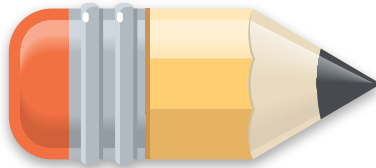


IllustrationClass.com Tutorials Vol. 1

Documenting the Illustrative Design Process

Created by Von Glitschka



Name: **Big Dot Effect**

Project Type: **Creating Large Halftone FX**

Total Time: 20min

IC Library: **Vol. 1 - TUT 5 of 25**

PDF

Download larger images, translated notes, and any source files [here](#).

All Tutorial Content is Copyright © 2010 Glitschka Studios.

These PDF tutorials grant the purchaser private viewing rights only. Any public re-use, posting online, or re-distribution of these PDF tutorials, images, and textual content in part or whole is strictly prohibited without written permission from Glitschka Studios. Any violation of this copyright will be taken seriously and pursued legally. For permission to use beyond granted rights please contact: info@glitschka.com

Big Dot Effect Tutorial

All Content © Copyright 2010 Glitschka Studios

One challenge in creating artwork for use on a dark shirt is how best to display the artwork against a dark background obviously. Colorizing the art a lighter shade isn't always effective and what should be read as a negative tends to turn to a positive and it runs the risk of ruining the arts effectiveness.

One way to get around this is to create a halo type of effect using large easy to silk-screen halftone dots to glow if you will from behind the art. This also allows you to keep the art simple. In this step by step you'll see how to effectively pull off a one color t-shirt illustration on a dark background using this method.

Illustrative Design Creative Process

These tutorials are meant to help you discover, enhance and facilitate your own creative growth and skills. So don't feel obligated to take my comments or examples as gospel. Use them as spring boards to explore, experiment and have fun developing your own creative process. That is how you'll benefit most from these tutorials.

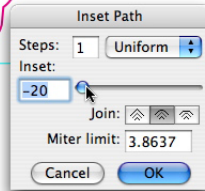
*Any referenced source files for this tutorial can be downloaded for **FREE** at <http://www.illustrationclass.com> by searching for the tutorial with the same name.*



1 Open up final art file. In this step by step we are using a simple one color piece of art. The principle and method can be used on multiple color illustrative designs but we are using a one color illustration.

2 Select the outer shapes of your illustration. Do not select the inner shapes. Make a copy of them that is now sitting on-top of your artwork. You'll now want to join those shapes so they are one compound path. I've colorized the path pink for the sake of easily seeing it in this step by step.



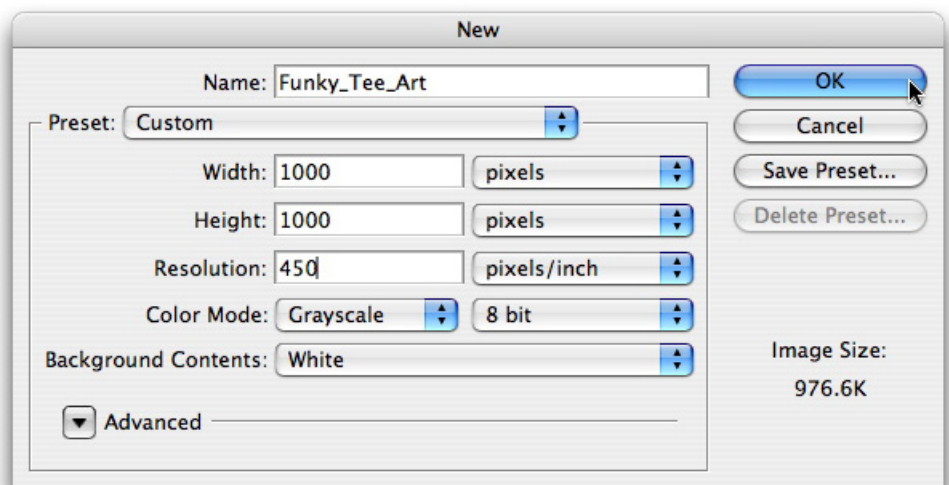


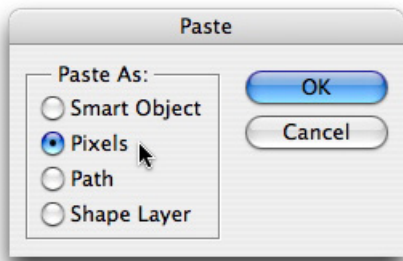
3 Select the new outer shape compound path and inset it -20 pts. (You can do more if you'd like a fatter glow effect etc.) Make sure you have 'Rounded' vertices selected to avoid wiggled out sharp points and strange mitering issues.

