This presentation shows just one way to set up your flooring graphics for sublimation.

Please let us know your best tips and tricks for artwork preparation and sublimation tips as we all work together to create beautiful customized floors!
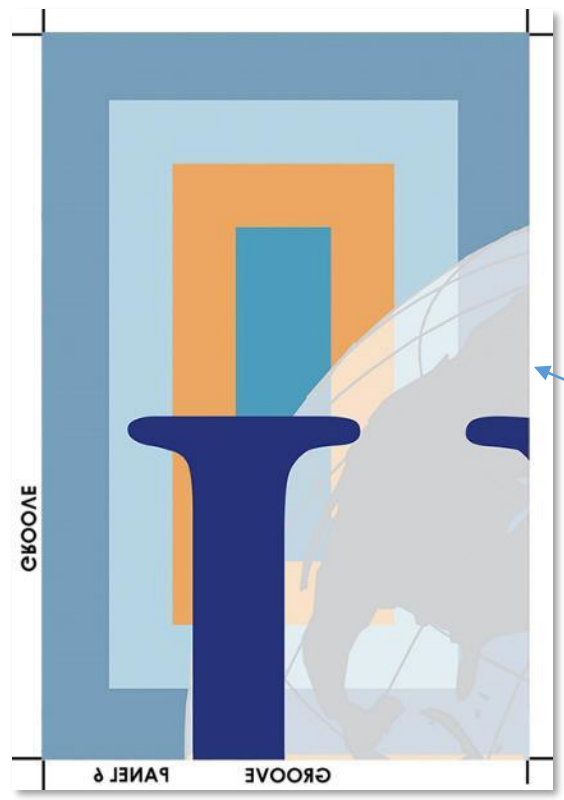
Thank you!

Some panels are mix-and-match, while other panels must align properly to create artwork that covers multiple panels.

Mix-and-match panels

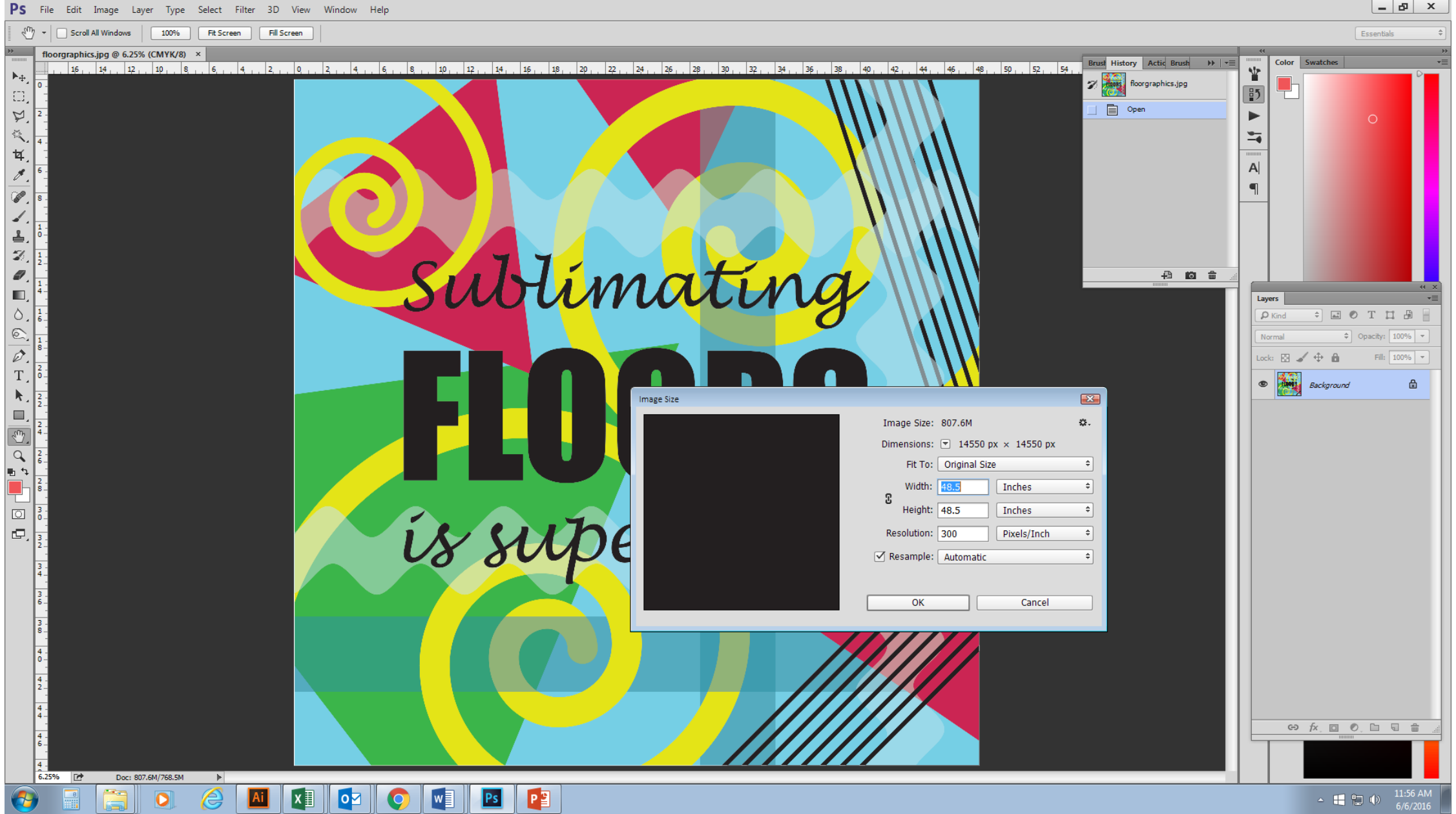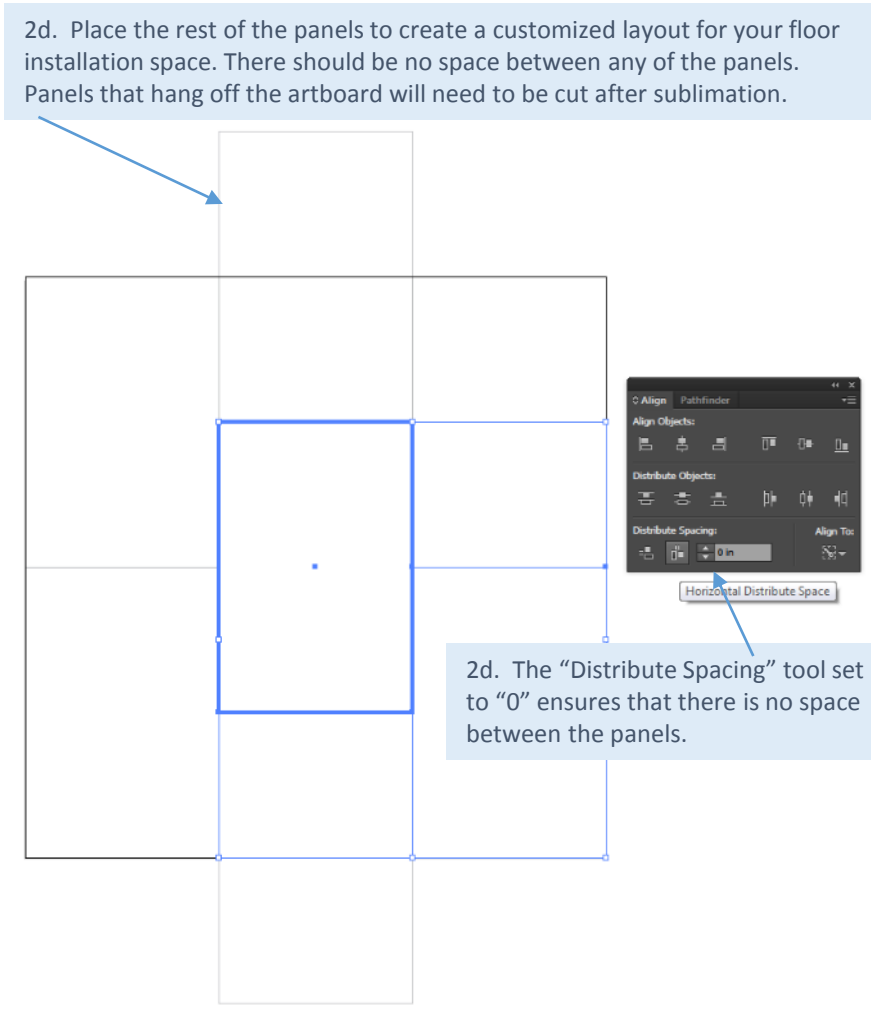Artwork that covers multiple panels to make one single image

GROOVE

PANEL 6   GROOVE

artwork for image transfer

installing panels

Step 1: **Create graphics at proper size/resolution in Adobe Photoshop (PSD).** Trim to size, keeping at least 0.25" bleed on all edges. Save as "floorgraphics.jpeg". *(For example, if your floor is 48"x48", your artwork should be 48.5"x48.5").*
The next step will take place in Adobe Illustrator (AI).

