

Fox Lite offers custom vacuum forming and laser cutting services. The management at Fox Lite have been RC modelers for 20 + years and understand the requirements of RC kit manufactures.

For laser cutting we use a Beam Dynamics 500 watt 48" x 48" laser cutting center. This is not a "table top engraving" machine. It is very fast, very accurate and we always use nitrogen gas assist for char free cutting of balsa and ply.

How we do business:

Designs come to us in a variety of formats. We have worked with every thing from sketches on napkins, existing parts and poor CAD drawings to "ready to cut" CAD files. We can accept almost any CAD format.

Some of our customers supply the balsa and ply for their projects. This allows them to select the quality and grade most appropriate for their application. Or, we can supply the material. We stock most common balsa sheet sizes, aircraft ply and lite ply

The key to minimizing initial laser cutting costs is precise drafting practices. Multiple lines stacked over each other and poor intersections can be time consuming to correct. We use Sigmanest software to convert cad files into laser cut paths. This is very sophisticated software with a number of capabilities that can significantly reduce design time. The designer can draw all parts to net dimensions without considering the 0.003" to 0.005" laser kerf. It is not necessary to specify inside or outside cuts. The software does that automatically and applies the kerf allowances. It is also not necessary to prearrange parts on sheets. Sigmanest is much better and faster at nesting parts than you are. It is common for the software to reduce material requirements by 25% over manual nesting. Just arrange parts of the same material and thickness together in separate areas on the drawing or in separate files. We can do trial nests on several different sheet sizes to determine the best yield. We can add tabs automatically or manually. For prototypes we usually don't use tabs at all, instead we use low tack tape the same size as the sheet to hold the parts in place. We can accept almost any file type.

In our goal to serve your Laser cutting needs, we have developed the following guidelines:

Recommended layer names and colors:

NO CUT

Color- Yellow      Description- Information only sheet size and cutting instructions, sheet outline.

KERF CUT

Color- Black or red      Description- Cuts that require a kerf allowance(most cuts).

CENTER CUT

Color-Green      Description- This is for cuts that will split the line and cuts that do not have to mate with other parts. No offset is added for laser kerfs.

ETCH

Color- Cyan      Description- This is for part identification. This should be a single line font and as brief as possible.

Regarding any questions you might have, you can contact us at the following:

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