

setting up your laser-cut artwork file with adobe indesign/illustrator

Step 1

In Adobe InDesign or Illustrator, create a new layer that will contain the cut-out portions of your design. This layer should be named "Laser".

IMPORTANT!

The software we use to print is case sensitive, so make sure the "L" is capitalised.

Step 2

Once this layer is in place, create a new colour swatch. If you're using InDesign, start by clicking on "Window," then "Colour," then "Swatches". In Illustrator, click "Window" then "Swatches". The Swatch Palette will appear.

Step 3

Click in the upper right hand corner of the Swatch Palette and select "Add Swatch/Colour Swatch".

We'll need you to do the following:

- Change the swatch name to "Laser"
- Change the colour type to spot colour
- Make sure the colour mode is CMYK
- Make the colour 100% magenta

Step 4

Click on the background artwork layer, select the elements you require to be cut out and "Edit" > "Cut" & "Edit" > "Paste in Place" onto the "Laser" layer, or drag the elements onto this layer. Once this is done, you then need to **outline** these elements with the "Laser" swatch colour and select no fill. The minimum width of the stroke should be **0.1pt** and we recommend **1.5-2mm** distance between each laser-cut line, so there is enough paper to hold your design in place.

Step 5

In **InDesign**, click "Window," then "Output," then "Attributes." Please select the artwork on your laser-cut layer and tick the box "Overprint Stroke".

In **Illustrator**, click "Window," then "Attributes." Please select the artwork on your laser-cut layer and tick the box "Overprint Stroke".

Step 6

Save your file as a PDF using the PDF preset (**PDF/X-4:2008**), changing the compatibility to Acrobat 8 (PDF 1.7).

Under "General/Options" tick "Create Acrobat Layers from Top-Level Layers" then select "Marks and Bleeds" and tick "Use Document Bleed Settings". The "Laser" layer should be at the top with all of the rest of the artwork behind it.

Your file is now ready for submission!