Adobe Illustrator CS5
Part 2: Vector Graphic Effects

Summer 2011, Version 1.0

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Introduction

Adobe Illustrator CS5 is used to create graphics and type in vector format. Vector graphics are made up of points, lines, and curves that are defined by mathematical equations. Vector graphics are resolution independent, which means that they can be resized to any size without losing quality. This handout covers vector graphic effects which include text, color gradient, and gloss effects. The lessons include creating an icon and a customized t-shirt design.

Downloading the Data Files

This handout includes sample data files that can be used for hands-on practice. The data files are stored in a self-extracting archive. The archive must be downloaded and executed in order to extract the data files.
- The data files used with this handout are available for download at http://www.calstatela.edu/its/training/datafiles/illustratorcs5p2.exe.
- Instructions on how to download and extract the data files are available at http://www.calstatela.edu/its/docs/download.php.

Starting the Program

The following steps are for starting Illustrator CS5 using the computers in the ITS Training Program computer labs. The steps for starting the program on other computers may vary.

To start Illustrator CS5:
1. Click the **Start** button, click **All Programs**, click **Adobe Design Premium CS5.5**, and select **Adobe Illustrator CS5.1**.

Text Effects

Illustrator can be used to create text in vector format. In addition, you can apply different text effects to fit any project.

Creating Text with Effects

The first step in creating text effects is to create a new Illustrator document and create the text using the *Type* tool. The finished product in this lesson is intended to be printed. For this reason, the *New Document Profile* will be set to *Print* which uses a default letter size artboard.

To create text with effects:
1. Click the **File** menu and select **New**. The **New Document** dialog box opens (see Figure 1).
2. Type **Text** in the **Name** box.
3. Select **Print** from the **New Document Profile** list.
4. Select **Letter** from the **Size** list.
5. Next to **Orientation**, click the **Landscape** button 🔲.
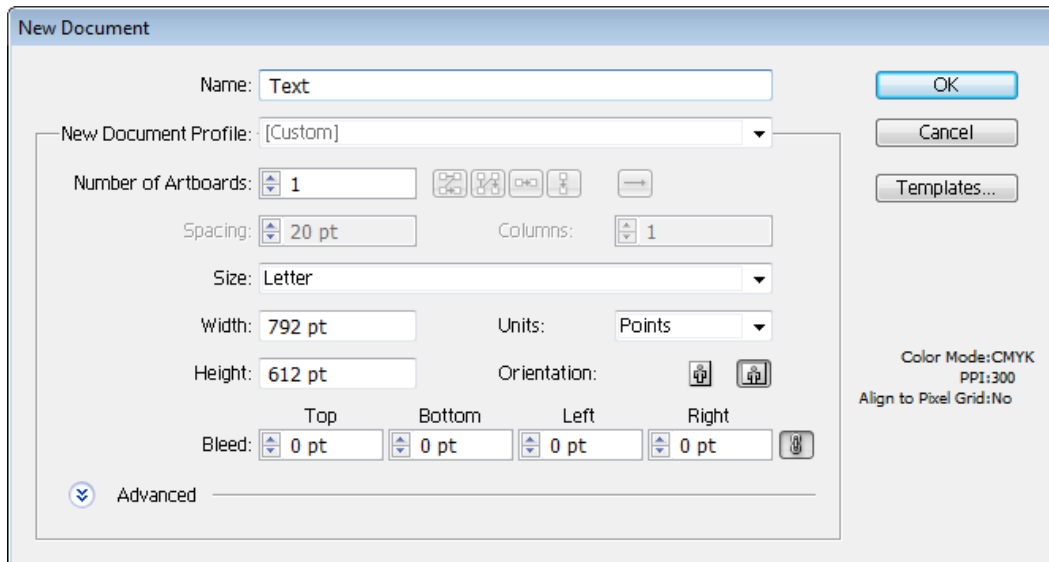6. Click the **OK** button.