4 Once you have your inset shape you'll want to remove any stroke you have and fill with black. You'll also want to create what I call a 'Bounding Box' around your art. This will allow you the space you'll need in Photoshop to create the glow. If you don't do this you won't have any room to blur your art. Once you have the bounding box in place you're ready to copy out of the drawing application into Photoshop.

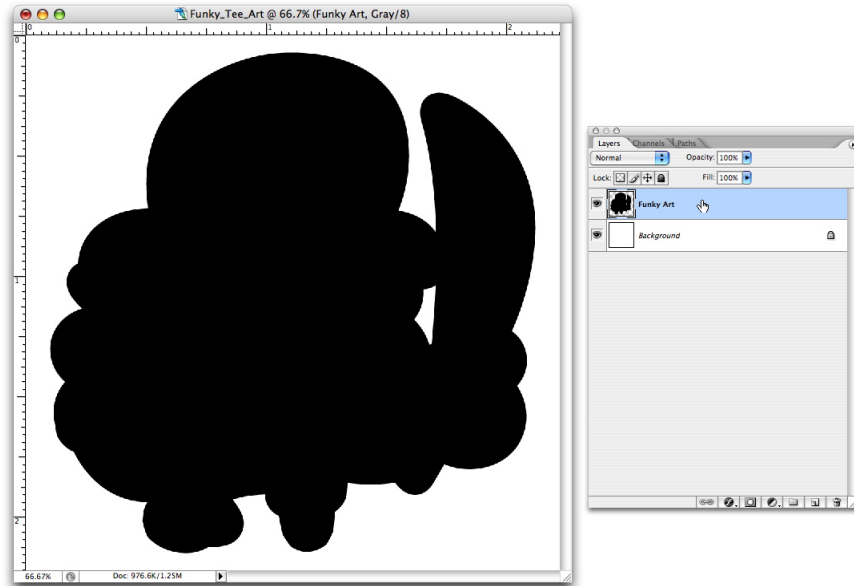


5 This shows the dialogue window that will come up when you copy your art into Photoshop. The size will be automatically determined by the art you have copied. You'll want to plug in a high enough resolution so the dot pattern will appear smooth and not jagged. I suggest 450 ppi. You'll want the color mode to be Grayscale also.



