



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Cut Out Text



This cut out text effect makes additional use of steps from the previous Hot Text tutorial (see [Hot Text Effects](#) from the [How-tos](#) page). By following the same steps and making use of a background texture or image, you can easily create this cut out or "deboss" appearance for a logo or headline text.

Step 1

As in the Hot Text tutorial, the text was rendered (this time, there is also a leaf graphic) and duplicated for the resulting image. Then I inverted (Image>Adjust>Invert) one of the images like the example on the right.

Tip:

After rendering the text, increase the image area so that you have some "breathing" room for the Gaussian Blur. I use the keyboard shortcut by selecting the image, holding the Control key (Mac and Windows) and dragging the handles out. Be sure to do this BEFORE you duplicate it so that the two copies will be exactly the same dimensions.

Step 2

Select the rendered text with the black background and blur it by applying a Gaussian Blur (Image>Filter>Blur...>Gaussian Blur...). Don't use a radius too high so that the text gets distorted. Then reduce the opacity by moving the Opacity slider on the Toolbox. For this example, I reduced the opacity to 56%, but your results may vary depending on whether your background is light or dark overall.



Render the text, make a copy of image and Invert it.

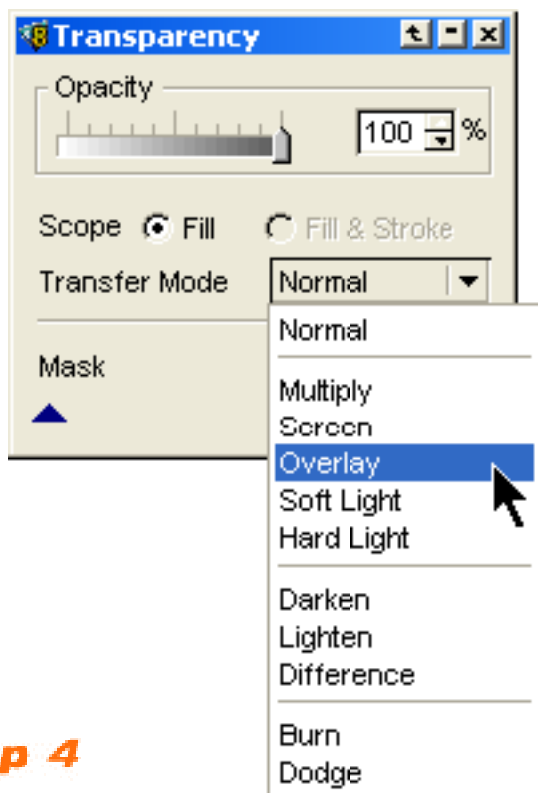


Apply a Gaussian Blur and reduce the opacity of the original rendered image (with the black background).

Cut Out Text (Continued)

Step 3

Now apply the Overlay Transfer Mode to the black text (top) image.



Apply an Overlay Transfer Mode to the top image.

Step 4

Arrange the two images so that the blurred image is in the back. Select both images and align by using the Align Palette from the Object menu.



Once the two images are aligned, the result should look like this.

Step 5

Now to add the background, create a rectangle the same size as the images and apply a texture or other Ink to it. Send the rectangle to the back. Of course, you can also use an image as your background.



The resulting image, once the background is added.

I selected this default pattern from the Texture Tab of Canvas' Inks Palette.

Cut Out Text (Continued)

Step 5

Now to add the background, create a rectangle the same size as the images and apply a texture or other Ink to it. Send the rectangle to the back. Of course, you can also use an image as your background.



I selected this default pattern from the Texture Tab of Canvas' Inks Palette.

Step 6

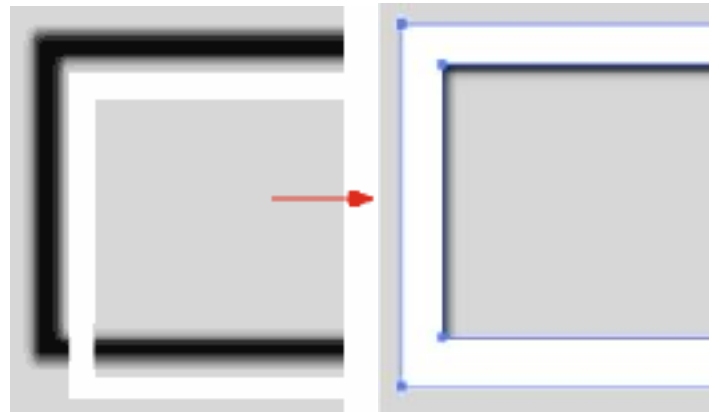
To add a little extra depth to the final image, I created a frame made of two rectangular objects the size of the finished image. I placed the white frame on top and then applied a Gaussian Blur SpriteEffect to the black border.

Next align the two frames so that the top left corner shows a thin edge of the shadow. You also might want to apply a Multiply Transfer Mode to the shadow frame.

The final frame should look similar to the example below.



The resulting image, once the background is added.



Left: The black frame is blurred by applying a SpriteEffect. Right: Then align the two rectangles so that the thin edge shows as in the example. Enlarge the white frame to cover any excess shadow if necessary by putting it in path-edit mode.



Cut Out Text (Continued)

Now move the final images into place behind the frames.



To complete the image, I also added a glare to the surface. This is quickly done by drawing a rectangle and filling it with white and no stroke. Then apply a Vector Transparency to the rectangle from the Toolbox. Depending on your background, you might also want to reduce the overall opacity as I did in this example.



Add a Vector Transparency to create a light glare on the surface.

Here's the final image with the frame and light glare. The top image (the one with the Overlay Transfer Mode applied) was also offset slightly to the top left for an increase in highlights. This also deepens the cut out effect.



Try a lighter background for a different look:

