

Stroking text can be problematic. It tends to pinch the letter forms. This can be somewhat mitigated (for you people who just can't leave it alone) by:

- font choice
- 2 Illustrator techniques

There are situations where stroking text can be effectively rendered if applied appropriately, most of them belonging to the production of signage where a third dimension is present.

Still, Illustrator gives you powerful tools to edit strokes on text even to the extent of (with the release of CS6) letting you add gradients!

Bear in mind there are usually better ways to dress up text for any occasion without resorting to the letter-pinching, kern-crowding addition of stroke! Avoid stroking text whenever you can!

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL

ESSENTIAL  
ESSENTIAL  
ESSENTIAL

Using stroke panel to align stroke to inside, middle, or outside produces mixed results visually, the biggest drawback being that the text must be outlined for enable the function.

ESSENTIAL  
ESSENTIAL  
ESSENTIAL

Often relied upon for enough contrast to bring legibility to text set upon a mixed value background, it often fails to take into account the pinching of the letter forms, the crowded kerning, and the plugged counters caused by its inclusion.