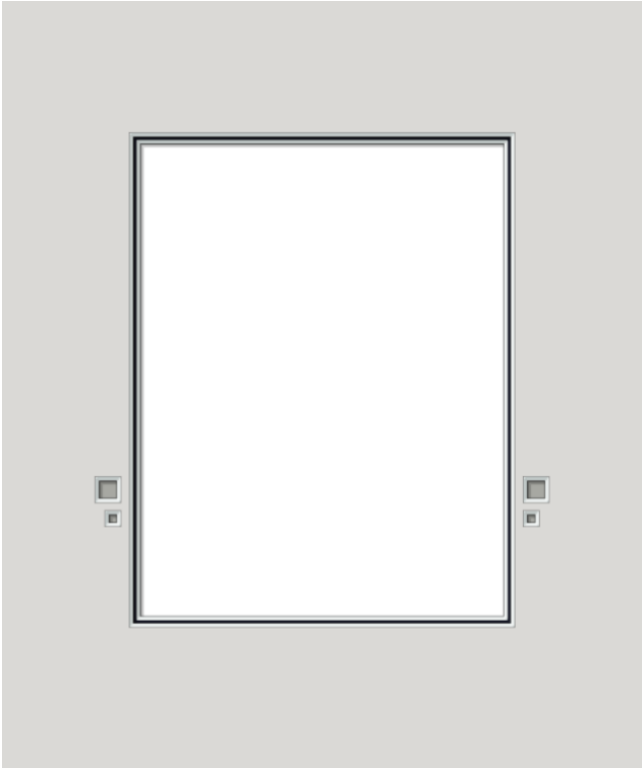
WIZARD UNIVERSITY

WCAF Expo 2024

SHAPES ALONG THE SIDES

Accent shapes symmetrically at the sides of an opening



Decorative cutting with the Wizard usually begins with the opening shapes in the template library – where decorative corners are the dominant formula. But there must be other choices for including quiet decorative touches. One classic formula is to include decorative elements at the sides. And perhaps the most neglected source for decorative shapes is the template library – where a little experimentation with the settings will generate surprises at every turn.

SMALL SQUARES

Two squares form this decorative element – almost as simple as an element can be.

