

Vehicle lettering design on your iPad

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What's covered in this tutorial

Overview

Turn your iPad into a powerful tool for your design work.

Surely, you already thought about showing customers your designs on your iPad. You also might have thought about taking some work with you on your iPad, to start design work while being away from your home or office. But could you imagine scribbling down ideas while being with your clients, taking down important notes and even measuring marks directly on our vehicle outlines?

Tough demands - but using the right apps and workflow, there's not much more about it than some preparation and gathering practice - which will turn out to be the fun part. Give it a try and see what it can do for you.

In this tutorial, you will see what it takes to copy needed files on your iPad. We will show three ways to do that, pick the one which suits best to your situation.

We'll then show how to edit drawings in a vector drawing app, and how to send them out to customers, to your printer or to other boxes for further refinements.

Recommended tools

Tools we are using in this tutorial

iDraw as vector drawing application

Among all available vector drawing apps, we recommend indeeo's **iDraw** app, a reasonably priced vector application similar to Illustrator or Corel.

It offers all it takes to import, modify and compose vector drawings or to create them from scratch.

You can buy it on indeeo's website: <http://indeeo.com/idraw/ipad.html>

File exchange via Dropbox

Dropbox offers a way easier than iTunes to swap files with your iPad.

The Dropbox web service offers some personal web storage you can automatically sync with any of your computers, and which can be accessed from your iPad as well as any web browser.

You can register at <http://www.dropbox.com> and obtain 2 gigabytes webspace for free - plenty for swapping drawings with your iPad. However, it can be extended for a fair monthly fee.

You can also download and install Mac, Windows and iPad client software for free, to gain seamless access to that storage. On MAC and Windows computers, you will find a 'Dropbox' folder (MAC: under Places, Windows: under Documents). Whatever you store within that folder will be synced with your online storage. Just go online with your iPad to access and copy synced files onto your iPad.

Move needed files to your iPad

From Mac or Windows via iTunes

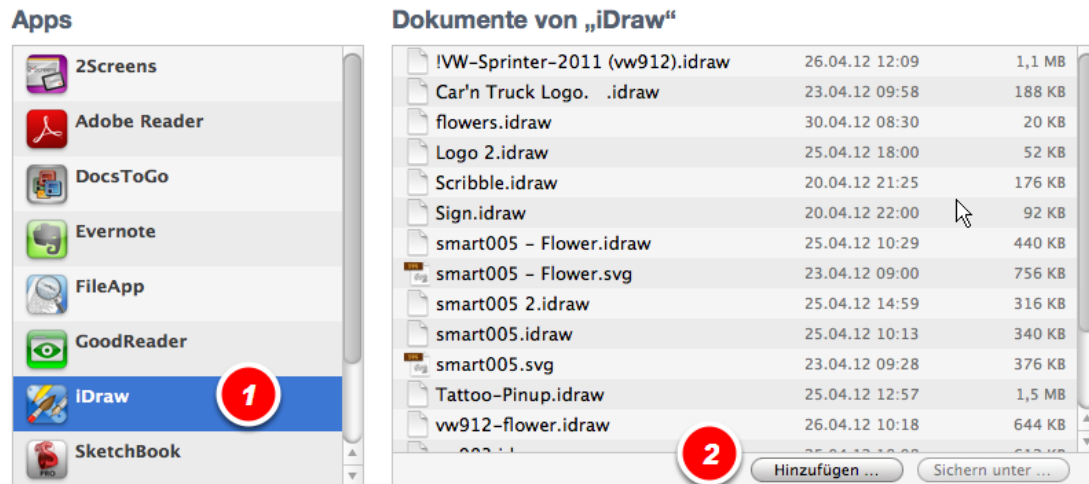
Copy files from your computer to your iPad using USB.

Load the desired vehicle template's SVG files from our website.

Transmit files to iPad using iTunes

Dateifreigabe

Mit den folgenden Apps können Sie Dokumente zwischen dem iPad und dem Computer übertragen.



Connect your iPad to your computer via USB.

If iTunes doesn't start on it's own on your computer, call it manually.

On iTunes' 'Media' view, under 'Devices', select your iPad.

On the 'Apps' panel, select 'iDraw' (1).

Select desired files, ending on .SVG

Click button 'Add' (2).