Figure 1 – New Document Dialog Box

7. Select the **Type** tool in the **Tools** panel.
8. Click in the center of the artboard and type **FRESH**.
9. With the **Selection** tool , select the text on the artboard.
10. In the **Control** panel, select **Poplar Std Black** from the **Font** list, enter **250 pt** in the **Font Size** box, and click the **Stroke** box and select **None** (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Color and Font Options in the Control panel

11. In the **Control** panel, click **Align** to display the **Align** panel (see Figure 3).
12. Under **Align To**, select **Align to Artboard**.
13. Under **Align Objects**, select **Horizontal Align Center** and **Vertical Align Center** to center the text (see Figure 4).
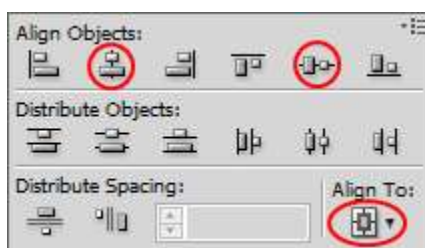

Figure 3 – Align Panel

Figure 4 – Centered Text

14. In the **Layers** panel, double-click the layer's name to open the **Layer Options** dialog box, type **1** in the **Name** box, and then click the **OK** button to rename the layer (see Figure 5).
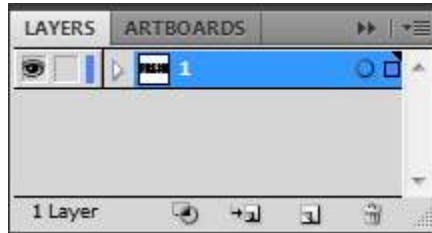
Figure 5 – Layers Panel with Renamed Layer

15. Click the **Layers** panel menu located in the upper-right corner of the panel and select **Duplicate** to duplicate the layer.

16. Rename the **1 copy** layer to **2**.

17. With the **Selection** tool , select the text on the artboard.

18. Click the **Effect** menu, point to **Path**, and select **Offset Path**. The **Offset Path** dialog box opens (see Figure 6).

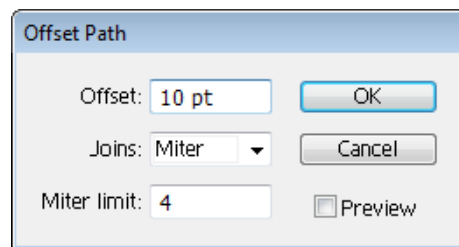19. Type **10 pt** in the **Offset** box, and then click the **OK** button.

Figure 6 – Offset Path Dialog Box

20. In the **Layers** panel, duplicate layer **2** and rename the new layer to **3**.

21. With the **Selection** tool , select the text on the artboard.

22. Repeat step 18 to open the **Offset Path** dialog box, type **10 pt** in the **Offset** box, and then click the **OK** button.

23. In the **Layers** panel, duplicate layer **3** and rename the new layer to **4**.

24. With the **Selection** tool , select the text on the artboard.

25. Repeat step 18 to open the **Offset Path** dialog box, type **10 pt** in the **Offset** box, and then click the **OK** button.

26. In the **Layers** panel, drag each layer to reposition layer **1** at the top, followed by layer **2**, layer **3**, and then layer **4** (see Figure 7).
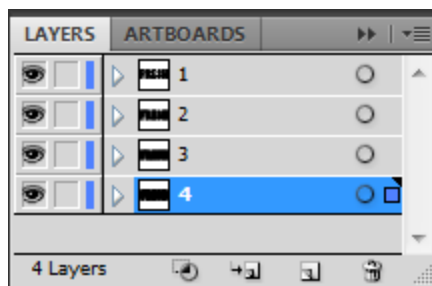

Figure 7 – Layers Panel with Reordered Layers

27. Click the **Target** icon on layer **1** to target the layer (see Figure 8). A double ring icon in the **Target** column indicates that the item is targeted; a single ring icon indicates that the item is not targeted.