Artboard Presets: Custom Name: Artboard 1 X: 0 in Y: 48 in W: 48 in H: 48 in Artboards: 1

sublimation setup_rev4-pg 1 outline.ai @ 100% (CMYK/Preview) × sublimation setup_rev4-pg 2 outline.ai @ 100% (CMYK/Preview) × sublimation setup_rev4-pg 3 outline.ai @ 100% (CMYK/Preview) × sublimating
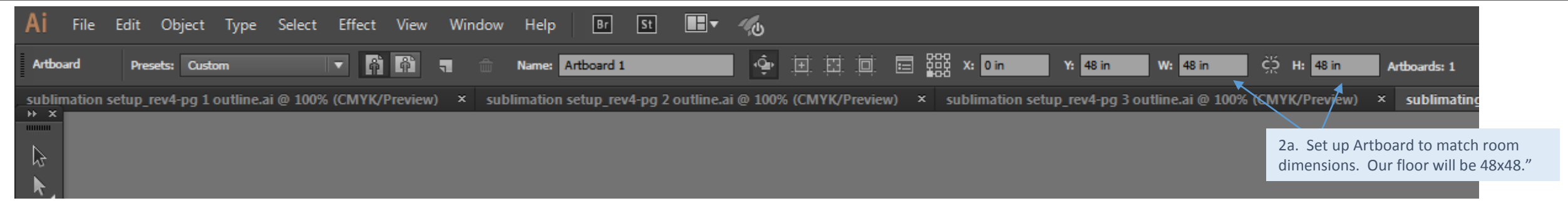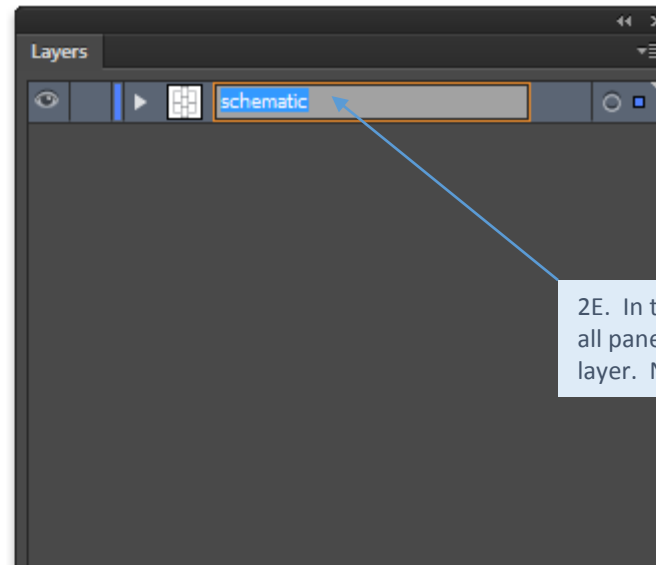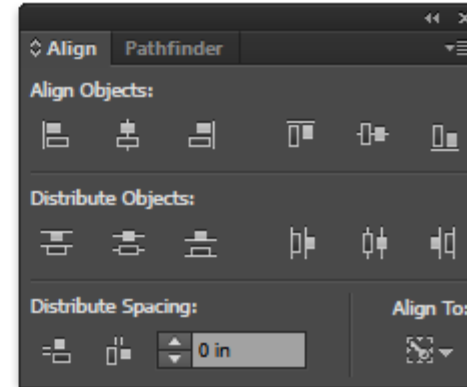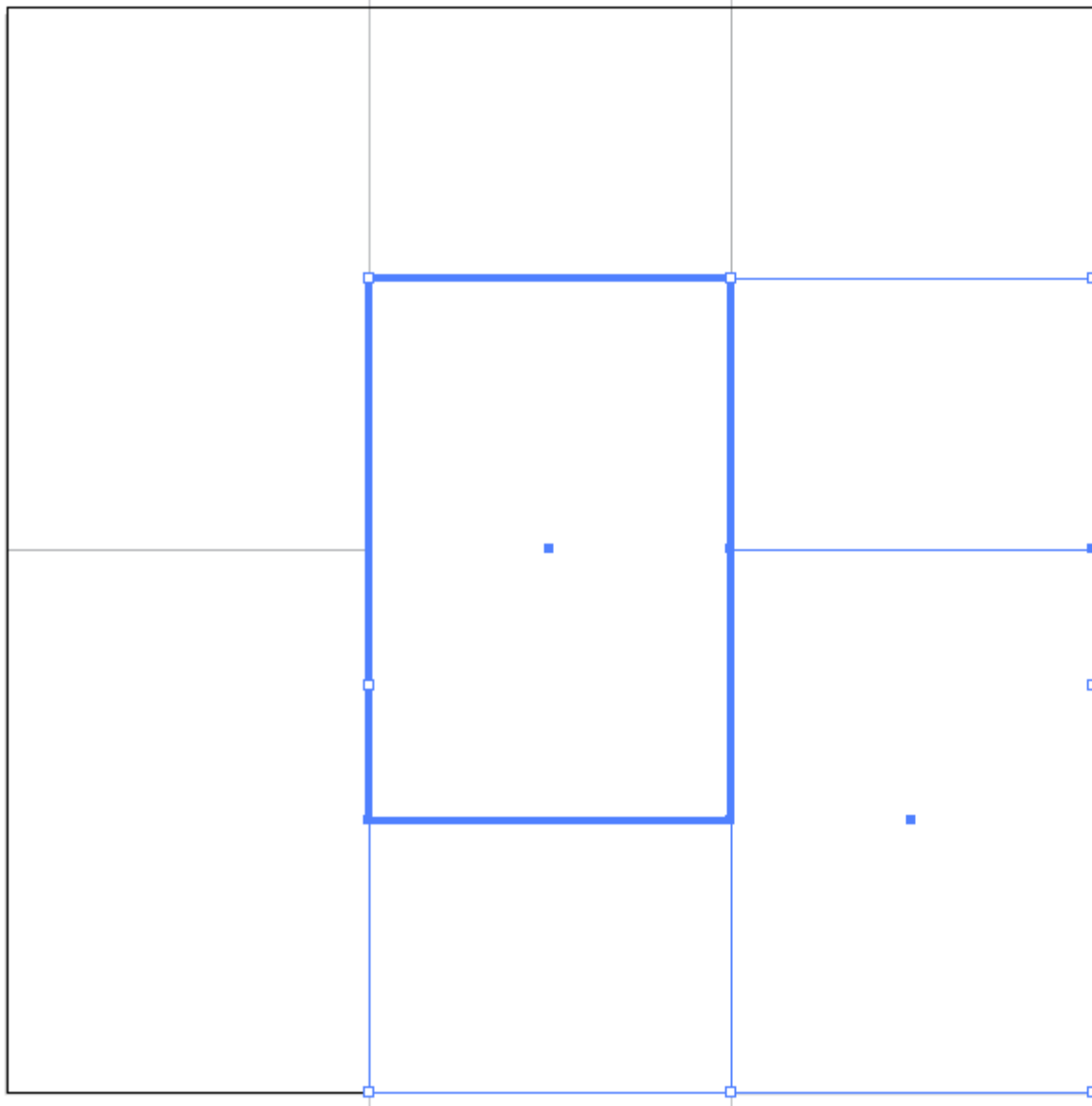
2a. Set up Artboard to match room dimensions. Our floor will be 48x48."

Ai File Edit Object Type Select Effect View Window Help

No Selection Stroke: 1 pt Uniform Touch

sublimation setup_rev4-pg 1 outline.ai @ 100% (CMYK/Preview) × sublimation setup

2b. Create a rectangle to be your first panel. We are using 16x24" panels, so this rectangle is 16x24."

Rectangle

Width: 16 in

Height: 24 in

OK   Cancel

2c. Using the "Align" toolbox, align the rectangle to the edge of the artboard.

Align Pathfinder

Align Objects:

Distribute Objects:

Vertical Align Bottom

Distribute Spacing: Align To: 0 in

2d. Place the rest of the panels to create a customized layout for your floor installation space. There should be no space between any of the panels. Panels that hang off the artboard will need to be cut after sublimation.

Align Pathfinder

Align Objects:

Distribute Objects:

Distribute Spacing: Align To: 0 in

Horizontal Distribute Space

2d. The "Distribute Spacing" tool set to "0" ensures that there is no space between the panels.

2a-d. Working in AI, create a panel layout at proper size, staggering joints at midpoint of each panel. In our example, the panel layout will be 48x48".

