

ROUND CORNER CUTTER BUYING GUIDE

Benefits of Round Cornering

A Round Corner Cutter is an invaluable tool for any print shop. They not only add an attractive finishing touch to all sorts of print projects, but also a degree of protection. Even a small radius corner can protect the piece from unsightly damaged square corners. This is especially noticeable in pieces that get handled a lot, like business cards. Nothing says “unprofessional” like handing a prospective client a card with dinged up corners.

Sure, you can sit down with an X-Acto® knife and cut nice corners, but if you want clean, consistent rounded corners, you can't beat a dedicated corner rounding machine.



Dinged Corner

Rounded Corner

What Can You Cut?

Think about the printed items you interact with every day. Business cards, menus, catalogs, folders, laminated sheets, signs. The list goes on and on. Rounded corners add a finishing touch to all of these things.

A round corner cutter is a good tool to have around your print shop. If you do any sort of volume, you need a corner cutting machine. Some electric cutters can handle up to 700 sheets of paper in one cut! But what else can you cut?

Round corner cutters come in a variety of sizes and capabilities. Typical materials are paper, cardstock and lamination film. It doesn't take much to handle those. You might also use a cutter for PVC sheet, polyester, or leather. Sturdier units make quick work cutting harder plastic sheet, sheet metal, and wood. All these will be specified in the product listings.

Typical items people ask to have rounded corners include:

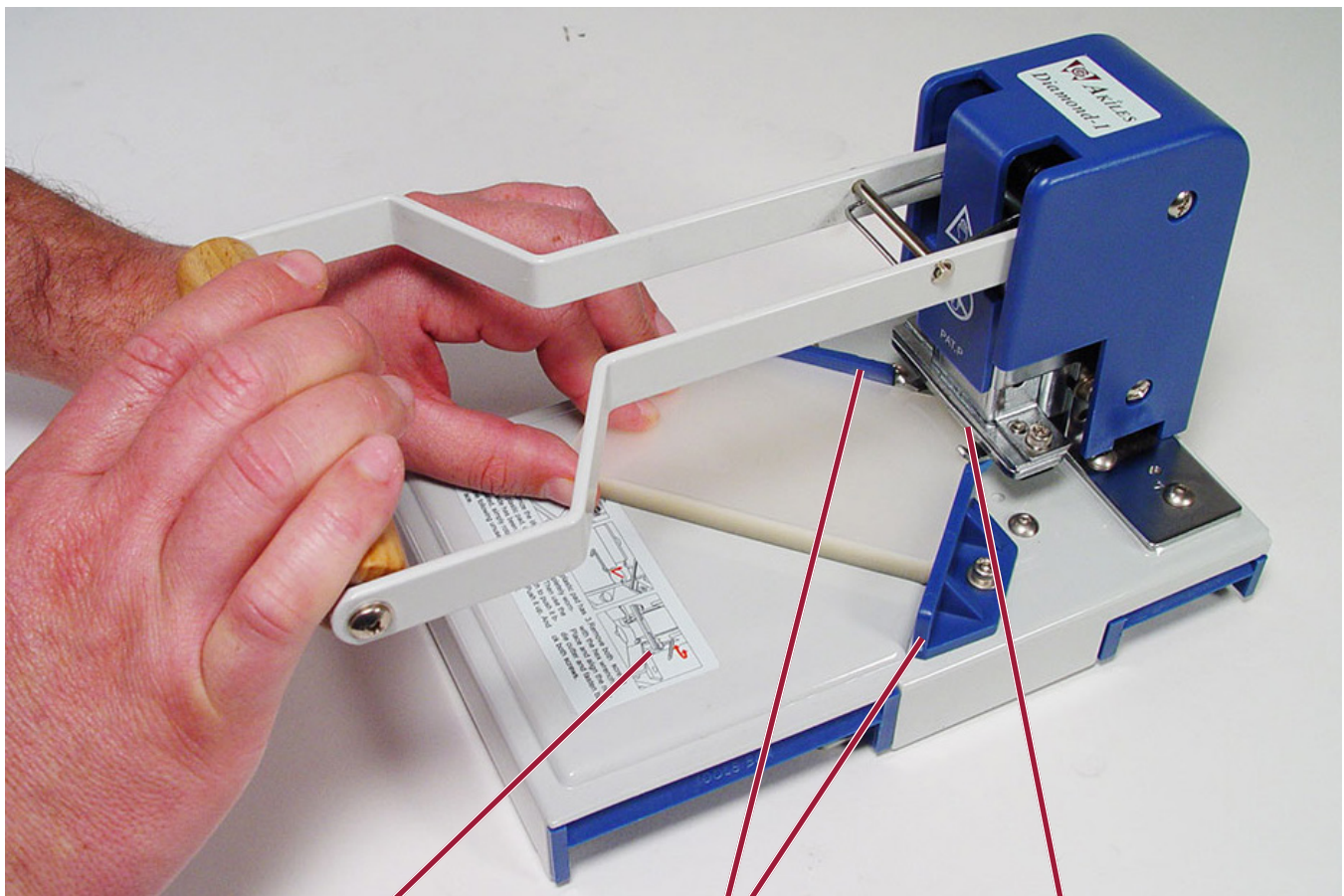
- Postcards
- Business cards
- Catalogs
- Presentation Folders
- Hand-out sheets
- Photographs
- Menus
- Signs

