TRACING IMAGES IN ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR CC FOR VINYL PLOTTER
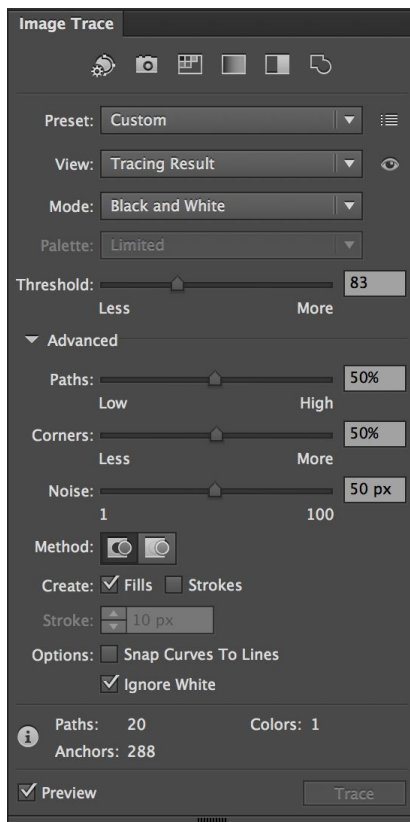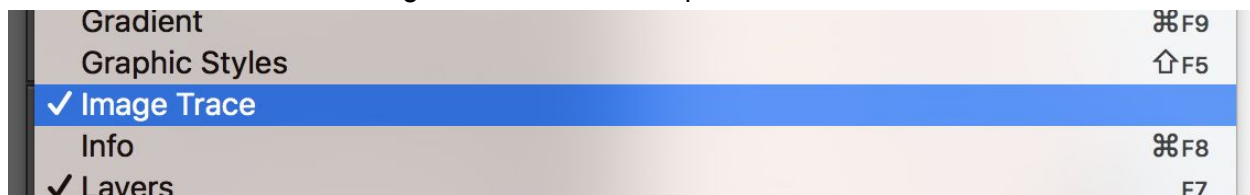
There are two stations in the DVIL lab with the Cutting Master 3 plugin installed - use these to proof your file before bringing it in for cutting.

STEP 1 - IMAGE FILE

- Open your image file in Illustrator
- To make a vector: Click on your image, a blue box will surround it.
- Adjust image size by dragging corner of blue box - hold shift to retain proportions
- Go to Window Menu in Menu Bar

Illustrator CC   File   Edit   Object   Type   Select   Effect   View   Window   Help

- Ensure that Image Trace Window is open

Gradient   ⌘F9
Graphic Styles   ⇧F5
✓ Image Trace
Info   ⌘F8
✓ Layers   F7

STEP 2 - IMAGE TRACE:

-Toggle Paths, Corners, and Noise until you reach your desired result.

-Make sure that Ignore White is selected, and the left icon in Method is selected *otherwise your cutting path will not be clear.*

-Deselect Preview, and select Trace.

If your image isn't turning out how you'd like, open it in Photoshop, make it high contrast, remove unnecessary background using the brush or eraser tool and bring it back to Illustrator to trace. You can screen cap it, edit and then screen cap again since it will be a scalable vector. Don't worry about resolution.

STEP 3 - PROOF/SEND IMAGE

-Save image as .pdf .psd or .ai

-Under File in Menu Bar Select Cutting Master 3 > Send to Cutting Master 3

-Cutting Master 3 will open, do not update.

Image Trace panel

Preset: Custom
View: Tracing Result
Mode: Black and White
Palette: Limited
Threshold: 83
  Less — More
▼ Advanced
Paths: 50%
  Low — High
Corners: 50%
  Less — More
Noise: 50 px
  1 — 100
Method:
Create: ✓ Fills   ☐ Strokes
Stroke: 10 px
Options: ☐ Snap Curves To Lines
  ✓ Ignore White
Paths: 20   Colors: 1
Anchors: 288
✓ Preview   Trace

-Proof your file and make note of your settings before bringing your file to be cut.

STEP 4 - PRINTING
-Pre-pay at the Store for your vinyl
-Make an appointment by signing up on the door of the DPL.
-Don't forget to purchase a squeegee to properly mount your vinyl!

STEP 5 - WEEDING & MASKING
-Use the tools provided and the instructions posted in the weeding and masking area.