Everything you need to know about white or metallic digital inks

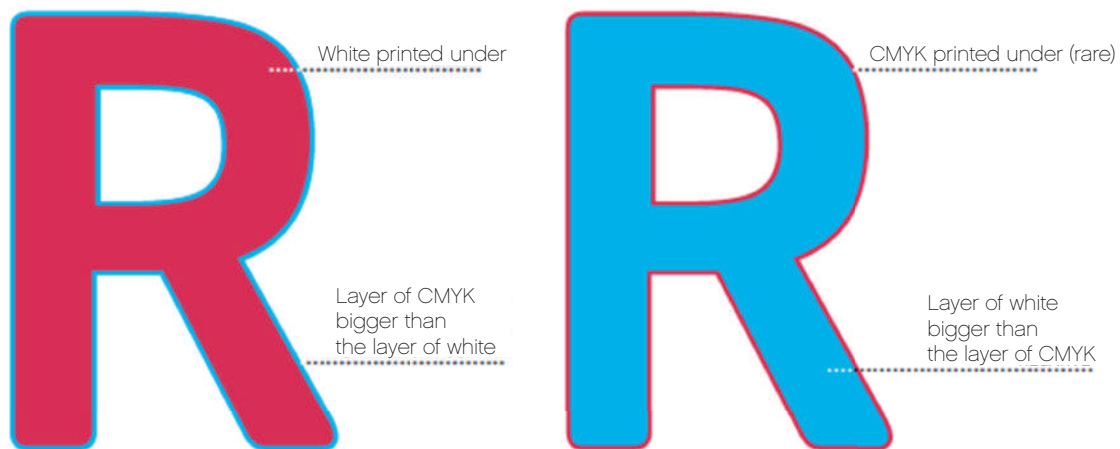Read carefully !

Please read

if you are using white as a background of a CMYK print :

If you are using white ink under a text or shape which is exactly of the same size, it is highly recommended to create a white layer slightly smaller than its CMYK identical element (overprint).
It is called «trapping».

Firstly, create a layer of white ink and follow instructions below :
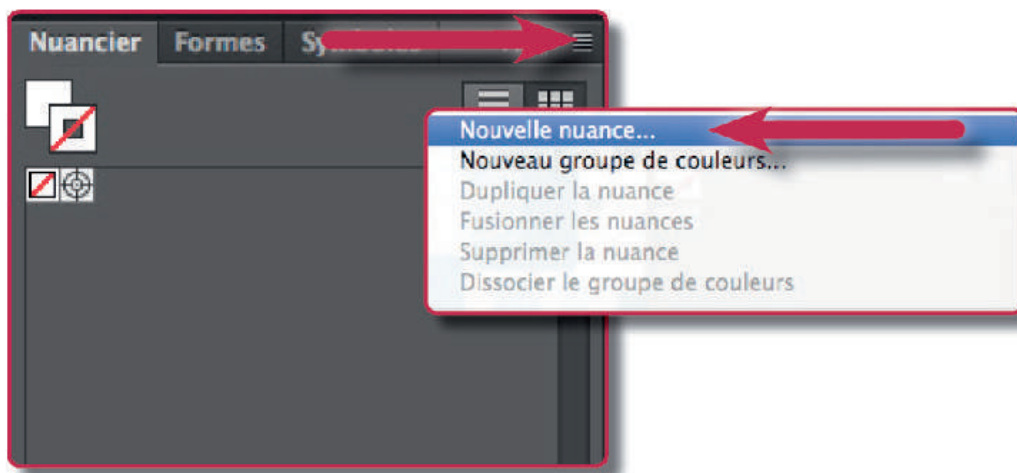

White printed under

CMYK printed under (rare)