E. All panels will be on same layer. Name this layer "Schematic."

F. Number each panel on another layer. Name this layer "Numbers."

G. Open the "graphics.jpeg" in AI, and center panel layout atop the graphic. Remember that we oversized the graphic slightly to allow for bleed, so the graphic will hang over the edges of the layout slightly. Lock the graphics layer, and call it "Hi-Res Graphics".

H. Order the layers so that "Schematic" is on top and "Hi-Res Graphics" is on bottom.

Align | Pathfinder

Align Objects:

Distribute Objects:

Distribute Spacing: Align To:
0 in

Layers

schematic

2E. In the "Layers" toolbar, make sure all panel rectangles are on the same layer. Name this layer "schematic."
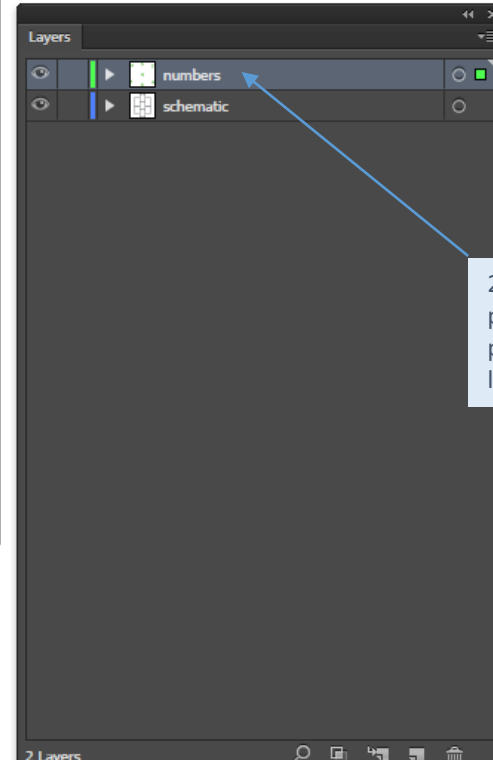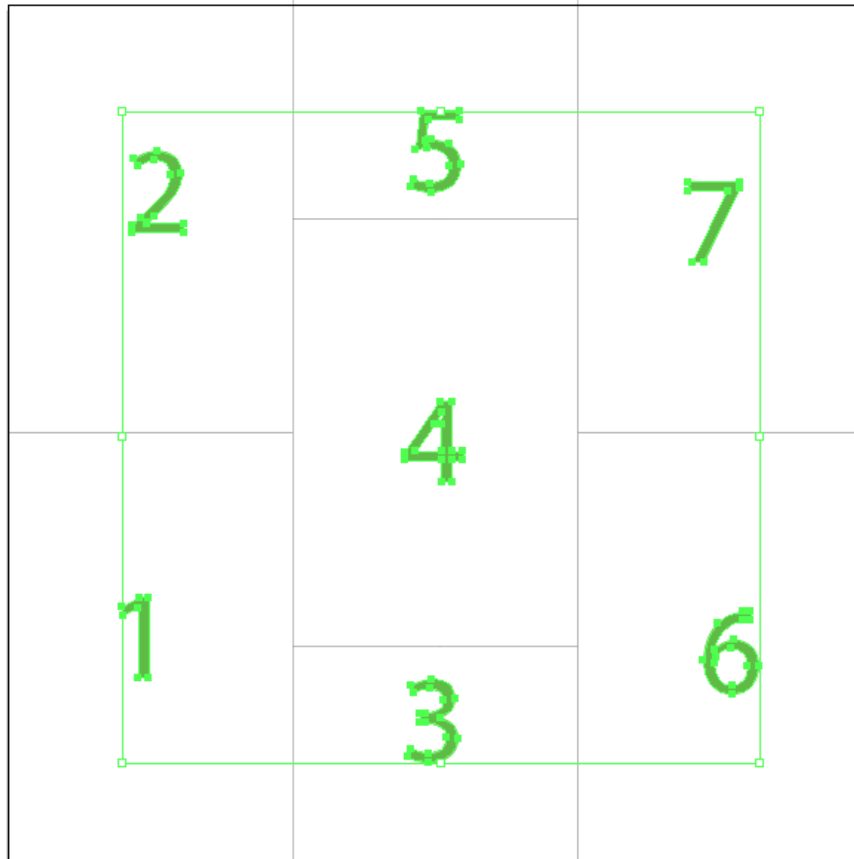
2a-d. Working in AI, create a panel layout at proper size, staggering joints at midpoint of each panel.

E. All panels will be on same layer. Name this layer "Schematic."

F. Number each panel on another layer. Call it "Numbers."

G. Open the "graphics.jpeg" in AI, and center panel layout atop the graphic. Make sure layout and seam lines are as desired. Lock the graphics layer, and call it "Hi-Res Graphics".

H. Order layers so that "Schematic" is on top and "Hi-Res Graphics" is on bottom.

2F. Use text toolbar to number each panel. Select all the numbers and paste them into a new layer. Call this layer "Numbers."

2a-d. Working in AI, create a panel layout at proper size, staggering joints at midpoint of each panel.

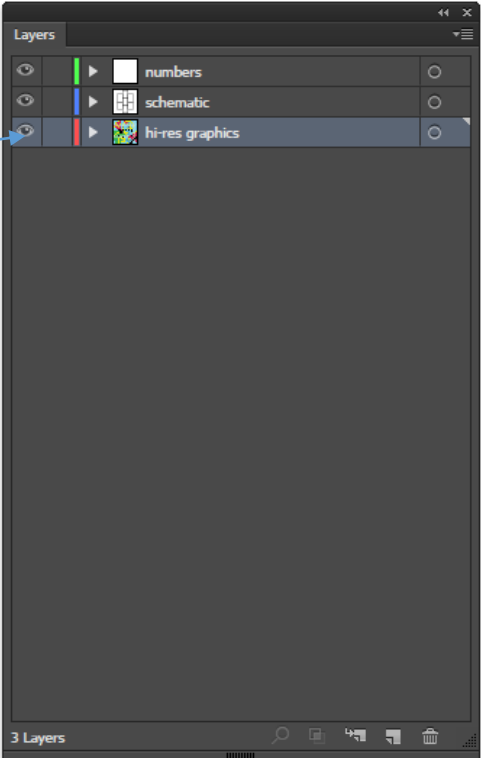E. All panels will be on same layer. Name this layer "Schematic."

F. Number each panel on another layer. Call it "Numbers."

G. Open the "graphics.jpeg" in AI, and center panel layout atop the graphic. Make sure layout and seam lines are as desired. Lock the graphics layer, and call it "Hi-Res Graphics".

H. Order layers so that "Schematic" is on top and "Hi-Res Graphics" is on bottom.

2G. . Open the "graphics.jpeg" in AI, and center panel layout atop the graphic. Make sure layout and seam lines are as desired. Lock the graphics layer, and call it "Hi-Res Graphics".

