

Artwork & Uploads — files, backgrounds, and vectorizing

Good output starts with good art. Here's how to bring artwork in, clean it up, and get it engrave- or print-ready.

patchforge.makerfoundryco.com · a Maker Foundry tool

1 Upload your file

In the Patch Builder's ② **Artwork** section, drag a file in or click to browse. Accepted formats are **PNG, JPG, and SVG**, up to **20 MB**.

- **SVG** (vector) — best for logos, text, and anything you'll engrave; it stays razor-sharp at any size.
- **PNG** — best for full-color UV printing; use a transparent background when you can.
- **JPG** — fine for photos, but has no transparency.

For UV printing, aim for 300 DPI or higher at the size you'll print. Small, low-resolution images look pixelated when enlarged.

2 Remove the background

If your art has a white or busy background, click **Remove Background**. It runs entirely in your browser (your file never leaves your computer) and knocks out the background so only your subject remains — ideal for dropping a logo cleanly onto a patch.

3 Vectorize for engraving

Laser engraving wants clean vector lines, not photos. **Vectorize for Engraving** converts a raster image (PNG/JPG) into a crisp black-and-white engrave vector. A live **threshold slider** lets you dial in how much detail is kept versus dropped — watch the preview and stop when the shapes read cleanly.

High-contrast art vectorizes best. A bold logo works great; a soft gradient photo will need a higher threshold and some cleanup.

4 Cut lines & contour

PatchForge draws a **cut line** around your patch automatically based on the shape you picked in ③ **Material & shape**. Choose **Custom Contour** to trace the exact outline of your artwork for a die-cut patch, and use the spacing control to add a margin between the art and the edge.

Toggle **Show cut line** at the top of the panel to check the border without the art in the way.

Raster vs. vector — the short version

Use **vectors (SVG)** for engraving and crisp line work; use **raster (PNG/JPG)** for full-color UV prints and photos. When in doubt for a laser job, vectorize first.

Clean art in, clean patch out.

PatchForge · blank hats & patch materials at makerfoundryco.com · patchforge@makerfoundryco.com