

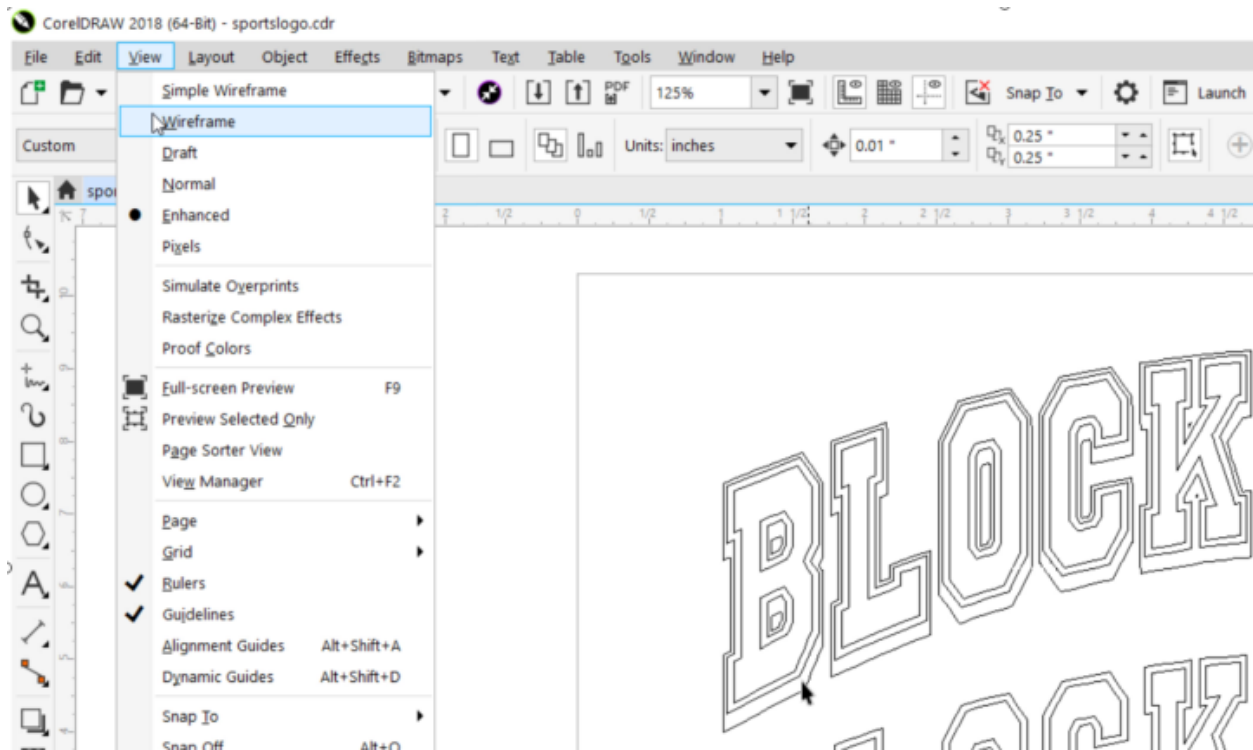
Adding Depth to your Designs with the Block Shadow Tool

In this tutorial we will cover working with the **Block Shadow** tool introduced in CorelDRAW 2018. The Block Shadow tool is a dynamic interactive tool very similar to the **Extrude** tool but simplified, giving you the ability to easily add depth and dimension to your designs, as you can see with this soccer logo.