2H. Order layers so that "Schematic" is on top and "Hi-Res Graphics" is on bottom.
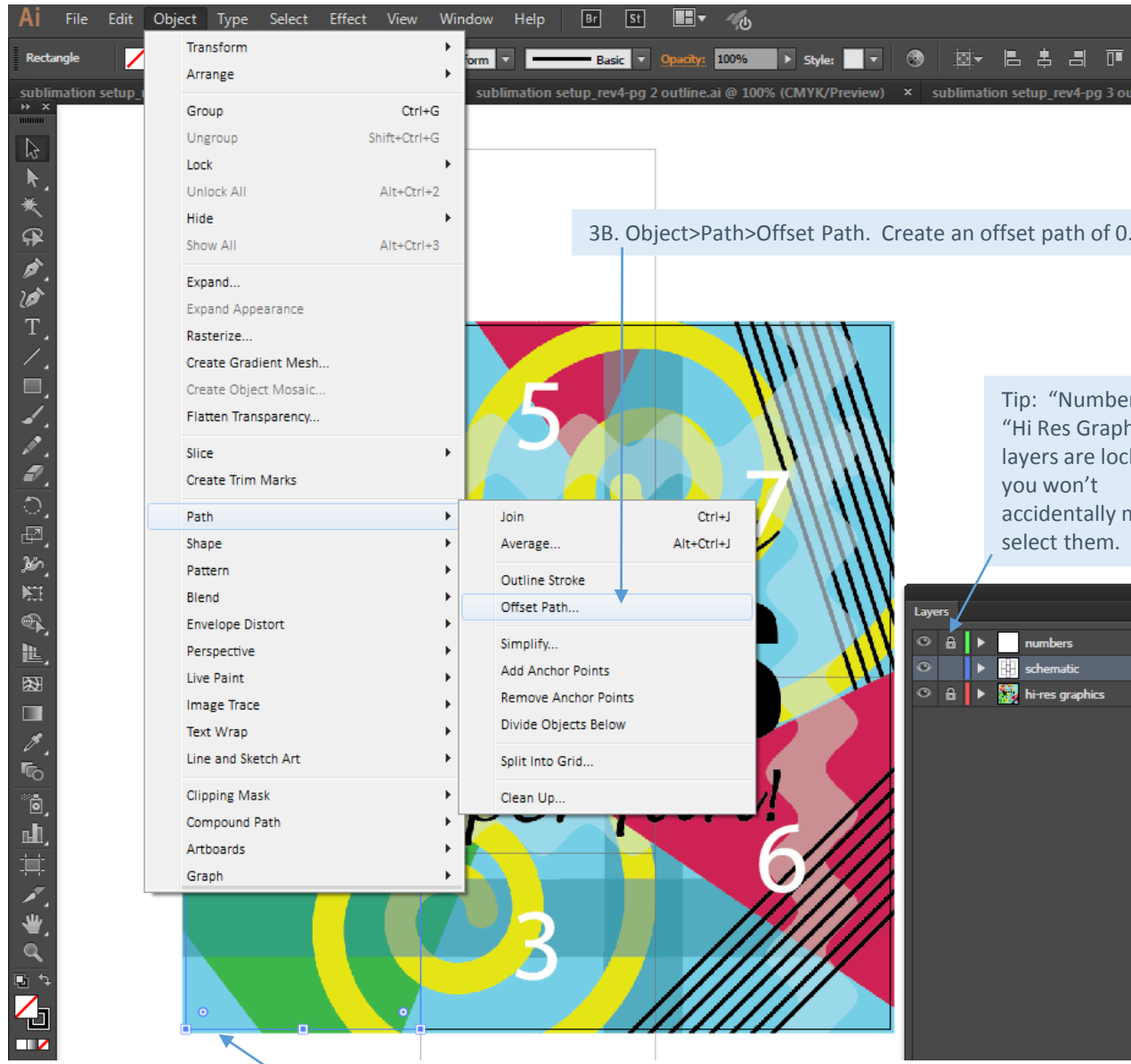
2a-d. Working in AI, create a panel layout at proper size, staggering joints at midpoint of each panel.
E. All panels will be on same layer. Name this layer "Schematic."
F. Number each panel on another layer. Call it "Numbers."
G. Open the "graphics.jpeg" in AI, and center panel layout atop the graphic. Make sure layout and seam lines are as desired. Lock the graphics layer, and call it "Hi-Res Graphics".
H. Order layers so that "Schematic" is on top and "Hi-Res Graphics" is on bottom.

Ai File Edit Object Type Select Effect View Window Help

Object menu:
- Transform ▶
- Arrange ▶
- Group   Ctrl+G
- Ungroup   Shift+Ctrl+G
- Lock ▶
- Unlock All   Alt+Ctrl+2
- Hide ▶
- Show All   Alt+Ctrl+3
- Expand...
- Expand Appearance
- Rasterize...
- Create Gradient Mesh...
- Create Object Mosaic...
- Flatten Transparency...
- Slice ▶
- Create Trim Marks
- Path ▶
- Shape ▶
- Pattern ▶
- Blend ▶
- Envelope Distort ▶
- Perspective ▶
- Live Paint ▶
- Image Trace ▶
- Text Wrap ▶
- Line and Sketch Art ▶
- Clipping Mask ▶
- Compound Path ▶
- Artboards ▶
- Graph ▶

Path submenu:
- Join   Ctrl+J
- Average...   Alt+Ctrl+J
- Outline Stroke
- Offset Path...
- Simplify...
- Add Anchor Points
- Remove Anchor Points
- Divide Objects Below
- Split Into Grid...
- Clean Up...

3B. Object>Path>Offset Path. Create an offset path of 0.1"

Offset Path
- Offset: 0.1
- Joins: Miter
- Miter limit: 4
- ☐ Preview   OK   Cancel

Layers
- numbers
- schematic
- hi-res graphics

Tip: "Numbers" and "Hi Res Graphics" layers are locked so you won't accidentally move or select them.

3A. Select the rectangle for panel 1.

3. Now we will set up the file to handle the 0.1" bleed. (You will be working in AI.)

A. In AI, select panel 1 on the "Schematic" layer.

B. In the menu bar, select **Object>Path>Offset Path**. Create an offset path of 0.1"
With offset path still selected, change stroke to "none" and fill to "black."

C. Hit **Ctrl+x** to cut this panel to the clipboard.

D. In the layers menu, make a new layer. Name it "1."

E. Hit **Ctrl+f** to paste the black panel onto layer "1" without changing the panel's position relative to the graphic layer.

F. Turn off layer "1" so that the black panel is hidden from view.

Repeat these steps with each panel. When complete, you will have a separate layer for each black panel. Each black panel represents the area needed for each panel's artwork, including bleed.

