

# 8 Vector Shapes and Clipping Paths



*You can make simple illustrations using vector paths in Adobe Photoshop or Adobe ImageReady. Working with vectors allows you to create shapes, which can be filled or stroked, and use clipping paths to control what is shown in an image. This lesson will introduce you to advanced uses of vector shapes and clipping paths.*

In this lesson, you'll learn how to do the following:

- Differentiate between bitmap and vector graphics.
- Use clipping paths to control what's shown in a layer.
- Create a logo using vector shapes and clipping paths.
- Work with text in Photoshop.
- Use actions and styles to re-create a vector graphic.

This lesson will take about 60 minutes to complete. The lesson is designed to be done in Adobe Photoshop, but information on using similar functionality in Adobe ImageReady is included where appropriate.

If needed, remove the previous lesson folder from your hard drive, and copy the Lesson08 folder onto it from the *Adobe Photoshop Classroom in a Book* CD.

**Note:** Windows users need to unlock the lesson files before using them. For more information, see “Copying the Classroom in a Book files” on page 3.

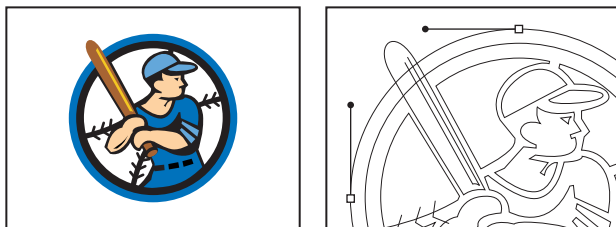
## About bitmap images and vector graphics

Before working with vector shapes and clipping paths, you should understand the difference between *bitmap images* and *vector graphics*.

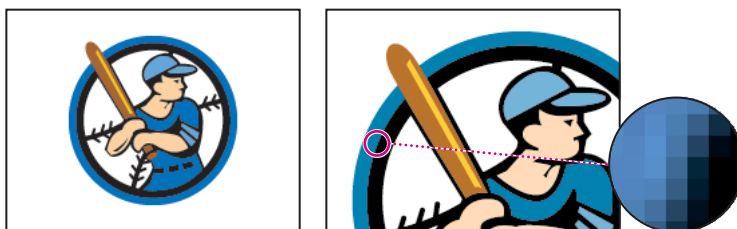
Computer graphics fall into two main categories—*bitmap* and *vector*. You can work with both types of graphics in Photoshop and ImageReady; moreover, a Photoshop file can contain both bitmap and vector data.

Bitmap images, technically called *raster images*, are based on a grid of colors known as pixels. Each pixel is assigned a specific location and color value. In working with bitmap images, you edit groups of pixels rather than objects or shapes. Because bitmap graphics can represent subtle gradations of shade and color, they are appropriate for continuous-tone images such as photographs or artwork created in painting programs. A disadvantage of bitmap graphics is that they contain a fixed number of pixels. As a result, they can lose detail and appear jagged when scaled up on-screen or if they are printed at a lower resolution than they were created for.

Vector graphics are made up of lines and curves defined by mathematical objects called *vectors*. These graphics retain their crispness whether they are moved, resized, or have their color changed. Vector graphics are appropriate for illustrations, type, and graphics such as logos that may be scaled to different sizes.



*Logo drawn as vector art*



*Logo rasterized as bitmap art*

In the previous lesson, you learned how to use the pen tool to create simple shapes and paths. In this lesson, you'll learn advanced uses of paths and clipping paths to create a logo for a fictitious rock band named Unctuous. You'll learn how to add text to an image by incorporating the logo into a concert announcement.

Since logos and many other designs need to be reproducible and scaled, you'll also learn how to use actions to re-create the logo for use in a different image.

## Getting started

Before beginning this lesson, restore the default application settings for Adobe Photoshop. See "Restoring default preferences" on page 4.

You'll start the lesson by viewing the final image, which is an example of a rock concert announcement incorporating the logo you'll create.

### 1 Start Adobe Photoshop.

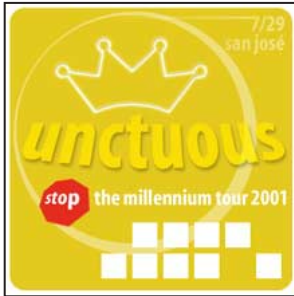
If a notice appears asking whether you want to customize your color settings, click No.

2 Choose File > Open, and open the file 08End.psd from in the Lessons/Lesson08 folder.

If a notice appears asking whether you want to update the text layers for vector based output, click Update.

**Note:** The update text layers notice might occur when transferring files between computers, especially between Windows and Mac OS.

3 When you have finished viewing the 08End.psd file, leave it open for reference.



08End.psd

For a color illustration of the finished artwork for this lesson, see the gallery at the beginning of the color section.

Now you'll start the lesson by creating a new document for the logo.




