

# HOW DO I GET RID OF THE WHITE BOX OR BACKGROUND AROUND MY GRAPHICS?

## **CREATING CLIPPING PATHS IN ADOBE® PHOTOSHOP®**

A scanned image looks like it has a transparent background, but it does not. It is solid white. This can cause a problem if it is placed on top of another image or background. To make the white area transparent, a clipping path needs to be created. Clipping paths work best if the image has a smooth outline; they will not work on images that fade to white. After you've created your first clipping path, you'll have a better understanding of why this is so.



The second graphic is the first graphic on a gray background

### CREATE A PATH AROUND THE IMAGE

- Open the image in Photoshop.
- Solid color background
  - Select the Magic Wand tool from the Toolbox and click in the white area outside the image.
  - All the white areas around the image will be selected.
  - If all the white areas were not selected, hold down the Shift key and click in those spots.
- Graphic with a background
  - Use the **Pen**, **Lasso** or **Magnetic Lasso** tool to draw around the image.
  - If the outline is not perfect, switch to the Lasso tool and use the Shift key to add to the selection or the Alt/ Option key to subtract from the selection.
- After the path is completed around the image, go to the **Select** menu and select **Inverse**.
- Press Delete/Backspace to delete the background.
- Go to the **Select** menu and select **Inverse**.
- The only element selected is the image.







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#### SAVE THE PATH

- Click on the arrow on the right hand side of the **Paths** panel to open the panel menu and choose **Make Work Path**.
- In the Make Work Path dialog box, set the Tolerance.
  - Larger numbers in the **Tolerance** make a smoother path but detail can be lost
  - Smaller numbers give a more accurate path.
- Use numbers between .5 and 10.
- In the same menu, select Save Path.
- Path 1 will automatically come up for the Name:
- Click OK.

#### **CREATE THE CLIPPING PATH**

- Create the clipping path by selecting **Clipping Path** from the **Paths** pop-up menu.
- In the **Clipping Path** dialog box, pick the **Path** (Path 1) that was saved earlie from the **Save Path** dialog box
- Click OK.

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Save Path											
Name: Path 1			_			OK					

New Path...

LAYER

Duplicate Path... Delete Path

Make Work Path.

Make Selection... Fill Path...

Stroke Path...

Clipping Path...

Panel Options...

Close Tab Group

Cancel

Close

LAYERS CHANNELS PATHS

Work Path

#### SAVE AS AN EPS

- Go to File then Save as....
- In the Save as dialog box, click on the Format pop-up menu and select Photoshop EPS.
- In the EPS Options dialog box, make sure the Preview is appropriate to the platform:
- Choose the 8 bit/pixel option so you have a clear preview.
- Do not select Include Halftone Screen or Include Transfer Function.
- Click OK.

Mac	EPS Options			UPS Options				
Mac	Preview: Macintosh (8 bits/pixel) ‡ Encoding: ASCII85 ‡ Include Halftone Screen Include Transfer Function PostScript Color Management Include Vector Data Image Interpolation	OK Cancel	PC	Preview TFF OID/Scould: Incoding Drury Fincude Halftone Screen Fincude Transfer Function Fincude Transfer Function Fincude Transfer Function Fincude Transfer Function Finance Screen Data Finance Interpolation	×	Carcel		

Now when you place this file in your Adobe® InDesign® document, there will not be a white box around the image.

Note to Windows users: The screen preview may show a white box around the image but when it prints to a Postscript printer, it will not print.