One of the benefits of working with the Block Shadow tool is that it is simplified compared to the Extrude tool. This makes this tool ideal for those of you who are working with vinyl or other materials and cutting with a plotter, those of you who need nice clean lines. When you go through the Extrude tool you can end up with many different vector objects. With the Block

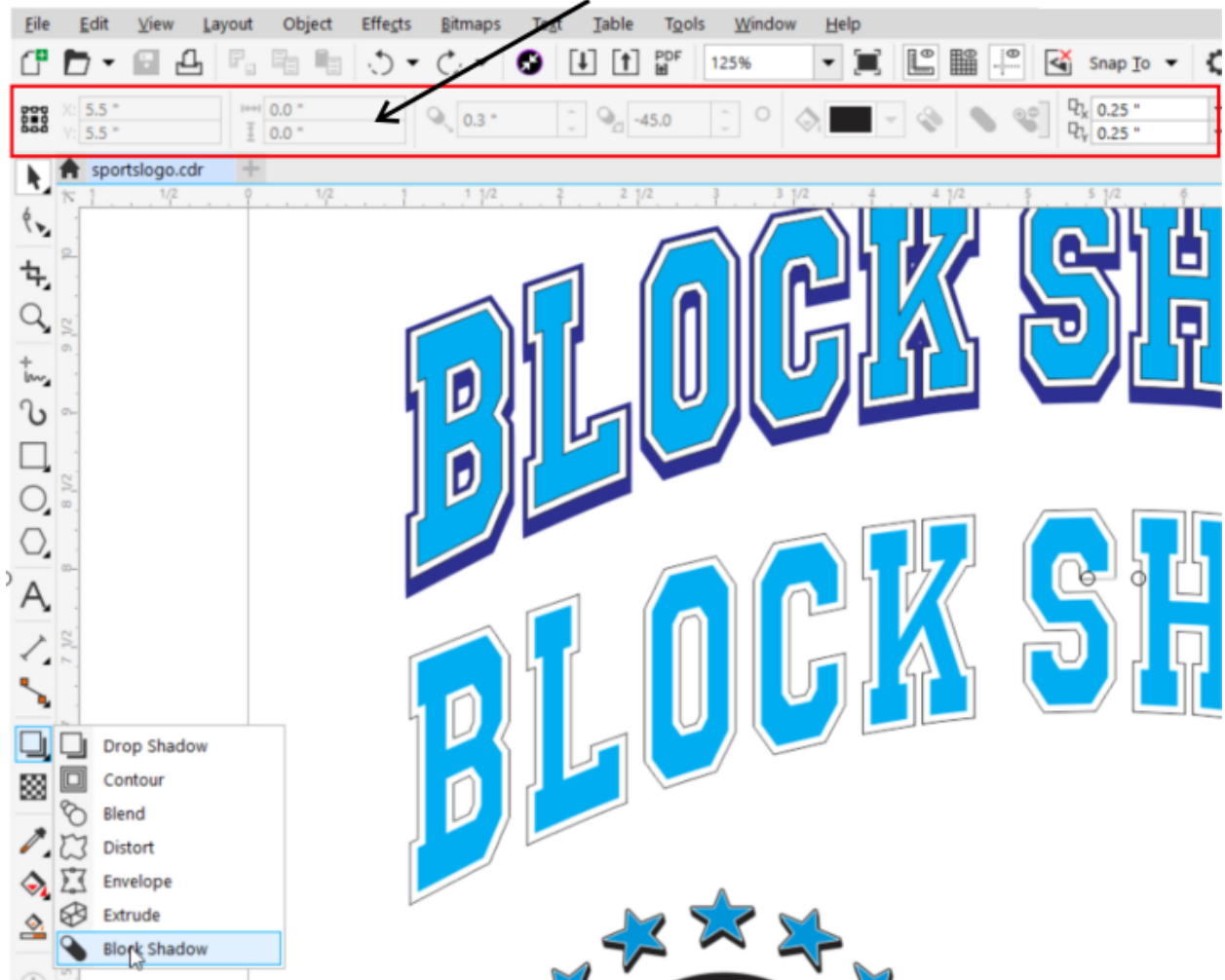
Shadow tool, you get a very simple vector line or object. If I go to **View > Wireframe**, you can see that. Zoom in and you can see the block shadow has nice clean lines without all of the vector elements and line segments that would be created by the Extrude tool.



Go back to **View > Enhanced** and we'll take a look at the basic functionality of the Block Shadow tool.

