

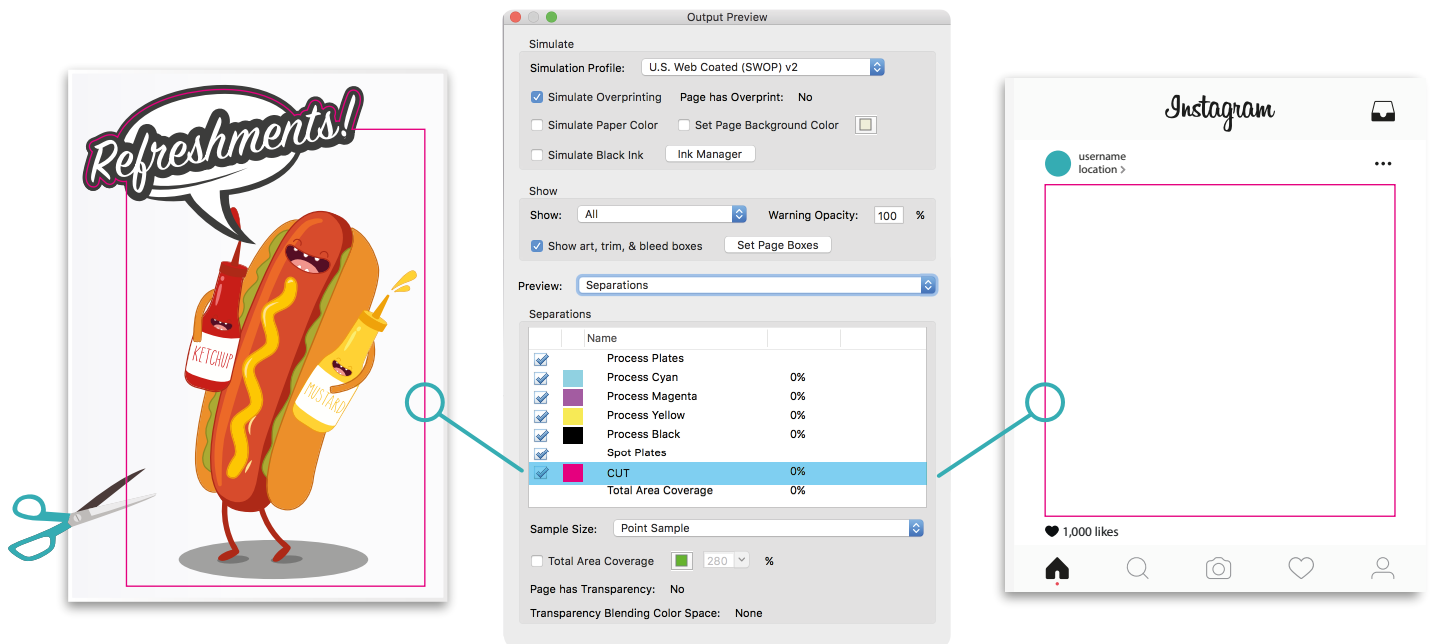
Cut to Shape

Preparing files with cut paths

Creating cut paths

When ordering cut-to-shape products, please include a dedicated cut path within your artwork. This vector path acts as the digital guide for our flatbed cutting machine to follow your custom shape.

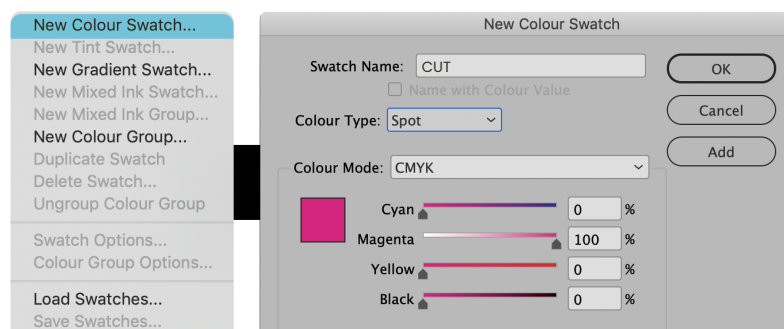
To set this up correctly, apply a spot color to a vector stroke (0.1pt*) in the exact shape and size you require. This spot color must be renamed to **CUT**. Please ensure this is applied to all required paths, whether they are on the inside or the outside of your design, as shown below.



For the best results, use CMYK images in your artwork. Any RGB files will be automatically converted during our workflow, which may cause a colour shift. Always use professional, high-resolution images; low-quality or pixelated source files will significantly reduce the sharpness and quality of your final print.



Important: Ensure your CUT path is set as a Spot Colour. If provided as CMYK, our automated system will recognise it as part of the design and print the line directly onto your artwork.



Creating spot colours

Using Indesign, right click to create a new colour swatch. Change the colour type to **Spot** and label the swatch name **CUT**. Choose a colour that enables you to easily identify your cut path within your document, such as **100% Magenta**.

***0.1pt** – stroke point size; the higher the number, the thicker the weight of the line.

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Stencil Type Cutting

Some designs require both internal cut areas and an outer trim. This could be a full sheet with shapes or elements cut out of it, or a custom shape with additional areas cut out from the middle.

For this type of artwork, you will need to include a second cutting path so our cutting equipment can distinguish the outer trim from the internal cut areas.

Create an additional spot colour swatch named exactly **CUTTER** in all caps and set it as a **Spot Colour** using **100% Cyan**.

Apply the CUTTER swatch to the vector path **around the outer trim** area of your artwork, while continuing to use the **CUT** spot colour for any elements or shapes being cut from within the design.



Important: Any parts of the design that need to remain in the finished piece must be connected to the surrounding material. Add suitable bridges between isolated elements and the main design to prevent sections becoming loose or falling through once cut.