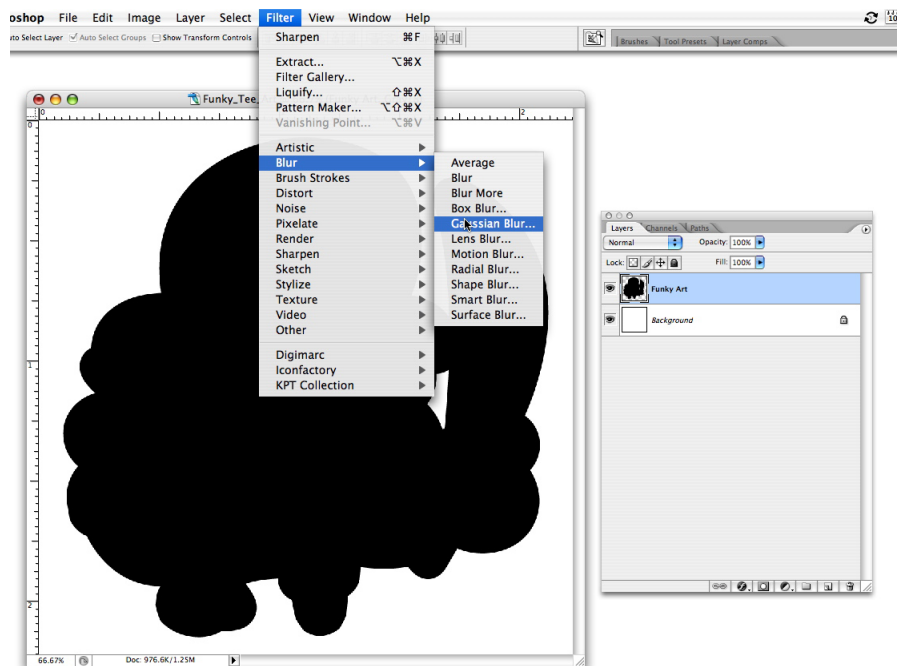


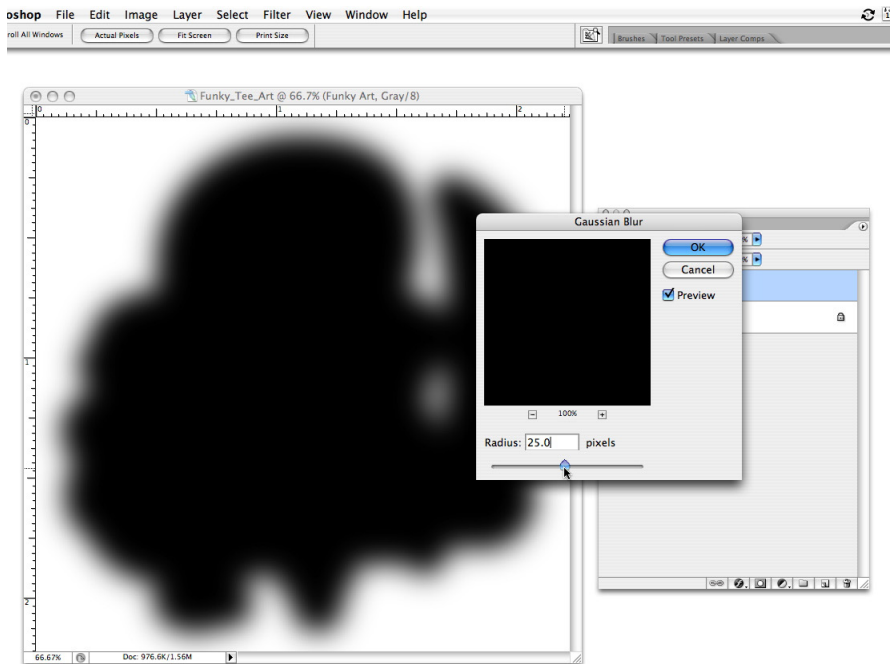
6 When you click OK on the import window it'll immediately ask you how you want to paste the art. Choose Pixels and then click OK again.



The art pasted into a layer in the PSD file.

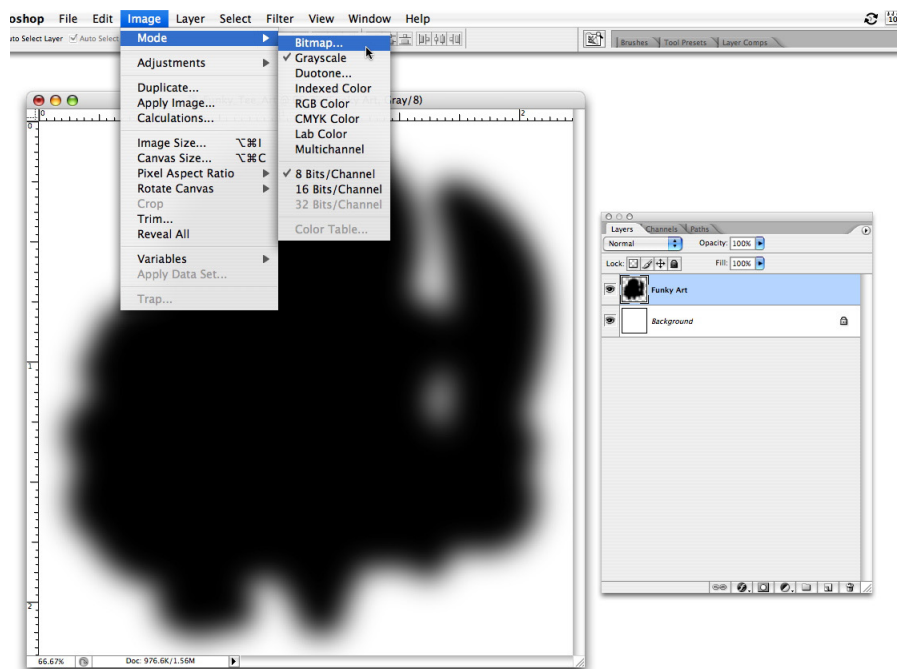
7 Selecting your artwork layer go to the top menu under Filter and pull down to **Blur>Gaussian Blur**.