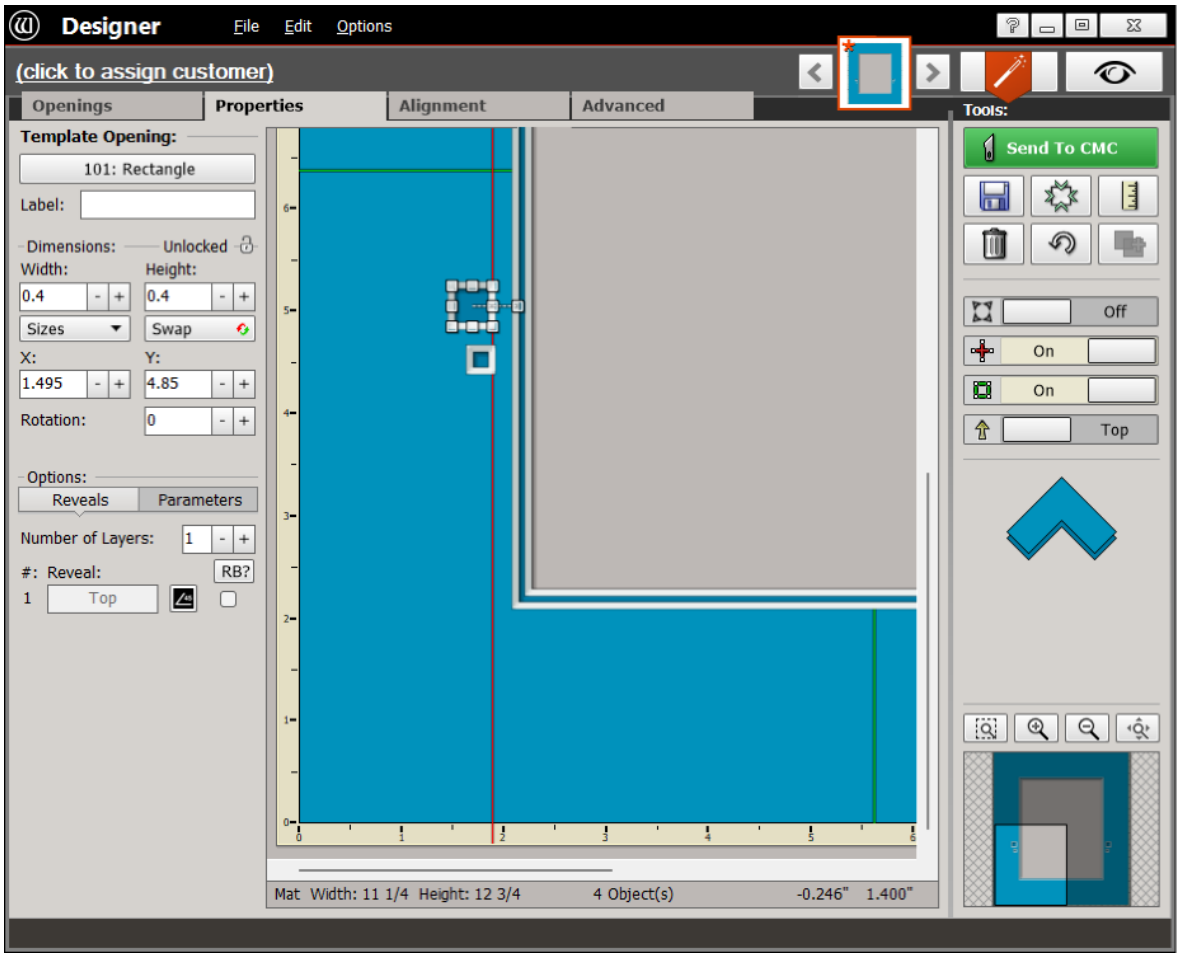
Test on your machine to see how small they can be and how close together they can be.

In this example, the larger square is 0.4 inch wide.

The smaller square is 0.22 inch wide.

The squares are 0.22 inch apart.
Their inner edges are aligned.
Group each pair to make the elements easier to move into place on the design.

Each pair of squares is 0.23 inch from the edge of the top layer of the large opening. In this illustration, there are guides 0.23 inch from the sides of the opening. The alignment buttons will also work fine to align and space all the items.

