

Guide to uploading the perfect vector design

IMPORTANT – USE SVG FOR BEST RESULTS

Creation allows you to upload your vector artwork to use in the design area. Currently the file formats EPS, PDF and **SVG** are supported. However, uploading any old vector you create will not guarantee the best results. By following this guide you will see some steps you can take to make sure your design works as expected.

Note

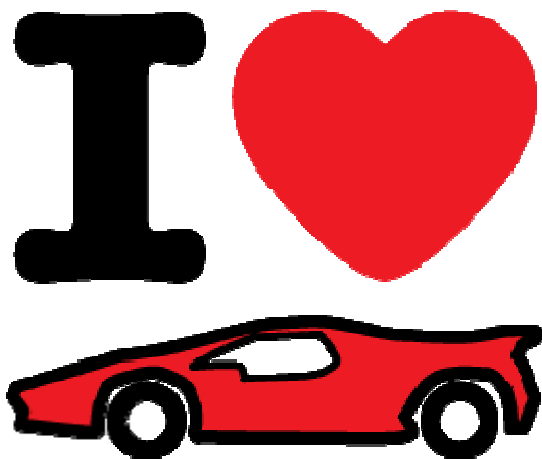
The following guide is written for use with Adobe Illustrator CS4. Other vector drawing packages have been tested and most support (in some way) the functionality described below. Certain tools used may be named differently from one program to the next.

Why vector?

On raster printed products and just doodling on the net a high quality image such as JPG or PNG will be fine. Other products, however, either don't fully support raster or for guaranteed quality of print at any size a vector is needed. Creation does support raster images and vector data.

Step 1. Draw your design.

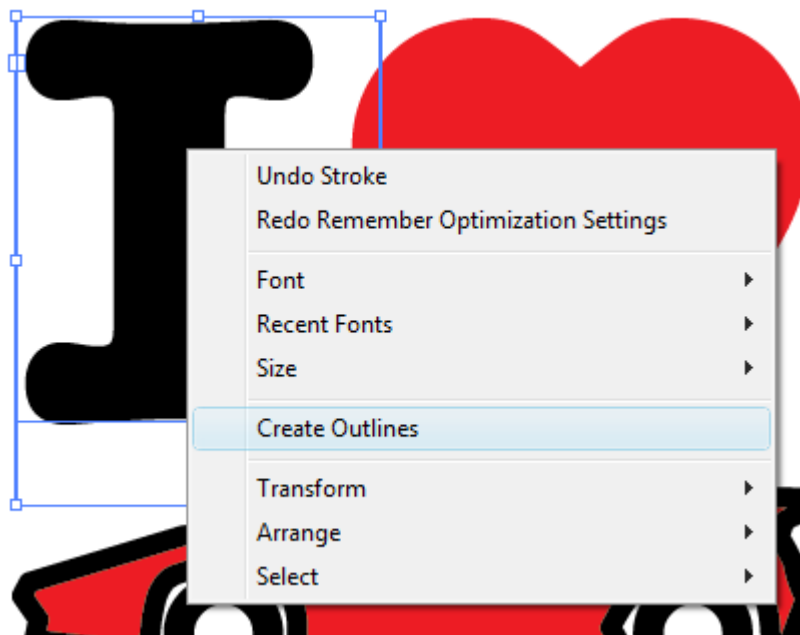
Here is a design I made for a t-shirt.



As you can see it's a simple design that uses two colours. I have chosen black for the text and outlines. The brightest red has been used for the car and the heart.

Step 2. No unconverted text please.