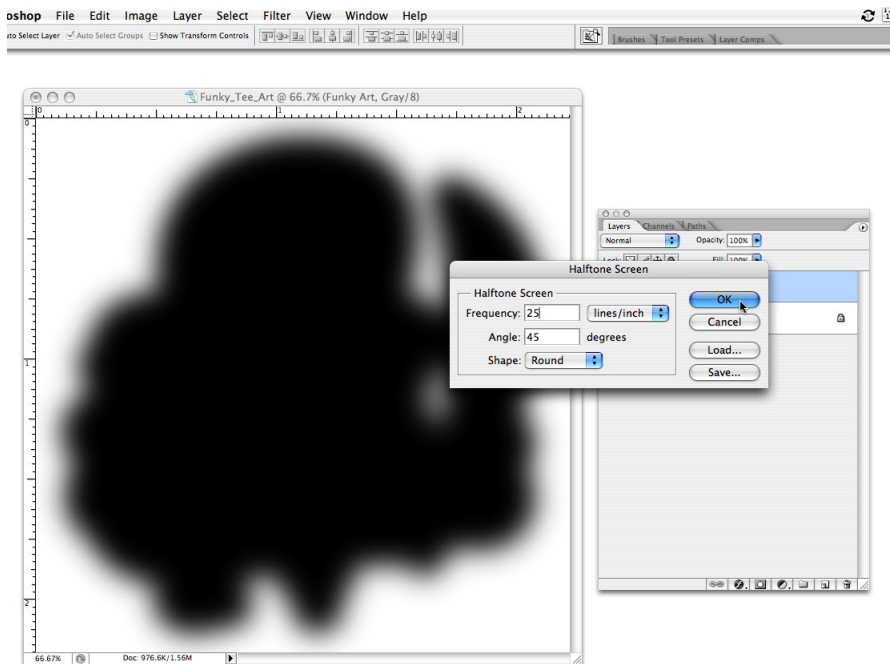
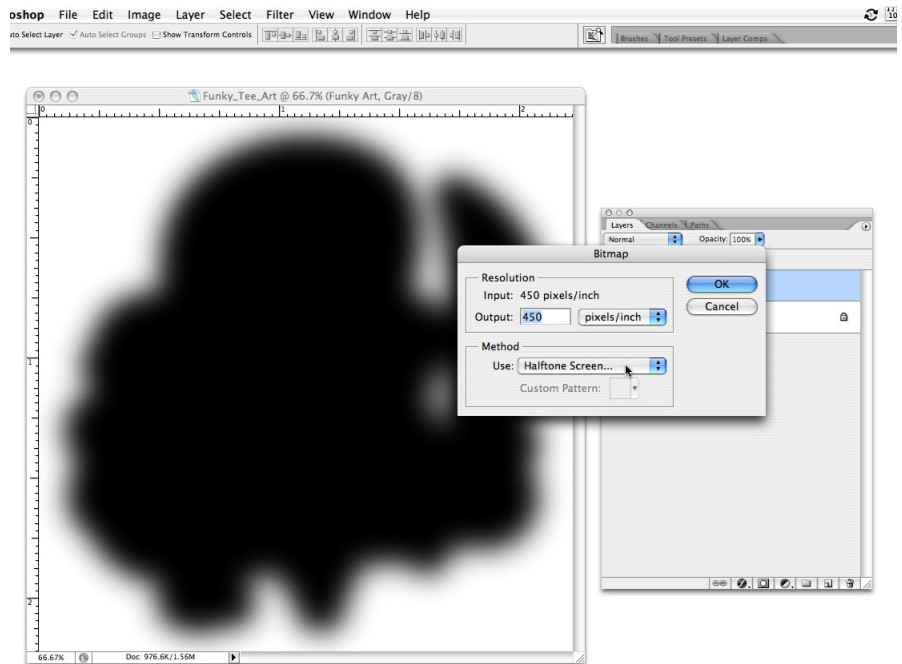