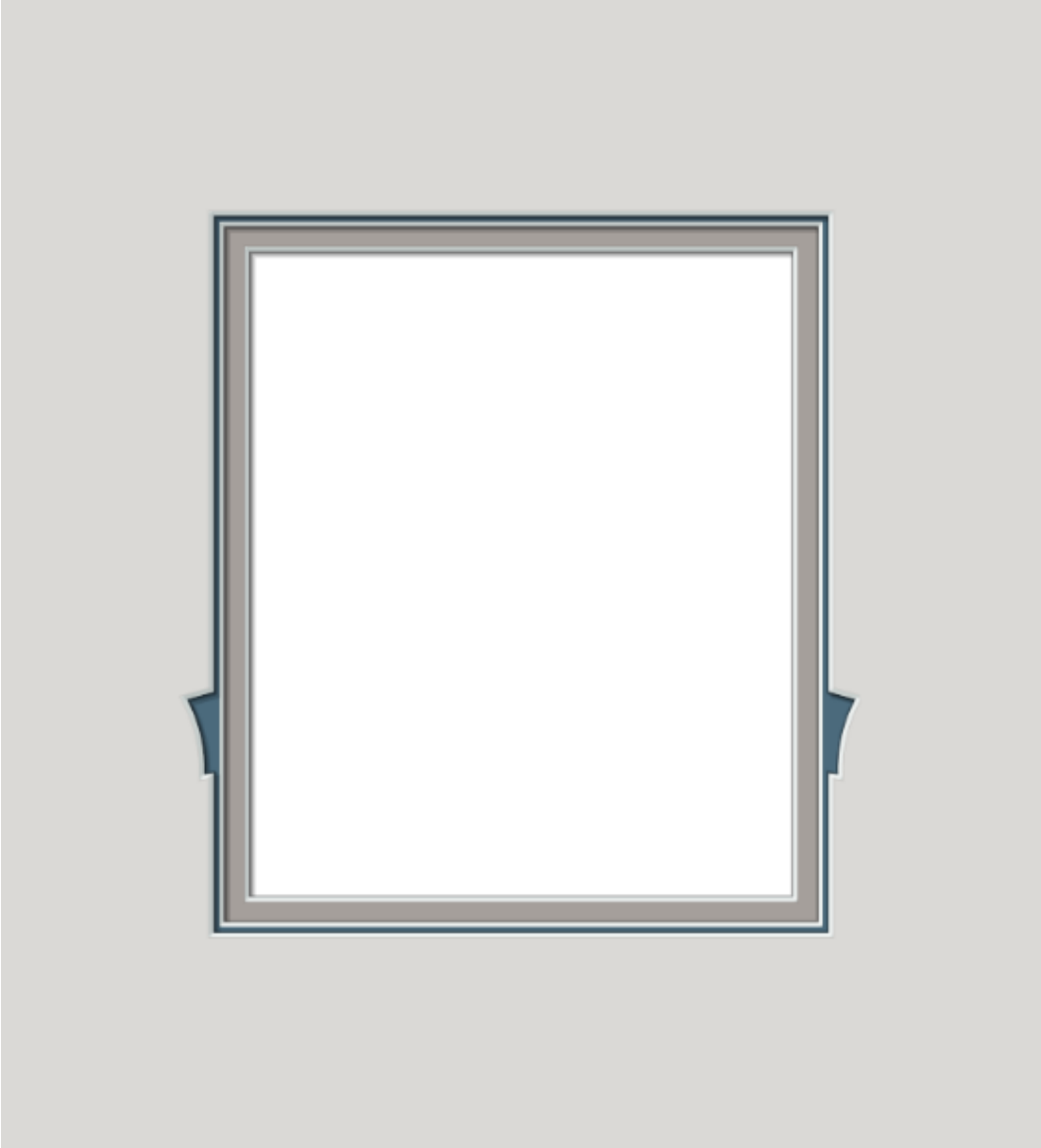


MERGED ELEMENTS

Many framers find that merged shapes like this offer more options and are less fussy about spacing than shapes separated from the opening, as in the previous example.

The concave tall shapes in this design are formed using template 509.

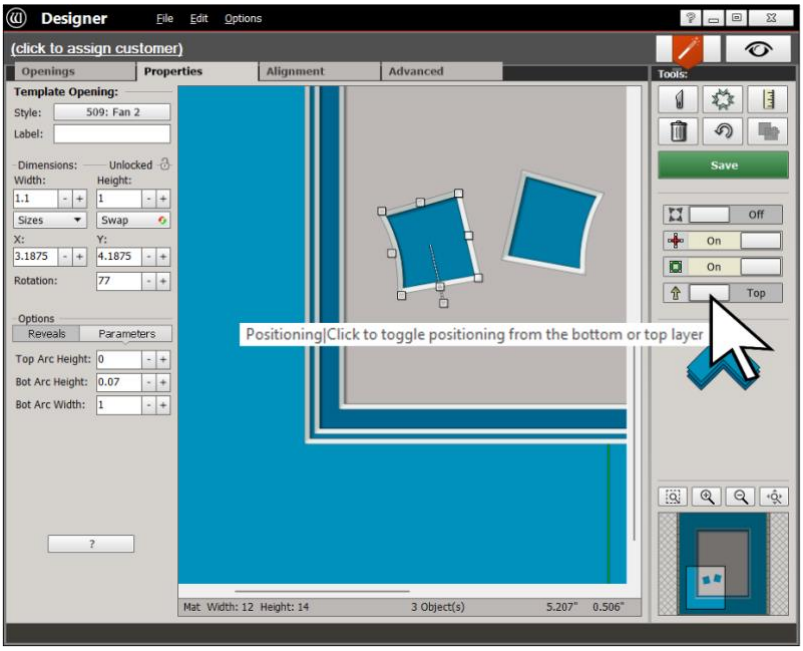
The shapes are overlapped onto the large opening, then grouped to form a new shape for the top layer with elements at the sides.



