INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO

February 24–27, 2026 ✦ Horseshoe Las Vegas



Custom Award Fabrication A to Z

Braden Todd & Alison Todd
GS2 Awards

GS2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR

Agenda

- Who We Are
- Why Custom Awards?
- Custom Award Fabrication
  - File Design
  - Material Processing
  - Decoration
  - Assembly
- Beyond Awards
- Questions & Feedback



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

A Little About Us

- Braden Todd
- Alison Todd



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

GS2 Awards Timeline

- First Custom Award - 2009



G2
AWARDS
&
LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL
trotec
DISTRIBUTOR

INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

GS2 Awards Timeline

- First Custom Award - 2009
- Expanded Production – 2010-2019

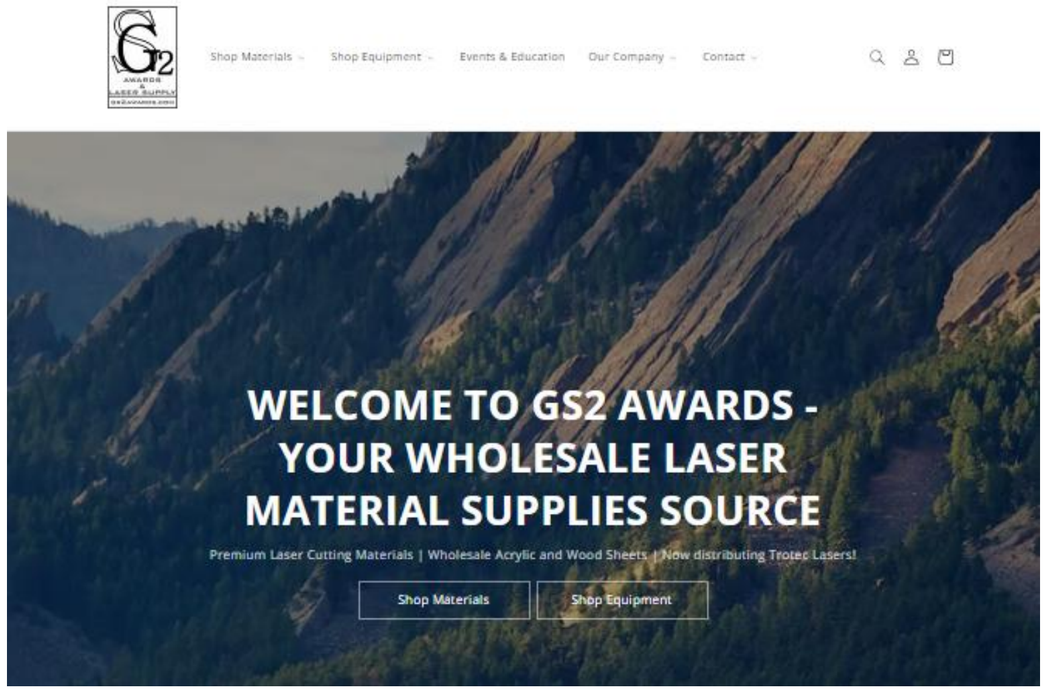




INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

GS2 Awards Timeline

- First Custom Award - 2009
- Expanded Production – 2010-2019
- GS2 Awards Website - 2019
  - Materials
  - Award Blanks







GS2 Awards Timeline

- First Custom Award - 2009
- Expanded Production – 2010-2019
- GS2 Awards Website – 2019
  - Materials
  - Award Blanks
- Equipment & More - 2024





INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

GS2 Awards Timeline

- First Custom Award - 2009
- Expanded Production – 2010-2019
- GS2 Awards Website – 2019
  - Materials
  - Award Blanks
- Equipment & More – 2024
- Education - 2025
  - Beyond the Beam Learning Center

BEYOND THE BEAM

LEARNING CENTER



INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO

February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Why Custom Awards?



For Your Customer:

- Tailored to your customer
  - Logo
  - Location
  - Themes
- Stand out from their competition/previous options
- Joy of seeing *THEIR* vision come to life
  - Emotionally tied to the award
  - Emotionally tied to your business



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Why Custom Awards?

