LinkMotion and EngraveLab version 7.1:

After you install LinkMotion software and set up all settings launch EngraveLab software.

Important notes:

Zero or thinnest line width and No fill are the most important things to remember when you are designing a file for Vector or line output. Line type of output is required by rotary tool machines like engraving, routing, and CNC. Do not fill shapes with bitmaps for any line or vector output. Raster or bitmap fills are used by laser machines. It is important to remove fill when you import scanned files.

Solustan's LinkMotion driver tests the primary function of accepting hairlines (vector lines) generated by popular application software packages for job design. It is important for the user to learn the job design software and to make sure that the jobs are properly prepared for successful execution of a job.

Do not check Design Using Plate Size feature in LinkMotion Material properties.

Solustan's liability is limited to the purchase price of the LinkMotion driver software.

It is necessary for the user to acquire the application that will be used for the job design. There are many books of various levels available for all these popular applications. This document is simply a guideline to point the user in the right direction. We welcome feedback from our users. Share your findings with us and we will include them here for all users benefit.

Following are helpful details for a user of Engrave Lab design software:

Engravlab version 7.1 and later is the only version that will work properly with Linkmotion.

Using Engravelab version 8.0 has a checkbox in **Print** dialog box under **Preferences** that reads **Send all as hairlines.** Always keep this **checked for proper output** when using LinkMotion. **The user does not need to worry about the selection of No Fill and Hairline thickness** of the shape for proper output.

IMPORTANT WARNING:

Do not check Design Using Plate Size feature in LinkMotion Material properties. It is designed to work with Corel Draw and EngraveLab users do not need to use it. Users can design jobs in EngraveLab with plate size and it should output correctly as long as all other machine setup related settings are correct.

(1) How to design a plate in Engravelab when Linkmotion driver software is used?

If your plate size and your machine's table size are the same then you need to do following:
Launch EngraveLab application.
Plate Size screen should open.
Select proper orientation, which should match your machine's Table Size.
Select Custom under Current Section.
Now plug the dimensions for width and height. This should be the same as your table size.
Click on the OK button.

Now you can start your design and make sure to have no filled objects. Your object can use hairline or no stroke thickness with specific colors. This is applicable for both graphic shapes as well as any text you have in your design.

Refer to their helpline or the manual in learning to use their design features.

If your plate size is smaller then your machine's table size, you need to do following:
First, launch LinkMotion and go to the Machine Properties.
In Maximum Travel for X and Y change the number to match your Plate size that you plan to use for engraving the job.
Click on the apply button and then OK button.
Now launch your EngraveLab application and design your job with the same size plate.
Any time you change the dimensions in the Maximum travel of Machine properties of LinkMotion it is extremely important to Re-Launch your design application for it to take that change into effect.
Now it should engrave in the correct location.

(2) How can I setup shapes for my design plate reference but not send for the output?

Users of Engravelab version 7.1 need to learn this but Engravelab version 8.0 users do not need to worry about this.

Example:
Design a rectangle of your plate size within your page(Table size). **Select Red color as Fill** shape for this plate design. Now place some text inside that plate design with different color. Now select that red rectangle shape (your plate size). **Press the Ctrl key on your keyboard while bringing the arrow of your mouse at the bottom of the page on the red color button and click there.** You should see the red rectangle shape without the fill with dotted red lines. Now, this should not go for the output. The user should select all the text and select **Print** from the **File menu**. Under print dialog box make sure to select **Selected objects only** in **Preference menu**. Now click **OK** and then select **Print** from the last print preview section.

The user can bring the fill color back by the same procedure of using the Ctrl key and clicking with the mouse on the same color again.

(3) How to create fill patterns for objects in Engravelab?

Select your object.
Go to the **Engrave menu** and select **Create Tool Path** and **Fill**.
You should see the fill dialog box.
Make a selection of the **Tool** with proper size diameter tool you are using.
The user does not need to worry about depth when using LinkMotion. Keep it 0.00.
Color selections are for viewing only.
Fill Style is the important one to select. Make proper selection here with the shape of the object in mind.
The user should always refer to Engrvelab's manual for more detail understanding of each section.
Click **OK** and you should see the fill pattern on the screen. This is how your engraving output should be.
Click **Print** from the **File menu**.
Make sure all the settings are proper in the **Print dialog box** and then click on **OK**.
The user should see the proper output.

(4) How to do multiple plates with Engravelab?

Go to the **File menu** and click on **New**.
When prompted for the size **declare the plate size**.
Click on the **Text tool** and create an example text.
Select this example text with the arrow tool.
Go to the **Layout menu** and select **Badges**.
Declare the **material size or table size** in plate area. The user should declare the material size if it is smaller then the plate size.
Make Selection for Number of copies, Scoring, Margins, Spacing, Vertical or Horizontal Columns.
On the right side make a selection for the fix and variable text and **click OK**. Refer to the manual for EngraveLab software for more details.
Now follow the print commands for proper output.

(5) How to output job in different locations?

When using EngraveLab it is best to use available positions from their Print Preview locations.
Select top left for both Home Position as well as Start Position in **LinkMotion's Origin Setup**.
Design your plate in EngraveLab.
Now select **Print** from the **File menu**.
Make sure your **Print Preview selection is checked**.
In the Preview mode on the top left, you can make a selection for the position where you want the job to be engraved.
There are nine choices: **Top Left, Top Center, Top Right, Center Left, Center, Center Right, Bottom Left, Bottom Center, Bottom Right.**

After making the selection from above position when you click on the Print button it should engrave in the proper location.

(6) How to bring the color palette that matches LinkMotion supported colors?

Launch EngraveLab Pro 8.0.
Click on the **Context Menu** button from the bottom of the page (Fifth button from the left).
Select **Load and Merge**.
You should see a **Color Palette dialog box**.
Make sure to see in **Look in area C:/EngraveLab Pro 8.0 is selected**.
Click on the folder name **Palettes**.
Click on the folder name **Engrave**.
Select the file name **Linkmotion.pal** and **click on the Open** button.
Now you should see the **matching color palette** at the bottom.