



PRINTO

SOLUTIONS

GUIDE
Preparation of the Artwork File

February 2024

Welcome to the universe of digital printing on aluminum cans !

Digital printing is now the best option for your packaging projects on aluminum cans !

It allows you to obtain a much more precise result and offers an endless possibility of options for all your designs. From the addition of raster images, to precise and smooth gradients, to metallic colors, to different finishes and varnishes and even with embossing effects, digital printing will allow you to completely unleash your creative genius at a lower cost and a much faster production time.

In order to obtain optimal printing, there are a few rules to follow when creating a production document.

You will find in this guide how to proceed.

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You have to create your document in **Adobe Illustrator** with these specs:

You can also download our existing templates on our website.

- › **The right dimensions of the can size you need**
- › **Color mode CMYK**
- › **Between 300ppi and 600ppi**
- › **No bleed is necessary**

***Design can be done in Adobe Photoshop, but will need to be adjusted/finalized in Illustrator for ease of transfer to print.*

PRESET DETAILS

Untitled-1

Width: 206.71 mm, Millimeters

Height: 160 mm, Orientation: Portrait, Artboards: 1

Bleed: Top: 0 mm, Bottom: 0 mm, Left: 0 mm, Right: 0 mm

Advanced Options

Color Mode: CMYK Color

Raster Effects: High (300 ppi)

Preview Mode: Default

Create Close

4 available sizes:



Standard
16 fl.oz / 473 ml



Standard
12 fl.oz / 355 ml



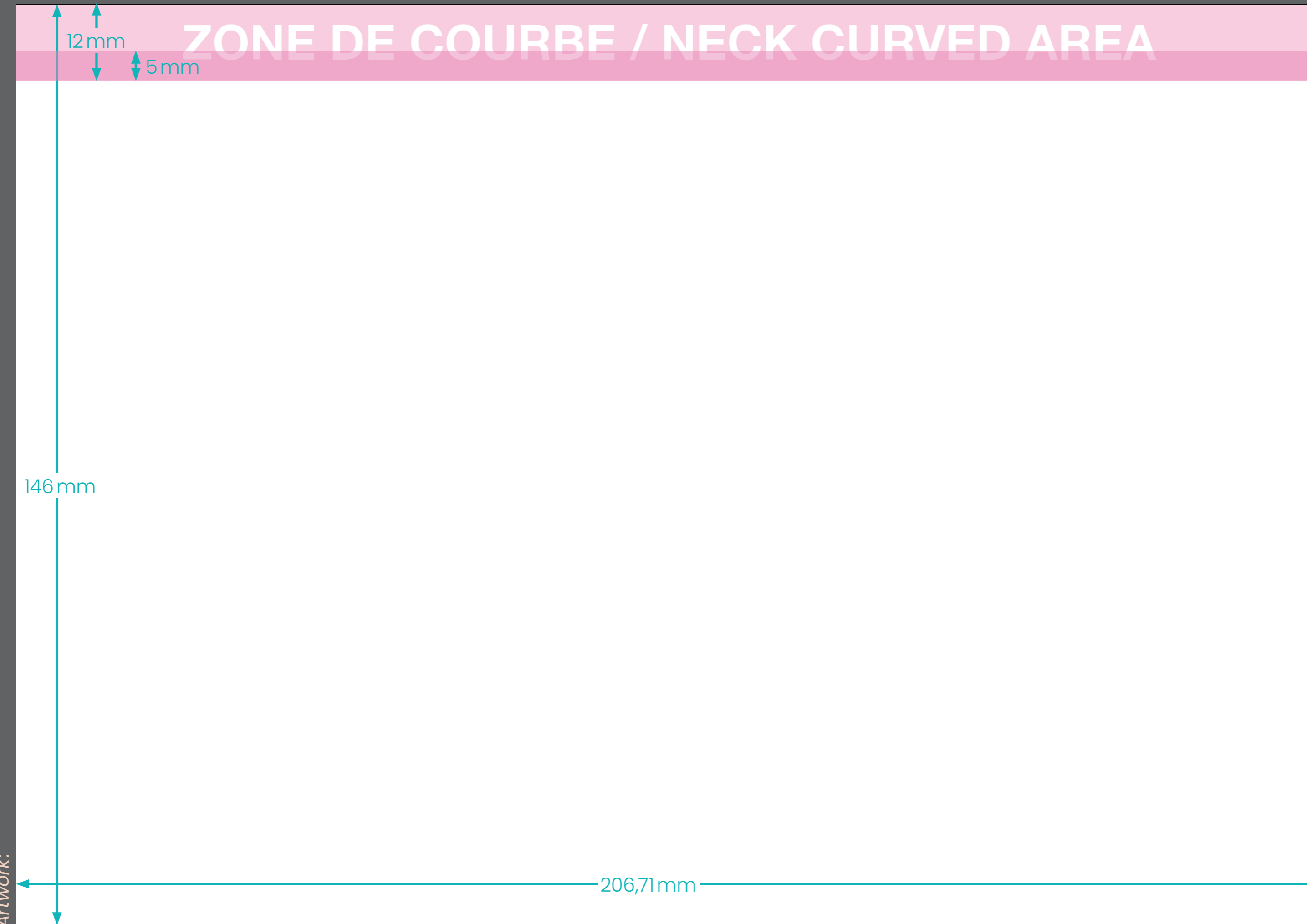
Slim
8.4 fl.oz / 250 ml



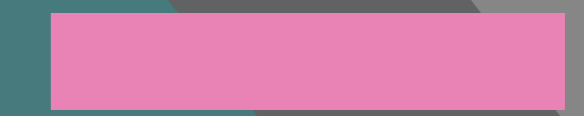
Sleek
12 fl.oz / 355 ml

Standard 16 oz / 473 ml

- > 206,71 mm x 146 mm (*working area*)
- > Ø 66 mm



- > Maximum for bleed
- > Can have images or colors



- > Maximum for text (5 mm)