For YOU:

- Competitive edge
- Creativity
- Flexibility to meet price points
- Better production timelines
- Keep production costs in house
- Flexibility to solve problems
  - Shipping
  - Additions



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Custom Award Fabrication

- File Design
- Material Processing
- Decoration
- Assembly



G2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR



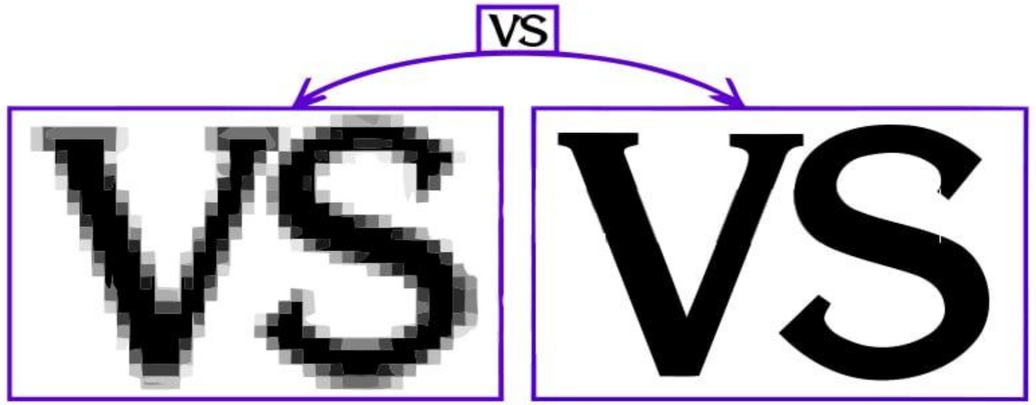
File Design

- Customer’s Vision vs. Reality
  - Price Point/Budget
  - Shop Capabilities



File Design

- Customer’s Vision vs. Reality
  - Price Point/Budget
  - Shop Capabilities
- Artwork requirements
  - Vector vs. Low Res
  - Design Resources
    - Creative Fabrica
    - AI



