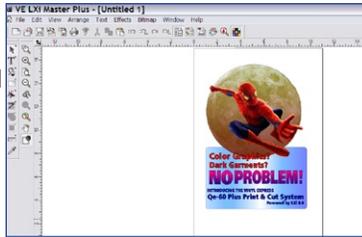# VE Qe-60+ LXi Print - Cut Workflow Tutorial.

Step 1: Create your graphic using LXi's design tools. This image includes gradient fills and an imported Photoshop .psd file. The background has been erased using LXi Master Plus' bitmap editing tools.

Step 2: Click to select the area you want to contour cut , then click the Effect Menu and, from the drop down menu, select Contour Cut. Adjust the size of the border and click the green check mark to apply.
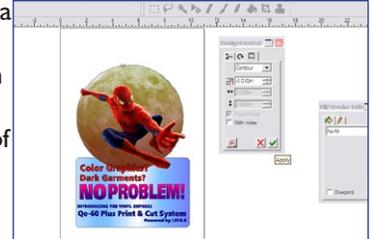
Step 3: From the effects menu, select Contour Cut Mark. Crop marks will appear around the image. From the pop up menu, select Graphtec Type I Automatic or Type 2 Automatic and click Apply.
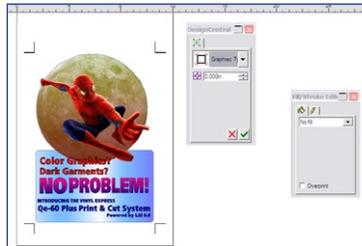
Step 4: Select File/Print setup and set the page size to match your media. Center the image to allow about 2" above and below the registration marks.
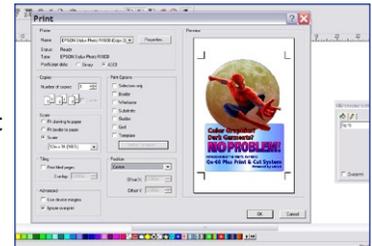
Step 5: Print to your desktop printer on ColorJet III. To ensure print and cut alignment, print the file at 100% (don't re-size to fit media). Note the space above and below the registration marks.

Step 6: Load the paper in Qe-60+. Select Sheet from the Load Media menu. Position the pinch rollers on the edges of the media. To reduce skew, use the strakes on the front of the plotter platen as guides.
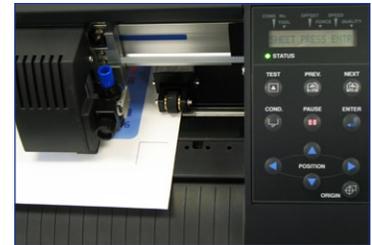
Step 7: Using the control panel's conditions menu, set the tool to CB09U, set offset to 0, set desired speed, and set force at about 17. Then perform a test cut to ensure proper depth and quality.

Step 8: Using the arrows on the Qe-60+ control panel, move the cutting head so that it's over the lower right hand registration mark. Push the Origin button to set that as the new origin point.
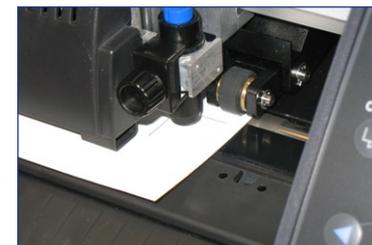
Step 9: Click File/Cut Plot to launch Production Manager. Select Qe-60+ from plotter menu. Set page size to 11" x 17" to produce an accurate preview of image size.
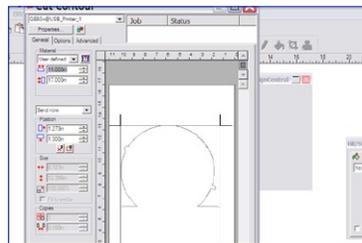
Step 10: Click the Options tab and look at the Cutter Driver Option menu. If "Cut Fast" default is active, click "Edit" and from the drop down menu, select "None" to keep the cutting conditions selected in step 8.
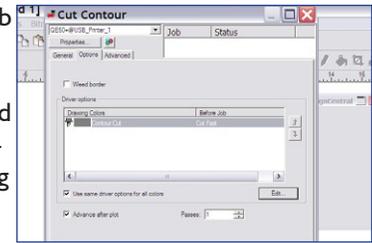
Step 11: Click Send. Production manager will prompt you to position the blade above the lower right registration mark and set that as the origin point. Do so at this time if you haven't already. Click OK.
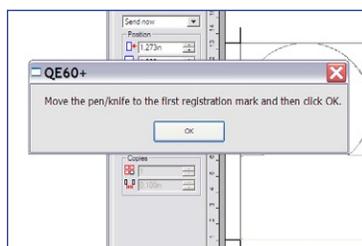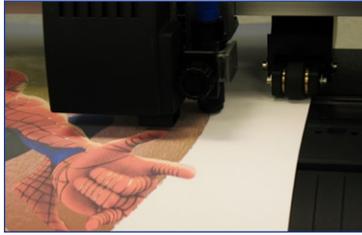
Step 12: LXi takes over the Qe-60+ ARMS firmware and automates the process of quickly and accurately finding the four registration marks.
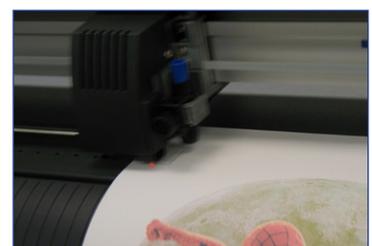
VE Qe-60+ LXi Print - Cut Workflow Tutorial.