## Creating the logo

Logos need to be scalable yet retain a crispness to their appearance. You'll create shapes with paths, and use clipping paths to control what's being shown in your logo.

### Using a shape for the logo's background

You can create a shape on a new layer. The shape is automatically filled with the current foreground color; however, you can easily change the fill to a different color, gradient, or pattern. The shape's outline is stored in a layer clipping path, which appears in the Paths palette. You can change the outline of a shape by editing its layer clipping path.

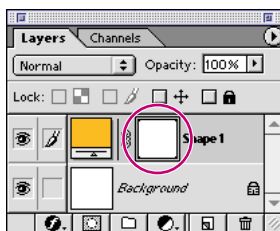
1 Choose File > New.

- 2 In the New dialog box, choose pixels for unit of measurement, and enter **400** in both the Width text box and the Height text box. Make sure the resolution is set for 72 pixels/inch and that White is selected for the background contents. Enter a name for this new document in the Name text box and click OK.
- 3 Drag the Paths palette from the Layers palette group. Since you'll be using both palettes frequently, it's easier to have them separate.
- 4 In the Color palette, set the foreground RGB color to an orange-yellow color by entering **228** in the R text box, **202** in the G text box, and **31** in the B text box.
- 5 Select the rounded rectangle tool () hidden under the rectangle tool () .
- 6 In the tool options bar, enter **20px** in the Radius text box, and select the Create New Shape Layer option () .

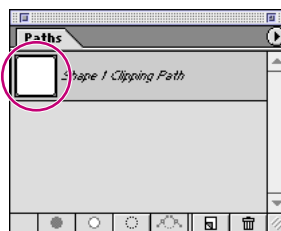


- 7 Shift-drag to draw a shape that almost fills up the white area of the image, about 380 pixels square.

You've created a square shape with an orange-yellow fill. After drawing the shape, you'll see that there's a new layer named Shape 1 in the Layers palette. The left thumbnail in the palette shows that the entire layer is filled with the orange-yellow foreground color. The thumbnail on the right shows the layer clipping path. For clipping paths, like masks, white indicates the area where the image is exposed, and black indicates the areas where the image is blocked.






*Clipping path in Layers palette*




*Clipping path in Paths palette*



## Subtracting shapes from the shape layer

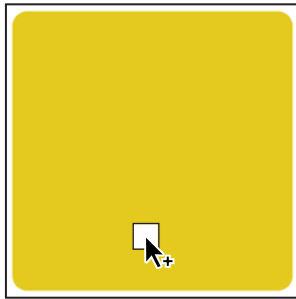
After you create a shape layer (vector graphic), you can set options to subtract new shapes from the vector graphic. You can also use the path component selection tool and the direct-selection tool to move, resize, and edit shapes.

- 1 Select the rectangle tool () hidden under the rounded rectangle tool ()
- 2 In the tool options bar, select the Subtract from Shape Area option ()
- 3 Shift-drag to draw a small square.

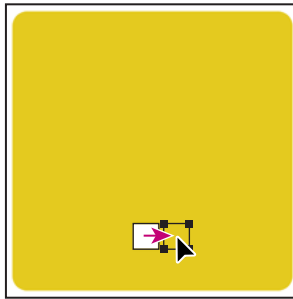
You'll notice that the square is white because it is taking away a portion of the orange-yellow fill to show the white background.

- 4 Select the path component selection tool () and move the pointer over the small square. Alt-drag (Windows) or Option-drag (Mac OS) to create a new square.

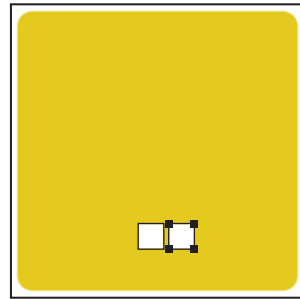
**Note:** Selecting a shape with the path component selection tool and selecting the Intersect Shape Areas option () in the tool options bar show the areas where two shapes overlap. Selecting the Exclude Overlapping Shape Areas option () excludes the area where two shapes or areas overlap.





Moving the pointer over the square using the path component selection tool



Alt-dragging (Windows) or Option-dragging (Mac OS) to create a new square



Result

- 5 Shift-click to select both small squares with the path component selection tool. Then click the Align Top Edges button () in the tool options bar.
- 6 Continue to Alt-drag (Windows) or Option-drag (Mac OS) to create new squares until you've created nine squares as shown in the 08End.psd image. Use the Align Top Edges button to align the squares, and the Distribute Horizontal Centers button () to space the squares evenly apart.

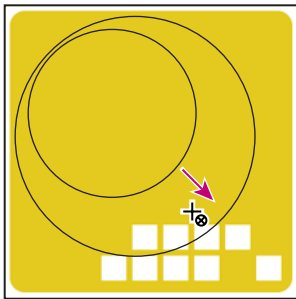
7 Choose File > Save to save your work.

