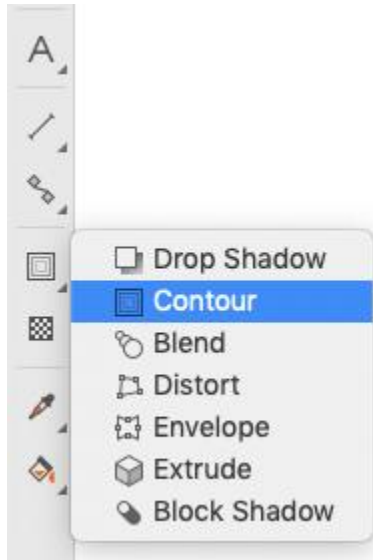


Adding Effects to Text

In this tutorial, we'll look at some of the fun effects you can apply to text in CorelDRAW. First, we'll use the tools in the **Interactive Effects** toolbox, then we'll use some of the tools in the **Shape** toolbox.

2D Effects: Contour, Blend, Envelope

We'll start with 2D effects. With all these tools, I can either start with the object selected, or I can select the object within the tool.

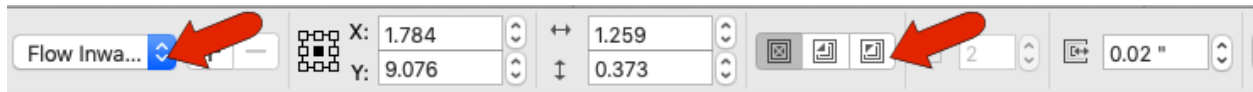


The examples in this tutorial will start with this artistic text selected.

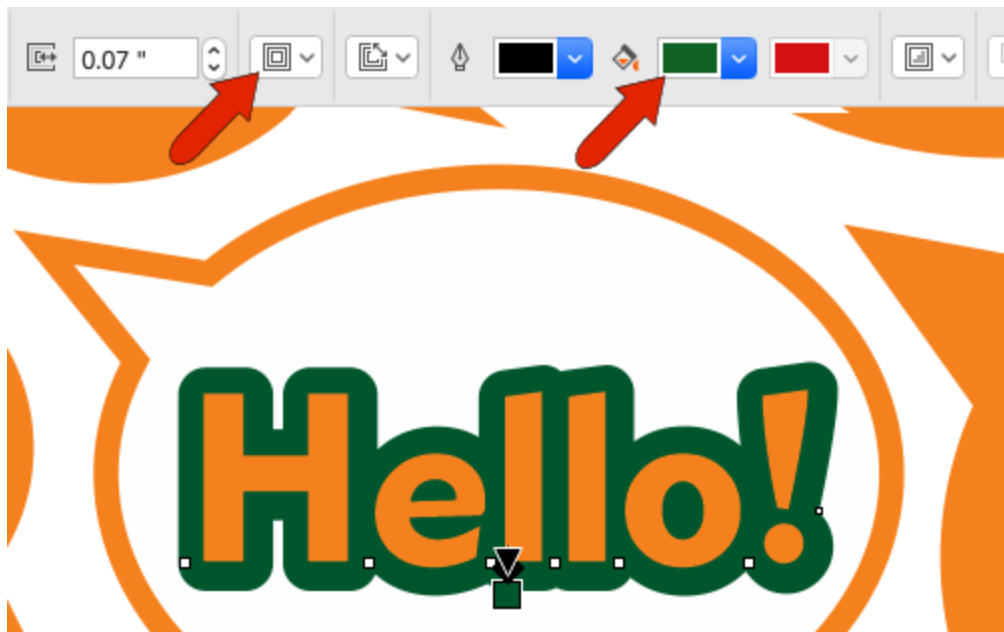


Contour

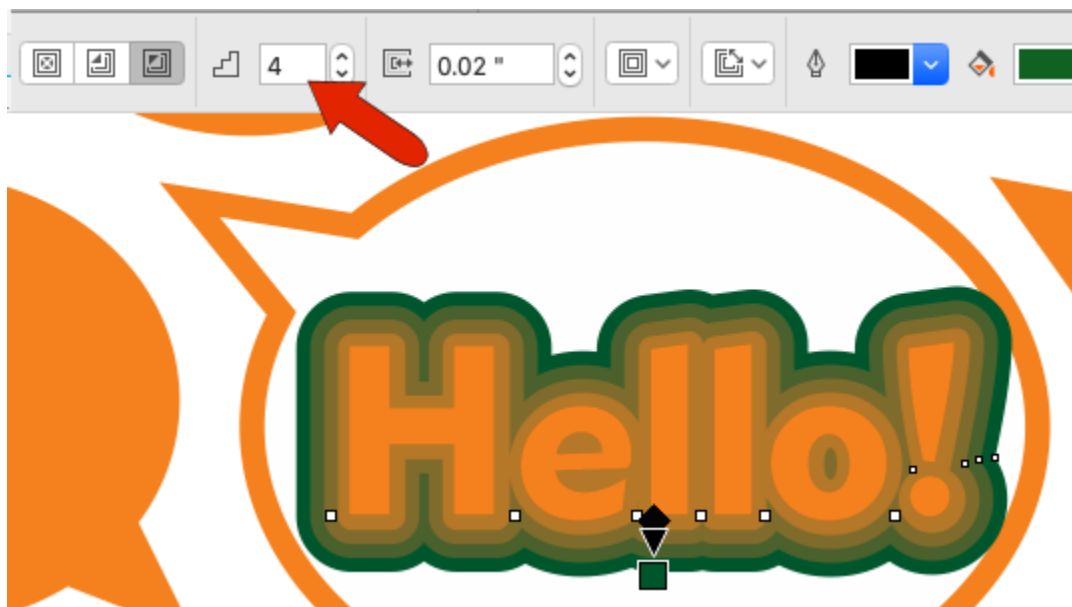
Choose **Contour** from the toolbox. All the effect tools have a few presets, as well as options in the **Property Bar**.



