

AdobeSM Customer Services

Text Tips

TEXT ON PATHS

Before placing text on a path that is large or complicated, it's a good idea to create a copy of the path. This is because once you place text on a path, the path is defined as a text path and can no longer be filled or manipulated as independent artwork. If you do need to redefine a text path as an artwork path and you have not made a copy of the original path, use the direct-up selection tool (called the group selection tool in Adobe Illustrator 5.0 and higher) to select just the path; then make a copy of the path and paste it back into the document.

Be careful when creating text blocks near a path or an object. If you accidentally click a path or object when defining text, the path will be defined as a text path or object instead of artwork. For a standard text block, the type I-beam is surrounded by a set of square brackets. If the I-beam touches or is too close to a path, the square brackets are replaced by a slanted line crossing the I-beam, indicating text on a path. If the I-beam is too close to an object or closed path, the square brackets are replaced by rounded brackets, indicating text within an object. If you want a text block near or aligned to an object, create the text block elsewhere and then reposition it.

SHADOW EFFECTS

Create a shadow effect by making a copy of your text, painting it with a dark color, moving the copy slightly, and then sending it to the back. You can create a variety of shadow effects by adjusting the placement of the copy.

LETTERSPACING

To decrease the spacing between characters of a text string or block (known as *tracking*), select the text, hold down the Option key (Macintosh) or Alt key (Windows), and press the Left Arrow key. To increase the spacing, hold down the Option/Alt key, and press the Right Arrow key. To adjust the vertical shift, hold down the Option/Alt and Shift keys and use the Up Arrow and the Down Arrow keys. The Option/Alt, Shift and Down arrow keys make the vertical shift go downward. For all of these adjustments, the amount of movement caused by each press of an arrow key is set in the Preferences dialog box. To adjust the spacing between characters in 2-point increments, hold down both the Option/Alt key and the Command key (Macintosh) or Ctrl key (Windows) and use the Left Arrow and Right Arrow keys.

WRAPPING TEXT

For text wrapping, the object that the text is going to wrap around has to be in the front of the text block. If the object is behind the text just use the Bring to Front command under the Arrange menu to adjust the position of the object.

To adjust the space between the text and the object being wrapped, create an unfilled, unstroked closed path around the object before applying the text wrap. Resize the closed path to create spacing.

NUMBER OF FONTS IN A FILE

There is no limit in Adobe Illustrator to the number of fonts in a document. However, there could be a limit in the output device that you print to. The more fonts used in a file, the more time and memory is required to print them. If your document doesn't print or you receive a printing memory error message, try reducing the number of fonts used in your document. If you are using a PC and your file substitutes Courier for a selected font that is installed in your system, make sure that the PFB files are present in the WIN.INI file under the PostScript, LPT1 section. These are the font files that are downloaded to the PostScript printer.

FONT SUBSTITUTION/CREATE OUTLINES

If you send files to users who don't have the fonts in the file installed on their systems, Courier or another font will be substituted. In most cases, substituting Courier will change the formatting, alignment, and so on. A possible workaround for this problem is to select the text and create outlines from it. The text then becomes a graphic and is independent of fonts. This workaround, however, is useful primarily for display type, such as logos and headlines, rather than for blocks of text. At smaller sizes, creating outlines may result in the text appearing distorted or bold.