overprint
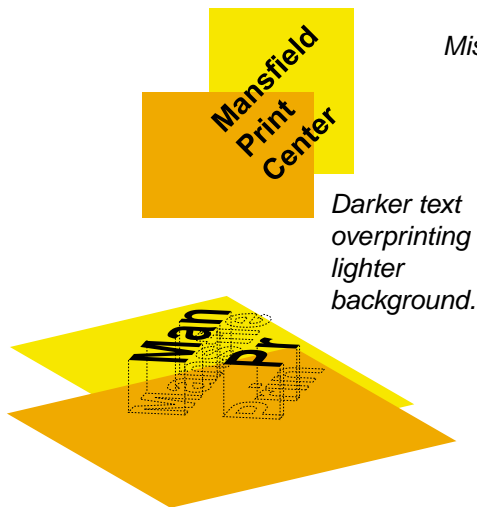
Darker inks overprint lighter colors. There is no need for trapping; however, the opacity of the ink determines how much the under color shows through the darker color. If the darker color is fairly translucent, there may be a noticeable darkening of the upper color where the lighter color is over-printed. CMYK files overprint automatically.
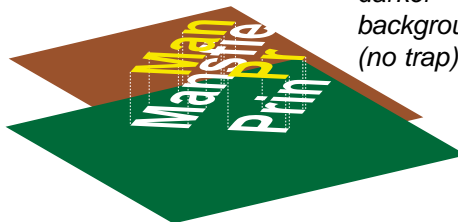
knockout & trap

Lighter colors knockout darker background colors. This process requires a "trap" to prevent slight misregistration on press. Traps are usually created by overprinting a slight stroke around perimeter of object. Vector files with spot colors need traps created, and can be done – by specifying the stroke to "overprint" and the "fill" to knockout – in the attributes dialog box.

Misregistration due to lack of trap.

Darker text overprinting lighter background.

Lighter text knocking out darker background (no trap).

Stroke overprinting to create trap on press

Registration due to trap.