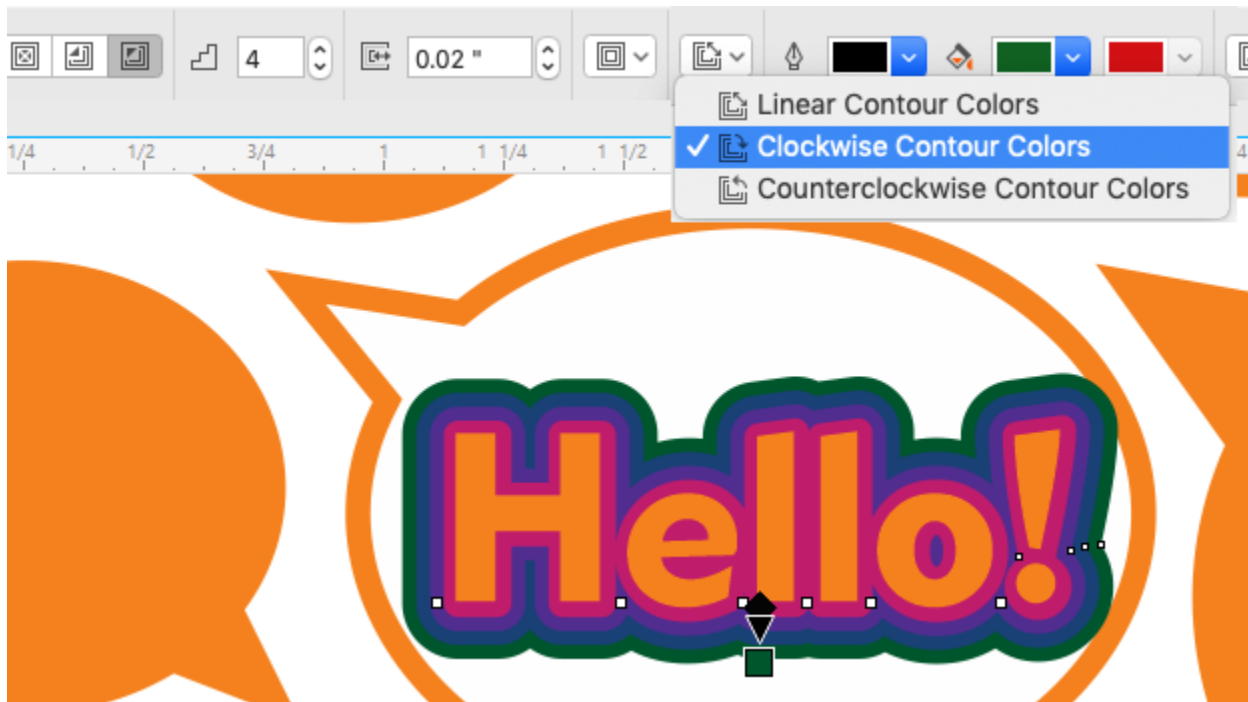
With the **Contour** tool, you can click and drag inward to offset each character inward or click and drag outward. Dragging the black square increases the offset, and the outlines are trimmed at the overlaps. There are options for rounding corners and setting fill color.



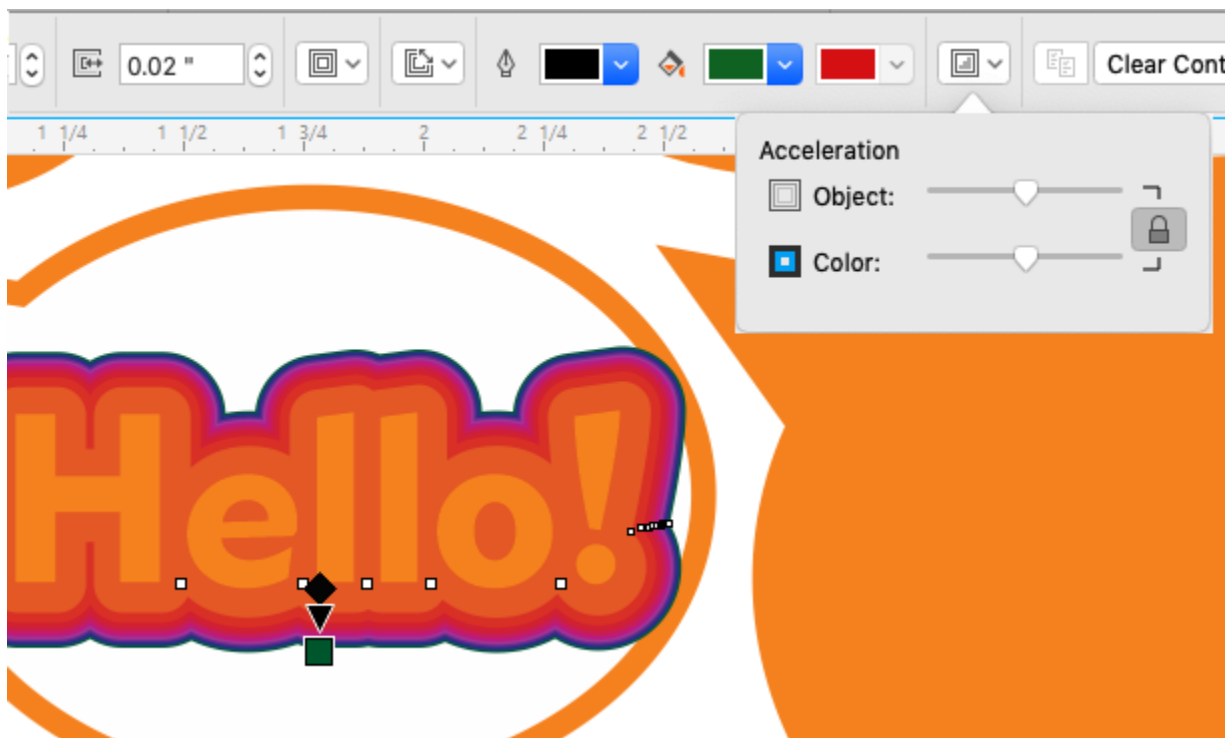
Try increasing the number of contour steps, then reduce the offset.