The Block Shadow tool can be found in the menu item for interactive tools, which is typically set to the Drop Shadow tool. Click the menu icon and the flyout menu will pop out. The last tool on the flyout is the Block Shadow tool. Click on it and you can see the icon will change on your cursor to indicate that you now have the Block Shadow tool selected. You will also notice that the **Properties** bar will change to the Block Shadow property bar.

Block Shadow Properties Bar



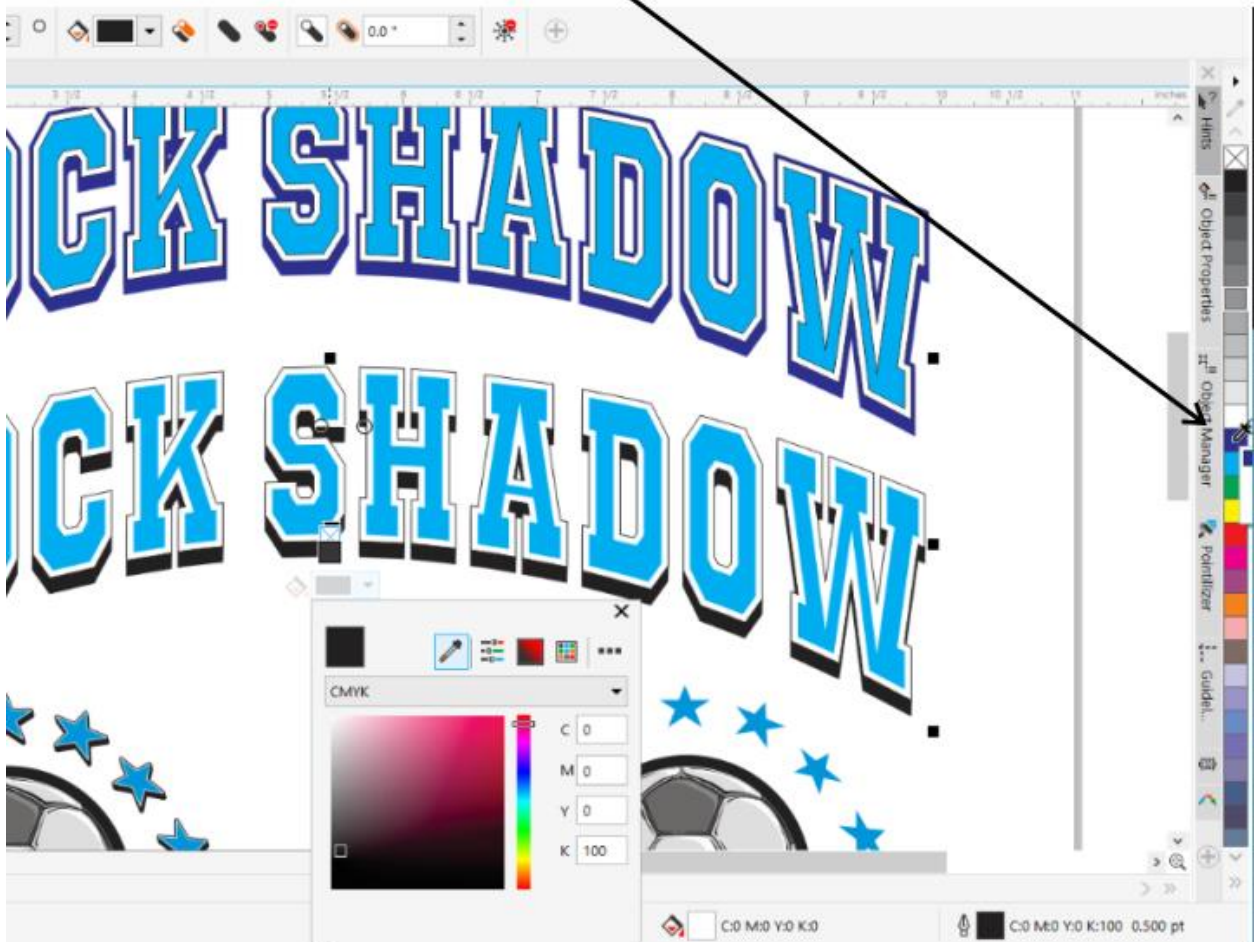
To create a Block Shadow, select the white outline around the block shadow text. Click one time to select it then click and hold the left mouse button as you pull down and position vertically. You can change the position simply by moving your mouse around while holding down the left mouse button.