Beginning the Design

Design the opening.
It can have two layers, or three layers, as in this example.

Set the outside size, then deactivate **Dynamic Outsides** so that the outside size remains constant as we add the decorative shapes and move them into place.



A Few Software Settings

Click **Options** along the top and make sure that **Auto Align Openings** is activated.

In this illustration, see that the **Positioning** button is set with its arrow pointing up, indicating that the alignment tools will reference the top layer of the opening.

The Decorative Shapes

Add a template 509 opening 1.1 x 1 inch high.

The Parameter Settings:
Top Arc Height: 0
Bottom Arc Height: 0.07 inch
Bottom Arc Width: 1 inch

Copy and paste to add a duplicate the shape.
Note that the shapes are rotated, too.

Rotation on Left: 77°
Rotation on Right: negative 77°

Positioning the Decorative Shape on the Left

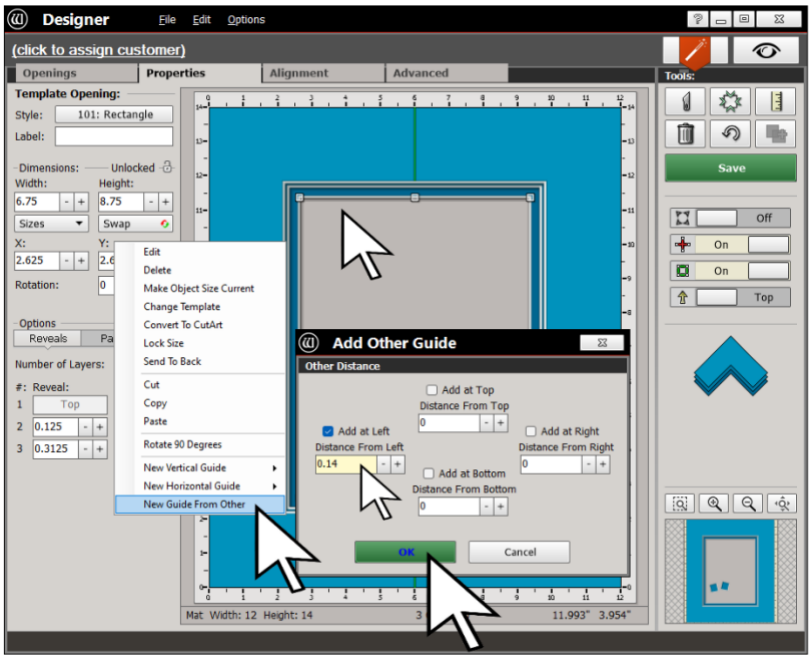
Look at the finished example at the beginning. There is a small angle at the bottom corner of each ornament. It should be small, but it will cut best if it is a bit more than an eighth inch wide.

Add a guide 0.14 inch away from the left of the opening. The guide will serve as a visual reference as we position the shape, but it will not be a snap point.

Right click on the rectangular opening.
From the menu that appears, select **New Guide From Other**.

In the **Add Other Guide** dialog box, enter 0.14 into the **Add at Left** field.

