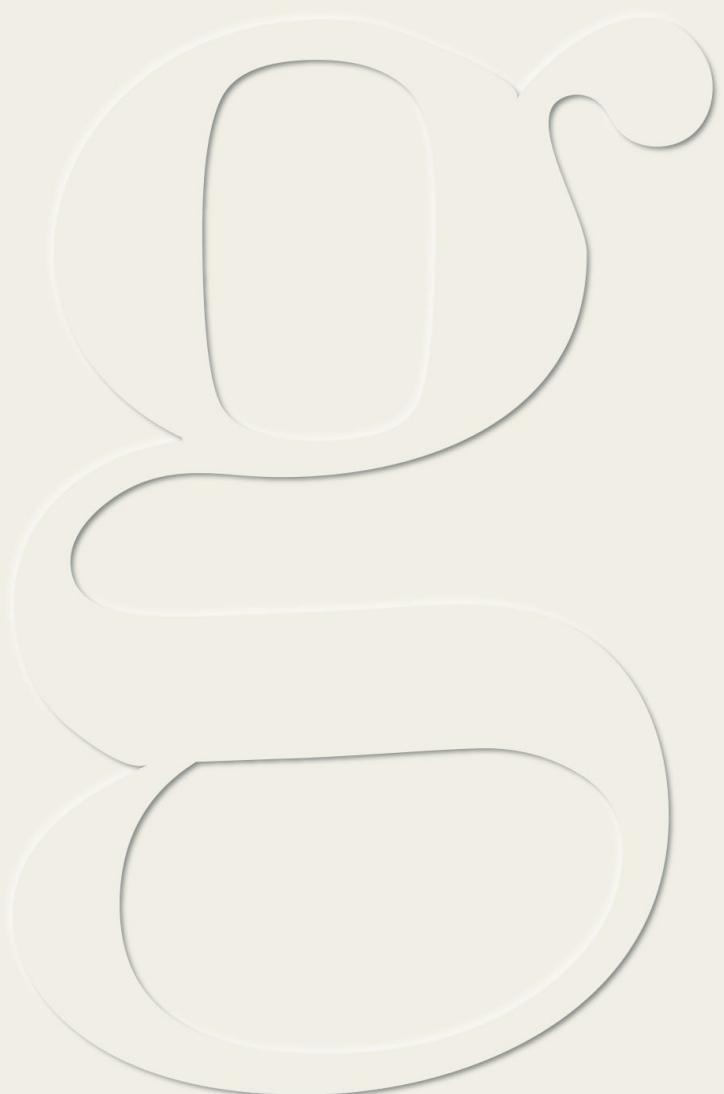
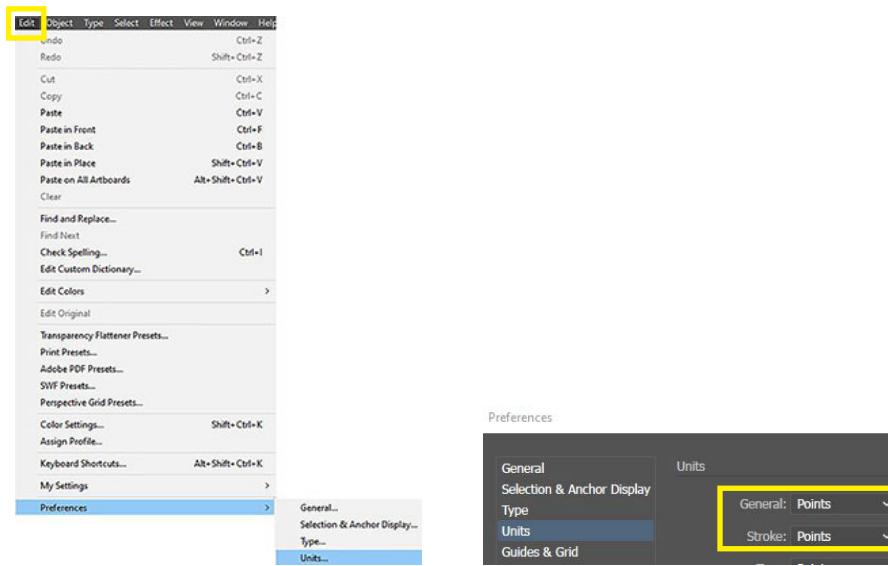


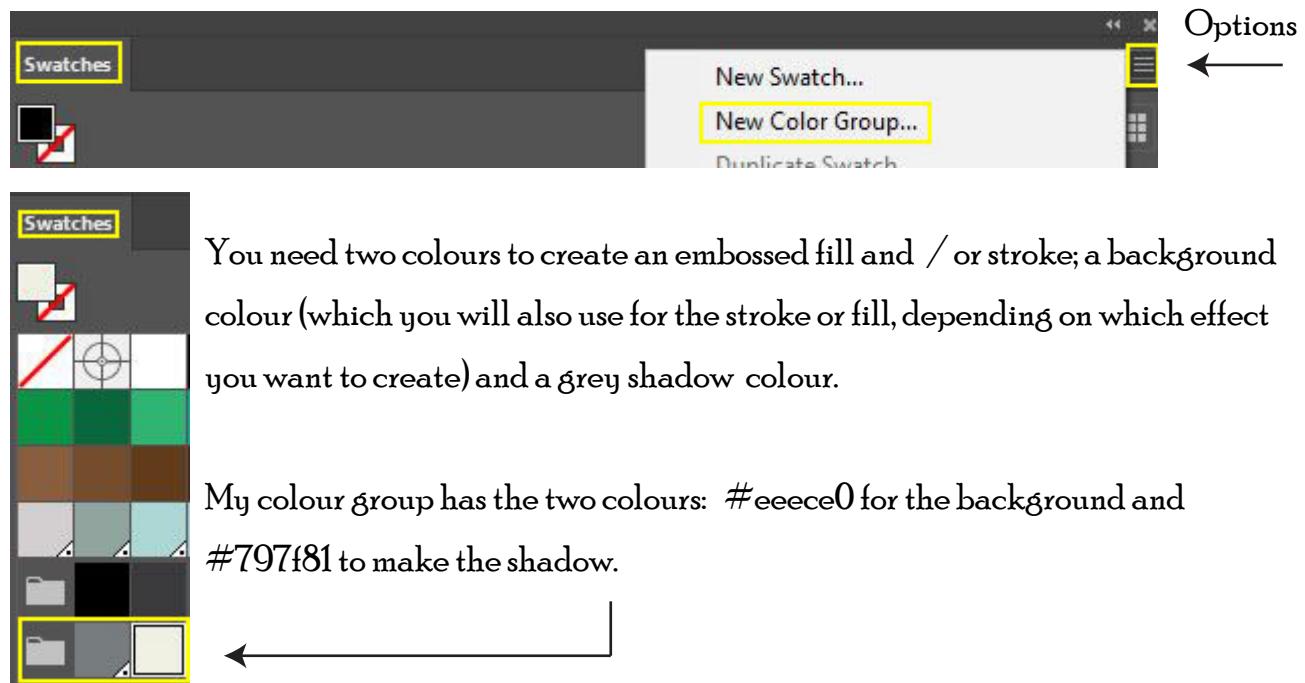
Creating Embossed Strokes & Fills with Illustrator



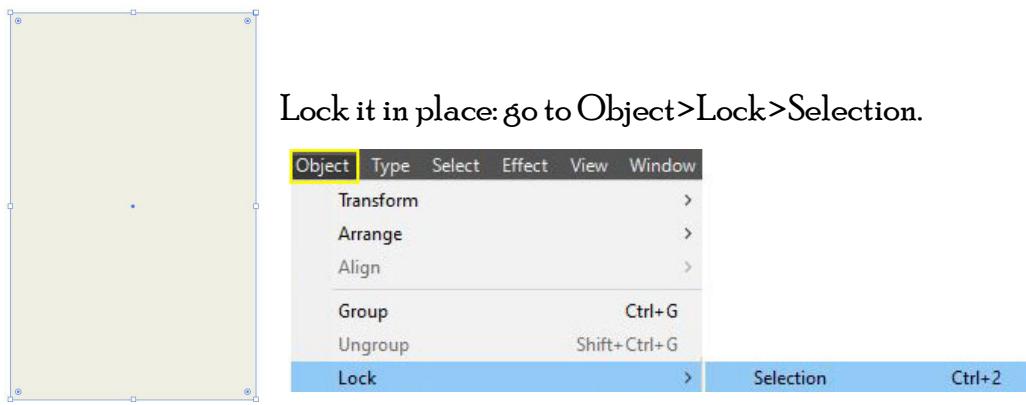
1. This tutorial references point sizes throughout. Go to Edit>Preferences>Units and change the 'General' and 'Stroke' settings to 'Points'.



2. Create a new colour group in the Swatch palette to make the colours you're using easily accessible. Click the options drop-down on the far-right of the Swatch palette.

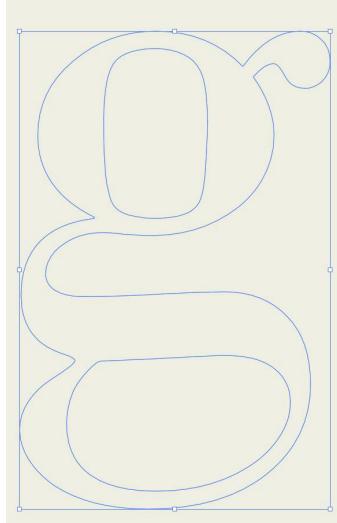


3. Create a background for the image you want to emboss. I'm using a simple rectangle.



Embossed Stroke

4. Create the shape you want using the same colour as your background colour but with no fill. I'm using a 500pt letter 'g' from the Bodoni family with a stroke weight of 0.5pt.



5. Go to the Window>Appearance (Shift + F6) and create a new stroke layer:



6. Leave layer 1, the original stroke, as it is.

Move down the layer stack and select layer 2.

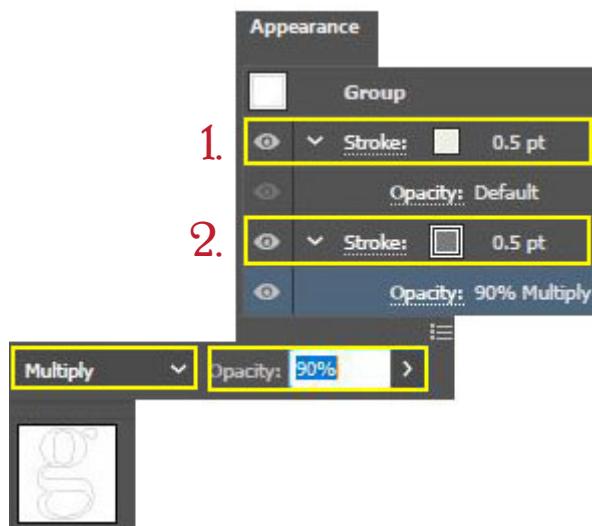
Apply the following settings for the shadow:

Stroke weight = 0.5pt

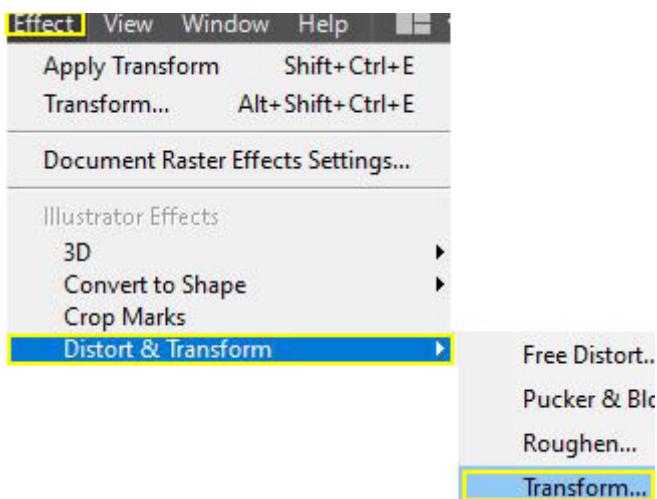
Colour: Grey (eg, 797f81)

Opacity: 90%

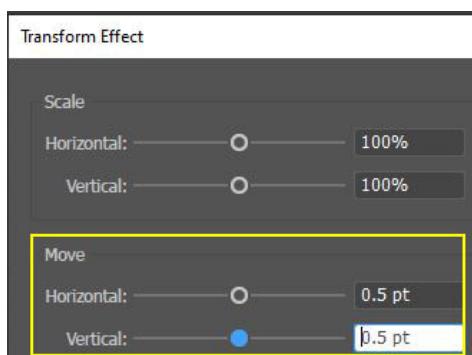
Blend Mode (under the Opacity drop-down): Multiply.



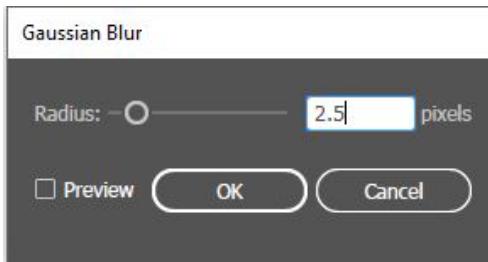
7. Select the layer 2 stroke path again (Illustrator will have highlighted the Opacity layer) and go to Effect>Distort & Transform>Transform:



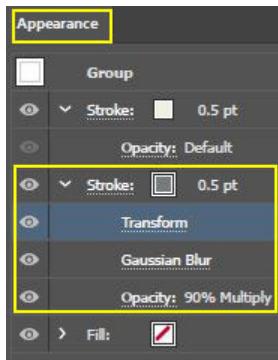
8. Enter 0.5 pts in both the Horizontal and Vertical Move fields then select OK.



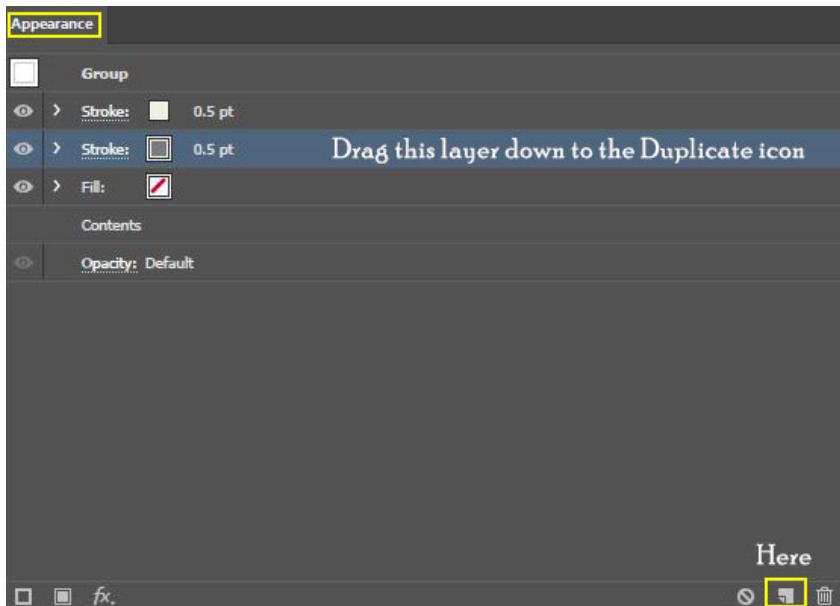
9. With your shape still selected and layer 2 still highlighted, go to Effect>Blur>Gaussian Blur and enter 2.5 px in the Radius field and select OK.



Your layer stack in the Appearance panel should look like this:



10. Duplicate layer 2 by selecting the stroke layer and dragging it down to the Duplicate Selected Item icon:



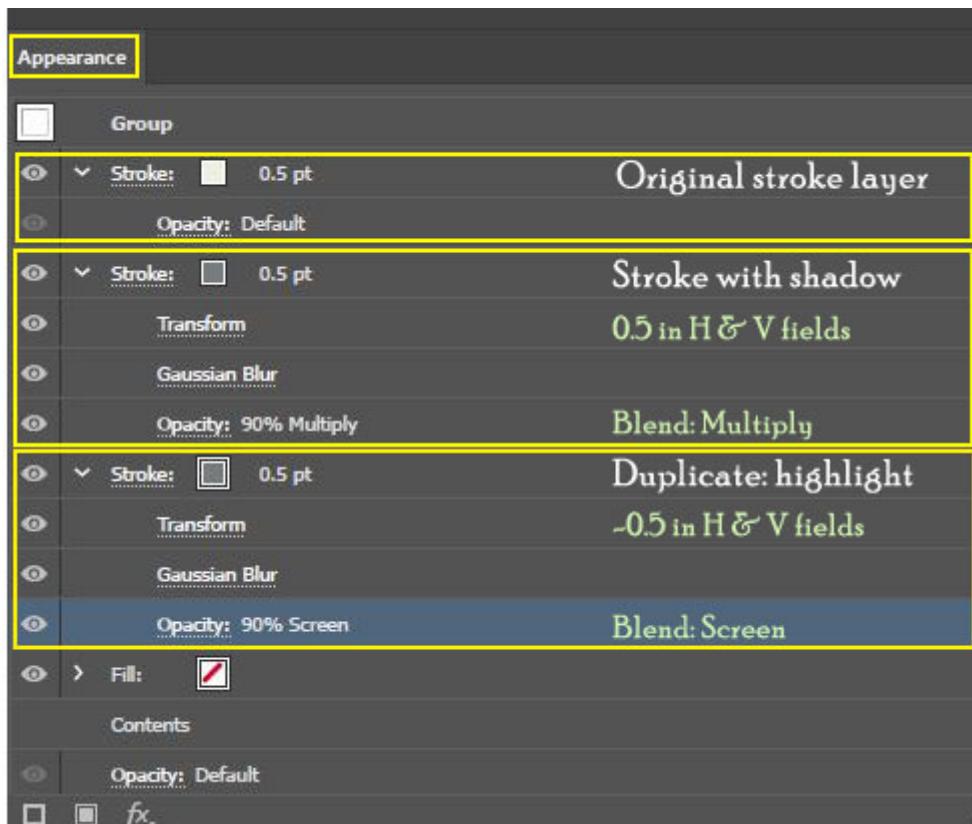
11. Check your shape is selected and you are on the right stroke layer, ie, the duplicate, layer 3 and apply the following changes:

Click Transform on the layer itself and enter -0.5pts in both the Horizontal & Vertical fields

Opacity > Blend Mode: Screen

Your Appearance panel should have three stroke layers with the following stroke attributes:

1.
2.
3.



Embossed Fill

The steps for creating a n embossed fill are very similar to those for creating an embossed stroke.

*Note that if you use text and convert text to Outlines, Ungroup before starting the embossing steps.

1. Create a shape with a fill the same colour as your background but with no stroke.
2. Go to the Appearance panel and this time select Add New Fill from the options.
3. Go to the second Fill layer in the stack and apply the following settings:

Select grey as the new fill colour.

Opacity: 90%

Blend Mode: (under Opacity): Multiply.

Go to Effect>Distort & Transform>Transform and enter 1pt in both Horizontal and Vertical fields.

Go to Effect>Blur>Gaussian Blur and enter 4px in the Radius field.

4. With the shape and new Fill layer still selected, duplicate the Fill layer (see step 10 in the emboss Stroke section).
5. Go to the duplicated Fill layer in the stack and make the following changes:

Transform: enter -1 pt in both the Horizontal and Vertical fields.

Change the Blend Mode to Screen.

Your Appearance panel will look like the end result of the embossing strokes process except Stroke layers are replaced with Fill layers.

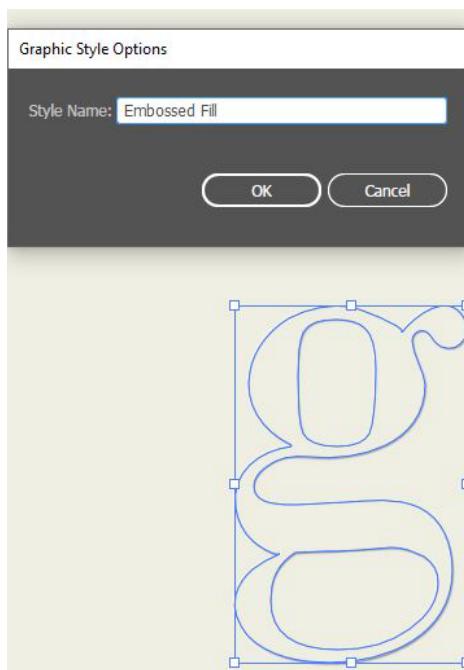
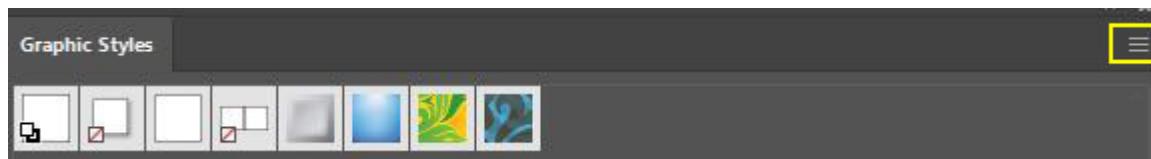
You'll also be pleased to find that your text and shapes are still editable. :)

If the embossing effects are too bold or too subtle, play with the Transform Effects settings by making the Move Horizontal and Vertical bigger or smaller or make the Gaussian Blur bigger or smaller. You can also increase or lower the Opacity.

When you are happy with the results of your stroke and fill embossing, you can save them for future use:

With your shape (with all the fill embossing effects applied)

Go to Window>Graphic Style (Shift + F5) and select New Graphic Style from the fly-out menu:



Give the embossed effect a name and you'll have an embossing fill style available for use in future projects.

