

## 12. Layers Panel

### G.Welding text

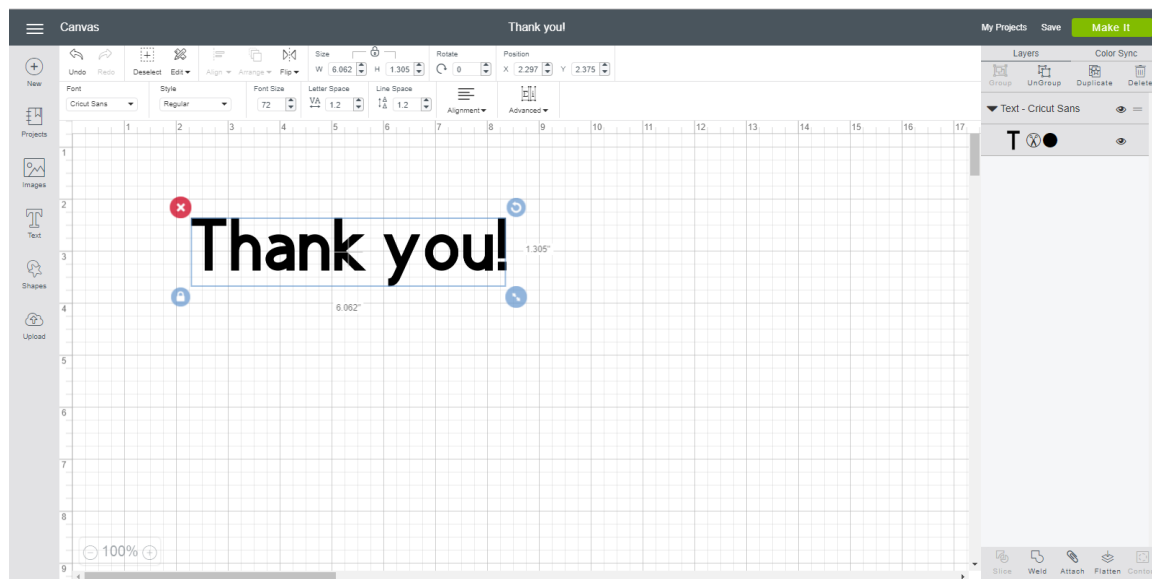
The Weld tool joins multiple shapes to create a single customized image, removing any overlapping cut lines. This can be a great way to connect the letters of a word for easy assembly.

There are two ways to Weld text together to create a single word.

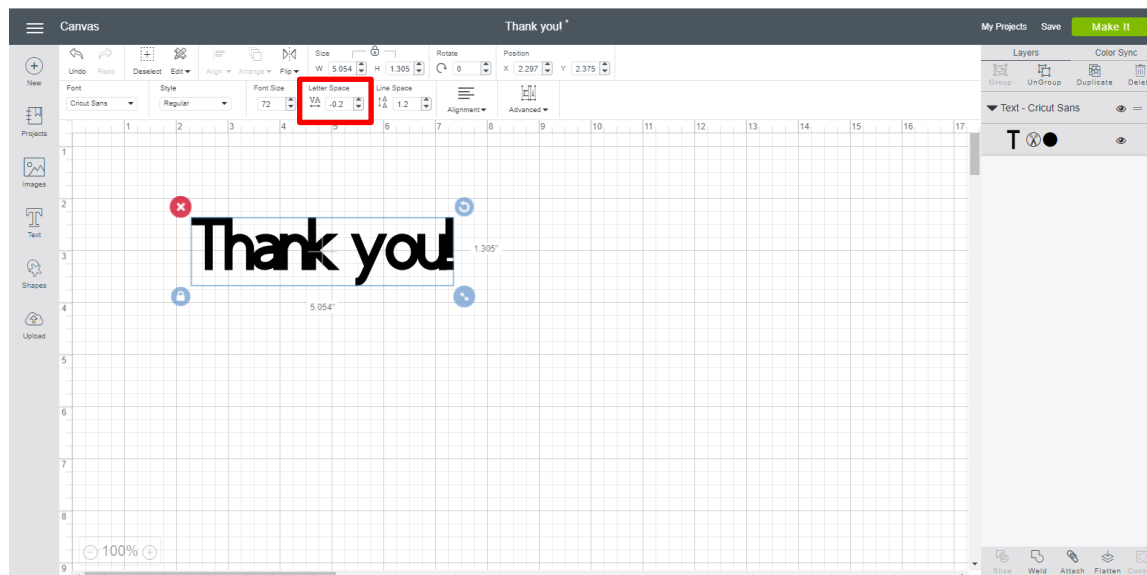
1. Decrease letter spacing to cause letters to overlap
2. Move individual letters to overlap

