Laser Cut Metal Signs
File Setup Guide



Laser Cut Metal Signs require you submit a vector file for quoting and production. We accept .PDF, .AI , and .EPS files types.

Please follow the instructions in this guide to ensure your sign meets our production requirements.

Accepted File Types:

PDF AI EPS

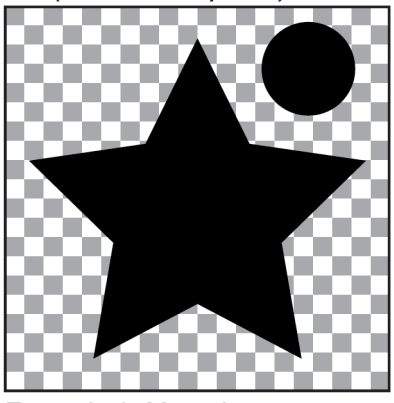
We use an automated tool to detect the shapes in your file for quoting and production. There are two options to prepare your file for accuracy.

Option 1: Vector Object and Compound Path

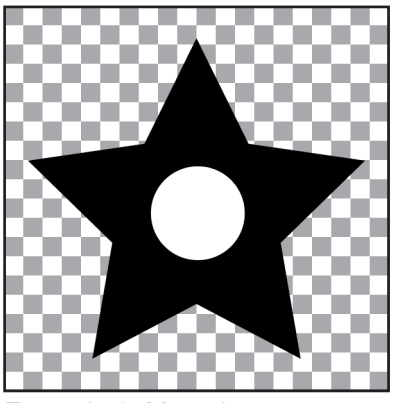
You can submit a simple file made up of a vector object. (See *Example 1)* However, if you upload a file with more than one object, (*See Example 2),* you will not be able to save and proceed with your project even if these objects overlap *(See Example 3)*. To achieve this result you'll need to merge the two objects into one and create a compound path *(See Example 4)*.



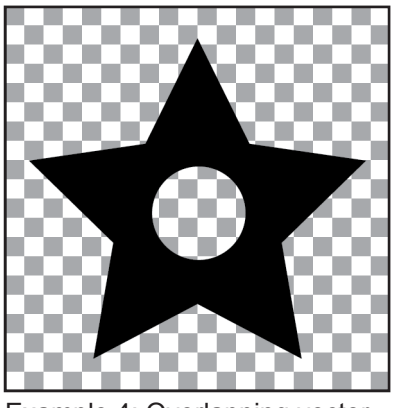
Example 1: Vector object
Acceptable



Example 2: More than one vector object
Not Acceptable

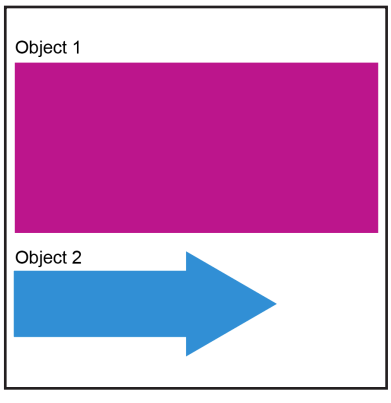


Example 3: More than one vector object overlapping.
Not Acceptable

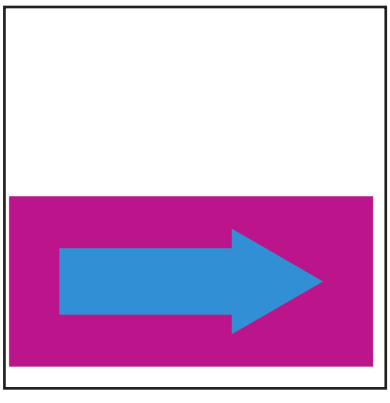


Example 4: Overlapping vector objects merged to create one compound path.
Acceptable

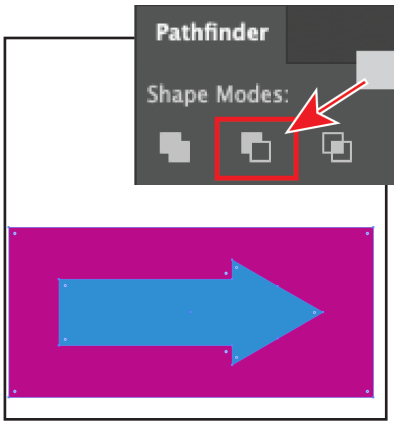
For complicated designs, we recommend using the ***Adobe Illustrator Pathfinder Tool*** to simplify multiple objects into the single compound path we require.



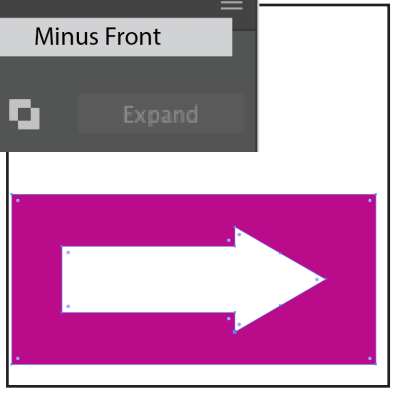
Two vector objects to be turned into a compound path.



Move top object completely inside the bottom object



Select both top and bottom objects

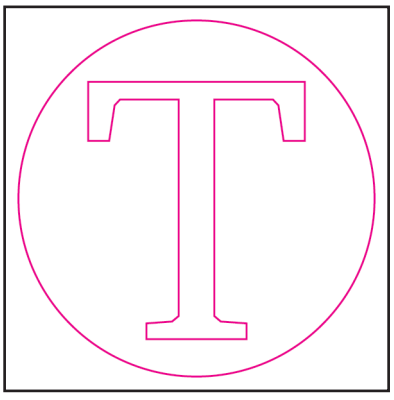


Use Pathfinder > Minus Front to knockout the top object.
You can now save the file and upload your project.

