Blingflow Lite

USER GUIDE · VERSION 1.5

Make your first rhinestone template

Everything you need — from activating the app to cutting your first template.



Designed by SkyArtPix 💜
etsy.com/shop/SkyArtPix · skyarts.net/blingflow/guides

WELCOME

Thank you for your purchase!

Blingflow Lite turns your pictures, logos and names into rhinestone templates that are ready to cut on your machine. It runs on your own computer and works offline — your pictures never leave your PC.

What you need

- A Windows 10 or Windows 11 computer
- Microsoft Edge (already part of Windows)
- Your activation key and Etsy order number (sent in your Etsy messages)
- A picture: PNG or JPG works best

What the app makes

Cut files (SVG, DXF), a print-and-check PDF and a PNG preview. Use them with your cutting machine, rhinestone flock and stones.

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New in version 1.5: a fresh look with clear new names (**Shading · Shape fill · Edge only**), the **Measure** tool, a **Cost** button in the tool bar, and **Guides · Help · Rate this app** at the bottom of the app — see **page 12**.

New to rhinestones? Start with one of the built-in samples (Moon, Logo or Heart) in the Design tab. Play with the sliders and watch the stones change — you can't break anything, and Ctrl Z always takes you back.

PART 1

Start the app & activate

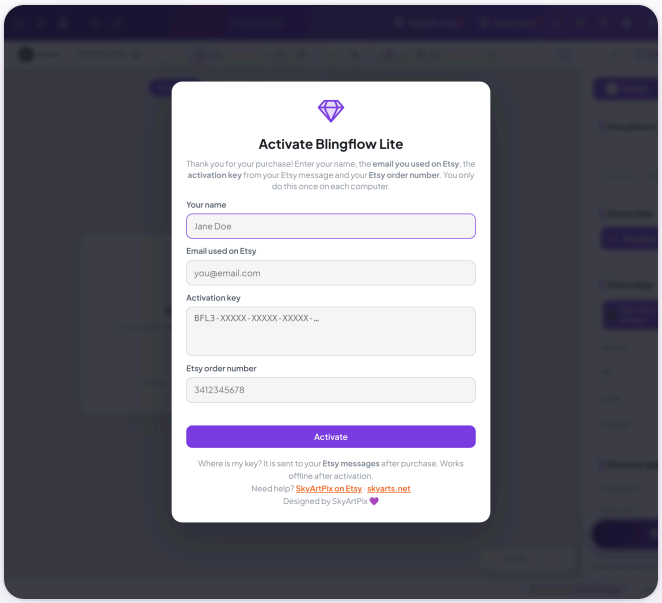
Use whichever version you like — they are the same app.

Portable (recommended)

1. Unzip **Blingflow-Lite-Portable** anywhere — Desktop or Documents is fine.
2. Double-click **Blingflow Lite.exe**.

Installer

1. Double-click **Blingflow-Lite-Setup** and follow the steps.
2. Open Blingflow Lite from the Start menu or desktop icon.



> **"Windows protected your PC"?** Normal for new apps from small shops — click **More info → Run anyway**.
> **"Smart App Control blocked"?** Use the **Browser version**: open **Blingflow Lite.html** in Microsoft Edge or Chrome — same app, same key.

Activate (one time on each computer)

The first time the app opens it asks for four things. Copy them from the message we sent you on Etsy:

Field	What to enter
Your name	Your name — it is shown as "Licensed to" in the app.
Email used on Etsy	The same email the key was made for (see your Etsy message).
Activation key	The long key that starts with **BFL3-**. Copy and paste the whole key.
Etsy order number	Digits only, for example 3412345678. Find it under **Purchases** on Etsy.

