Artwork Setup Procedure

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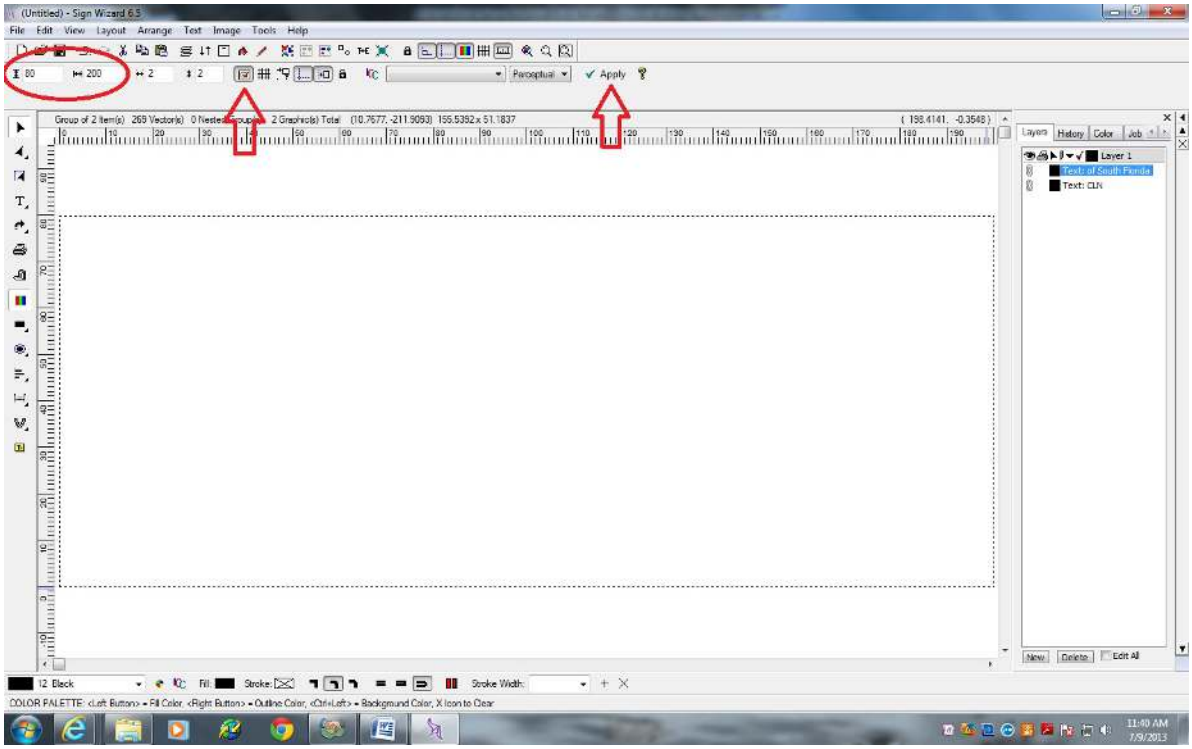
CLN Artwork Setup Procedure

1. Setup Sign Wizard on your computer

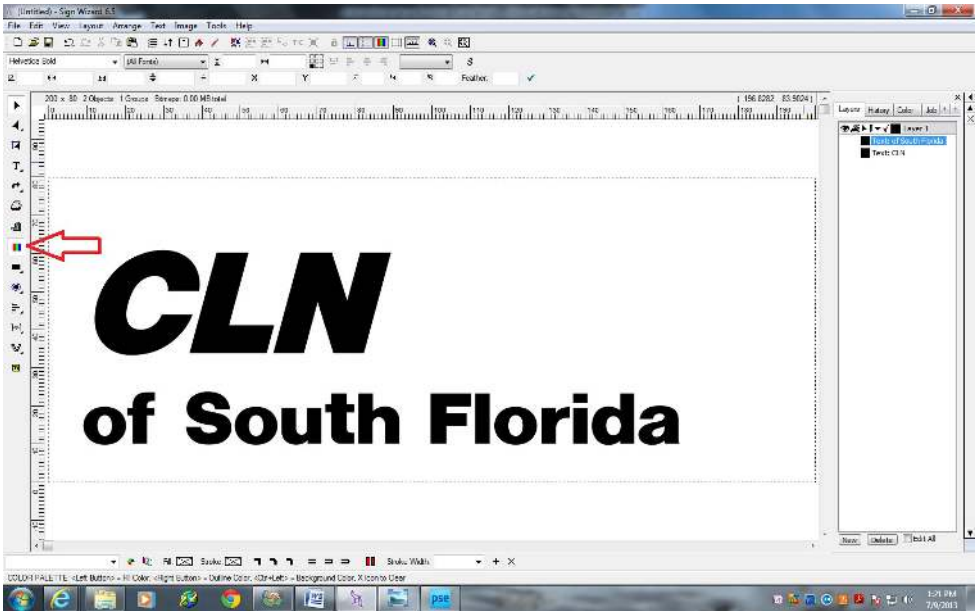
Open Sign Wizard then go to the “Menu Bar” > Layout > Layout properties.
Set the height at 80" and the width at 200" and press “APPLY”
Then press the “Default button”.

