CREATING CUT PATHS
FOR VECTOR IMAGES IN CORELDRAW®

GETTING STARTED

This document will teach you how to create a cut path and an offset cut path around a vector image using CorelDRAW®. Once your cut path is created, it can be imported into Wasatch SoftRIP® and used with the Cutting Options feature to create custom pieces.

STEP 1

In CorelDRAW®, open the file that contains your vector artwork (Illustration 1).

Note: If you are prompted to do so, import text as curves.

Illustration 1

STEP 2

Select all the objects that you want to create a cut path around and group them together (Arrange > Group or CTRL+G).

STEP 3

Create a duplicate of the grouped objects (Edit > Duplicate or CTRL+D).

STEP 4

Move the duplicated group above your original artwork so you can easily work with each group separately.

STEP 5

Select the duplicated group. Go to Arrange > Shaping > Weld. This step merges the elements of your image so you can easily create a cut path around it (Illustration 2).

Illustration 2

STEP 6

Click the Fill button on your toolbar and select None. Click the Outline button on your toolbar and select Hairline (both buttons highlighted in the bottom left corner of Illustration 2).
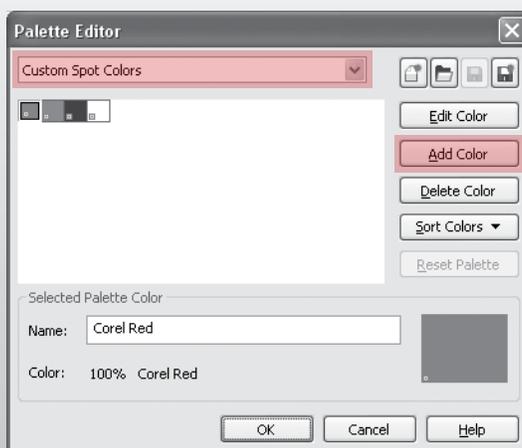

Illustration 3

STEP 7

Go to Window > Color Palettes > Palette Editor. From the drop down menu, select User's Palettes > Custom Spot Colors (Illustration 3).

STEP 8

Click on the Add Color button (Illustration 3). Select the Models tab and choose a color for your path (Illustration 4).

STEP 9

Click the Add to Palette button. Click the Close button (Illustration 4). This will take you back to the Palette Editor.

Note: A new window does not open when you click the Add to Palette button.

STEP 10

Click on the color you just added and name it cutpath (all one word), as shown in Illustration 5. Click OK.

STEP 11

Select your path. Go to Window > Color Palettes > Color Palette Browser. Under User's Palettes, click the box to the left of Custom Spot Colors to activate that palette (Illustration 6).

Right-click the "cutpath" color swatch from the swatches menu located on the far right side of the screen. You will see the color applied to your path at the bottom of the screen (Illustration 6).

STEP 12

Select both your newly created path and your original image.

STEP 13

Go to Arrange > Align and Distribute > Align and Distribute. In the menu that pops up, select Align Centers Horizontally and Align Centers Vertically (Illustration 7). Click Apply and Close.

STEP 14

Export your file as an EPS (File > Export or CTRL+E).

