

To: New VCarve Pro Students

May 1, 2020

Welcome to VCarve Pro software provided by the Sun City West Metal Club. We are proud we can offer the latest constantly updated version of a premier CAD program.

VCarve Pro is the same program used by many of the Wood Shop members for their CNC carving machine designs. It is a very user-friendly program and although there is a bit of a learning curve, it can substantially speed up your drawing and clean up of patterns over other CAD programs.

The Metal Club has put together a series of emails to get you up to speed on VCarve Pro. They will be sent to you following this Introductory email.

**Getting Started with VCarve Pro (Email #1):** Get started by downloading the program and entering the Makerspace ID. This is all explained in the first email attachment (“Getting Started with VCarve Pro”). Also, there are several tutorials included in this first email to get you started. Just follow the emails sent to you for further information.

**VCarve Pro Online Tutorials:** VCarve Pro has many tutorials available over the internet on youtube.com. This makes learning easy since you learn at your own pace and schedule. We realize you will have questions, so plans are in the works to hold workshops to provide assistance and help where you might be stumped along the way when the shop re-opens in the future.

Please understand that the tutorials are more aligned to wood cutting and several sections do not apply to metal cutting (mostly relating to 3D tutorials). Keep in mind you that you are cutting on a flat metal sheet rather than engraving or cutting 2 sides of the metal. This will help you easily determine what parts are directed to metal cutting vs. wood cutting.

**Computer Skills Needed for VCarve Pro:** To successfully use VCarve Pro, you must be familiar with computers and have the basic computer skills to run Windows 10. Here are some examples of the computer skills required:

- How to set up and organize files and folders
- How to name and save files
- Understand what a website link is
- How to watch a tutorial, stop it, start it, pause it, and replay it
- How to close a program, switch between programs and Windows is a necessity
- How to insert, save to, and properly exit a USB drive.

If you do not feel you have these basic skills, we suggest you acquire them before trying to get into VCarve Pro. Our tutors will not be able to provide you with basic computer skills. These skills can be learned at SCW Computer West, PORA, or Rec Center Explore Classes. But you must have these basic computer skills, or you will find working with VCarve Pro very frustrating.

**Next Steps to Cut Your VCarve Pro File:** Once you master patterns in VCarve Pro, you will want to cut them out on the new Laguna machine. Currently there are about six (6) club members who are factory-trained instructors to help you cut out your patterns. These instructors will insist on checking your pattern and post processing it for you before cutting it out. Post Processing must be done in the shop.

Once the shop reopens from COVID-19 shutdown, we hope to eventually get more members certified on the Laguna to help members cut out their patterns. Two members, one certified on the Laguna, will be required to cut out any pattern on this machine.

**Help & Assistance Available:**

If you have questions or need further assistance with the VCarve Pro software, please email the team at [education@scwmetalshop.com](mailto:education@scwmetalshop.com).

Good luck as you begin to learn VCarve Pro!