Custom Doesn’t Have to be Complicated

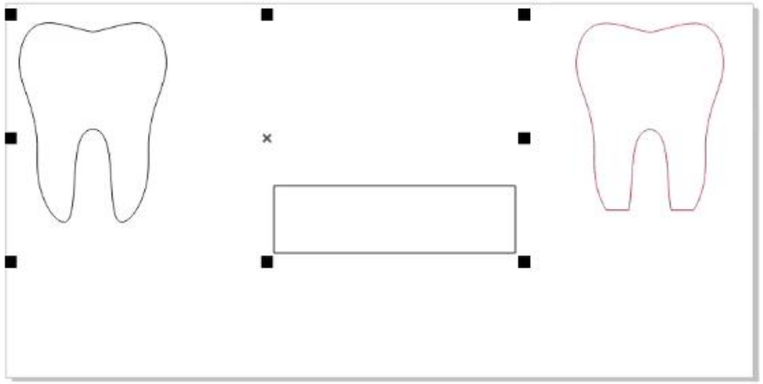
- Standard Shapes → Custom Award



INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

File Edit View Layout Object Effects Bitmaps Text Table Tools Window Help

Untitled-2*



Transform

Position

X: 6.7 "
Y: 0.0 "
Relative Position

Copies: 1

Apply

Learn Properties Objects Transform Align and Distribute Corners

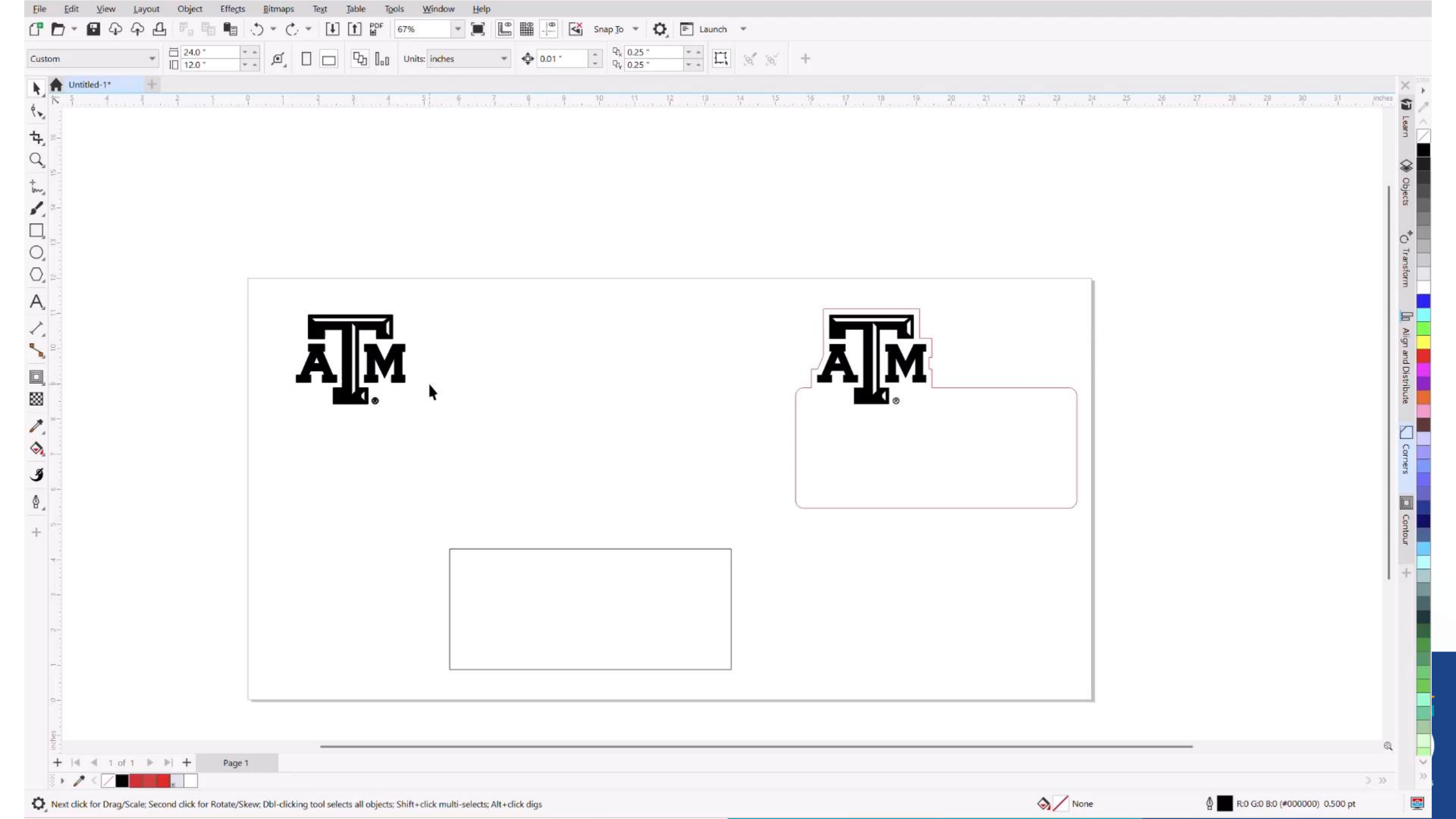
1 of 1 Page 1

Several Fills Several Outlines

Custom Doesn’t Have to be Complicated

- Logo contour → Custom Award




File Edit View Layout Object Effects Bitmaps Text Table Tools Window Help
Custom
24.0 "
12.0 "
Units: inches
0.01 "
0.25 "
0.25 "
Untitled-1*
Learn
Objects
Transform
Align and Distribute
Corners
Contour
1 of 1
Page 1
Next click for Drag/Scale; Second click for Rotate/Skew; Dbl-clicking tool selects all objects; Shift+click multi-selects; Alt+click digs
None
R:0 G:0 B:0 (#000000) 0.500 pt