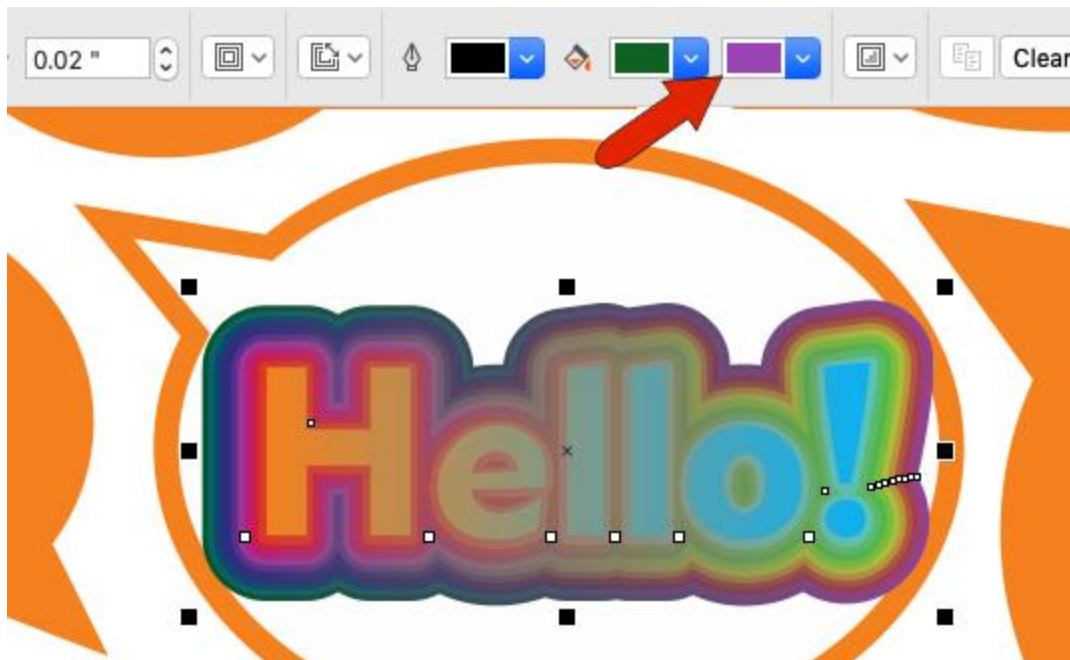
These options control how the colors proceed from the object color to the contour fill at the outer edge.



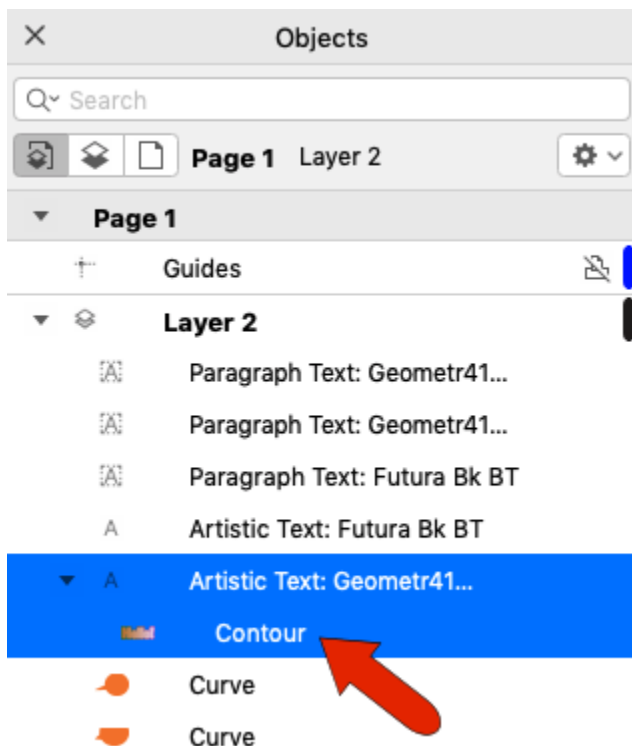
A high number of steps creates a nice gradient effect, and you can control the level of acceleration from start to finish.



If the text has a non-solid fill, such as a fountain fill, the contour colors can also change within their steps. And you can set a second fill color.



