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# Laser FOCUS

● 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2011

**WEB UPDATES**

- **News: Autodesk Selects Epilog Laser Equipment to Demo New Innovative Design Software:** [epiloglaser.com/news\\_au.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/news_au.htm)
- **Tech Library: Creating a Vignette in CoreIDRAW:** [epiloglaser.com/tl-creating-vignette.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/tl-creating-vignette.htm)
- **Sample Club: Engraved Cork Bulletin Board:** [epiloglaser.com/sc-bulletin-board.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/sc-bulletin-board.htm)
- **News: Epilog's Zing 16 Laser to Appear in 2011 WIRED Store:** [epiloglaser.com/news\\_wired\\_store\\_2011.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/news_wired_store_2011.htm)
- **Tech Library: Processing a Vignette in PhotoLaser Plus:** [epiloglaser.com/tl\\_dp\\_vignette.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/tl_dp_vignette.htm)

## Passion for Superior Quality Turns Designer into Laser Entrepreneur

Donna Diddit, owner of Donna Diddit, LLC recently celebrated the one year anniversary of her unique laser business.

"I decided to go into business for myself when I realized that I have an obsession with high-quality design. I'm constantly reworking designs that are 'almost there' but not quite realized," Donna tells us. "I come from a heritage of woodworkers, engineers, and do-it-yourselfers. If I didn't go into business for myself, I'd likely take over someone else's business and make it my own," she said.

Donna explains how her first encounter with a laser engraving and cutting system came in an unusual way, but created a lasting impression.

"I was working at a renaissance faire managing a booth that featured leather mugs when a man came in with a sample of what a laser engraver could do and asked if I'd be interested in having some work done. I took advantage of the offer, always pleased with the precision of his work on the small leather products. Years later on a road trip to Oklahoma, my husband brought up the topic of the laser engraver and we talked about it the entire trip. Once we returned to Colorado, we dug into researching lasers and were floored that Epilog was right in our backyard. We wasted no time setting up an appointment to see the laser in action at the factory. Within twenty minutes, we were completely sold on the idea

of using a laser for our business and went about making it happen," Donna said.

Donna tells us she wasn't extremely familiar with the laser engraving industry until she began her research in finding the right equipment for her needs.

"Unquestionably, it was the combination of being a domestically manufactured product and the tremendous customer service that secured our decision to purchase an Epilog Laser system. We did our homework, compared pricing and quality, and Epilog came up consistently as the one to beat. No one could beat it, so purchase it we did!" Donna now works primarily with hardwoods,

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Stainless Steel Flatware Garden Signs

If you're enrolled in ARA's certification program, these clinics have been approved by ARA's Education Committee and are eligible for .8 CEU credits. Visit [www.ara.org](http://www.ara.org) for more information.

We update our educational clinics regularly, so check [epiloglaser.com/educational\\_clinics.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/educational_clinics.htm) to find dates and venues for the coming year.

Location	Sponsor	Venue	Phone	Date
Dallas, TX	Engraving Concepts	Venue to be determined	P: 817-460-8122	Feb 17, 18

## 2011 Educational Clinics and Laser Seminars



stainless steel and glass and specializes in four major categories of unique design and production:

- Push Pin Puzzles™, a completely unique word game that challenges players to recombine a phrase using wood push pins engraved with the letters of the quote. The entire game is contained in a limited edition hardwood box, which is laser engraved and cut.
- Table to Farm™ Garden Markers, which are repurposed stainless steel flatware engraved with plant names - permanent and water resistant, these markers are shiny and easy-to-find in the garden.
- Bottle Back™, laser engraved glassware and bottles for home brewers, vinters, distillers, and mead makers, from a simple "Please Give Me My Bottle Back" design to full 360-degree engraving utilizing the Epilog rotary attachment.
- Custom design and production - Donna works with graphic artists, entrepreneurs, or just about anyone with an idea and helps design and produce custom work in a range of materials. "This is one of the most gratifying aspects of the laser engraver," Donna said. "Folks get a sense of what it is capable of and immediately start to ask 'Can you engrave this?' – it's so much fun!"

Donna credits a portion of her success to her high design standards and her Epilog system. "I know that my design and quality remains consistent with the Epilog Laser system. I can quote a price and it is completely accurate because I can estimate pricing based on laser time, costs, labor and materials. I love it when folks see my work for the first time and love it because the detail and finish is spot on."

