

Fashion Design Experience

My best friend is Nikkie Weiler, who I have designed things for before, happens to be on the bowling team. Nikki's mom Jada knows that I am working on starting my own business and asked me to create/design two t-shirts for the bowling coach's wife and baby at the beginning of Dec. I accepted and personally created two t-shirts to match my client's (Nikkie's Mom) wishes to the best of my ability. She wanted me to make the wife of coach's shirt to say "Mama Bear" and the baby's to say "Leah Bear" while supporting Jackson's bowling team.

It was a bit tricky trying to figure the design and everything out, but after a few trials and errors I came up with a cute and efficient design. I wanted to make sure I conveyed the message that my client was aiming. They ended up being three colors for both of them. For Coach's wife, I chose to make the words "Mama Bear" in gold vinyl with with a black polar bear with Jackson written across it. Inside a heart within the bear was a bowling pin and bowling ball. I also decided personalizing the t-shirt to make it even more of a connection and sentimental to the new owner. I added her name Jennifer on the sleeve in purple bear paw prints. I did the same concept with Leah coach's baby, but I flipped flip some colors. So the words "Leah Bear" were in purple, the paw prints with her name were in gold, but she still had the same black and white polar bear. After it was all designed on my Macbook with the Cricut design space website, it was time for assembly. I measured and cut out the proper amount of vinyl needed for each color of my vinyl sheets and loaded each individually and loaded them into the cricut until they were finished being cut. After that came the hardest part of all "The Weeding" as we call it in Cricut world. Weeding is when you need to pay your utmost attention and is quite arguably the hardest part of the process. It is when you need to pay close attention to the positive and negative space on the vinyl. What you do is you have a dentist hook looking tool that you remove all the unwanted vinyl to create you desigered image. The more detailed the image the harder it is to weed. For example, the letters and words were a lot easier to work with then the polar bear was. The polar bear was the hardest in this design. I had to make sure I was pulling up the correct vinyl because if I had accidentally pulled up a wrong price I would need to start all

over again. Which I did need to do on one of them and then that vinyl went to waste. I needed to print a new one which was not fun.

After you have all you individual pieces cut and weeded you need to place them as correctly and neatly as possible to mach the design on the shirts. This is the part that my mom assists me, because she doesn't want me to use the Iron knowing how clumsy that I am. Someday, I hope to get the cricut press and hopefully could this process myself. The final step is to Iron them on each color and section at a time and then wait about five minutes for them too cool. Then you pull of the the plastic cover and you are done and have a super cute and stylish custom sparkly shirt.

How this experience teaches me to grow in the arts is by taking order and ideas from other people, learning how to shape them into reality that my client will love, it also teaches me patience, how to work around things that may go wrong, but not to give up but to create solutions to get the job done. One error was this project was supposed to be done before break and I did not meet my time frame. It all worked out ,because we were able to get them to Coach at the practice after Christmas Dec. 27th. I had a happy client Jada Weiler and recipient Coach Cochran's Family.