Standard 12 oz / 355 ml

- > 206,71 mm x 111 mm (*working area*)
- > Ø 66 mm



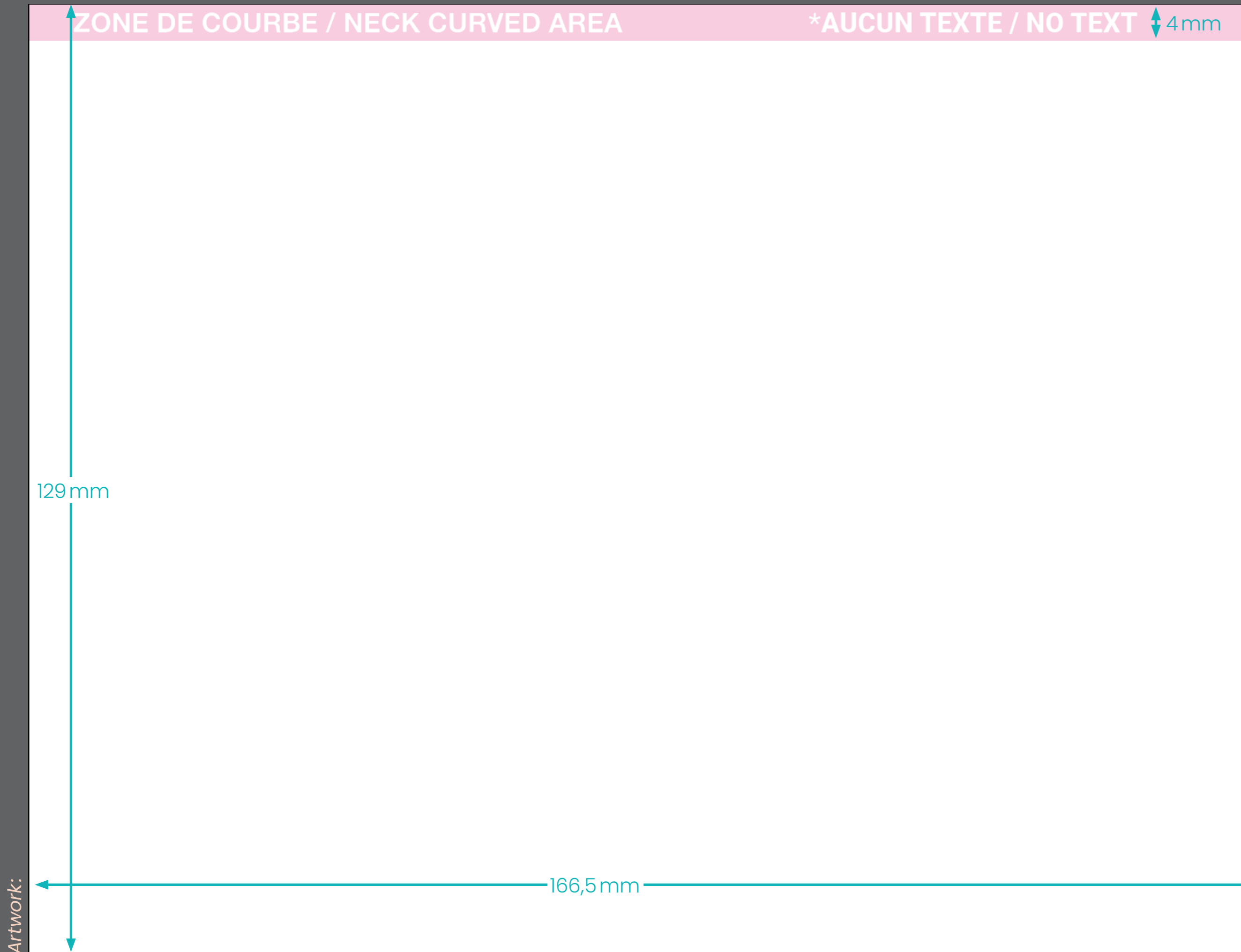
- > Maximum for bleed
- > Can have images or colors



- > Maximum for text (5mm)

SLIM 8.4 oz / 250 ml

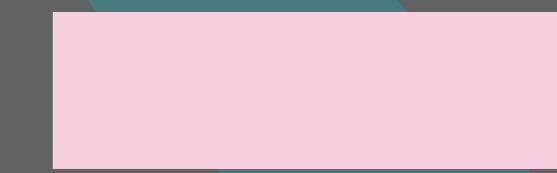
- > 166,5 mm x 129 mm (*working area*)
- > Ø 53 mm



- > Maximum pour fond perdu (*bleed*)
- > Peut contenir des images ou de la couleur

SLEEK 12 oz / 355 ml

- > 182 mm x 148,5 mm (*working area*)
- > Ø 58 mm



- > Maximum pour fond perdu (*bleed*)
- > Peut contenir des images ou de la couleur

