

TRANSPARENCY BASICS

Transparency Options

DROP SHADOW

Drop Shadow

Drop Shadow

Mode: Multiply

Opacity: 50 %

X Offset: 0.0972 in

Y Offset: 0.0972 in

Blur: 0.0694 in

Color: Swatches

PAGES PALETTE

OPACITY AND TRANSPARENCY BLEND MODE

Normal

Transparency

Normal

Opacity: 100%

Isolate Blending Knockout Group

FEATHER

Feather

Feather

Feather Width: 0.125 in

Corners: Diffused

Transparency Checkpoints

TEST FOR TRANSPARENCY FIRST

Transparency Flattener Preset Options

Name: High Resolution

Raster/Vector Balance: Rasters 100 Vectors 0

Line Art and Text Resolution: 1200 ppi

Gradient and Mesh Resolution: 300 ppi

Convert All Text to Outlines

Convert All Strokes to Outlines

Clip Complex Regions

Flattener Preview

Highlight: Raster-fill Text and Str...

Auto Refresh Highlight Refresh

Preset: [High Resolution]

Ignore Spread Overrides

Apply Settings to Print

Separations Preview

View: Separations 300%

CMYK 0%

Cyan 0%

Magenta 0%

Yellow 0%

Black 0%

ATOMIC REGIONS



DEFAULT TRANSPARENCY FLATTENER SETTINGS


Resolution	Raster/Vector Balance	Line Art/Text Resolution	Gradient/Mesh Resolution	Convert All Text Outlines	Convert All Strokes Outlines	Clip Complex Regions
LOW	75	288	144	OFF	ON	OFF
MEDIUM	75	300	150	OFF	ON	ON
HIGH	100	1200*	300	OFF	OFF	N/A*

Disclaimer: This material is subject to change without notice.
For up to date references check the Adobe web site or the InDesign User Group site for best practices.

TRANSPARENCY PREPARATION

Design Tips to Achieve Best Results

(Assume for now we are using a CMYK workflow)

FEATURE	TASK
Layers	Place transparent elements on isolated layers, Type should be on its own layer in the top position for fewer print problems (if design allows).
Transparency Blend Space	For CMYK, check to be certain that the Blend Space is CMYK: Edit>Transparency Blend Space>CMYK. RGB should all be RGB (don't mix either)
Placing Art	Native art (unflattened) is preferred. (If your intended output path is CMYK, convert needed spot colors in Illustrator first)
Pages Palette	 Check for pages that contain transparency.
Spot Colors	Check that gradients and overlapping vector items containing spot colors will print as desired using the Separations Preview.
Blending Modes	Avoid some modes with spot colors or gradients – Color, Saturation, Luminosity and Difference can cause unexpected results with spot colors or gradients.
Preview	Use Overprint Preview, Separations, and Transparency Flattener to check transparent effects.
Preflight	Check link status and color spaces. Is there a mixed space causing a problem?
Commercial Printers	Each RIP has its own settings & requirements, build a relationship with your printers!

It is best to keep transparency “live” for as long as possible prior to printing. Once a file is flattened, it can no longer be easily edited. When possible import “live” files into InDesign and allow InDesign to handle the final flattening of all art.

LIVE files	FLATTENED files
Adobe PDF 1.4, 1.5	Adobe PDF 1.3
Native Illustrator 10.x, CS	PostScript
Native InDesign 2.x, CS	JPEG
Native Photoshop 6.x, 7, CS	Non-Photoshop 6 TIFF
Illustrator EPS (transparent areas are live in Illustrator, but are flattened within other apps)	EPS

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