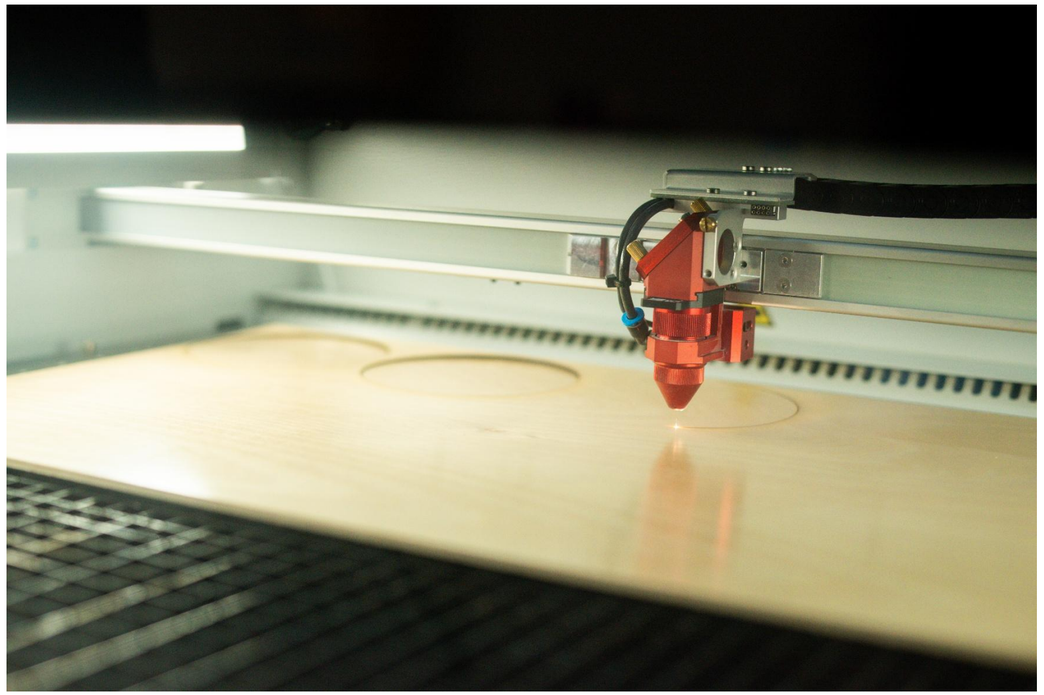
Material Processing

- Laser cutting
- CNC Routing
- Niche Processing
  - Sandblasting
  - Scalloping
  - Stone Cutting
- Metal cutting
  - Laser
  - Plasma



Laser Cutting

- Material
  - Wood, acrylic, other



<u>Tips & Tricks for Laser Processing</u>

- Edge Quality – fast vs. slow speed
- Frequency
  - Acrylic- high frequency = smooth polished cuts
  - Wood – low frequency= brown edges
- Glue & Laser Cut Edges
  - Beware of Crazing!

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

CNC Routing





- Material
  - Thicker wood, thicker acrylic
  - Ability for cutting larger pieces

<u>Tips & Tricks for Router Processing</u>

- Chip load
- Keyhole Cuts
- Hold down Methods - Don’t get hit in the face
- Edge finishing

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Metal Cutting

- Material
  - Stainless steel
  - Hot roll/cold roll steel
  - Aluminum ☹





Tips & Tricks for Metal

- 3-6 kW laser
- Fume evacuation considerations
- Local laws and regulations

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Outsourcing Blanks

- Build your market before buying equipment
- Free up time in rush seasons
- “Produce beyond your capacity”