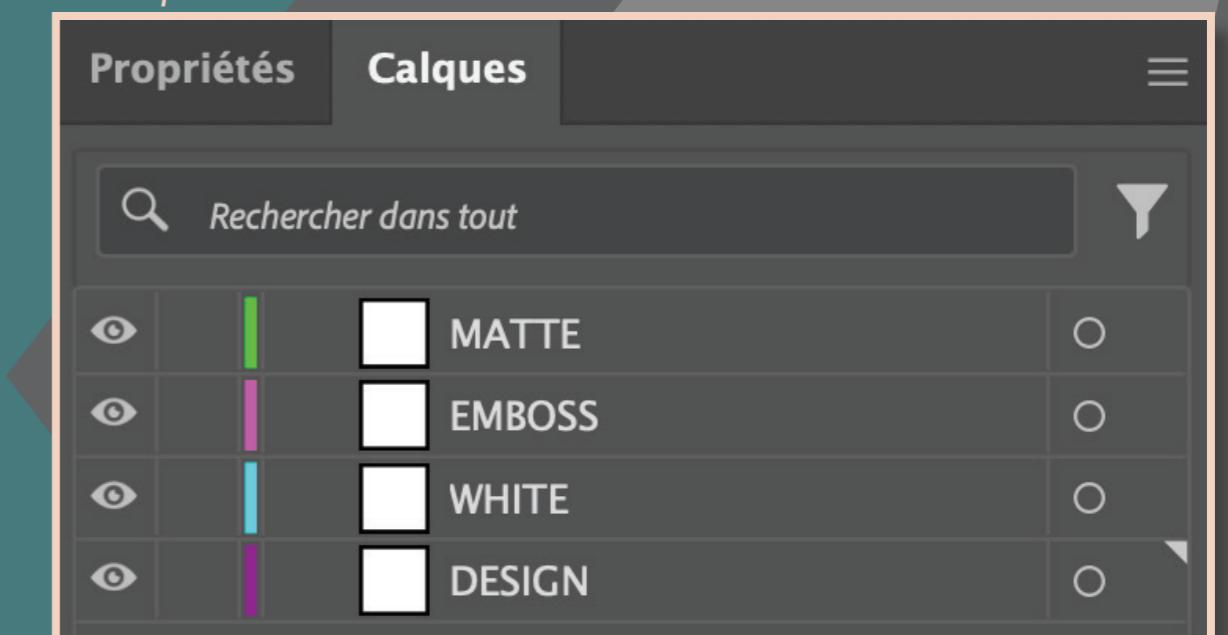
As in any project, layer management is important.

For digital printing, each color is printed one after the other, starting with white and ending with varnishes. To make these separations easier, here is how your layers should be set up:

- › **MATTE** (if needed) (see page 18)
- › **EMBOSS** (if needed) (see page 18)
- › **White** (see page 14 for more details)
- › **Your Design**

Make sure you don't have any unnecessary layers to avoid problems when printing. So, if you don't have matte varnish, for example, you can remove the layer.

example:



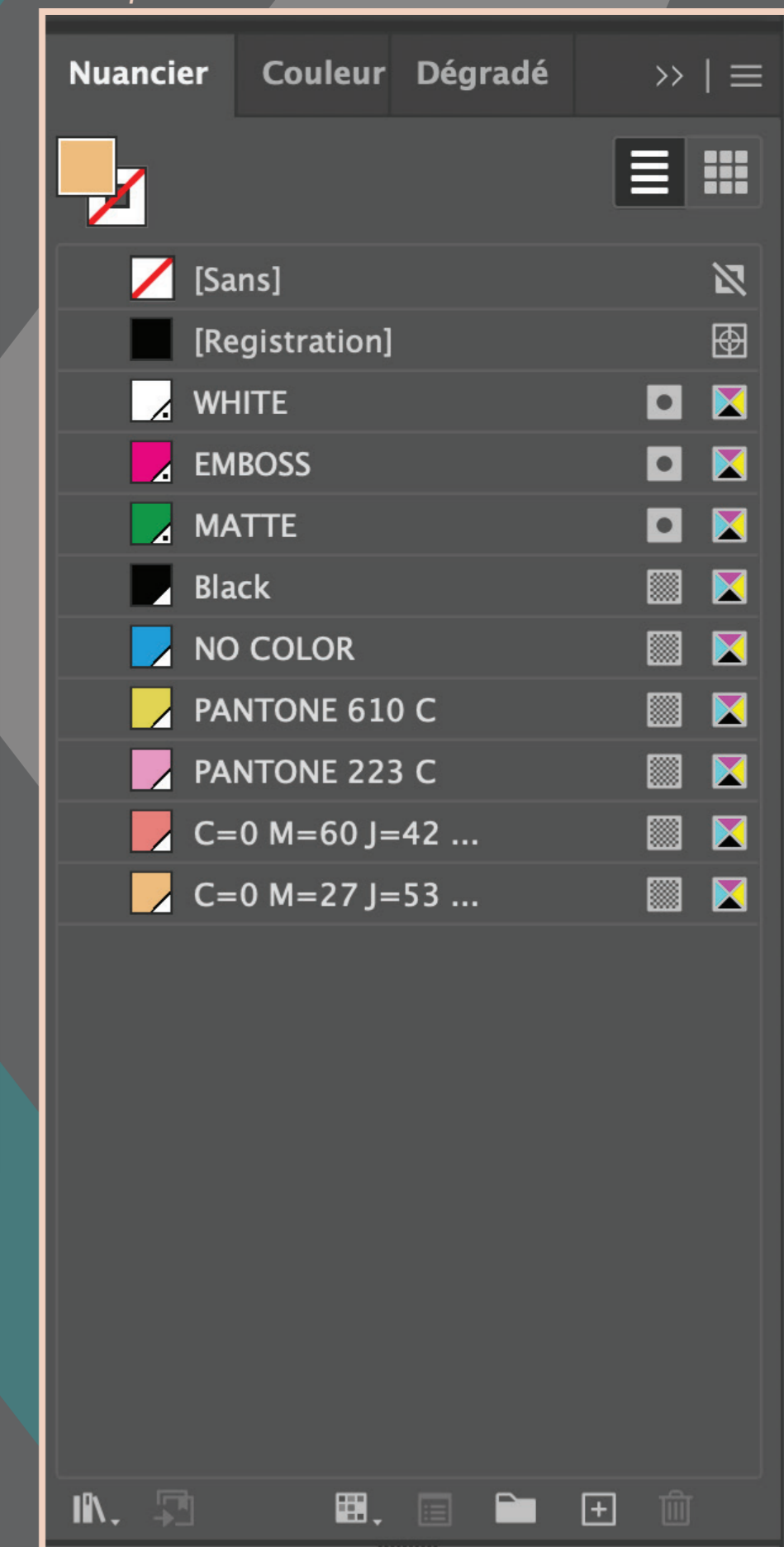
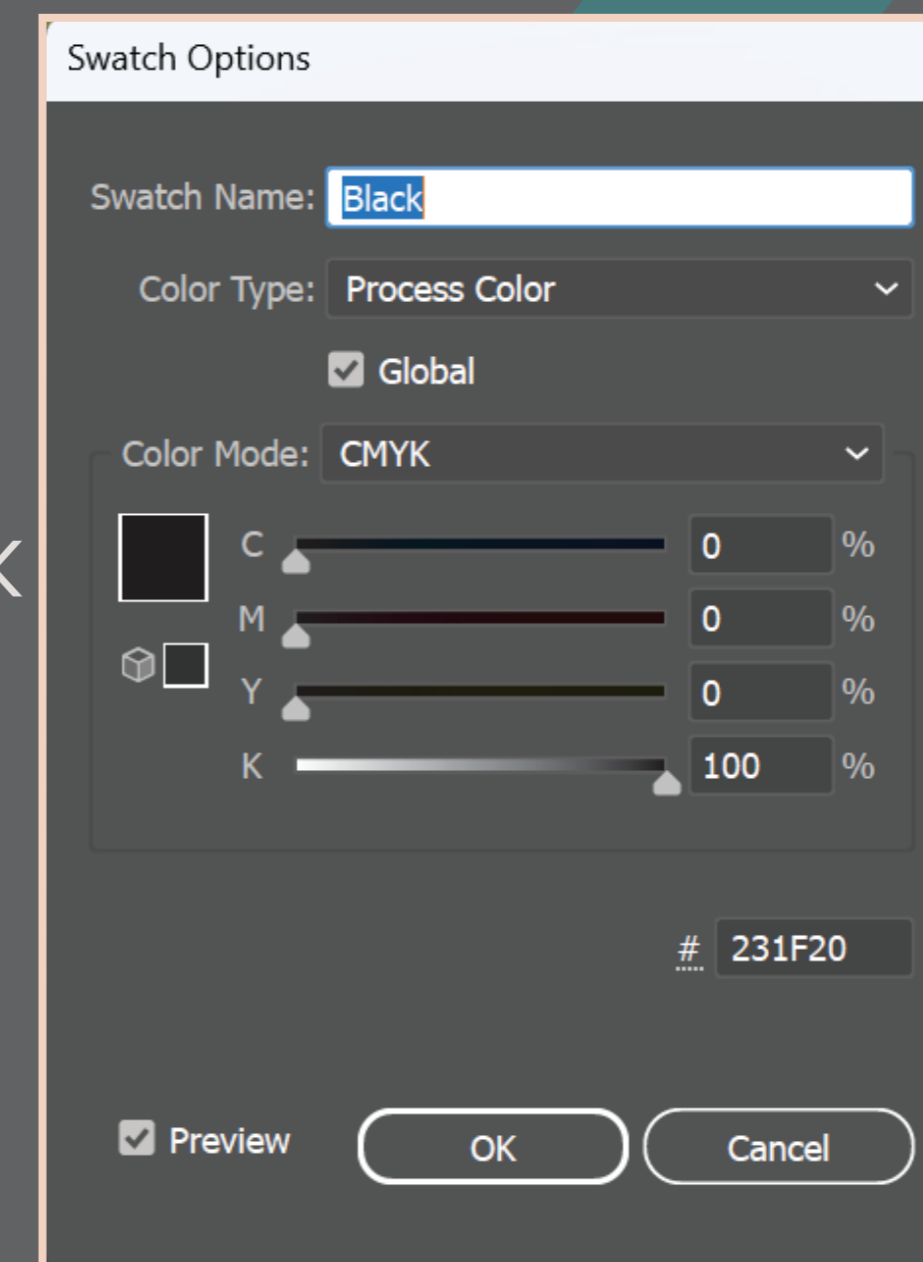
The variety of colors possible for digital printing is endless; however, certain standards must be respected:

- › **All color swatches have to be a process color (CMYK)**
- › **BLACK has to be 100 %**
- › **All WHITE has to be a spot color and in a separate layer.**
(see page 14 for more details)
- › **Pantones colors are accepted.** They must be converted into CMYK and kept their name as indicated according to the charter.
- › **Spot varnishes are always a spot color as well as in a separate layer.**
- › **Remove all unused color swatches**

All white elements will **always be overprinted.**
(see page 17 for more details).

**If part of your design contains metallic elements without color, you can identify it with another color indicated: No Color.*

example:



Typography is an important element in any design and it is essential that it is printed perfectly to avoid problems.

