Center Engraving

The Center Engraving feature allows you to define the center of your artwork as the primary reference point (Home Position) of your engraving or cutting. The Center Engraving feature has been designed to be used in conjunction with the Set Home feature of the laser. Center engraving differs from standard printing where the upper left corner of the page and the upper left corner of the laser table define your primary reference point. To see where to set Center Engraving in the driver, **see "Center Engraving" on page 46**.

- You can identify a Center Engraving job at the laser when you see an asterisk at the end of the job name.

- If you get a Position Error reading on the display screen, your artwork is going to go outside of your available work space.

- There are four choices for Center Engraving: Center-Center, Left-Center, Top-Center and Page-Center.

Center-Center

When using Center-Center, the overall size of your work piece and the upper-left corner reference point are not important. With Center-Center engraving the important starting points are the size of your artwork and the available space for it on your work piece. With Center-Center you're interested in positioning the center of your artwork to a specific point on your work piece, no matter where your work piece is on the laser table. When using Center-Center you can place your artwork on almost any size of page and almost anywhere on that page.

The detailed examples on the next few pages show how easy it is to think differently about Center-Center jobs.

Example: A customer brings you a small electronic item to engrave, such as an iPhone. To quickly engrave the item without extensive measuring, follow these quick steps:
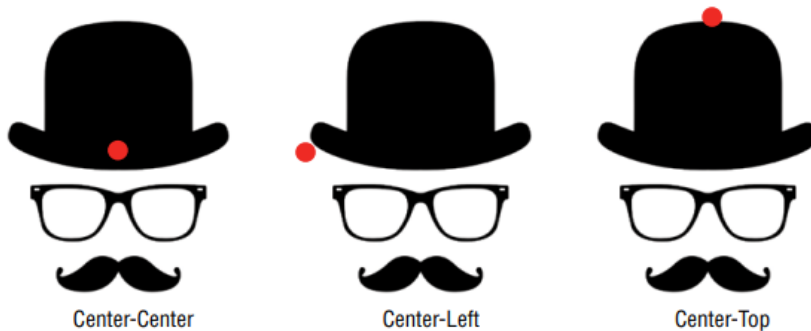
1. Measure the area you have available for engraving. For the iPhone we have about 2" x 1.5" (51 x 38 mm) of engraving area.

2. In your graphic software, create a new page. Page size is not important, so set the page size to larger than the area you want to engrave. We have created a page 4" x 4" (101 x 101 mm). Place your image anywhere on the page and size it to fit in the 2" x 1.5" (51 x 38 mm) engraving area.

3. To ensure the graphic is correctly positioned, draw a vector box around your artwork with a vector cutting stroke width (.001" or .025 mm). **Print** the box to the laser.

4. Click the check box next to **Center Engraving** in the General Tab of the driver.

5. In the drop-down box, select **Center-Center**.

6. Set the page size to match the page size in the Laser Dashboard (4" x 4" or 101 x 101 mm).

7. Select **Vector** as your job type.

8. Set a **Vector Power Setting of 0%** and print the job to the laser.

9. **Run the job with the laser door open** (so the laser won't fire). If the engraving area is lined up, delete the outline you created and print the engraving job to the laser.

10. After the job is complete, you can reset the Home Position by pr the **Maint key**, then press the down arrow once until you see **1. Restore Home**. Press the **Go key** and the carriage will move back to the original Home Position.
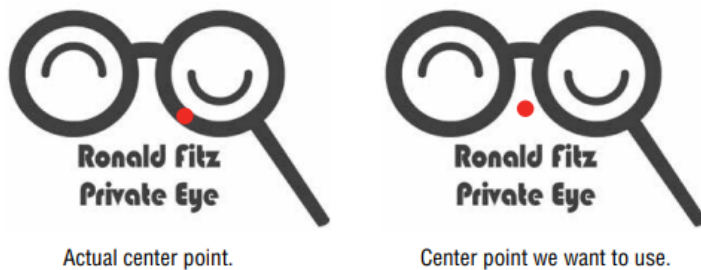
While Center-Center is the most common use for the Center Engraving features you can also use **Center-Left** and set a Home Position that is the left portion of your engraving area. **Center-Top** is at the middle, top area of the area you want to engrave. Depending on the object you are engraving, this may be easier to find than the center point of the engraving area.

| Center-Center | Center-Left | Center-Top |

The red circle signifies the Home Position for each Center Engraving choice.

Page-Center

When you are engraving an unbalanced image (not equal left to right or top to bottom), you will want to use the Page-Center feature. For this example, if we engrave the image with Center-Center settings, the graphic will not look centered on the object because the actual center point is to the right of the point we want to center in the logo. To get around this, we'll use Page-Center.

Actual center point.   Center point we want to use.

1. **Set the page size** to the area you want to engrave. Unlike when we used Center-Center, **page size is important when using Page-Center**.

2. **Center** your graphic on the page with the center point you want to use (the image on the right).

3. In the Laser Dashboard, check the box next to **Center Engraving** in the General Tab, then select **Page-Center** from the drop-down box. **Set the piece size** to the size of the page you created.

4. Set the Home Position as the center of the object you are engraving using the steps in the previous example.

5. Run the job and you'll have a perfectly centered image.