From Mac or Windows via Dropbox

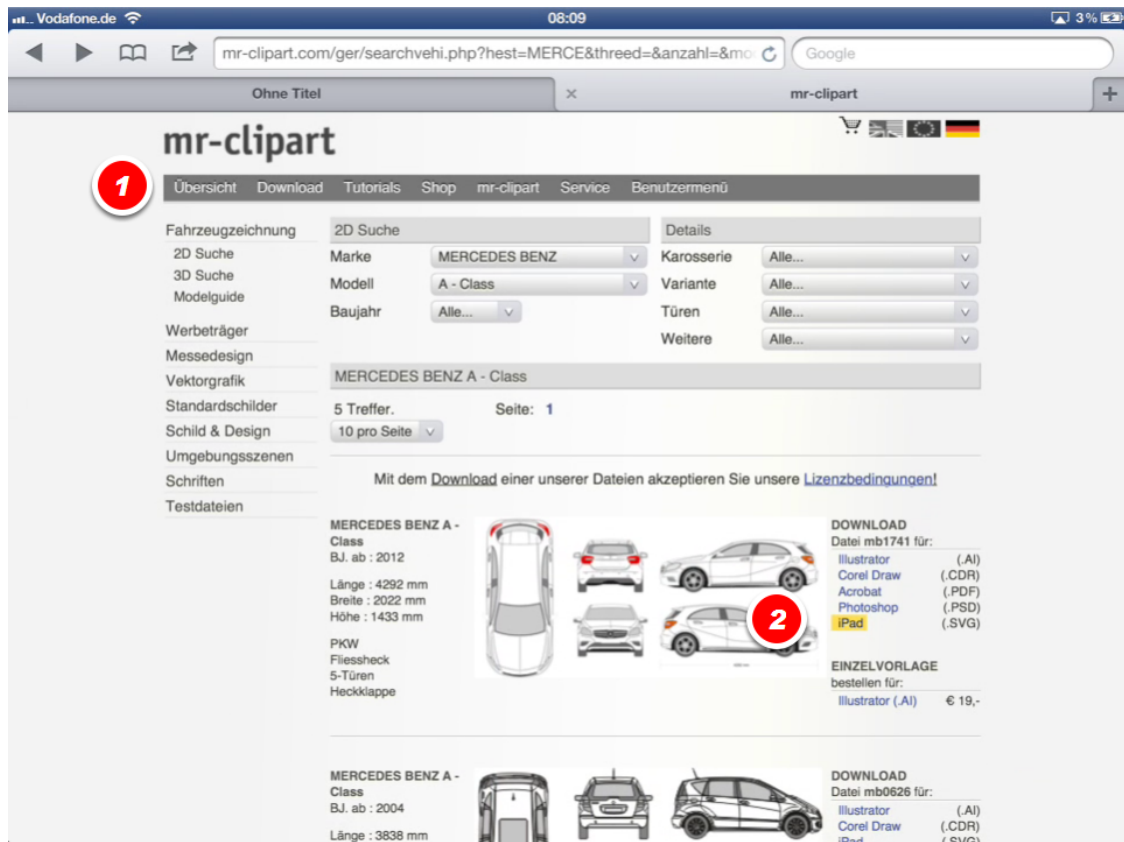
Copy files from your computer to your iPad using Dropbox.

After copying files to your Dropbox folder on your computer, wait a little time until they got synced. Once it's done, their icons show a checked green disk.

Now you can find those files when going online with your iPad.

From Web via Dropbox

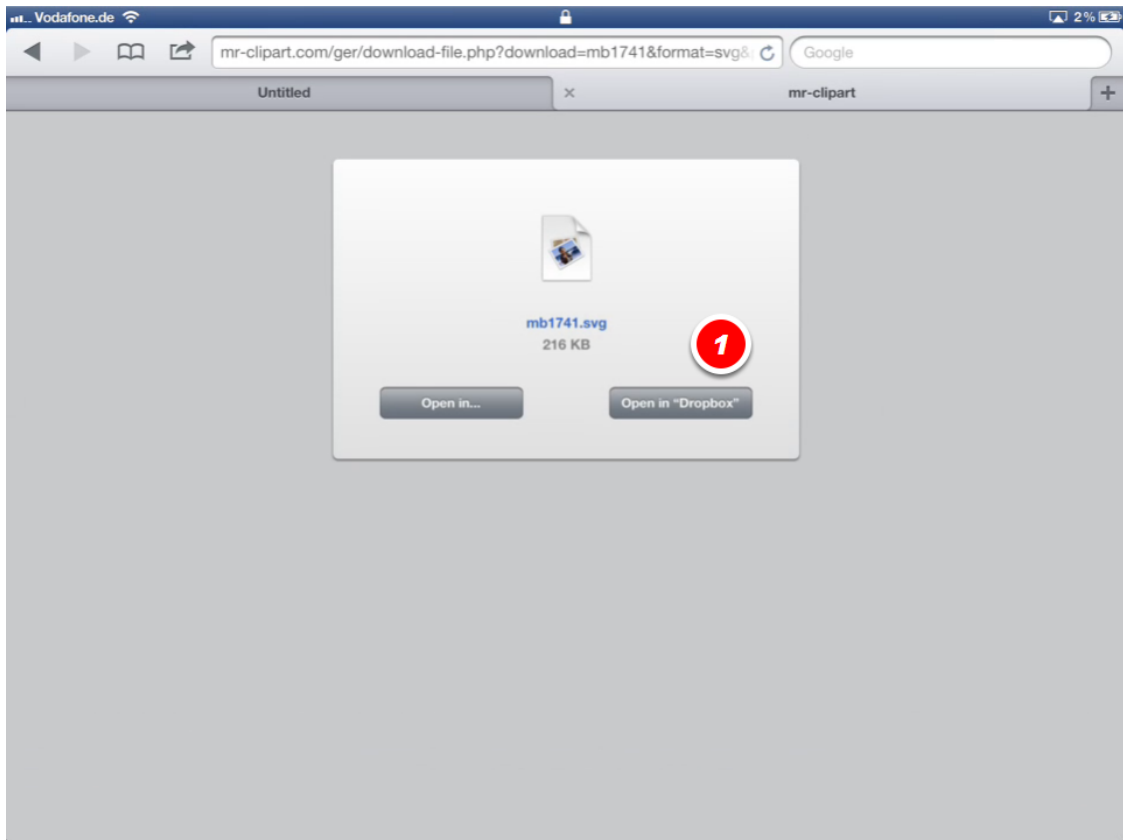
Download files from the web just using your iPad and Dropbox.