Next you'll add more elements to your logo, but you'll work with these elements on different layers. Throughout this lesson, you'll create new layers, so you can draw, edit, paste, and reposition elements on one layer without disturbing other layers.

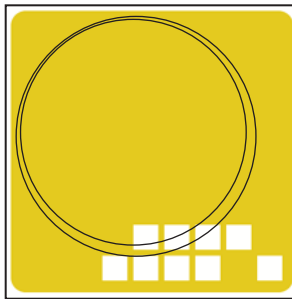
## Creating shapes from filled paths

So far, you've used the shape tools to create shape layers, which are fill layers with clipping paths. Now you'll learn to use a shape tool to create shapes as paths.

- 1 In the Layers palette, click the New Layer button (📄) to create a new layer.
- 2 Select the ellipse tool (○).
- 3 In the tool options bar, select the Create New Work Path option (📄).
- 4 Shift-drag the ellipse tool to create a circle in the upper left portion of the document as in the 08End.psd image.
- 5 In the tool options bar, select the Exclude Overlapping Shape Areas option (📄) and then draw a second circle within the first.




*Drawing a second circle*



*Result*

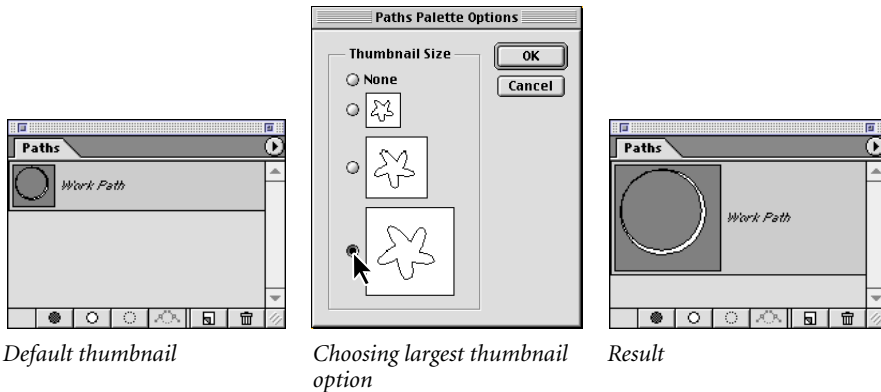
- 6 If needed, select the path component selection tool (🖱️) and move the circles as shown in the 08End.psd image.

Shift-click with the path component selection tool to select more than one circle.

 To resize the circles (or any path), select the circles using the path component selection tool. Then choose *Edit > Free Transform Path* and use the handles to modify the size or outline shape.

In the Paths palette, the thumbnail shows two clipping paths with a white area between them.

**7** For a better view of the thumbnail, choose *Palette Options* from the Paths palette menu, and select the largest thumbnail option.




**8** Select the path component selection tool.

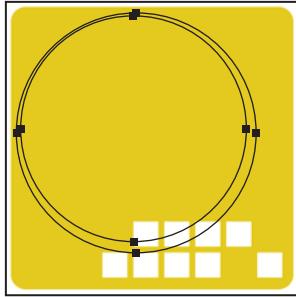
**9** Shift-click to select both circles, and then click the *Combine* button in the tool options bar.

The two circle path components are now treated as one shape.

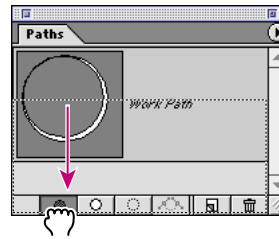
**10** Click the *Set Foreground Color* box in the toolbox to open the *Color Picker* dialog box. Select white as the foreground color and click *OK*.



11 In the Paths palette, drag the work path to the Fill Path with Foreground Color button () at the bottom of the palette.



*Clicking the Combine button, and result of the Combine option*




*Dragging path to the Fill Path with Foreground Color button*

12 In the Layers palette with Layer 1 active, enter **40** in the Opacity text box.

Try different values for the Opacity to see the effects.



13 If needed, use the path component selection tool to move the circles as shown in the 08End.psd image.

14 If needed, use the move tool () to move the fill created by the two circles as shown in the 08End.psd image.

15 Choose File > Save.

## Creating and working with custom shapes

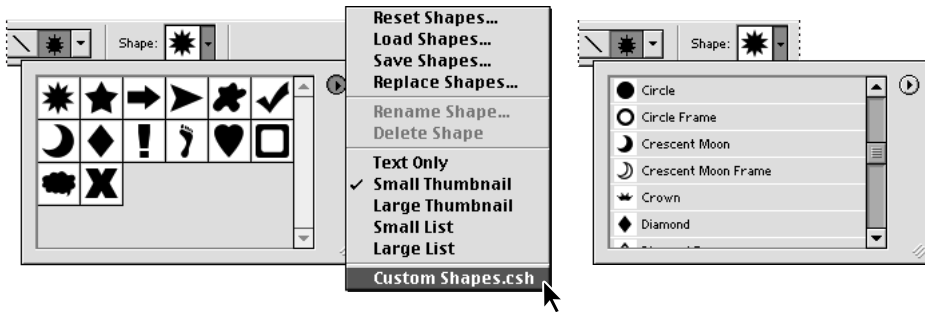
Whenever you create a shape, you can save it as a custom shape for reuse. The saved shape appears in the Custom Shape pop-up palette.