#### Option 1 Decrease letter spacing to Weld text

**Step 1** Add text to the design screen and select the text layer(s) so that the Bounding Box appears.

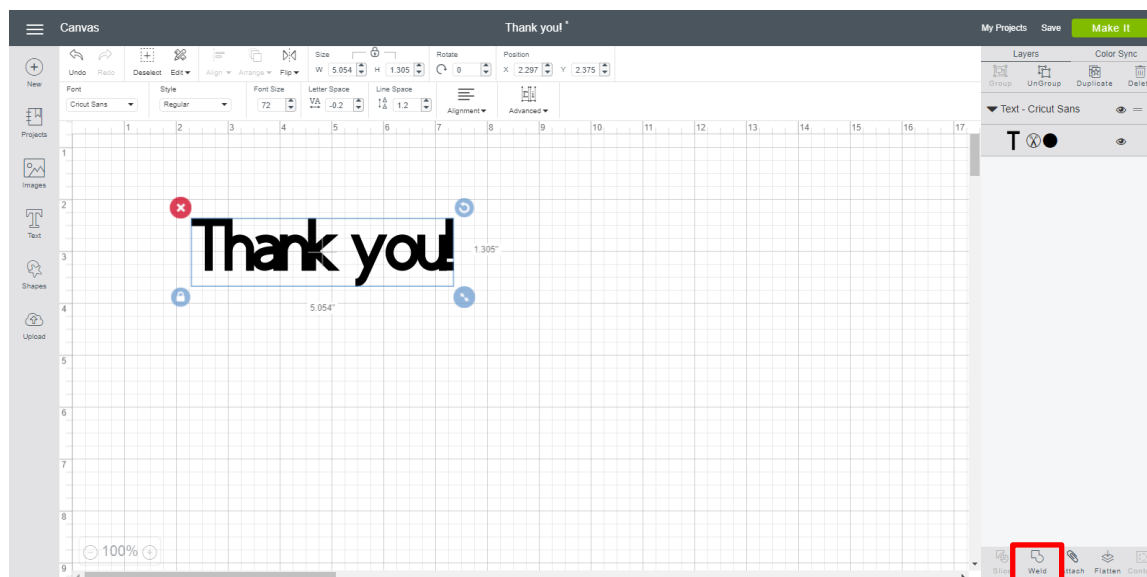


**Step 2** Use the Letter Spacing tool in the Text Edit Bar to decrease the space between letters. Enter a specific number in the Letter Spacing field, or click the down arrow to decrease spacing by 1-point increments. Continue to decrease the spacing until the letters overlap.