How Does a Corner Rounder Work?

All corner rounders follow the same basic principle. There is a work surface with two guides, set at a 90° angle, which hold the project in the precise spot to make perfect corners. Then there is a rounded blade that gets pressed down from above, through the material. It's really very simple.

Differences in size, capability, and mechanical actuation set the units apart. Table top models provide powerful cutting in a compact size to accommodate small areas. If space is not a factor, choose a floor standing model to keep your work bench free for other things.

Cutters operate in three different ways; manual, electric and pneumatic. Small manual corner cutters, like the one shown below, either have a lever actuation for the table top models, or foot pedal on the floor standing models. Electric and pneumatic cutters both have a foot pedal to activate the cutting operation.



WORK TABLE

GUIDES

BLADE (INSIDE)



Manual Cutters

As you might expect, for the cost conscious buyer, there is a manual option. Table top manual cutters utilize a lever mechanism to apply a great deal of force on the cutting blade. There are also floor standing models with foot pedal actuation, leaving your hands free to position the job.

Electric Cutters

If you need more volume capability, electric cutters typically handle a taller stack of paper. Some models can cut a perfect 1/4" radius in 700 sheets of 20# stock in one pass! The concept is the same, but they use an electric motor to drive the cutting head.

Operation is by a foot pedal, leaving your hands free to position your project. You can find table top models, as well as floor standing units to fit your needs.



Pneumatic Cutters

Pneumatic corner rounders operate on compressed air that you supply. If your shop operates other pneumatic tools, adding a pneumatic corner cutter is an easy choice. The floor standing units take up about as much floor space as a drinking fountain.

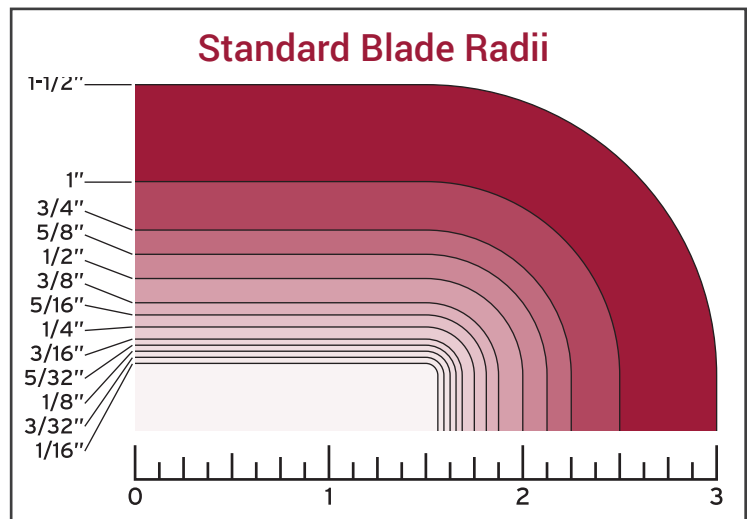
You operate the cutter via a foot pedal, leaving your hands free to position the project.

Making the Cut

The heart of every corner cutter is the blade. Corner cutting blades have a special shape, with the bevel on the outside to push the sliced bits away from the part you want to save. Each blade is formed to the desired radius. Changing the cut radius requires changing the blade. Therefore, you should stock up on each available radius blade for your machine.

Size Matters

Blades come in a variety of sizes, measured as the radius of the corner they cut, from 1/16" to 1-1/2". Not all machines accept every size, so shopping for a cutter must include researching the availability of blades for the particular unit you want.



Material Issues

Of course, you can expect corner rounders to handle paper and card stock. Most blades even slice a variety of other soft materials, like leather, laminating film and pouches, polyester, and thin PVC.

For more robust jobs, look for machines and blades rated for sheet metal. The sign making industry uses corner rounding machines on aluminum, brass, light gauge steel, etc.

