

Working vs. Pre-Press Files

- There can be a large or small difference between working files and files for press, depending on your working style.
- But pad your deadlines with time to pre-press your files. **There is a difference.**

NAME OF FILE: _____
 CLIENT: _____
 DESIGNER: _____
 DATE FINAL FILE DUE TO PRESS: _____

PRINT SPECS

- Document Size? File Prep Directions from Printer?
- Number of pages in document (printed)?
- Bleed?
- Ink: CMYK? RGB? Spot? Pantone?
- Tension or other finishing?
- Resolution?

CHECKLIST

- Spell check.
- Grammar check.
- Balance redlines, replace any uncomfortable breaks in text.
- The Document page size is equal to the final printed page size.
- Check that all material is within safety margins.
- The number of pages matches the specs from printer.
- All pages of a multi-page document are in a single file.
- Pad 1/8 (127µ) Blank where necessary and get printable space from printer.
- Convert all links to correct specs from printer.
- All Screen and Printer Fonts used in the project are included. Avoid using nesting.
- Outline fonts in placed vector files or include both vector and printed fonts.
- Clear outer margins in all documents. If a color is not being used, remove it.
- Find and remove any unused fonts. Use font list (if it is listed and you haven't used it, Type Font) in the document and remove or replace with a font you are using and include all type files.**
- Check all links are up-to-date.
- No JPEGS.
- All images built in CMYK - RGB - Grayscale - OTHER _____
CMYK = correct printer specs
- All images are: DPI at 100% size.***
**No nesting halftone should link into text.
- Images placed are (or close) 100% and not nested.
Do this in the order of frames and then place in halftone.
- Images flattened or merged to as simple as possible -
to all graphics used.
- Transparent background on all image files if required.
Send work printer. A transparent PSD file may work, but a flattened image is necessary.
- Trap document if printer requests.
- Clean all art boards in placed files. Clean all extraneous material in halftone file.

PREFLIGHT

- File: Package if using halftone.
This does not replace the checklist and should be done after successful checking of files.

PACKAGE FILE

- File: Package for halftone, Links, Fonts, Instructions.
- PDF will proof approval and included.
- Lower level proof approval and included.
Include one each for each PDF image, spot color of another job/insert, etc. Include management background files include the, the same requirements, the fonts?

**Make printer specs include collection
**Black image rights not done
 *Consent to use with and change sheet if necessary
 ***All image rights are images
 *Consent to use with and change sheet if necessary

Project: _____
 Client: _____

Please mark the appropriate box.

Project INCOMPLETE

Please list corrections below or on a separate sheet of paper. Do NOT sign this form until the changes have been made and you are satisfied with the project. We will provide a new Project Sign Off Sheet with any change/corrections if needed.

Change/Correction: _____

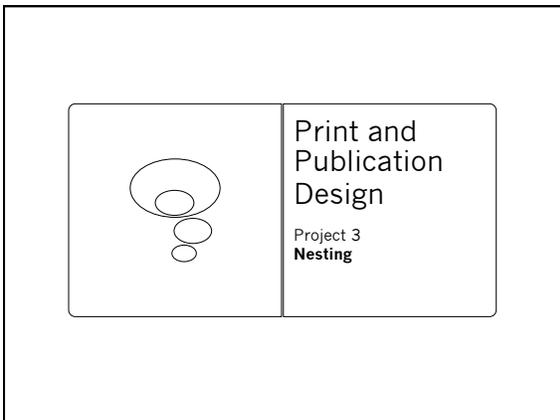
Project COMPLETE

Please sign this form if you agree to finalize this project.

I, _____ hereby agree that I have fully reviewed the final project and authorize consent for Awesome Printing Company (APC) to finalize the project as is. I understand that once the project has been finalized, APC is not responsible for errors, corrections, or changes to the project after this point.