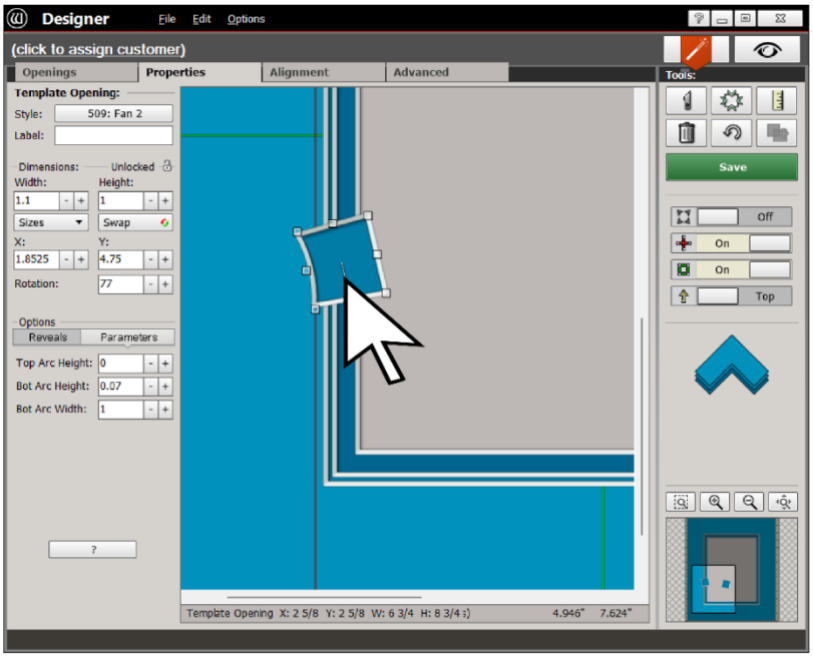
Click **OK** at the bottom. The guide will be present in the next illustration.



Move the small shape at the left so that its bottom corner is approximately on the guide.

Move the small shape vertically until you are pleased.

Its final vertical position is usually an artistic choice, but traditionally, it will be somewhere in the bottom half of the mat.



Preparing to Position the Decorative Shape on the Right

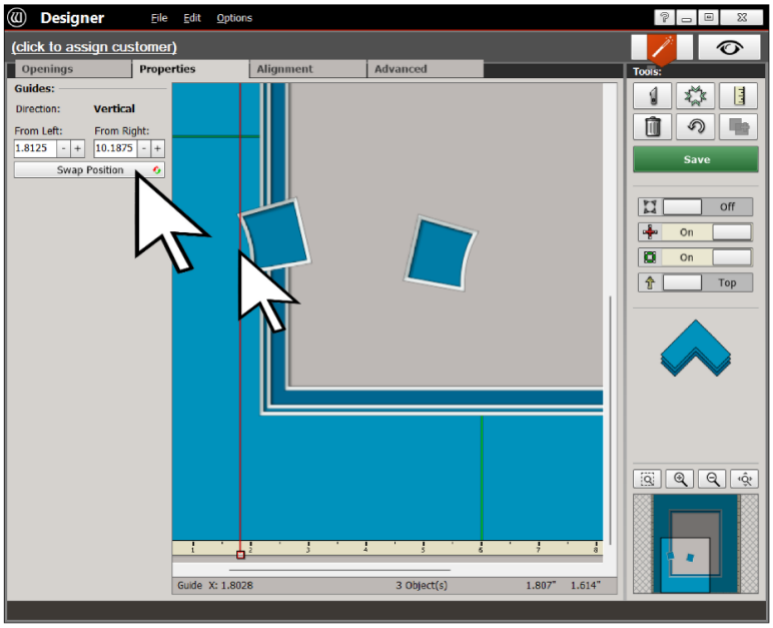
Move the guide and snap it to the left edge of the decorative shape.

Make sure that as you drag the guide, the cursor is over the small shape. The guide will then snap to the edge of the small shape.

With the guide still selected, click the **Properties** tab at the top.

Click **Swap Position**.

In the next illustration you will see that the guide has shifted to the equivalent spot on the other side of the mat.