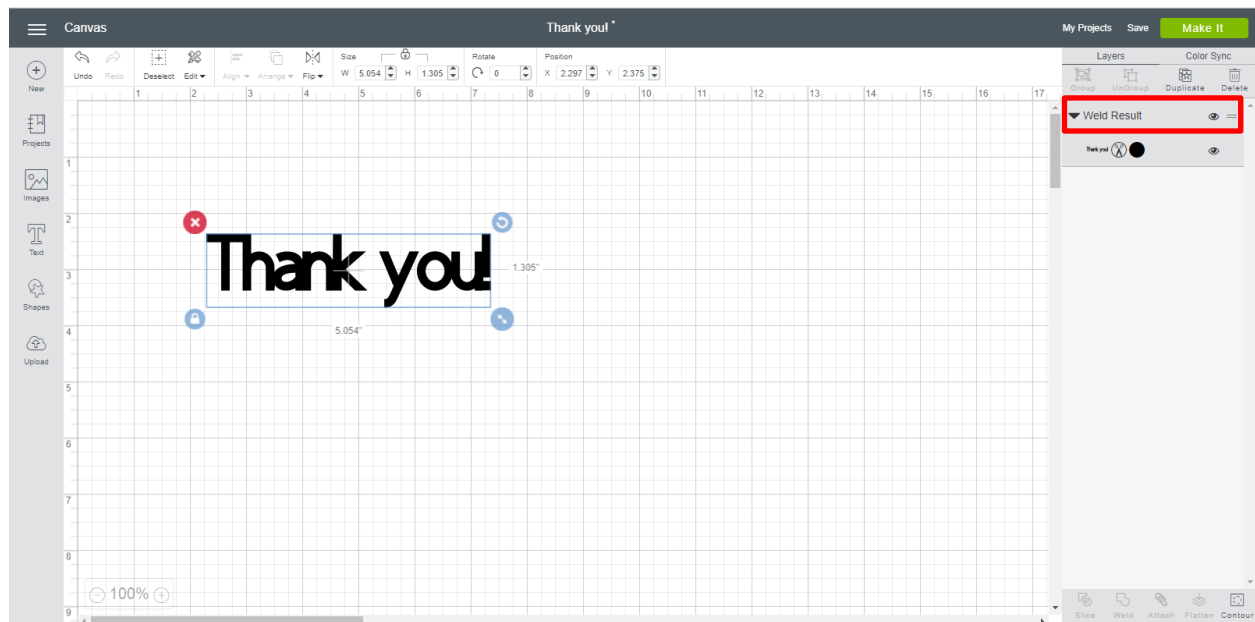


*Tip* When working with multilayered images, hide any layers you don't want included in the final welded image. The hidden layers will disappear once the text is welded together.

**Step 3** Click *Weld* in the Layers Panel to merge the letters together as a single image.

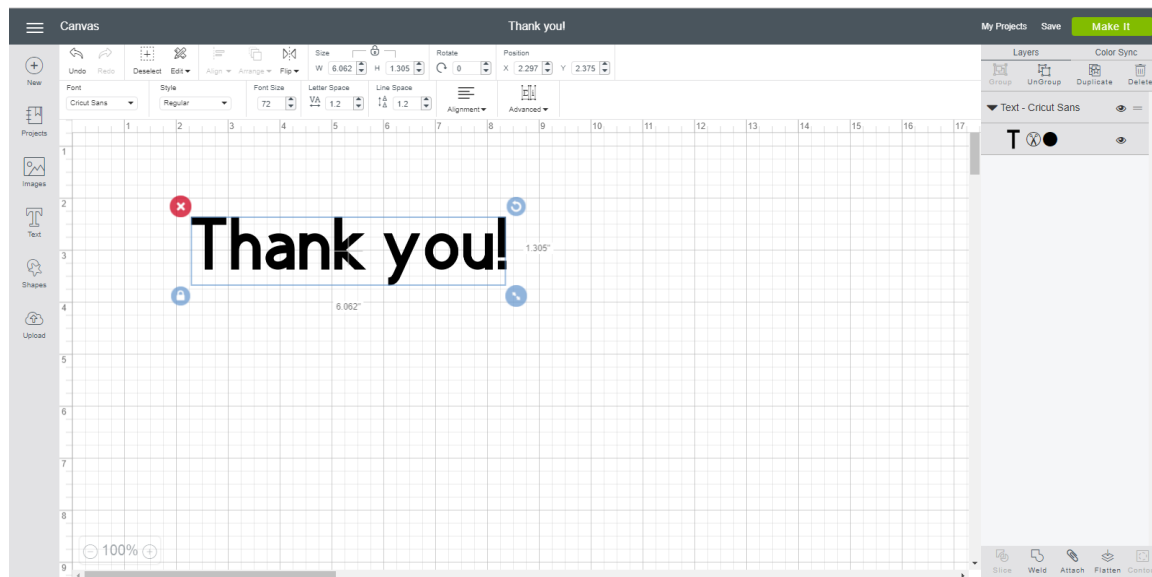


You will know that your text is welded when it is labeled *Weld Result* in the Layers Panel. Wherever cut paths intersect, only the exterior cut path remains.