8 Select the radius you need. Make sure preview is checked so you can see the blur in your main window and how it effects the artwork. Make sure the blur does not crop outside your window, you want a smooth blur all the way around your art. Click OK when done setting radius.

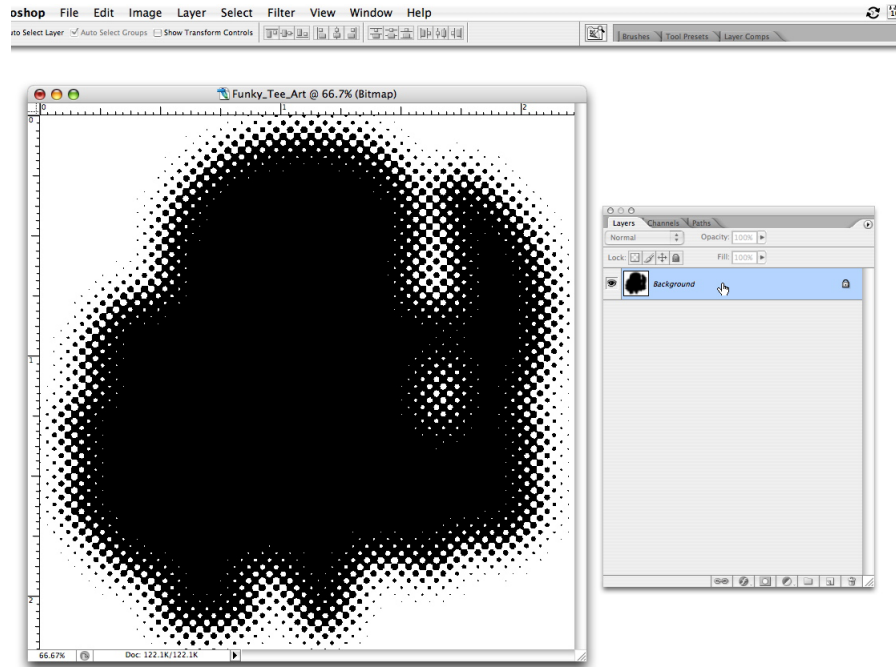
9 You now have your blur to create the dot pattern. Goto the top menu under **Image>Mode>Bitmap**. What you are doing is changing your document from a Grayscale to a Bitmap.