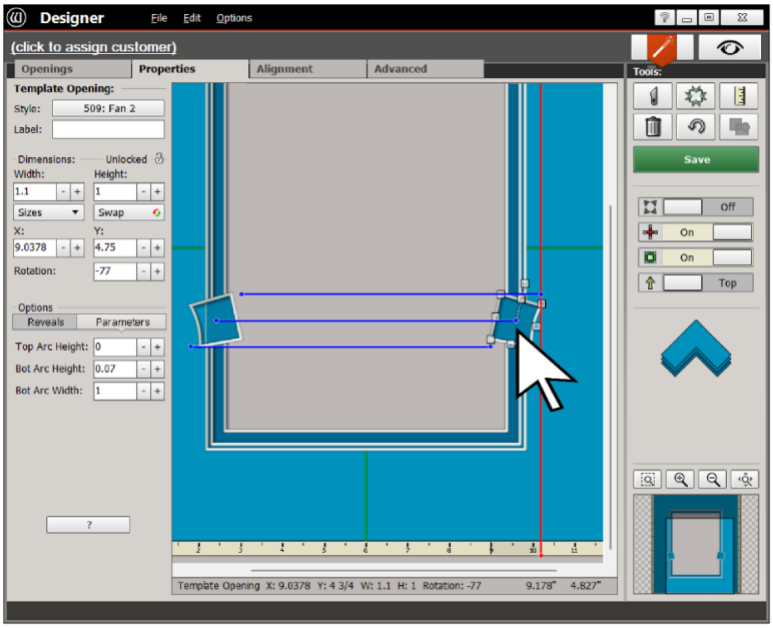
Positioning the Decorative Shape on the Right

Move the decorative shape on the right.
Snap its right corner to the guide.

The guide will flash bright red.

Move the small shape vertically.

When it is in line with the decorative shape on the left, **Auto Align Openings** will flash bright blue lines.



Grouping

Select the rectangular opening and both decorative shapes.

Click **Group Selection** under **Tools** at the upper right.

The shapes will merge into one.

ANOTHER WAY TO USE CUTART

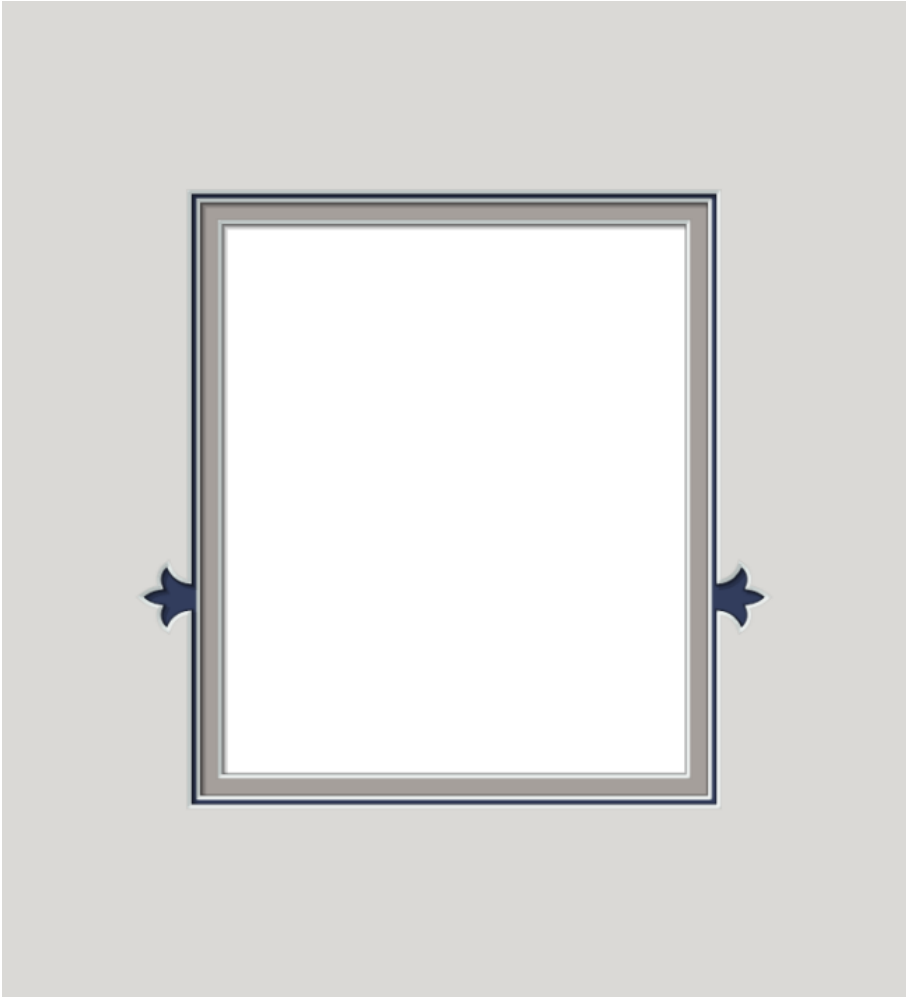
Even if the previous design is not appealing to you, run through the steps to see how the process works.