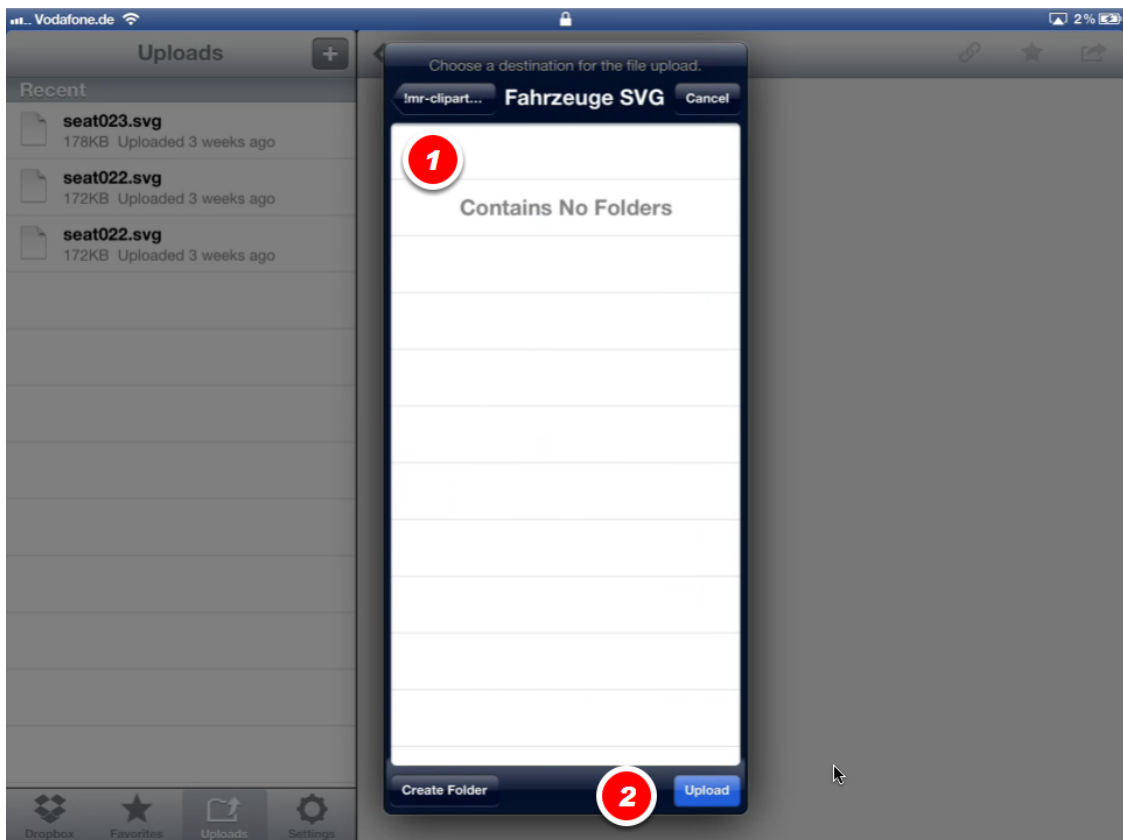
Open Safari on your iPad and visit <http://www.mr-clipart.com>.

Tap on 'Download' (1) and search for your desired template.

Tap on 'iPad' (2) (you might be asked to login at this step)



Tap 'Open in Dropbox' (1)



Select a folder in your 'Dropbox' to save the template in. (1)

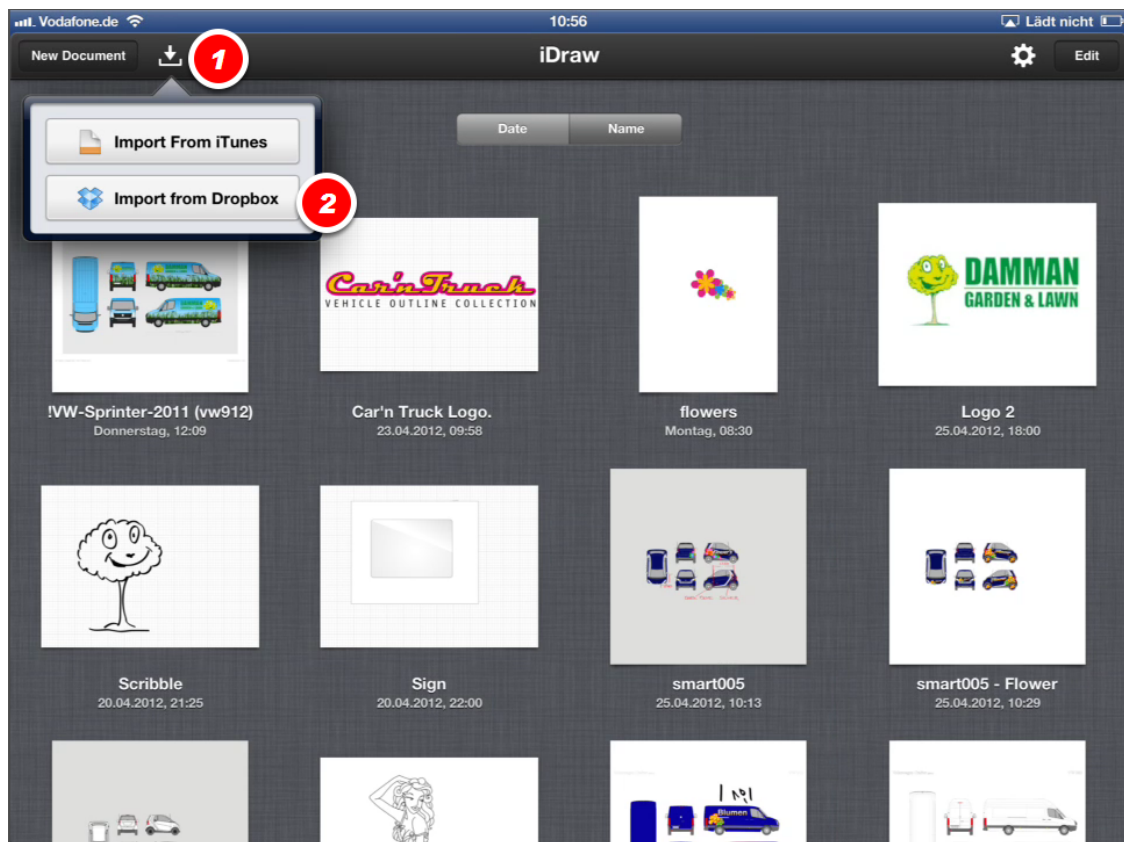
Tap on 'Upload' (2)

