REMOVE THE BACKGROUND OF A PHOTO IN ADOBE® INDESIGN®

InDesign can be used to remove the background of a photo and create an effect similar to a clipping path if the photo is a TIFF or JPG file. For complicated images, it may be easier to use Photoshop® to create a clipping path.

PLACE THE PHOTO

- With nothing selected, press **D** to set the Fill & Stroke to the default values
- Go to **File** > **Place**
- Scroll to the directory/folder containing the photo
- Double-click on the photo name
- Click the loaded pointer icon on the layout to place the photo

SELECT THE PHOTO

- Click on the photo with the **Selection** tool
- Go to **Object** > **Clipping path**
- In the **Clipping Path options**, select **None**
- Click **OK**

CREATE A PATH

- Select the **Pen** or **Pencil** tool from the Toolbar
- Draw around the area you want to silhouette
- Make sure the you end the path where you started it
  - The Pencil works best as a freehand tool
  - The Pen gives more control but takes time to gain expertise

SELECT THE PATH

- Click on the **Direct Selection** tool (white arrow)
- Click on the line you have just drawn.
  - When the line is selected, anchor points (little white boxes) will appear on it
- Copy the path
  - Windows: press Control + C
  - Mac: press Command + C

DESELECT AND CUT

- With the **Direct Selection** tool, click on the photo outside the path
- The highlighted path will disappear and become a solid line.
- Cut the path
  - In **Windows**: press **Control + X**
  - On a **Mac**: press **Command + X**
  - DON'T PANIC!!!
- Your photo will now look like the example to the right
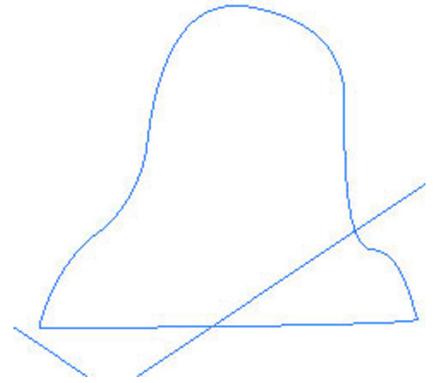
PASTE INTO

- Use the **Direct Selection** tool again
- Click on the path to highlight it
- Go to **Edit** > **Paste Into**
- Use the **Direct Selection** tool to click on the photo inside the path
- Hold the mouse button until the pointer turns black
- Drag the ghosted image into the clipping path to align the subject with the path
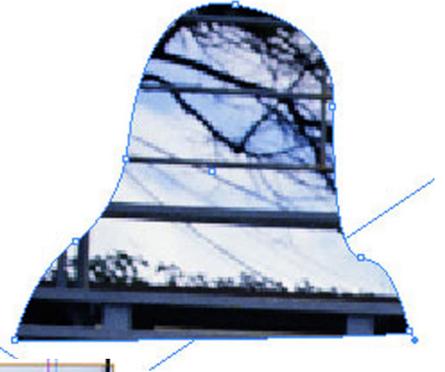
Photo moved into place

TO EDIT THE PATH

- Use the **Direct Selection** tool to click on the path
- Click on any **Anchor point** (white box) and drag to fine tune your silhouette
- To add more anchor points for more fine tuning:
  - Click and hold the **Pen** tool in the toolbox
  - Select the **Add Anchor Point tool** to add more Anchor points
  - Click to add another point
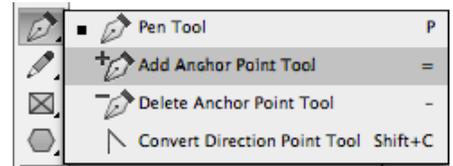
Anchor point added
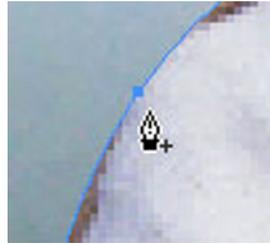
- Make your adjustments

Photo on a background

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