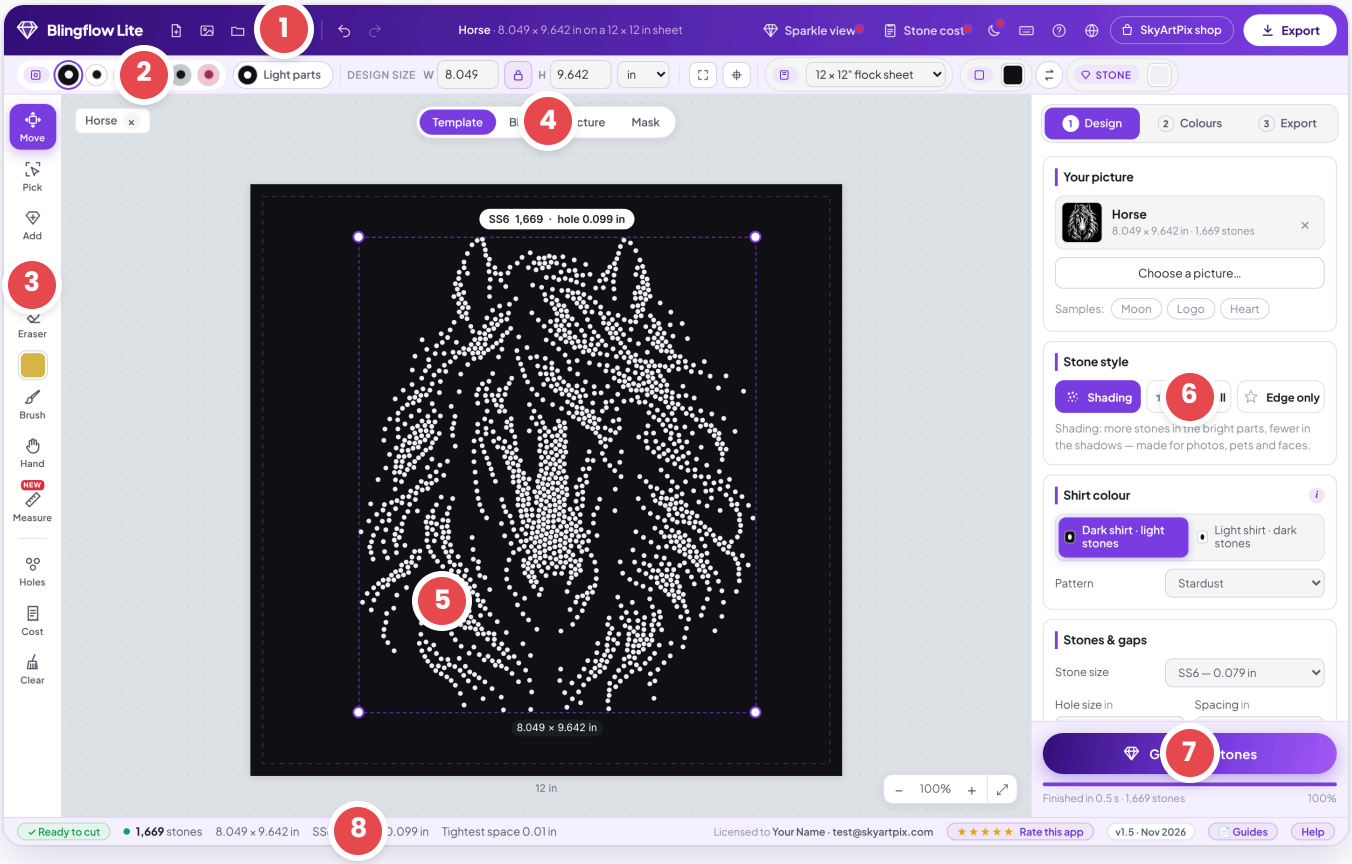
If activation does not work

"Key looks incomplete"	Part of the key is missing — copy the whole key again.
"Made for a different email"	Use the exact email written in your Etsy message.
"Made for a different order number"	Check the order number digits.

PART 2

A quick tour of the screen

Everything is on one screen. Hover over any button to see a short tip.



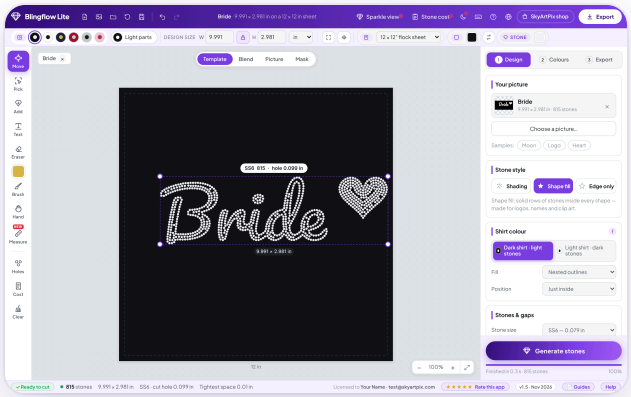
1. **Top bar** — New, Open picture, Open project, Start over, Save, Undo / Redo, Sparkle view, Stone cost, theme, help, SkyArtPix shop and **Export**.
2. **Colour bar** — Quick colours, Invert fill, design size (W / H, Fit, Centre), flock sheet size, Sheet and Stone colour.
3. **Tools** — Move, Pick, Add, Text, Eraser, colour Brush, Hand, **Measure**, Holes, **Cost** and Clear.
4. **View** — Template, Blend (stones on the picture), Picture and Mask (what gets stones).
5. **Your sheet** — drag the corner squares to resize the design. Keep stones inside the dashed line.
6. **Side panel** — three tabs: **1 Design**, **2 Colours**, **3 Export**. Work from left to right.
7. **Generate stones** — makes the stones again with your settings (Enter).
8. **Status bar** — Ready to cut / too close, stone count and sizes · **Rate this app** · version · **Guides** · **Help**.

