

Contour Cut Files: Vinyl

How To Set Up Print Cut Files



Do's:



- Send multiple page files as **separate PDF's**.
- Indicate on print layer what each graphic is for - see example [here](#)
- Add at least **1/8"** bleed (10pt at full-size) to all text and objects where possible.
- Create a Spot Color using either **CYAN** or **MAGENTA** for your cut line.
- Name the Spot Color "**CutContour**", this is **case sensitive**.
- Have a vectorized, **1pt line** on a separate layer from printed artwork.
- Outline and unite strokes on cut layer to avoid overlapping cuts.
- **TURN ON** visibility of your cut layer. Our print software will detect and remove it.



Allow at least 1/8" between cut lines
Bleed (same color) may overlap

OUTLINE ALL TEXT OBJECTS!

Outline all text objects to ensure that your font is displayed correctly

CHEK YOUR SPELING

We **DO NOT** spell check!!
Provided files should be final,
print ready versions

WHITE TEXT

White text **does not** need a text layer or bleed, but does need a cut layer

Width May Not Exceed 51" For Cut Files

DO NOT have your cut line in your art layer. Separate it into its own "CutContour" layer.

DO NOT have a very tight registration. The more breathing room, the better the outcome

DO NOT rasterize your cut line. It needs to be vectorized.

DO NOT use clipping masks to create your cut lines.

Examples:



Artwork



Approved ✓



Rejected ✗

Rejected cut file does not include outer black stroke

text

Artwork

text

Approved ✓

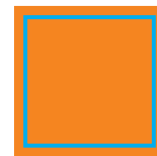
text

Rejected ✗

Rejected cut file does not include bleed



Artwork



Approved ✓



Rejected ✗

Rejected cut file has cut line outside the bleed

Tools:

Adobe Illustrator >> Object -> Path -> Offset Path

will assist with adding bleed. Live Trace will help to generate a cut path from rasterized art.

Other programs such as FlexiSign & CorelDraw come with tracing options, offset paths & cut contour tool in assisting in the creation of cut lines and bleeds. Tutorials are available on the web.