Start designing

Import drawings to iDraw

Pick the drawings you've just moved to your iPad and start designing.

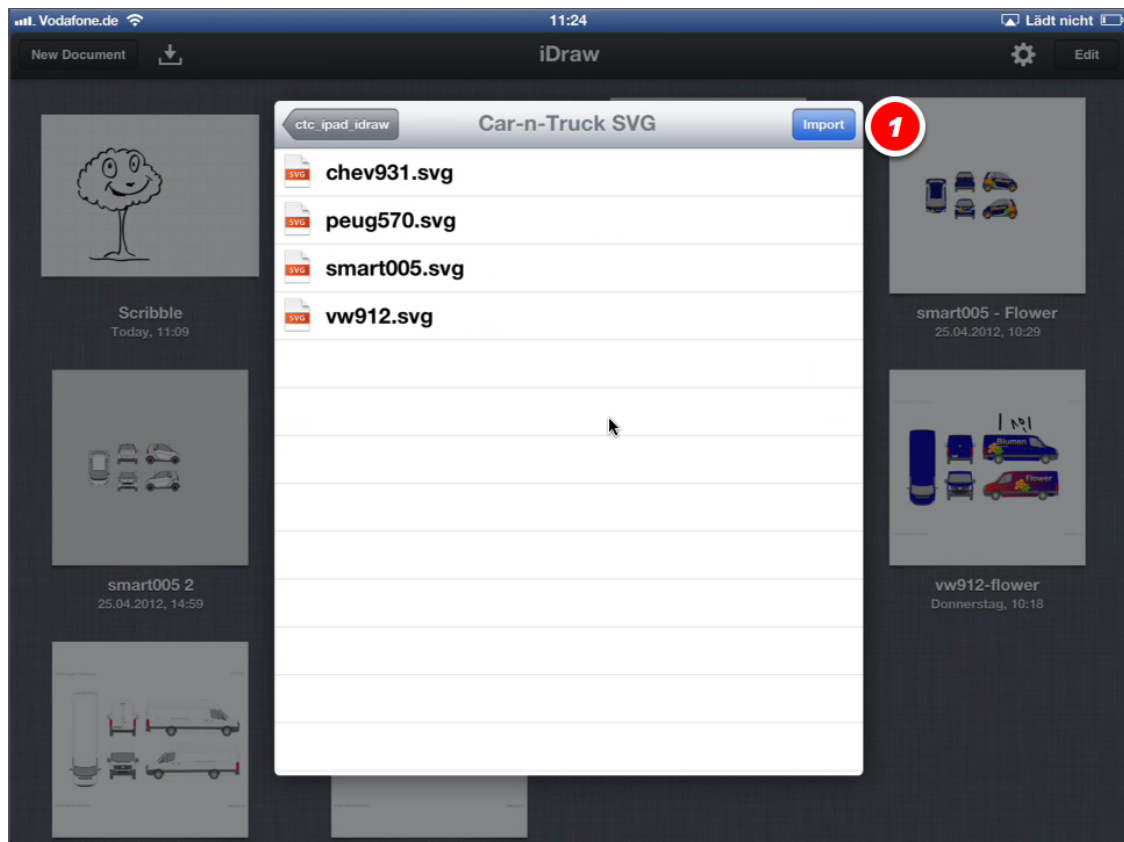
Import template file to iDraw



On your iPad, open the iDraw app.

On 'Documents' view, tap the import button (1).