10 Make sure your output is still 450 ppi. Select Halftone Screen from the Method drop down menu and then click OK.

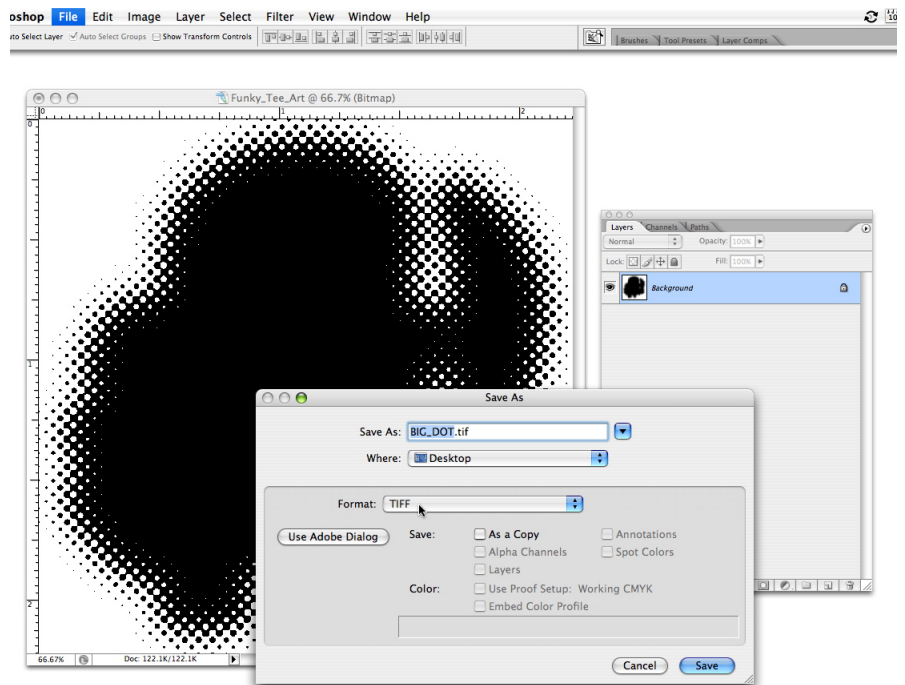


11 You'll immediately see another window for Halftone Settings. Make sure the degree is set for 45 and the shape of the halftone is round. The frequency is how many dots you want in an inch. (Note: It's LPI here not PPI) The smaller the number the bigger the dot. Start off at 25 and then click OK. If the dot looks too small then Command 'Z' (Ctrl-Z for PC) and repeat the last two steps plugging in a new number until it looks how you would like it to.

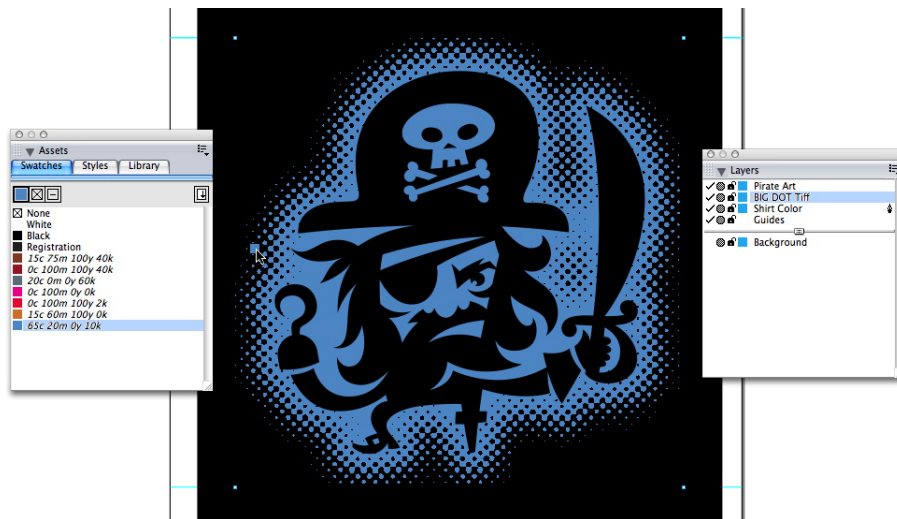
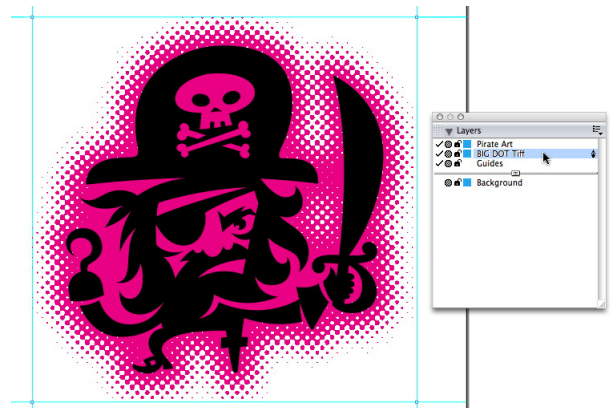


This is the halftone pattern set at 25 lpi. I am not ready to save out as a Tiff image.

