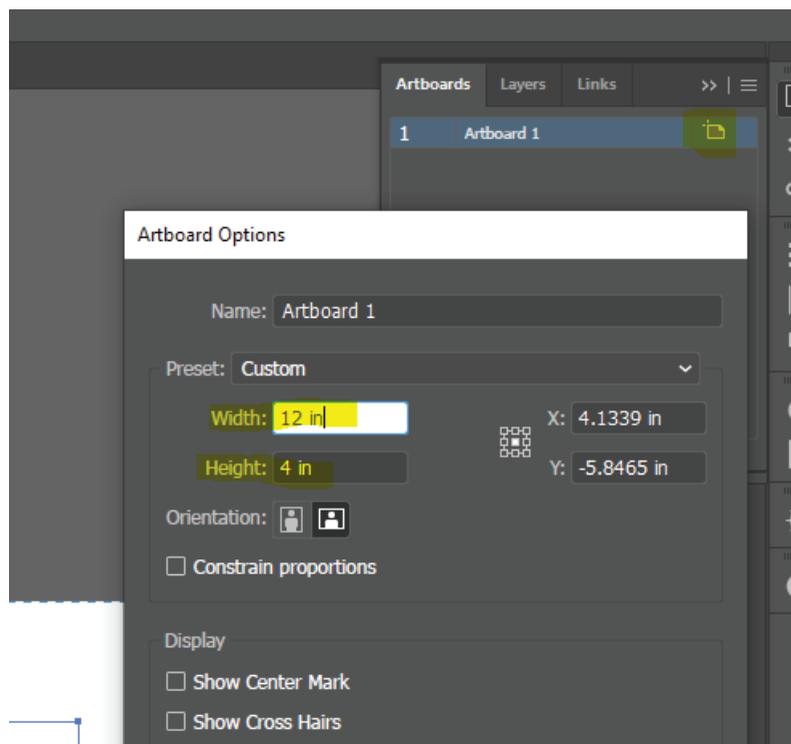


How to create a dieline in Illustrator

To start place your design or create your design to the final size that you want. Before adding a dieline to your artwork, you'll want to make sure your artboard size is larger than your artwork (to account for the extra space needed for the dieline).

You can check/adjust your artboard size by going to Window > Artboards > click on the small paper icon to the right of the name "artboard 1." Minimum size increase is about 0.5in; however, you may need to increase the size more.

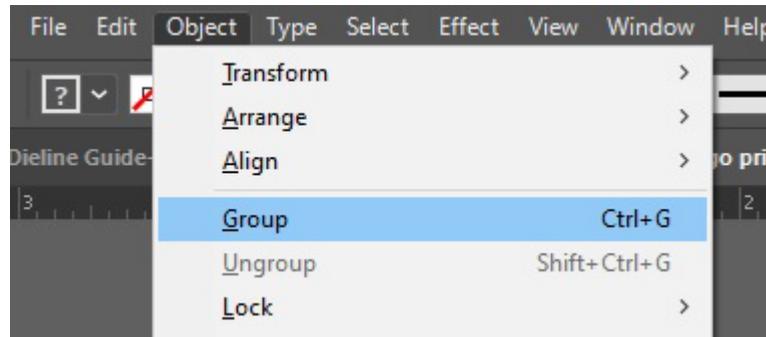
Once done, you can get started on creating the dieline. See page 2 if your artwork is vector and page 7 if it's a raster image.



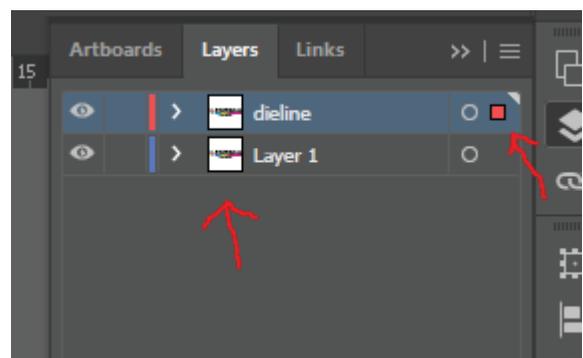
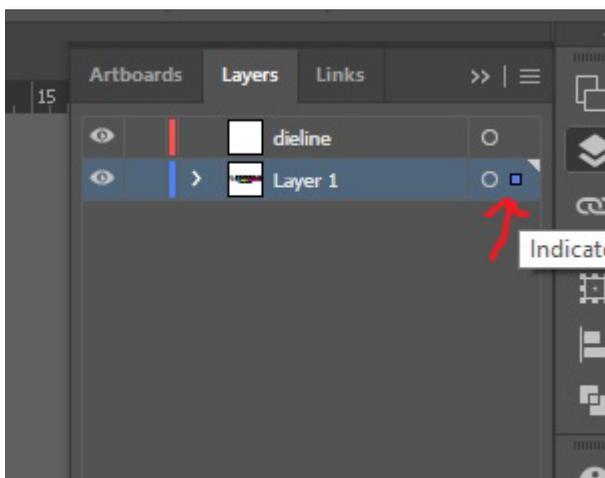
Vector file:

To create a dieline:

- 1) select all your artwork then group it together.
 - a) ctrl + a (windows) or cmd + a (mac)
 - b) Object > Group



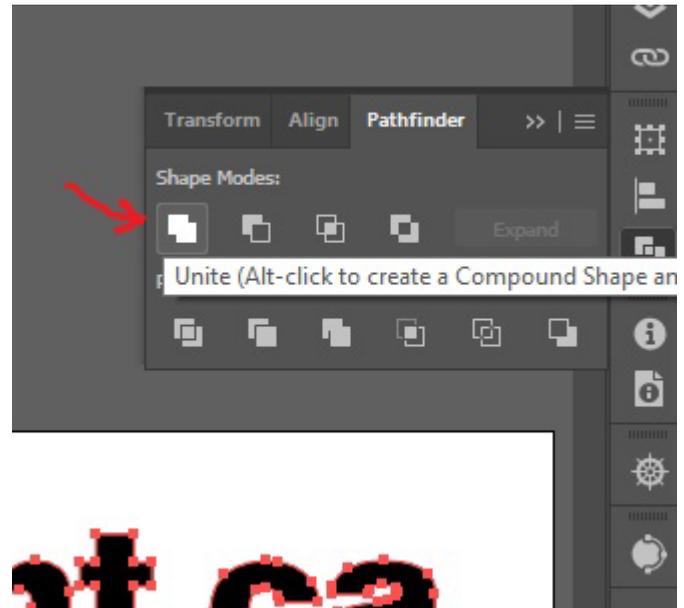
- 2) with the artwork still selected, copy the image and then paste it in place
 - a) create a new layer and rename it dieline
 - b) Go back to layer 1 and copy the artwork then paste it into place
 - edit > copy (ctrl+c), then edit > paste in place (shift + ctrl+ v)
 - c) with the artwork still selected drag the artwork into the new layer. This can be done in the layers menu
 - there is a small square to the right of "layer 1", drag this small square up to the 'dieline' layer
 - there should be 1 artwork on layer 1 and the dieline layer
 - you will know if you did this right when you see an artwork in the small square to the left of the layer names



3) you can lock and hide layer 1 as you'll be working in the dieline layer until the final steps

4) Next you can go back to your dieline layer, make sure the artwork is selected then use Pathfinder to unite

a) Window > Pathfinder > Unite



5) Next go to the swatches panel and set your fill colour to none (Window > Swatches)