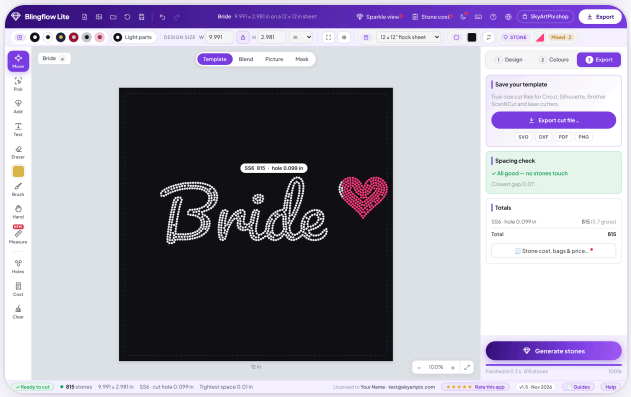
PART 3

Your first template in 6 steps

Example: a name on a black shirt with white (crystal) stones.

1. **Open your picture.** Click **Choose a picture…** in the Design tab, press Ctrl O, or drag a picture onto the sheet. Every new picture starts as a black sheet with white stones.
2. **Pick a stone style. Shading** for photos, **Shape fill** for logos and text, **Edge only** for a line along the edges.
3. **Pick your shirt.** Under **Shirt colour** choose **Dark shirt · light stones** or **Light shirt · dark stones**. Stones go on the light or the dark parts of your picture.
4. **Choose the stone size.** SS6 and SS10 are the most common for shirts. Hole size and spacing are filled in for you.
5. **Set the size.** Type the width in the **Design size** box (W) in the colour bar, or drag a corner of the design. Pick your flock sheet size next to it.
6. **Check & export.** Open the **Export** tab. When it says ✓ **Ready to cut**, click **Export cut file…** and save an SVG for your machine.





> Not enough stones? Lower **Threshold** or raise **Density**. Too busy? Do the opposite.

PART 4

Styles, shirts & patterns



Shading
Follows light & shade. Best for photos and portraits.



Shape fill
Neat rows fill every shape. Best for logos, names, clip art.



Edge only
A line of stones around the edges — light and elegant.

Dark shirt or light shirt — Invert fill

Dark shirt · light stones puts stones on the **light** parts of your picture. **Light shirt · dark stones** puts them on the **dark** parts. The **Invert fill** button in the colour bar (I) switches between the two and keeps your colours.

> A logo with **black text on a white background**? Choose **Light shirt · dark stones** (stones on the dark text), then change the Sheet and Stone colours to anything you like — colours never change which parts get stones.

Patterns for Shading

Pattern	Best for
Stardust	Faces and photos — the most natural look.
Brick rows / **Linear fill**	Neat, even rows. Use **Angle** to turn them.
Soft dots	Smooth light-to-dark fades.
Ripples / **Ocean waves** / **Spiral bloom**	Eye-catching decorative fills — great for round shapes.

Fill for Shape fill & lines for Edge only

Nested outlines repeats the outline inwards, ring inside ring. **Frame + rows**, **Brick rows** and **Linear fill** fill shapes with lines of stones. For Edge only, choose **1–4 lines** and the **Position**: **Just inside** the edge or **On the edge**.

PART 5

Every setting explained

All in the **Design** tab. Change a setting, then the stones update.

Setting	What it does
Stone size	The rhinestone size you will use, SS3 to SS48. SS6 and SS10 are the most common for shirts.
Hole size	The hole cut in the template. Set by the stone size — make it a little bigger if stones fit too tight.
Spacing	The gap kept between every two holes, edge to edge. 0.01 in (0.25 mm) is a safe minimum.
Threshold	How dark (or light, with Invert fill) a spot must be to get stones. Raise it for a cleaner design with fewer stones.
Density	How close the stones are packed. Lower = fewer stones, cheaper and quicker to stone.
Angle	Turns rows or grids to any angle.
Use the picture's colours	Each colour in your picture becomes its own group of stones (Shading: up to 6 colours).
Fill small empty spots	Adds single stones wherever one still fits, e.g. in the tips of letters.
Remove background	Only for plain one-colour backgrounds (white or black) — not for busy photo backgrounds.

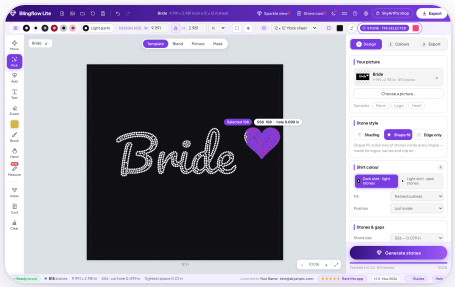
Picture tune-up (for tricky photos)

Brightness	Makes the whole picture lighter or darker before stones are placed.
Contrast	Pushes greys towards black and white — sharper edges.
Midtones	Lightens or darkens the middle greys only.
Black / White point	Everything darker (or lighter) than this counts as fully black (or white).
Smooth	Smooths noisy or grainy pictures so stones flow better.