Pull down vertically with the Block Shadow tool, release the left mouse button, and you have created a block shadow.

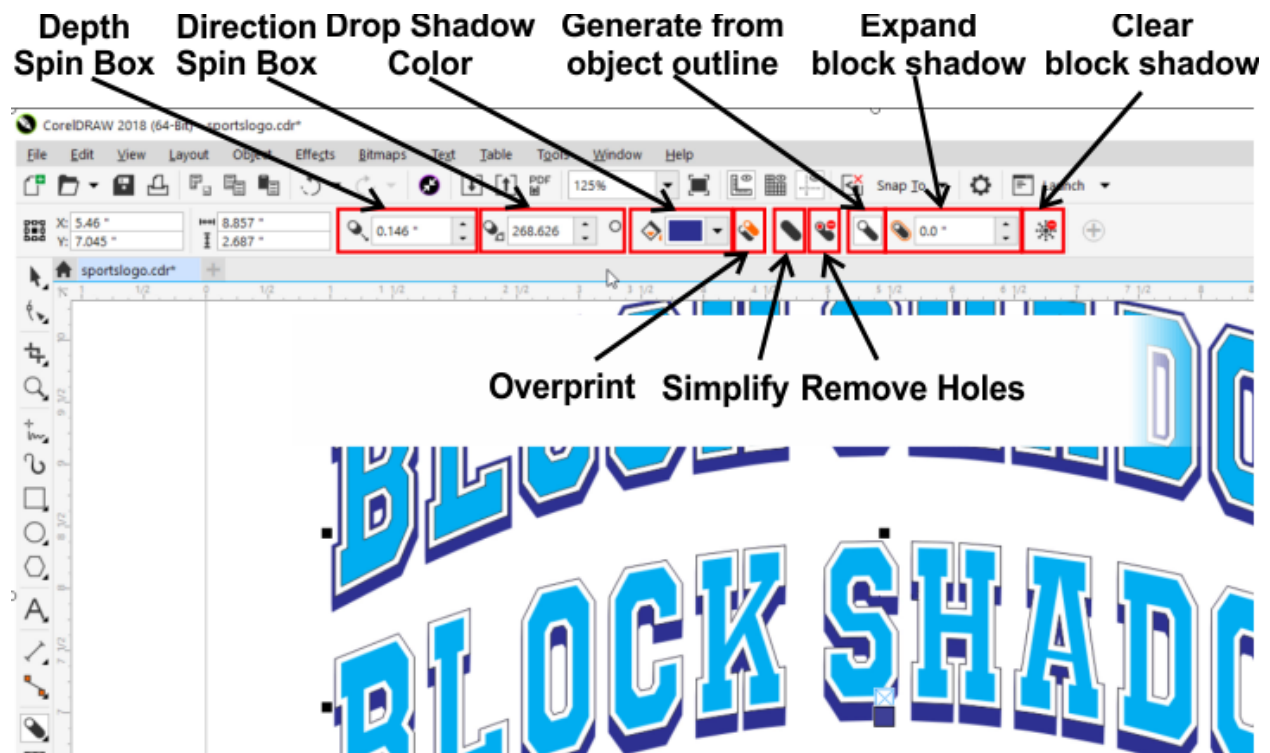


Once you have created a block shadow you can change the color by selecting the Eyedropper tool and choosing a dark blue from the Color Palette. Click on the X to close the block shadow color and that will change block shadow color.