Swap Fill and Stroke (Shift X)
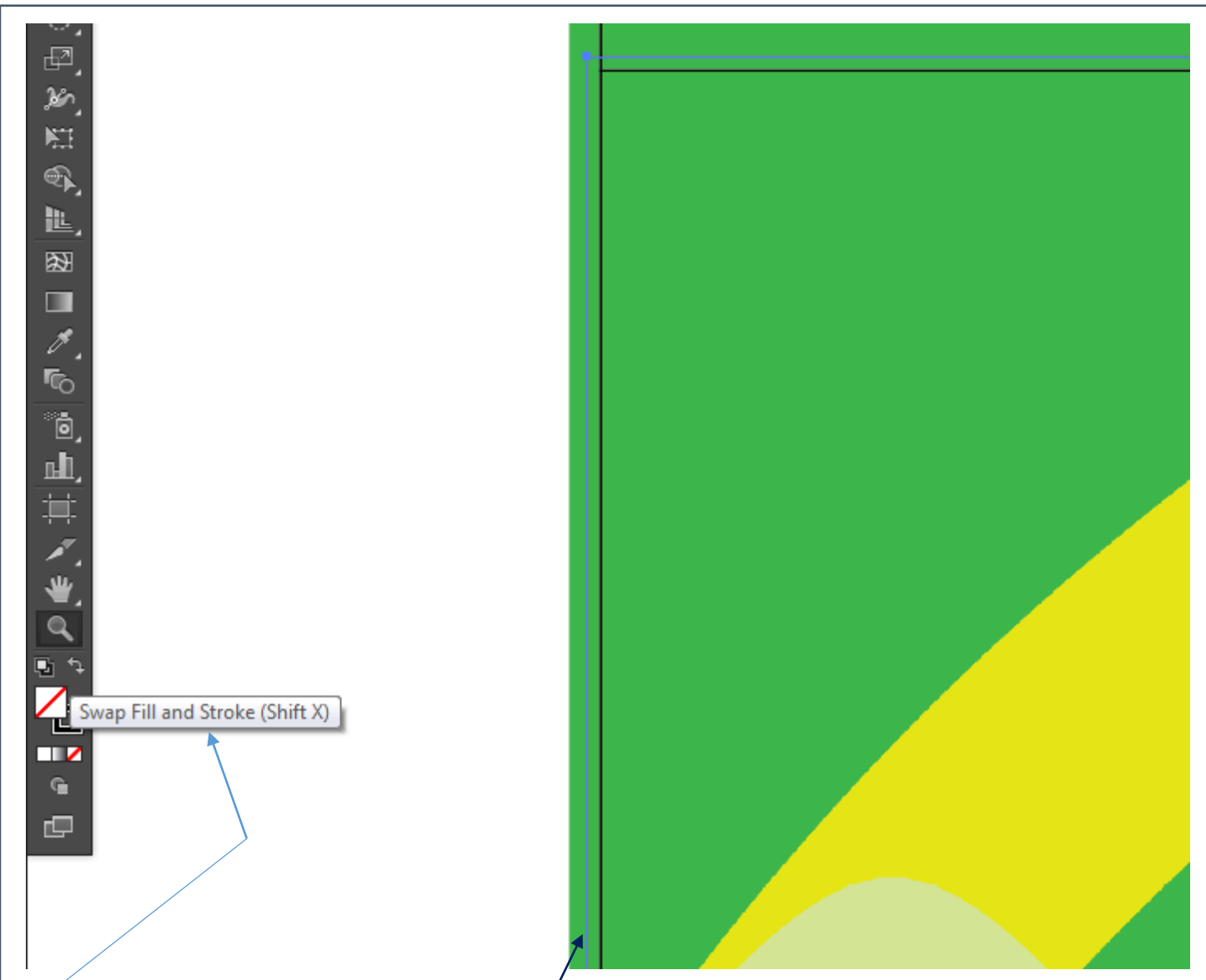
3B. With the offset path still selected (as shown here), change stroke to "none" and fill to "black."
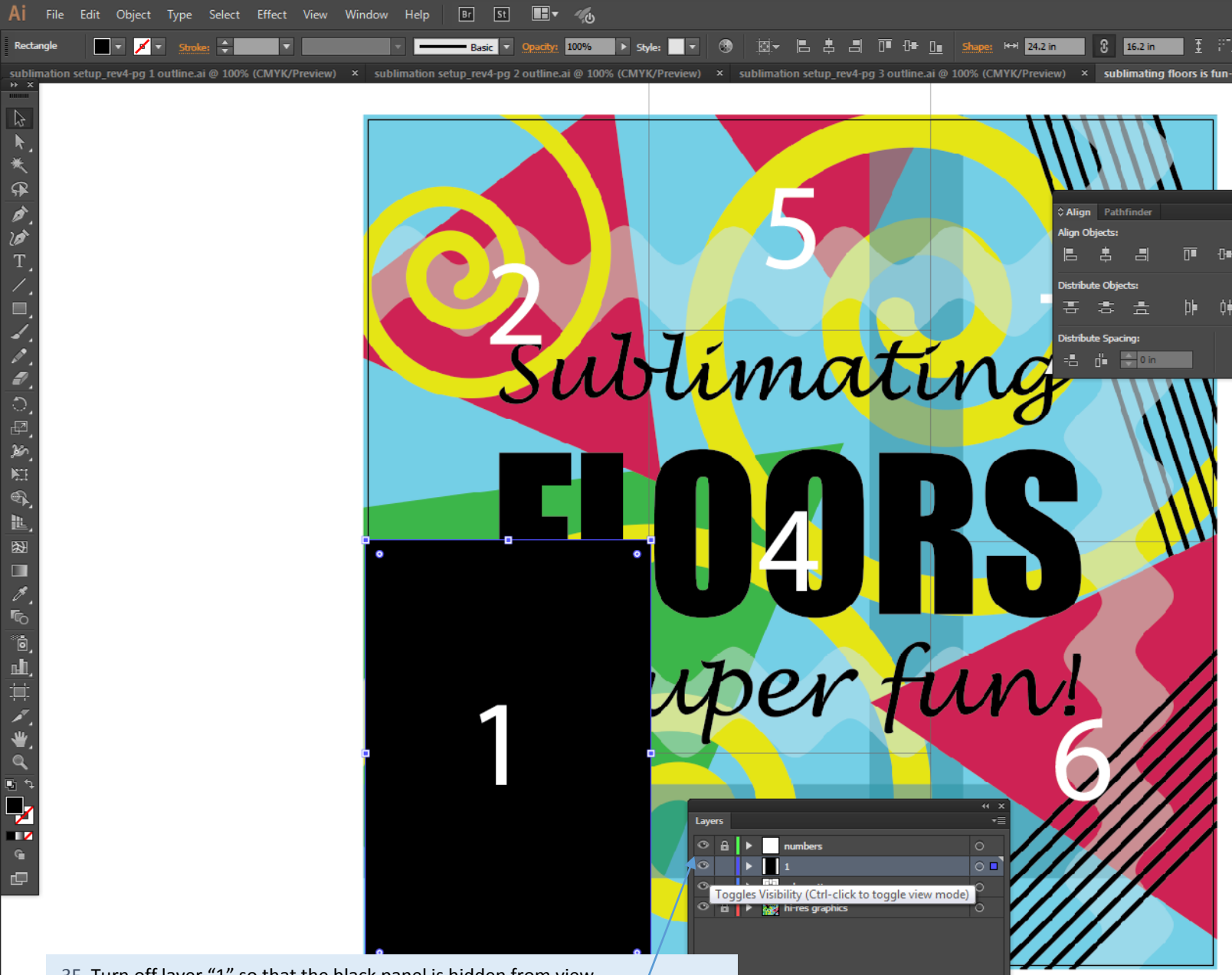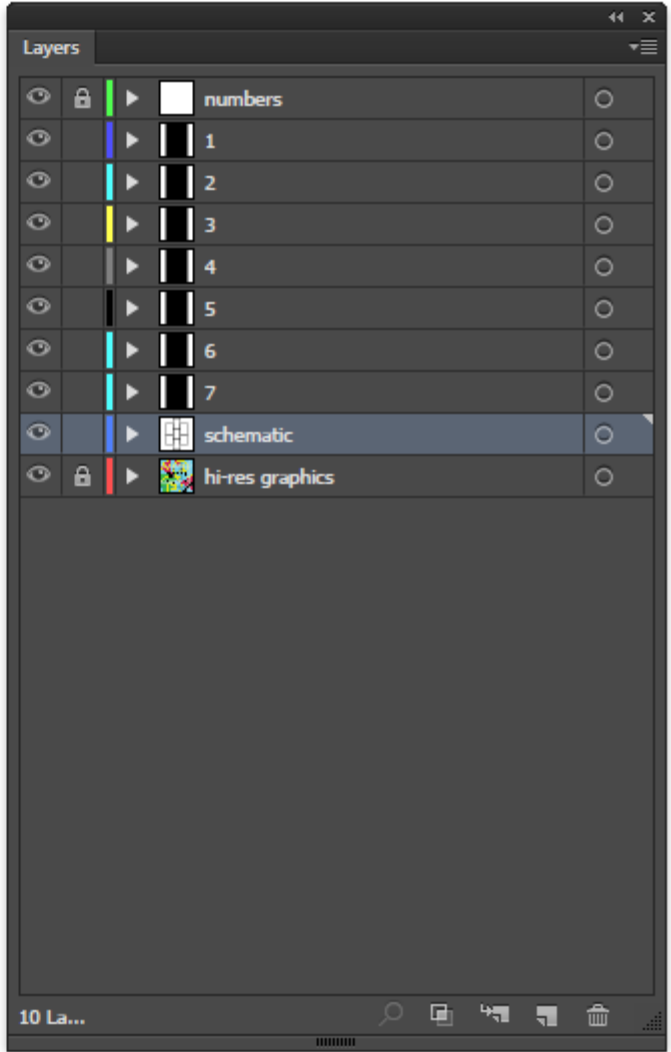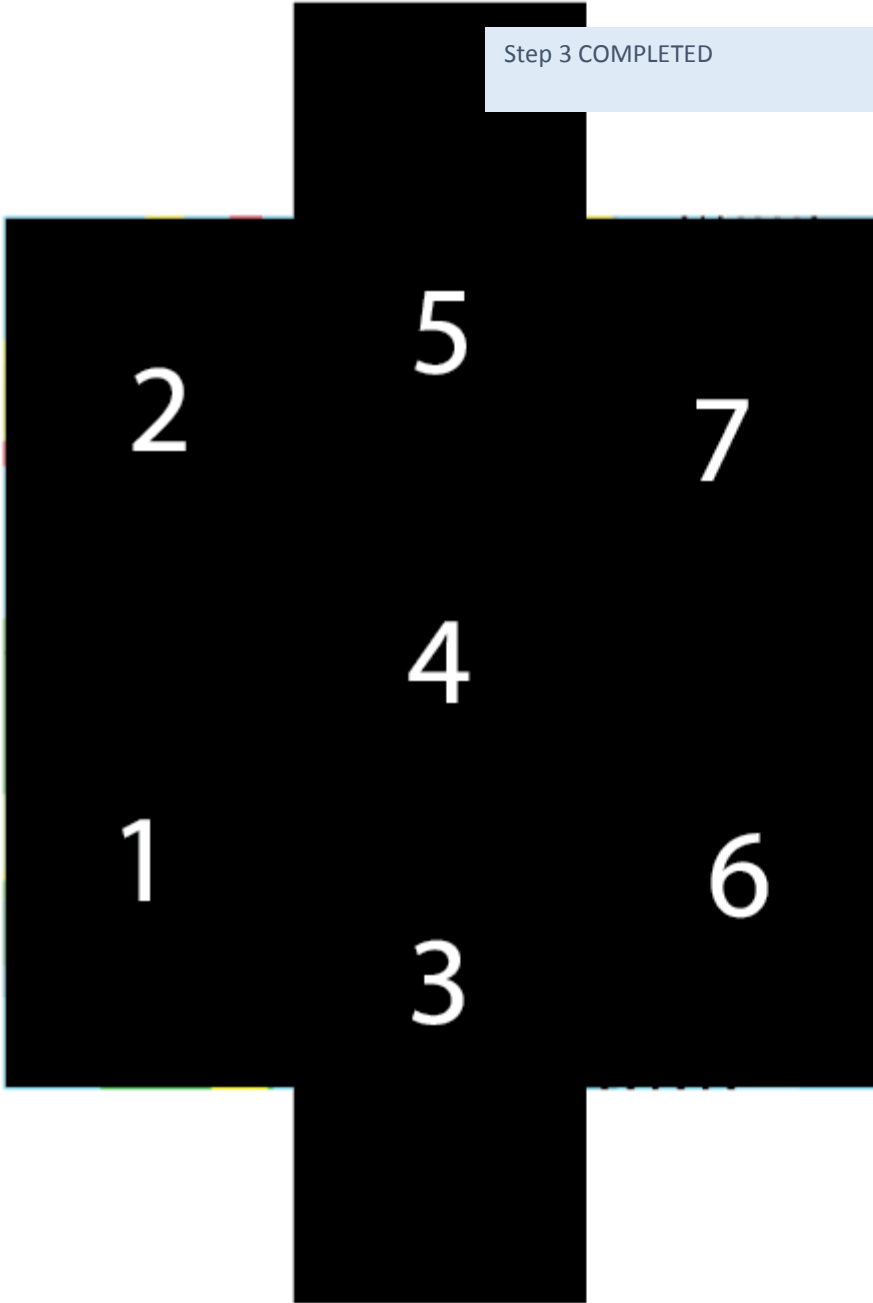3C. Hit Ctrl+X to cut this panel to the clipboard.

