

Shopbot Checkout FAQ

Q: Do I need VCarve installed to attend Session 1 of the checkout?

A: No you do not, in fact you should not install VCarve from the VCarve site. You will want to follow the directions given at the end of Session 1 to ensure you get VCarve installed properly.

Q: Can VCarve be installed on a Mac OS?

A: VCarve is a windows only application. So no it cannot be installed directly on a Mac OS. There have been discussions on the VCarve forums where users have had success installing it using WINE and also users have created windows VMs to host the application. There are also several laptops available to members. These laptops have VCarve installed and licensed as required.

Q: Are there computers available in the space that can be used to design my project.

A: Yes there are several windows PCs in the shop that have VCarve installed and can be used to complete your checkout project.

Q: Do I need to provide my own wood for the checkout process.

A: No, we will provide a panel of 1" x 12"x 24" wood to complete your projects for Session 3 where you will execute your checkout project.

Q: Can I use my own design for my session 3 checkout project.

A: No, you must use one of the designs provided. The time needed to do the checkout itself is limited and in most cases using your own art work will likely have challenges that will extend the design and execution timelines.

Q: Is session 3 a test?

A: Not really. Where the volunteer that is there with you will be evaluating your understanding of the machine and general safe use, it is better thought of as an opportunity to work with an experienced maker for your first project. You can ask questions and it is not conducted as a "test" where you are asked to just go do your project. The idea is as stated above. You get to work with someone and ensure you know the basics while executing your first project on the Shopbot.

Q: Can I fail the checkout?

A: yes, if the volunteer working with you feels you are not prepared enough or you are not executing your project safely for both you and the machine, you may be asked to try again in a later planned checkout session. This mostly only happens if you come to session 3 having not attended one or more of the other sessions or you do not have your project ready to execute. The latter is mostly a time constraint issue in that it is likely not possible for you to do the needed work in the evening of sessions 3 and execute your project in a timely manner. Remember that the people doing the checkouts with you are volunteers and they are not being compensated in any way for working with you.

Q: Can I use my own licensed VCarve to create my project?

A: Yes, in most cases this will work with out issue. It will be dependent on your license and version of VCarve. It is also possible to install multiple versions of VCarve on the same PC. This could be done in the case where there is some incompatibility. It will be best to check compatibility with a simple saved CRV file from your software at the end of Session2. Bring a thumb drive with your saved CRV file and it can be tested on the shop controller to see if there are any issues.