

How to create beautiful 3D text using Illustrator

Create 3D text in Illustrator to make your text more dynamic and professional. With Extrude and Bevel effects, you can turn flat text into impressive 3D artwork.

Creating 3D text with Illustrator is made simple with step-by-step instructions, from setting up your document, applying effects to adjusting brightness.

Preparation before creating 3D letters

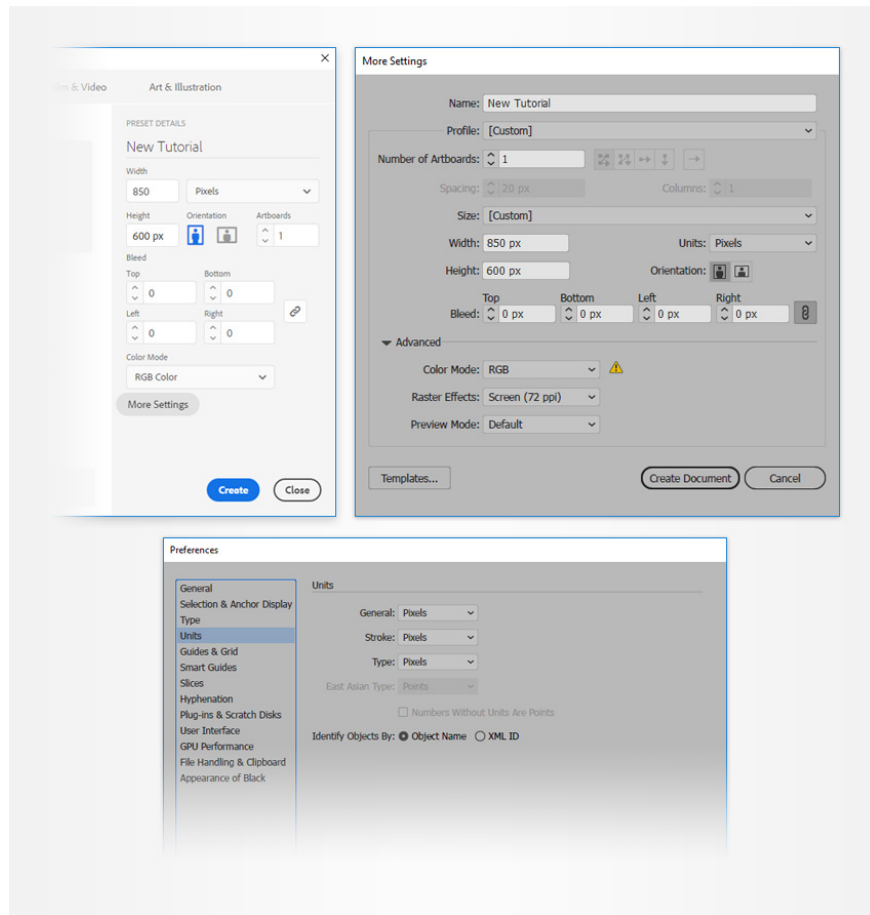
- Install **Illustrator**
- Download **Etna Font** to your computer

1. Create a new document and background

Step 1: In the **Units menu**, select **Pixels** and enter **850** in the **Width** box and **600** in the **Height** box , then click the **More Settings** button.

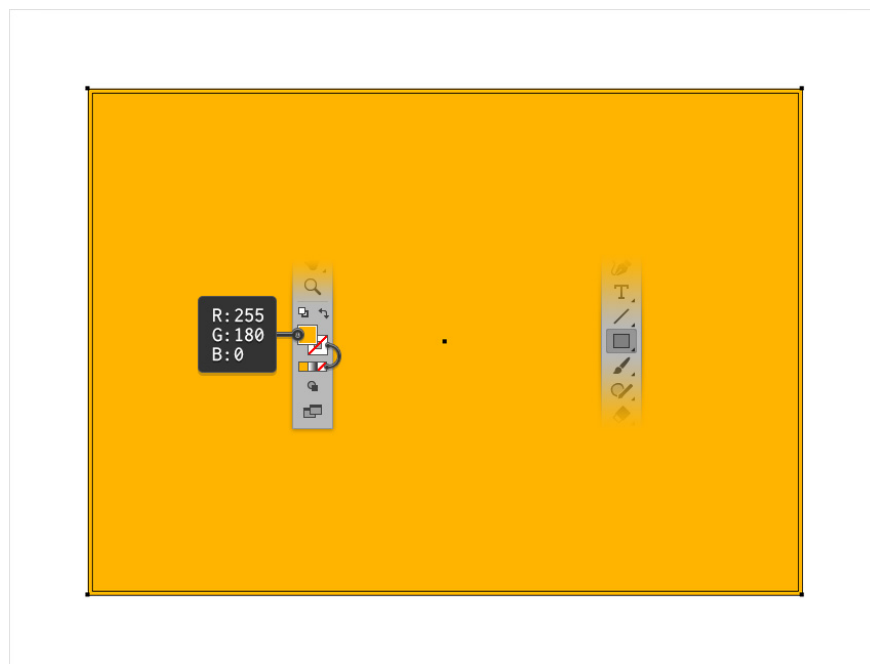
Select **RGB** for **Color Mode** , and set **Raster Effects** to **Screen (72 ppi)**, then click **Create Document**.