Switch the view to **Mask** (`4`) while you move the sliders — it shows exactly which parts will get stones.

PART 6

Editing stones & colours



Tool	How to use it
Move V	Drag the design; drag a corner to resize. **Delete** removes the picture.
Pick A	Drag a box around stones, then recolour, nudge (arrow keys) or **Delete** them.
Add S	Click to place one stone.
Eraser E	Wipe stones away. [ ] change the eraser size.
Brush B	Paint stones with the colour in the box above it.
Hand H	Move around the sheet (or hold **Space**).
Measure M	Drag on the sheet to measure any distance.
Holes O	Switches the cut holes as rings on or off.
Cost R	Opens the Stone cost sheet.
Clear	Removes all stones (Undo brings them back).

Colours

Quick colours (left of the colour bar) set both colours and the right shirt style in one click. The **Sheet** and **Stone** boxes on the right let you pick any colour. With nothing selected the Stone box changes every stone; **pick stones first** to change only those. The ⇄ button (X) swaps the two colours.

Size & sheet

Type an exact **W** or **H** in the colour bar (the lock keeps the shape), switch units between **in**, **mm** and **cm**, and use **Fit** or **Centre**. Choose your flock sheet size from the list — or **Custom** to type your own. The **Colours** tab sets the margin around the edge.

> Save your work as a project with **Ctrl** **S** and open it again later with **Ctrl** **Shift** **O**.

PART 7

Spacing check & export

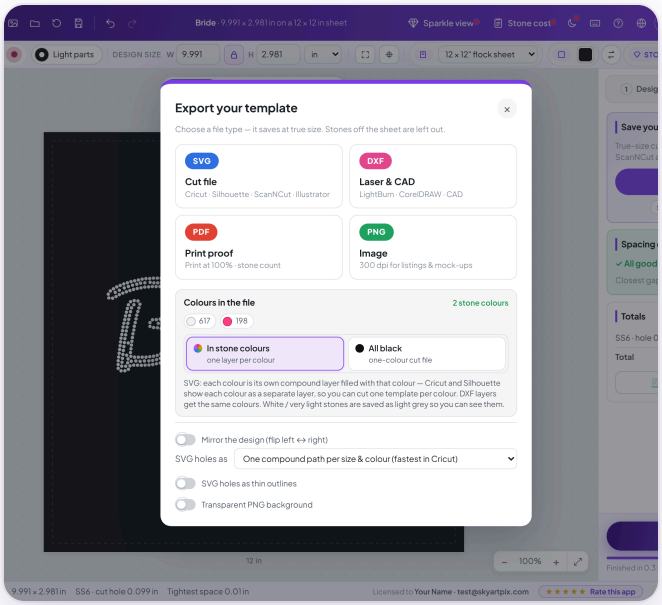
Spacing check

Stones that are too close get a **red ring** and a red alert appears in the top bar. Two ways to fix it:

- **Auto-space** (P) moves touching stones apart.
- **Remove touching** removes the fewest stones so nothing touches.

When the Export tab shows **✓ All good — no stones touch**, you are ready to cut.





Export (Ctrl E)

SVG **Cut file**	Cricut Design Space, Silhouette Studio, Brother ScanNCut (CanvasWorkspace), Illustrator, Inkscape. True size in inches; each stone size is one layer.
DXF **Laser & CAD**	CorelDRAW, LightBurn and CAD programs. Units in millimetres.
PDF **Print proof**	A true-size proof with the stone count — print at 100% to check the size.
PNG **Image**	300 dpi preview for your listings or to show a customer.

Options: Mirror flips left ↔ right · **SVG holes as thin outlines** · **Transparent PNG background**.

> **Cutting tip:** after importing the SVG, check the size matches what you set in Blingflow Lite before you cut. If your program scaled it, set the width back to the exact size.

PART 8

Keyboard shortcuts

Press ? in the app to see this list any time.

