Creating a file for the Vinyl Cutter:

- The file must be an *Adobe Illustrator* (Ai) file, saved as **Version:** *Illustrator CC (legacy).*
- Images must be laid out to fit on the material: **22"** *Wide* **x** the *Height* of your image.
- Paths must be **RGB Black** (0,0,0).
- Paths should have stroke weight of .001.
- Images must be *Expanded* into *Outlines*.
- Text should either be *Expanded* or *Type* > *Create Outlines.*





When a file is sent to the Vinyl Cutter, the machine only sees outlines, not fill colors. Using *Object > Expand*, you must outline your image so the machine will be able to cut it.

Arrange	*	
Group	Ctrl+G	
Ungroup	Shift+Ctrl+G	
Lock	•	
Unlock All	Alt+Ctrl+2	
Hide		
Show All	Alt+Ctrl+3	$ (\circ \circ)$
Expand		

With more complex shapes, *Outlining* is not the last step. Note the images below. What looks like solid black rectangles are actually single lines with a stroke weight or thickness (fig. 1.) Once expanded, these shapes create over lapping lines, all of which will be cut by the machine if not trimmed out (fig. 2.) Use the *Pathfinder* tool to *Union* these lines into and image without overlapping lines (fig. 3.) It is important to keep in mind that the machine will follow *all outlines* (paths) it sees. Using illustrator, you must define the appropriate paths for the machine to follow.