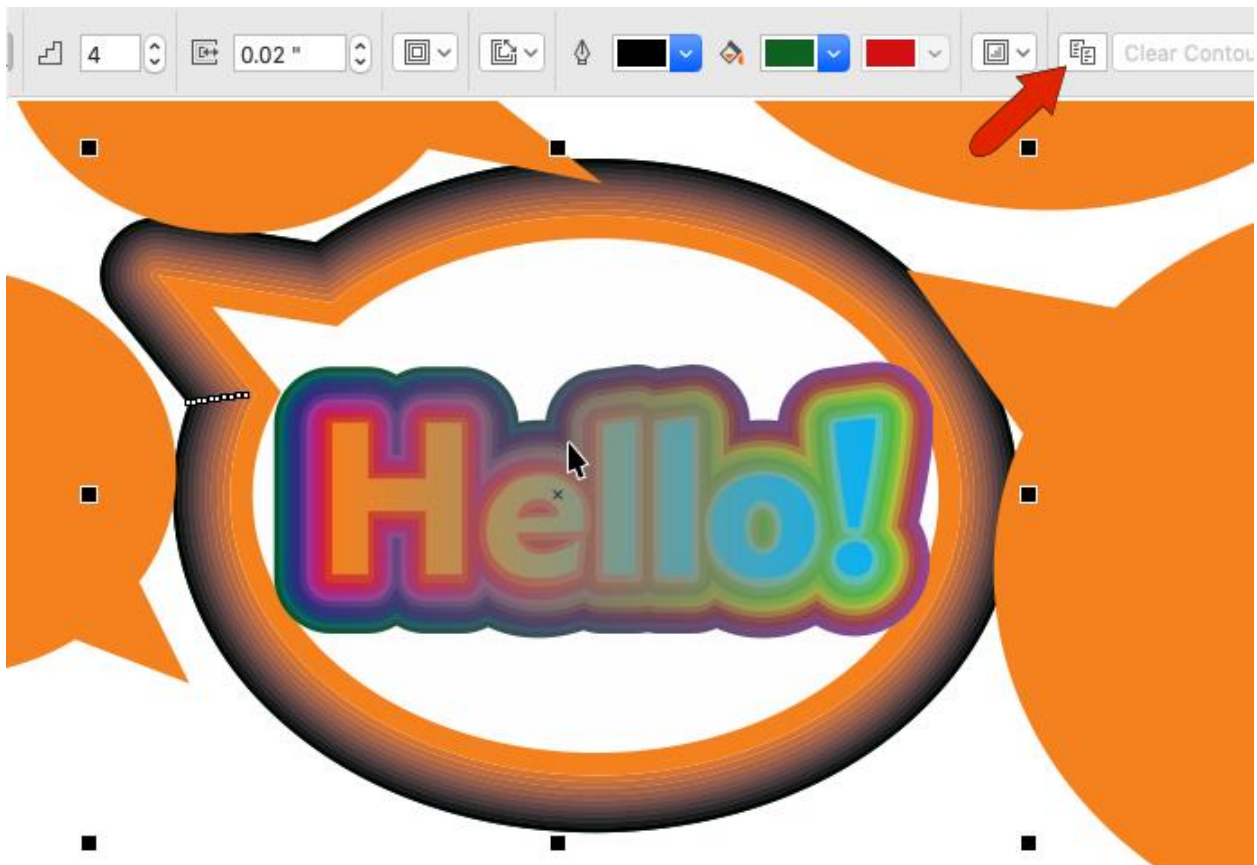
In the **Objects** inspector, note that **Contour** is an effect applied to the text.



You can break apart the contour, and move the contour group away, preserving the original text.



Also note that these effects can be applied to any objects, not just artistic text. For example, you can click and drag the bubble to apply the same contour. Or with the bubble selected and **Contour** the active tool, you can click the **Copy** icon, and choose the text contour to copy and apply.



This effect cannot be applied to paragraph text, however. For this effect, and the others in this toolbox, you would have to convert paragraph text to artistic.

Blend

Blend creates a progression from one object to another. Copy the text object and change its color.



Activate **Blend** and drag from one object to the other.



In this example, the blue text is on top, but you can change the order in the **Objects** inspector.

By default, there are 20 steps between the two objects, but you can change this. You can also change progression to the color spectrum and adjust acceleration.



If you move one of the two text objects, the blend adjusts. You can even change the font and size.

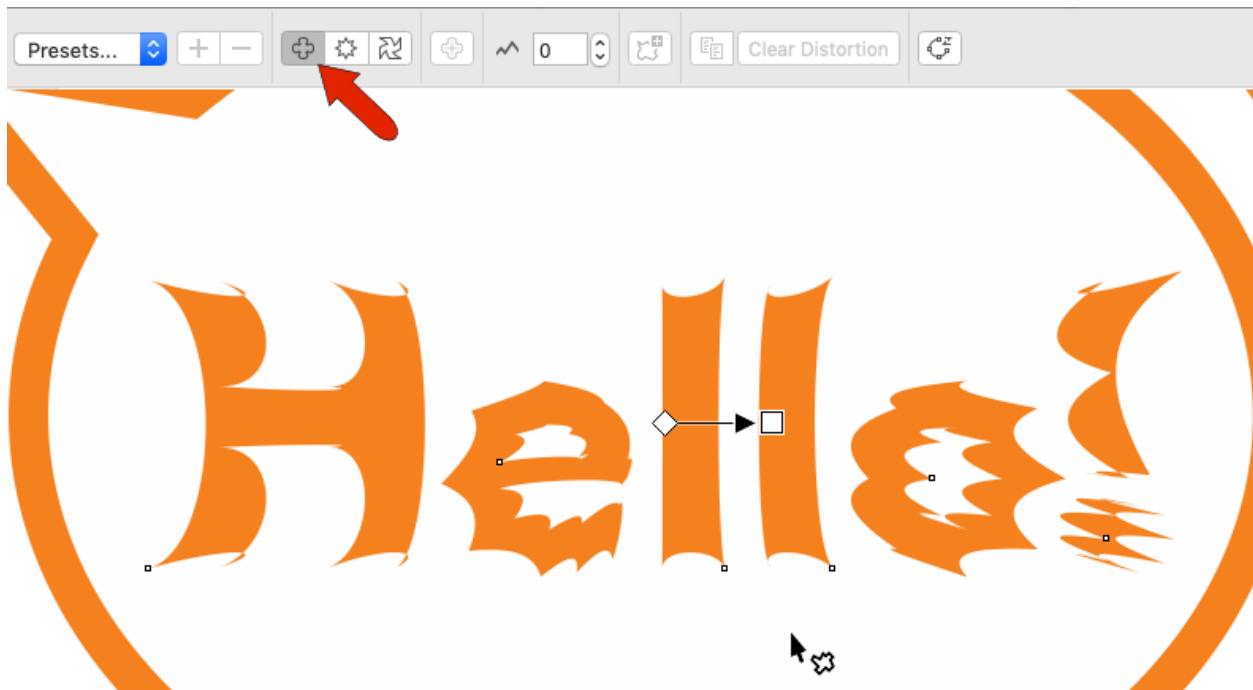


This blend can also be broken apart and ungrouped, to allow for additional modifications.