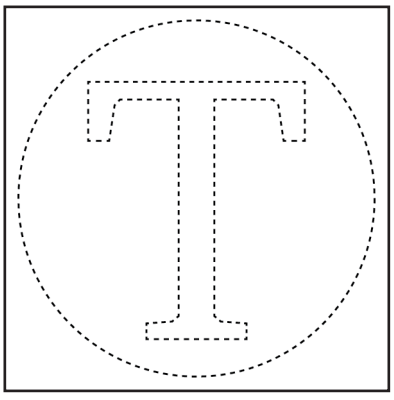
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Option 2: Cut Paths

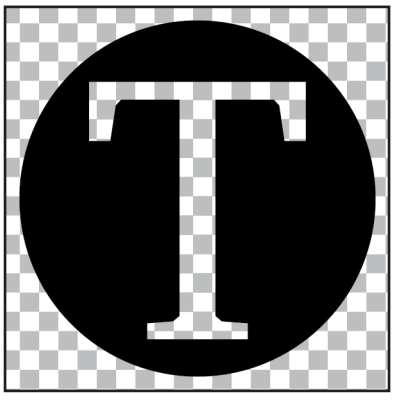
Customers can submit files using Cut Paths--objects with a stroke and no fill.
The outermost path will be the shape of the sign, all interior paths will be cut out.



Cut path file. Stroked vector object with no fills.



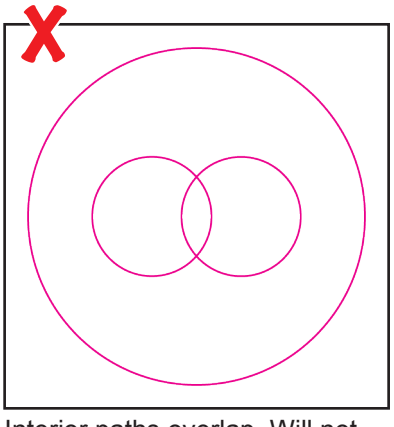
Uploaded file will show the cut path shapes in the preview.



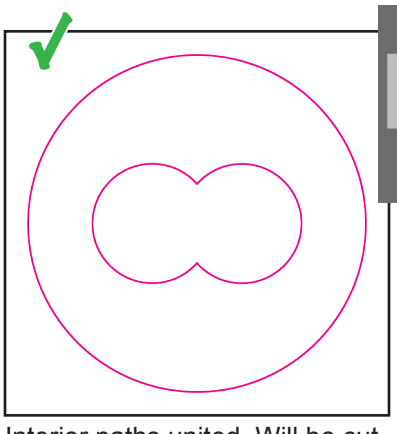
Final Product.

Please note: All cut paths need to be joined into a compound path, any paths not included in the compound path may be omitted. They will not appear in the online preview.

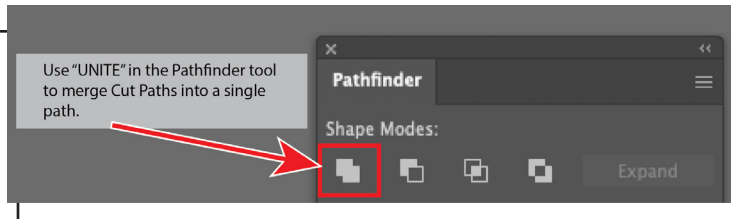
Interior cut paths may not overlap in the production file, if interior cut paths overlap please use “UNITE” in the Pathfinder tool to merge interior paths into a single path.



Interior paths overlap. Will not produce correctly.



Interior paths united. Will be cut correctly.

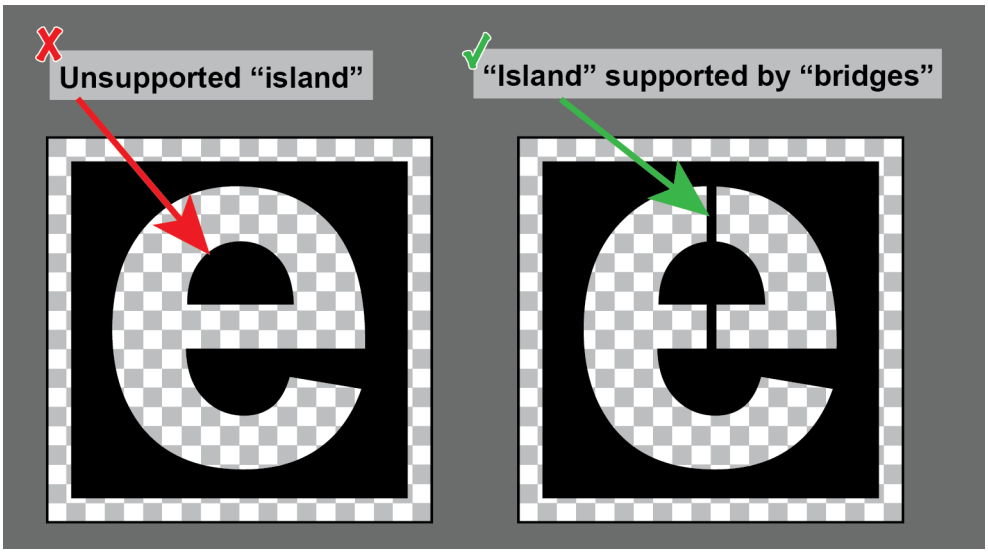


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Tips and Troubleshooting

Please remember that interior shapes will be cut out on our metal signs. Your design must include “bridges” to any “islands” that you want to keep connected to the larger sign.



We are unable to cut out interior shapes less than 3.5mm in diameter. Files with intricate areas less than 3.5mm will not be quoted or saved for production. To proceed please widen or remove these fine details.