Open the Info panel (**Windows => Info**) to preview the document shape size and position, and set the measurement unit to **Pixels** in **Edit => Preferences => Units**. These options will improve performance and work speed significantly.



Step 2: Select the Rectangle Tool (M) and focus on the Toolbar. Delete the stroke color and select the fill color, set the new color to **R=255 G=180 B=0**.

Click on the artboard to open the Rectangle window. Set **the Width to 870px** and **Height to 630px** , then click **OK** .



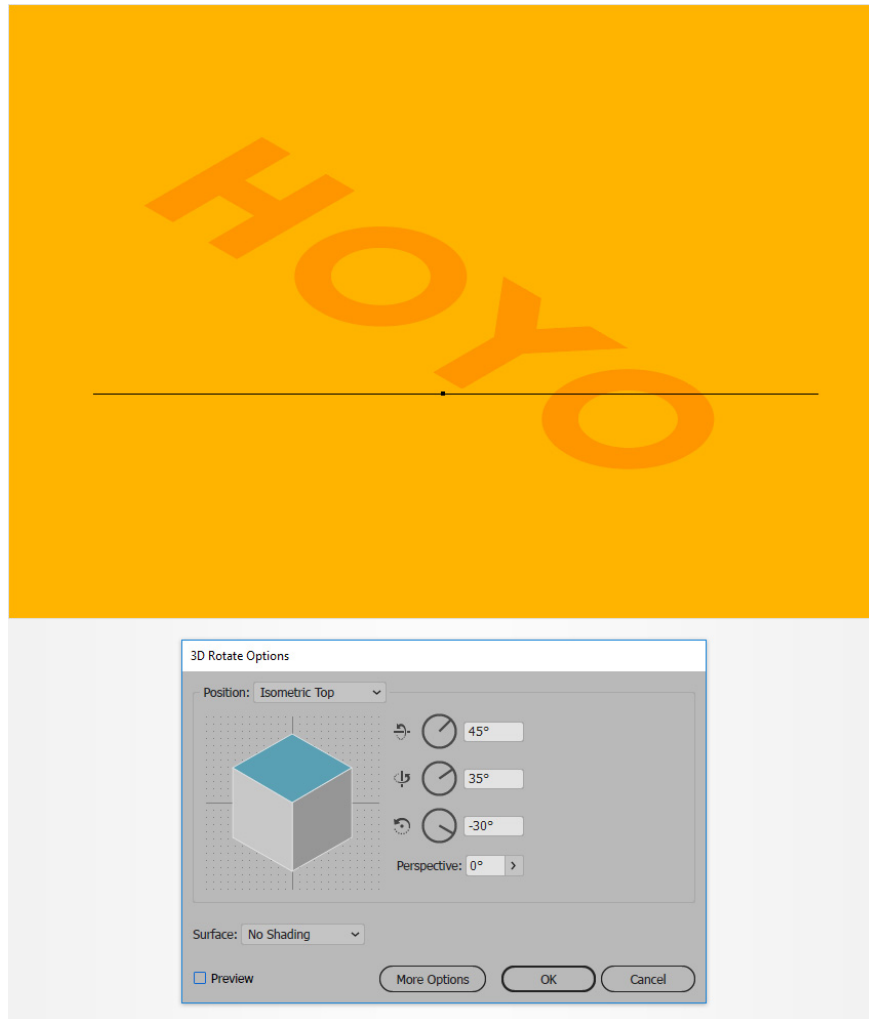
2. Create the main text shape

Step 1: Select the **Type Tool (T)** and open the Character panel (**Window => Type => Character**). Select the Etna font and set the size to 250px and the spacing to 100.

Click on the artboard and add text as shown below. Set the color to **R =255 G=150 B=0** . Make sure your text is selected and copy the text (Ctrl + C) to use in the next step.