"The only thing that can prepare you to understand the capability of an Epilog Laser system is to experience it in person. The imagination begins to play on the precision and production capacity of the laser, making it the power tool of the 21st century that you never knew you had to have," Donna said.



Project Photos by Donna Diddit, LLC.

## Farewell to 2011

2011 was a great year for Epilog Laser. We've accomplished so much and are beyond grateful for the continued support from our customers, distributors, associates and friends. In an uncertain economic climate we are proud to have grown as a company and become more connected with our customers. As we prepare for a stellar 2012, we look back this year with a sense of pride for accomplishments including:

- An invitation to attend Autodesk University to demo Autodesk's new 123D Make software. Over 9,000 people attended this conference/expo and got to see our lasers in action as we cut out different materials to make amazing 3D models.
- Being invited back to the 2011 WIRED Store to showcase the Epilog Zing 16 Laser. We love showing off the Epilog Zing and doing custom engravings at the Store. This year was the biggest yet – 10,000 square feet of cool new gadgets in the heart of Times Square.
- Teaming with Emmy-winning show Everyday Edisons for seasons four and five. Thousands of hopefuls are screened each season by the Everyday Edisons crew, but only a lucky handful are selected as "Everyday Edisons". Those lucky enough to be named as finalists will have access to an Epilog Laser system to help create their inventions.
- Having a record-setting sales month in August, followed by a record-setting sales week in September.
- Receiving another patent for our Waveguide™ laser tubes. This is the second patent Epilog has received for our Waveguide laser technology.
- Being a sponsor of the 2011 USA Pro Cycling Challenge - the race features the world's top professional cyclists battling the steep grades, hairpin turns, and terrifying descents of the Colorado mountains over one of the highest altitude courses ever created.
- Partnering with Instructables.com to launch two more Epilog Challenges! One winner created an Arduino Powered Chess Playing Robot and the other lucky winner created a laser 3D printer.

We'll continue working hard to ensure 2012 will be filled with even more exciting announcements and accomplishments, but wanted to take this moment to thank you - our customers - for your support in making 2011 one of the best years in the history of Epilog. Best wishes for a promising new year!

## Technical Library: Using the Center-Center Option in the Epilog Laser Dashboard

When engraving a uniquely-shaped item, the Center-Center option within the Epilog Laser Dashboard can be an invaluable tool. The Center-Center option allows you to define the center of your artwork as the primary reference point (home position) of your engraving or cutting. Designed to be used in conjunction with the moveable home position, the Center-Center feature differs from standard printing where the upper left corner of the page and the upper left corner of the laser table define your primary reference point.

Here we'll use the Center-Center engraving option for an award that does not easily fit in the upper left corner of the machine.

First, measure the area to be engraved so you know what kind of space you have to work with. In this case the area was about 3" x 3" in the center of the award.

Next, turn on the red dot pointer and move the home position to the center of your engraving area.

Open a new file in CorelDRAW and set the page size to the size of the engraving area, in our case 3" x 3". To preview the position of the job, draw a vector box around the engraving and send ONLY that job to the laser (with the door open and the red dot pointer on.) That way you can ensure the engraving is placed precisely where you want.

Make sure the Center-Center engraving box is checked!

When you're happy with where the engraving will appear, remove the vector box and send the engraving job to the laser - your engraving will be perfectly centered to the home position you selected.

For complete online instructions visit [epiloglaser.com/tl-center-center.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/tl-center-center.htm)



## Sample Club: Laser Engraved Bamboo iPhone Case

These bamboo iPhone 4 cases aren't just stylish and eco-friendly, they help protect a valuable investment. Bamboo is quickly becoming a popular engraving material - not only does it produce a unique contrast, but it's also a sustainable wood.

Materials:

- Bamboo iPhone 4 case - we purchased ours from iWave at [iwaveaudio.com/products.asp?dept\\_id=100046](http://iwaveaudio.com/products.asp?dept_id=100046)

Please check your owner's manual for the proper settings for your machine. For this project we used a 50-watt Helix with the following settings:

- Speed: 75%
- Power: 100%

Begin by inserting the case in the upper left corner of the laser. Customize the design to your liking and send the job to the laser. When it's complete you'll have a nature-inspired engraving with great depth and contrast.

Instructions continued online...

For complete instructions and to download the sample file visit [epiloglaser.com/sc-iphone-case.htm](http://epiloglaser.com/sc-iphone-case.htm)



○ ENGRAVING | ○ CUTTING | ○ MARKING

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