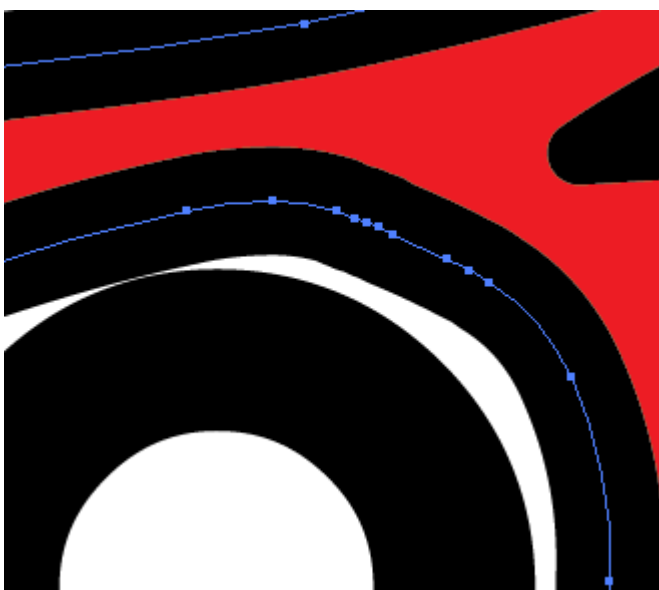
Creation does not have all your fonts on your computer. To get round this if you are using text you need to convert the text to outlines. In Illustrator you can right click the text and select “Create Outlines”.



Step 3. Simplify.

Making your design simple does not require you destroying your design to an unrecognisable smudge. Any points your design does not need should be removed. Extra points can cost money. Some products charge for complexity due to production time.

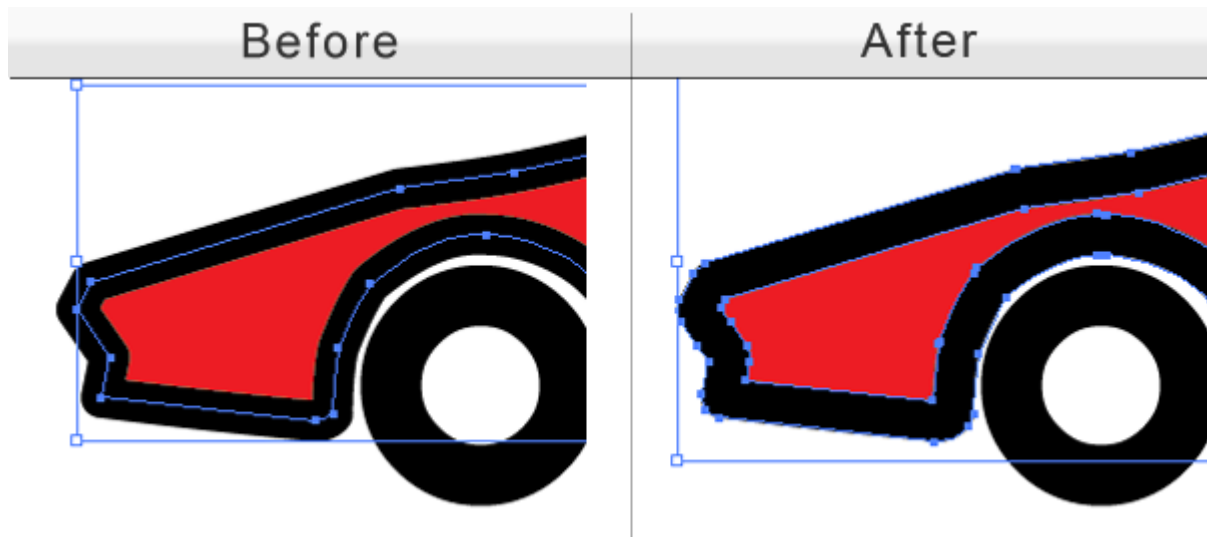
The following image shows some unneeded points I have identified on the car. In this case I believe the design would be ok to lose them.



I have a few methods available to me to remove these points. I can use the “Delete Anchor Point Tool” or I can also use the simplify tool found under Options -> Path -> Simplify...

Step 4. No borders or strokes please.

