Section 5

Accessories

As an addition to the regular VersaLASER, we offer a wide variety of optional accessories. **Before attempting to use any of the accessories in this section, make sure that you are comfortable operating the VersaLASER, the VCP, and your graphics software.**

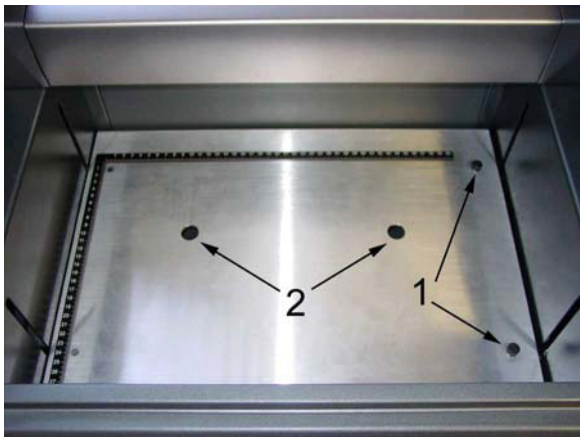
Cylindrical Object Rotary Accessory (CORA)

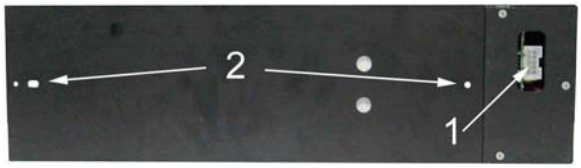
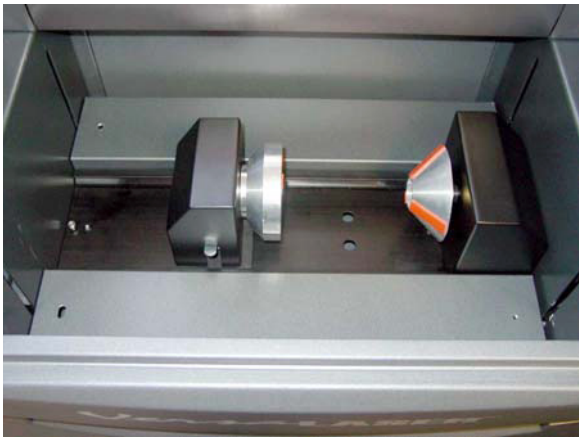
This accessory allows the VersaLASER to be quickly reconfigured to etch, scribe, or cut (material dependent), cylindrical objects such as glassware, etc.

NOTE: If this is your first time using the CORA, we highly recommend that you practice this procedure several times on some inexpensive scrap material before attempting to etch the actual object.

Installation

Lower the table all the way down to the bottom of its travel or down far enough so that you can remove the table and install the CORA without interfering with the moving parts of the VersaLASER.

	
Remove the table by loosening the two captive thumbscrews (1). Insert your fingers into the two holes (2) and slowly lift the table out of the VersaLASER being careful not to bump it around.	Inside the VersaLASER you will find the large recessed slot with a self-aligning electrical connector to the right side (1) and the two alignment pins (2).

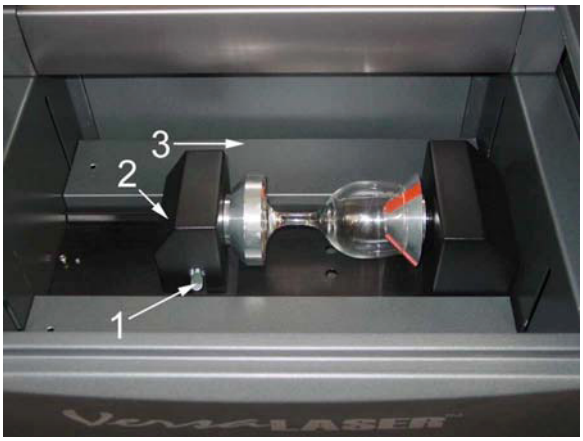
	
On the underside of the CORA notice the self-aligning electrical connector (1) and two alignment holes (2).	Insert the CORA into the slot (OK to do with the power on because it is hot swappable) and move it around until the connector engages, the pins protrude through the alignment holes, and the fixture sits flat. It will indicate that it is installed properly by automatically rotating its cone slightly and a Rotary button will appear in the Focus tab of the VCP.

Basic Operation

In this example, we are going to etch a simple drinking glass.

	
Before loading the glass into the fixture, using a dry erase marker or some other marking device, make a mark on the glass where you would like the place the **TOP CENTER** point of the graphic.	Using a caliper or similar measuring device, measure the diameter across the area of the glass where you marked. Either remember this number or write it down.

Lift the lever (1) on the adjustable end of the fixture (2) and slide it to the left, out of the way. Place the open end of the glass into the cone, and slide the adjustable end of the fixture to the right (3) up against the base of the glass so the glass rests firmly centered inside of the inverted cone. Apply light pressure to the right, only enough force to prevent the glass from slipping while it rotates, and push the lever down (1) to lock it in place. By hand, rotate the cone or the glass, until your mark points as straight up as possible. The electrical power to the CORA motor is lowered when it is sitting idle so that you can rotate the cone of the fixture easily. This is OK and will not damage the CORA.

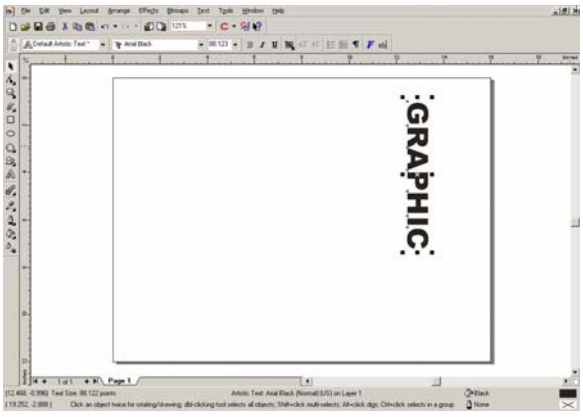


Click the Rotary button in the Focus tab of the VCP. This will bring the X-axis arm directly over the centerline of the fixture and will also turn on the Red Dot pointer. Align the Red Dot pointer with the center of your mark by using your mouse to click on the main window in the Focus tab of the VCP. Notice that your Y-axis coordinates will be locked in place and you can only click left and right (in the X-axis direction). The Red Dot will move to the location where you clicked (or type in the coordinates in the X-Axis and Y-Axis boxes and click Move). Adjust the position of the Red Dot until it lines up with your mark, left and right. If your mark does not line up with the Red Dot in the rotational direction, simply grasp the glass or the cone and manually rotate it while it is in the fixture.

Continue repositioning until the Red Dot is on top of your mark. When it is aligned, in the VCP, locate the X-axis coordinate number. Either write this number down or remember it. This is the coordinate of the Red Dot pointer and it is also where you will need to position your graphic. Ignore all other coordinates.

Graphics Setup

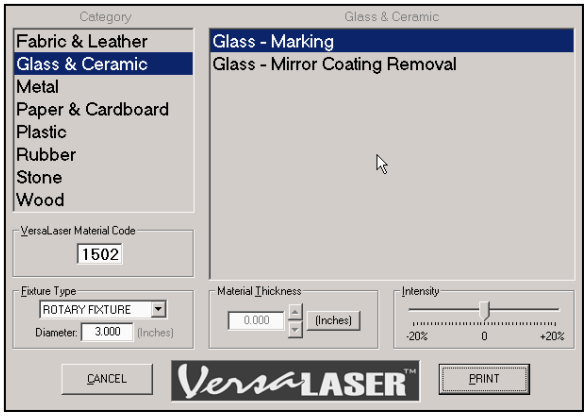
Open your graphics software. In this case we will use CorelDRAW12 and create a new graphic.



Using the Transformations menu, rotate your graphic 90 degrees to the right to match the glasses orientation. Reposition your graphic so that its **RIGHT CENTER** anchor point, which was the **TOP CENTER** before we rotated it 90 degrees, is located at the same X-axis coordinate as the Red Dot pointer. The vertical placement of where you position your graphic within your graphic software is irrelevant because the VCP will automatically match the vertical center of the graphic with the mark you placed on the glass. Just make sure that the graphic is positioned within the printable page area.

Printing

WARNING: The following steps are critical. Make sure that you enter the correct information otherwise the VersaLASER might not only adjust the Z-axis and scale the graphic incorrectly, which can ruin your material, but it can also damage itself if the moving parts of the X-axis crash into the CORA.



Print as if you were etching a flat object. When the VersaLASER Settings dialog box pops up, choose your category and type of material as usual. In the Fixture section, select CORA from the dropdown list and also type in the diameter of the glass that you measured earlier and click print. As usual, the print job will be stored on your hard disk and become available in the VCP as the next job ready to be processed.

For each glass that you would like to etch your graphic in a precise location, you must follow each of the steps from the beginning of this section. If it does not matter to you if the etching begins anywhere around the circumference of the glass, then simply load the next glass and run the job again without having to make any marks or lining up the Red Dot.

Once you have practiced using the CORA, you will naturally come up with some shortcuts to save on setup time.

Vector Cutting Accessory (VCA)

The Vector Cutting Accessory, with its honeycomb design, assists with the vector cutting of materials by minimizing the surface contact area of the backside of the material. This simple yet functional design also provides a slight vacuum for sheet stock to hold it flat while cutting, and it assists with smoke removal by drawing it down and underneath the material.

Installation

Lower the table all the way down to the bottom of its travel or down far enough so that you can remove the table and install the VCA without interfering with the moving parts of the VersaLASER.

Remove the table by loosening the two captive thumbscrews (1). Insert your fingers into the two holes (2) and slowly lift the table out of the VersaLASER being careful not to bump it around. On the underside of the VCA find the self-aligning electrical connector (3) and two alignment holes (4).