THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

PRINTABLE
SUPPLIES
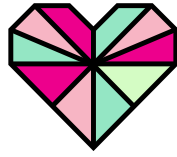
PRINTABLE

Crush

Learn. Design. Print.

HEY ALL!

I'm Erin with Printable Crush. I am a self-taught graphic designer and I started creating printables 4 years ago. 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.

I have since been collecting all the printable tools and supplies I need to be more efficient and I'm sharing all my favorites with you! Some of these are essential and some are just for fun. Don't feel the need to aquire everything at once. Remember, it's taken me 4 years!

ENJOY!

Much Love,

Erin

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 commision at no extra charge to you.

DESIGN

FREE OPTIONS

Paint for PC: VERY limited. You can create shapes and write text. It's easy to grasp, but that's because there aren't many features.

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

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 it's quality when you make it large again. Photoshop has a big learning curve and ultimately, this program was designed for photography.

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 images are vectorized. That means you can resize your images as many times as you like without changing the quality of the image. I've created large signs and small stickers using the same graphic.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRINTABLE CRUSH COURSE SO YOU CAN START CREATING IN ILLUSTRATOR!

PRINT

I currently have 3 printers in my home…it's a bit excessive. Each printer has different capabilities, strengths and weaknesses, but my favorite is my Xerox Phaser! This is a list of pros and cons of the printers that I use. I really like them each of them, but make sure you research other printer options before you make your decision!

XEROX PHASER 6500

PROS:

Vibrant Colors
Prints SUPER fast
Inexpensive
Toner lasts FOREVER
Works with a Minc

CONS:

Print job isn't quite as smooth as inkjet
Toner is expensive
Paper comes out curved

HP ENVY

PROS:

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

CONS:

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

EPSON STYLUS PRO

PROS:

Prints beautifully
Photos are professional quality
Prints large images

CONS:

Very Expensive
Expensive ink that runs out quickly
Takes up way too much space

I print almost all my printables on **white 90 lb. cover stock or thicker**. That includes invites, cupcake toppers, tent cards, party hats, photo props, crowns, masks, etc.

For more flexible items like straw flags, bottle wrappers or cupcake wrappers, I use **65 lb. white paper**.

CUT

Cutting everything with scissors takes FOREVER! Here's my list of cutting tools that will make your life SOOOOO much easier.

MUST HAVE CUTTING TOOLS

TOOL	GREAT FOR
2" Round Hole Punch	Cupcake Toppers, Gift Tags
Small Hole Punch	Create hole to attach gift tags with ribbon
Paper Trimmer	Cutting Straight lines for invitations or art prints
Large Scissors	Cutting irregular shaped items
Small Scissors	Cutting small, intricate items

MAX EFFICIENCY CUTTING TOOLS

TOOL	GREAT FOR
Silhouette Cameo	Print and cut feature so you can create any printable you'd like. Easy interface.
Cricut Explore	Cuts amazing, but interface isn't quite as good as Silhouette's.

JUST FOR FUN

TOOL	GREAT FOR
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

And of course, check out other fun hole punches from my favorite brands like We R Memory Keepers, Martha Stewart and EK!

OTHER FUN TOOLS

My biggest problem when I first started was finding ways to make things stay together. These are my favorite "sticky things" and it's no accident that my glue gun is first!

STICKY THINGS

TOOL	GREAT FOR
Glue Gun	Attaching printables to paper straws, etc.
Double Sided Tape	Items that do not need a strong adhesive
Glue Dots	Everything. These will save your life someday.
Sticker Paper	Creating your own custom stickers
Scotch Wall Mounting Squares	Attaching backdrops to your wall without ruining it.

And finally, the one tool that will make your life easier is the **Score Board**. I use this to make smooth folding lines on all my boxes, tent cards and invites!

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

LEARN MORE