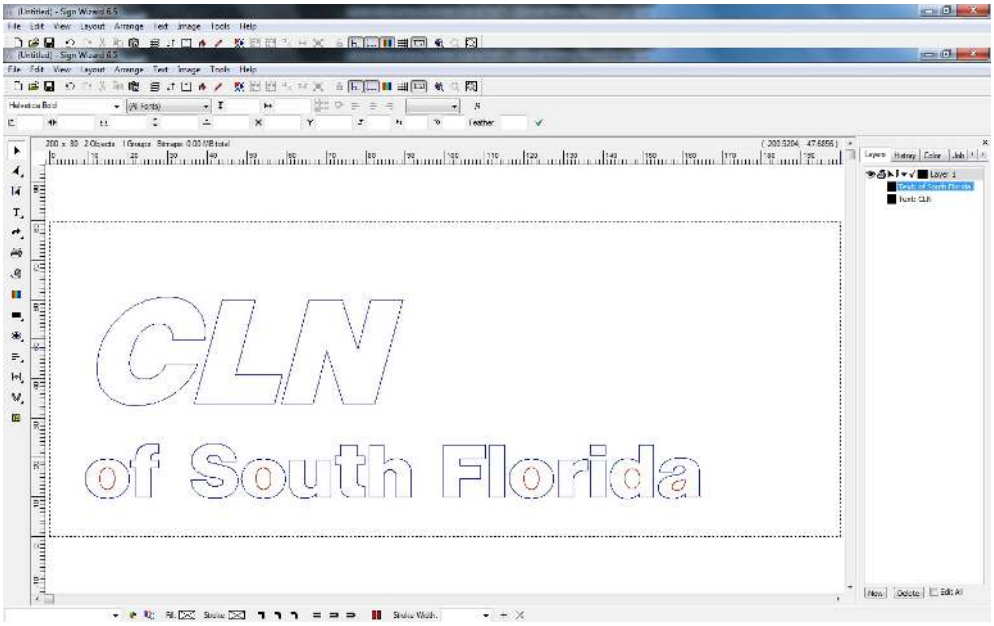
*This is the “Layout Properties Window” the artwork must be exported from inside this box so that the CLN program will display it in its viewing screen.



2. Import a file into Sign Wizard

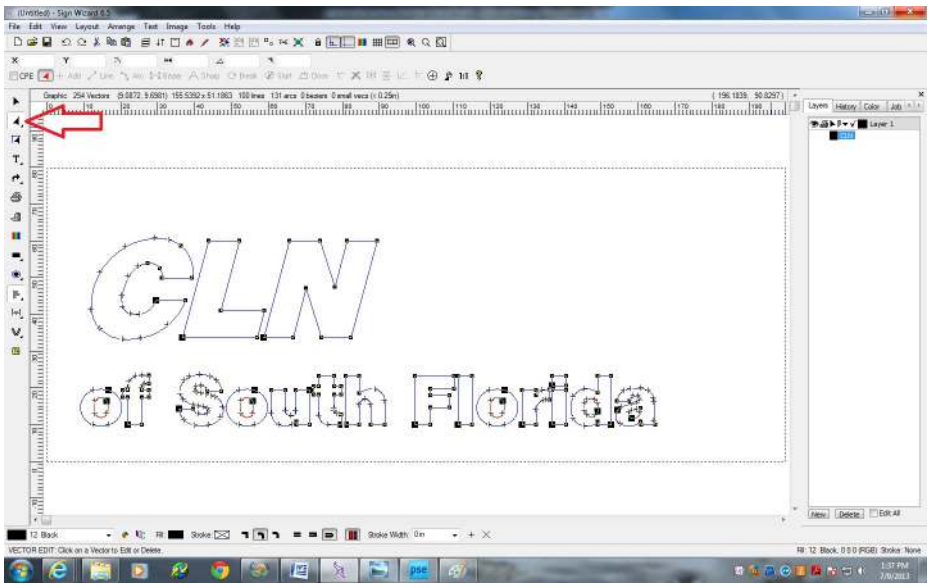
Go to the “Menu Bar” then click “File” > Import, select the file and click import. Position it in the Layout Properties Window. If the artwork has a black fill inside it, go to the side “Menu Bar” and click “Show Color button”. That will turn the art work from black to a blue outline with a red inline.





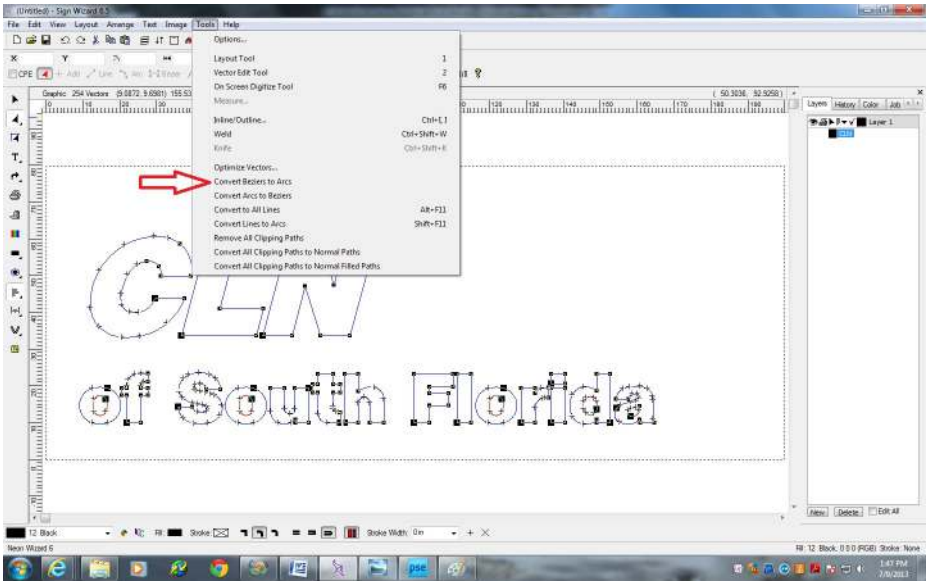
3. View control points

To view control points go to the side "Menu Bar" Click the 2nd arrow down from the top. "Vector Node Edit Tool" this will allow you to see the control point's.



4. Confirm Arcs

See if the file is formatted as a Bezier file. Select a radius and then move it, if you see handle bars pop up, this means the file is a Bezier file and you must convert the file to arcs. Go to the "Menu Bar" click "Tools" > "Convert Beziers to Arcs".

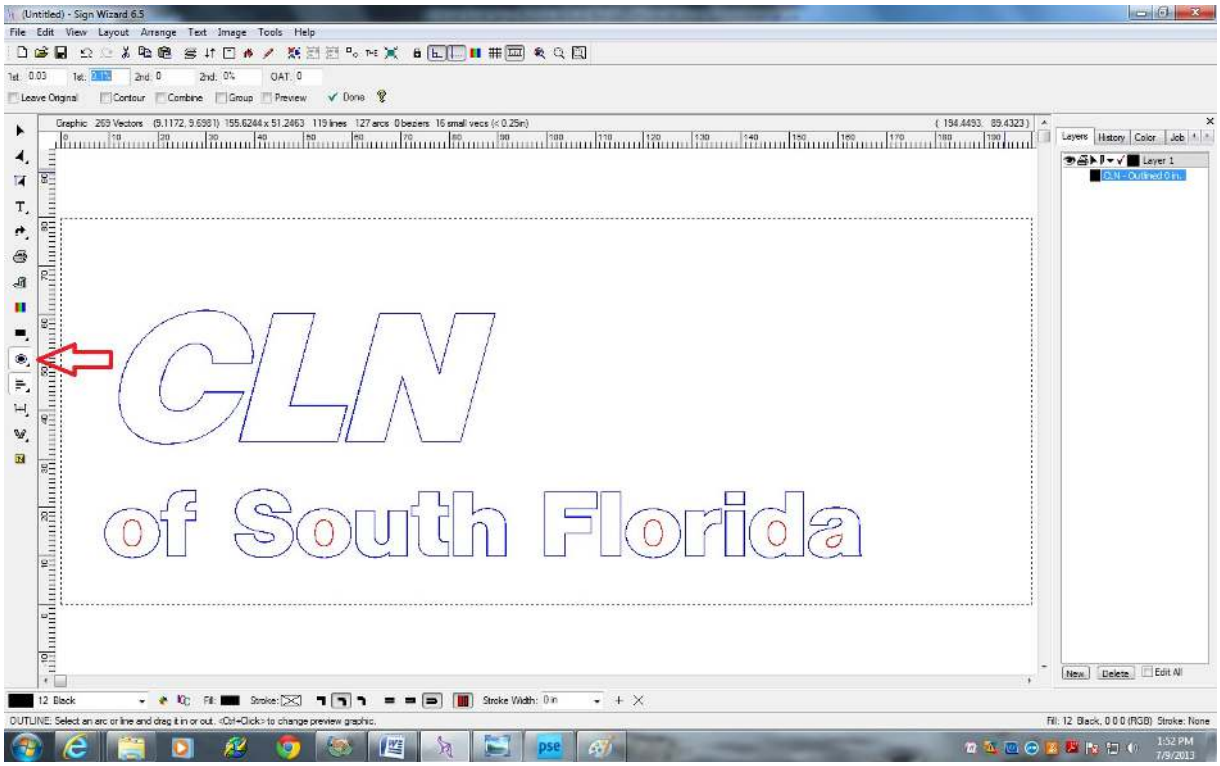


5. Outline the artwork

You must put an outline around the artwork so that the return will fit comfortably around the letter back. Click and Drag a box around the art work, this will select the artwork. Now go to the side "Menu Bar" and select the "Outline Button". You will only use the 1st box to enter a measurement value, use an outline of .030. The box adjacent to the measurement value box is used to outline by a percentage of the artwork. We recommend you use a measurement value to offset your artwork. Everything else on the top line should read "0" and the 2nd line should have no checks in any of the boxes. Once you put a .030 outline press "Done".

When you are making a plastic face channel letters or an open face channel letter we recommend using a .030 outline.

When making a reverse channel letter or halo type letters we recommend using a .070 inline (-.070) in the 1st box



NOTE:

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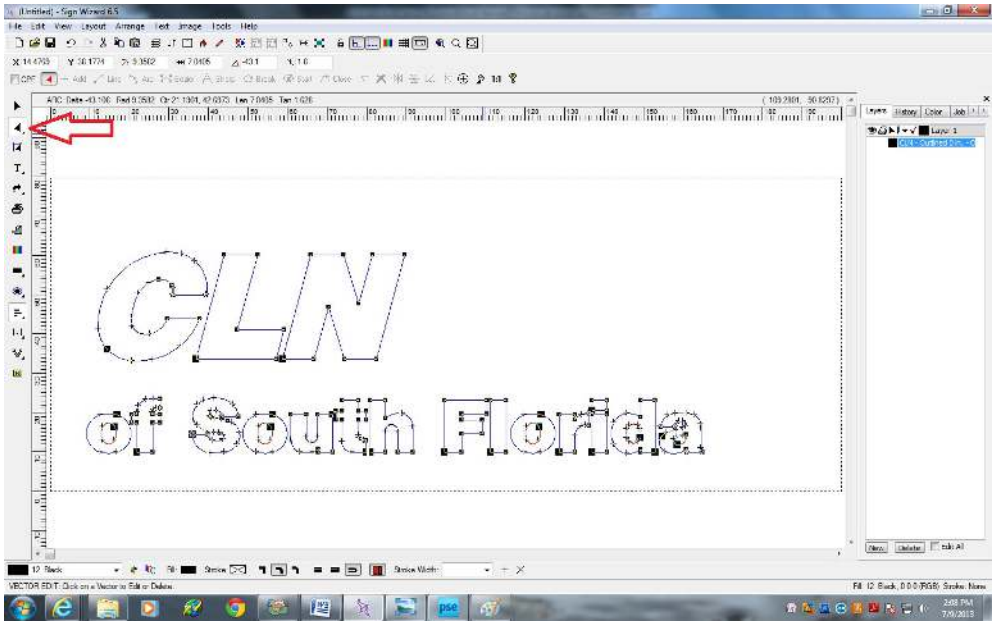
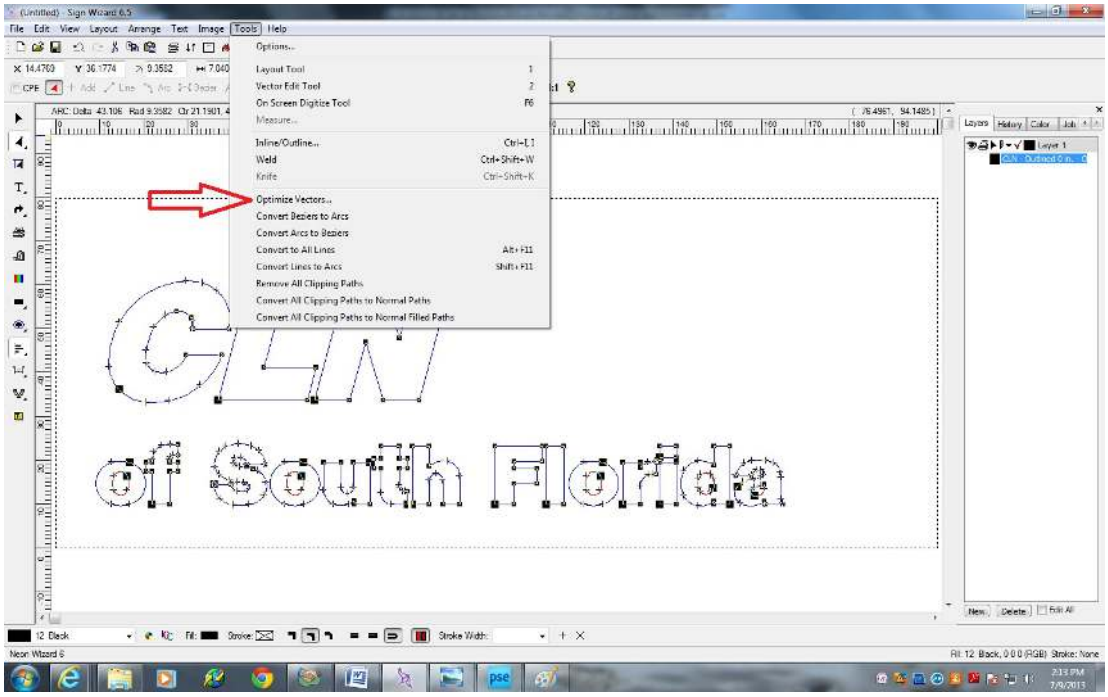
Inline/Outline is in the top tool bar TOOLS> Inline/Outline

