

Transportation Safety Division

Defining Traffic Spot Colors in Adobe Illustrator®

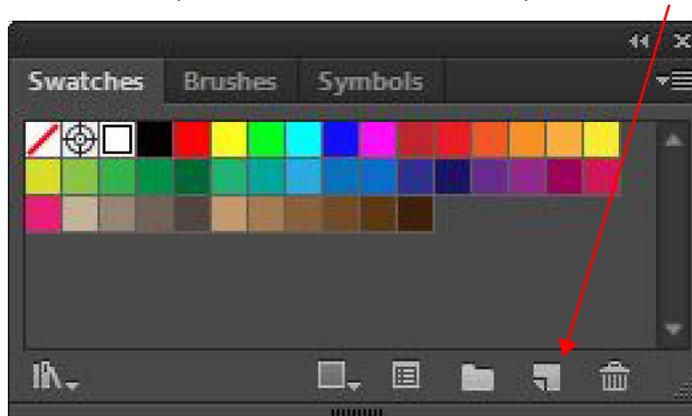
Information Folder 1.22
August 2019

Replaces Information Folder 1.22 Dated September 2017

1 Description

Spot Colors must be defined in your design software to print Traffic Colors accurately. The RIP software will use the Spot Color references in the image files to send the correct color to the printer. The color values associated with the spot swatches in the design software will not affect the printed colors.

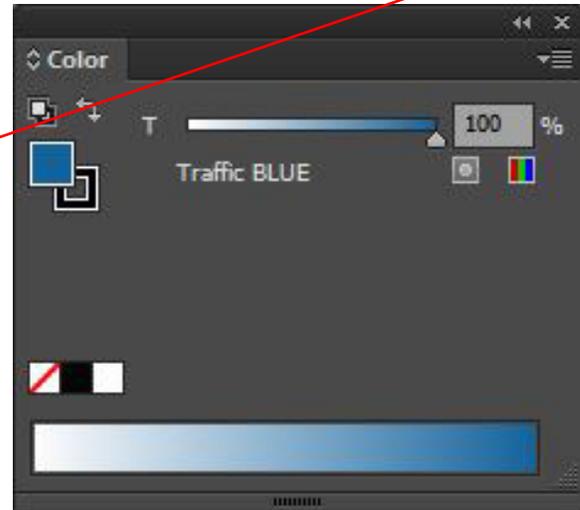
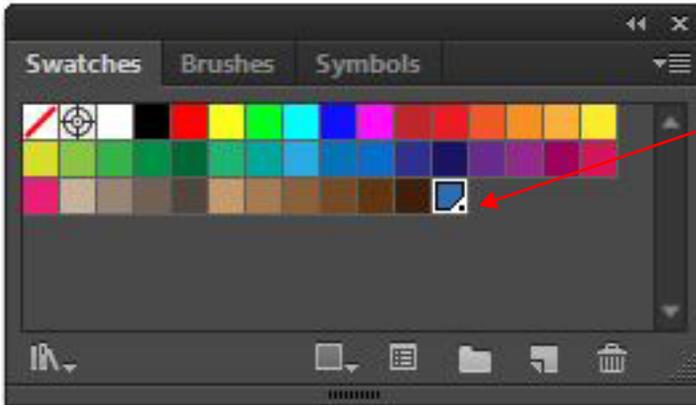
- 1 Select a color using the Color Picker, the Color Window, or select an object with a similar color to the Traffic Color being defined. It will only use the color values for the appearance in Illustrator. This process must be repeated for each of the Traffic Colors shown in step c.
- 2 At the bottom of the Swatches window, select the New Swatch icon, .



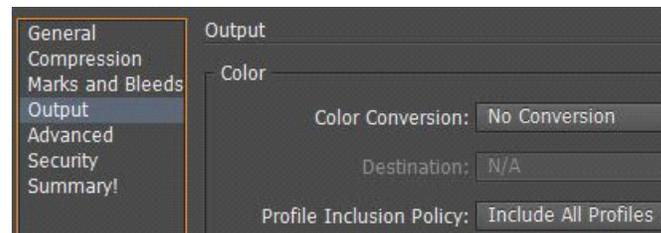
- 3 Enter the Swatch Name exactly as shown below. Upper and lower case letters must match.

Swatch Name
Traffic BLUE
Traffic GREEN
Traffic BLACK

- 4 Change the Color Type to Spot Color and click “OK”. Swatches that are Spot Colors will have a dot in the lower right corner.



- 5 In the Swatches window, click on the Swatch Library Menu icon  and select Save Swatches.
 6 These Spot Color swatches should be used in the image files wherever a specific Traffic Color is to be printed.
 7 When saving the image file to be printed, save in .pdf file format. When the .pdf options menu appears, ensure Color Conversion is set to “No Conversion” as below.



Note: For detailed information about creating and managing color swatches and libraries, refer to the software instructions for Adobe Illustrator.

2 Other Product Information

Always confirm that you have the most current version of the applicable product bulletin, information folder, or other product information from 3M’s Website at <http://www.3m.com/digital4traffic>.

3 Literature References

[3M IF 1.17](#) User Guide 3M™ Reflective Sheeting and HP Latex 360/365 Printers

For Information or Assistance

Call: 1-800-553-1380

In Canada Call:

1-800-3M HELPS (1-800-364-3577)

Internet:

<http://www.3M.com/roadsafety>

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