- › **Minimum recommended positive text** (*ex: black on white*): **6 pts**
- › **Minimum recommended negative text** (*ex: white on black*): **7 pts**
- › **Minimum recommended color text**: **7 pts**

- › **All texts always have to be outlined.**

Also, to avoid deformation, it is important to respect the maximum allowed according to the format in the neck area of the can for typography. (*5 mm for standard size*)

Lines:

- › **Minimum for positive line (ex: black on white): 0.25 pts**
- › **Minimum for negative line (ex: white on black): 0.3 pts**
- › **It is suggested that all lines must be outlined.**

Strokes:

- › **A stroke can be a different color from its background.**

If an element does not require an outline (of a different color for example), it is not necessary to add one like in offset printing. Adding a useless outline will create an unnecessary knockout and might alter your design.

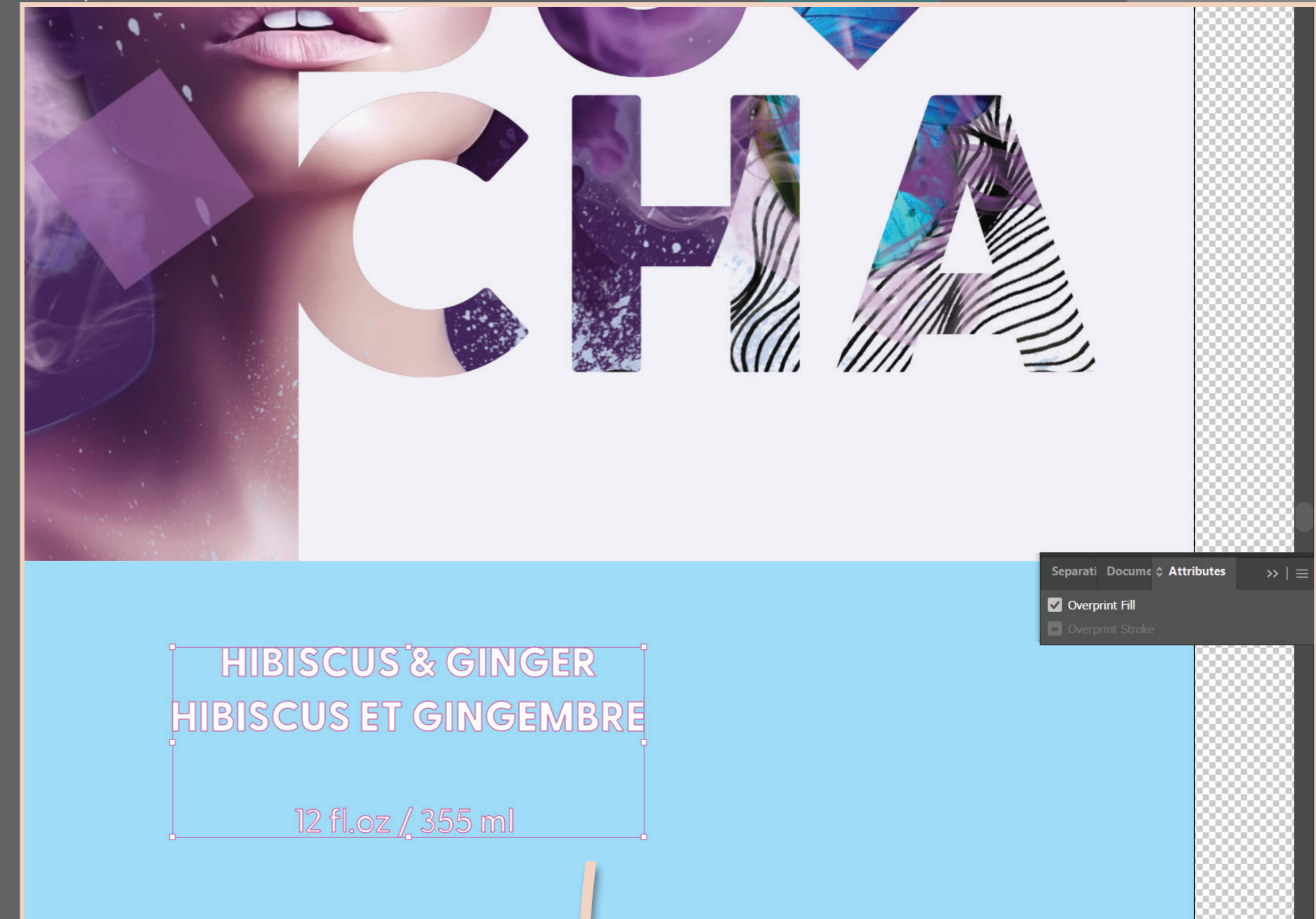
The WHITE white layer (**important to name it like that**) must at all times be separate from the others. White is the first color printed. In this way, we ensure it to be pure white.

There is 2 options for white color:

- **FLOOD:**
Which means that a layer of white will cover the can completely before printing the design. The colors will be more vibrant, giving a more satin finish. However, it will be necessary to knockout the places which will be white.
- **SPOT:**
Which means that only certain places will be white. If there is a color without a white background, it will be metallic; otherwise, it will be more satiny and lively. Spot white is also used when certain elements are pure white.