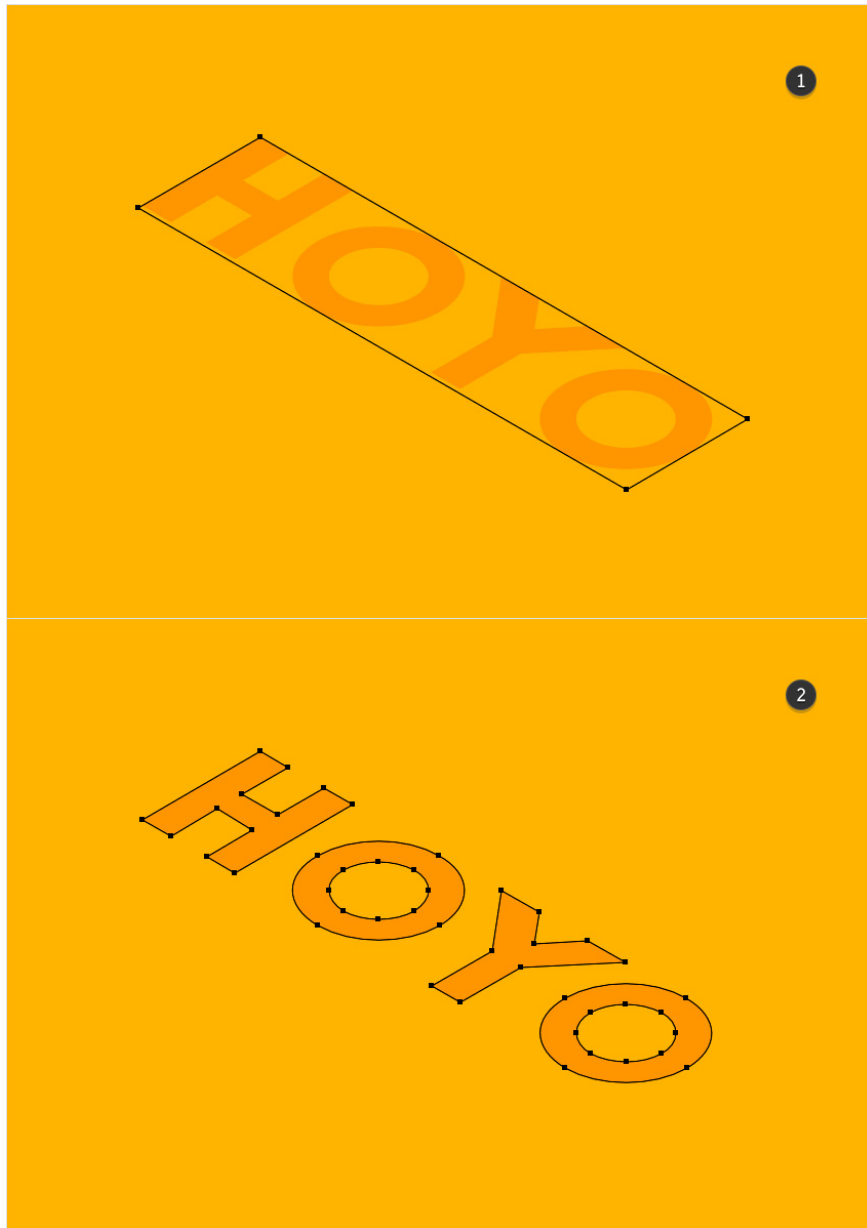


Step 2: Make sure the text is selected, then go to **Effect => 3D => Rotate** . Enter all the properties as shown below and click **OK**.



Step 3: Make sure the text is still selected, and go to **Object => Expand Appearance** . First ungroup (use Shift + Control + G) the newly created group. Add a clipping mask (Alt-Control-7), then ungroup (Shift + Control + G) the newly created group.

Select the shape that surrounds the entire text and delete it. Select the shapes that make up the text and create a compound path (**Object => Compound Path => Make** or use the shortcut **Control + 8**).



Step 4: Make sure the compound path you just created is selected, and go to **Effect => Stylize => Drop Shadow**. Enter the properties as shown in the image below and click **OK**.