File

Ctrl N	New
Ctrl O	Open picture
Ctrl Shift O	Open project
Ctrl S	Save project
Ctrl E	Export
Ctrl Z / Ctrl Y	Undo / Redo

Tools

V	Move & resize
A	Pick stones
S	Add a stone
E	Eraser · [ ] size
B	Colour brush
H / Space	Hand (move around)
M	Measure a distance
Alt + drag corner	Resize from the centre
Drag on empty space	Move tool: select the design

Stones

Enter	Generate stones
I	Invert fill (dark ↔ light parts)
P	Auto-space
R	Stone cost
Q	Sparkle view
Delete	Delete selected
Ctrl A	Select all
Arrow keys	Nudge (hold Shift for more)

View

1 – 4	Template · Blend · Picture · Mask
O	Holes
X	Swap colours
Ctrl + / Ctrl -	Zoom · Ctrl 0 fit
F · C	Fit design · Centre
T	Bright / dark / black & white app

PART 9

Tips, questions & help

For the best results

• **Dark shirt:** photos with a dark background work best. Start with Threshold around 25%.
• **Light shirt:** logos and text with dark lines on a white background work best.
• Use a **sharp, high-resolution** picture. Crop away anything you don't want stoned.
• Busy photo background? Remove it in a photo editor first — **Remove background** is for plain one-colour backgrounds only.
• Thin lines and small text need small stones (SS6) and a bigger design size.
• Always print the **PDF proof** at 100% to check the size before cutting flock.

Questions

Does it work on a Mac?	Yes — open the Browser version (**Blingflow Lite.html**) or **skyarts.net/blingflow** in Google Chrome. The .exe files are for Windows only.
Windows blocks the app (Smart App Control)	Open the Browser version (**Blingflow Lite.html**) in Edge or Chrome. Ask us on Etsy if it wasn't in your download.
Do I need the internet?	No. It works offline. Your pictures stay on your computer.
Can I use it on my other computer?	Yes — activate it there with the same details. Your key is personal; please don't share it.
Can I sell what I make?	Yes, the templates and shirts you make are yours. Make sure you have the rights to the pictures you use.
The app window closed — is it still running?	No — it closes by itself about 20 seconds after you close the window.
My stones touch after resizing	Open the Export tab and click **Auto-space** or **Remove touching**.



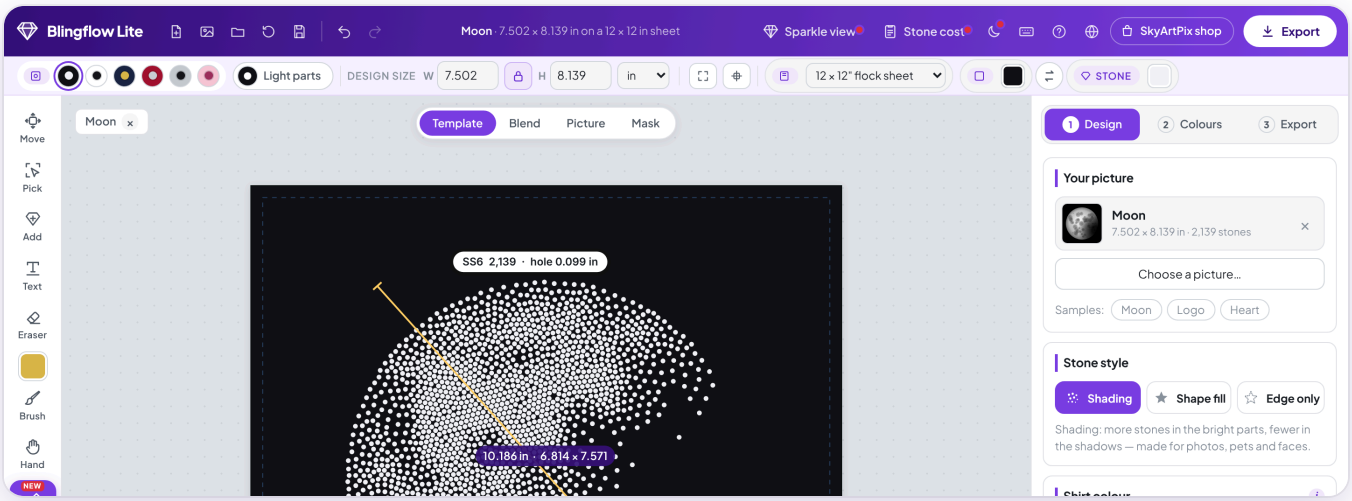
Need help? We're here.
Message us on Etsy: **etsy.com/shop/SkyArtPix**
Guides & updates: **skyarts.net/blingflow/guides**

Cricut Design Space, Silhouette Studio, CorelDRAW, Illustrator, LightBurn and Windows are trademarks of their owners. Blingflow Lite is not affiliated with or endorsed by them.

PART 10

What's new in version 1.5

A fresh look, clear new names and two handy new buttons — everything else works as before.