Layer Options

Name: 1

Color: ■ Medium...   ▼   ■

☐ Template   ☐ Lock
☑ Show   ☑ Print
☑ Preview   ☐ Dim Images to: 50%

OK   Cancel
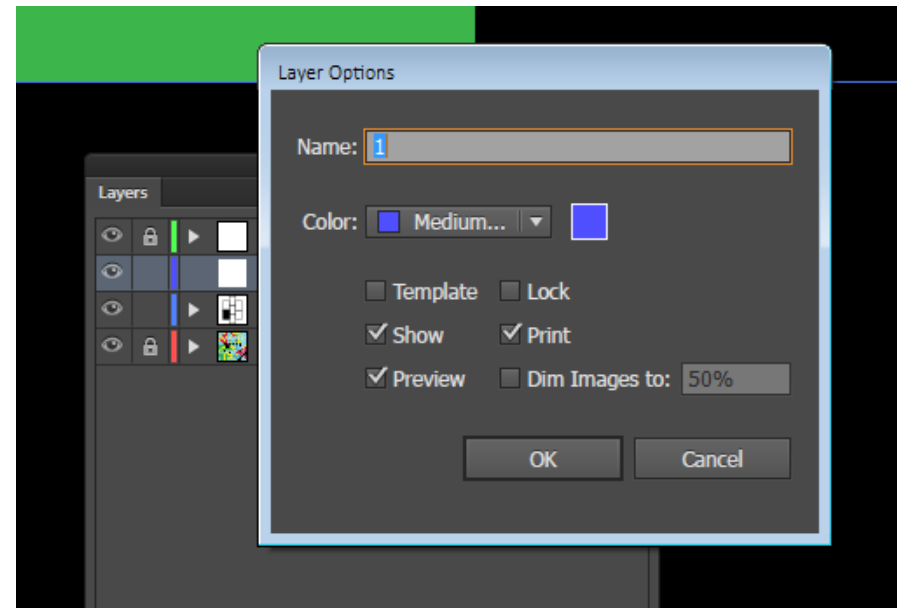
Layers

3D. In the layers toolbar, make a new layer and name it "1".

3E. The rectangle that you just changed to black should still be selected, so just Hit Ctrl+f to paste the black panel onto layer "1" without changing the panel's position relative to the graphic layer.

3. Now we will set up the file to handle the 0.1" bleed. (You will be working in AI.)
A. In AI, select panel 1 on the "Schematic" layer.
B. In the menu bar, select **Object>Path>Offset Path**. Create an offset path of 0.1"
With offset path still selected, change stroke to "none" and fill to "black."
C. Hit **Ctrl+x** to cut this panel to the clipboard.
D. In the layers toolbar, make a new layer. Name it "1."
E. Hit **Ctrl+f** to paste the black panel onto layer "1" without changing the panel's position relative to the graphic layer.
F. Turn off layer "1" so that the black panel is hidden from view.
Repeat these steps with each panel. When complete, you will have a separate layer for each black panel. Each black panel represents the area needed for each panel's artwork, including bleed.

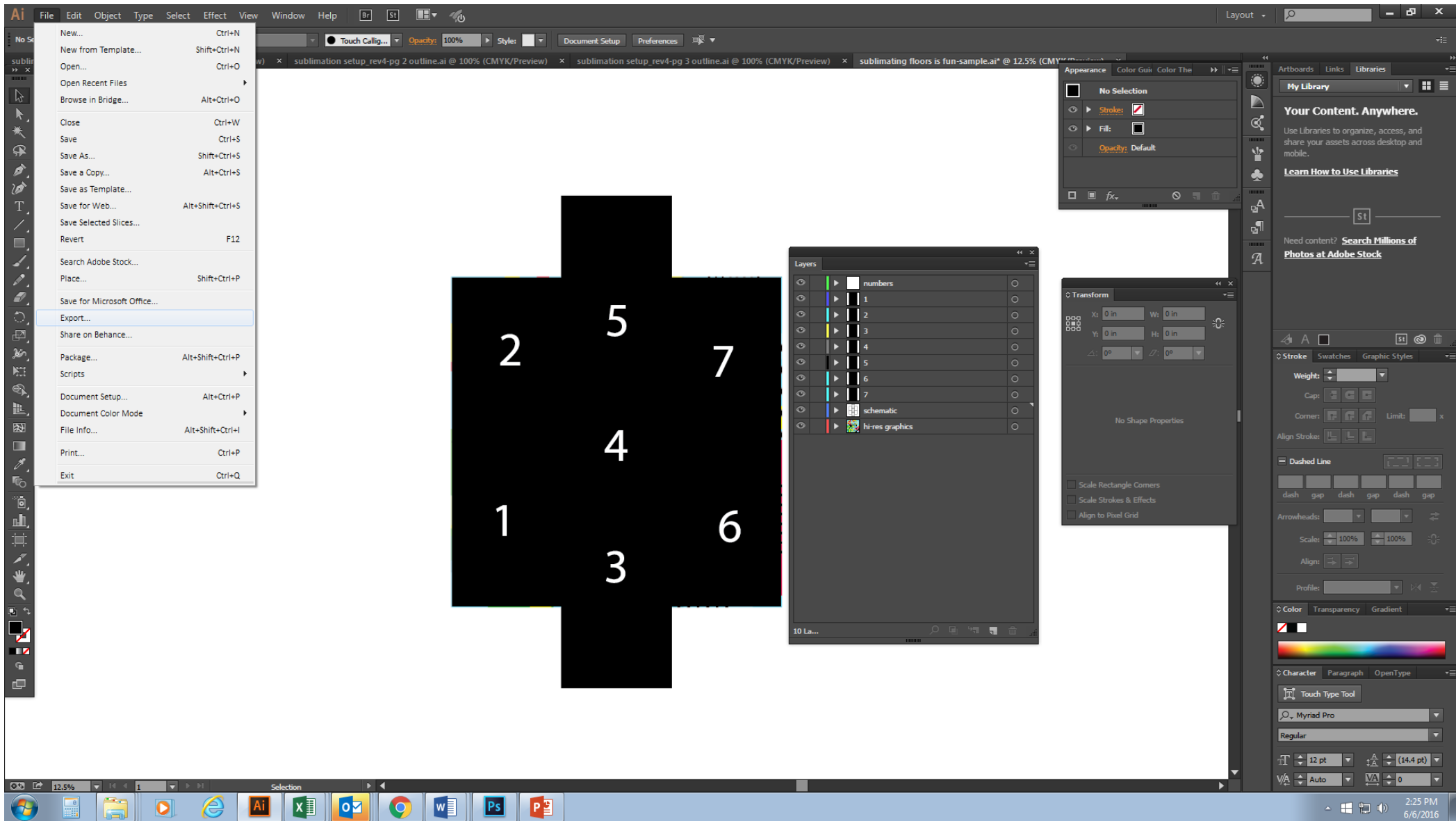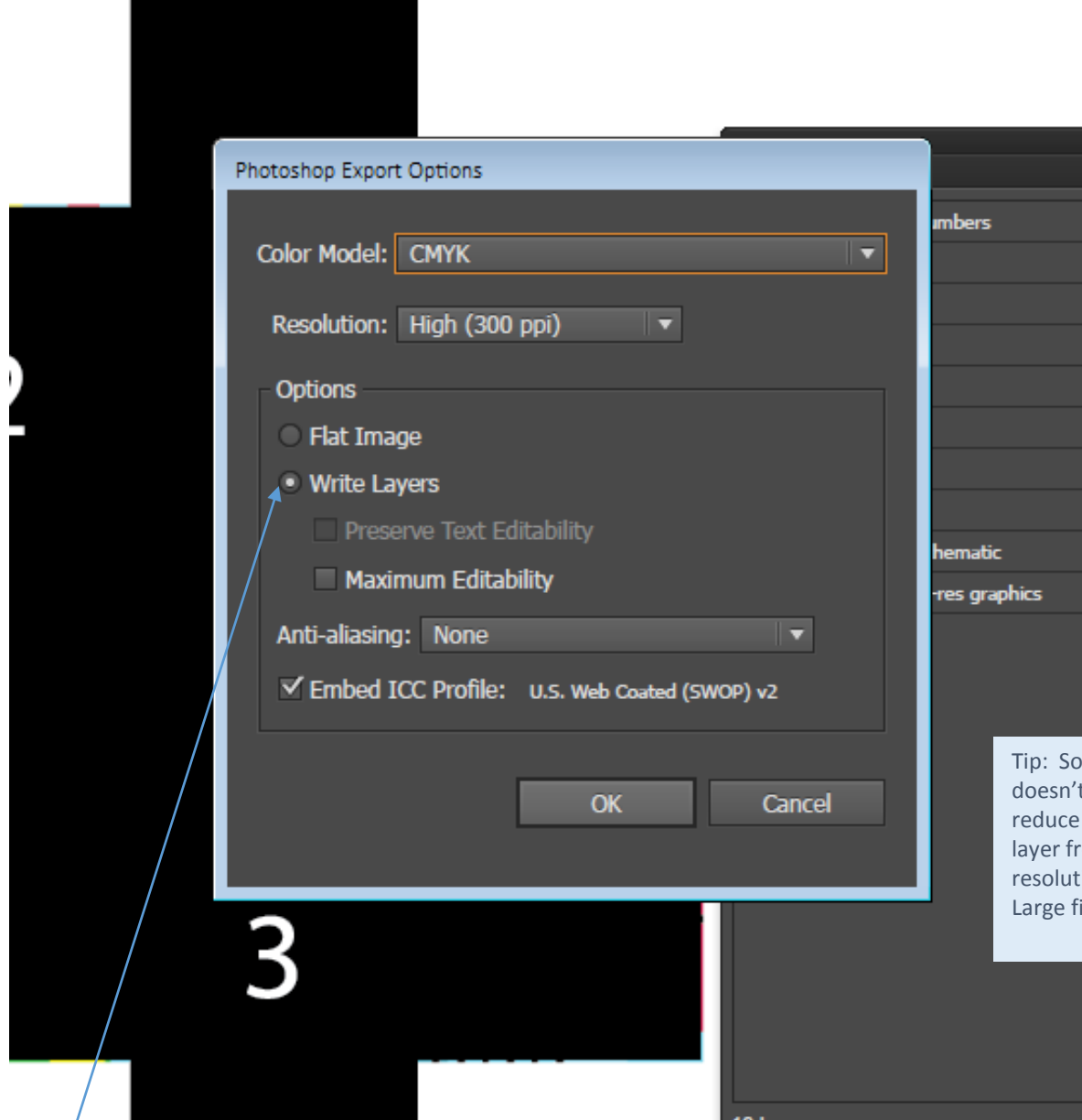**3. Now we will set up the file to handle the 0.1" bleed. (You will be working in AI.)**