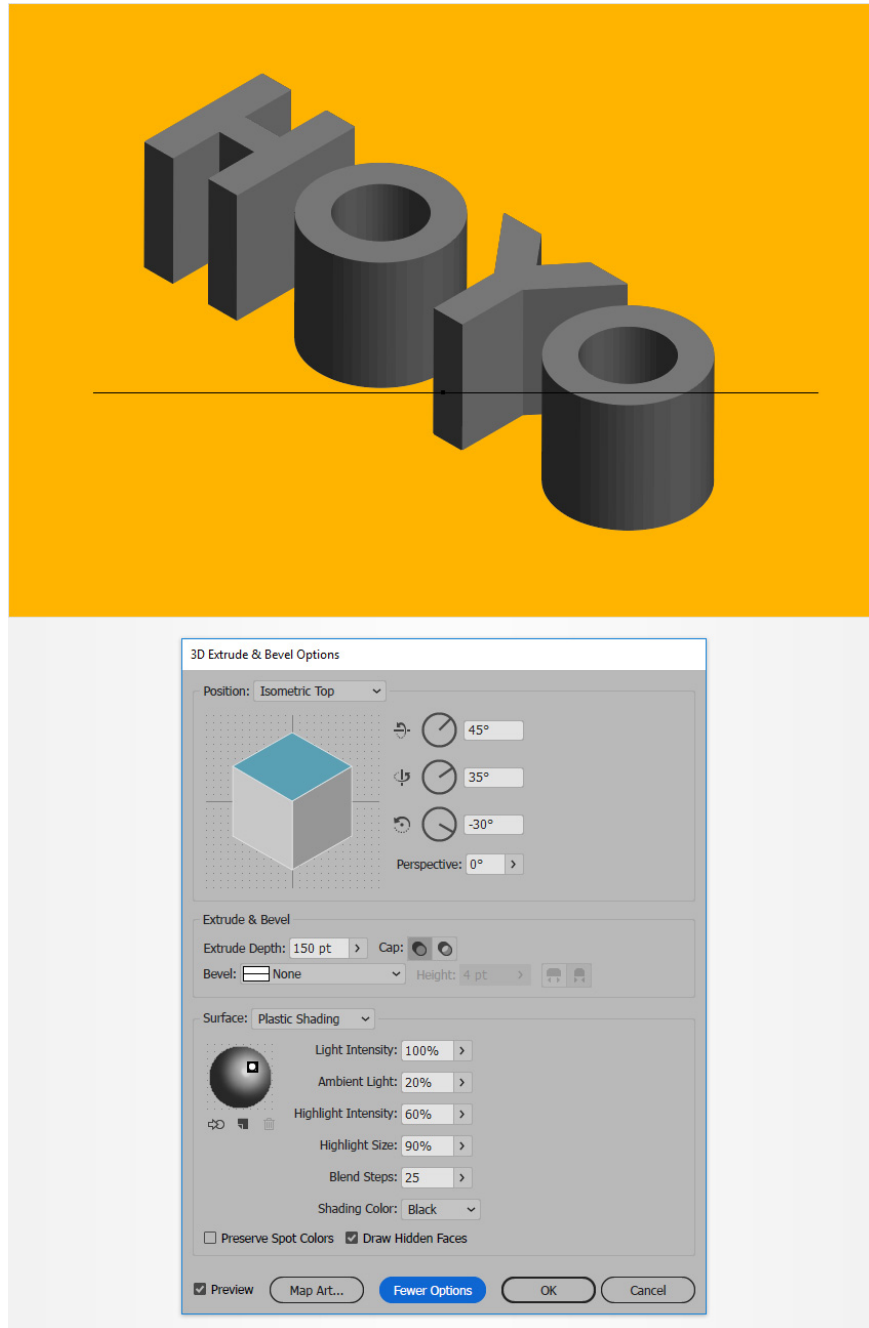


3. Create 3D text art effects

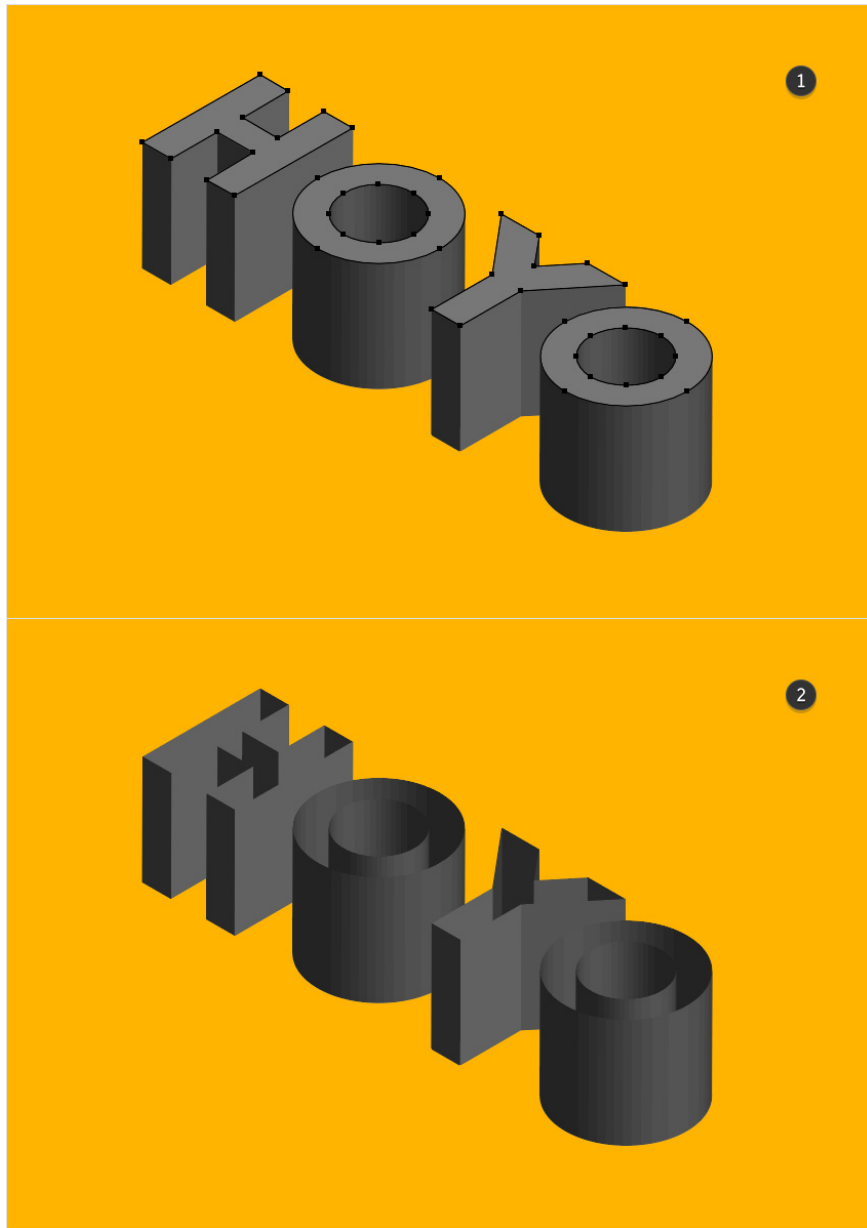
Step 1: Press **Ctrl + F** to add the text you copied to the same location. Change the text color to **R=153 G=153 B=153**.



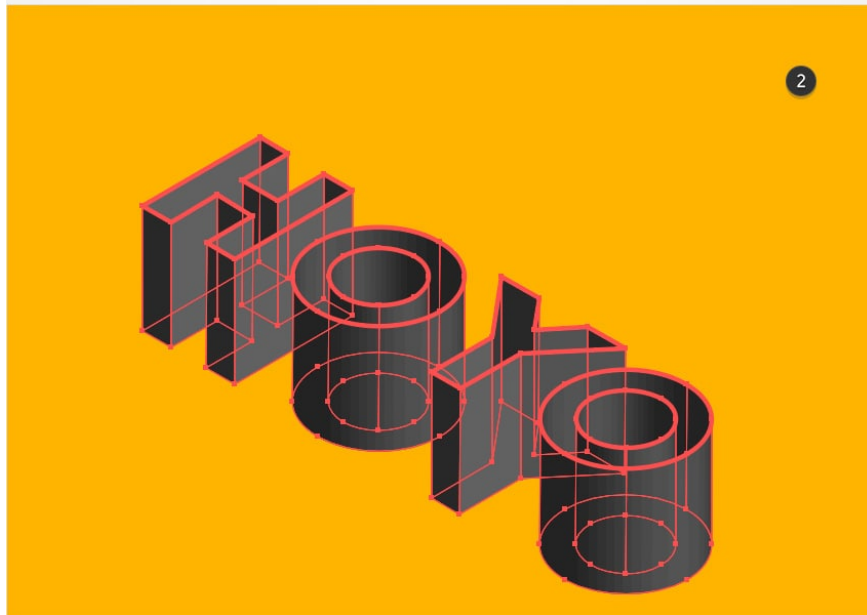
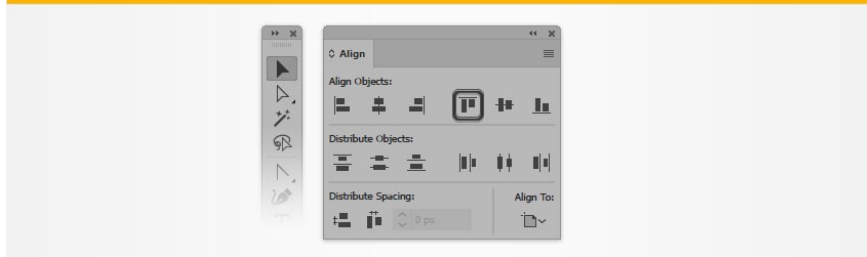
