

Good tracking is as much a factor of technique as it is one of hardware. Feeding material off the roll, using proper acceleration and speed, optimizing your plots, and implementing alignment guides will give you excellent tracking. If persistent tracking problems exist, check the following:

1. Plot Optimization: Most design software provides a sorting feature within the plotter driver setup. Sorting minimizes excessive media movement, which can induce tracking problems.
2. Media Management: Variations in media quality will effect the performance of the machine. Buckling vinyl can also cause skewing. Ensure the vinyl is feeding smoothly.
3. Drive Belt Tension: A loose/worn belt or worn gear can cause the belt to slip on the gears. Check belts and gearing for excessive wear. Properly adjust the tension of all drive belts.
4. Chart Wheels: Inspect the chart wheels for uneven wear or damage. Foreign material like paint, paper, dirt or flat spots from prolonged chart wheels exposure to clamp down positioning while the machine is idle will contribute to media shift.
5. Set Screws: Check the (4) grit shaft set screws, (2) in the center, (1) on each side. Ensure the set screws are fastened properly. Set screws may loosen after extensive use.
6. Grit Shaft: Inspect the grit shaft. Look for any foreign material, damage, or unusual wear.
7. Square Shaft: Check for square shaft side play.