Keep It Sharp

Blades are the main wear items on a corner cutter. Just like any knife, these blades get dull with usage. Unless you know how to sharpen these specialty items, keeping a few spares on hand will pay for themselves the first time you notice the signs of a dull blade in the middle of a job. Waiting for replacement blades could put a machine out of commission for days.

Preferred Manufacturers

We base our recommendations on experience. At Lloyd's of Indiana, we found corner rounding machines from **Akiles** and **Lassco-Wizer** to be among the highest quality in the industry. These manufacturers produce some of the finest equipment with the lowest cost to operate. Any equipment you buy for your shop is an investment in future profits. You won't regret purchasing a machine from either of these manufacturers.

Akiles

Established in 1993, **Akiles Products, Inc.** has established itself as a leader in the binding and lamination industry. Akiles distributes binding machines, laminators, and various other office machines and supplies across both North and South America. They have solidified their place in the document finishing world by producing high quality, feature rich and easy to use binding and laminating equipment at competitive prices.

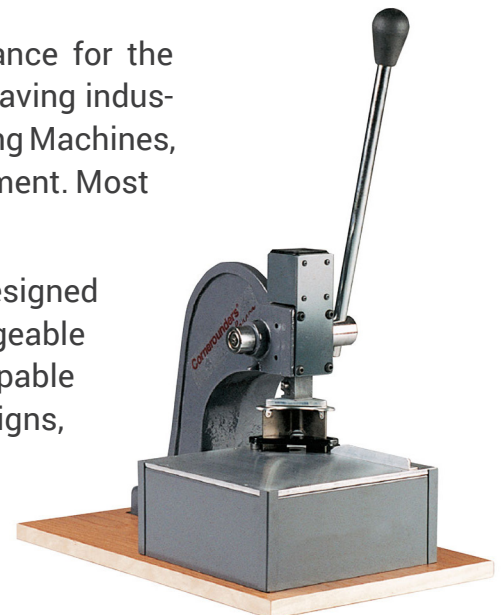


The Akiles Diamond 7 Electric

Lassco-Wizer

Lassco-Wizer produces equipment with proven performance for the graphic arts, office, screen printing, sign, awards, and engraving industries, including Numbering Machines, Perforating and Scoring Machines, Padding Equipment, Staplers and Staples, and Press Equipment. Most of their equipment is manufactured in the United States.

Lassco Cornerounder® round cornering machines were designed to allow for a variety of cutting sizes. Easily interchangeable cutting units range in size from 1/16" to 1 1/2" and are capable of cutting a radius on paper, card stock, vinyl, magnetic signs, plastics, and lightweight metals.



Lassco Cornerounder® CR-60 Sign Cutter

Maintaining a Round Cornering Machine

Keeping a corner rounder in tip top shape requires a few tasks.

- 1. Use the proper blade/die** – Blades are manufactured for specific materials. Most blades handle paper and light plastics, like lamination. However, metal cutting blades make quick work of sheet metals. Never use a paper cutting blade to cut metal.
- 2. Keep the Blade Sharp** – Dull blades make the machine work harder and produce rough cuts. If you notice the corners are not cutting cleanly, it is time to sharpen or replace the blade. Most sharpening services can handle renewing a radiused blade. With the cost of some of the blades, it makes sense to have them sharpened. Following these rules will lengthen the time between replacement or sharpening.
- 3. Don't Overload the Die** – Blades and cutters have a maximum recommended stack height for the material to cut. Never exceed that recommendation or you may damage the machine and/or shorten the life of the blade.
- 4. Keep the Machine Clean** – Proper cleaning will keep the moving parts moving properly. Some cutters contain a waste tray. Remember to empty the waste tray after each use, and whenever full, to avoid shortening the blade life.

Round corner cutters are an invaluable tool for any print finishing operation. Following these simple rules, and any others recommended by the manufacturer, will ensure years of dependable service.

You are not alone

This document just threw a ton of information at you. If you are just thinking about purchasing a corner rounding machine, we know it can be overwhelming to sift through the variety of options; machines, operation, dies, blades. Just take a breath.

Lloyd's of Indiana has been in the document finishing business since 1987. We use these machines in our own operation, and we gladly share our knowledge with anyone who needs it.

You can call us at **(877) 626-6848**, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern. Sales and support personnel are ready to answer any questions.

Since 1987, Lloyd's of Indiana has supplied our customers with top-of-the-line printing equipment, document finishing equipment, and document finishing supplies. But did you know we also run a very successful printing operation? That's right, Lloyd's of Indiana not only sells the equipment, we also use it!