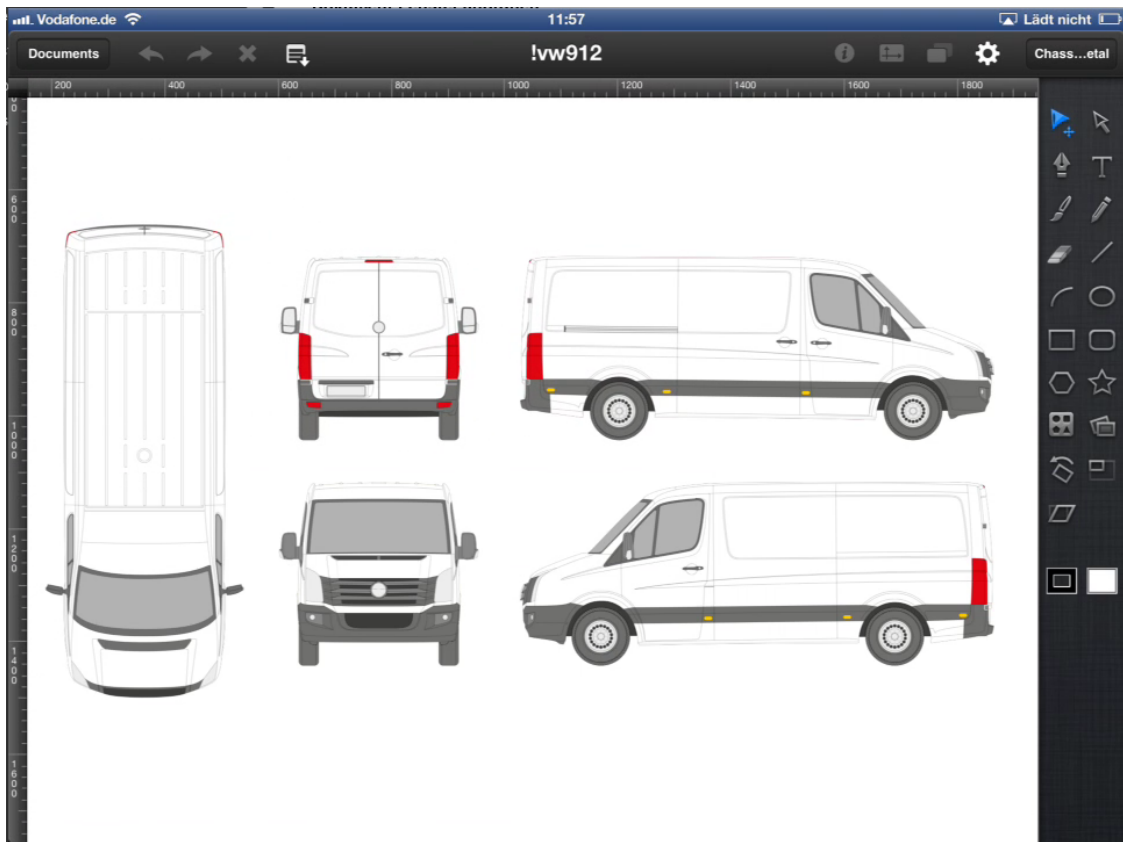
Depending on the import method you've used before, tap on the **Dropbox** or **iTunes** button (2).



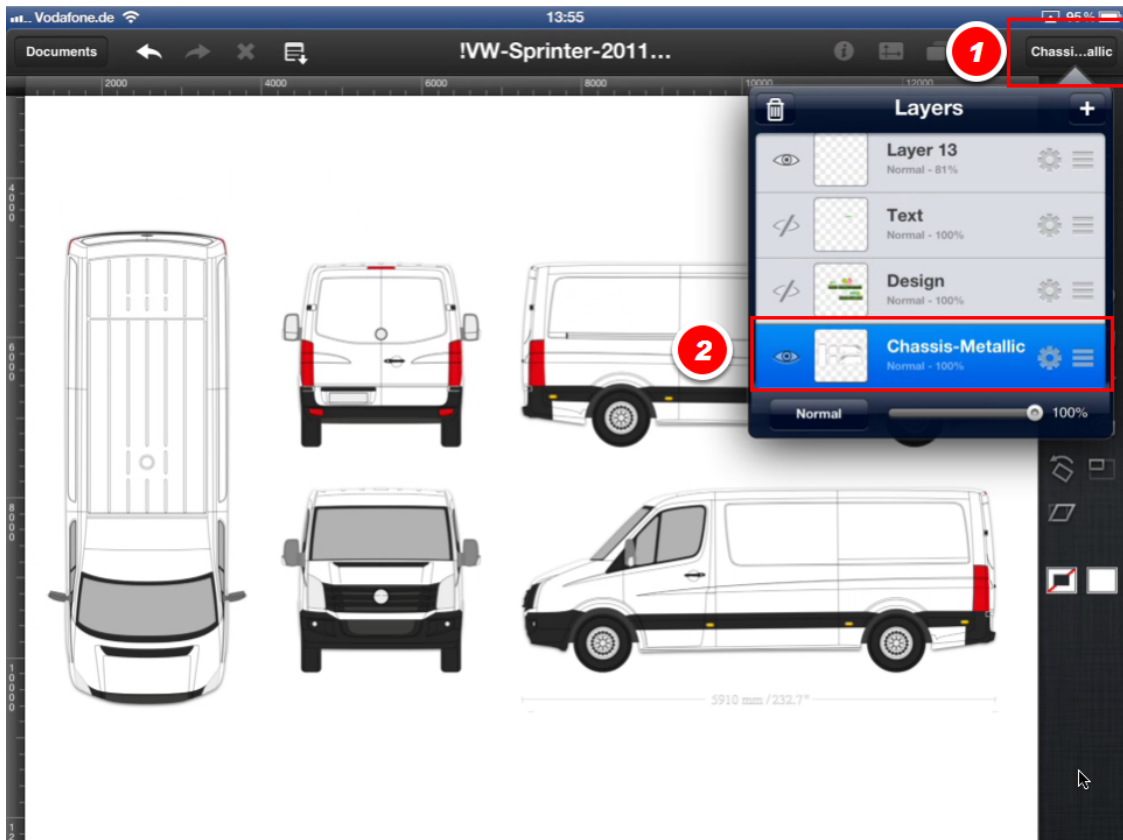
On 'File Sharing' view, select desired files from your Dropbox folder.
Mark the files to import, then tap the 'Import' button (1).
Imported files now expose in 'Documents' view.
Tapping on it's icon, you can open a file and start to modify it.