6. Reduce control points

Review the control points by, clicking the Node edit tool.

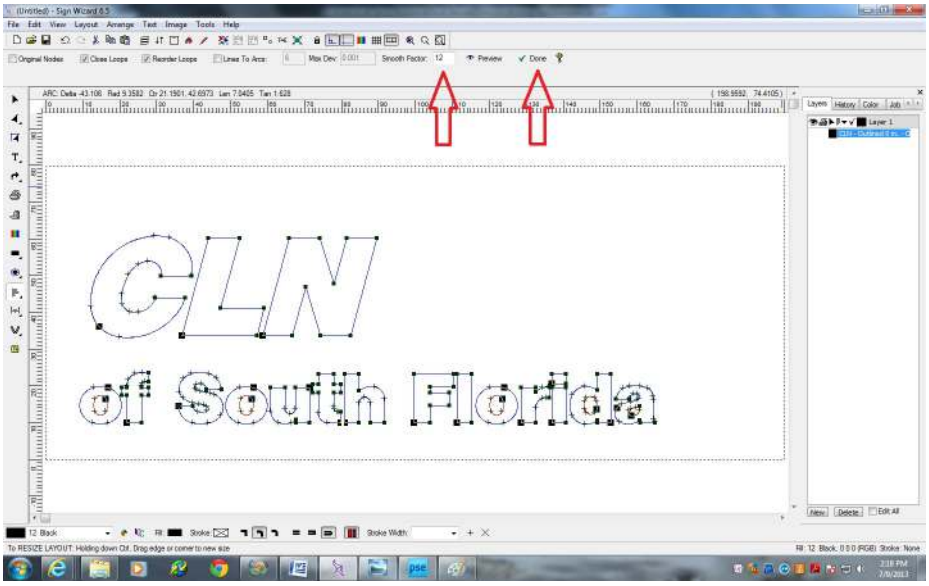


If you have a lot of control point's you can reduce them by going to the "Menu Bar" select "Tools" > "Optimize Vectors". Use the smooth factor to reduce the control points.



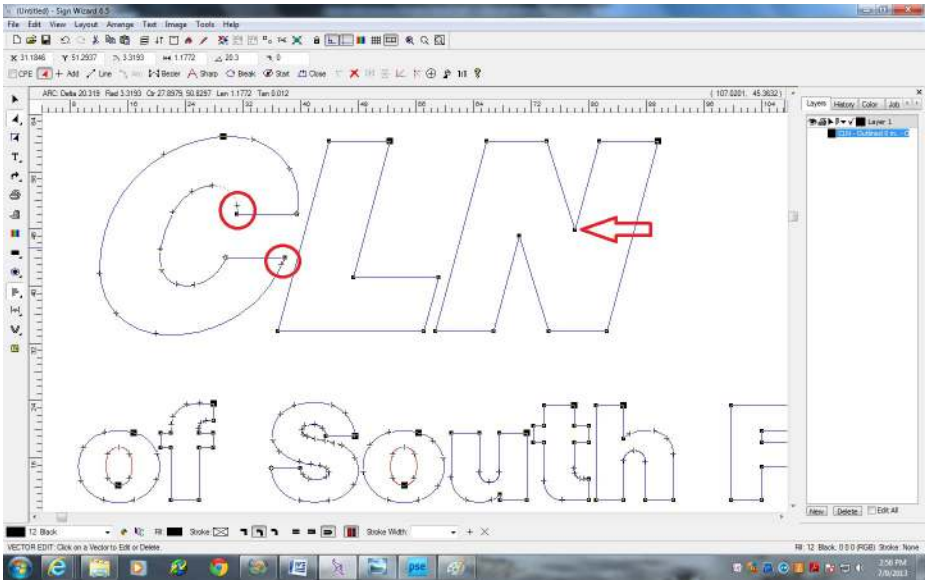
7. How to use the Smooth Factor

The Smooth Factor is a value that you can use to reduce or increase the amount of control points in the art work. The greater the number in the smooth factor box the more it will reduce the control points in your artwork. The recommend setting is (12). Click preview to test and see if the value you entered has changed the control points to the desired amount. Once you are satisfied with the value press “Done”.

