

LET THE METALLIC MATERIAL SHOW THROUGH

Create metallic effects in Adobe Illustrator

Metallic effects are created by omitting white ink beneath selected artwork. Choose a metallic material and use a separate white-ink layer to control which areas look metallic.

1

Create the spot color

Add a spot-color swatch named Premium White and set it to 100% magenta.

2

Add the White Ink layer

Create a layer named White Ink and place it at the top of the layer list.

3

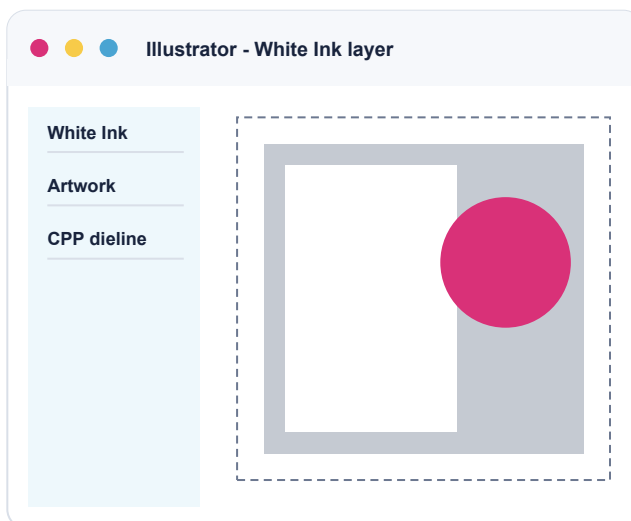
Cover the artboard

On the White Ink layer, draw an artboard-size rectangle filled with Premium White.

4

Copy metallic elements

Select the artwork that should appear metallic, copy it, then paste it in place on the White Ink layer.



How the effect works

White ink blocks the metallic base. Areas without white ink allow the metallic appearance to show through the printed color.

Material choice

Select a metallic material and finish in the pouch configurator. The artwork file alone cannot create a metallic effect on white or clear material.

BUILD THE KNOCKOUT CLEANLY

Finish and preview the metallic white-ink layer

Turn the copied metallic artwork into one clean knockout, apply overprint and inspect the separation before you export.

1

Unite overlapping shapes

Use Pathfinder > Unite while the copied metallic elements are selected.

2

Make a compound path

Choose Object > Compound Path > Make to combine the metallic shapes.

3

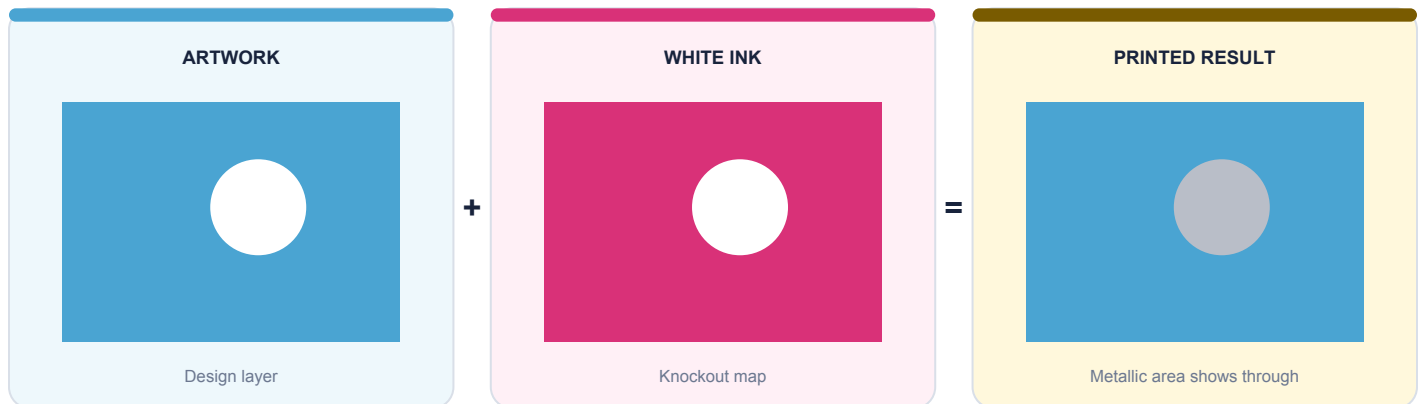
Subtract from Premium White

Bring the metallic shape to the front. Select it with the white rectangle, then use Pathfinder > Minus Front.

4

Turn on Overprint Fill

Select the resulting Premium White shape and enable Overprint Fill in the Attributes panel.



Read the white-ink map

Premium White areas print opaque. Knockout areas receive no white ink and show the metallic material beneath the color.

Preview before export

Open Separations Preview, enable Overprint Preview and toggle the artwork and White Ink layers to confirm alignment.