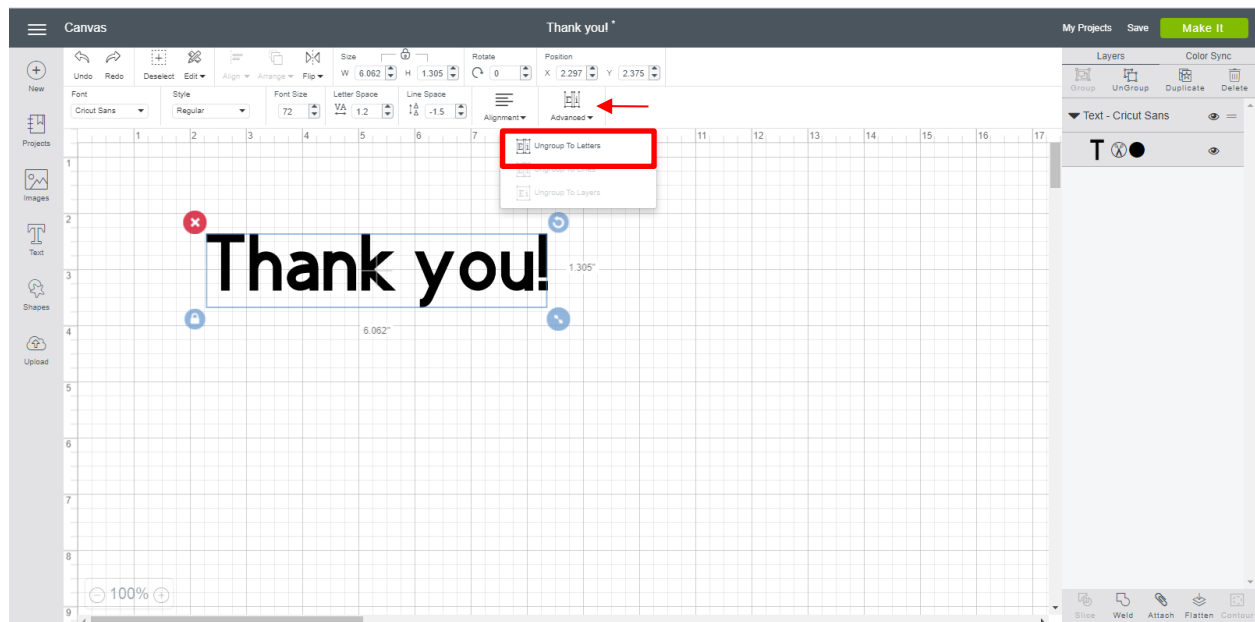


## Option 2 Move individual letters to Weld text

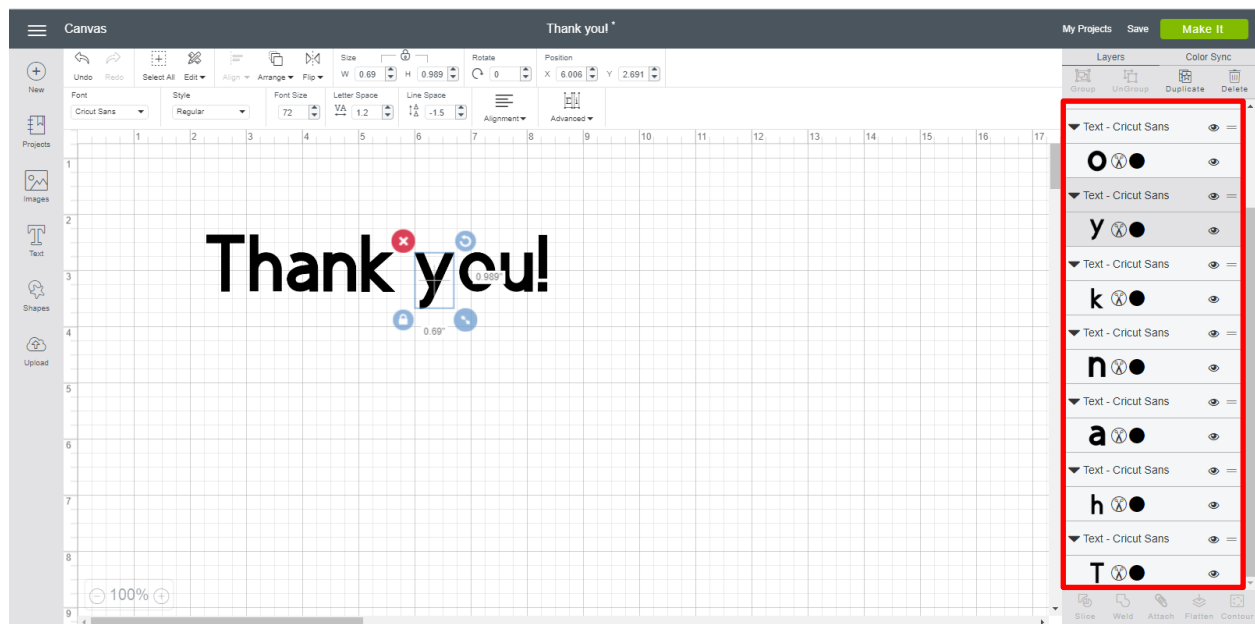
**Step 1** Add your text to the design screen, and then select the text box so that the Bounding Box appears.



