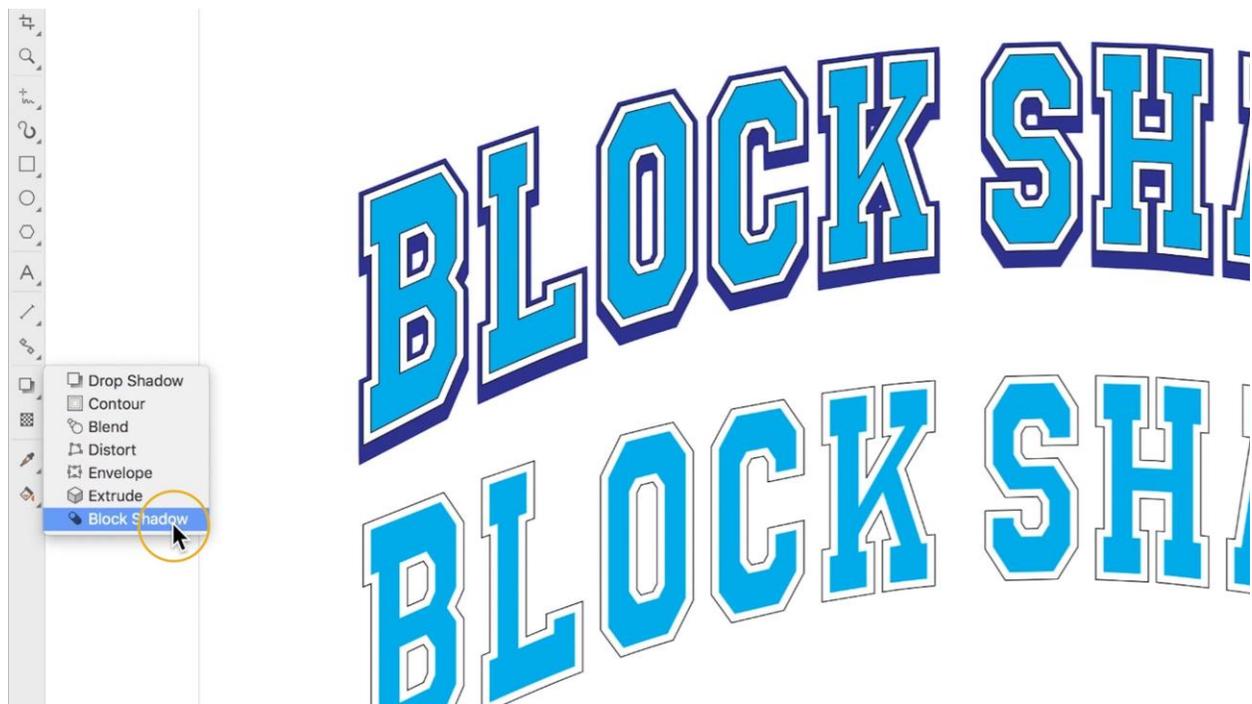


How to Use the Block Shadow Tool in CorelDRAW

In this tutorial you will learn how to use the **Block Shadow** tool to easily add depth to your designs. Block Shadow creates vector shadows similar to the Extrude tool, through a greatly simplified, but dynamic process.

Step 1: Select the Block Shadow Tool

In the toolbar, find the icon for interactive tools near the bottom (usually set to **Drop Shadow** by default) and click the arrow to open the flyout menu. Select the **Block Shadow** tool (the last tool on the list). Your cursor icon will change to the Block Shadow symbol, and your Properties bar will change to show Block Shadow properties at the top of your screen.



Step 2: Apply a Block Shadow

With the Block Shadow tool selected, click the outline of the text or object to which you want to apply a block shadow. With the object selected, click on the object and drag to position your shadow, which is represented by a thin blue outline of the object.



When you let go, CorelDRAW will generate a block shadow!

Step 3: Change the Block Shadow Color

When you let go to apply the block shadow, a color selection dropdown will appear. Click into the dropdown and use the **Eyedropper** tool or select a color from the **Color** palette to change the color of the block shadow.



You can also change its color through the color selection dropdown in the Properties bar.

Step 4: Adjust Your Block Shadow

Let's review some of the settings on the property bar, that you can use to adjust the block shadow.



Depth Spin Box

Use the up/down arrows or type a new value into the **Depth** spin box to adjust the *depth* of your block shadow.

Direction Spin Box

Use the up/down arrows or type a new value into the **Direction** spin box to adjust the *angle* of your block shadow.

The next three adjustments: Overprint, Simplify, and Remove Holes, are especially useful when designing for print or vinyl cutout.

Overprint

Click the **Overprint** icon to cause your block shadow to print on top of underlying objects. Rather than underlying colors being canceled out by the printer, they will actually be printed one on top of another.

Simplify

Click the **Simplify** icon to trim all overlapping areas between the object and the block shadow, simplifying the print job to eliminate any potential overprinting.

Remove Holes

Click the **Remove Holes** icon to remove holes from your Block Shadow, creating a continuous shadow behind your Object. This is also helpful for vinyl cut projects when you don't want small shapes being cut out separately.

Generate from Object Outline

Click the **Generate from Object Outline** icon to include the object outline when creating your block shadow. This will enable the **Expand Block Shadow** spin box.

Expand Block Shadow

Use the up/down arrows or type a new value in the **Expand Block Shadow** spin box to expand your block shadow equally in all directions.

Step 5: Practice with Block Shadow

Using the soccer logo in the exercise file, select different objects from the soccer logo on the right, and practice making adjustments using the tools described above to give the design more depth and dimension, as seen on the left soccer logo.