New names

Before	Now
Stones · Sheet · Finish (tabs)	**Design · Colours · Export**
Photo · Logo fill · Outline	**Shading · Shape fill · Edge only**
Stones · Overlay · Original · B&W	**Template · Blend · Picture · Mask**
Make stones	**Generate stones**
Real look · Stones report	**Sparkle view · Stone cost**
Select · Erase · Pan · Rings	**Pick · Eraser · Hand · Holes**
Fix spacing · Remove overlaps	**Auto-space · Remove touching**

Patterns: Stardust, Brick rows, Linear fill, Soft dots, Ripples, Ocean waves, Spiral bloom. **Fills:** Nested outlines, Frame + rows, Brick rows, Linear fill.

📏 Measure tool M

Click **Measure** on the left and drag on the sheet: the line shows its length, and its width × height, in your unit (in, mm or cm).

🧾 Cost button

Cost in the tool bar opens the Stone cost sheet in one click (or press **R**).

📄 Guides · Help · Rate this app

At the bottom right of the app: **Guides** (this guide as a PDF), **Help** on Etsy and **Rate this app**. The **?** button at the top shows "How Blingflow works".

Export panel

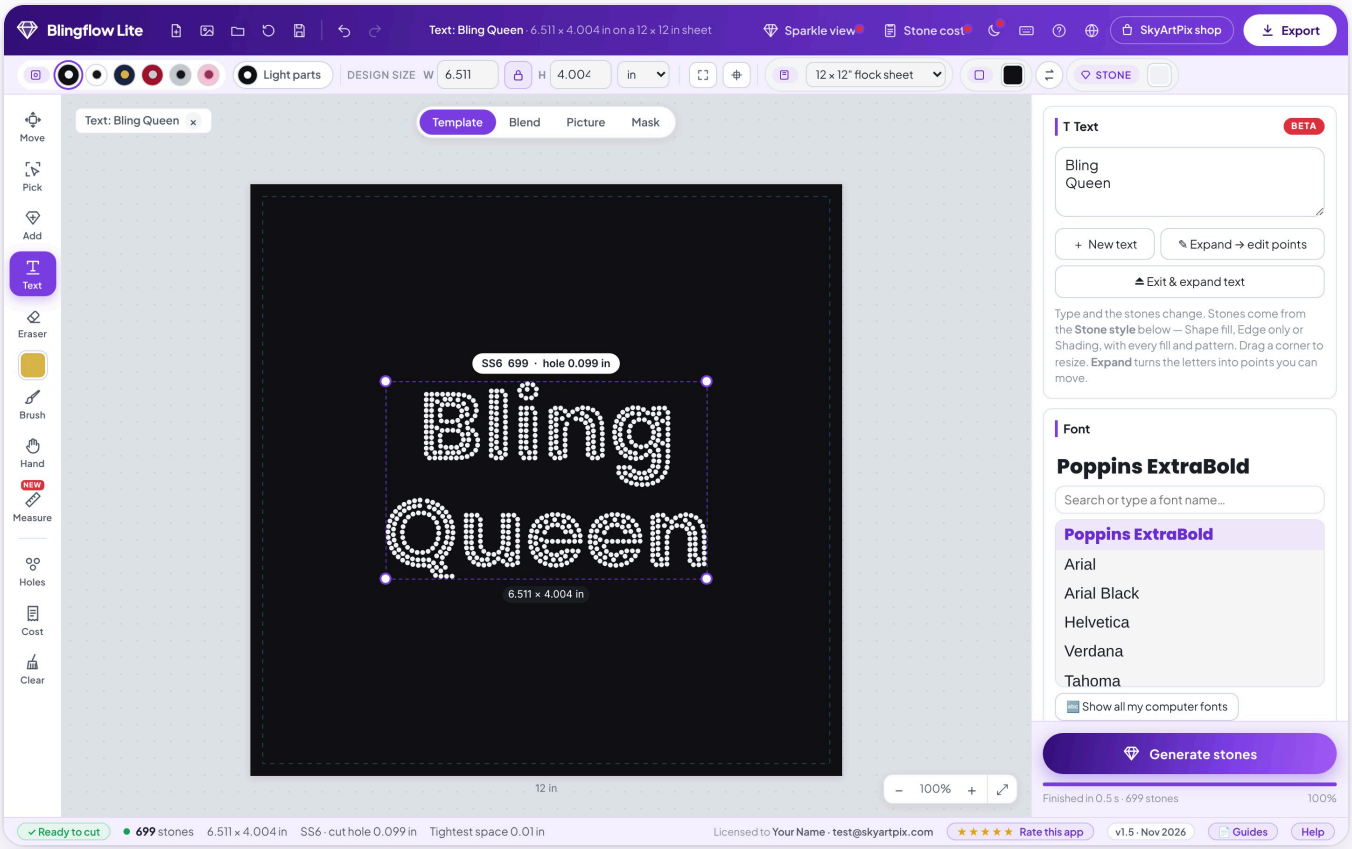
The Export tab starts with a **Save your template** card, and the export window shows the four file types side by side.