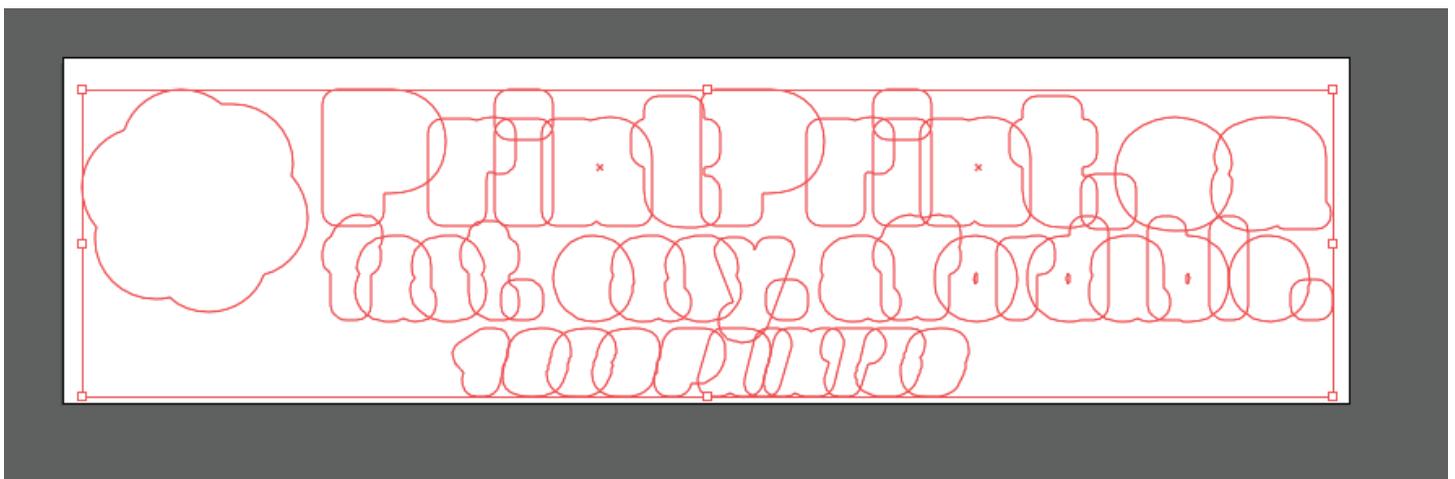
6) Next will be making an offset path

a) Object > Path > Offset Path

- Offset can be set to 0.125in
- Joins set to Rounds (any of the options work)
- Miter set to 4



7) Depending on your artwork, you may see some overlap between different elements. If this is the case then just unite the layer again (via pathfinder: Window > Pathfinder > Unite)



8) Next you'll need to give your stroke a colour (ideally, magenta or cyan)

- Window > Swatches

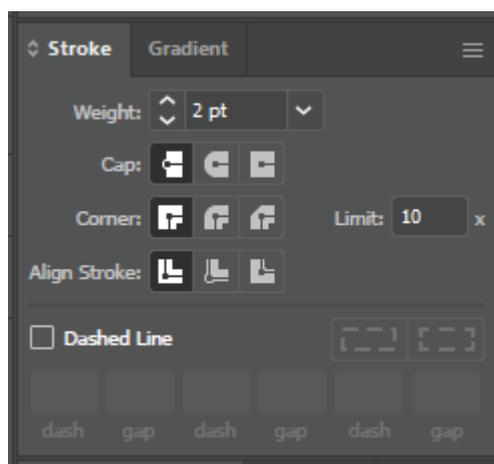
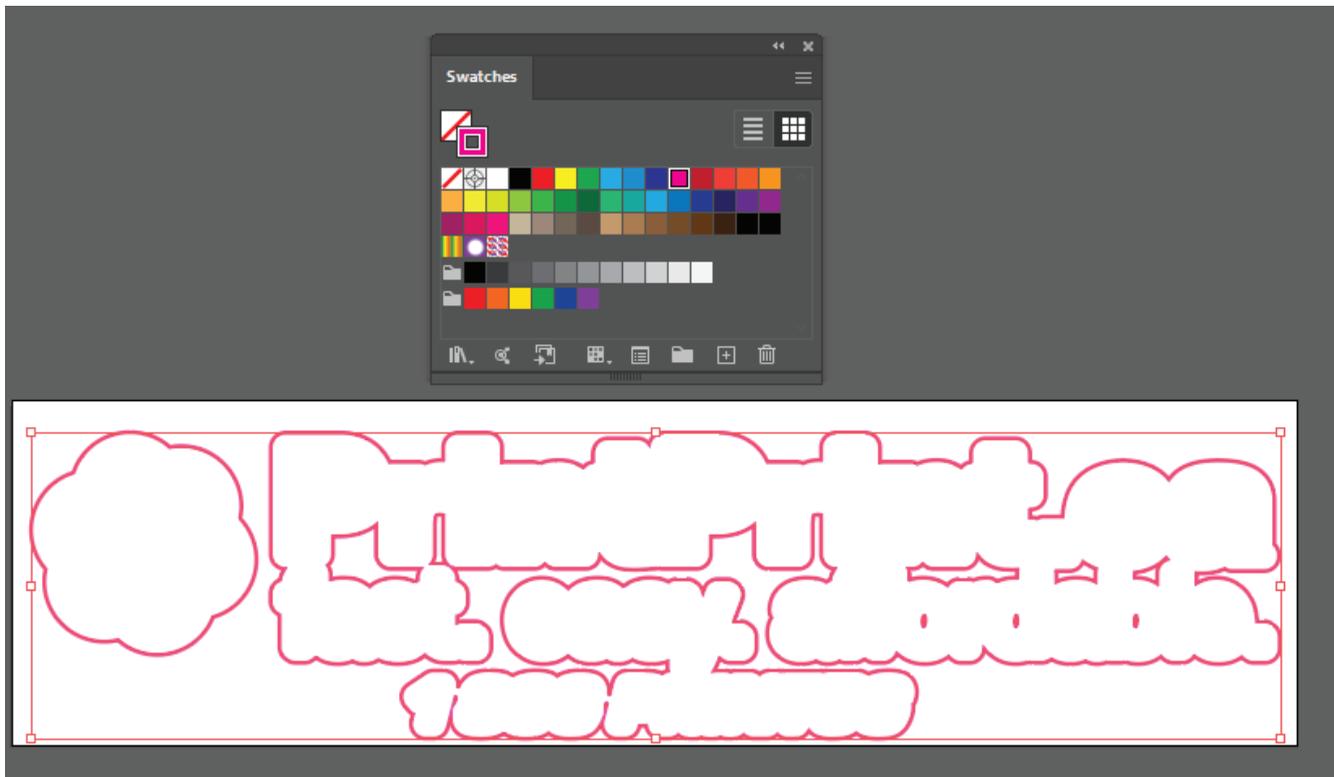
a) you may also need to increase your stroke thickness

- Window > Stroke

- 2pt should be okay; however this may need to change depending on the size of your artwork

artwork

9) Last, you can turn layer 1 back on and the dieline should now be set up and outline your artwork



Final artwork



Raster File:

1) Follow Step 2 from the vector file (page 2)

- copy and paste in place the artwork, then drag the second image into a new layer (renamed dieline)

- make sure to lock and hide layer 1

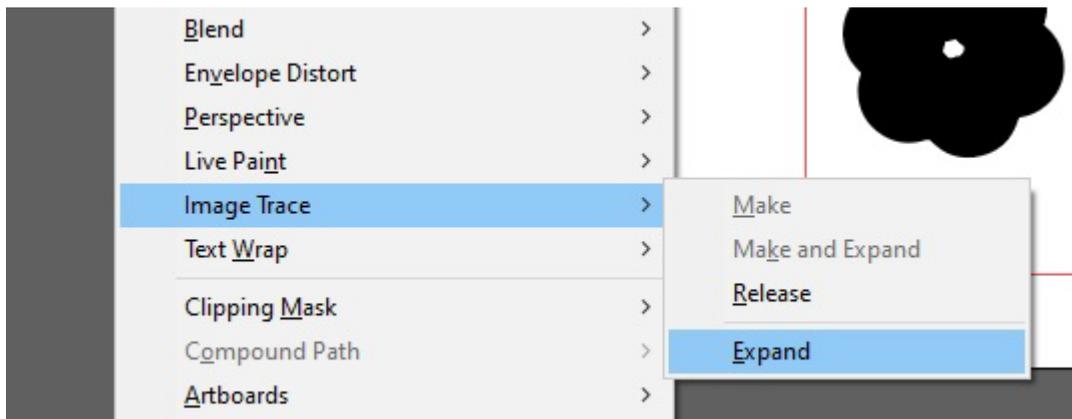


2) Next will be to image trace your artwork

- window > image trace > preset > silhouettes



3) With the layer still selected: Object > image trace > expand



3) There should now be an outline around the artwork/letters. You will want to remove the fill and stroke colour

- Window > Swatches > Fill > none + Stroke > none



4) Next make an offset path

- Object > Path > Offset Path

Settings:

offset 0.125in (should be okay)

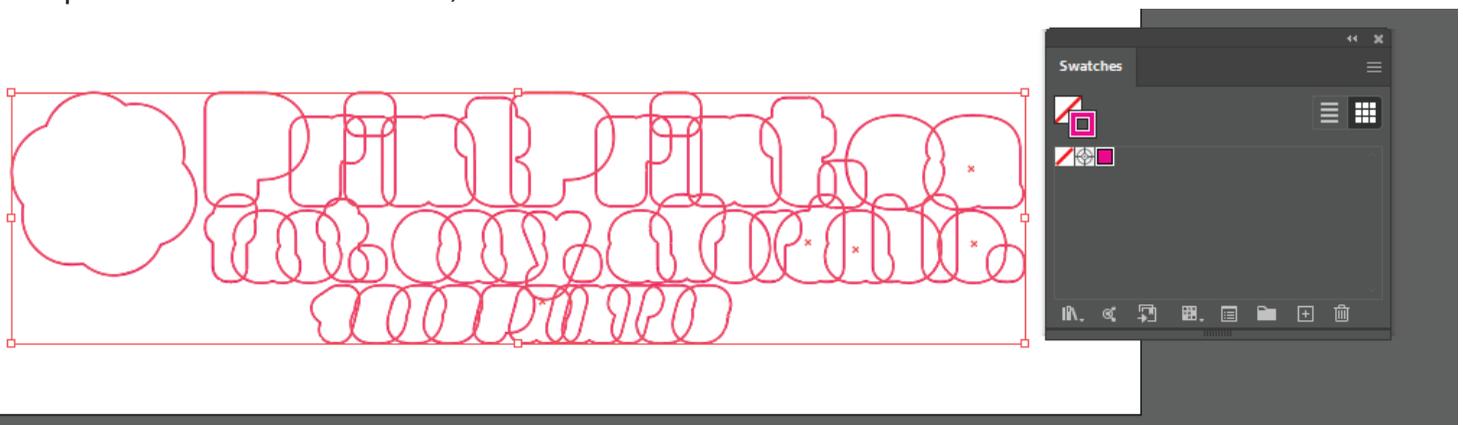
Joins - "round"