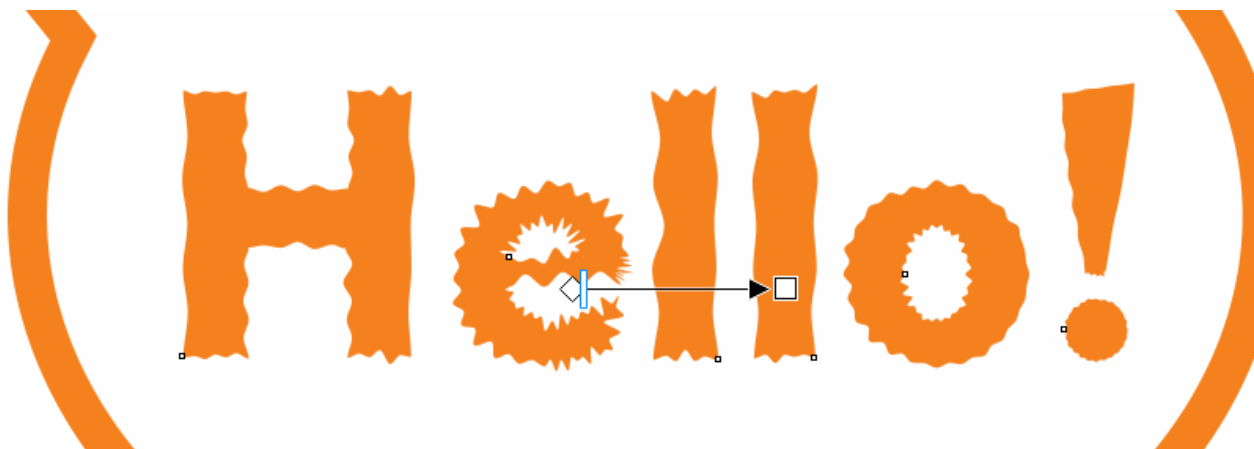
Distort

There are three types of distortion: **Push and Pull**, **Zipper** and **Twister**.

Push and Pull pulls out all the surrounding edges of each object. You can drag the diamond to center the effect or click the **Center** icon. You can drag the square to change the amplitude.



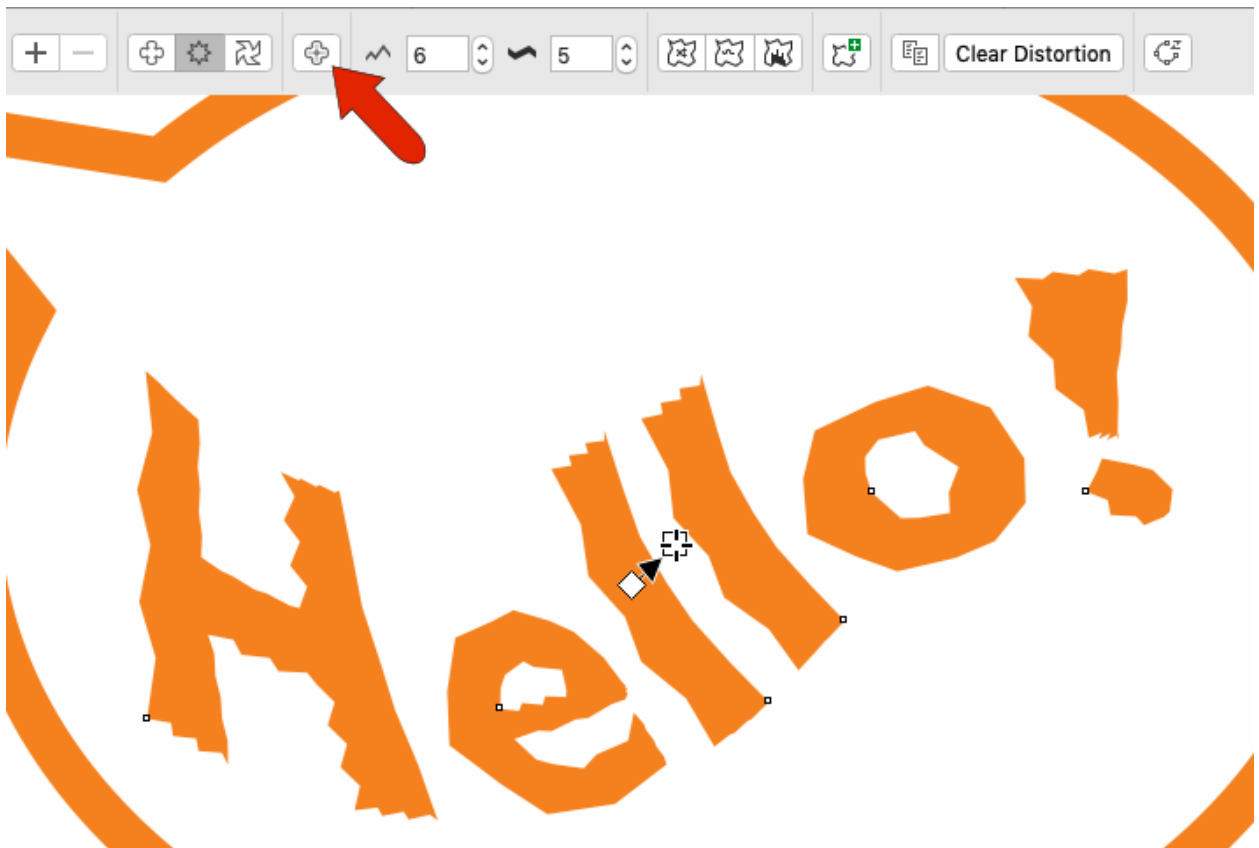
Click **Clear Distortion**, then try **Zipper**, which adds a sawtooth effect. You can adjust amplitude or frequency, or randomize, smooth or localize, which reduces the effect the farther you go from the center.



Twister produces a swirl effect, and you can drag the center point of the swirl or change the rotation.



You can use this icon to add a new distortion, in this case, a zipper effect on top of the twisted text.

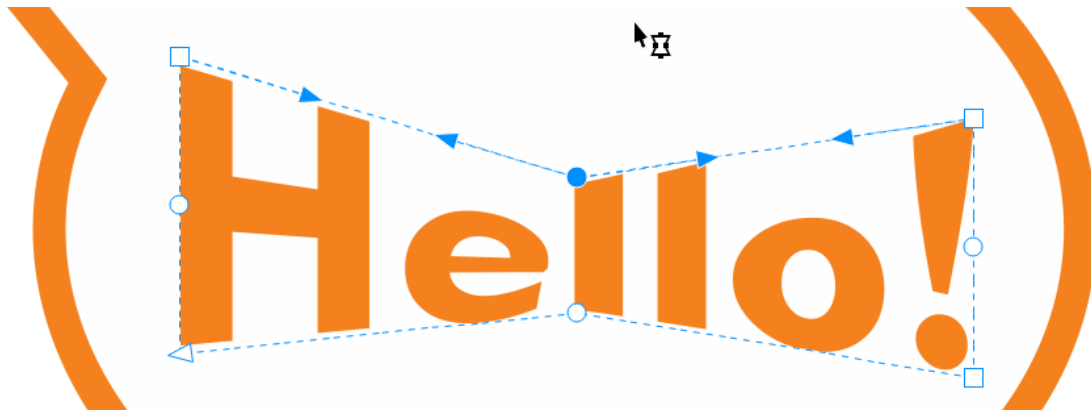


Envelope

This tool fits text to the edges of a closed curve. The default mode is **Unconstrained**, which works like the **Shape** tool. You can drag nodes to distort the text, double-click to add nodes, make nodes smooth or symmetrical, etc. There are several mapping options which control how the object fits within its envelope, such as original, putty, or vertical, and you can keep straight lines straight.



You can also apply an envelope of straight lines . . .



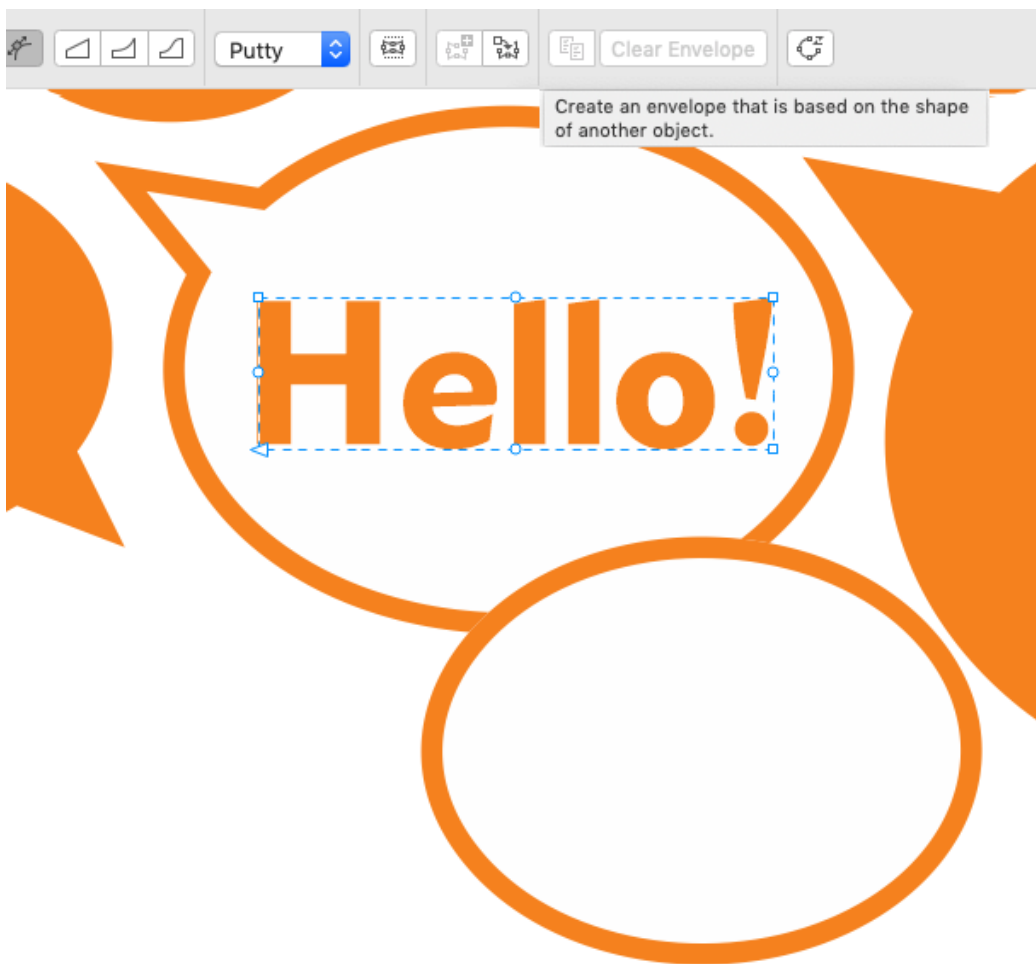
Or one that has arcs on all sides . . .



or one that has S-curves.