1 Select the custom shape tool () hidden under the ellipse tool ()

2 In the tool options bar, click the arrow next to the Shape box to open the Custom Shape pop-up palette.



- 3 Click the triangle (ⓘ) in the upper-right corner of the pop-up palette and choose Custom Shapes.csh from the palette menu.
- 4 In the dialog box, click Append to add more shapes to the Custom Shape pop-up palette. If necessary, choose Small List from the palette menu for easier navigation through the palette.

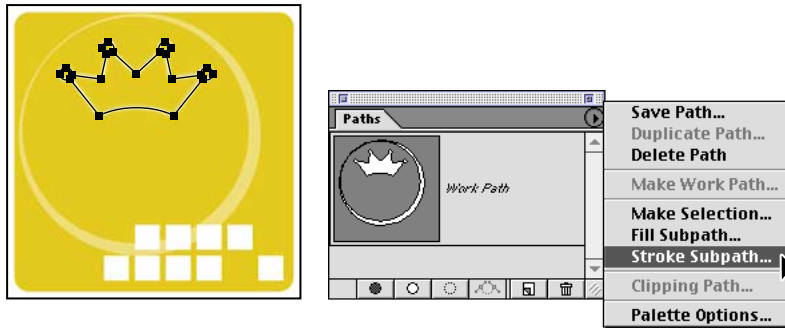


Selecting Custom Shapes.csh

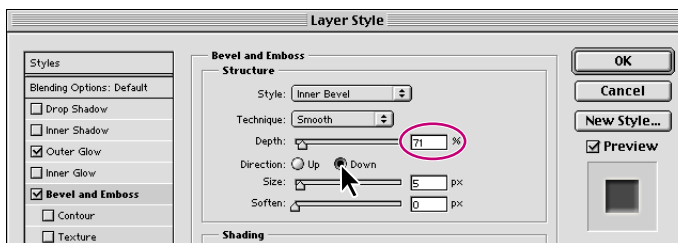
New Custom Shapes list displayed in the Small List format

- 5 Select the crown shape in the Custom Shape pop-up palette. Then in the tool options bar, select the Add to Shape Area option (■).
- 6 Shift-drag to draw a crown shape within the work path. Use the path component selection tool (⌘) to position the crown shape as shown in the 08End.psd image.  
The crown is a component of the work path containing the two circles.
- 7 Click the Create a New Layer button (📄) in the Layers palette to create another layer (Layer 2). This new layer will contain both the crown shape that you created in the work path, and the effect that you'll apply over the crown.
- 8 Select only the crown shape using the path component selection tool.
- 9 Select the paintbrush tool (🖌) and choose a small brush size (such as Hard Round 3 Pixels) from the Brush pop-up palette in the tool options bar.  
You'll apply this small paintbrush stroke when you choose Stroke Subpath in step 11.

- 10 If needed, use the Color Picker to make the foreground color white.
- 11 In the Paths palette, choose Stroke Subpath from the menu.
- 12 In the Stroke Subpath dialog box, choose the paintbrush from the tool menu and click OK.




- 13 In the Layers palette, double-click Layer 2 to open the Layer Style dialog box.
- 14 In the Layer Style dialog box, select the Outer Glow and Bevel and Emboss options. Then select Bevel and Emboss to display options on the right side of the dialog box.
- 15 Choose Inner Bevel from the Style pop-up menu in the Structure section of the Layer Style dialog box. Then enter 71 in the Depth text box, and select Down for the Direction.
- 16 Leave the Outer Glow option at its default settings, and click OK.



- 17 In the Paths palette, double-click Work Path to open the Save Path dialog box. Enter **Band Logo** in the Name text box, and click OK.

18 Choose Edit > Define Custom Shape to add this logo to the Custom Shape pop-up palette in the tool options bar. Enter **Band Logo** for the name of the shape and click OK.

 You can use the Preset Manager to save a library with your new custom shape. This ensures that your new custom shape will be available in Adobe Photoshop even if you restore the Adobe Photoshop preferences to their default settings. For information on using the Preset Manager, see Photoshop 6.0 online Help.

19 Choose File > Save.

## Working with type

Adobe Photoshop lets you create and edit type directly on-screen (instead of in a dialog box) and quickly change the font, style, size, and color of the type. You can apply changes to individual characters and set formatting options for entire paragraphs. In this part of the lesson, you'll learn to work with type by adding text to your logo.

