



# Cutting Acrylic

With twine, hammer and nails, you can make a unique piece of home décor!

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## Materials

Cast Acrylic  
Acrylic paint, alcohol inks, vinyl cutouts, etc.

## Tools

[Proxxon Scroll Saw DS 115/E](#)  
[Proxxon Bench Drill Press TBM 115](#)

## Tips for Working with Acrylic

1. There are two types of acrylic; extruded and cast. Extruded has a lower melting temperature than cast acrylic, which makes it ideal for cutting with a laser cutter. When using power tools, like the [Proxxon Scroll Saw DS 115/E](#), cast acrylic works best.
2. Cast acrylic cuts easily on the [Proxxon Scroll Saw DS 115/E](#). Use a low speed so you don't build up too much heat. Leave the paper backing on the front/back of the acrylic to prevent scratching. A high tooth-count or plastic-cutting blade, is recommended. Always wear safety glasses when working with power tools. A mask is suggested to help you avoid breathing in acrylic dust.

You can also make straight cuts in acrylic using a plastic scoring blade. With a straightedge as a guide, pull the blade toward you, leaving a score mark. Score the acrylic several more times along the same line, then place the acrylic on the edge of the table and use light, quick pressure to snap the piece in two.

3. You can drill holes in to acrylic using the [Proxxon Bench Drill Press TBM 115](#). If you use a drill bit intended for wood or metal, there is a chance you'll end up cracking the acrylic. If the sheet is thin, use a step drill bit instead. If you're working with a thick piece of acrylic, you can use conventional drill bits if you first place a piece of masking tape over the area to be drilled. If the hole is especially thick, spray some WD-40 to act as a lubricant. This will help remove chips and dissipate heat as the hole is drilled. Always wear safety glasses when working with power tools. A mask is suggested to help you avoid breathing in acrylic dust.
4. Acrylic pieces can be glued together using a solvent based glue.
5. Acrylic is fun to decorate. You can adhere vinyl cutouts or stencils, use alcohol based inks or markers or acrylic paint. Try using the mixed media techniques you work with on paper on acrylic and see what results you get.