Layer of CMYK bigger than the layer of white

Layer of white bigger than the layer of CMYK

Reduce / enlarge the layer of white/CMYK of 2 pixels in Photoshop, or 0,1mm in Illustrator or 0,5% on other softwares.
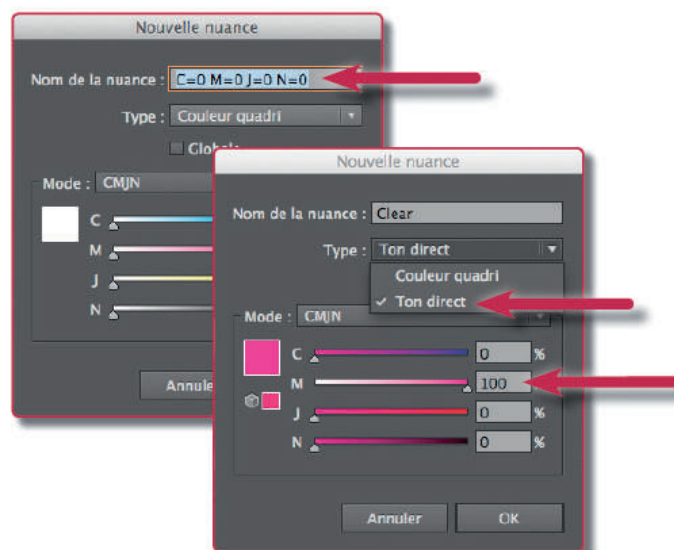
Ai **Id**

All you need to know to create a 5th colour (white or metallic inks) or a special colour by itself. :

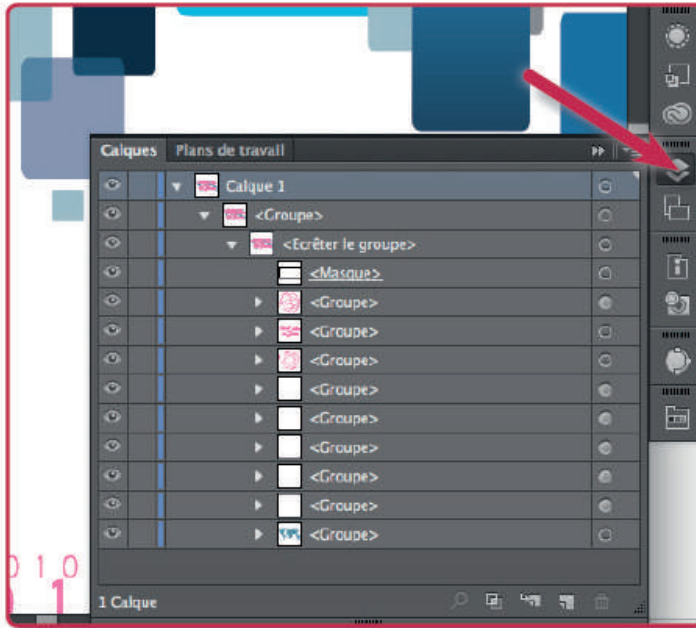**1** Create a new shade "White" or "Gold" or "Silver"

Exactly spell the name of the shade as written above

Give a full primary colour (M = 100%) to the spot colour you just created and press OK. Magenta is the most commonly used, avoid Black.
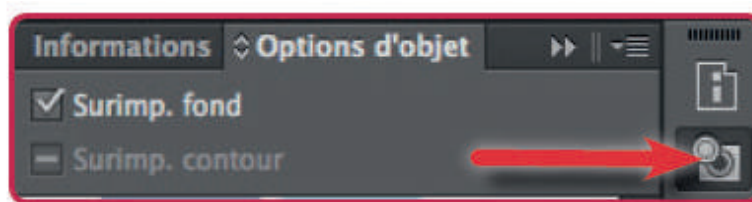
2 Layers :

When mixing CMYK and a special ink, it is important to define the order of the 5 layers. The special ink layer must be placed 95% of the time above the other CMYK layers as it will be printed before the CMYK colours. For some specific files it must be placed after but add a comment to your order in that case.

3 Then, define the chosen layer which will be considered as overprint
Window / Object options (Ai) or Window / Export / Object options (Id)

4 Check all other technical information on the forms on our website (bleed, resolution, colour mode, outlines etc.)
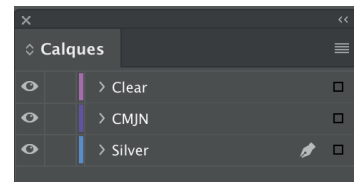
We do not encourage our clients to use Photoshop to print special inks (white or metallic inks).

Photoshop is using pixels instead of vector paths such as Illustrator or InDesign. The quality of the printing won't be as good as using a software using vector paths. If you have no other possibility, please contact us directly for instructions.

Combining several special inks (white, gold, silver or clear)

Contact us directly to create your file as several variations exist.

You can create metallic shades (based on 60% silver + CMYK) or combine glossy clear ink or white ink on the same file.
It might get a bit tricky, please contact us.

Layer above : clear

CMYK

Layer under : silver or gold

Paper