Step13: Once the registration marks have been located, the Qe-60+ immediately begins cutting the contour path set in LXi, using the speed and force set in the conditions menu.

Step 14: Remove the graphic from the plotter and weed it by pulling the unwanted ColorJET III from the release liner. This is easy to do if you begin by tearing the corner to separate the face film from the liner.

Step 15: Mask the weeded graphic using a high tack transfer tape. This will become the liner for applying the graphic to the garment on the heat press. Siser ColorMask works particularly well.


Step 16: If you use ColorMask, remove the white liner before masking the graphic. Apply the clear tape in a smooth motion, taking care to avoid getting wrinkles in the tape. Squeegee with firm pressure.

Step 17: Pull the tape upward (or flip the graphic over and gently remove the liner by pulling it away from the masked graphic). Now your masked graphic is ready for the heat press.

Step 18: Place the weeded, masked graphic on your garment of choice on a heat press capable of producing 350°F. We are using a Knight DK20-AR clamshell press with an advanced auto release feature.
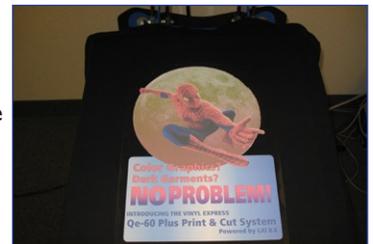
Step 19: Preheat the garment by pressing it for a few seconds. Then press for 20 seconds at 350°F with moderate pressure. A Teflon sheet is recommended to ensure even heat distribution.
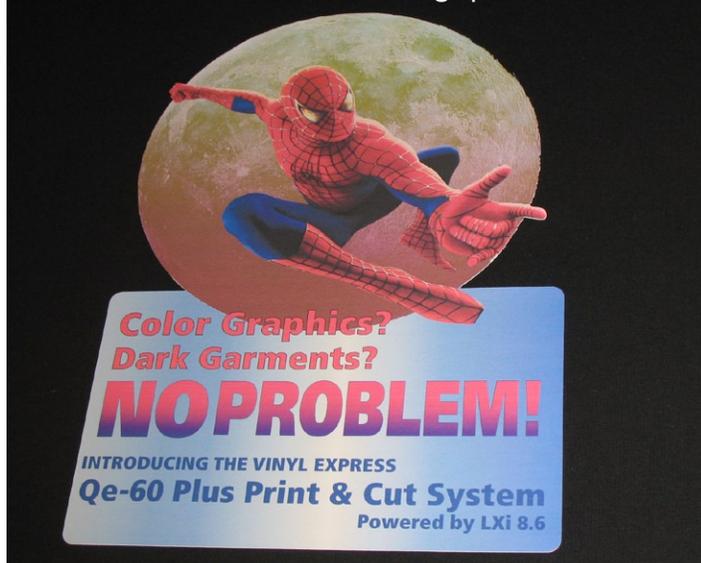

Step 20: Allow the graphic to cool to room temperature before removing the ColorMask liner. Peel in one smooth motion. You may want to repress under the Teflon sheet for a few seconds to reset adhesive.

Finished!

You now have a full color contour-cut graphic on a dark shirt.

Cost and R.O.I. Information *

	11" X 17" media size	8.5" X 11" media size
Average ink cost:	$2.45	$1.05
Average media cost:	$3.40	$1.75
Average shirt cost:	$1.25	$1.25
Total cost:	$7.10/shirt	$4.05/shirt
Market value:	$18.00	$15.00
Gross Profit / shirt:	**$10.90**	**$10.95**

* Projections based on wholesale cost of ColorJet III thermal transfer media, Epson R1800 ink cartridges, and black cotton t-shirts. ColorJet III is compatible with any standard inkjet printer using aqueous dye or pigment inks. Other printers may yield lower ink costs.

Care instructions: It is recommended that you wait at least 24 hours before laundering the garment. For the initial wash, turn garment inside out and wash separately in cool water. Remove immediately from washing machine and dry on warm. If left wet in the washing machine, the ink may bleed. Never use bleach. Do not iron the transfer.

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Phone: • Local: 903-462-7700 • Toll Free: 800-699-5514 • Fax: 800-966-6834
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