12 Go to top menu under **File>Save As**. This window will come up. Under drop down menu for Format select tiff, name your file accordingly and click Save.

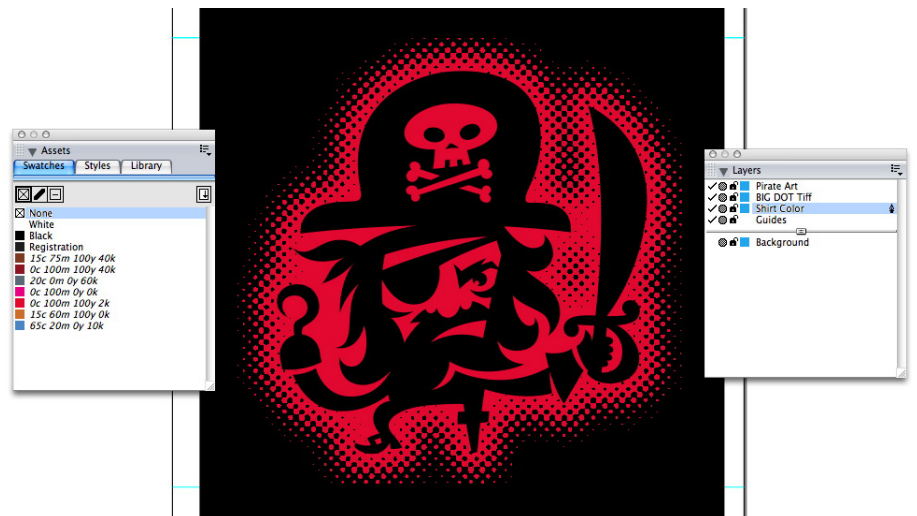


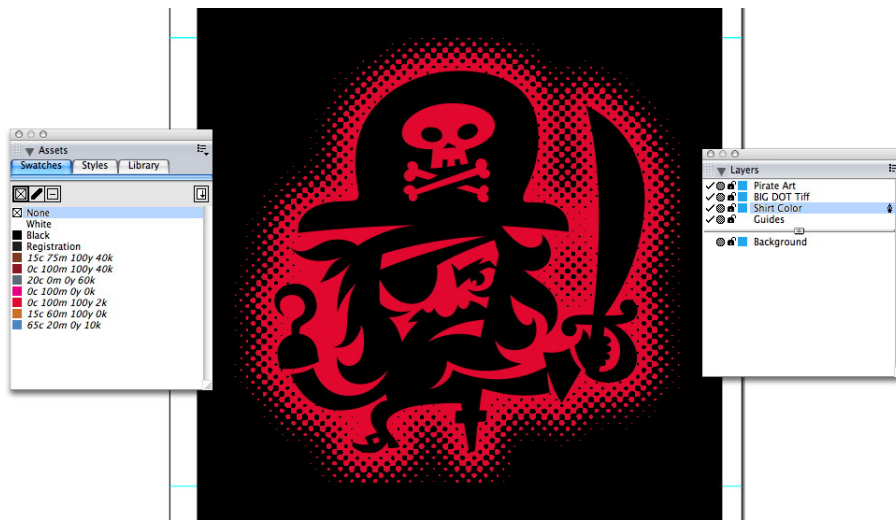
13 From within your drawing application locate the tiff image and place it into your file on it's own layer underneath a layer your artwork sits on. I colorize mine pink so you can see how it relates to the art when placed. Having it on it's own layer makes editing easier.



14 Colorize the tiff however you'd like. Note I created a new layer called 'Shirt Color' so I could see how it looks mocked up.

15 Play with the color until you get what you want. Spec final color callout using Pantone system and you're done.





16 Your art is now ready for final production and separation.



Example of how the art would be printed in context.

This method can be used to create a gradient effect in silk screening. You can also use dithers to do the same thing. Explore this method on your own, experiment and try new things. It's a fun way to add interest and flare to your illustrative designs.