You can use any curve as an envelope. In this example, an ellipse is used as the envelope. Select the text, then click **Create Envelope From**.



Click the ellipse, and the text adjusts in place to fit.

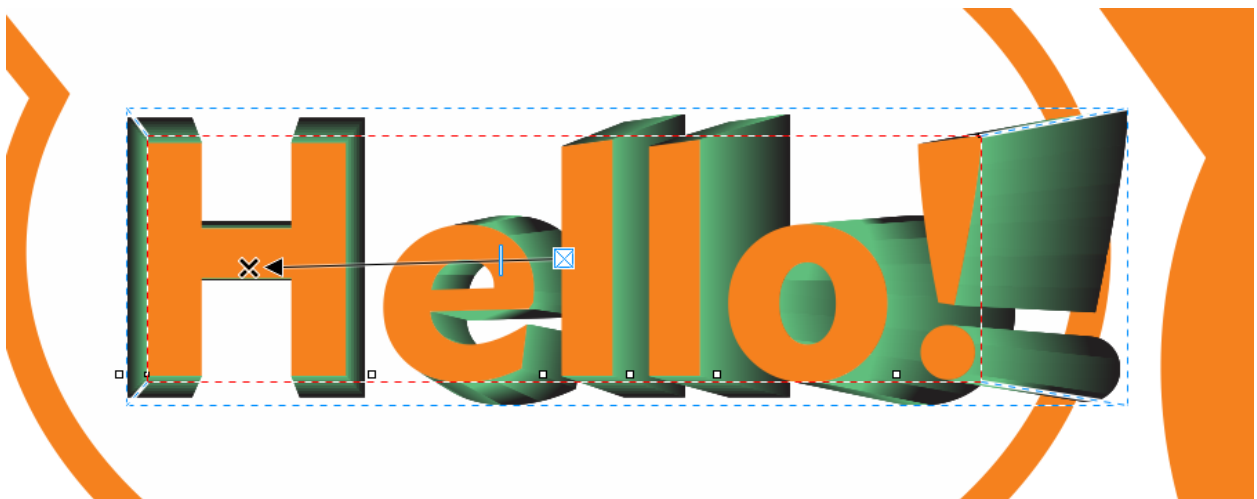


3D Effects: Extrude, Block Shadow and Drop Shadow

The 3D effects in this toolbox are **Extrude**, **Block Shadow** and **Drop Shadow**.

Extrude

Extrude creates the effect of the selected object being pulled up. Click and drag toward the direction of the extrusion and click the color icon. You can use the object color or pick a solid fill or gradient.



You can drag the **X** to control the direction, and the line to control the length. You can also change the type of extrusion.



You can also add a bevel or add lighting effects.

The vanishing point is locked to the object by default, but you can change this. Add an extrude to another object and copy the extrude properties from the text. You can also copy the text's vanishing point.



Block Shadow

This tool adds solid shadows to objects. Click the text to select it, then drag to where you want the shadow. As with the other effects, you can drag the arrow to change length and direction. You can also change the shadow color.



Break apart the text and shadow and move the shadow out to see how it looks - it's one solid curve.



Create a new block shadow and click the **Simplify** option. Now when you break apart and move the shadow to the side, you can see the difference - the simplified one was trimmed where it met the text characters.



For another shadow example, start with text that has an outline color and thickness. When you add a block shadow, by default it includes the outlines.

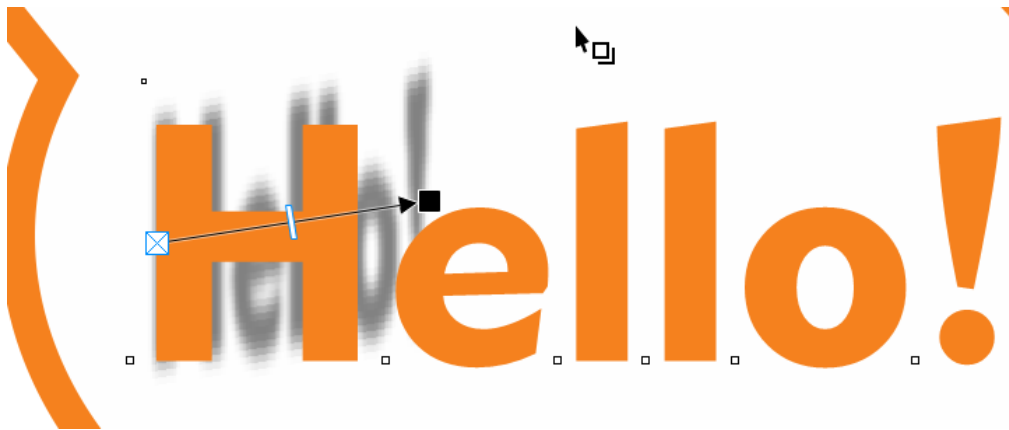


But you can disable **Generate From Object Outline** to keep the outlines out of the shadows.

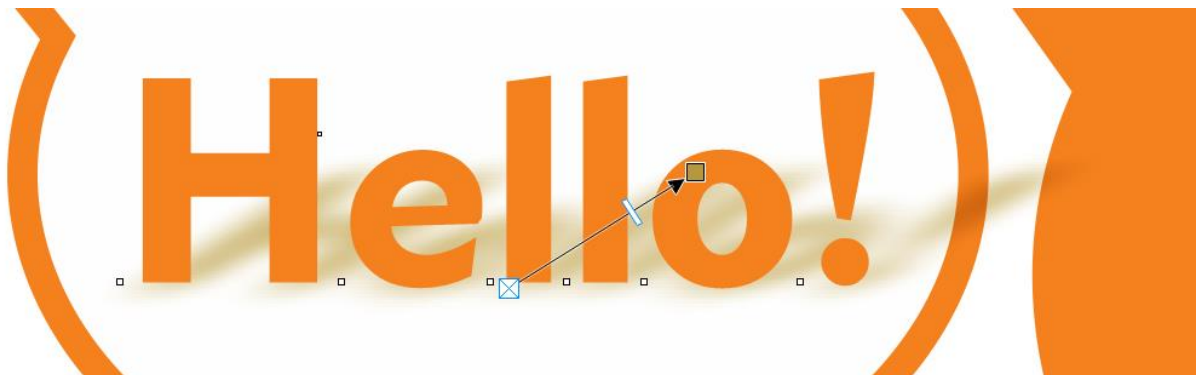


Drop Shadow

With this tool, you can click and drag to create a shadow from a specific edge – the left edge in this example.



The shadow start point can be along any edge of the text, and you can move this by dragging the white square. The black square sets angle and distance, and the white line controls opacity. The feathering controls the sharpness of the shadow edges, and there are several feathering options.

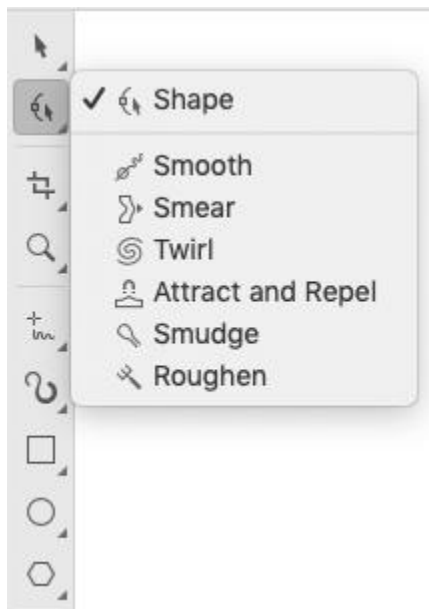


Shadow color can be set as well, and the long list of merge modes controls how the shadows blend with underlying objects. As with other effects, you can copy drop shadows.

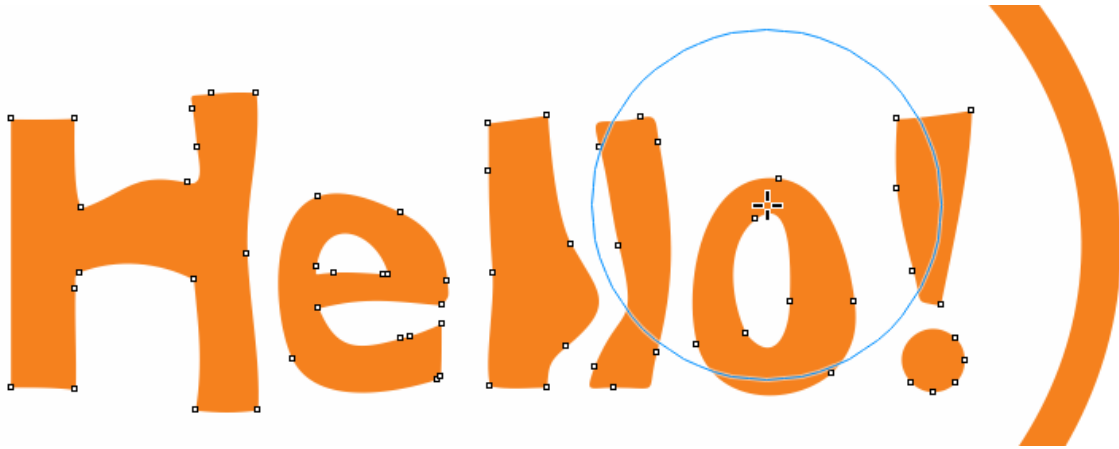


Tools in the Shape Toolbox

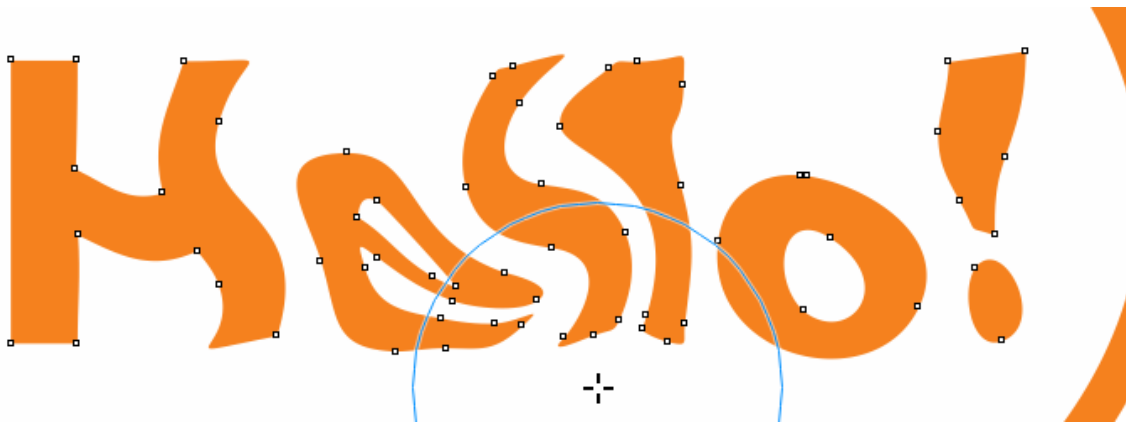
There are also lots of effects you can apply to text after the text has been converted to curves. In addition to the familiar node editing you can do with the **Shape** tool, you also have all the other tools in the **Shape** toolbox, such as Smooth, Smear, Twirl, Attract and Repel, Smudge and Roughen.



For example, you can **Smear** text by dragging, and you can press and hold the **Shift** key to change the nib size.



Twirl is another fun effect, and dragging a tiny distance goes a long way.



Or you can **Roughen** up the edges, then use **Smooth** to fix them.

