



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



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Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Make Crisp Text Panels in Canvas



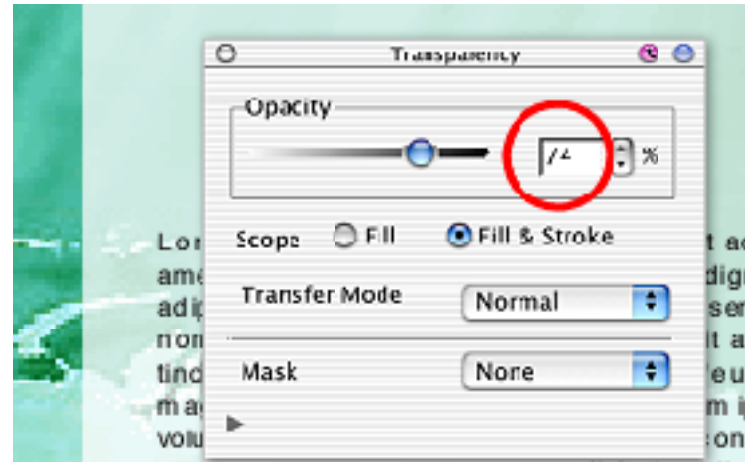
Creating a panel for text that lies on top of an image is a no-brainer, thanks to Canvas Sprite Technology. Once the opacity of a white rectangle is lowered... voilà! Instant panel for text or artwork! Now adding a soft drop shadow to separate the panel from the image might get a little tricky because of the transparent rectangle. There are several ways to do this and here is one that is foolproof.

Step 1

Create the layout and plan where to add the text panels.

For this editorial layout, a panel was first added at the far right of a two-page spread to accommodate the beginning two columns of the article. After drawing a white rectangle to cover the area, the Opacity slider from the Transparency palette (tear away the Transparency palette from the Toolbox Opacity slider) was adjusted to 74%. This value may change according to the contrast level of the image and the color chosen for the panel. Remember that readability is the deciding factor here.

If a drop shadow is not desired, this method works fine for all the text panels used on a project.



Use the Opacity slider to adjust the amount of transparency of the text panels.

Make Crisp Text Panels in Canvas (Continued)

Step 2

To put emphasis on the headline of this article, a drop shadow will be applied to add dimension and to separate the title panel from the background image.

First add guidelines to mark the area for the text panel. Next, duplicate the image (Command-D on Mac, Control-D on Windows). Now crop the duplicate image by holding the Control key and drag the side handles of the image to meet the guidelines as shown on the right.



By setting the Guidelines first, create a copy of the background image and crop it to the designated dimensions.

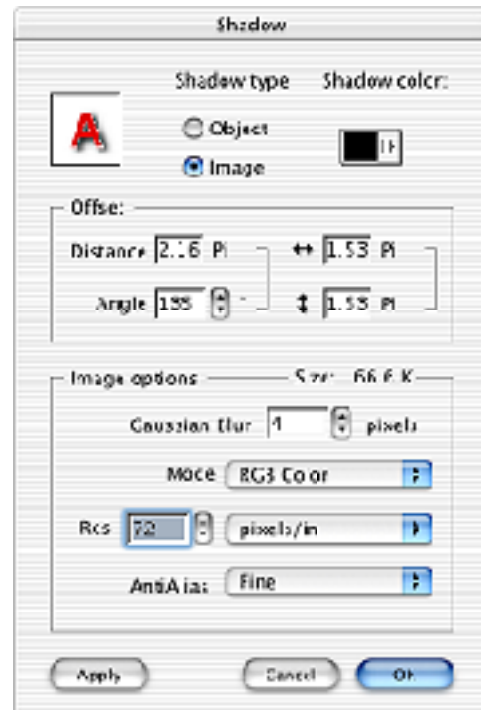
Tip:

To duplicate an object in the exact position as the original, set the Preferences (File>Preferences) Drawing Tab to Duplicate Objects to: X=0, Y=0. Canvas will add an object directly on top of the original whenever the Duplicate command is used.

Step 3

Select the newly cropped image and apply a drop shadow (Effects>Shadow). Select the Image Shadow type. Unlike the Object type, this shadow is resolution dependent, so be sure to enter the appropriate resolution at the bottom of the palette. Just like the resolution of the image, this value will be determined by the final output. Here, the example is set to 72 resolution.

Canvas applies the shadow BEHIND the duplicate image (see example at right) but in front of the background image. Now the transparent white panel can be added as the final step.



Apply an Image Type drop shadow to the duplicate image.

Make Crisp Text Panels in Canvas (Continued)

Step 4

Draw a rectangle to the same pixel height and width as the duplicate image in step 2. Use the Object Specs (Object>Object Specs...) palette to define the exact dimensions of the rectangle. When the rectangle is in place, bring the text to the front.

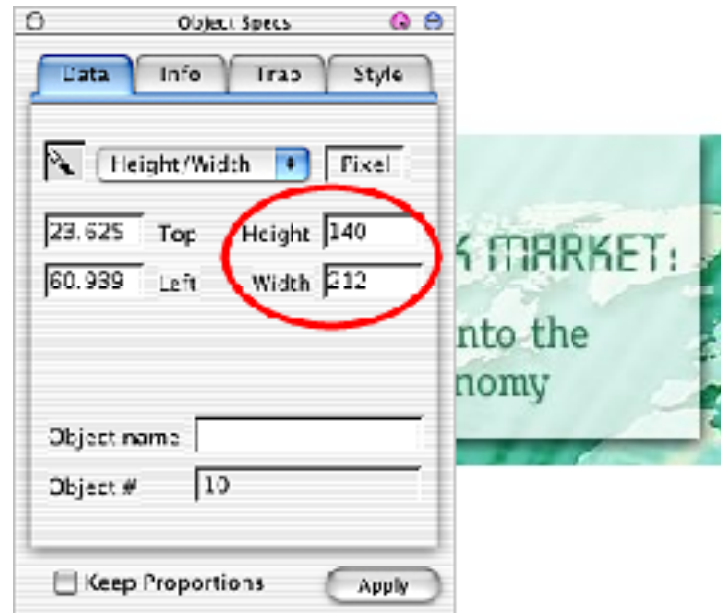
Next, select the white rectangle and lower the opacity for the desired effect. Because of the duplicate image, the transparent object keeps its transparency.

Tip:

The Object Specs palette is also a great way to position objects within your document. In this example, there is a quick way to place the white rectangle directly on TOP of the duplicate image. Simply select the image first and make a note of the object's position (you can also check the bottom status bar for X and Y coordinates). Next, select the white rectangle and enter the "Top" and "Left" values into the Palette. Canvas will immediately place the rectangle in the exact location as the image. This is a real time saver.

Here's a review of the order of the objects:

- 1: Bottom-background image
- 2: Image Drop Shadow
- 3: Duplicate image with the transparent panel in the same size
- 4: Top-Text



Add a white rectangle with the exact dimensions as the image and reduce the opacity for the desired effect.



Make Crisp Text Panels in Canvas (Continued)

Here's what the final layout looks like.

To complete the look of the text, a yellow-green image drop shadow was added.

This technique can be used on all shapes and colors of panels. In addition to the print example shown in this tutorial, try this effect on your Web site projects as well. Visit the How To section of the site often for more tips to enhance your Canvas projects.

