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# hot door Transparency

for Adobe® Illustrator® 8

User guide for Power Macintosh®  
and Windows® platforms

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More information on this plug-in is available  
through Hot Door, Inc.

on-line: <http://www.hotdoor.com/>

phone: 530-274-0626

fax: 530-274-0727

email: [transparency@hotdoor.com](mailto:transparency@hotdoor.com)

# About Transparency

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Welcome to Hot Door Transparency - a plug-in for creating live transparency effects within Adobe Illustrator 8 for Power Macintosh or Windows platforms. Hot Door Transparency transforms Illustrator artwork into transparent lenses which can be moved and edited with ease. Text, objects, and colors can overlap with any level of transparency with a dynamic preview. The effect updates automatically when you adjust transparency, shape, color, or location to enhance the creative illustration process.

## What you can do with lenses

Transparent lenses are vector graphics which *appear* transparent over other vector graphics. Lenses can be made from one or more closed paths filled with any color including:



- A single object or groups of objects
- Masked objects
- Text (if outlined and compound released)

Artwork that can appear underneath transparent lenses includes:

- Objects with fills or strokes of any color
- Other lenses
- Text
- Gradients
- Patterns
- Masks
- Compound paths
- Blends (if expanded)
- Live brushes (if expanded)
- Meshes

# Installing the Transparency plug-in

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## Macintosh or Windows Installation

To install the demo version of Hot Door Transparency for Macintosh or Windows, follow these steps:

1. If you are currently running Adobe Illustrator 8, quit the application.
2. On Macintosh platforms, double-click **Install Hot Door Transparency** on the disk. Follow the on-screen instructions to install the file named **Transparency** into the Plug-ins folder on your drive. On Windows platforms, locate the Plug-ins folder inside your Adobe Illustrator ® 8 folder. Copy the file named **Transparency.aip** from the disk to the Plug-ins folder on your drive.
3. Launch Adobe Illustrator 8 and open the Transparency palette by selecting **Window > Show Transparency**.

# Registering the Transparency plug-in

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## **Reminder:**

**By sending your complete registration information to Hot Door, you will receive product upgrade notices and free technical support.**

**E-mail the registration information to  
transparency@hotdoor.com  
or fax to 530.274.0727**

## **hot door™ Transparency registration**

This information will not be sold or distributed by Hot Door, Inc.  
Please provide the following information to be eligible for upgrades  
and technical support:

Serial Number: (on the sticker on the Transparency package)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (not distributed - for Hot Door product info only):

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did you purchase Hot Door Transparency?

\_\_\_\_\_

In what profession do you plan to use Hot Door Transparency?

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# Where to find help with Transparency

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## **This user guide**

This user guide is in pdf format which can be viewed and printed with Acrobat Reader 3 which is located on your Adobe Illustrator cd.

## **On-screen help**

The buttons in the Transparency palette change the mouse pointer to an icon that describes the function of the button.

## **On-line FAQ**

Frequently asked questions about Transparency are answered on the Hot Door Web site at

**<http://www.hotdoor.com/transparency/>**

## **Feature requests**

Please send your comments and questions to **[transparency@hotdoor.com](mailto:transparency@hotdoor.com)**.

## **Phone and e-mail technical support**

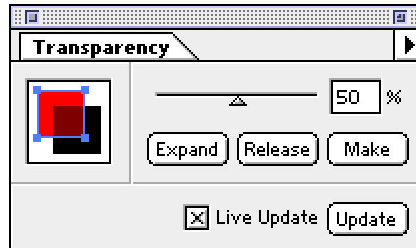
If you send in your registration information, you will receive free technical support from Hot Door, Inc.

# Quick start

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## To begin using Transparency

- 1) After properly installing the Transparency plug-in for Illustrator 8, launch Adobe Illustrator.
- 2) When Illustrator opens, open an existing file or create new artwork on your page. To view the Transparency palette, choose **Window > Show Transparency**.



- 3) Select a closed path that you would like to make into a lens to reveal objects underneath.
- 4) Click the **Make** button in the palette to transform your object into a transparent lens. Use the slider to set the desired level of transparency.
- 5) Repeat steps 3 and 4 to create multiple lenses. Refer to the **About Transparency** section of this guide to determine what type of artwork can be made into lenses or affected by lenses.
- 6) If you move or edit your lens or artwork, click the **Update** button to refresh the screen. Check **Live Update** to automatically view changes.
- 7) To disable the transparent effect created by a lens, select the lens and click the **Release** button in the Transparency palette.
- 8) To transform your lens and its underlying artwork into a set of masked objects, click the **Expand** button in the Transparency palette. This step will create additional artwork but may be useful if you plan to open your artwork with previous versions of Illustrator or without the Transparency plug-in installed.

# Overview

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Transparent lenses can be made from vector artwork within Adobe Illustrator 8 using the Hot Door Transparency palette. When artwork is made into a transparent lens, it remains vector artwork while *appearing* transparent over other vector graphics.

## Making a lens

By selecting artwork and clicking the **Make** button, hidden artwork is created to produce a transparent effect. This hidden artwork is a set of linked masks of the original artwork with color adjusted according to the transparency level. Use the slider to set the desired level of transparency.

## Releasing a lens

If the transparent lens is released with the Transparency **Release** button, the transparency effect is disabled and the hidden artwork is deleted.

## Expanding a lens

If the transparent lens is expanded with the Transparency **Expand** button, the hidden artwork becomes selectable and unlinked. Since there are many objects in this artwork group, you may not want to expand a lens unless you have completed your illustration. Expanding is necessary to retain the transparency effect when opening Illustrator 8 without the Transparency plug-in installed. You do not need to expand lenses to export or save in PDF or EPS format to retain the transparency effect.

*Note: The hidden artwork used to create the transparent lens effect does not increase file size unless the lens is expanded with the Expand button in the Transparency palette.*

## Overview (cont.)

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### Using Live Update

By checking the **Live Update** checkbox in the Transparency palette, lenses update automatically when you adjust their transparency, shape, color, or location.

Since live update increases the time required to preview artwork, you may want to turn off **Live Update** when you have a complex illustration or use the following objects in your document:

- 1) live blends or brushes
- 2) patterns or gradients
- 3) complex meshes

*Note: The screen must completely redraw before you are able to continue working with the artwork. If you experience an incomplete preview of a complex illustration, uncheck the live update button and click the manual update button.*

### Using the Update button

By unchecking live update and clicking the **Update** button, you can manually preview artwork changes that affect lenses. Use manual updating to improve preview performance with complex illustrations containing many lenses, live blends or brushes, patterns or gradients, or meshes.



# Making lenses

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## **Lens compatibility**

Lenses can be made from one or more closed paths filled with any color, including:

- A single object or groups of objects
- Masked objects
- Text (if outlined and compound released)

Artwork that can appear underneath transparent lenses includes:

- Objects with fills or strokes of any color
- Other lenses
- Text
- Gradients
- Patterns
- Masks
- Compound paths
- Blends (if expanded)
- Live brushes (if expanded)
- Meshes

## **Lens incompatibility**

Lenses *cannot* be made from:

- Unclosed paths
- Text (unless it is outlined and compound released)
- Stroke colors
- Gradients and patterns
- Meshes
- Live blends
- Live brush effects
- Bitmap images
- Compound paths

Artwork which does not appear properly underneath transparent lenses includes:

- Live blends (unless expanded)
- Live brush effects (unless expanded)
- Bitmap images

# Making lenses (cont.)

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## Turning artwork into lenses

To make a transparent lens, select a closed path that you would like to make into a lens to reveal objects underneath. Click the **Make** button in the palette to transform your object into a transparent lens. Use the slider to set the desired level of transparency of the lens.

*Note: You may notice that lens artwork only appears transparent where it overlaps underlying artwork. To make an entire lens object appear transparent, create "background" artwork – typically filled white – under your lens artwork or document.*

Once you have turned artwork into a lens, you can edit it like other Illustrator artwork. Changes made to the lens or its underlying artwork can be previewed automatically when **Live Update** is checked or when the **Update** button is clicked.

## Multiple lenses

You can create a stack of multiple lenses by making lenses from overlapping objects. You can also move lenses over other lenses to create a more complex composition with transparency.

*Note: To improve preview performance of illustrations containing many lens stacks, try using the Update button and unchecking Live Update.*

## Editing lenses

Lenses are vector artwork and can be edited like other Illustrator artwork. Likewise you can change the stacking order of lenses by using the stacking commands in Illustrator. Lenses that are copied and pasted retain their transparent effect.

## Removing the transparent effect

If the transparent lens is released with the Transparency **Release** button, the transparency effect disappears.

# Using transparent artwork in other applications

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## Using lenses within Adobe Illustrator

If the Hot Door Transparency plug-in is installed in the Illustrator 8 plug-ins folder, lenses will be retained in Illustrator 8 documents when you reopen them. If you plan to open your documents with another copy of Illustrator 8 without the Hot Door Transparency plug-in installed, you will need to expand the lenses to retain their transparent effects. To expand a lens and its underlying linked artwork, select the lens and click the **Expand** button in the Transparency palette.

If you save your document in an Illustrator format other than Illustrator 8, lenses will automatically expand into unlinked, selectable artwork for compatibility.

## Preparing lens artwork for use in other applications

You do not need to expand lenses to retain their transparent effects when exporting or saving files in PDF or EPS format. When saving your file in EPS format compatible with a previous version of Illustrator, lenses and underlying artwork will automatically be expanded. When exporting your file, lenses and underlying artwork will automatically be rasterized.

*Note: Lenses and underlying gradients and patterns will need to be rasterized prior to saving your file in PDF format. Remember to save a copy of your file in Illustrator 8 format prior to rasterizing and saving in PDF format if you want to retain the lenses as vector artwork.*

## Tips and techniques

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### Improving preview performance

To improve preview performance, you may want to use manual updating with complex illustrations containing many lenses, live blends or brushes, patterns or gradients, or meshes. By unchecking live update and clicking the **Update** button, you can manually preview artwork changes that affect lenses.

You may also want to rasterize a lens and its underlying artwork with Illustrator's **Rasterize** command. Rasterization will convert the selected artwork into a bitmap image. *Note: Be sure to select the lens as well as its underlying artwork. If you only select the lens, the rasterization will only affect the area inside the lens and the underlying artwork outside the lens will disappear.*

### Working with text as lenses

Text, outlined text, and compound paths cannot be made into lenses. To work with text, use the Type > Create Outlines and Object > Compound Paths > Release commands to convert text into compatible artwork. Fill the transparent interior spaces in the text with the color of the background. Select the solid portion of text and click the **Make** button in the Transparency palette. Underlying artwork should appear transparent.

### Retrieving the “transparent” color of underlying artwork

The Illustrator eyedropper tool does not pick up transparent colors created by a lens. To retrieve the color, copy and paste the lens and underlying artwork. Select the duplicate group and click the **Release** button in the Transparency palette. Use the **Soft Pathfinder** command in Illustrator to create component transparent artwork with “transparent” mixed colors which can be picked up by the Illustrator eyedropper tool.

# Troubleshooting

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## **Before you contact Hot Door technical support**

When you register your copy of Hot Door Transparency, you will receive free technical support and product upgrade information. If you are experiencing problems with Adobe Illustrator 8 and suspect that the problem may be related to Hot Door Transparency, please perform the following steps before contacting Hot Door or Adobe technical support:

- 1) Quit Adobe Illustrator 8
- 2) Remove the Transparency plug-in from the Adobe Illustrator 8 plug-ins folder
- 3) Relaunch Adobe Illustrator 8 and attempt to recreate the problem. If the problem is solved with the Transparency plug-in removed, contact Hot Door. If the problem is not solved, refer to the Adobe Illustrator 8 User Guide for further solutions and troubleshooting.

## **Lens artwork does not preview completely**

Use manual updating with complex illustrations containing many lenses, live blends or brushes, patterns or gradients, or meshes. Uncheck **Live Update** and click the **Update** button to manually preview artwork changes that affect lenses.

## **Problems saving or exporting**

Files containing lenses over gradients or patterns cannot be saved as PDF files. To save a PDF file with this type of artwork, you need to first expand or rasterize lenses and their underlying objects containing gradients or patterns. Use the Expand button in the Transparency palette to expand lenses and associated artwork.

Very complex illustrations with lenses may require more RAM to export. If one type of export format is not successful, try using another format and convert it to the desired format in Adobe Photoshop.

## Troubleshooting (cont.)

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### **Undo doesn't work**

In some cases, the Illustrator **Undo** command may not properly function with lenses. One solution is to turn off **Live Update** in the Transparency palette, choose the **Undo** command, and click the **Update** button in the Transparency palette. In some cases, you may only need to click the **Update** button to properly preview the corrected mistake.

### **Eyedropper doesn't pick up transparent colors properly**

The Illustrator eyedropper tool does not pick up the nontransparent or transparent colors of lenses or artwork under lenses. To retrieve the nontransparent color of underlying artwork, select the object and drag the fill or stroke colors into the Illustrator swatches palette.

### **Fill and stroke attributes for lens are lost**

If you make a lens object into a type path, you will lose the fill and stroke attributes of the lens.

### **Lenses do not work over graphs**

To make a lens over graph artwork, you must ungroup the graph to view underlying artwork.

**Demos on-line**  
**www.hotdoor.com**

## Other Hot Door products

### Hot Door CADtools 1.1

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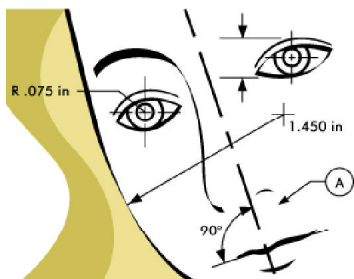
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you first hear about Transparency 1.0? \_\_\_\_\_

Quant	Item #	Platform	Description	Price	Ext.
	TIM1	PMac	Transparency 1.0 - AI8	\$39.00	
	TIW1	Win	Transparency 1.0 - AI8	\$39.00	
	CADM11	Mac/PMac	CADtools 1.1 - AI7/8	\$129.00	
	CADW11	Win	CADtools 1.1 - AI7/8	\$129.00	
	HPM1	PMac	Harmony 1.0 - PS4/5	\$79.00	
Subtotal					
California residents add 7.25% sales tax					
Priority mail 2-3 day US shipping for boxed product					
Global priority approx. 1 week					
(\$5 US, \$13 Canada, \$14 Western Europe, \$16 Pacific Rim)					
Total					

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