

Adobe® InDesign® Tips & Tricks


Embossing Around





Want to create the look of blind embossed type? It's easy with InDesign to create this effect utilizing the Drop Shadow and Feather options.



STEP 1: To achieve the embossed look, the type must have both a shadow (black) and a highlight (white). Thus, the type must be placed on a background that is either a shade of gray or a color. Here, the background is a dark teal process color blend (C100 M71 Y86 K13).


STEP 2: Create the word(s) you want to appear embossed and set the font and point size as desired. Place the type on top of the background. In the example, "AROUND" is in 92pt. **AHJ Cheltenham Bold**.


STEP 3: Select the text block with the Selection tool , hold down the Alt (Windows) or Option (Macintosh) key, click and drag to duplicate the word(s). Move the duplicate version onto the Pasteboard for later use.

STEP 4: With the Swatches palette open, highlight the original word(s) with the Type tool  and click on the same color swatch used for the background. Your type will seem to disappear since it is the same color as the background.

STEP 5: Use the Selection tool  and click on the text frame containing your word(s). Then go to Object > Drop Shadow. Click the Drop Shadow and Preview check boxes. Adjust the Opacity and Offsets as desired. Click OK. In the example, the Opacity was set to 75%, the X Offset is 0p5 and Y Offset is 0p5.

STEP 6: Locate the duplicate word(s) on the Pasteboard and use the Selection tool  to click and drag back onto the document. With the Swatches palette open, highlight the duplicate word(s) with the Type tool , select the Fill option and click on the Paper swatch. Your type will turn to white.

STEP 7: Select the duplicate word(s) with the Direction Selection tool . Go to Object > Feather. Click the Feather and Preview check boxes. Adjust the Feather Width as desired. This will soften the edges of the word(s). In the example, the Feather Width was 0p3.

STEP 8: With the Selection tool , move the duplicate word(s) on top of the original version. Continue to move the word(s) up slightly above and to the left of the original version. You may find using the Up, Down, Left and Right Arrow keys helpful in positioning the type. Go to Object > Arrange > Send Backward so the Paper word(s) are behind the original version but still in front of the background.