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Decoration

- Laser Engraving
- UV Printing
- Sandcarving
- Multiple decoration techniques

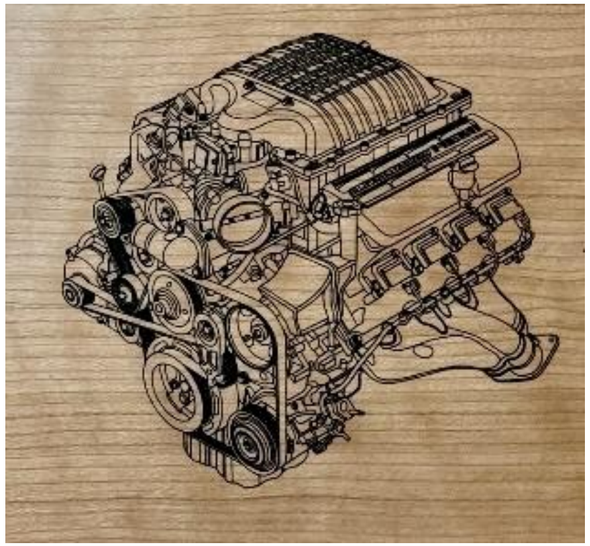


Laser Engraving









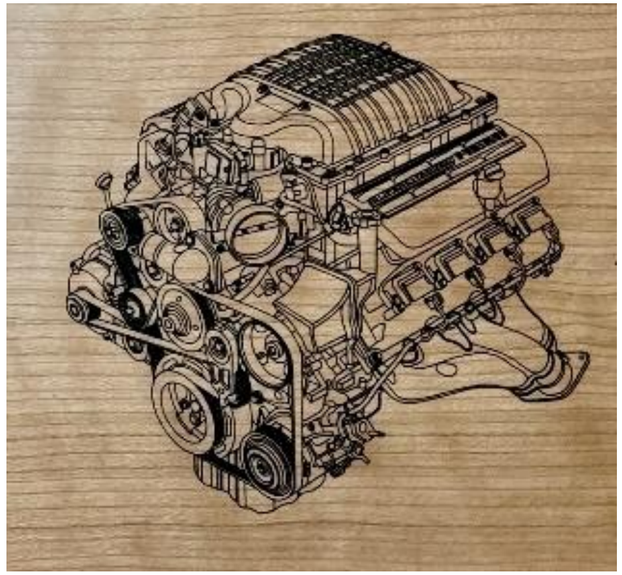


WELCOME TO FABULOUS LAS VEGAS NEVADA
INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Laser Engraving Tips & Tricks

- Acrylic- Engrave With Less Power!
- Wood- Use a Masking and Seal Engraving Before Painting.
- Metal-Seal Hot Roll/Cold Roll







INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

UV Printing









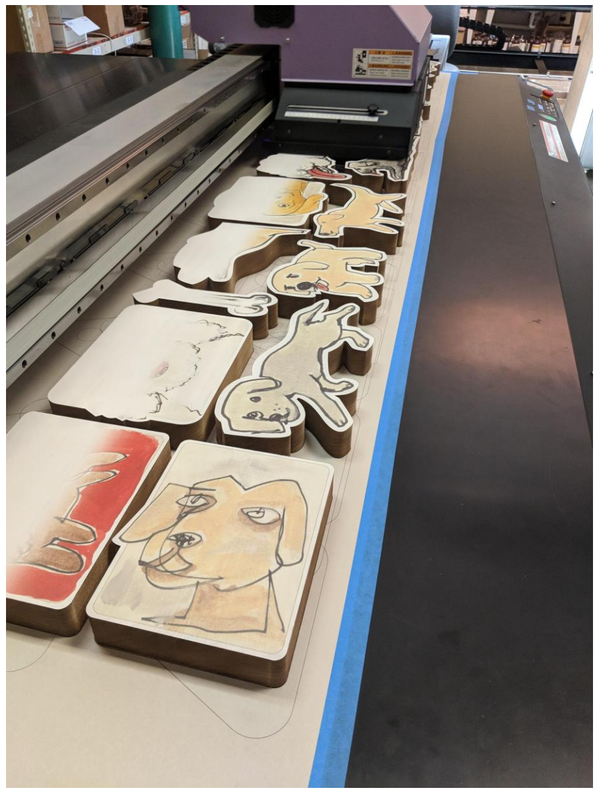




INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

UV Printing Tips & Tricks

- Acrylic- don’t print to the edge!
- Wood – Unfinished vs Prefinished
- Metal – primer/surface prep needed



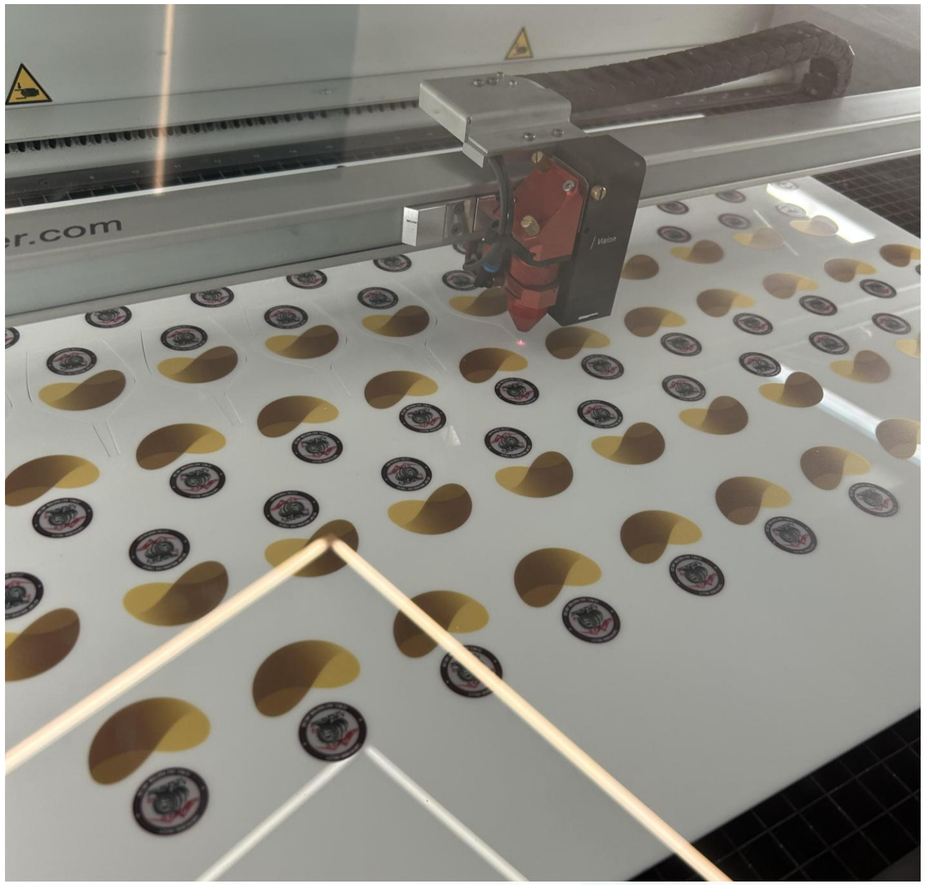


INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Print & Cut

- Where Our Worlds Collide
  - Acrylic
  - Wood
  - Textiles

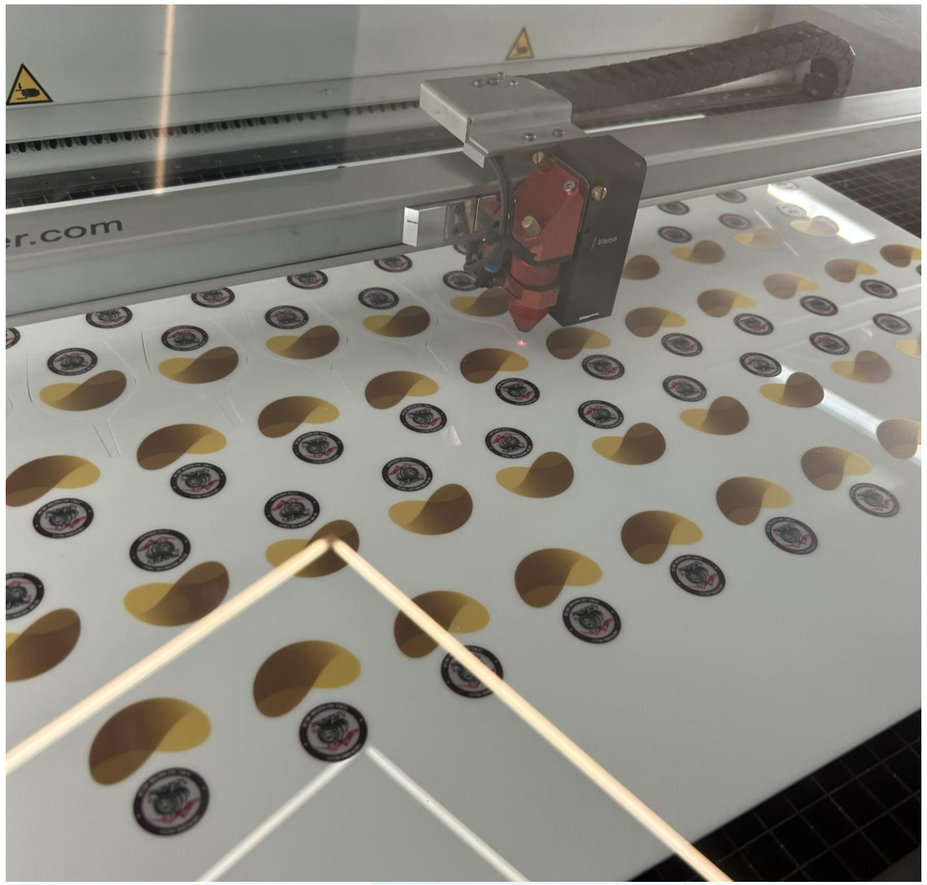




Print & Cut Tips & Tricks

- Save time on Peeling
- Save time Aligning for Printer
- Exact registration-Place Your Dots Correctly!



