

FABRIC CUTTING MACHINES

Accuquilt and Sizzix cut fabric by placing the fabric between a die (shape cutter) and a plastic sheet. The die/fabric/plastic sheet unit is fed through a roller while turning a crank. Both machines work exactly the same way. The difference is in the dies that can be used and the size of the machines. Each machine comes with different sets of dies so you can buy a set or buy the machine and all the dies separately. The machines can be used for fabric and/or paper and other materials depending on the machine you choose.

ACCUQUILT: Dies made primarily for quilters. The die shapes include a $\frac{1}{4}$ seam allowance. The block die sets (in 6", 8", & 12" blocks) come with 8 different shapes, but they all fit together to make endless combinations of blocks. Shapes can also be cut for appliques. A die is available to cut 2.5 inch strips for use in binding (also other size strips). You can cut up to 6 layers of fabric at one time.

Accuquilt models (manufacturer prices below-usually cheaper on Amazon):

GO! Baby \$129.99 small & portable does not accommodate all size dies.

GO! \$399.99 larger, still portable, accommodates all dies.

GO! Big Electric \$499.99 can accommodate dies up to 14 inches wide and requires no hand cranking.

STUDIO 2 \$595. Commercial quality cutter. Handles large loads.

SIZZIX: Cuts fabric, and also cuts and embosses paper. Good for quilters who also like paper crafts such as scrapbooking or making cards. Has accessories useful in jewelry making. Price depends on what packages come with the machine. Has many more shape dies suitable for applique work than the Accuquilt. Can cut multiple layers of fabric at the same time. No dies to cut binding strips. It is possible to buy an adapter to use the Accuquilt dies in the Sizzix machines. The actual hand crank machines are

basically the same, it is the size of the machine that allows for more dies as they get larger.

Sizzix models (manufacturer prices below-usually cheaper on Amazon):

BIG SHOT (\$119. machine only) portable. Cannot accommodate all dies.

BIG SHOT PLUS (\$199.99 machine with fabric series starter kit which includes the circles die that makes 3.5", 4.5" & 7" circles)

BIG SHOT EXPRESS (\$229. machine only): motorized machine. Works with all Sizzix dies.

BIG SHOT PRO (\$349.99 with standard accessories and \$399.99 with extended accessories). Industrial strength roller machine with large opening. Works with all dies.

BIGKICK: (\$119) portable. Works with all dies except Bigz Plus and Bigz Pro dies) Accommodates dies up to 6" wide.

Another option:

CRICUT: Available at Michael's (coupons?), Joanne's (coupons?), Walmart. Cuts material and paper. Electronic/digital fabric cutter. Can cut designs based on online sites or make your own designs. Bluetooth/ ipad compatible. Probably better for applique shapes rather than geometric shapes used in quilting. Must be adjusted for speed pressure depth depending on fabric. Accuquilt and Sizzix machines do not require such adjustments.

Cricut Explore One \$149.99 machine only. \$199.99 with starter bundle

Cricut Explore \$179.99 machine only. \$279.99 machine with everything bundle.

Cricut Explore Air 2 \$249.99 machine only. \$316.99 with everything bundle.