

Materials Reflection

When I saw that we were going to use the laser engraver in class, I was confident in my doings. I had some experience with design and laser engraving before through TSA and other classes. At first, I thought this lesson was going to be easy. However, there were some challenges as the laser engraver had to “wake up” a little bit.

My favorite part of this activity was the hands-on process. I enjoyed starting with a digital design and then watching it transform into a physical product. I had to think carefully about sizing, placement, and the kind of text or image that would engrave clearly. Once I loaded the design into the software and prepared the material, I was able to see the engraver bring my project to life. Except there was a little flaw. I went to open lab to complete this project by the deadline. Everything was set up right at I click go and the next thing you know no laser is coming out of the engraver. I call Maddie over for some help we turned the laser engraver off, turned it back on and it still wading working. So, we did it one more time and it finally worked. Obviously, it messed up the first one, so I got a new blank and did it again. Watching the machine cut and engrave so precisely was fascinating, and seeing the final key chain was extremely rewarding.

One thing I learned during this Learning by Doing activity was how important it is to set up the laser engraver correctly, from material placement to adjusting the focus and settings. I also learned that patience is an important thing. But after trial and error I figured out how to correct these issues.

Overall, this project gave me valuable experience with a tool I had have used before. It showed me how digital design connects to real-world production, and it is an activity I could easily adapt into a lesson for my future classroom. Having a final product that was both useful and personalized made the process even more meaningful.