**Step 2** In the Edit Panel, click *Advanced* and select *Ungroup To Letters* to separate the text into individual letters.

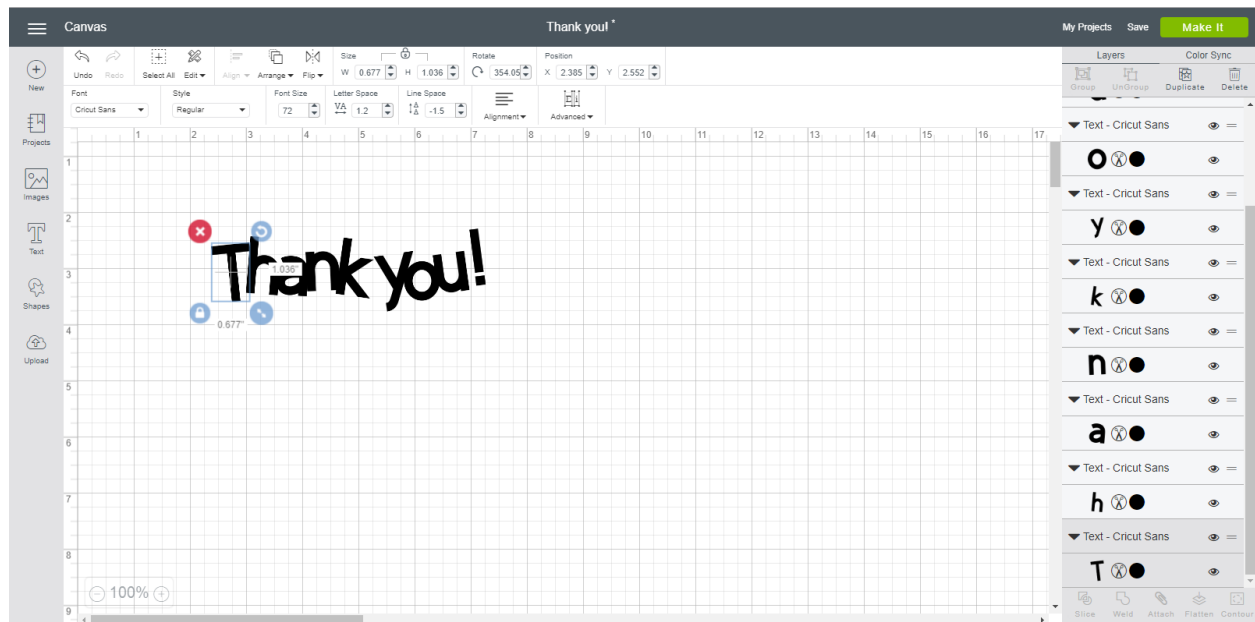


The letters are converted into images and can be moved individually. The conversion from a text box to individual images will be reflected in the Layers Panel.