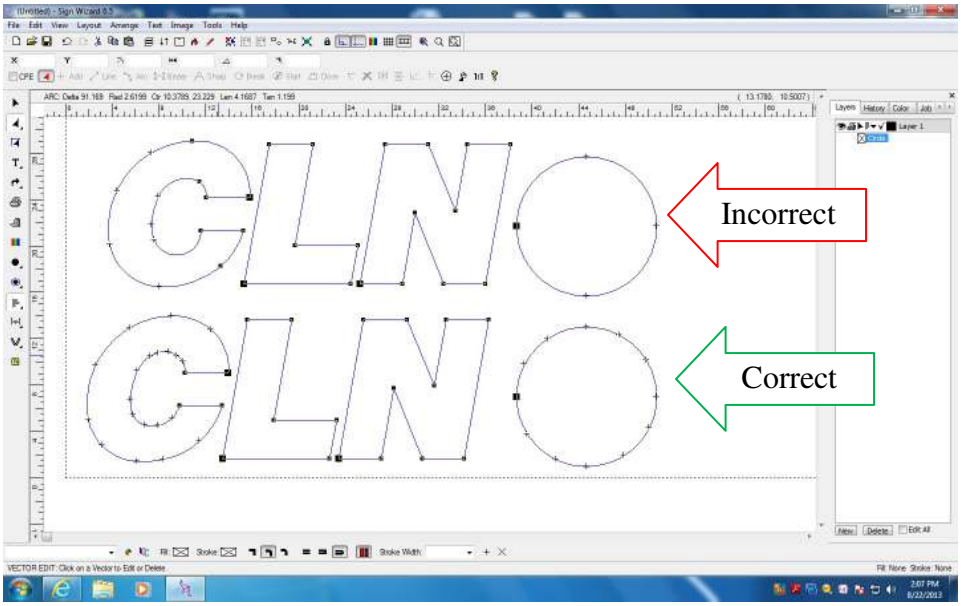


8. Manual control point cleanup

Additional control point manipulation may be needed. Make sure that there is one control point in the corners of the letters and one control point in the web of the letters (example W, V Y). To delete a control points click on the “Node Edit Tool” and drag a box around it.



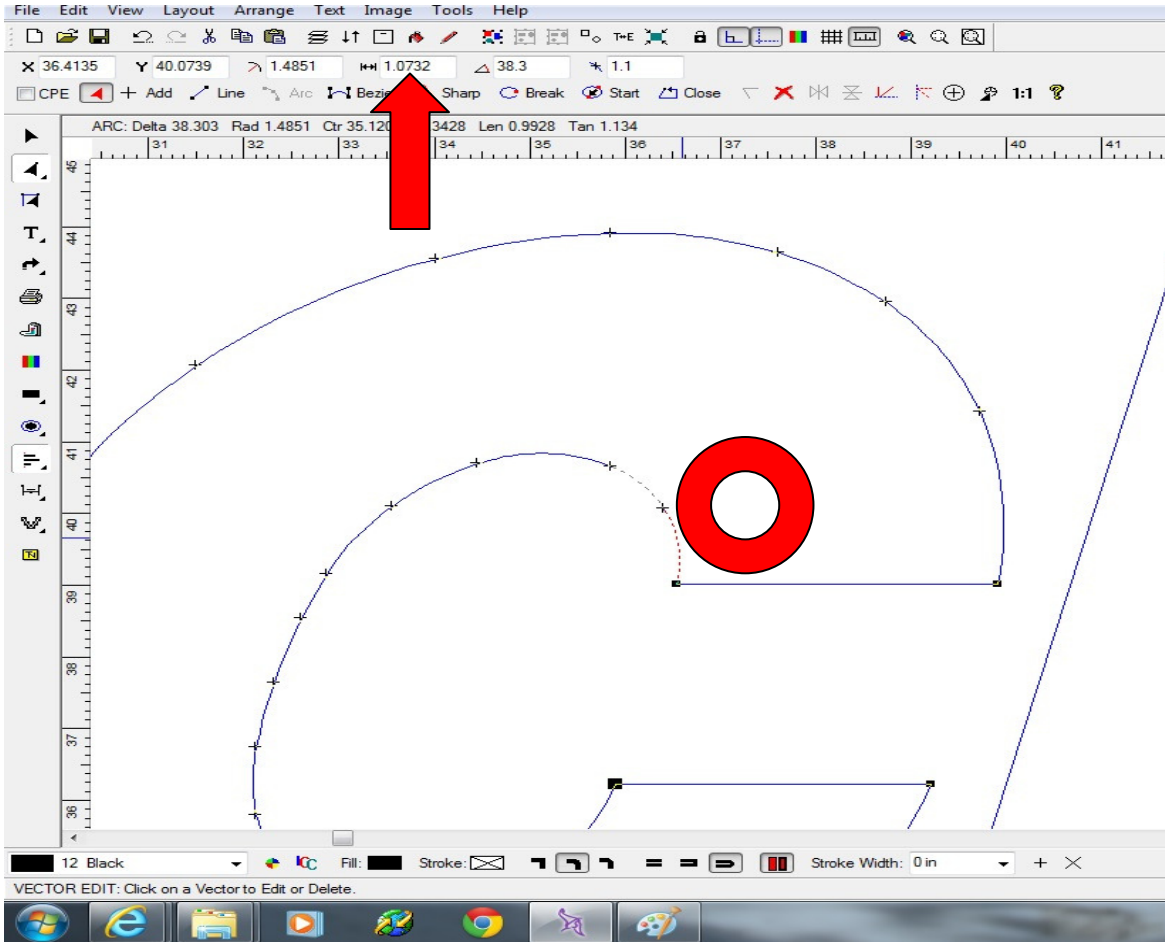
As for the radius portions of your letters, the software calculates arcs of letters as portions of circles. For example, the letter “C” in CLN below is composed of arcs of multiple circles, each of which we will analyze to clean up our artwork. A good rule of thumb is to maintain the control points around the radiuses in the same position as the numbers on a clock. Make sure the control points on the radiuses are not further apart than ¼ of the circle used to calculate that particular arc.



9. Radius Bend Direction Rule

When reviewing a letter follow it around clockwise and if you are working on a letter such as a (R, B, C) or any letter that has a Break Bend and the very next bend is a Radius bend in the opposite direction then you should have that radius control point, one inch (25mm) away from that last break bend. This will allow the Radius tool to engage the metal at the closest location from the last break bend. This rule is not an absolute necessity the machine will not crash into the material it just makes the machine work more efficiently.

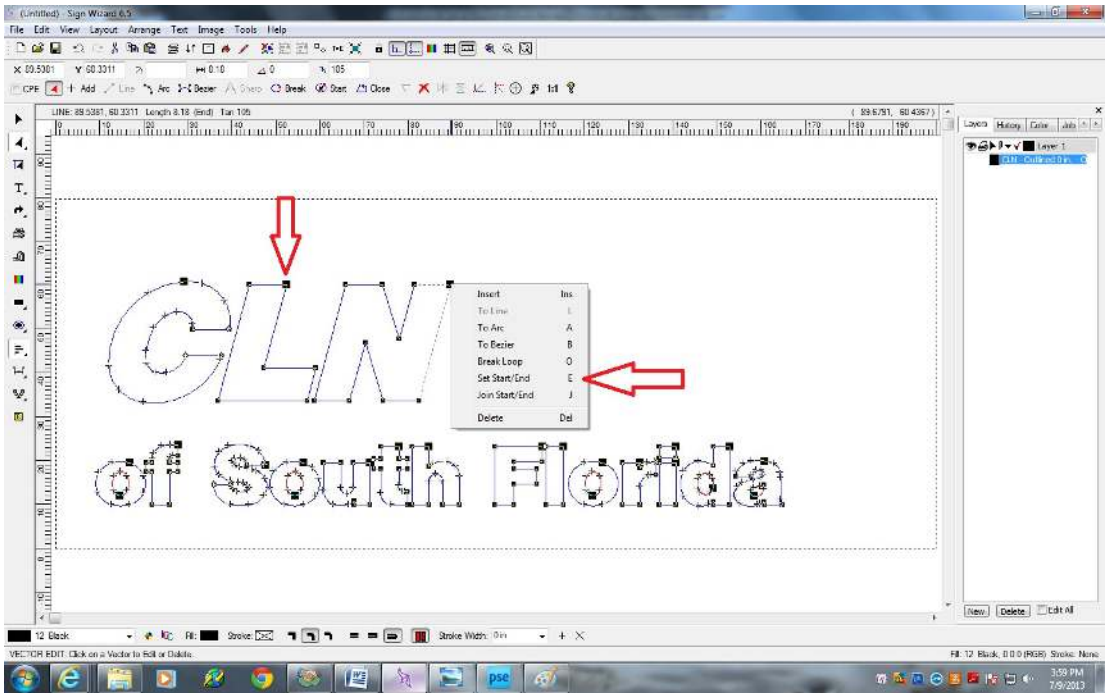
The reason for this is the minimum distance of engagement from a break bend in the return, and an opposite radius is one inch. The machine will make a break bend and then it will look ahead at the next radius control point and keep moving until it moves at least one inch. If the next control point is less than 1 inch from the previous break bend it will move to the next control point and start bending at that location. For example if the next control point is 3 inches it will move 3 inches before it starts bending again. If it is 1 inch it will move 1 inch before it starts bending again.



The circle in the picture above represents the radius tool engage the metal after a break bend. The control point must be 1” or (25mm) away from the break bend.
The arrow shows the red dotted line that represents the distance between the control points.

10. Set Start Point

You can also select the seam in Sign Wizard by first show the control points, then double clicking on the control point that you want to use as the seam. A drop down box will appear Select "Set Start / End" and the seam will move to that location. The seam is identified as a big square box.



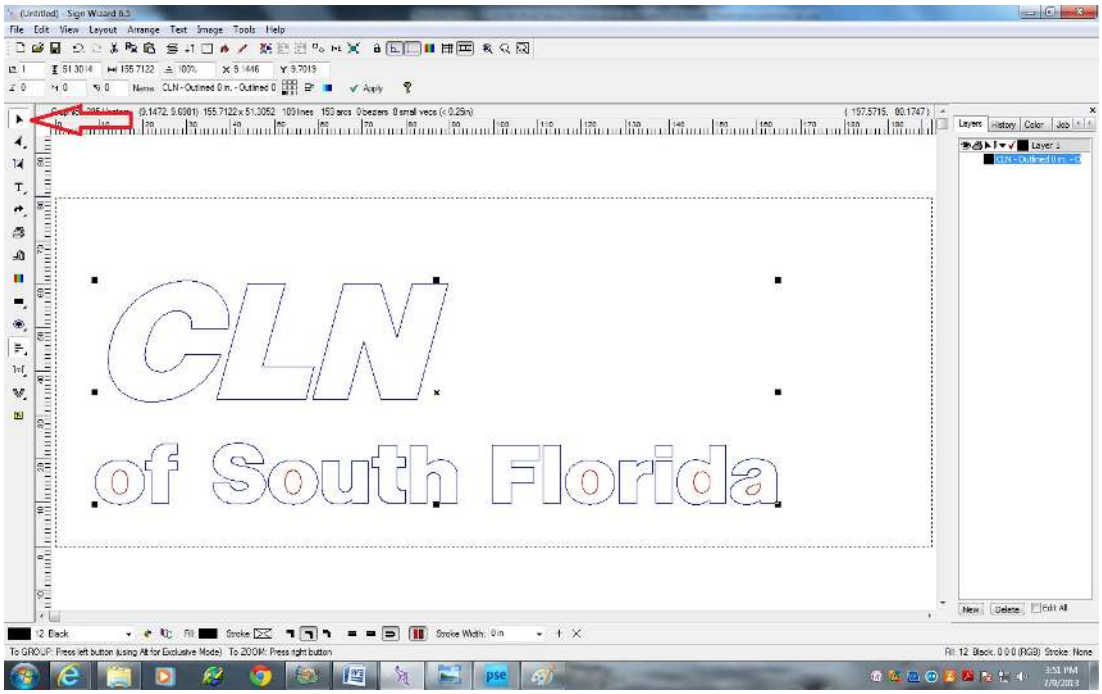
11. Control point definitions

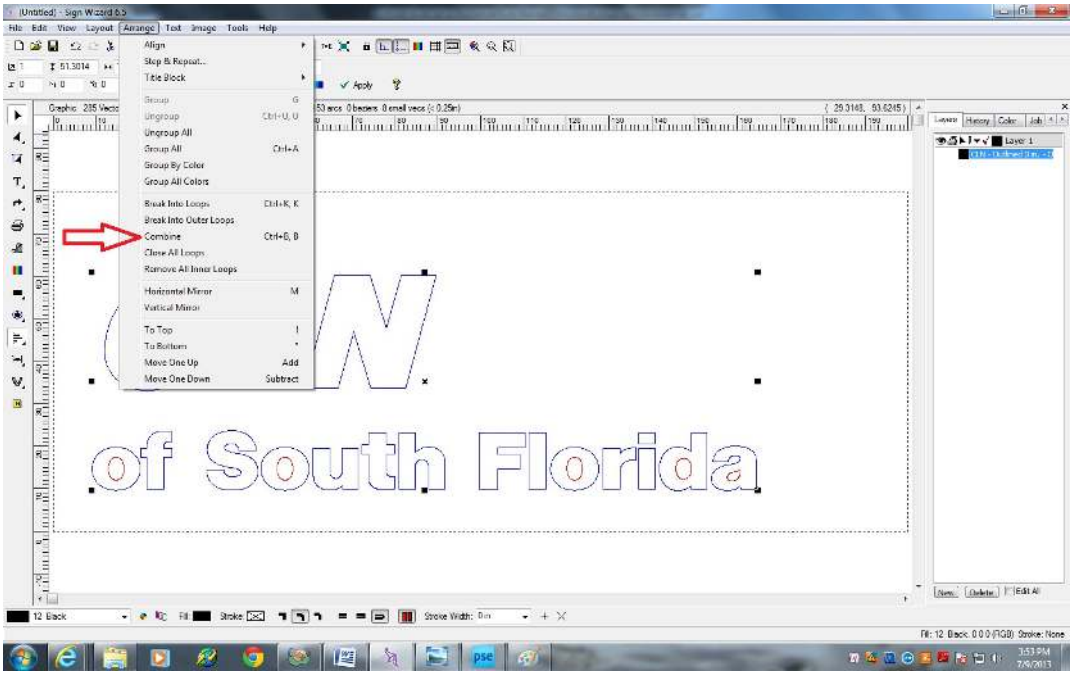
The + control point means a smooth transition from radius to radius.
A square control point means there is a corner.
A large square means the start and stop on the letter.

If you have a square control point in the middle of two radiuses, it means that there is a corner between them. However to the BEN program the intersecting angle has to be greater than 15 degrees before the machine will bend it. So don't worry about every little square in the radius.

12. Set Direction

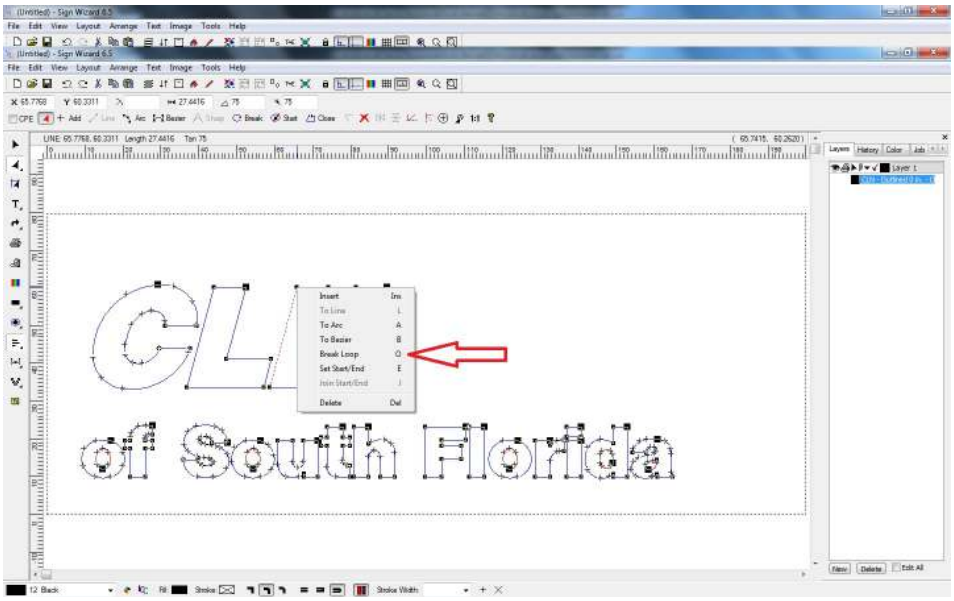
Now exit control point edit mode by selecting the 1st arrow button. Drag a box around the art work. This will select the art work. Then make sure the art work is in the layout window. Now go to the "Menu Bar" select "Arrange" > "Combine". This will ensure a clockwise direction when the file is exported. The art work will have a blue outline and a red inline.



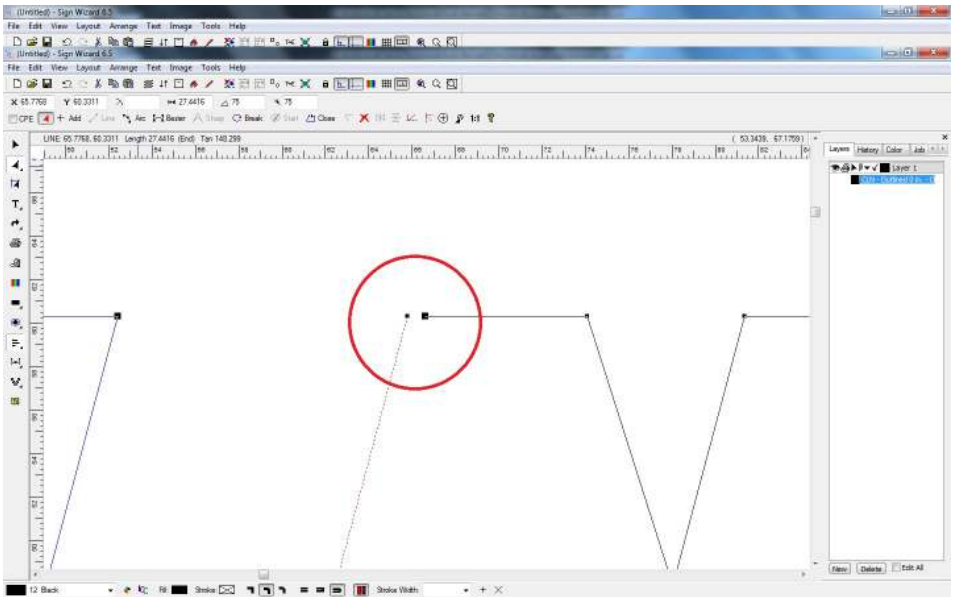


13. Splitting the letters into sections

If you want to split the letter in Sign Wizard, double click on the control point you want to cut, then the drop down box will appear select Break Loop.

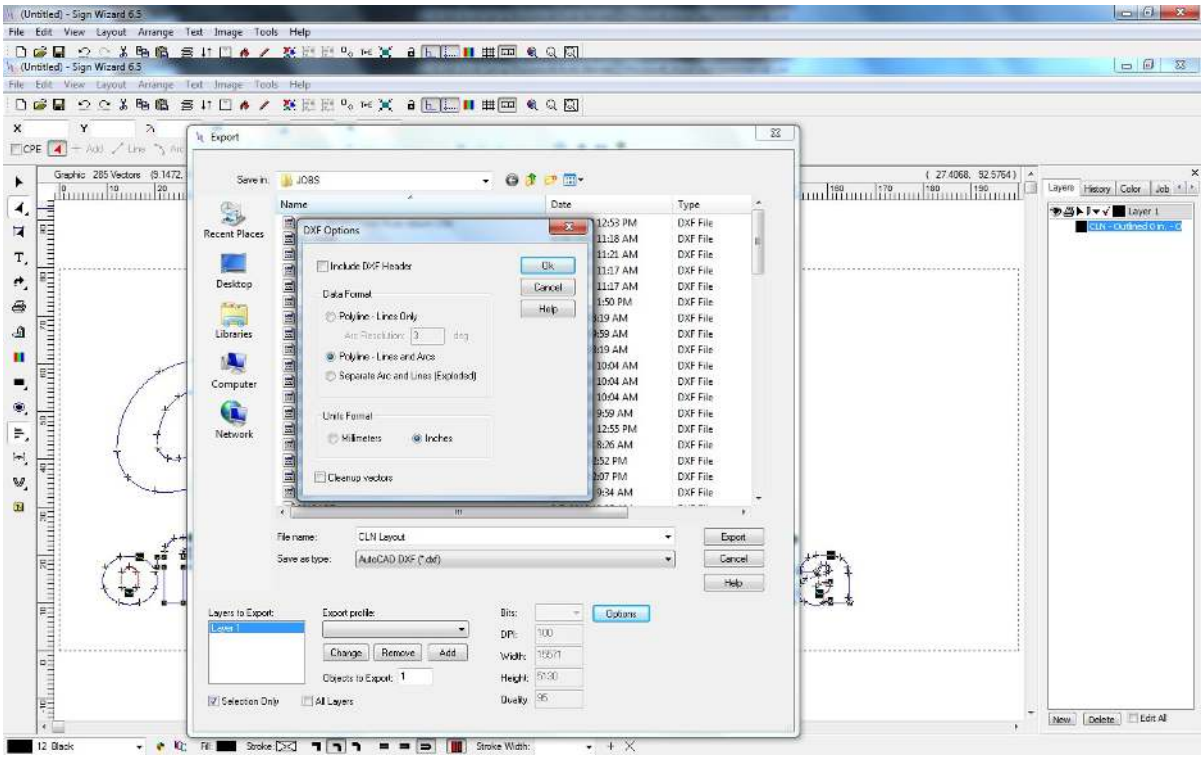


Zoom into the location that you cut you will see that there is a second control point and the letter is opened and the big control point has jumped away from the smaller one. You must grab the big control point and drag it back to where it came from. If you do not drag the control point back, the return will be short. Repeat this step on the next spot you want to open. You will also notice that the outline of the letter has turned black, this is normal.



14. Exporting the Job as a DXF file

Now select your job and go to the “Menu Bar” > “File” > “Export” >“Options” select “Polyline Lines and Arcs” and “Inches” then press OK. You will only have to adjust the DXF options one time, Sign Wizard will save these settings. Give your artwork a name then “Save as Type” Auto Cad DXF> (*.DXF) Then export it into any location or folder on your computer. You will use the same file for both machines. Now you are ready to load the file on the C: \ Jobs Folder on your CLN Equipment and start notching and bending.



NOTE:

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Save DXF File to Auto Cad DXF - Polylines (with Arcs)