CREATE A COMPOUND PATH IN ADOBE® INDESIGN®

Compound paths can be used to InDesign to create effects that formerly only graphic programs could do. A compound path is created from two or more closed paths and is used to add transparent holes to shapes or letters, when text is converted to outlines or when a gradient or image is added to multiple paths.

TO CREATE THE LETTER ON A SHAPE EXAMPLE:

• Draw the circle using the Ellipse tool and fill it with Black (or another color).
• Draw a Text box and type a letter.
  • Make the letter the same color as the shape.
  • Click on the letter with the Selection tool.
• Go to Type > Create Outlines.

• Drag the letter on top of the circle with the Selection tool.
• Select the circle and the letter with the Selection tool.

• To create the effect:
  • Choose Object > Paths > Make Compound Path.
  • Holes appear where the paths overlap.
  • To break the compound path:
    • Go to Object > Paths > Release Compound Path.
TO CREATE THE PHOTO IN A COMPOUND PATH EXAMPLE:

• Draw six rectangles with the Rectangle tool.
  • Add a stroke if needed with the Stroke palette.
• Select all six rectangles with the Selection tool.
  • If there is nothing else on the page, go to Edit> Select All.
• To create the compound path:
  • Choose Object > Paths > Make Compound Path.

Select the shapes

To import a photo or graphic, with the compound path still selected, go to File > Place.
• Make sure Replace Selected Item is checked.
• Double click on your photo or graphic.

• To reposition the photo or graphic, select the Direct Selection tool.
• Click on the image and drag to move the photo or graphic.