

LinkMotion and FreeHand MX:

Install LinkMotion driver software, check all settings, and finally launch FreeHand application.

Important notes:

Thinnest line width and No fill are the most important things to remember when you are designing a file for Vector output. Do not fill the shape for any vector output.

Raster will have the fills and it is used mostly for the laser output.

Solustan tests the primary function of accepting hair lines (vector lines) from the third party application software to make the vector moves on the machine using LinkMotion driver. Solustan may test additional functions. However, it is not a detailed testing. The developer and marketer of the third party software make changes to their applications quite often. It is the responsibility of the user to make sure that the necessary functions are available while making the choice of off-the-shelf application software.

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

It is necessary for the user to own 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.

Important pointers:

- 1. Design a job with 0.003 Point size line thickness for vector or line output to a CNC machine.**
- 2. Please, make sure that the design objects are unfilled. (Raster fill will confuse any vector output device like engraving or CNC machine)**
- 3. All graphic shapes and fonts need to be ungrouped before sending job to the machine. Modify menu will allow you to ungroup your design.**
- 4. Raster design may have fills and it is used mostly for the laser output in the raster mode.**

(1) How to do quick and simple settings?

Launch Macromedia **FreehandMX** application.

Open a **New File**.

To the right and under **Properties** select **Document** tab.

Select Custom for your page size. Actually, here you will enter the working area of your machine.

At the bottom of the screen it shows Points for measurements. Select your preference like **Inches** or **Millimeters** or **Centimeters**, etc. This measurement should be the same as what you select in

LinkMotion.

Next, go back to the **Properties>Document** and put the values of your **table size for X and Y** direction. Once you enter proper table size it should display the page to be **your Table Size**. If your machine Table size is same in X and Y direction it is important to keep it in Portrait mode and enter X value to be 0.1" less than actual value. For example: Your table size is 12"x12" then enter X 11.9" and Y 12.0". Again, This measurement should be the same as what you select in LinkMotion.

Draw your **objects** and/or type your **text**. It is very important to make sure that everything you draw should be **.003 Point size thick line** for proper vector output.

After drawing any object make sure that **object is high lighted or selected**.

Go to the right of the page and **select Object under Properties**. Select the basic stroke. Default shows 1pt. High light the number and type 0.003 and Enter.

Similarly every object you draw should have **no fill and .003 Point size line thickness for proper Vector output**.

Text in your design should be **converted to Paths from the Text menu**.

Select all the text, go to the **Modify menu, and ungroup** it.

Go to **windows menu** and select **Swatches**. Here select none for the fill. **Also select .003 Point Size line thickness for the Stroke**.

Select **Print** from the file menu. Make sure that Printer has **Your Machine Name driver**. Click on the **Properties** button. Click on the **Advance** button. Here make sure Paper Size is selected to be the **Table Size**. Click on the **OK** button. Click on **OK** button again on your driver properties.

Click on the **Preview** button on the Print section. You should be able to see your artwork within your Table Size. Uncheck the button for **Automatic orientation**. Close the preview selection.

In scale% area select **Fit on Paper**. Now when you click on **OK** here your job should go to the machine.