Change vehicle's color

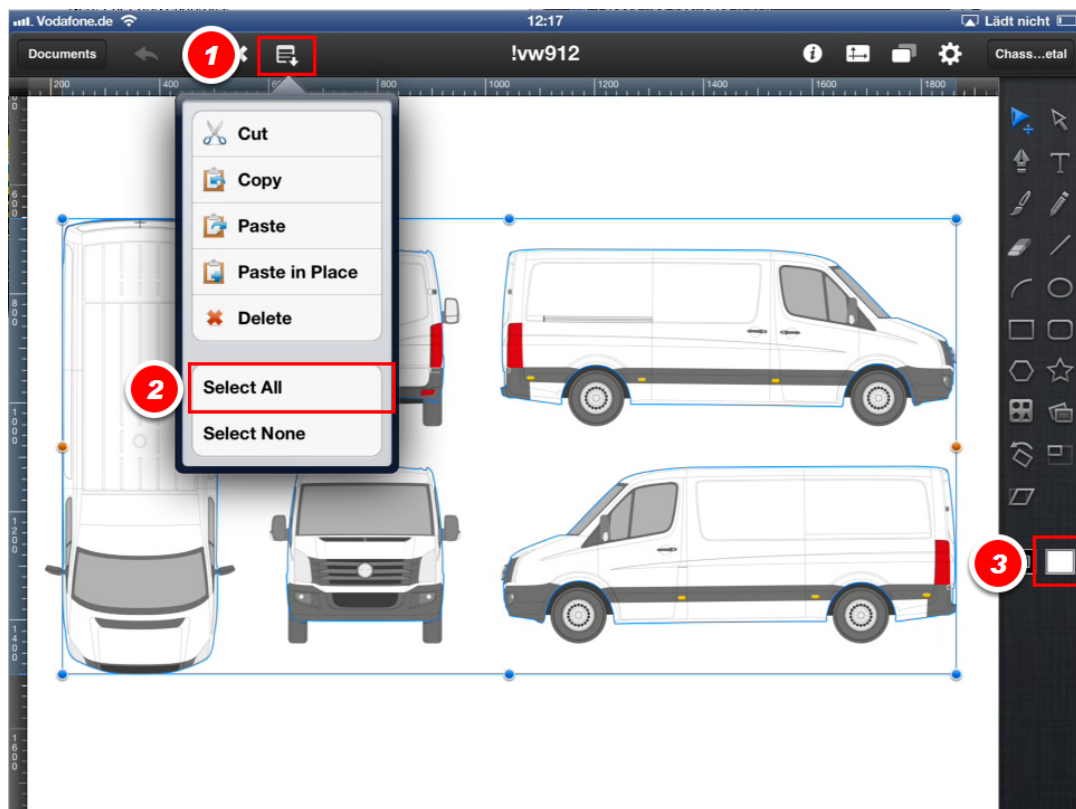
Select a layer's objects to change their color.



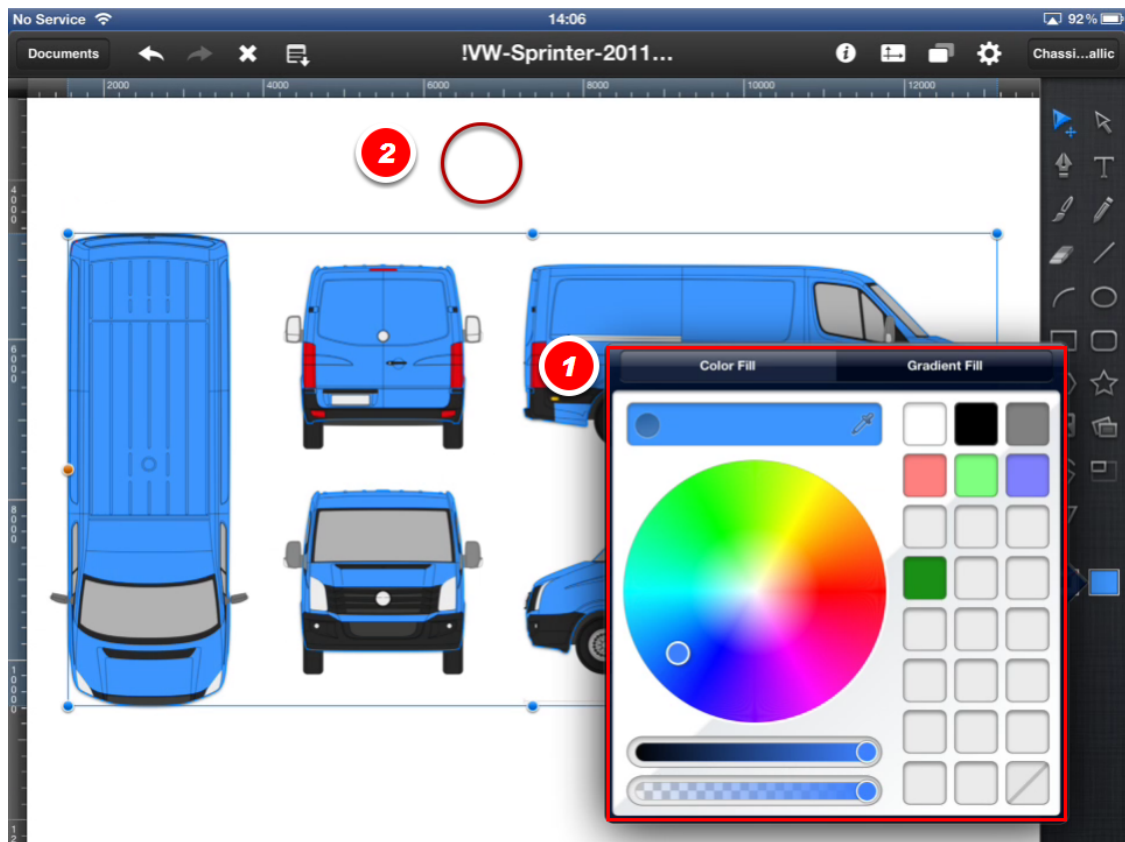
In iDraw, open the desired vehicle template.