### Adding type to the image in edit mode

Clicking in an image with the type tool puts the type tool in edit mode. You can enter and edit characters when the type tool is in edit mode; however, you must commit changes to the type layer before you can perform other operations. Selecting another tool will automatically commit your text changes. If in the tool options bar you see the Commit Any Current Edits button (☒) and the Cancel Any Current Edits button (☒) , the type tool is in edit mode.

1 Select the type tool (T).

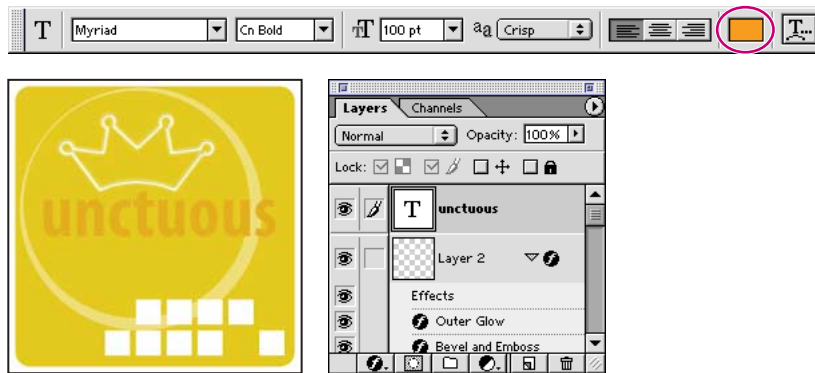
2 In the tool options bar, choose a sans serif font, and then choose Bold and 100 pt for the type options. (We used Myriad Bold Condensed for the sans serif font.)

3 In the tool options bar, click the Set the Text Color box to open the Color Picker. Make sure Only Web Colors is deselected, and enter **249** in the R text box, **222** in the G text box, and **8** in the B text box. Click OK.

Your type will be a yellow color.

4 Type the word **unctuous**, the name of the fictitious rock band, on your logo.

Notice that typing creates a new layer, which is automatically named “unctuous” after you select another tool or click the Commit Any Current Edits button (✓).



5 In the tool options bar, click the Create Warped Text button (T) to open the Warp Text dialog box.

6 In the Warp Text dialog box, choose Shell Lower for Style. Enter +20 in the Bend text box, and leave the other options at 0.

You can experiment entering other values to see different effects.

**Note:** Throughout this lesson, use the move tool (V) to adjust the position of the text. You can also use the zoom tool (Q) to enlarge areas for better viewing.

7 Choose File > Save.

## Applying a layer style to text

You can use the default layer styles, load libraries of layer styles, or create your own layer styles using the Styles palette. For more information about the Styles palette, see Photoshop 6.0 online Help.

1 In the Layers palette with the type layer selected, choose Overlay for the blending mode.

2 Click the Add a Layer Style button (fx) at the bottom of the Layers palette, and choose Drop Shadow from the pop-up menu.

The Layer Style dialog box opens with the blending options for the drop shadow.

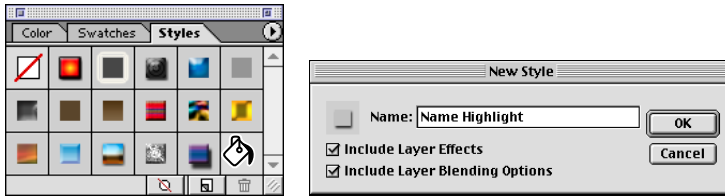
3 Enter 27 in the Opacity text box and click OK.

- 4 Select the Styles palette. Make sure the unctuous layer is selected, and click in an empty square in the Styles palette.


This opens the New Style dialog box.

- 5 Enter **Name Highlight** in the Name text box for the new style name and click OK.

This layer style is now saved. You'll use it later in this lesson.



Clicking in an empty square in the Styles palette opens the New Style dialog box.



 You can use the Preset Manager to save a library containing your new layer style. This ensures that your new layer style will be available in Adobe Photoshop even if you restore the Adobe Photoshop preferences to their default settings. For information on using the Preset Manager, see Photoshop 6.0 online Help.

- 6 Choose File > Save.

## Deselecting paths

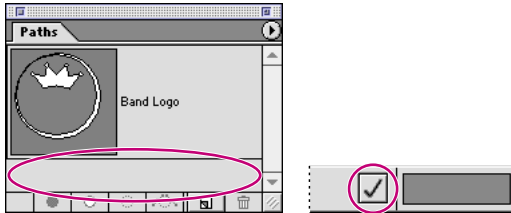
Deselecting paths is sometimes necessary to see the appropriate tool options bar when you select a vector tool. Deselecting paths can also help you view certain effects that might be obscured if a path is highlighted.

Before proceeding to the next section of this lesson, make sure all paths are deselected.

- 1 Select the path component selection tool (.
- 2 In the tool options bar, click the Dismiss Target Path button (.

Your paths are now deselected.