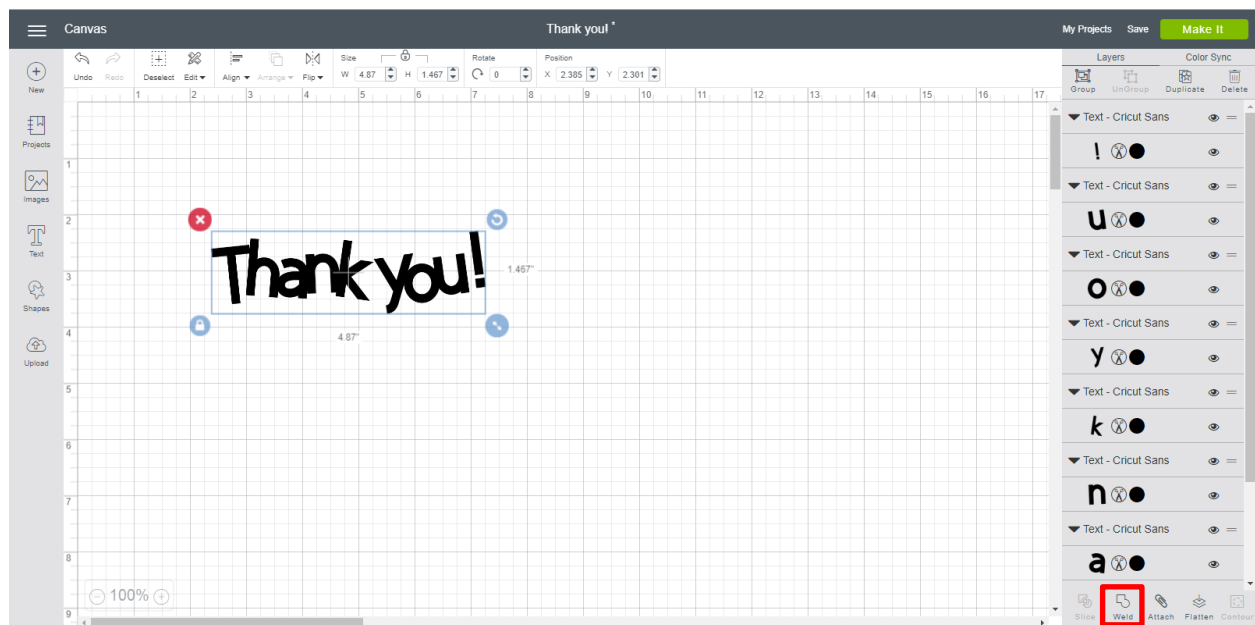


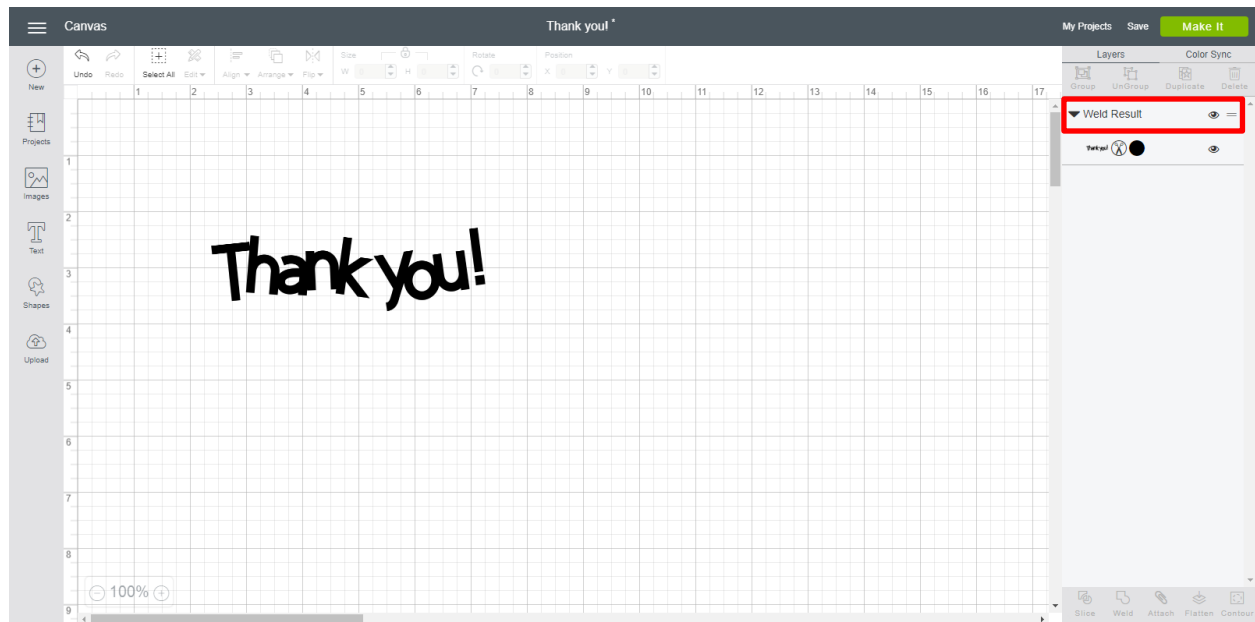
*Tip* When working with multilayered images, hide any layers you don't want included in the final welded image. The hidden layers will disappear once the text is welded together.

**Step 4** Arrange the letters so they overlap.



**Step 5** Click *Weld* in the Layers Panel to merge the images.





After clicking *Weld*, the text converts to a single-layer image and the new image is labeled *Weld Result* in the Layers Panel. Wherever cut paths have intersected, only the exterior cut path remains.