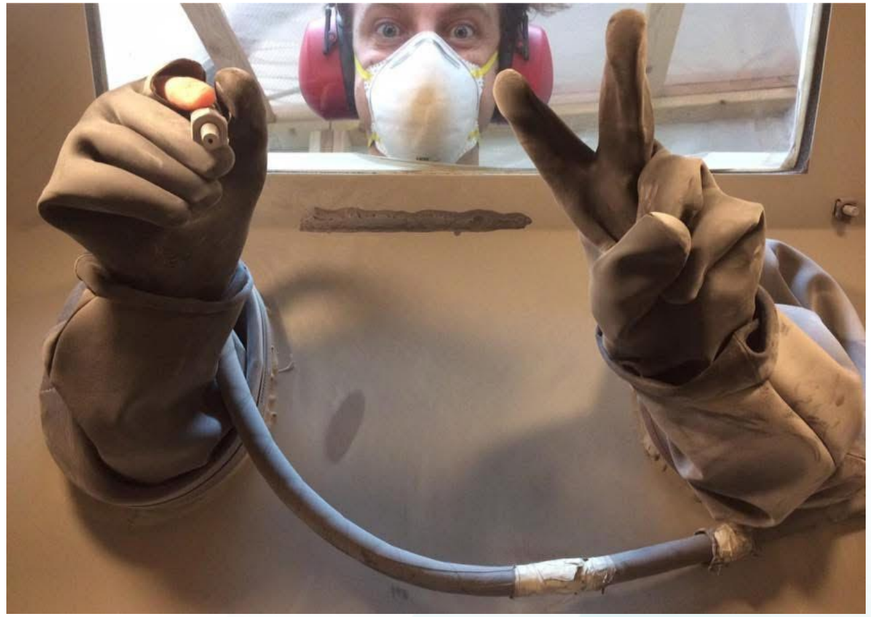


WELCOME to Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Sandcarving

- Achieve depth not possible with laser
- Multi-stage carving and shading
- Longer production times
- Lower cost of entry
- Color options- paint, real gold





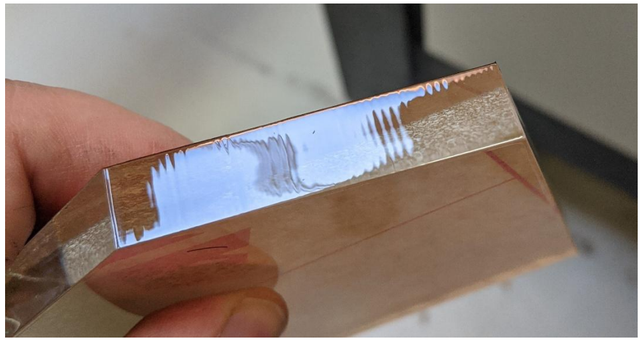


WELCOME to Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Assembly – Come Bond with Us!

- What Matters Most for Assembly?
  - Material Type
  - Surface Energy
  - Edge Processing
- Types of Assembly
  - Glues
  - Adhesives
  - Hardware
  - Bases





G2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR

WELCOME TO FABULOUS LAS VEGAS NEVADA

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Glues

- UV
- Weld-On
- Structural Adhesive
- Liquid Nails





osha.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OSHA MENU

By Standard Number

- **Part Number:** 1910
- **Part Number Title:** Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- **Subpart:** 1910 Subpart Z
- **Subpart Title:** Toxic and Hazardous Substances
- **Standard Number:** 1910.1052
- **Title:** Methylene chloride.
- **Appendix:** A, B, C
- **GPO Source:** e-CFR

This occupational health standard establishes requirements for employers to control occupational exposure to methylene chloride (MC). Employe~~ee exposed to MC are~~ at increased





