Though Fountain Valley, California-based Factory eNova has been in business for just 17 months, the dream of the business has been around for years. Billed as the factory for easy innovation, Factory eNova is a laser cutting, laser engraving and 3D printing studio that allows the surrounding community to utilize formerly inaccessible tools to create the projects and products of their dreams. We spoke with Seth Inyang, co-owner of Factory eNova about the business of creativity, collaboration and technology in this successful makerspace that is drawing lots of attention.

Seth Inyang and Vinh Lieu are the primary founders of Factory eNova. Both are mechanical engineering graduates who had worked on projects together before going into business.

“The thought of Factory eNova popped into our heads a few years ago when we were looking for equipment to complete prototypes that Vinh and I had been working on,” Seth told us. “We both agreed there was a huge market for people like us who wanted and needed access to top-notch prototyping and manufacturing equipment.”

Both Vinh and Seth had some experience with using lasers at another DIY shop, though when it was time to select the equipment for their organization, they still considered themselves novices. However, their previous laser experience did give them a solid idea of what they were looking for in their own systems.
In addition to providing equipment and workspace for community members, the team at Factory eNova is dedicated to education. Offering a variety of classes and clinics, DIY enthusiasts now also have the opportunity to learn to do incredible things with all kinds of equipment — including lasers.

“The laser classes have been very popular as we had predicted they would be,” Seth explained. “In two hours our customers are in and out of the class making their creations.

I will admit we have some excellent teachers, but the fact that the machine is so easy to use allows even new learners to fall in love with the process. Our younger student so far has been just eight years old, and he has been back to make things multiple times while his dad reads newspapers and magazines at the center table,” Seth told us.

Since Factory eNova caters to a wide variety of customers — engineers, inventors, etc. — they see all kinds of interesting projects and creations come to fruition in the space.

“We have actually had a lot of artists and designers come in to engrave on fabrics or cut patterns for clothing and other accessories,” Seth said. “In addition to that, laser cutting seems to be extremely popular on everything from paper and acrylic stencils to jewelry or wood cut items as well.

We also have a lot of small to medium businesses that come in to make small production runs of all kinds of items, and we’ve also seen quite a few Kickstarter projects come through our doors.”

While the space offers a range of services, equipment and educational opportunities, Seth and Vinh told us that Factory eNova was originally built solely on the use of Epilog Laser systems.

“We have focused on really highlighting all of the benefits of the laser to help build our business,” Seth said. “When people see we have equipment that can take any digital image and transfer it to a 3D object, they become very interested in the lasers.”

In opening its doors 17 months ago, Factory eNova has opened a world of opportunity to people all over Orange County, and the team there has lofty ambitions for the future of their business, as well.

“We want to be pioneers at Factory eNova,” Seth said, “finding more and more new ways that the laser can be utilized to make things.

We recently have been laser cutting pieces of larger materials and using the lasers to prototype and build all kinds of objects, the most recent being a shelving system that we built for the front of our studio by simply laser cutting notches into rectangular pieces of wood and putting them together.

“We look forward to getting the FiberMark Fusion laser in the future to address the metal etching needs,” Seth said. “We’re looking forward to what Epilog comes out with next and are excited to expand with our lasers at the forefront.”

For more information visit: [www.factoryenova.com](http://www.factoryenova.com)

---

### Knowledge Base:

**Adding an Italic / Oblique Effect to a Non-Italic Font**

**Have you ever had a client or project requiring the italic version of a typeface, but the typeface you are using doesn’t have an italic font?**

Many type designers refer to oblique fonts as italic fonts, but there is a bit of a difference between the two.

italic fonts include alternate designs for the symbols and characters, as well as different kerning and tracking spacing for the italic font, whereas oblique fonts do not.

oblique fonts are the same standard symbols and characters with a slant distortion applied to give the font an italic appearance.

1. **Start by selecting your text.** We have selected Impact for this example because there is not an italic or oblique font for this typeface.
2. **Next open the Sketch palette in the Transformation Docker by selecting Object Transformations / Sketch from your drop-down menu.** The Sketch palette will appear on the right side of your screen in the Dockers section.
3. **Finally, apply the oblique effect by adding a horizontal skew to the text.** In the Sketch Transformations palette, enter -15 in the x value and click Apply.

---

### Sample Club:

**Create a Mini Cornhole Set with a Laser**

Have you ever wanted to design and build a mini cornhole set with a laser cutter? In this sample club, we’ll guide you through the process of creating a mini cornhole set that will make a great gift and provide hours of quality entertainment! Its convenient size allows for indoor play during winter months and easy transport to your summer events.

**Materials List:**
- 1/4" MDF Board: (4) 23.75" x 17.75"
- Wood Glue: (2) 24" x 14" Glue: Super Glue & Wood Glue
- Polyurethane: Minwax Clear Gloss
- Wood Clamps: (2) Irwin Quick Grips

1. **Visit the link below and download the cornhole template.** Print settings will vary based on your printer. Our settings were:
   - Vector: SP - 10 / PWR - 100 / FRQ - 500
   - Raster: SP - 15 / PWR - 100

2. **Send the job to the laser and press go.** Once each section of the board is cut and engraved, insert the veneer, send the artwork to laser and press go.

3. **Remove the adhesive back from the veneer and insert into the engraved pocket.** We used a small amount of super glue for added strength. Rolling a dowel over the veneer will help to smooth and ensure a snug fit.
4. **Apply a small amount of wood glue to each of the teeth in the joints.** Secure in place with wood clamps and allow it to dry for 30 - 40 minutes. Once the glue has completely dried, sand and finish.

Customize your mini cornhole set by engraving or inlaying custom designs, names, or favorite sports team logos. Take it a step further by customizing the bags as well. Our versatile laser systems work wonderfully on a variety of fabrics. The only limit is your imagination!

For more information including material sources and downloads, visit: [epiloglaser.com/resources/sample-clubs/mini-cornhole.html](http://www.epiloglaser.com/resources/sample-clubs/mini-cornhole.html)