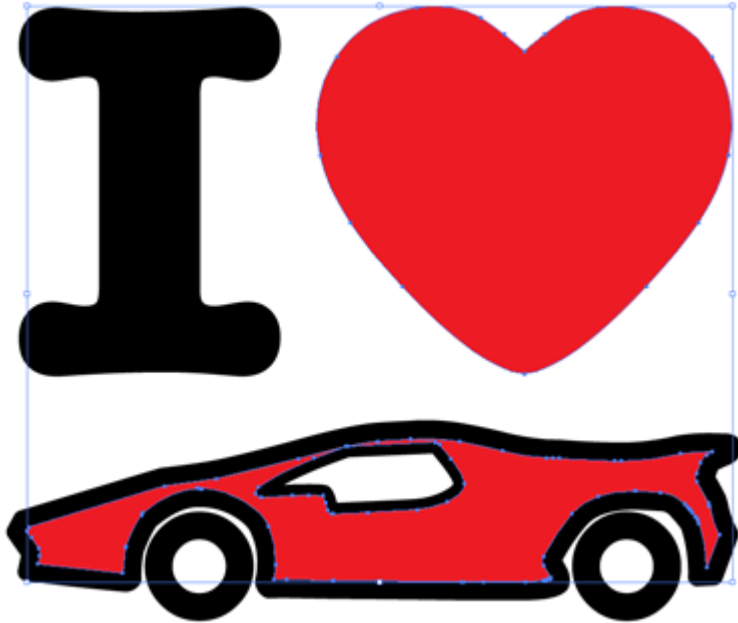
Don't panic if your design is nothing but pen lines or requires strokes to make it look fantastic. All you need to do is convert your strokes to a fill. This can be achieved by clicking the path then selecting “Options -> Path -> Outline Stroke”



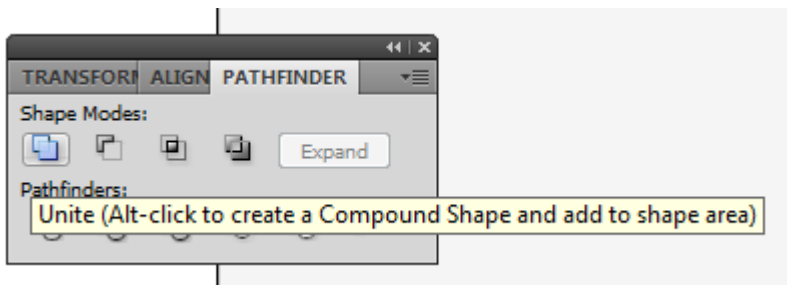
Step 5. Merge all objects of the same colour.

This step will help you a lot when editing the colours of your design later. Also a complicated design may hinder the performance of the application.

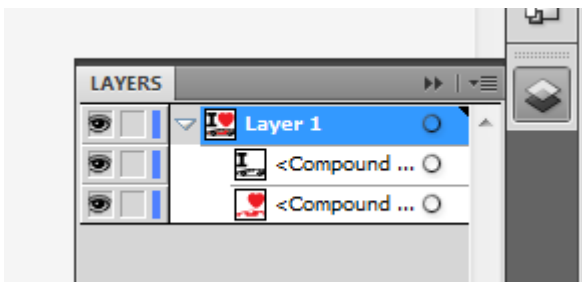
What is required is uniting, combining or merging all paths in your design if they are the same colour into a compound shape. To achieve this you need to first select all the paths that are the same colour. In my design I will select all the red elements first



Then in the pathfinder window ALT + CLICK on the Unite button shown below



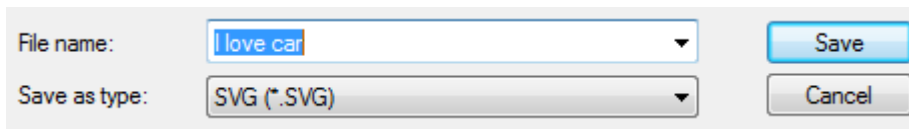
Below shows my layer panel showing I now have two shapes. One for each colour.



If your path ordering prevents this or for some other reason you are unable to do this don't worry too much. It is not vital for the artwork to work. Any effort towards combining will help later however so try your best.