A. In AI, select panel 1 on the "Schematic" layer.

B. In the menu bar, select **Object>Path>Offset Path**. Create an offset path of 0.1 With offset path still selected, change stroke to "none" and fill to "black."

C. Hit **Ctrl+x** to cut this panel to the clipboard.

D. In the layers toolbar, make a new layer. Name it "1."

E. Hit **Ctrl+f** to paste the black panel onto layer "1" without changing the panel's position relative to the graphic layer.

F. Turn off layer "1" so that the black panel is hidden from view.
Repeat these steps with each panel. When complete, you will have a separate layer for each black panel. Each black panel represents the area needed for each panel's artwork, including bleed.

3F. Turn off layer "1" so that the black panel is hidden from view. Repeat these steps with each panel. When complete, you will have a separate layer for each black panel. Each black panel represents the area needed for each panel's artwork, including bleed.

Step 3 COMPLETED

3. Now we will set up the file to handle the 0.1" bleed. (You will be working in AI.)

A. In AI, select panel 1 on the "Schematic" layer.

B. In the menu bar, select **Object>Path>Offset Path**. Create an offset path of 0.1"
With offset path still selected, change stroke to "none" and fill to "black."

C. Hit **Ctrl+x** to cut this panel to the clipboard.

D. In the layers toolbar, make a new layer. Name it "1."

E. Hit **Ctrl+f** to paste the black panel onto layer "1" without changing the panel's position relative to the graphic layer.

F. Turn off layer "1" so that the black panel is hidden from view. Repeat these steps with each panel. When complete, you will have a separate layer for each black panel. Each black panel represents the area needed for each panel's artwork, including bleed.

4. Export this document as a .psd, making sure the "write layers" box is checked when you hit save.
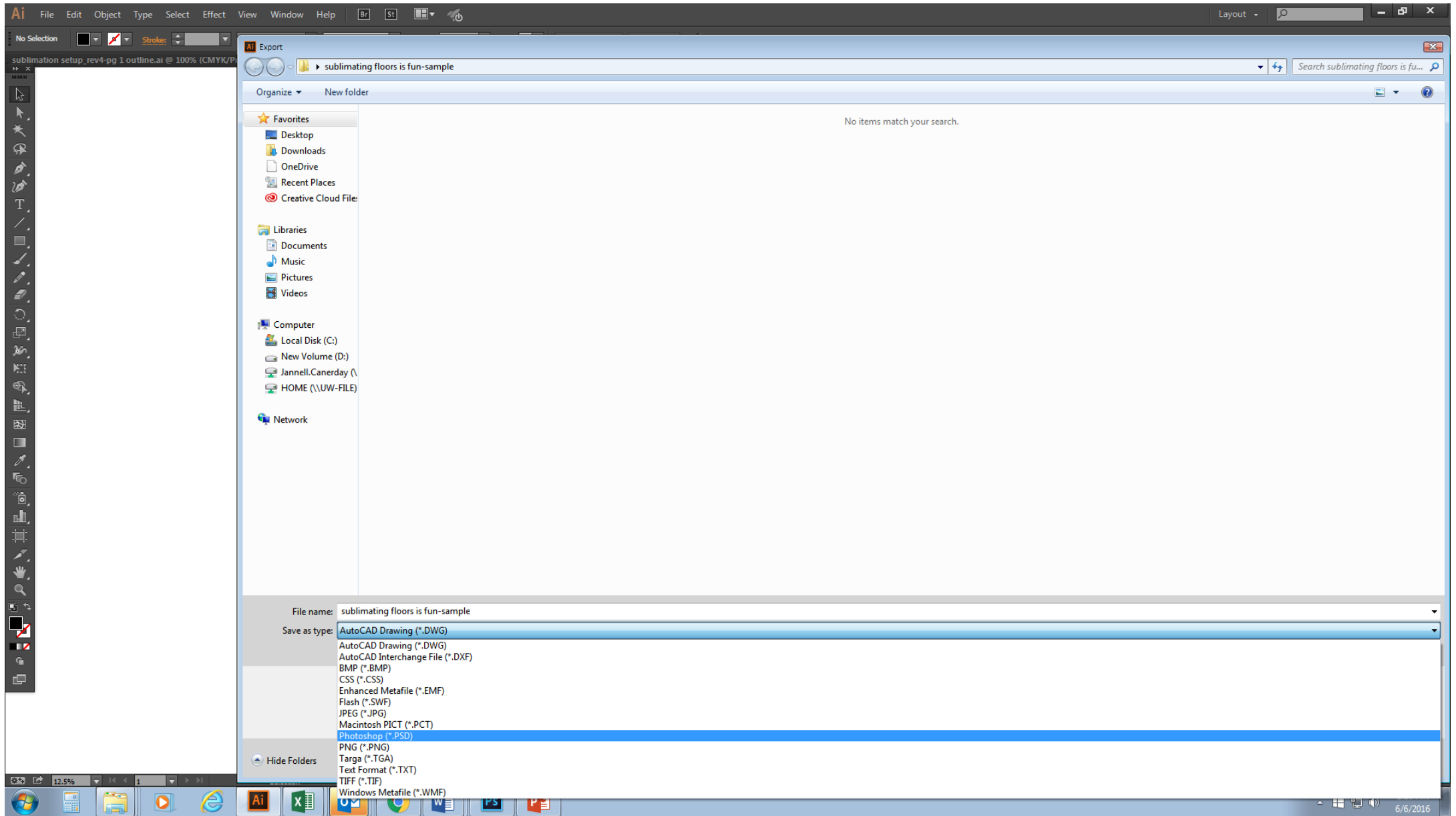
4. Export this document as a .psd, making sure the "write layers" box is checked when you hit save.

Photoshop Export Options

Color Model: CMYK

Resolution: High (300 ppi)

Options

○ Flat Image
◉ Write Layers
  ☐ Preserve Text Editability
  ☐ Maximum Editability

Anti-aliasing: None

☑ Embed ICC Profile: U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2

OK   Cancel

Tip: Sometimes the file is too big to save. If it doesn't save after a few minutes, you can try to reduce file size by removing the "hi-res graphics" layer from your file, and/or by reducing the resolution.
Large files may need to be formatted in sections.

