days, weeks even to create my printables for parties. I had to painstakingly cut every cupcake topper and popcorn box by hand.

BUT NO MORE!

For years, I've been collecting all the printable supplies and this handy E-book includes all my favorite resources. That means you don't have to spend years researching circle hole punches. I've got it all here, along with tips on how to create your own printables!

This e-book is also INTERACTIVE. Every button and underlined text links to a product or resource when you have this open in Adobe Reader.

Don't feel the need to acquire everything at once. Remember, it's taken me YEARS!!

ENJOY!



Erin

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All About Design

FREE OPTIONS

Microsoft Word: Basically....it's free. You can create basic shapes and add text. I wouldn't recommend working in a Word document for printables, but if you don't have any options, it can be done.

Canva: Canva is super cool. I've only used it a couple times, but I really like how fast it is. It works the best for creating word art or creating picture collages. It comes with many templates, icons, and shapes, but you can always upgrade for more. I recommend it if you don't want to completely customize your printables.

PAID OPTIONS

PicMonkey: This is a lot like Canva, but a little more robust. It's great for photo editing and you can easily add graphics that you purchase through places like [Creative Market](#).

Adobe Photoshop: Photoshop is a great option for printables. It's a powerful piece of software and I know a lot of bloggers that only use Photoshop for printables. Photoshop brushes work great to give your printables texture and working with layers in Photoshop is a breeze.

My biggest complaint about using Photoshop is that when you make an image small, it will lose its quality when you make it large again. Photoshop has a big learning curve and ultimately, this program was designed for photography.

If Photoshop is too much for you, you can always start with its little sister, [Photoshop Elements](#).

Adobe Illustrator: This program simply can not be beat. I could go on for hours about it...in fact, I do in my new [Printable Crush Course](#) for Illustrator! It has a learning curve (trust me on this...I'm self-taught), but once you get it, everything just clicks.

Illustrator is superior to other art programs because it's in vector format. This means you can resize a graphic as much as you like and you won't lose the quality of the image!

If you're thinking you want both Illustrator AND Photoshop, you should consider signing up for Adobe Creative Cloud.

[**LEARN MORE ABOUT MY BASIC PRINTABLE DESIGN COURSE**](#)

What Printer do I need?

In the first edition of this e-book, I noted that I had THREE printers. I decluttered a lot and ended up donating two of those, one of my printers broke, and I now have one Laser printer that I LOVE. Use these printers on high quality **card stock** or **premium printer paper** for the best results.

LASER PRINTERS

PROS:

- Vibrant Colors
- Prints SUPER fast
- Inexpensive
- Toner lasts FOREVER
- Wireless Available

CONS:

- Print job isn't quite as smooth as inkjet
- Toner is expensive
- Paper can come out curved

**If you get a laser printer, try high gloss laser paper...you won't regret it!*

INKJET PRINTERS

PROS:

- Inexpensive
- Scans, copies and prints
- iPhone integration
- Great for photos
- Wireless Available

CONS:

- Colors are not as vibrant
- Ink runs out quickly
- I've had some bug problems

MY PRINTER RECOMMENDATIONS

Brother Color Laserjet: This is the printer I currently own. It's the easiest to set up and least buggy of any printer I've ever owned. The only issue I have is that the colors are hard to match with the screen, but overall, I'm very happy with this printer.

Canon Inkjet: This prints BEAUTIFULLY! I don't own one, but I've used it at several crafting conferences and my friends that have one love it! As always, with inkjets, the ink does run out quickly, but will be fine for hobbyists.

**Make sure you check Amazon reviews for any printer issues before you purchase*



Cutting Tools

Whether you are just starting out with printables, or ready for the next step, these cutting tools will help you get the job done faster.

CRICUT VS. SILHOUETTE

The machine you choose completely depends on personal preference, but either way...if you're planning on cutting out a lot of party printables, you'll need a cutting machine like the [Cricut](#) or [Silhouette](#).

I am personally Team Cricut because that machine cuts printables LIKE A DREAM. It is extremely accurate with cut lines. With the Silhouette, I had numerous issues with it not picking up the registration marks.

I also LOVE that the [CRICUT MAKER](#) has so many amazing abilities, like cutting out fabric and thicker materials like balsa wood. I know...not paper, but still fun if you're a crafter!

I have TONS of posts about the Cricut, so [CHECK THEM OUT HERE](#)

The only thing I like better about Silhouette is the design software. I like that it's not online and it is more like working in [Adobe Illustrator](#).

However, the benefits of the Cricut outweigh the benefits of the Silhouette for me. But that doesn't necessarily mean the Cricut is the machine for you! Make sure you do your research before purchasing.

OTHER CUTTING TOOLS

TOOL	GREAT FOR
Cricut TRUCONTROL Knife	An X-acto knife on steroids. It's my new favorite thing!
2" Round Hole Punch	Cupcake Toppers, Gift Tags
Small Hole Punch	Create hole to attach gift tags with ribbon
Cutterpillar	Cutting Straight lines for invitations or art prints
Large Scissors	Cutting irregular shaped items
Small Scissors	Cutting small, intricate items
Confetti Hole Punch	Creates confetti on your choice of paper
Tassle Maker	Evenly cuts strips for perfect tassles
Rosette Punch	A pretty punch for the edges of paper fans



Of course, check out hole punches from some of my favorite brands like [We R Memory Keepers](#), [Martha Stewart](#), and [EK Tools](#)!

Printable Assembly Guide

My biggest problem when I first started was finding ways to make things stay together. I have tried almost every type of adhesive under the sun...and these are the ones I always come back to:

TOOL

GREAT FOR

[Glue Gun](#)

Permanent adhesive (i.e. paper straws to cupcake toppers)

[Tombow Mono Adhesive](#)

My FAVORITE adhesives that are great for most paper crafts

[Command Strips](#)

Attaching backdrops to your wall without damaging it

[Regular Scotch Tape](#)

I end up using it in almost every party - because it works!

ITEMS TO KEEP ON HAND

[Scoring Board](#)

[Paper Straws](#)

[Extra Glue Sticks](#)

[Self Healing Mat](#)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DESIGNING YOUR OWN PRINTABLES IN ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR, CLICK THE LINK BELOW!

[LEARN MORE](#)

