

Creating Clipping Paths for use in InDesign

Now that we have knocked out the background of a photo, we need to be able to place it into InDesign and still have that background be transparent. If you just place it without creating a "clipping path" then it will look like both the examples at right.

Once you have created a clipping path, it will look like the lower photo. And you can text wrap it as we have done here.

Directions

- 1) Open a photo.
- 2) Remove the background with a layer mask as we did in the previous Tip. Save a copy of that file.
- 3) Double click on the background layer. Change the name of the layer to Layer 0. Choose Select All from the Edit menu and hit the delete key.
- 4) Make sure the foreground color is white.
- 5) Type Alt (Option on Mac)-Delete
- 6) Flatten the image by choosing Merge Layers at the bottom of the layers menu.
- 7) Select the Magic Wand tool and click anywhere in the image that is white. If there is non-contiguous white then hold down the shift key and select it as well. Once you have all the white selected, choose Select Inverse from the Select menu.
- 8) Open the Paths palette. Choose Make Work Path from the Path palette's drop out menu. Leave the settings at the default of 2.
- 9) Then choose Save Path from the Path palette's drop out menu. Name it with a short name.
- 10) Then choose Clipping Path from the Path palette's drop out menu. Make sure that you choose the path you created and saved.
- 11) Save the file as a TIFF and place it in PageMaker or InDesign. You should not see any part of the white. If you do, in InDesign go to Object>Clipping Path>Options> Photoshop Path and make sure you choose the path you created.✘



Choosing Detect Edges in In-Design may not always work. Note the white showing under our subject's arm. In that case we may need a clipping path.

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Photo without clipping path

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Photo with clipping path and text wrapped