4. Export this document as a .psd, making sure the "write layers" box is checked when you hit save.

Tip: "Numbers" and "Hi Res Graphics" layers are locked so you won't accidentally move or select them.

5. Open up this document in .psd.
Each layer should be separate. Turn off all layers except the hi-res artwork.
You may want to save an extra copy as "[Filename]_backup.psd" just to be on the safe side.

6a: Turn on Panel 1.
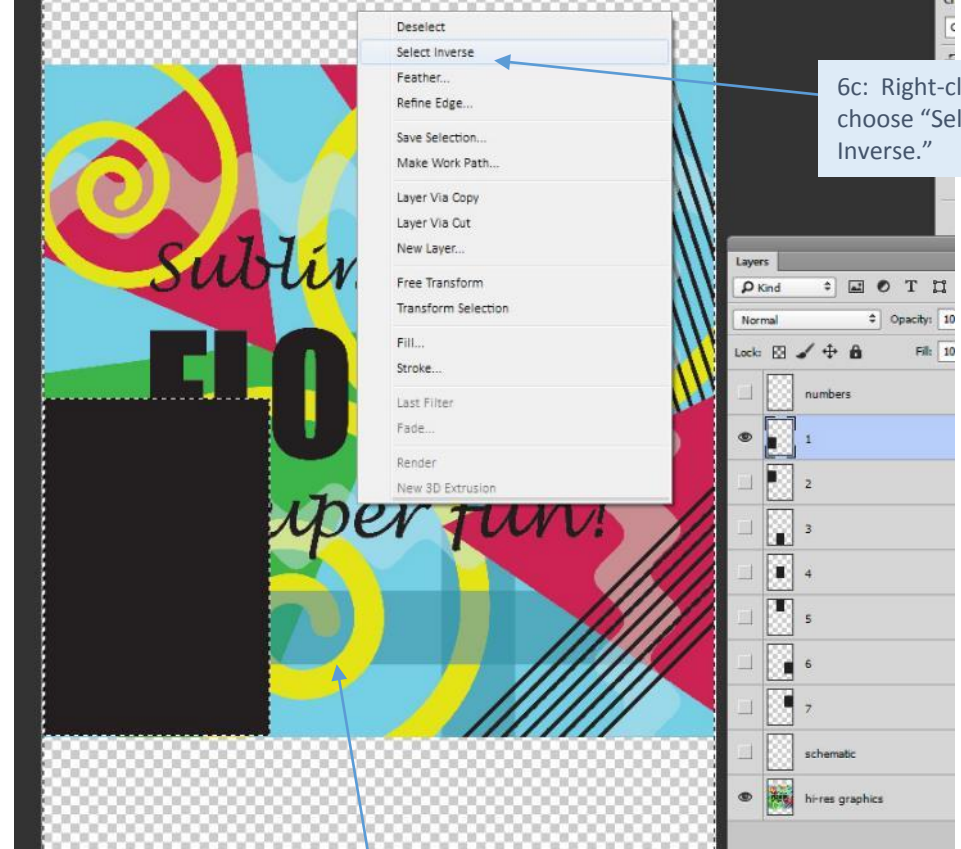
6c: Right-click and choose "Select Inverse."

6: Use magic wand tool to select area OUTSIDE black panel.

6. Now we will begin cutting out artwork, with bleed, for each panel.

A. Turn on layer "1". You should see a black panel appear.

B. With this layer selected, use magic wand tool to select the area OUTSIDE the black panel.

C. Right-click and "select inverse."

D. Now turn off layer "1". Only your artwork and the marching ants around the panel should be visible. Hit Ctrl+c to copy the artwork to the clipboard.

Then, if you are using a template, follow Option 6a. If you are not using a template, follow Option 6b.

marching ants

6d: Turn off Panel 1 and click on the hi-res graphics layer. Hit Ctrl+c to copy artwork to clipboard.
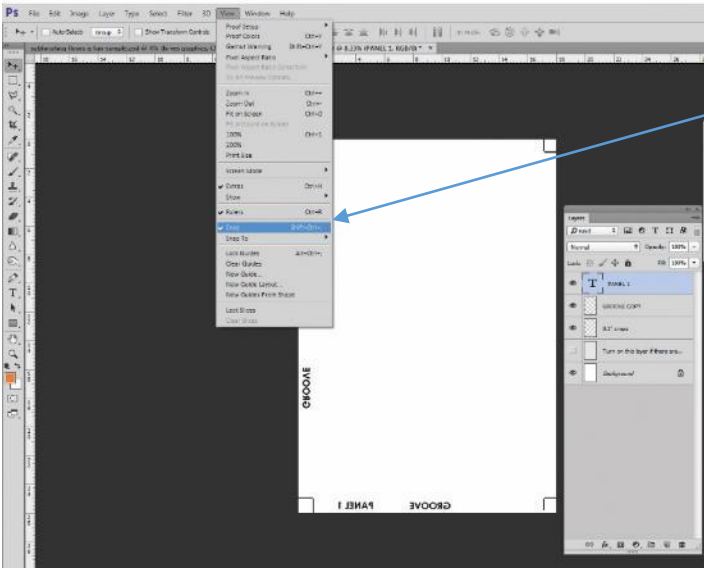
Make sure View>Snap is turned on.

Tip: Rename layer to appropriate panel number.

Align artwork to guides.

Change panel number to correct number.

Option 6b: With artwork selected, go to Image>Crop. Save image as a .jpeg, or preferred graphic format. (Do NOT save as .psd, because you will need to go back in your history to complete the rest of the panels.)

Later, add notations for groove sides and communicate bleed to sublimation team.

After saving image, go back in your history layer to restore all artwork and layers, and repeat process for panel 2, etc...

OPTION 6a (if using template)
E. Open appropriate template. Make sure "snap to guides" and "snap to grid" is turned on.
F. Hit Ctrl+v to paste artwork into template. Make sure artwork is aligned against the guides. Change panel number to correct number.
G. Save as "[panel_number].jpeg" (or preferred graphic format.)
H. Now, repeat this process starting with layer "2," following steps until an art file for each panel has been created.

OPTION 6b (if not using template)
Alternatively, at step E:
E. Crop to the selected area by going to Image>Crop. Save this as "[panel_number].jpeg" (or preferred graphic format).
F. After saving the .jpeg, go to history panel and go back to the step before you cropped the image. All your artwork and layers will reappear.
G. Now, repeat this process starting with panel layer "2," following steps until all panels have been cropped.
You will then need to label the groove sides and indicate the bleed to the sublimation team so they know how to align panels to artwork.
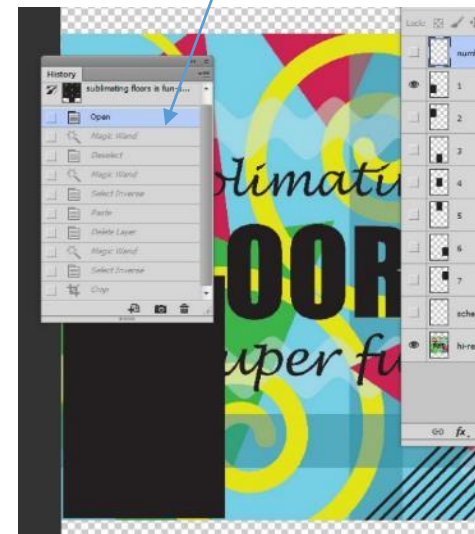
Artwork ready for printing and sublimation

Schematic

Demonstrate bleed and how artwork is set up

Preferred sublimation instructions

7. Fill out "communicating bleed and registration placement instructions.pdf" with info appropriate to your installation.
PG1: Paste a picture of the overall schematic. List installation size and number of panels needed to fill the order.
PG2: Show a 1:1 corner detail that illustrates the bleed used. Call out any important details about how the panel artwork is formatted.
PG3: Contains a draft of sublimation instructions for reference.

TROUBLESHOOTING:

- Don't forget to include bleed on your original "hi-res graphics" artwork.
- Make sure you are working at the same resolution for all files throughout Illustrator and Photoshop.
- File size may be a limiting factor, in which case you may need to work in smaller sections.
- Treat panels which are to be cut to fit in the installation site as entire panels.
- Panels with a lot of white space may benefit from turning on the grey background layer in the artwork template .psd file, so that you can see the bleed more easily.

Good job!

You can also create your own custom designs for mix-and-match panels. For these types of designs, the artwork setup is simpler because the graphics are not stretching across multiple panels.

Simply create the artwork to match the size of the panel you will be sublimating, and add the bleed amount of your choice, making sure to communicate which sides are groove/tongue as well as the amount of bleed needed to the sublimation team.