

CUT FILES

Cut files are used for custom cut shapes of vinyl stickers, floor & wall decals, and more. A cut file is a digital file that contains a path in a specially prepared way in a vector-based drawing program. Cutting machines interpret that path information as the cut line.

! Some text and graphics are too small or too detailed to be diecut.

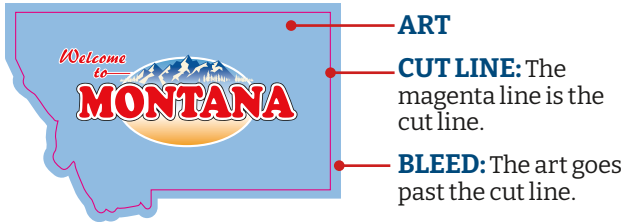
STEPS FOR SETTING UP YOUR FILES TO PRINT PROPERLY

Since a cut contour line is a **vector-based object**, we recommend using Adobe Illustrator for setup. Cut files can be created in Adobe InDesign and other vector-based programs but may not have all the same capabilities as Illustrator. **Note:** If your artwork is a jpeg, it will need the cut line created in a vector based software.

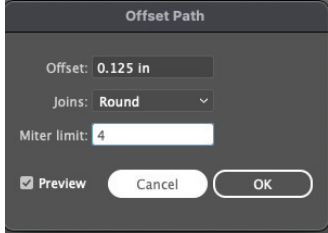
1: OPEN THE ART FILE. Essentially, for a file to be set up properly, it will contain three parts: **1) the art, 2) cut line,** and **3) bleed** if needed. The art should be clean of any unnecessary objects, lines, colors, etc. All text should be outlined.

3: MAKE THE CUT LINE. With vector art, make the existing border of the art the cut line by copy-paste-in-place from the art layer to the cut line layer, and then set the stroke color to the CutContour color. If the art is NOT vector, draw a vector line to use as the cut line. Set the stroke thickness to .5 pt or 1 pt.

✓ **Make sure you do not outline the stroke cut line!**
It needs to stay as a live stroke.

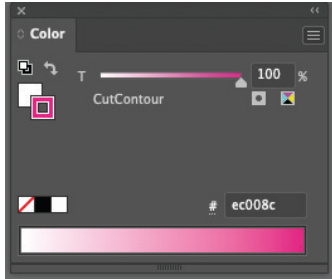


4: ADD BLEED IF NECESSARY. The bleed will avoid any white from showing on the edges of the finished product if the cutting is a little off. A minimum of 1/8" bleed is required.



2: CREATE A NEW COLOR SWATCH FOR THE CUT LINE.

The software requires a prepared spot color that acts as a cut path. The name of the color swatch needs to be **CutContour**. This data is then used by the cutter to determine where the image needs to be cut.

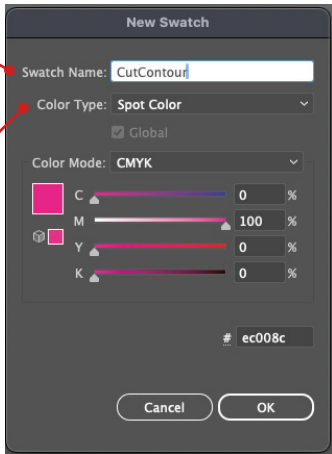


Using the offset path is a great way to create the bleed area on a vector file. **Object > Path > Offset Path**

✓ **Check to be sure your cut line stroke is NOT also around the bleed area.**

SWATCH NAME:

! **Must be named CutContour** including the upper and lower case lettering with no spacing in the name for it to work with our software.



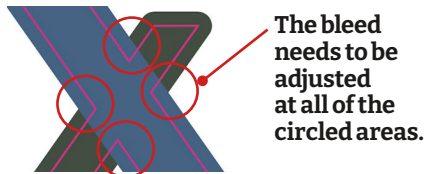
COLOR TYPE:

This must be set as **Spot Color** but can be made of any CMYK build. We suggest using a color that is easily distinguished from the other art.

5: ADJUST BLEED IF NECESSARY.

Sometimes when two different colors meet/overlap, the bleed may need to be adjusted.

EXAMPLE OF WHEN TO ADJUST THE BLEED FOR A CUTFILE:



✓ **A white margin** is an option for files that may be hard to bleed.

Below is how the bleed should be adjusted to minimize issues.



With the pen tool, add some additional points to make the two overlapping colors merge at the cut line point.