STEP 15

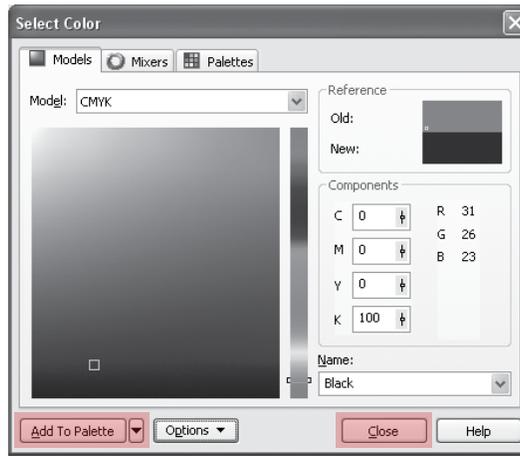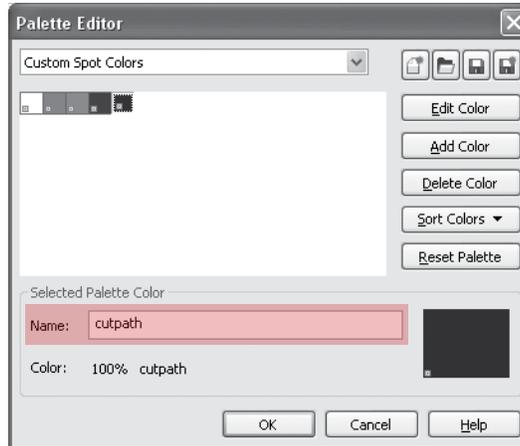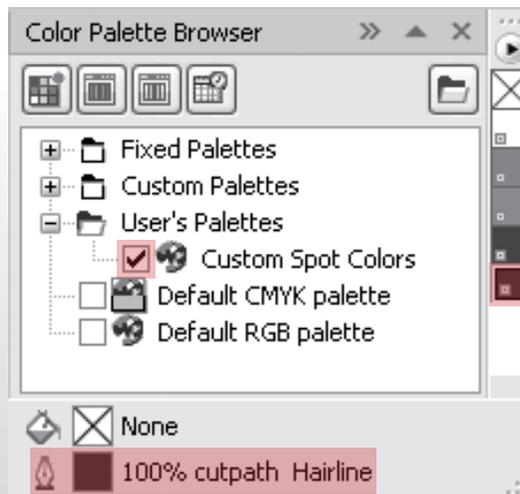Your cut path is now ready to be used in SoftRIP.
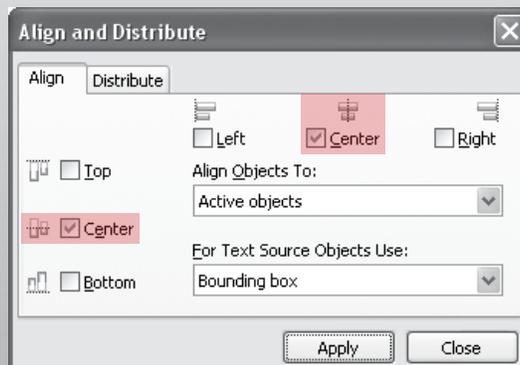
Illustration 4

Illustration 5

Illustration 6

Illustration 7

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CREATING AN OFFSET CUT PATH

An offset cut path is useful when you need to create white space around your finished piece or when you are using a bleed. To create an offset cut path around a vector image using CorelDRAW®, complete Steps 1-13 above. Once those steps have been completed, follow the instructions below.
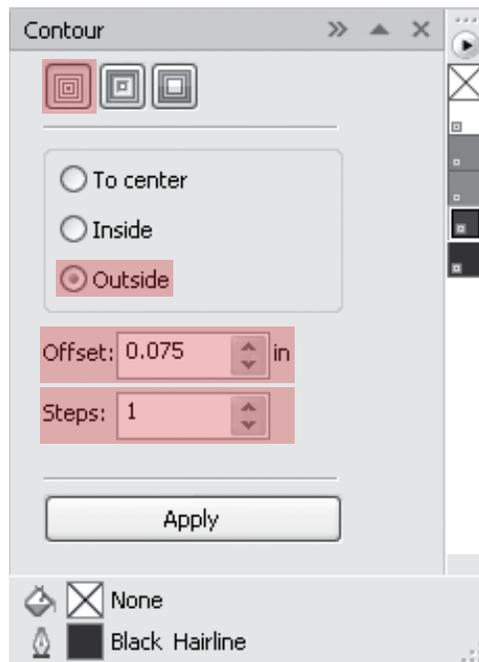

Illustration 1

STEP 1

Select your path. Go to Effects > Contour or CTRL+F9. This brings up the Contour menu, as shown in Illustration 1.

STEP 2

Click the Contour Steps button to start creating your offset path (Illustration 1).

For our illustration, we've selected an Outside contour. We've set our Offset to .075 and our Steps to 1 (Illustration 1).The results of this contour can be seen in Illustration 2.

STEP 3

The offset path does not replace your original path, so the original path needs to be deleted.

Right-click on the offset path you just created and select Break Contour Group Apart or CTRL+K.

Select your original path and delete it.

STEP 4

Export your file as an EPS (File > Export or CTRL+E).

STEP 5

Your cut path is now ready to be used in SoftRIP.

Illustration 2