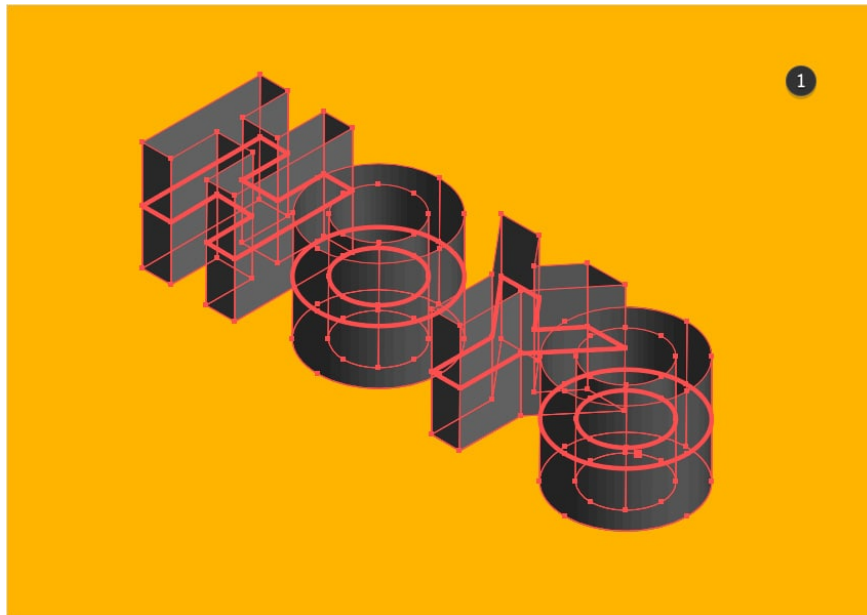
Step 2: Select the gray text, then go to **Effect => 3D => Extrude & Bevel** . Click the More Options button and enter all the properties as shown in the image below, and don't forget to check the **Draw Hidden Faces** box and click **OK** .