Open the Layers-Palette (1).
 Scroll to find and mark the layer called '**Chassis_Metal**' (2).



Open menu '**Edit**' (1) from titlebar.
 Tap '**Select all**' (2).
 Use filler tool (3) to apply colors.



Pick the desired color. (1)

Tap on the sheet to apply the chosen color (2)

Import and use prepared designs

Fetch some objects from other files and place them within your design.

Create a new layer and name it '**Design**'.

Move and place that layer above the '**Chassis_Metal**' layer.



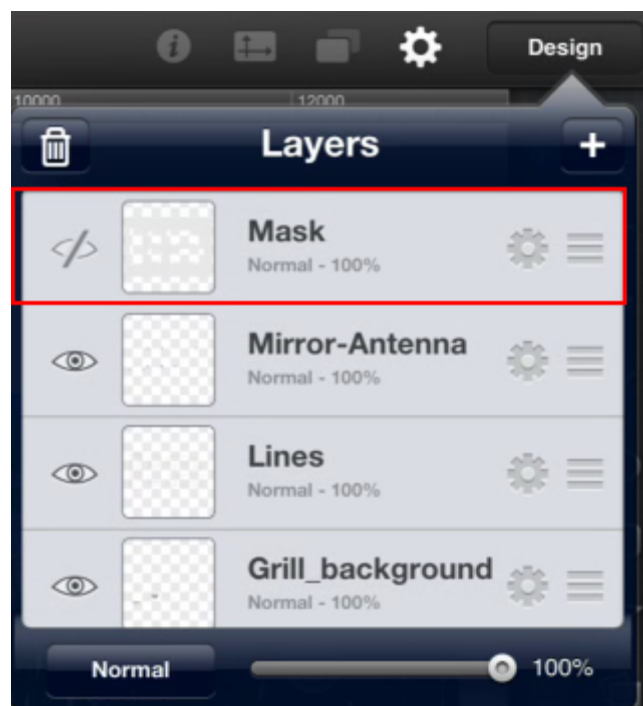
Open your design elements.

Use '**Select**' tool (1) to mark your elements.

From menu '**Edit**' (2), tap '**Copy**' (3) to copy selected elements to the clipboard.



Open the file containing the vehicle template.
 Select your 'Design' layer.
 From 'Edit' menu button (1), tap 'Paste' (2) to insert your elements.
 Use 'Move' and 'Scale' tools (3) adjusting your elements to fit the vehicle.



In the layer list, tap on the 'Mask' layer's eye symbol to activate it and mask overlapping elements.