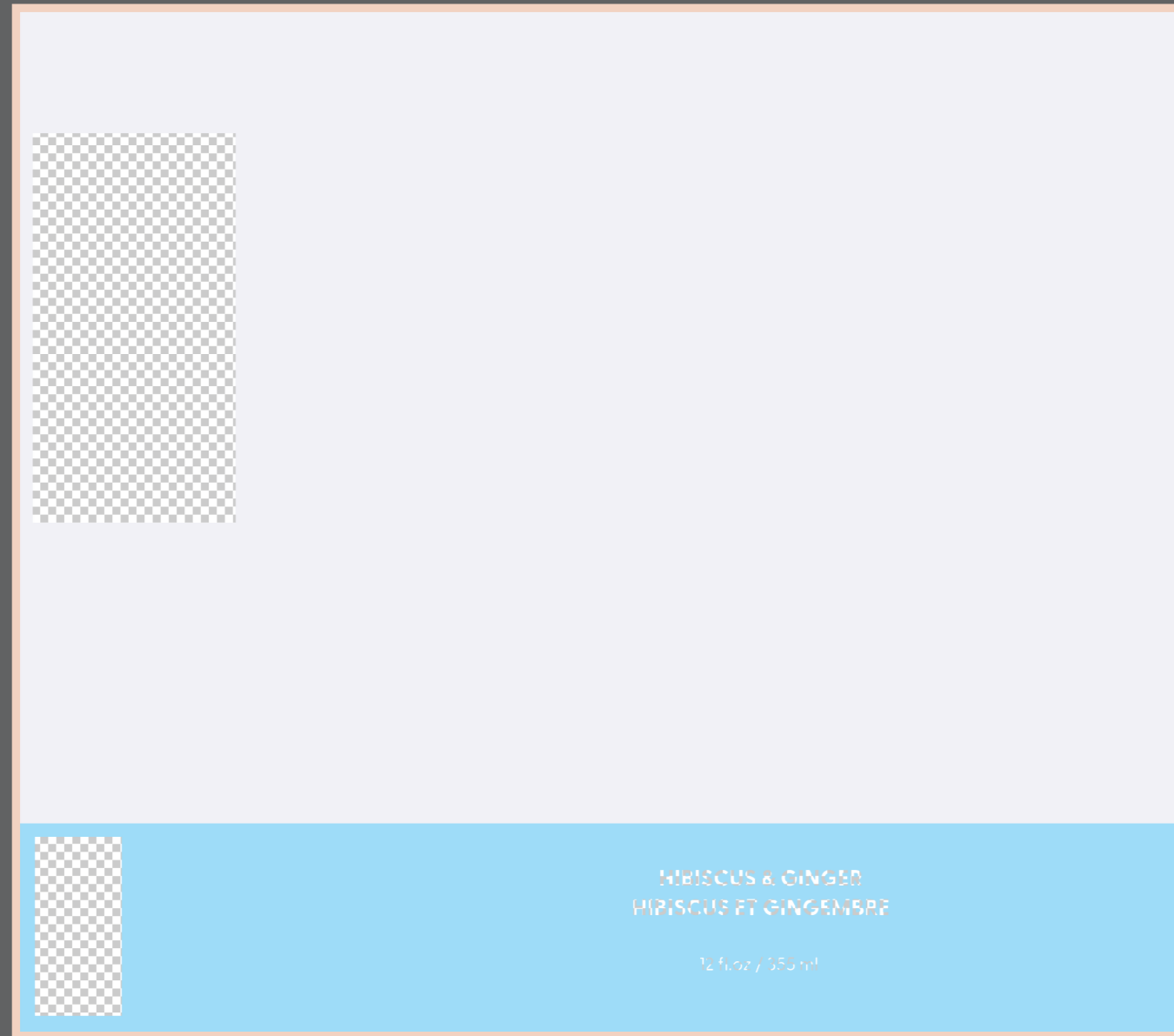
Super important!
All white elements need to be overprint.

example:

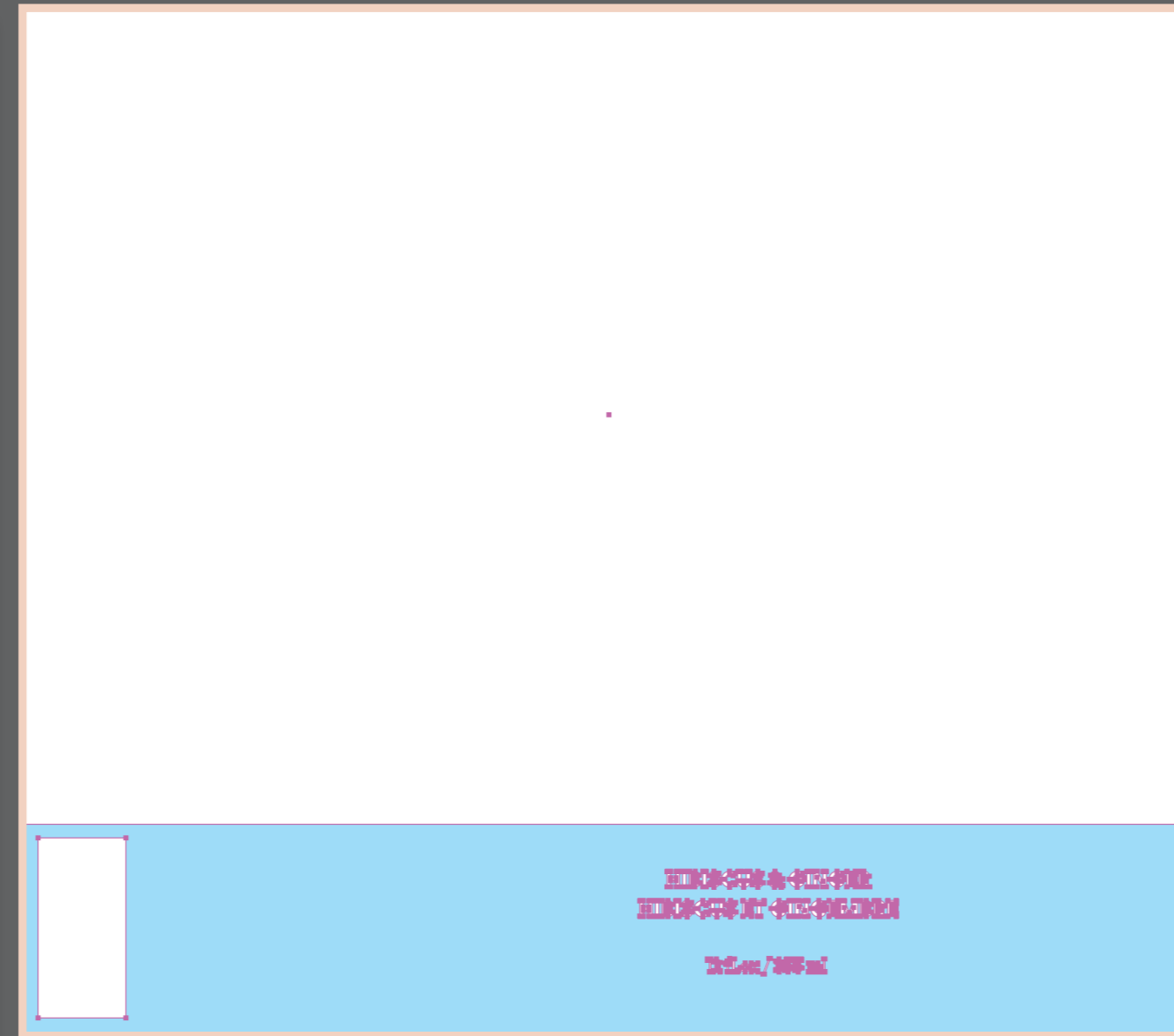


Example of knockout background for the white text.

Light purple background with the blue band metallic:



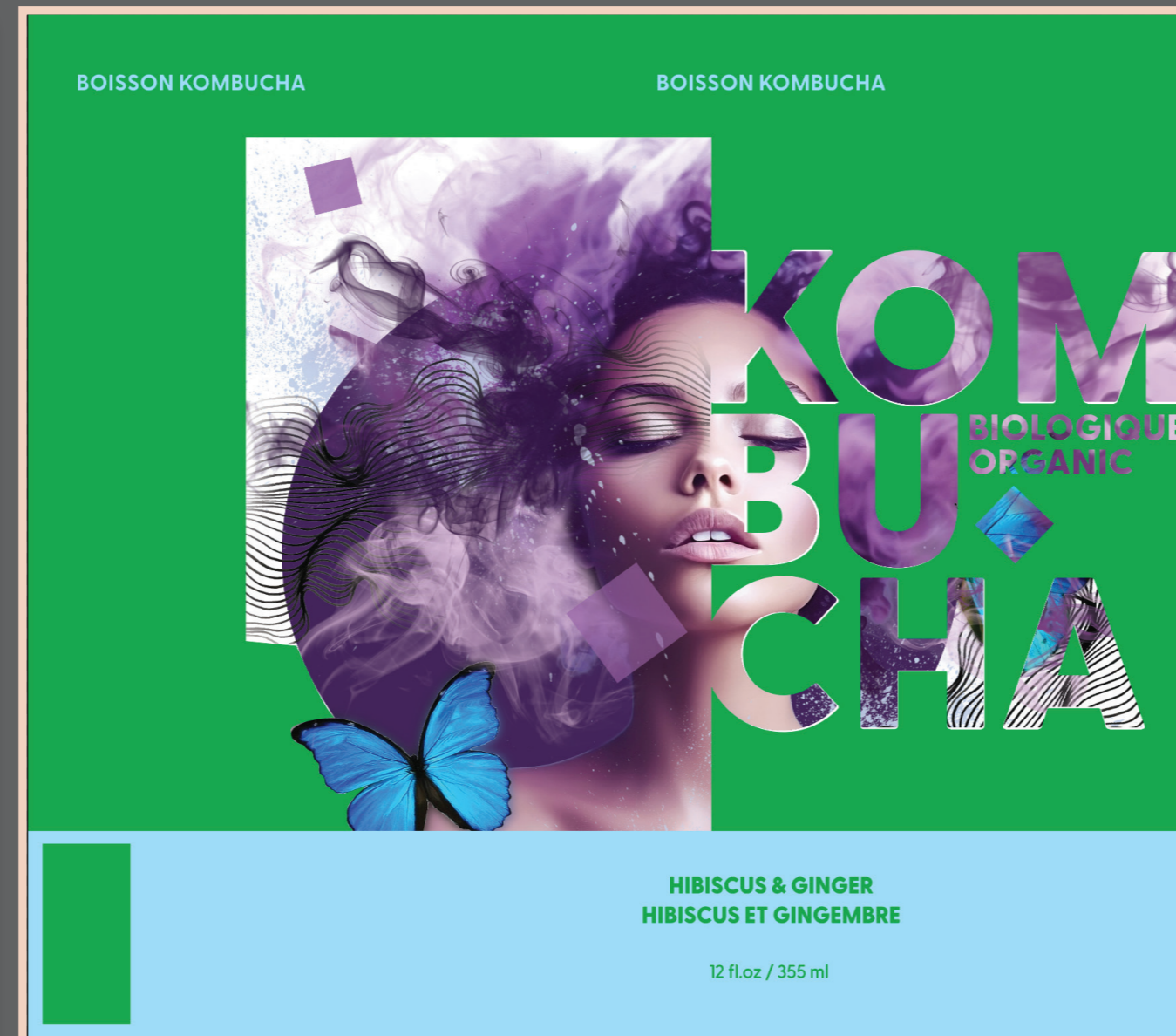
White layer (here spot white) overprint:



Design layer:



MATTE varnish layer:



BASIC LAYERS EXAMPLES



Result:



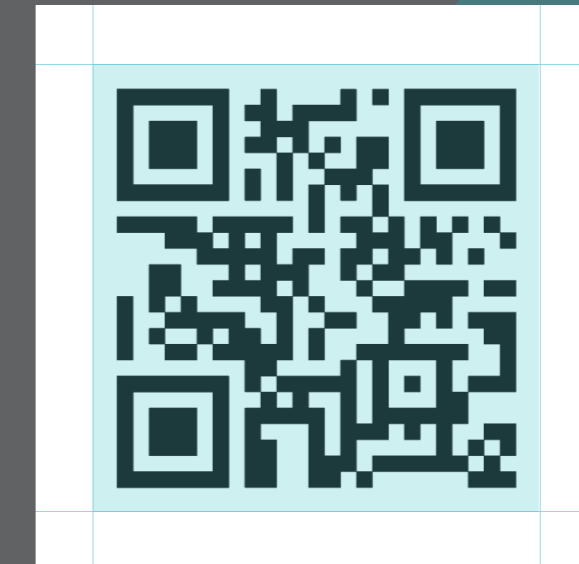
Bar code:

- **Minimum size: 37 x 27 mm (can be scale down up to 80%)**
- **Has to be absolutely outlined**
- **Ideally in pure black**
- **Has to be placed vertically**
- **The white background behind needs to have at least 2 mm all around. **Can be place without a white background if there is enough contrast***

Code QR:

- **Has to be absolutely outlined**
- **Ideally in pure black**
- **The white background behind needs to have at least 1 mm all around. **Can be place without a white background if there is enough contrast***

1 mm border



2 mm border



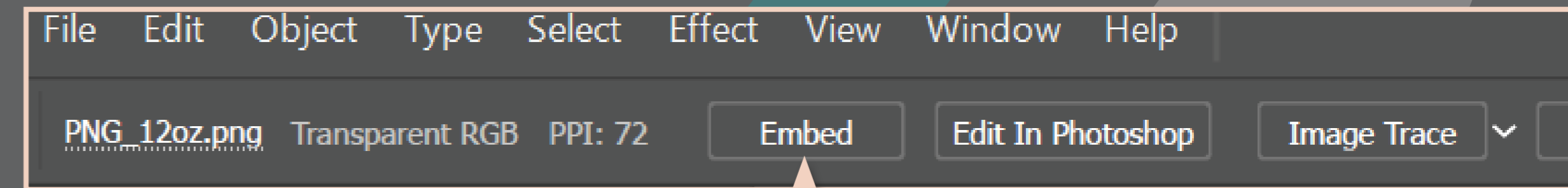
It is possible to insert raster images in your design.

- › **The image has to be in process colors (CMYK)**
- › **The image has to be embedded.**
- › **The image needs to have a resolution of at least 150 dpi**

Images can bleed on the neck zone or the bottom section.
(Same for patterns)

**It is not necessary to have a white background behind*

In case your image goes all the way around the can, make sure the image connects perfectly to avoid a cutoff in the image. You can make the image slightly overflow on one side to avoid cutting off.



Digital printing makes it possible to offer several types of global varnishes or spot:

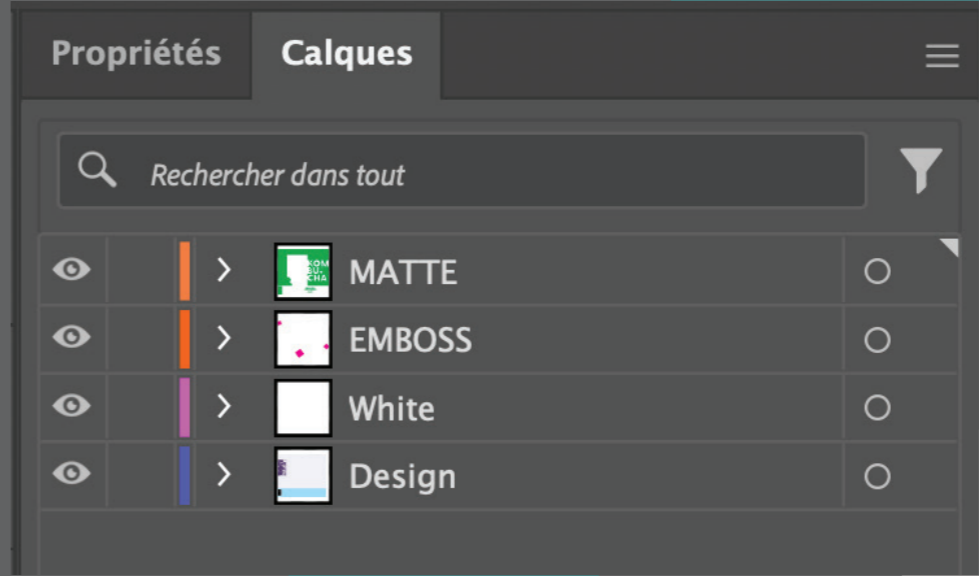
- > **Matte** varnish
- > **Emboss** and/or **Gloss** varnish

The areas which will have spot varnish must be in a spot color and in a separate layer well named according to the desired varnish. **Everything in the varnish layer has to be overprint at all time.**

Each type of varnish must have its own spot color to clearly differentiate them. The matte varnish is the last one to print.

Textured varnish (embossing) is in fact several layers of varnish superimposed. You can use different % of saturation for a softer effects.

example:



example:

