

J359T + J395 Advanced Visual Design | Spring 2006

HANDOUT | Illustrator | Importing Images

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To import and convert an image you scanned, or grabbed off the Web, into an editable Illustrator object, follow the steps below.

Create a new document.

Open Illustrator.

Create a new document (Command-N).

Tip: Just use the default size, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, good for working on a logo.

Import the image.

In the Menu bar (top of your screen), choose: File > Place (then, double click on the image file, once you find it).

The image will appear in the middle of your Illustrator document.

Note: The image will probably be surrounded by a rectangular, blue "bounding box," with a blue "x" on top of it -- this means it's currently "Selected" (and you want it to be).

Trace the image.

First, be sure the image is still "Selected" (see Note above).

In the Control palette, click on Live Trace.

Note: Any colored parts of the image now revert to Black.

Tip: The Control Palette (a sub-"Menu bar") should now appear, directly below the Menu bar. Turn it "on" or "off" under Window, in the Menu bar. Now, the Control palette should say "Tracing," in the far left corner.

Adjust the trace.

In the Control palette, choose: Preset > Black and White Logo.

In the Control palette, click on Expand.

Now, the image appears to be made up of lots of tiny blue points, connected by (editable) paths.

Now, if you choose the Direct Selection Tool (the "white" Arrow), from your Toolbox, you can select (by clicking) and adjust (by moving or altering points), different parts of the image.

Option: Release the paths.

To edit the image, you may also want to experiment with "releasing the paths."

First, be sure the image is still "Selected." If it isn't, reselect it by clicking on it with the Selection Tool (the "black" Arrow), from your Toolbox.

In the Menu bar, choose: Object > Compound Paths > Release.

Note: The Trace feature is more powerful and complex than ever in the CS2 version of Illustrator. Sometimes that's good, sometimes frustrating. There are many ways to use it and edit the images it converts.

For more info / options:

Open Illustrator Help (located in the right corner of the Illustrator Menu bar).

Follow this path: Help Topics > Drawing > Tracing artwork > To convert a tracing object.

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