**Note:** An alternate way to deselect paths is to click in the blank area below the paths in the Paths palette.







Blank area below the paths  
in the Paths palette

Dismiss Target Path  
button

## Merging layers with text and a shape

By merging layers, layer clipping paths, clipping groups, linked layers, or adjustment layers, you can combine several layers into one and keep your file size manageable. When you've finalized the characteristics and positioning of a layer's contents, you can then merge the layer with one or more other layers to create partial versions of your composite image.

In this section, you'll create a shape and text in separate layers, and then merge the two layers together.

- 1 In the Layers palette, click the New Layer button (  ) to create another layer.
- 2 Select the polygon tool (  ) hidden under the custom shape tool (  ).
- 3 In the tool options bar, select the Create Filled Region button (  ), and enter **8** in the Sides text box.
- 4 Click the Set Foreground Color box in the toolbox to open the Color Picker dialog box. Enter **228** in the R text box, **45** in the G text box, and **31** in the B text box. Click OK.

Now you'll draw an eight-sided polygon shape with a red fill to create a stop sign.

5 Drag the polygon tool to draw a stop sign.

While drawing the stop sign, you can drag the polygon tool in a circular motion to rotate the stop sign to the desired position. You can also use the path component selection tool to move the stop sign to the position shown in the 08End.psd image.

6 Select the type tool (T).

7 In the tool options bar, choose the same sans serif font you used for the unctuous text, and choose 30 pt for the font size.

8 In the tool options bar, click the Set the Text Color box to open the Color Picker dialog box, and select white as the text color. Click OK.

9 Type **stop** anywhere in the image.

This automatically creates a new layer above the polygon shape layer.

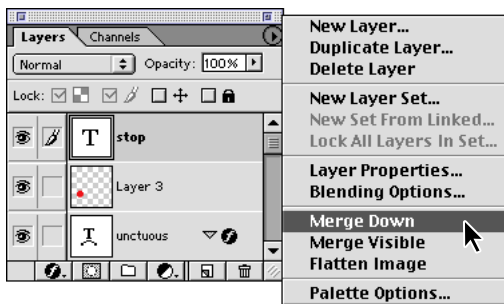
10 Select the move tool (V).

11 Move the “stop” text over the stop sign shape as shown in the 08End.psd image.

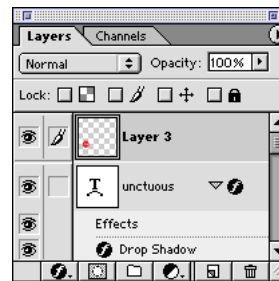
Make sure that the “stop” layer is still selected before proceeding to the next step.

12 In the Layers palette, choose Merge Down from the options menu.

The “stop” layer and polygon shape layer are now merged into a single layer, Layer 3.



*Choose Merge Down from the Layers palette options menu.*

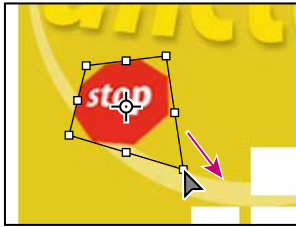


*Merged layers*

13 With Layer 3 selected, choose Edit > Transform > Distort. Drag the handles to skew the stop sign until it appears as shown in the 08End.psd image.



14 Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS) to apply the transformation.



*Dragging distort handles*



*Result*

15 Choose File > Save.

## Creating work paths from type

Creating a work path from type lets you work with characters as vector shapes. A work path is a temporary path that appears in the Paths palette. Once you create a work path from a type layer, you can save and manipulate it like any other path. The original type layer remains intact and editable as text.

1 Select the type tool (T).

Keep the font, size, and color the same as the “stop” text.

2 Type **the millennium tour 2001** anywhere in the image.

A type layer is automatically created.

3 Select the move tool (V) and move the “the millennium tour 2001” type next to the stop sign shape as shown in the 08End.psd image.

4 Select the type tool.

5 In the tool options bar, click the Right Align Text button (≡).

6 Type **7/29** in the upper-right corner of the image as shown in the 08End.psd image.

7 Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS), and then type **san José**.

This is the text you’ll use to generate your paths.

 To type an **e** with an acute accent, type **Alt 0233** (Windows) using the numeric keypad, or **Option-e + e** (Mac OS).

8 In the tool options bar, click the Commit Any Current Edits button (☑) to commit the type change.

9 If needed, select the move tool and move the “7/29 san josé” type as shown in the 08End.psd image.

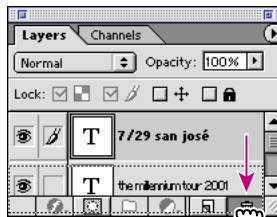
10 With the “7/29 san josé” layer selected, choose Layer > Type > Create Work Path. A new work path (named Work Path) appears in the Paths palette.

11 In the Layers palette, select the “7/29 san josé” layer and drag it to the Trash button (🗑) at the bottom of the palette.