Miter - between 4-8 - but 4 is good

There should now be an outline around the artwork, if you were to click away then there would be nothing on the artboard. So you will need to add a stroke to this.

- Window > Swatches > Stroke > magenta or cyan

- you may need to increase the thickness of the stroke (window>stroke > weight increase to 2pt. It can be thicker if needed)



Depending on the type of artwork you have, you may see a bunch of overlap with different elements (like the above image). If this is the case, then we can solve this issue by uniting the elements via pathfinder

- Window > Pathfinder > Unite

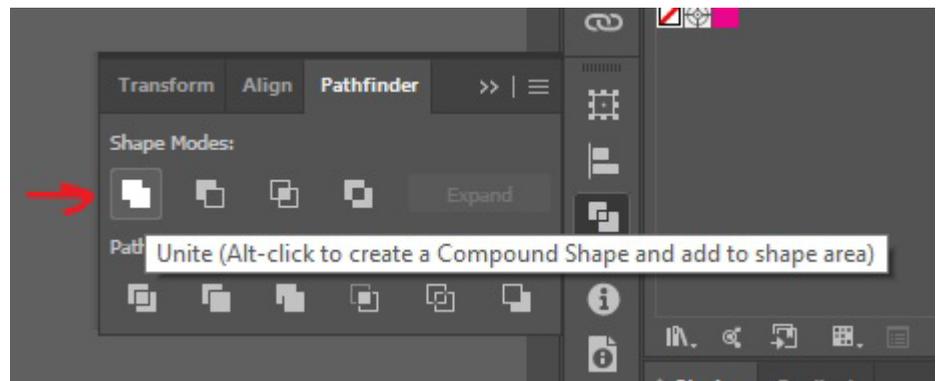
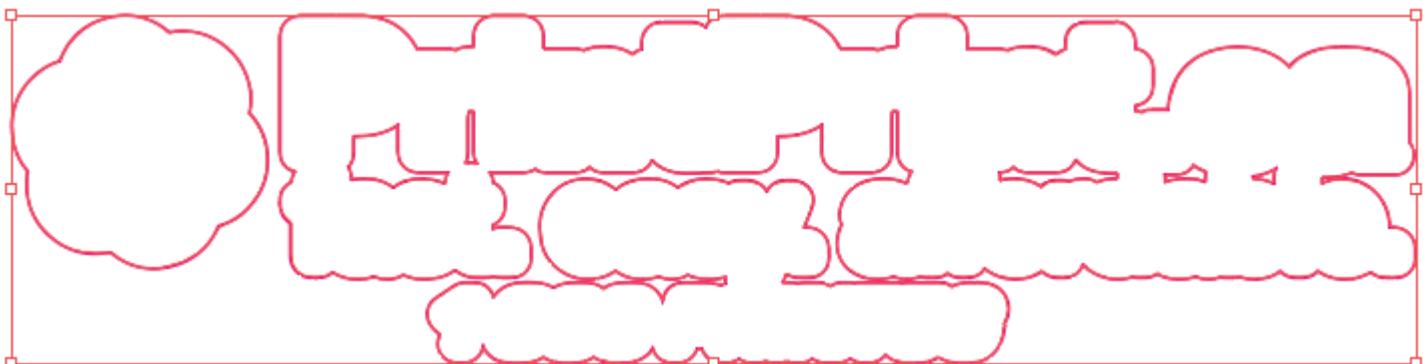


image united:





Once everything is united, you can turn layer 1 back on. The dieline should now be around the artwork and you can send this to use for prints!

You can send us either an AI or PDF file.

Final artwork:

