

Overview of our digital contour cutting service

Following our simple guidelines, printing, mounting and contour cutting of your artwork should be a quick and pleasurable experience for both you and our production team.

One rule of thumb is that if you can hand cut the shape that you require then we will be able to digitally contour cut the same shape quicker and more accurately.

Trimming printed media

Media that we print onto, but is not mounted, can be cut to ANY shape* using extremely sharp tools which are designed to follow the outline path at unbelievable speeds.

Cutting mounted prints

One huge advantage of our digital contour cutting service is the ability to cut a wide range of rigid and semi rigid mounted boards. This process is extremely fast and accurate however requires very tough routing bits to achieve the quality of cut on the harder substrates, for example 10mm PVC and dibond™. Every material has its own limitations based on its strength, and we ask that before you commit to a particular substrate you speak to one of our specialists who will advise on the most suitable option for your job.

Before you start your masterpiece!!

Choosing the right software!

Use a desktop publishing software that supports the following:-

a) Support for vector based objects

This is vital as only vector outline paths can be identified and followed by the digital cutting tools.

b) Support for the creation and naming of spot colours

Outline paths need to have a colour which is named "CutContour". Multiple paths (for example when the job is cut and creased) can use the same name but please suffix with an incrementing number, ie "CutContour1, CutContour2".

c) Support for object layers

The artwork needs to be split into the following layers:-

"Print" - All artwork that is to be produced on the finished print.

"RegMarks" - Used to identify the registration between the cut path and the printed artwork.

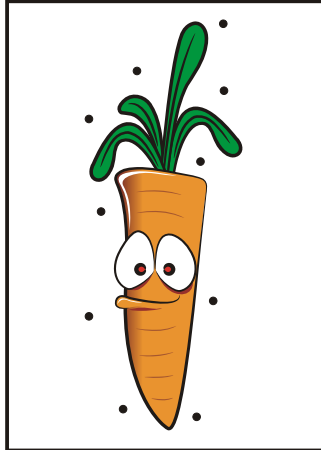
"CutContour" - Used to store the cut path that you wish the artwork to be cut or trimmed to.

* The Bigger Printing Co. will advise on whether the outline path is too adventurous on sight of your artwork and will advise of any amendments if we feel that they are required.



Preparing your artwork - The 3 stages

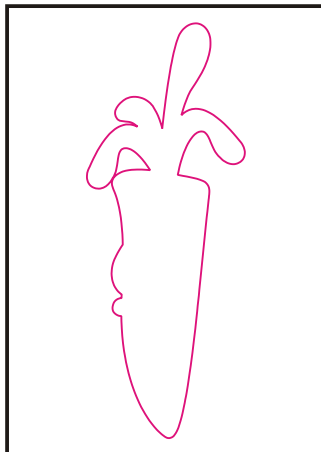
1



Stage 1

- Create your artwork on a layer called "Print"
- Create registration dots filled with 100% Black, with no outline and 6mm in diameter. These need to be evenly placed around the artwork, in particular around more detailed areas and long sweeping paths that are to be trimmed or cut.

2

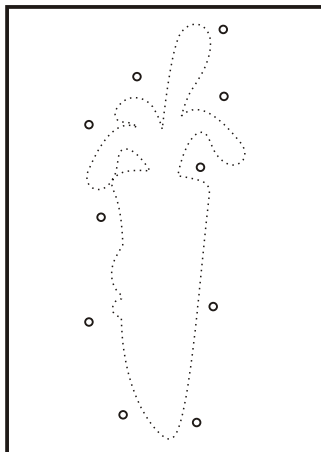


Stage 2

- Create the cut path on a layer called "CutContour"
- Outline (**1 pt width**) the cut path with a **spot colour** called "CutContour" and use an infrequently used printed colour for easy visual identification, for example 100% Magenta.

Please note that the digital trimming or cutting will only be as accurate as the cut path that you create. More time spent creating cut path = superior end result.

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Stage 3

- Create a **copy** of your registration dots and place on a layer called "RegMarks".
- Remove the 100% Black fill and outline with a black hairline.

Please note that when you make the copy of your registration dots they must be in EXACTLY the same place as the printed dots.

Cut path outline shown as dotted line for representation purposes only.