Creating work paths from type leaves the original type layer intact. If you don’t drag the “7/29 san josé” type layer to the trash, it shows up and visually competes with the vector clipped layer you’ll create from the work path.



*New 7/29 Work Path*



*Dragging 7/29 layer to the trash*

12 Select the path component selection tool (⌘).

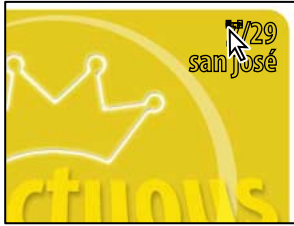
13 Adjust the position of the work path outlines as shown in the 08End.psd image.

14 Select the direct-selection tool (⌘) hidden under the path component selection tool (⌘).

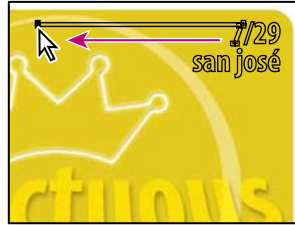
15 Shift-click to select the two top left points of the 7, then Shift-drag to the left.

16 Click outside the work path to deselect.

**Note:** The direct-selection tool can be used to edit any path.



Using the direct-selection tool to choose points





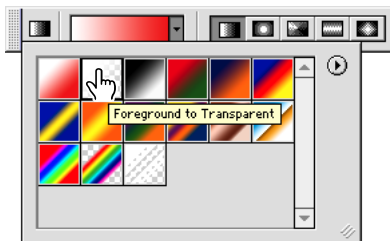
Shift-dragging the points left to choose points

17 Choose File > Save.

## Creating a clipping path from a work path

Now you'll create a layer that has a clipping path made from the previous work path. A layer clipping path creates a sharp-edged shape on a layer and is useful anytime you want to add a design element with clean, defined edges. Once you create a layer with a layer clipping path, you can apply one or more layer styles to it or edit it if needed.

- 1 In the Layers palette, click the New Layer button (  ) to create another layer (Layer 4).
- 2 Select the gradient tool (  ).
- 3 If needed, click the Set Foreground Color box in the toolbox to open the Color Picker dialog box. Select white as the foreground color and click OK.
- 4 In the tool options bar, click the gradient picker to open the Gradient Editor dialog box.
- 5 Choose the Foreground to Transparent fill in the Gradient Editor dialog box and click OK.



- 6 Shift-drag the gradient tool from right to left in the image.

The gradient covers the entire image, with the lower layers showing through the transparent areas.

Make sure Work Path is selected in the Paths palette before proceeding to the next step.

- 7 Choose Layer > Add Layer Clipping Path > Current Path.

This creates a new path named Layer 4 Clipping Path. The thumbnail for this clipping path appears both in the Paths palette and in Layer 4 of the Layers palette.



*Gradient over the image*



*Clipped gradient*

- 8 Click the link icon (⌘) in Layer 4 to unlink the path from the gradient layer.

Make sure the gradient layer is selected and not the clipping path.

- 9 If needed, select the path component selection tool and click the Dismiss Target Path button (☑) in the tool options bar.

This deselects all paths.

**Note:** You can also click in the blank area below the paths in the Paths palette to deselect all paths.

- 10 Select the move tool (⬞).

- 11 Adjust where the gradient falls as it shows through the clipping path.

Refer to the 08End.psd image if necessary.

- 12 Choose File > Save.

## Re-creating the logo, using actions and styles

Logos need to be scalable so they can be used in a variety of settings. Now that you've created a logo using vector shapes and paths, you'll re-create the logo in a different image using actions.

Automating tasks can save you time and ensure consistent results for many types of operations. Using *actions* is one of several ways in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe ImageReady to automate tasks. An action is a series of commands that you play back on a single file or a batch of files. To learn more about recording actions, see Photoshop 6.0 online Help.

### Preparing to record a new action

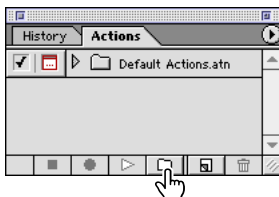
You use the Actions palette to record, play, edit, and delete individual actions. The Actions palette also lets you save and load action files.

You'll start by opening a new document and preparing to record a new action in the Actions palette.

- 1 Choose File > New.
- 2 In the New dialog box, choose pixels for the unit of measurement, and enter **300** in the Width text box and **100** in the Height text box. Make sure the resolution is set for 72 pixels/inch and that White is selected for the background contents. Enter a name for this new document in the Name text box, and click OK.

This new document provides the background for the logo you'll create.

- 3 If needed, choose Window > Show Actions to open the Actions palette.
- 4 In the Actions palette, click the Create New Set button (□).



*Clicking the Create New Set button*

- 5 In the New Set dialog box, enter **My Actions** in the Name text box and Click OK.