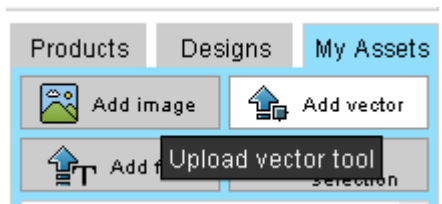
Step 6. Save out the design.

For best results save out your design as an SVG. In Illustrator you simply go to File -> Save As. Then select SVG for the drop down list.

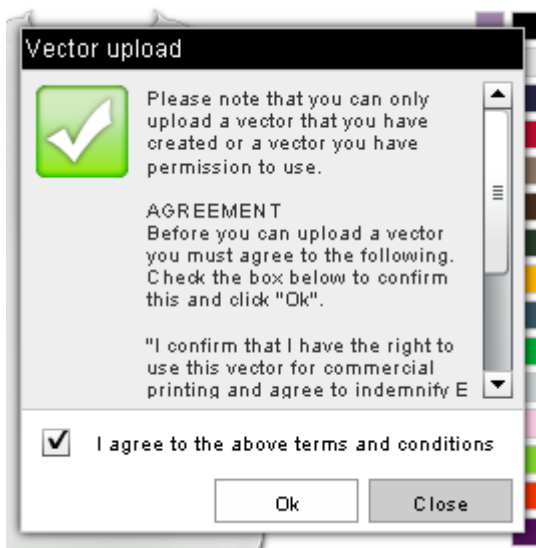


Step 7. Uploading your vector.

When in the online designer find and select the vector upload tool. Once you agree to the terms and conditions you will need to locate your design using the file browser. Once found select the file and watch it upload.



Once uploaded you should see your design in the "My Assets"

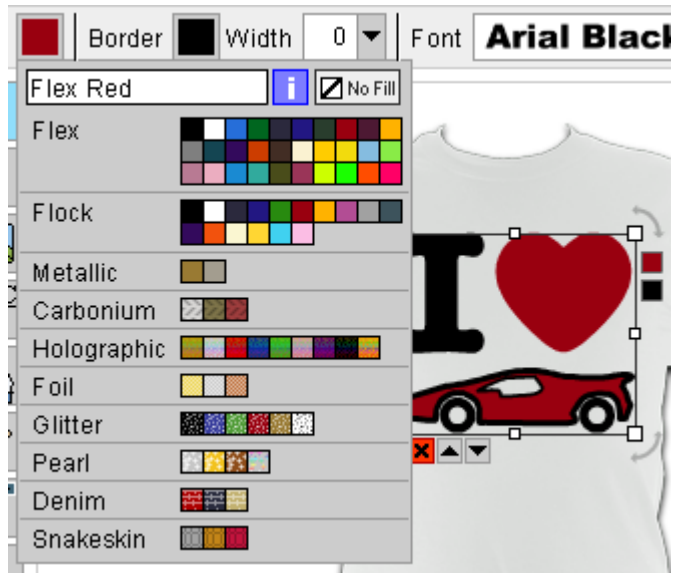


Step 8. Adding and changing the colours of your design.

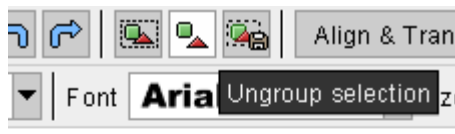
By clicking on the design in the My Assets panel you can add the design to the product.



Your design will add in the first colour found in the current colour library. If your design has 4 compound paths or under you can select each individual colour to change using the colour picker and the coloured squares to the left of your design. Click on of the little squares to open the picker.



Alternately you can ungroup the design using the ungroup button as shown below.



After ungrouping the individual parts of your design can be edited separately by selecting an object then clicking the colour picker in the top left.

Summary

- Convert all text to outlines
- Simplify your design best you can
- Convert all strokes to outlines.
- Merge you paths if they are the same colour
- Try your best to design something better than me