Refresher Guide: **Hot Wire Cutter**

**Use:** Cut and contour foam for to make ideation models and mockups

**SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING A HOT WIRE CUTTER:**

- Check wire before each use: it should be taut but without too much tension so that it’s at risk of snapping
- Avoid touching wire while machine is on
- Use in a well ventilated area and avoid breathing foam fumes

**HOW TO USE:**

Make a hole through the foam somewhere inside the cut area.

1. Remove the wire from the mounting arm, thread it through the hole, and re-install it in the mounting arm. Adjust the wire so it’s under light tension.

For internal cuts:

2. Check that the wire is in a light tension (straight, but not as tight as a guitar string).
3. Turn on power to the hot wire.
4. Test the cutting speed and performance on a scrap piece. Adjust the power setting to achieve a reasonable cutting speed and reduce smoke.
5. Feed material through wire slowly and gently, letting the wire do the work.
6. Turn off power, remove any foam sticking to the wire, and clean up any scrap material.