

ONYX Tutorials: Creating an Indexed TIFF from a Vector File

Introduction

This tutorial is part of the Colorways tutorial series. In this tutorial we will explain how to take a vector file from Adobe Illustrator and convert it to an Indexed Color TIFF file in Adobe Photoshop.

A vector program such as Adobe Illustrator makes it easy to create images that would work for Colorways, but they cannot output to a supported file type. The hurdle is getting an output file type that is supported by Colorways. The concepts in this document will work with other vector and raster programs.

Step 1 - Setup and Design in Adobe Illustrator

In Adobe Illustrator create a new document. Change the **Color Mode** to RGB. Verify all other settings and click **OK**.

After the design is complete you can bring the vector work into Photoshop. There are two ways this can be done. Both are explained in the next steps.

Step 2 - Paste Vector Work as a Smart Object in Adobe Photoshop

In Adobe Illustrator, select artwork and go to **Edit > Copy (Ctrl+C / Cmd+C)**. Go to Adobe Photoshop and click the **File** menu and choose **New**.

Set the size and keep the **Color Mode** set to RGB. Change the **Resolution** to 600 Pixels/Inch (or 1524 pixels/cm). Verify any other settings and click **OK**.

We want the Resolution set too high to maintain the smooth lines designed in Adobe Illustrator. Lower resolutions will not be high enough to keep the edges between colors smooth.

Go to the **Edit** menu and choose **Paste (Ctrl+V / Cmd+V)**. A window appears with options for **Paste As**. Choose **Smart Object** and click **OK**.

The Smart Object needs to be positioned before anything can be done. Before completing the positioning, there is an option, **Anti-alias** in the toolbar. De-select this option then accept the position of the Smart Object.

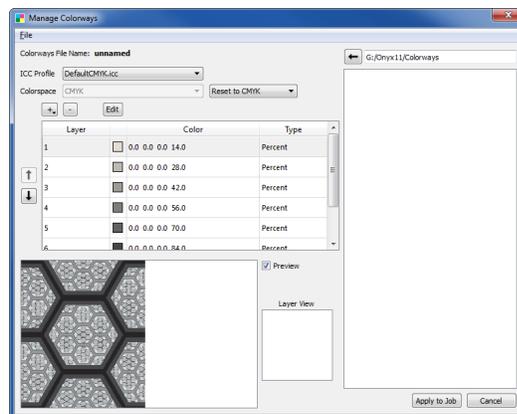


Figure 1: Colorways Interface

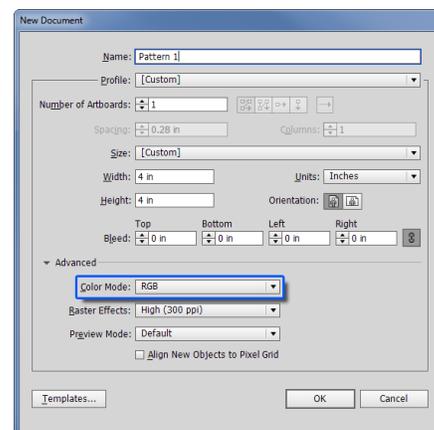


Figure 2: New Illustrator document window



Figure 3: Anti-alias option in the toolbar

Anti-alias adds extra colors to the image in order to make a smooth edge from one color to another. This will make it harder to properly convert the vector work to Indexed Color.

Step 3 - Opening the Vector Work from an Adobe Illustrator File

In Adobe Illustrator, save the work as an Adobe Illustrator file (AI). This file can now be opened in Adobe Photoshop.

Go to **File** and choose **Open**. Select the AI file and click **Open**. Set the **Resolution** to 600 Pixels/Inch (1524 Pixels/cm) and disable **Anti-aliased**. Verify other settings as needed and click **OK**.

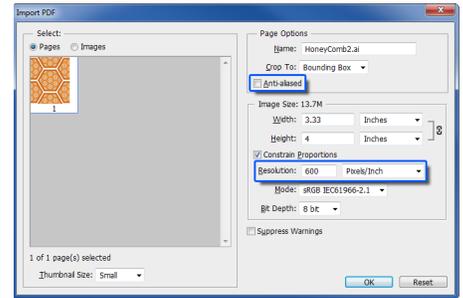


Figure 4: Opening an AI file into Photoshop

Step 4 - Converting to Indexed Color Mode

The image is ready to convert to Indexed Color. Go to the **Image** menu, select the **Mode** sub-menu and click on **Indexed Color**.

A message may appear asking to flatten the layers. This must be done to work in Indexed Color. Click **Yes**.

The Indexed Color window opens. Under **Palette** choose Local (Perceptual). In the **Colors** field, enter the number of desired colors. In figure 5 the value we need is 7. This is the total number of colors used in the Adobe Illustrator file. The image in Photoshop updates as the settings are configured. Click **OK** to accept the changes.

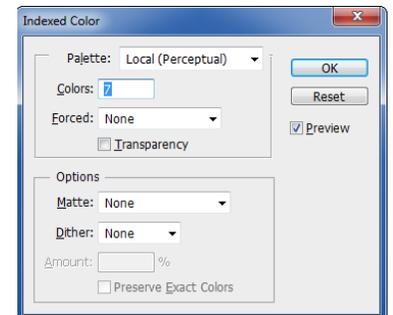


Figure 5: Indexed Color options

If you use the **Palette** option Exact, it will retain all the colors in the image up to 256. In some cases the number of colors may be reduced. In those conditions set the **Palette** to Local (Perceptual) and enter value for Colors.

Finally save the file as an Indexed Color TIFF. Go to **File** and click **Save As**. Change the **Save as Type** to TIFF. Give your image a name and click **Save**. Your image is now ready to be used in ONYX Colorways.

For more information and videos on Colorways go to www.onyxgfx.com.