



Clipping Mask

There are three different kinds of masks that you can create in Illustrator, each with its own benefits. A **clipping mask** allows you to specify a certain vector shape as a mask for other individual or grouped objects. A **layer clipping mask** allows you to specify a certain vector shape as a mask for all the objects within the same layer. An **opacity mask** allows you to use the luminance value of any object to create a mask for other individual or grouped objects.

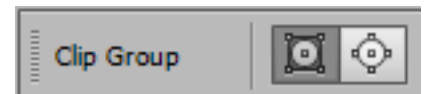
Create Clipping Masks

A clipping mask can be made up of any vector object, including editable text. To create a clipping mask, you select both the path that will be the mask and the art that you want to appear inside of the mask. The path that you want to use as the mask must be the topmost object in your selection. Choose Object > Clipping Mask > Make, and only art that falls within the boundaries of the mask object will remain visible.

When Illustrator creates a clipping mask, the mask and the art are grouped together, making it easy to move them around as a single unit when you're using the Selection tool. However, you can use the Direct Selection tool to select and edit just the mask, or just the artwork independently.

Edit a Clipping Mask /Content

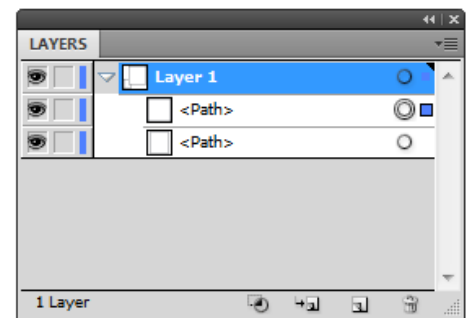
- To edit the Clipping Mask, just select the clipping set and select the Edit Clipping Mask icon. or
- Click on the Select tab > Object > Clipping Masks. This will also select the clipping mask, so you can edit it.
- To edit the content inside a clipping mask, just select the clipping set and select the Edit Contents icon. or
- Click on the Object tab > Clipping Masks > Edit Contents. This will also allows you to edit the content inside a clipping mask, or
- Double-click the clipping group to enter Isolation mode to edit the content.



Create Layer Clipping Masks

A layer clipping mask is very similar to a clipping mask, with one main difference: instead of masking another selected object or group of objects, it masks entire layers. In reality, layer clipping masks are far easier to control and work with because you aren't constantly selecting and deselecting objects to define what is or what isn't in a particular mask. Instead, you use the Layers palette, which you use to organize your artwork anyway, to create these kinds of masks.

To create a layer clipping mask, place the vector object that will be your mask at the top of the layer's stacking order. Click once on the layer name in the Layers palette, which selects the layer. Then, click the Make/Release Clipping Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers palette. The topmost object in your sub-layer now becomes a mask for all objects in that layer. The mask appears listed in the Layers palette with an underline, giving you a visual indication of its behavior. With layer clipping masks, you can easily drag items into a masked layer to have them affected by the mask, and vice versa. To release a layer clipping mask, select the layer and click the Make/Release Clipping Mask button.

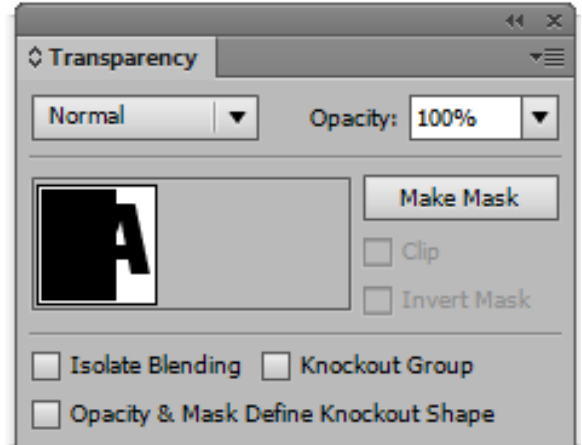




Opacity Masks

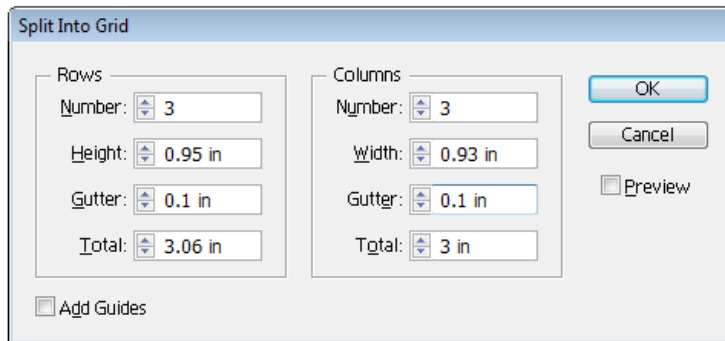
Opacity masks are black-and-white layers that adjust the transparency of the artwork they are applied to. Usually, black is 0% opaque, meaning the artwork will be fully transparent. White is 100% opaque, and greys are in-between.

The benefit of opacity masks is that you can make an entire shape or group of shapes partly or fully transparent in areas (rather than simply using a color-to-transparent gradient fill, which only works if it's a single shape). You can also adjust the transparency in irregular areas.