Step 3: Make sure the gray text is still selected and go to **Object => Expand Appearance**. Select the **Direct Selection Tool (A)**, select the shapes that make up the front of the text (highlighted in the first image) and delete them. The text should now look like the second image below.



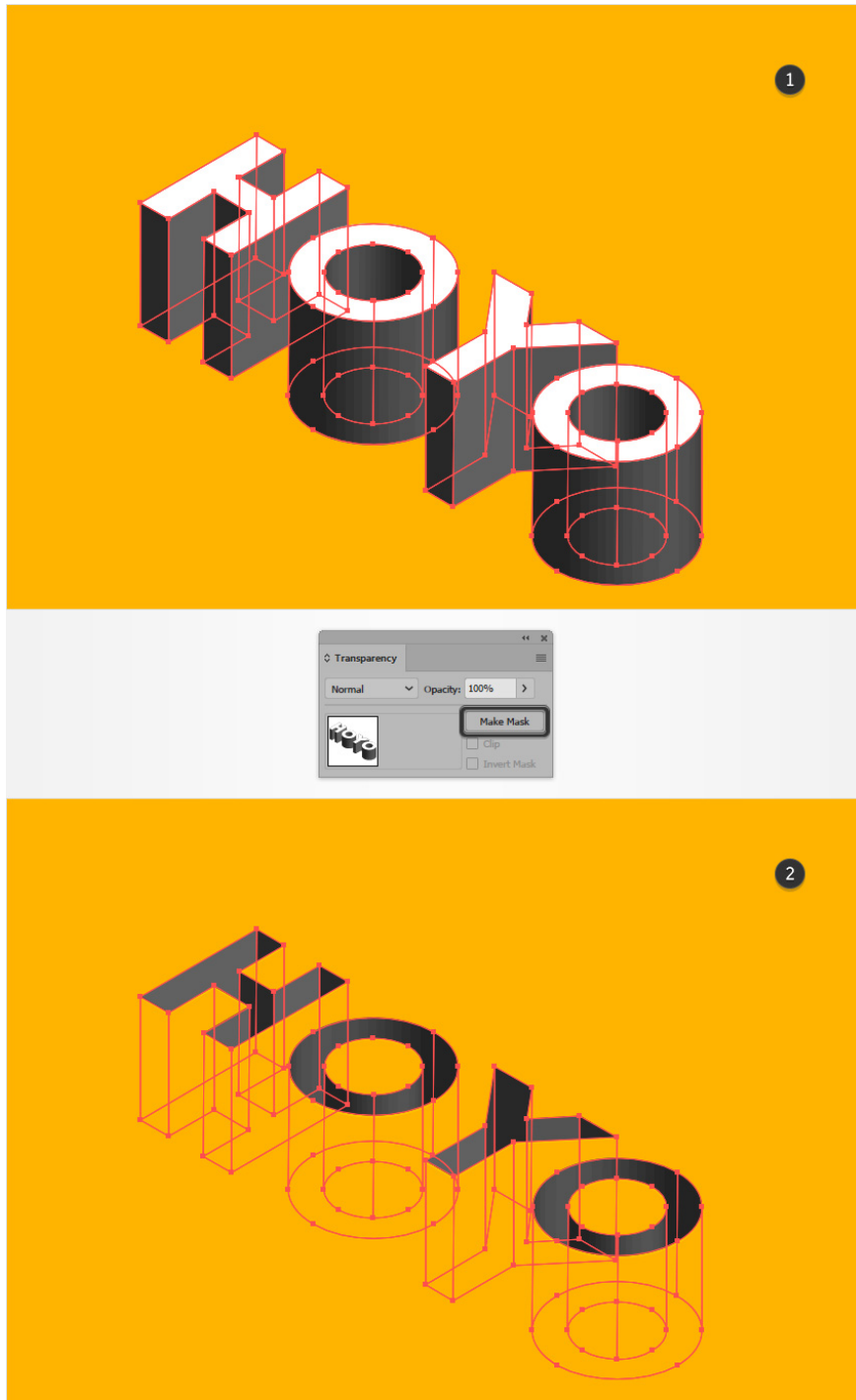
Step 4: Pick the **Move Tool (V)** and select your group of shapes along with the orange compound path. Click on the edge of the compound path to highlight it (as shown in the first image below) then click the **Vertical Align Top** button in the Align panel (**Window => Align**).