28. Hold down the **Alt** key and click the **Eye** icon to the left of layer **1** to hide all other layers (see Figure 8).
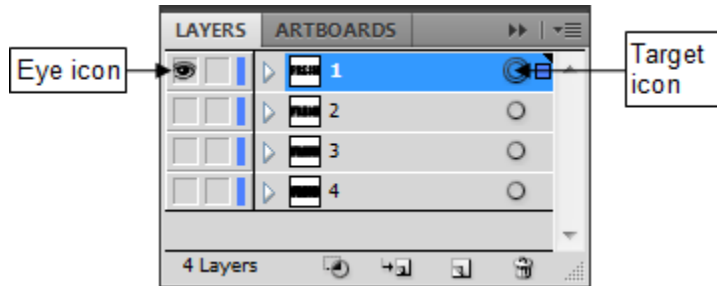
Figure 8 – Layers Panel with Layer 1 Targeted and Visible

Adding Color to Text

Once the text is created, the next step is to add color by creating outlines and filling them with a gradient.

To add color to the text:
1. Click the **Type** menu and select **Create Outlines**.
2. In the **Gradient** panel, click the **Gradient Fill** box and enter **90** in the **Angle** box (see Figure 9).
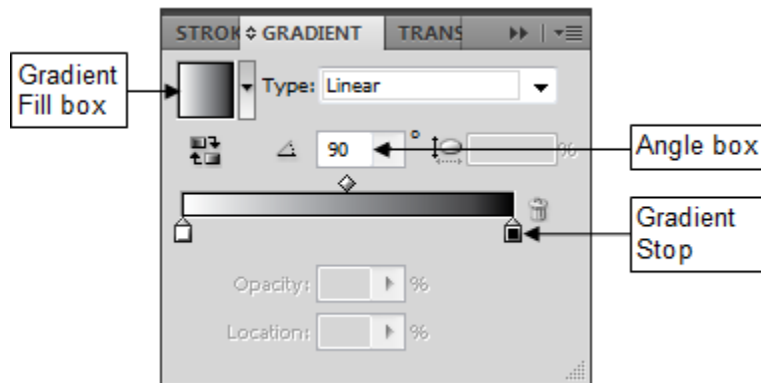

Figure 9 – Gradient Panel with Black and White Gradient

3. Double-click the black **Gradient Stop** (see Figure 9). The **Color** panel opens.
4. Click the **Color** panel menu in the upper-right corner of the panel and select **RGB**.
5. Enter the **RGB** values **63**, **169**, **245** (see Figure 10). The **Gradient Stop** changes to blue (see Figure 11).
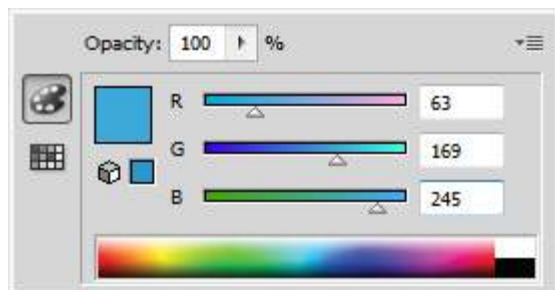
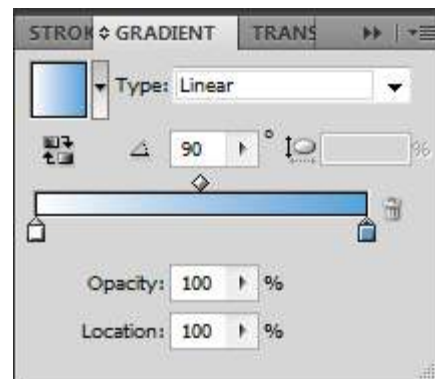

Figure 10 – Color Panel

Figure 11 – Gradient Panel with Blue and White Gradient

6. In the **Layers** panel, make layer **2** visible, and then target the layer.
7. In the **Control** panel, change the **Fill** color to white.

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