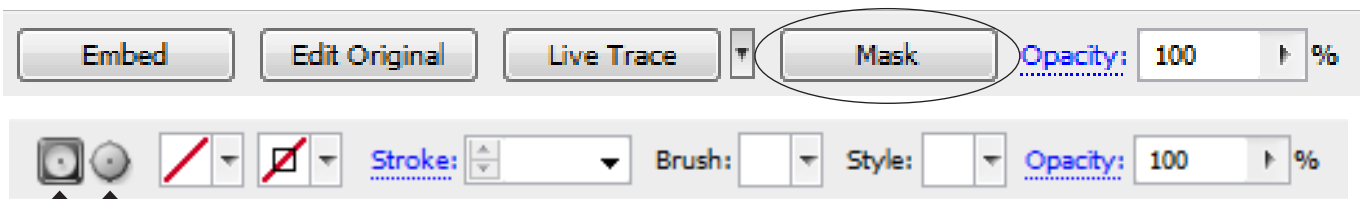
Compound Path Masks

1. Import the image you want to be masked.
2. Draw a 3" x 3" square, go to Object>Path>Split into Grid. Set Rows to 3, Columns to 3 and Gutter for both as 0.1 in.
3. Select all 9 squares, go to Object > Compound Path > Make or use Ctrl+8.
4. Make sure the image is positioned underneath the 9 squares.
5. Select both the 9 squares and the image, go to Object > Clipping Mask > Make or use Ctrl+7.



Alternating Method Masking An Image

1. Import the image you want to be masked.
2. Click the Mask button on the Control Panel.
3. Select the handles to customize the mask.
4. You can edit the Mask itself or the Content by selecting the corresponding buttons.



Editing Clipping Path

Editing Contents



Draw Behind mode

The Draw Behind mode allows you to draw behind all artwork on a selected layer if no artwork is selected. If an artwork is selected, the new object is drawn directly beneath the selected object.

The Draw Behind Mode is honored in the following cases:

- **Creating new layers** — with a layer selected, click the new layer icon at the bottom of the Layer panel, a new layer will be added below the selected layer.
- **Placing symbols** — with any object selected, place an instance of a symbol onto the artboard, the instance will be placed behind the selected object
- **Placing files from the File menu** — go to File > Place, and import another file or image onto your current file, the newly placed object will be placed behind all the objects on the current artboard.
- **Using Alt+Drag to duplicate objects** — select the Draw Behind mode first, then select the object, hold down the Alt key and drag, the duplicated object will be placed behind the original object.
- **Using Paste in Place and Paste on All Artboards options** — copy the selected object, then go to Edit>Place in place, the duplicated object will be placed behind the original.



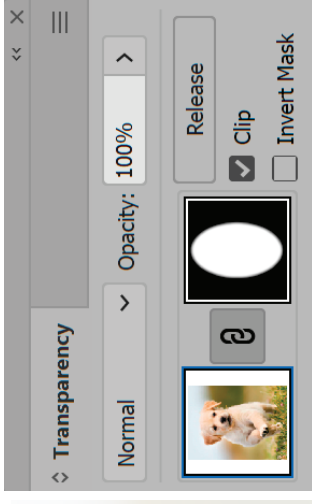
Draw Inside mode

The Draw Inside mode allows you to draw inside the selected object. The Draw Inside mode eliminates the need to perform multiple tasks such as drawing and altering stacking order or drawing, selecting, and creating a clipping mask.

- The draw inside mode is enabled only when there is a single selected object (path, compound path, or text).
- To create clipping masks using the Draw Inside mode:
 1. Select the path within which you want to draw and switch to the Draw Inside mode. The object will be surrounded by dotted lines at the four corners. This indicates that you are in the Draw Inside mode.
 2. Click once on the artboard to deselect the object.
 3. Choose a drawing tool, like brush, pencil or even pen tool. Select a color and weight.
 4. Draw across the object. Release your mouse after finish drawing.
 5. Subsequent paths are clipped by the path that was selected.
 6. As long as you are still in the Draw Inside mode, you can continue drawing.
 7. To release the drawing inside the object, select Object>Clipping Mask>Release.
 8. To edit the drawing inside the object, select Object>Clipping Mask>Edit Contents.
 9. To get out of the Draw Inside mode, either select the Draw Normal mode (Shift+D) or double-click anywhere inside the artboard.
- *Note: The clipping masks created using Draw Inside retain the appearance on the clipping path unlike the menu command Object > Clipping Mask > Make.*



Transparency Mask Special Effects



Go to Window > Transparency.
In the dialogue box, click Make Mask.
The image will be clipped inside a soft edge ellipse.

Paste a picture of your choice.

Draw a white ellipse and place it on top of the image. Go to Effect > Stylize > Feather, in the dialogue box, enter a value, turn on the Preview to see the effect.

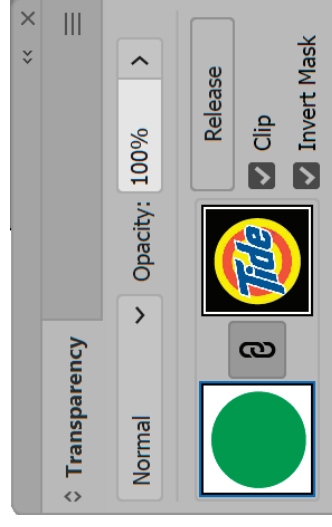
Select both the ellipse and the image.



Paste a color logo.
We need to convert this logo into a one color logo



Draw a circle which is a little bit bigger than the color logo. Put it behind the color logo.



Select both the color logo and the circle, open up the Transparency panel, click Make Mask, then click Invert Mask. The color logo will become a single color logo. This is because we are using the color logo as the clipping path.