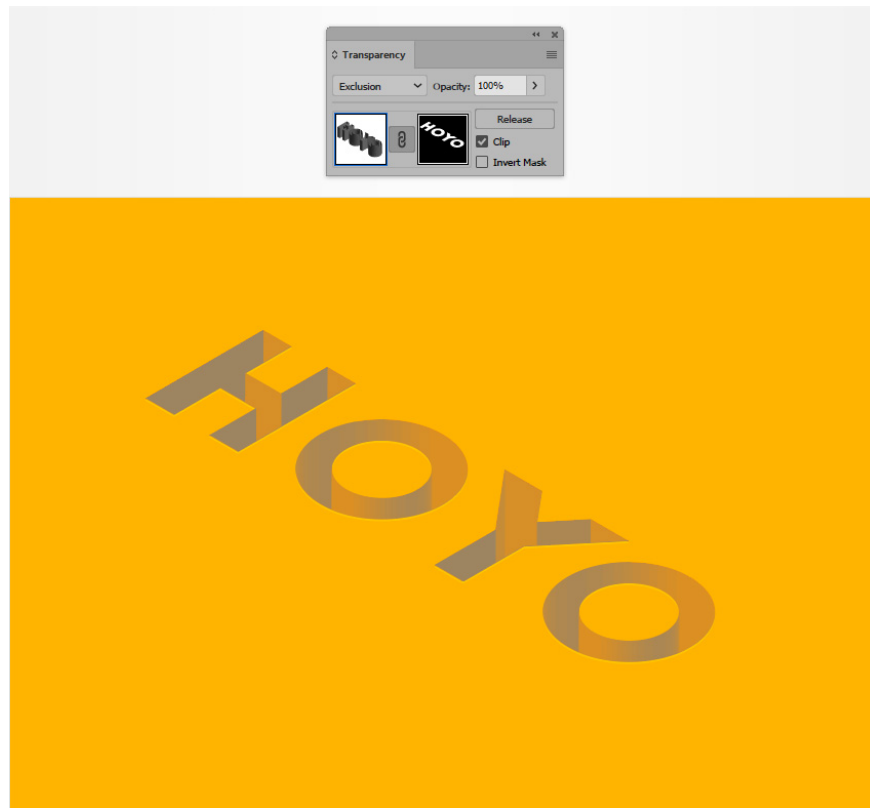
Step 5: Select the orange compound path, then make a copy in front (**Ctrl + C** => **Ctrl + F**) and move it forward (press **Shift + Ctrl + J**). Fill the new shape with white (**R=255 G=255 B=255**).



Step 6: Select your white blend path and shape group and click the **Make Mask** button in the Transparency panel (**Window => Transparency**).



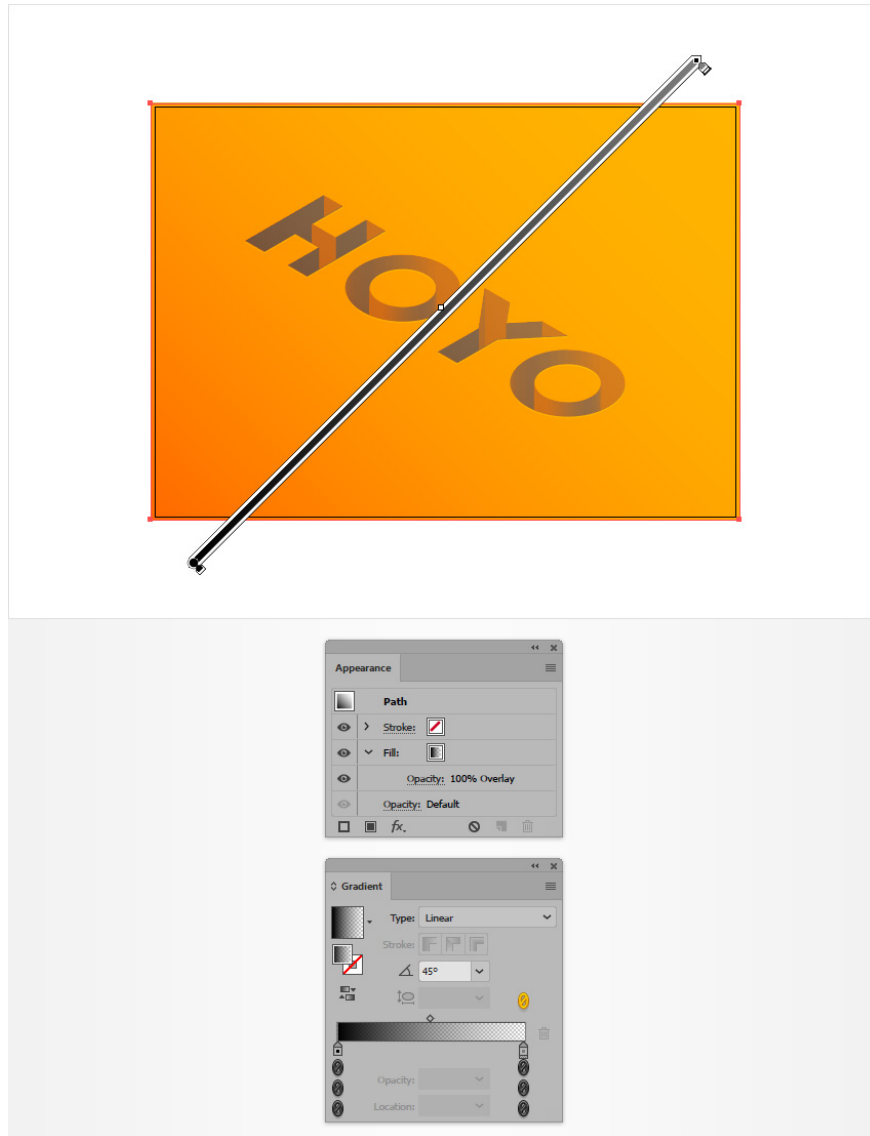
Step 7: Make sure the mask group is still selected and change the **Blending Mode** to **Exclusion**.



4. Add subtle textures

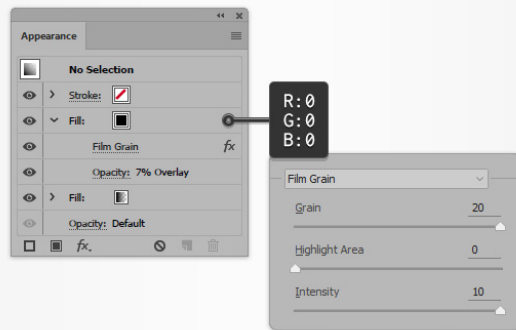
Step 1: Select the yellow rectangle and make a copy in front (**Ctrl + C** => **Ctrl + F**) then move forward (**Shift + Ctrl +]**).

Make sure that this new shape stays selected and focus on the Appearance panel (Window => Appearance). Select the fill and change its **Blending Mode** to **Overlay** , and replace the flat fill layer with the linear gradient as shown in the image below, and select the right gradient slider and lower its **Opacity** to **0%**.



Step 2: Make sure that the shape added in the previous step is still selected and keep focusing on the Appearance panel (Window => Appearance).

Use the **Add New Fill** button to fill the second color, set the color to black (R=0 G=0 B=0), reduce **the Opacity** to 7%, change **the Blending Mode** to **Overlay**, then go to **Effect => Artistic => Film Grain**. Enter the attribute values ??as shown in the table below and click **OK**.



The finished result is in the form:



You have just learned how to create a stunning 3D text effect in Illustrator with simple steps. This effect makes the text more professional and attractive, suitable for graphic design, banner or logo.

If you want to explore more unique typography techniques, try adding lighting or shadow effects to add depth. Don't forget to save your work in a format that's suitable for multiple uses.

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