

# Tricks with tints

*You can enhance the impact of your spot color printing jobs by using screen tints effectively.*

Create a tint by specifying a percentage of a spot color in the software you are using for your publication. Using various tints of a spot color allows the page to appear more colorful, with additional “depth”.

If you are printing with PANTONE® colors, the best way to preview what a tint will look like is to use the *PANTONE Tints* guide, ([www.pantone.com](http://www.pantone.com)) which displays 10–80% tints of each PANTONE spot color, along with black and reverse type on each of the tints. Keep the fol-

lowing items in mind when working with spot color screen tints.

- If you put text over a tinted area, be sure there is enough contrast between the type and the tint so the text can still be read easily.
- Use tints between 10% and 90%. Tints lighter than 10% can look great on an office printer, but may appear too light on a printing press. Tints darker than 90% may become solid when printed.

- Tints are a great way to make objects look “transparent”. For example, create a rectangle filled with a dark blue. Put a small circle on top of this filled with a 30% tint of the same dark blue. The circle will appear semi-transparent. The dark blue color will appear to “show through” the circle.

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