Company Name: _____

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____



Nesting

<http://yourway.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/nesting.jpg>

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<http://yourwag.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/nesting.jpg>

“Nesting”



- (This term can be used to describe multiple things in print and web design/coding.)
- **BUT FOR PRE-PRESS > it is a bad term.**
 - It means that there are links within links, which is just asking for problems.
 - **When preparing your final files for press** AFTER you are done designing, **be sure InDesign** (or other program) **only asks for one link**

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- **INDESIGN:** never travels alone
- **PHOTOSHOP:** always travels alone
- **ILLUSTRATOR:** does both
 - **To avoid nesting at pre-press, make it travel alone**

Nesting Dolls are 😊

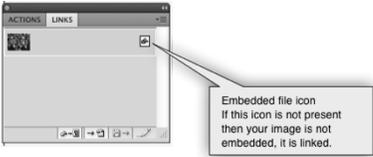



http://www.123rf.com/photo_10591495_russian-nesting-doll.html

Nesting Files is ☹️



- **Files should NOT link beyond 1 file.**
 - For example, an InDesign file should link only to a file from Illustrator.
 - >> That Illustrator file should have any images INTEGRAL to THAT artwork EMBEDDED into the Illustrator file.



http://0.bp.blogspot.com/_w1eXp8tU/Adobe-Illustrator-1027/2012/03/embedded-link-icon.png

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- In other words...
 - Do not ask InDesign to link to Illustrator and then link to the Placed Photoshop file.
 - *Photoshop does not really link to work in the same way as Illustrator and InDesign do.*

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- Do not let nesting happen in any program when sending a file to **Print Vendor (= Pre-Press)!!**
 - *Doing this while creating work is up to you, as Linking is important if working on multiple elements at one time*

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 - *Doing this while creating work is up to you, as Linking is important if working on multiple elements at one time*
 - *PDFs (just because it says it embeds doesn't mean it always will)*

REMEMBER:



- **INDESIGN:** never travels alone
- **PHOTOSHOP:** always travels alone
- **ILLUSTRATOR:** does both
 - **To avoid nesting at pre-press, make it travel alone**

NESTING ☹️ EXERCISE



- Make a 1-layer image in Photoshop. Save as *.png*.
- Place this image in Illustrator. Be sure it is linked and not embedded. Create art around the Photoshop image. Save as *.ai*.
- Open InDesign and Place this image into InDesign.

NESTING ☹️ EXERCISE

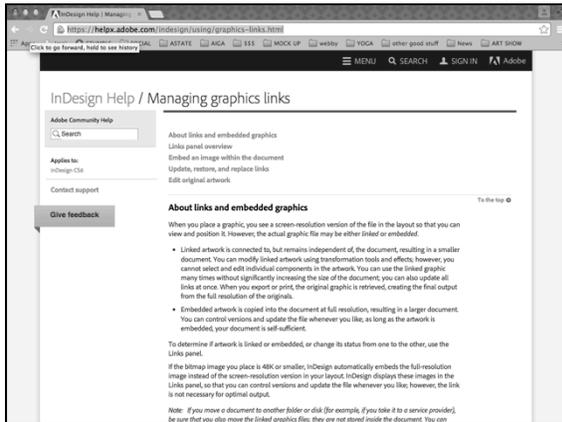


- Make a 1-layer image in Photoshop. Save as *.png*.
- Place this image in Illustrator. Be sure it is linked and not embedded. Create art around the Photoshop image. Save as *.ai*.
- Open InDesign and Place this image into InDesign.
- **WHY IS THIS BAD? HOW DO YOU FIX IT?**

NO MORE THAN 1 LINK



- Make a 1-layer image in Photoshop. Save as *.png*.
- Place this image in Illustrator. **Be sure it is linked and not embedded. EMBED THE IMAGE.** Create art around the Photoshop image. Save as *.ai*.
- Open InDesign and Place this image into InDesign.

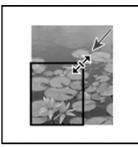


CLEAN FILE BUILD (not Nesting) ...



- FYI: **Photoshop** (and Illustrator in some cases) concern:
 - When preparing files for press, crop them as close as you can in the native program first. **Though InDesign crops images, the extra digital information is sloppy.**

>> *larger files and more to go wrong.*




Just because InDesign crops the image doesn't mean it's right. Instead, build a clean file for pre-press by cropping it in the native program (Photoshop or Illustrator).

http://help.adobe.com/en_US/indesign/using/using_images/ig_07.png