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Printed on Saturday, April 26, 2008

CR SIGNS VECTORIZATION

About converting bit-mapped images to vector: (if you would rather do it yourself instead of having us do it)

Images and text produced in a graphics program such as Adobe Photoshop (bitmapped images) may be converted to vector using various graphics programs, and “tracing” the bit-mapped image. Corel Draw is a one of the favorites for doing this. Depending on the file, if it was originally created in a vector program such as Corel Draw or Illustrator, and you have the file, you can usually select your objects such as fonts, and choose an option of “convert fonts to vectors”, “convert fonts to curves” or “convert fonts to outlines”. This method will not work for images that are bitmapped, only those that are vector, but are in the form of something else like “fonts”.

If the image and text was created or scanned at 72dpi (for web use) and then is saved at 300-600 dpi the jagged lines first created at 72 dpi are only increased. They do not smooth out. 300dpi is the minimum necessary that the file must be originally first created at, or scanned at.

Some bit-mapped items will trace almost perfectly. Tracing does not produce an exact duplicate of a bit-mapped object, but most times the result is never noticed by an untrained observer.

Some objects however, cannot be traced at all. For instance a gradient fill cannot be traced with any success whatsoever, due to one colour bleeding into another. Another example would be a fill that was created using a photograph. Since there are so many colours in a photograph, each color must be traced and the areas defined. Usually the results are an ugly patchwork of many colours.

Summary:

If the file is originally produced at 300 dpi or higher, and contains no gradient fills or photographs, it will produce an acceptable trace, that a plotter cutter can follow. The very best results are black and white images.

Thanks for considering us for your sign and printing needs. *Brian Crothers*