Eye Dropper



Once a block shadow has been created, the options and features for the block shadow properties bar will be enabled. There is a **depth spin** box. You can click the up or down arrow or right click and hold down on your mouse from the center between the two arrows in the box and move your mouse forwards or backwards to change the block shadow depth. You can do the same thing with the **direction spin** box. You can change the color of the block shadow with the **block shadow color picker**. You can set your block shadow to overprint with the **overprint** option. You can **simplify** your block shadow. You can enable **remove holes**, which will remove any holes in a block shadow. You can enable **generate from object outline** which enables the expand block shadow spin box. If you disable that, it will disable the expand block shadow spin box.



Enable **generate from outline** and then go to the **expand block shadow** spin box and push it up to about **7**. And you will see the block shadow has expanded creating block shadow with an outline effect.



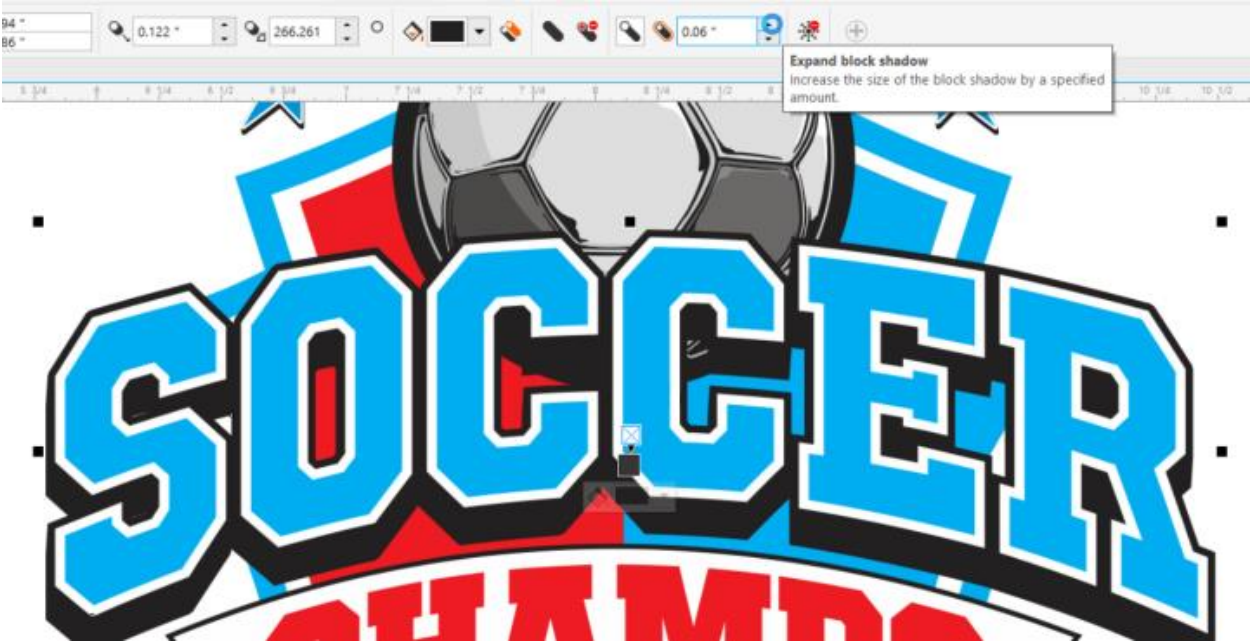
Let's take a look at working with the Block Shadow tool and see how we can very easily and quickly dress up a design to give it some more depth. Here we have 2 soccer logo designs. The one on the left has some block shadows applied to it and we can see that it really gives the design some depth compared to the version on the right with no block shadows.



Working with the logo on the right, zoom in to the area with the stars. With the block shadow tool selected, click on the stars and pull down to add a block shadow effect.



Now apply a block shadow to the soccer text and apply some expansion to it.



Now add a block shadow to the CHAMPS text.



Continue adding a block shadow effect to the other elements in the logo. When you are finished, zoom out and you can see how the interactive block shadow tool allows us to very quickly and easily enhance this design by giving it some depth and dimension.