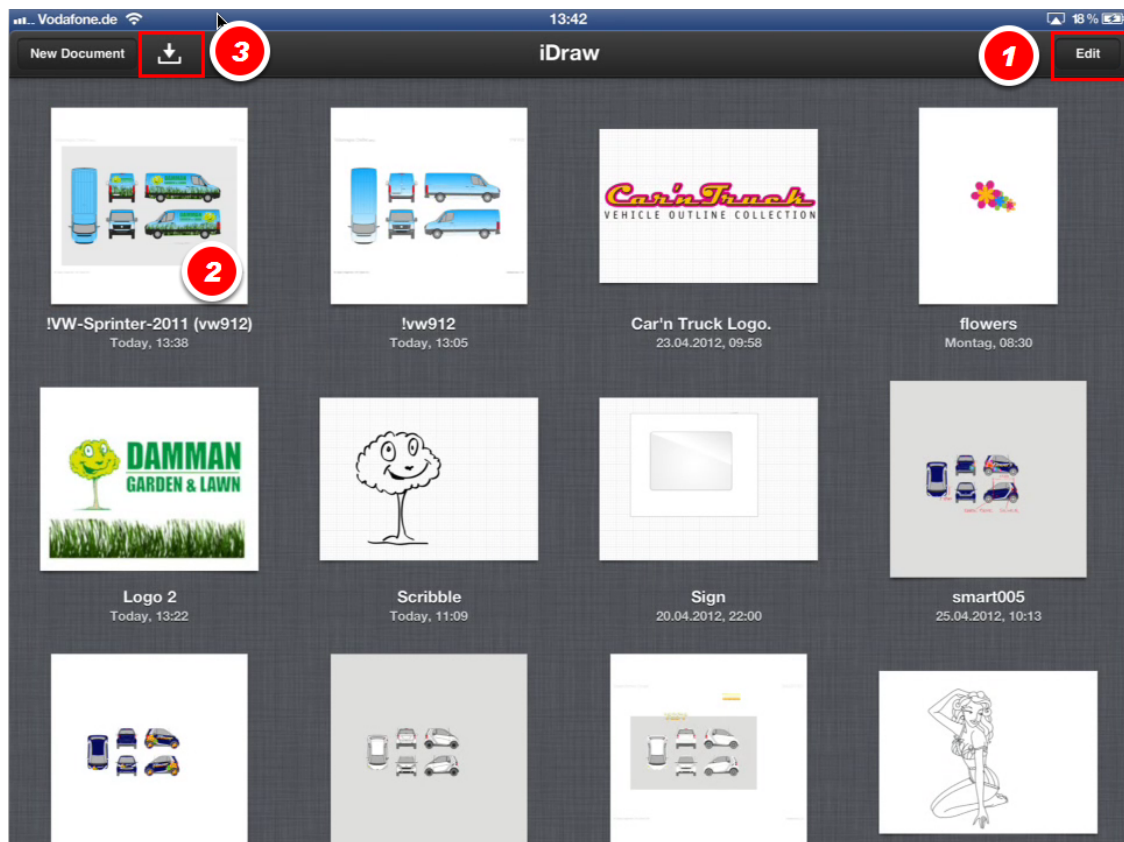


Now here's your design. Don't forget to save tapping the 'Documents' button (1).

When it's done

Print, send or export your design

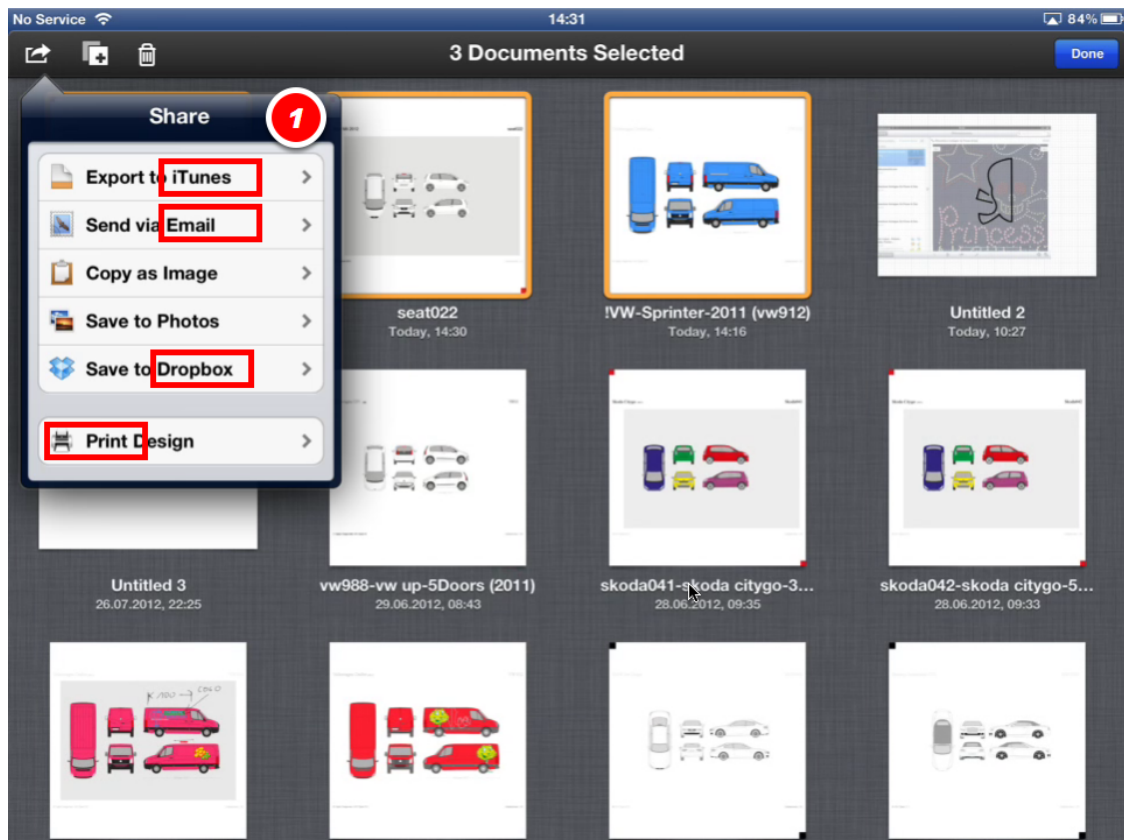
Now choose what to do with your design.



In '**Documents**' view, tap '**Edit**' (1).

Select files to export (2).

Tap on button 'Share' (3).



Now you can choose from the 'Share' panel (1) what to do with your design.

Besides sending via **email** or **printing**, you can copy it back to your computer - just pick **Dropbox** or **iTunes**, according to the way you like to transfer the files.

In these cases, select **SVG** format on the subsequent export panel to enable your files being imported to different graphics software like CorelDraw or Illustrator for further processing.