Setting up Files in AutoCAD

All parts to be cut in AutoCAD must be brought to the laser operator using the ‘AutoCAD Template’ available on the website or found in the ‘Laser Lab’ folder on lighting.
- Please read ‘Using the AutoCAD Template’ for complete information
- Please note that if you do not use the AutoCAD Template, the laser operator will not cut your files

Erase all stray lines.

Remove all overlapping and duplicate lines using the overkill command. The laser will double cut overlapping lines with very negative results.

For smoother cuts, all continuous line segments should be joined using the PEDIT/JOIN command.

All line widths should remain at zero thickness. If you want scored lines to be thicker, do multiple .004” offsets.
If this is unacceptable, the laser system is capable of engraving virtually any thickness line. However, this involves engraving rather than scoring and requires considerably more time.

For engraved areas use the solid hatch command.

The laser’s kerf is approximately .008” centered in the drawn line. This will cause the parts that are cut to be slightly smaller than what is drawn. This fact is normally insignificant, but if critical to your work, please make note of it.

The rule of thumb for spacing between parts is to allow at least half the thickness of the material between cuts.
For example, if you are cutting 1/4” acrylic, allow 1/8” spacing between parts.

Use only the seven standard colors: red, yellow, green, cyan, blue, and white.
You will find the layers are already set up by color

Draw everything in AutoCAD. Files drawn in other programs that are then imported or pasted into AutoCAD will cause problems.

We are using AutoCAD 2009 – please downsave accordingly. Also, if using the student version, the text printed at the top and sides of the document may interfere with your file – consider saving as .dxf and moving to Illustrator.

If using text, using the command TXTEXP to make outlines and preserve the font.