

Grouped Object Outline

Grouping objects together creates a kind of invisible ‘container’ that can be modified as if it were a single object.

1. Group 2 or more objects together; they would be clustered, not disparate objects scattered widely across a page. Works best if objects are different colors.
2. Select the grouped objects and choose Window>Appearance to open the Appearance Panel. At the bottom of the Appearance Panel, click the ‘add new stroke’ button to create a stroke around each object, wide enough to be easily seen (2 – 5 points).
3. With group still selected, click the ‘fx’ button, also at the bottom of the Appearance Panel, and choose Path>Offset Path then click OK, accepting the default settings (10 pts.). You may check the Preview button to see the change before you accept it.
4. Click the ‘fx’ button again, but this time choose Pathfinder>Add. The strokes around the individual objects will now be drawn around the group of objects as a whole. This effect is live until you Object>Expand or Expand Appearance, meaning you can add, delete, or modify the individual objects within the group and the overall outline will redraw to accommodate.

Note: Works only through the Appearance Panel whether individual objects are stroked, or not. Works with graphics and text. Also works with other ‘fx’, like drop- shadows.

