

# Separating Line Art Using Channels

## Step 1

Using Photoshop...

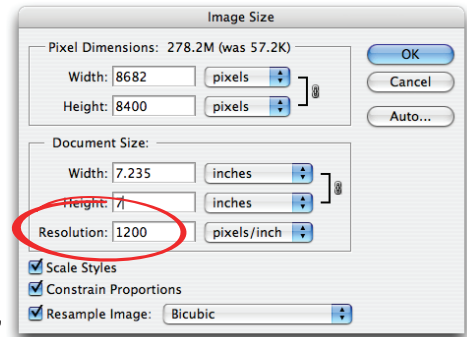
From what kind of file are you extracting line art?

- To extract line art from color file, go to **Step 2**.
- To extract line art from a black and white line art file, go to **Step 3**.
- To extract line art from a grayscale file, go to **Step 4**.

## Step 2

Extracting line art from a color image.

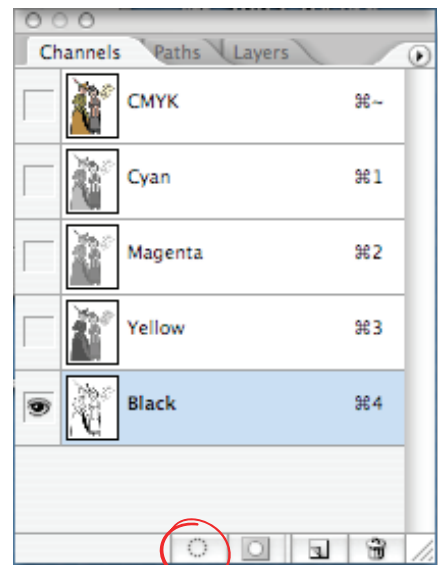
- Go to **Image > Mode**. If the image mode is **RGB Color** or **Indexed Color**, convert it to **CMYK Color**.
- Go to **Step 4**.



## Step 3

Extracting line art from a bitmap image.

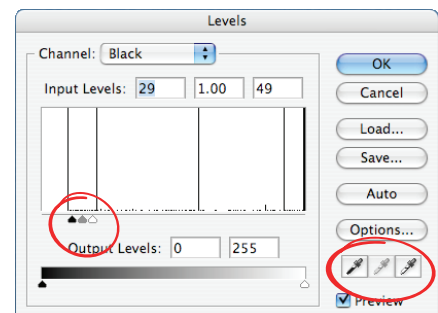
- Immediately bump the image size up to 1200 dpi. (**Image>Image Size>Resolution: 1200 dpi**)
- Adjust Threshold to tighten up lines and lose grays. (**Image>Adjustment>Threshold** or Levels then Threshold)  
Threshold is often somewhere in the range of 128 (half of 256 or 50%, which means that a 49% gray will become white and 51% gray will become black. Lower than 128 (110-120 or so) will get rid of the paper noise.)
- Go to **Step 4**.



## Step 4

Extracting line art from a grayscale image.

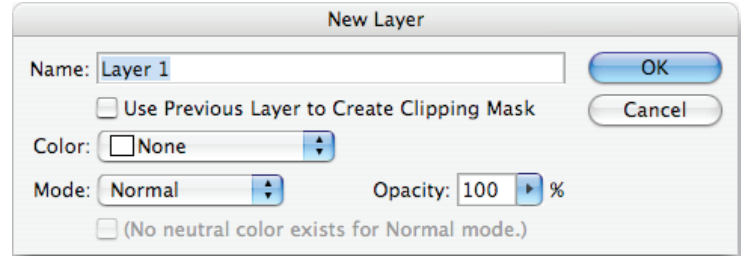
- Immediately bump the image size up to 1200 dpi.
- Click on the **Channels** tab (usually located in the same palette as the **Layers** and **Paths** tabs). Click on the **Gray** (or **Black**) channel.
- Adjust the levels in this channel only by clicking on **Image > Adjustments > Levels...** or by typing **⌘L**. Adjust the levels until the line art is completely black and all middle grays (if there are any) have disappeared. (You can always restore these tones by undoing this step after you copy the line art.)
- Adjust Brightness/Contrast to get rid of paper texture. (**Image>Adjustment>Brightness/Contrast**)  
This is completely up to you. You don't want to lighten too much or you'll lose too much weight in the pencil line or wash. You can also use the eyedropper within the levels palette (**Image>Adjustment>Levels**)
- Adjust Threshold to tighten up lines and lose grays. (**Image>Adjustment>Threshold** or Levels then Threshold)  
Threshold is often somewhere in the range of 128 (half of 256 or 50%, which means that a 49% gray will become white and 51% gray will become black. Lower than 128 (110-120 or so) will get rid of the paper noise.)
- Load Channel as Selection** by clicking on the button with a dotted circle at the bottom of the palette. **Invert Selection** by clicking **Select > Inverse** or by typing **⌘I**.
- Copy the selection by clicking **Edit > Copy** or typing **⌘C**.



## Step 5

### Placing the line art.

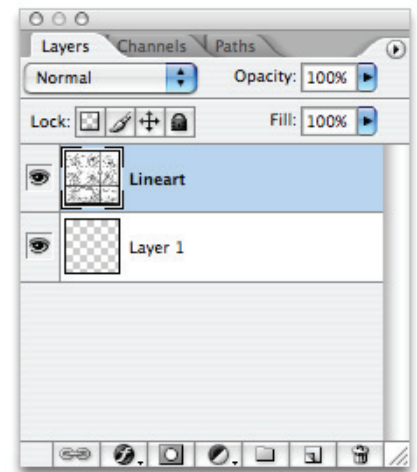
- Click on the **Layers** tab. Create a new layer by clicking on **Layer > New** or typing  $\text{⌘N}$ . Set the **Background Color** in the new layer to **None** and the **Mode** to **Normal**. Click **OK**.
- Paste the line art into the new layer by clicking **Edit > Paste** or typing  $\text{⌘V}$ . You will need to adjust the position of the line art using the **Move Tool**.
- To delete the old, unseparated line art, click on the **Background Layer** and repeat **Step 4-c**, then delete the selection.
- Rename the layer with the line art to something like "lineart". This will come into play later.



## Step 6

### Saving and naming conventions.

- Change the file format of the image to Bitmap.  
(Image>Mode>Bitmap>Resolution, Output: 1200, Method, Use: Diffusion Dither.) or (Image>Mode>Bitmap>Resolution, Output: 1200, Method, Use: Screen)  
Changing your file to a Bitmap format will flatten it, reducing the file size.
- Save as a TIFF using "LZW" compression. TIFFs contain the most information of the file formats. **DO NOT USE JPEGs!** Jpegs use lossy compression that results in an inevitable loss of quality.
- Use consistent naming conventions. It's best to use single or double letter combo followed by an underscore and then numerals (example : mm\_002 for the second page of "My Most Secret Desire." Some people prefer to leave off the extension for less clutter.)



## Troubleshooting

- q) I can't access layers in my current setting!?
- Make sure that you aren't in bitmap mode. Bitmap mode doesn't allow for layers. If you are just printing out the line art as is, you won't have to worry about layers, but if you intend on coloring or toning the piece, this will come into play later.
- q) I'm trying all of the clean-up tricks, but I still have unwated marks.
- Remember that the tricks can be used multiple times, in different combinations, and their effects will stack. You might want to try going in with a paint brush or eraser tool to do some detail work.