There are several pages of instructions, but everyone is surprised how quickly they are able to make these designs once they understand the process.

Most importantly, there are dozens more decorative shapes in all the libraries in the Wizard program ready to discover.
The same steps will be used to align any shapes symmetrically at the sides.

This design uses CutArt – aligned using the same process.

The CutArt is **FleurDiLisSimple.WCX** from the **Deco** folder.



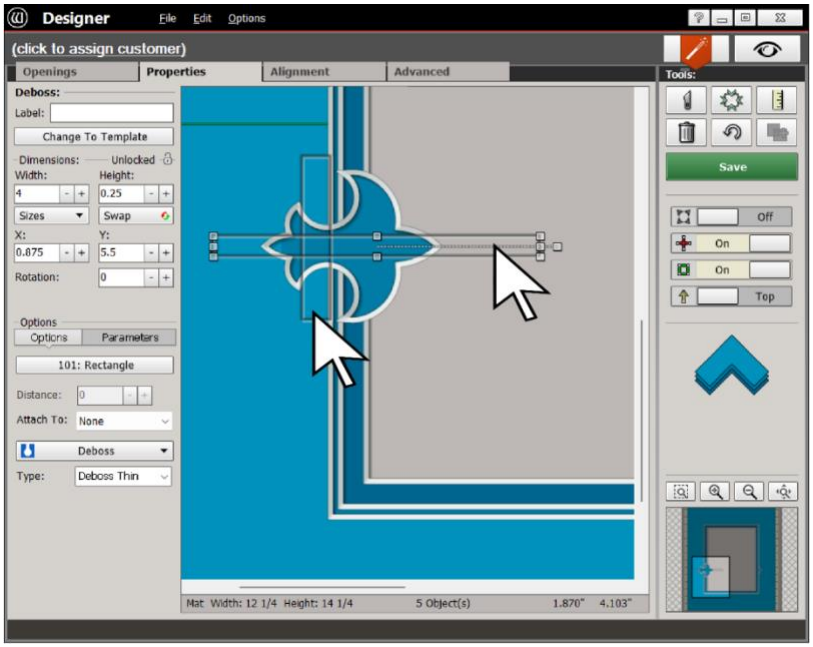
Spacing Considerations

Note that the CutArt overlaps the opening so that only half of it shows.

Though this looks like just an artistic exercise, there are a few spaces to watch so that the final shape cuts nicely.

First, the points where the CutArt intersects the top layer of the opening need to be about 0.25 inch apart.

Then, the top and bottom points of the CutArt - where its curves join at a fairly sharp angle - should be about 0.3 inch away from the side of the opening.



Measuring

There are a few ways to measure these small dimensions, but here, debossed rectangles were added. The long narrow one is 0.25 x 4 inches wide. It can be easily moved to gauge the width of the intersection as you make changes.

Similarly, the tall, debossed rectangle is 0.35 x 2 inches to check the distance between the opening and the sharp points at the left of the CutArt.

The accuracy of these dimensions is not critical. Remember to delete them before cutting the project.

A Review of the Finishing Steps

Once the horizontal position of the CutArt on the left is set, move it vertically until you are pleased.
Delete any extra shapes you may have added as measuring gauges.
Snap a vertical guide to the left point of the CutArt.
Click **Swap Position** to move the guide to the other side of the opening.
Copy and paste to duplicate the CutArt for the right side of the opening.
Mirror it to orient the CutArt in the opposite direction.
Snap the new CutArt into place on the right side of the opening, with its right point against the guide.
Move the CutArt vertical until **Auto Align Openings** flashes its bright blue lines.
Select the three items in the design and click **Group Selection** to merge the three shapes.