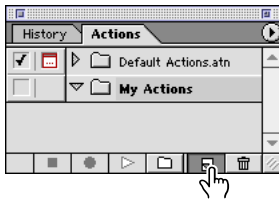
A new set named My Actions appears in the Actions palette. In Photoshop, actions are grouped into sets for better organization.

## Recording a new action

When you create a new action, the commands and tools you use are added to the action until you stop recording.

Your new action will be added to the My Actions set in the Actions palette.

- 1 In the Actions palette, click the Create New Action button (□).



*Clicking the Create New Action button*

- 2 In the New Action dialog box, enter **Create Logo** in the Name text box and click the Record button (●).

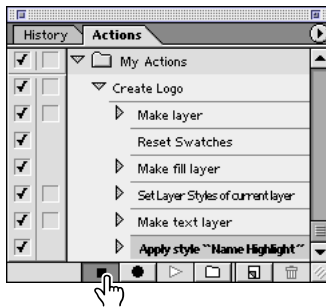
The recording process starts automatically.

- 3 In the Layers palette, click the New Layer button (□) to create another layer.
- 4 Select the custom shape tool (✱).
- 5 In the tool options bar, choose Band Logo from the Custom Shape picker.
- 6 If needed, click the Set Foreground Color box in the toolbox to open the Color Picker dialog box. Select any color but white as the foreground color and click OK. (We selected black.)
- 7 Shift-drag the custom shape tool within the image area to create the band logo.
- 8 In the Layers palette, with Layer 1 selected, click the Add a Layer Style button (fx), and choose Bevel and Emboss from the pop-up menu.

The Layer Style dialog box opens.

- 9 In the Layer Style dialog box, click OK to accept the default values.

- 10 Select the type tool (T).
  - 11 In the tool options bar, choose the same sans serif font you used for “unctuous” in “Adding type to the image in edit mode” on page 228 of this lesson, and enter **20 pt** for the font size.
  - 12 Click the Set the Text Color box to open the Color Picker dialog box. Enter **249** in the R text box, **222** in the G text box, and **8** in the B text box to select yellow for the text color.
  - 13 Type the word **unctuous**.
  - 14 In the tool options bar, click the Create Warped Text button (T~) to open the Warp Text dialog box. Apply the same warp text you used in steps 5 and 6 in “Adding type to the image in edit mode” on page 228 of this lesson.
  - 15 In the Styles palette, click the Name Highlight style.
- The text seems to partially vanish, but an overlay is added to the white background.
- 16 In the Actions palette, click the Stop button (■) to end the recording.



*Clicking the Stop button*

To see the overlay effect, try adding different colors to the background layer using the paint bucket tool.

- 17 Choose File > Save, and close the document window.

## Playing an action

Once you've recorded an action, you can select it in the Actions palette and use it as an automated task.

Now you'll re-create the logo by selecting and playing your newly recorded action. You'll start by viewing the *Road\_final.psd* image, which shows your newly recorded logo re-created in a photographic image.

- 1 Choose File > Open, and open the file *Road\_final.psd* from the Lessons/Lesson08 folder.
- 2 When you have finished viewing the *Road\_final.psd* image, leave it open for reference.
- 3 Choose File > Open and open the *Road.psd* file from the Lessons/Lesson08 folder.
- 4 In the Actions palette, select the Create Logo action and click the Play button (▶).

The logo you recorded is re-created in the *Road.psd* image.



*Road\_final.psd*

- 5 Choose File > Save.



## Review questions

- 1 What is the difference between a bitmap image and a vector graphic?
- 2 What does a clipping path do?
- 3 What tools are used to move and resize paths and shapes?
- 4 Does the type tool create vector shapes?
- 5 What is the purpose of merging layers?
- 6 How do you automate tasks?

## Review answers

- 1 Bitmap or raster images are based on a grid of pixels and are appropriate for continuous-tone images such as photographs or artwork created in painting programs. Vector graphics are made up of shapes based on mathematical expressions and are appropriate for illustrations, type, and drawings that require clear, smooth lines.
- 2 A clipping path stores the outline of a shape in the Paths palette. You can change the outline of a shape by editing its layer clipping path.
- 3 You use the path component selection tool (⌘) and the direct-selection tool (⌘) to move, resize, and edit shapes. You can also modify and scale a shape or path by choosing Edit > Free Transform Path.
- 4 No, the type tool adds text, not vector shapes, to an image. If you want to work with the characters as vector shapes, you must create a work path from the type. A work path is a temporary path that appears in the Paths palette. Once you create a work path from a type layer, you can save and manipulate it like any other path. You cannot edit characters in the path as text. However, the original type layer remains intact and editable.
- 5 Merging combines several layers into one to keep your file size manageable. When you've finalized the characteristics and positioning of a layer's contents, you can merge the layer with one or more other layers to create partial versions of your composite image.
- 6 Using actions is one of several ways that Adobe Photoshop and Adobe ImageReady provide to automate tasks. An action is a series of commands that you play back on a single file or batch of files.