758

G2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO

February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Adhesives

- 3M
  - Genuine 3M vs. Imitation
- Trophy tapes







INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

3M Numbering System

467MP – Product Number that describes an actual item

300LSE – Adhesive family used in products, NOT a product



INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Hardware

- Standoffs
  - Desktop Standoffs
    - Thin material
  - Post Standoffs
- Screws
- Chicago Screws







INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Bases

- Acrylic
- Wood
- Stone
- Glass







G2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR



INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Custom Award Example

- Process of Designing and Fabricating a Real Custom Award
  - Bitmap Logos
  - Vectorizing
  - Trimming
  - Using Outside and Inside Contours
  - Welding Shapes



File Edit View Layout Object Effects Bitmaps Text Table Tools Window Help

Untitled-1* wedkc wed kc Approved v17.cdr Untitled-2*





Corners

Fillet
Scallop
Chamfer

Radius: 0.35 "

Chamfer Distance

A: 0.5 "
B: 0.5 "

Apply

When you apply corner properties to a non-curve object, the object is converted to curves.

Learn Objects Transform Align and Distribute Corners Contour

1 of 1 Page 1

Click an object twice for rotating/skewing; dbl-clicking tool selects all objects; Shift+click multi-selects; Alt+click digs; Ctrl+click selects in a group

Bitmap (CMYK) on Layer 1 242 x 242 dpi

None None

Applying Process Beyond Awards

- Custom Desk Plaques
- Perpetual Plaques
- Gift items
  - Wine bottles
  - Holiday
  - Cutting Boards
  - Ornaments
  - Jewelry



INTERNATIONAL
PERSONALIZATION
EXPO
February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Find Us at the Show!

BOOTH # 114





G2 AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR

GS2 AWARDS'

APA 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE



FEB 24
TUESDAY / 9:30AM

CUSTOM AWARD FABRICATION A TO Z

Join Braden & Alison Todd for a session that covers the ins and outs of custom award fabrication. Real-world tips, tricks and techniques will be shared!

FEB 25
WEDNESDAY / 7:30AM

BLAZERING W/ IKONICS IMAGING

Join us in IKONICS Imaging Booth 119 on the APA Show Floor for Blazering - the art of combining laser engraving & sandcarving!

FEB 25
WEDNESDAY / 11:00AM

TROTEC DEMO - ALISHA PATE

Join us in GS2 Awards Booth 114 on the APA Show Floor as Alisha Pate creates a 6"x4"x4" Leather Catchall using a Trotec Laser!

FEB 25
WEDNESDAY / 12:30PM

LEARNING LOUNGE - ALISON TODD

Join Alison Todd for a Learning Lounge Session where she highlights production tips & tricks gleaned from nearly 20 years in the industry!

FEB 25
WEDNESDAY / 2:00PM

TROTEC DEMO - STEPHANIE MURPHY

Join us in GS2 Awards Booth 114 on the APA Show Floor as Stephanie Murphy uses the Print & Cut feature to create Las Vegas Sign Ornaments!

FEB 26
THURSDAY / 11:00AM

TROTEC DEMO - ALISHA PATE

Join us in GS2 Awards Booth 114 on the APA Show Floor as Alisha Pate creates a 6"x4"x4" Leather Catchall using a Trotec Laser!

FEB 26
THURSDAY / 2:00PM

TROTEC DEMO - STEPHANIE MURPHY

Join us in GS2 Awards Booth 114 on the APA Show Floor as Stephanie Murphy uses the Print & Cut feature to create Las Vegas Sign Ornaments!

FEB 26
THURSDAY / 8:00PM

PDS EQUIPMENT - APA VIP PARTY

Join us at The Bottled Blonde Rooftop for an exclusive celebration where the top UV Print and Laser owners network and party Vegas-style!

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

NAL TION Las Vegas

Connect with Us!

GS2AWARDS.COM

BRADEN TODD

braden@gs2awards.com

ALISON TODD

alison@gs2awards.com



Laser Engraving Tips & Tricks

Facebook Group

AWARDS & LASER SUPPLY
GS2AWARDS.COM

OFFICIAL trotec DISTRIBUTOR



INTERNATIONAL PERSONALIZATION EXPO

February 24–27, 2026 • Horseshoe Las Vegas

Please complete your session evaluation

Scan this QR code with your cell phone camera

This is session number 113: Custom Award Fabrication A to Z