Your activation key, your saved projects (.bfl) and your settings work just like before.

PART 11 · VERSION 1.4

What's new in version 1.4

The new **T Text** tool — type names and words right in Blingflow Lite. No more typing in Canva first.



1. Click **T Text** in the tool bar on the left. The right side shows only the text settings.
2. Type your words (**Enter** = new line) and pick a font — the common fonts, **Show all my computer fonts**, or load a font file (.ttf / .otf).
3. Click **Add text**. Change the words any time — the stones follow.
4. Choose the stones in the same panel: **Shape fill, Edge only or Shading**, with every fill and pattern, stone size, spacing, threshold and density.

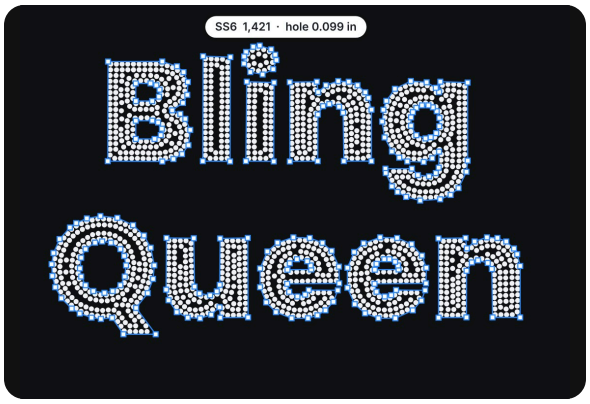
B / *I*, **Left · Centre · Right**, letter height, letter spacing and line height are under **Font**. Drag a corner of the text to resize it.

Another text? Click **New text**, type, then **Add text** — the text already on the sheet stays (it moves up). **Click any text** to select, move, edit or delete it (**Delete**; **Ctrl** **Z** brings it back).

More new things in 1.4

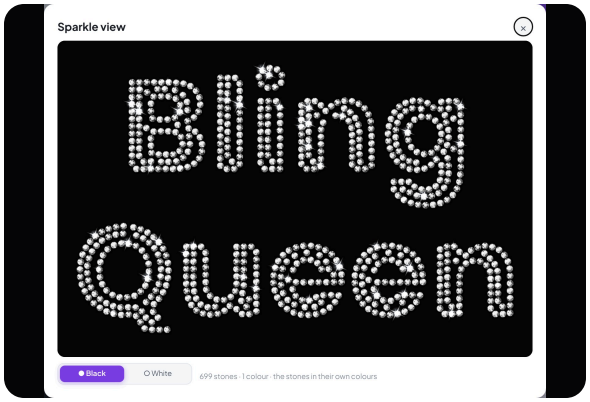
✎ Expand → edit points

Expand turns the letters into a path. Then **drag a point** to change a letter, **click the blue line** to add a point, or Alt-click a point to remove it. The stones fit again when you let go. ⏏ **Exit & expand text** does the same and goes back to the Move tool.



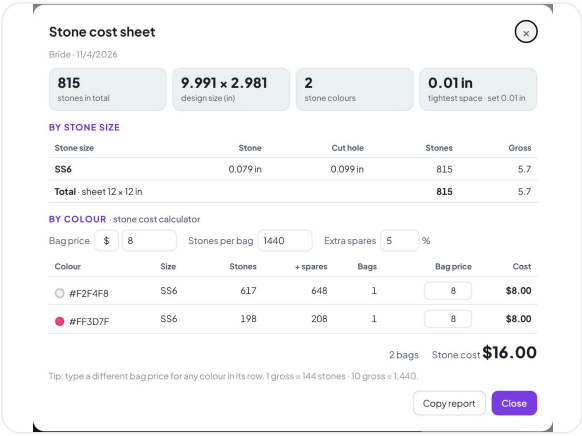
💎 Sparkle view Q (first called Real look)

Click **Sparkle view** at the top (or press Q) to see your stones as real, sparkling rhinestones in their own colours — on **black** or **white**. Great to check colours before you cut, or to show a customer.



🧾 Stone cost R (first called Stones report)

Click **Stone cost** at the top, **Cost** on the left (or press R): the total stones, design size and number of colours, a list **by stone size** (stone, cut hole, count, gross) and **by colour**. Type your **bag price** and **stones per bag** — it counts the bags and the **stone cost** for each colour. **Copy report** for your notes or a customer quote.



🌓 Black & white app · colour boxes · red dots

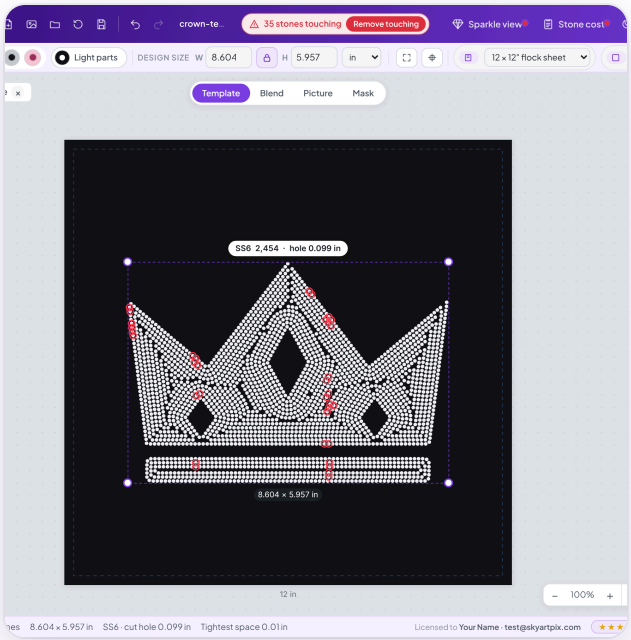
The theme button at the top (or T) now switches **Bright** → **Dark** → **Black & white**. The colour boxes change exactly the stones you picked — click the box again (or the sheet) to close it. A small **red dot** marks what's new; it goes away once you click it.

PART 11 · EARLIER UPDATES

What's new in this update

Made from your feedback — thank you! 💜

1 · Open ready rhinestone templates (SVG)



Open a template made in Illustrator, Silhouette, Cricut or another rhinestone app (Ctrl O). Blingflow Lite now opens it **at true size**:

- Every hole stays exactly where it is, at its exact size (the SS size is found for you).
- The file's **artboard becomes your flock sheet** — and the SVG you export has the same artboard, so Illustrator and Cricut open it at the same size.
- Move it (V) and resize it with the corners — **holes keep their exact size**, only the space between them changes. Red rings? Press **Auto-space** (P).
- Changing settings never re-makes a template's stones. Want new stones from it? Click **Generate stones**, then the yellow bar.

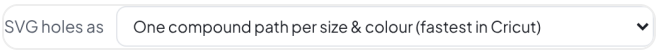
2 · Stone details right on your design

A white label on top of the design frame shows **every stone size, its count and hole size** (for example *SS12 564 · hole 0.146 in*). It moves with the design. **Click it** to select all stones of that size — then move them, change their size or colour, or press Delete. With stones selected it counts the selection.

More new things

3 · Compound path SVG — best for Cricut

Export → **SVG holes as**: **One compound path per size & colour** (default) puts every hole of one size into ONE object, so Cricut Design Space opens 1,500 – 2,000+ stones without trouble. Choose **Single circles** if you need one object per stone.



4 · Easier moving & resizing

• **Move tool:** drag a box on empty space to select the design (Space or H pans).
• Alt + drag a corner resizes from the centre — the design stays in its place. Shift + drag = free shape.

5 · Picture colours in Shading

Use the picture's colours now works for Shading too — stones take the colours of your photo, grouped into up to 6 stone colours (one layer each).

6 · Bright look by default

The app now opens in the bright (light) look. Prefer dark? Click the moon button or press T — it remembers your choice.

> **How to update:** installed from **skyarts.net/blingflow**? It updates by itself — open it once with internet. Using the Windows app? Download it again (links in the START HERE PDF) and install. **Your activation key stays the same.**

PART 12

Examples: pictures & basic shapes

All made in Blingflow Lite with one click on **Generate stones** — no manual editing.



Shading · dark shirt
Horse portrait · SS6 · 1,667 stones



Shading · dark shirt
Highland cow · SS6 · 2,182 stones



Shape fill · light shirt
Floral silhouette · 1,773 stones



Shape fill · colour stones
Hibiscus · 1,063 stones



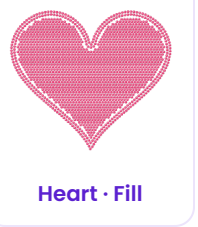
Edge only · gold stones
Hibiscus · 929 stones



Shape fill · Frame + rows
Star · SS10 · 986 stones

Basic shapes: Shape fill & Edge only

Draw or download a simple black shape (heart, star, circle…) on white, open it, choose **Light shirt · dark stones**, then **Shape fill** for a filled shape or **Edge only** for a line of stones. **Frame + rows** (Fill setting) gives the neatest edge.



Heart · Fill



Star · Fill



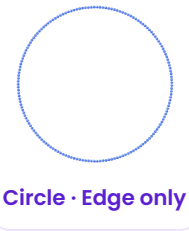
Circle · Fill



Heart · Edge only



Star · Edge only



Circle · Edge only