

Getting Started

Research paper cutouts in books and online and you will find some stunning examples of this traditional craft. The paper-cutout term 'Snickeregladje,' means 'fretwork', and these decorative cutout shapes have made many homes happy over the years.



Choosing designs

1

Working from books or colour printouts, trace and paint elements that will make up your design. You can also use copyright-free books to work from.



Creating artwork

2

With all your favourite paper-cutout printouts and colour photocopies at hand, start tracing elements and create your own variations and colour schemes. Use felt tip pens or acrylic paints on good quality white paper. Painting the artwork gives a hand rendered quality and originality in the final design.



3

Paint your tracings in different colours so that you'll have lots of variety to develop once they're scanned into the computer.



Scanning the artwork

4

Now scan in your finished painting. This painting is A3 size, but the scanner we used was A4, so we scanned it in two halves and pasted them together in Photoshop.

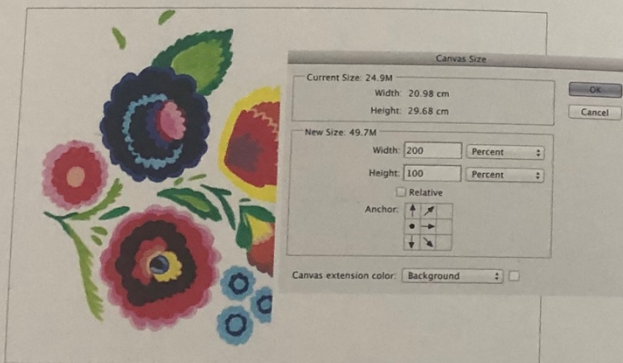
Scan in your artwork at 300 dpi and open up the documents in Photoshop. Name and save the first artwork Scan 1 and the second artwork Scan 2.



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Go to the Scan 1 to increase the canvas by 200% so you can paste the second part of the artwork to make a complete canvas.

In the Options bar select **Image > Canvas Size**. A dialogue box will appear. Select the middle left hand square and put 200 percent in the Width size. Click OK.



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Go to Scan 2 and copy. **Select > All**
Edit > Copy

Go back to Scan 1 and paste Scan 2 in the increased canvas size. **Edit > Paste**



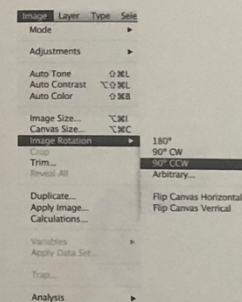
Preparing artwork

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Select the Move tool from the toolbar and carefully move Scan 2 into the new canvas so the two halves fit together.

Once they fit flatten the document. In the Option bar go to

Layers > Flatten Image



8

To put the document the correct way up, go to the Option bar

Image > Image Rotation > 90° CCW

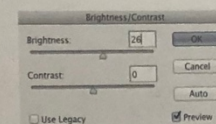
9

To brighten your image before opening it in Illustrator, go to the Options bar

Image > Adjustments

Select Brightness/Contrast. A dialogue box will appear. Move the sliders of Brightness and Contrast so the background is crisp white. Click OK.

Save your prepared artwork as a Jpeg image.



Ready for Illustrator

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Next you will convert the painting in Photoshop into a vector image in Illustrator. This means you can enlarge your artwork to any size and maintain a crisp quality. It also allows paint marks to become clean shapes, giving a graphic cutout feel.



Photoshop Bitmap Image

Illustrator Vector Image

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Open Illustrator and open the saved Jpeg image. Don't worry if this goes beyond the artboard, you will compose this later. Select the whole image with the Direct Selection tool.

You are now going to convert the image into a vector artwork.

Direct Selection Tool



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Go to Window in the Option bar, scroll down and find Image Trace. The dialogue box will appear.

In the dialogue box set **Preset > Low Fidelity Photo**

View > Tracing Results

Palette > Full Tone

Click Trace.

Your image will now look smoother and flatter.

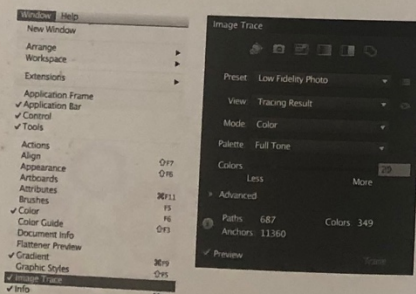


Image trace

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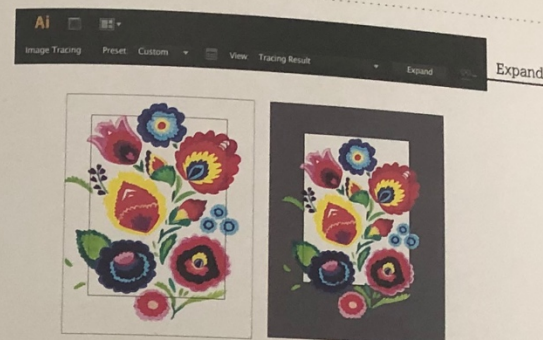
Make the motifs into paths so they can be individually edited. In the Image Tracing Option bar, select **Expand**; you will see the paths around the motifs.

Image > Ungroup

With the Selection Tool select the outside rectangle and hit Delete. Select all of the image

Select > All

Copy and paste into a new document ready to scale up and arrange.

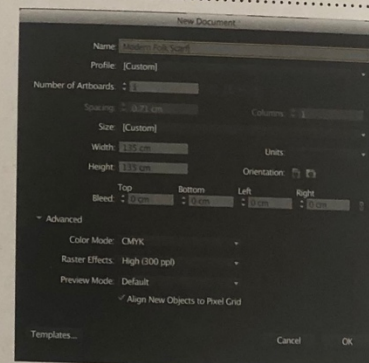


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You are now going to create a new document for the scarf. You want to print the biggest scarf you can.

Check with the printer the maximum print size that you can design to on your choice of fabric. In this case it was 135 cm (54 in) width. So we made the document 135 cm x 135 cm (54 in x 54 in).

File > New



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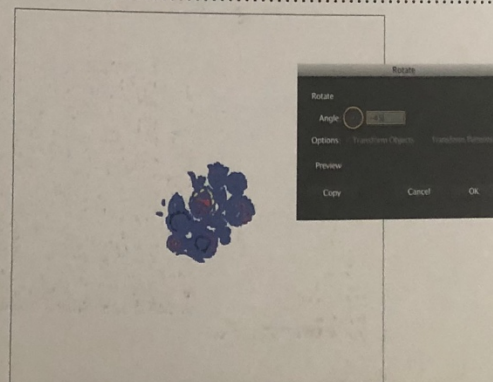
In your new document paste the image that you previously copied.

Edit > Paste

It will appear in the middle of your new canvas

To rotate the image go to the Option bar and select **Object > Transform > Rotate**

A dialogue box will appear. Put -45 degree in Angle and click OK.



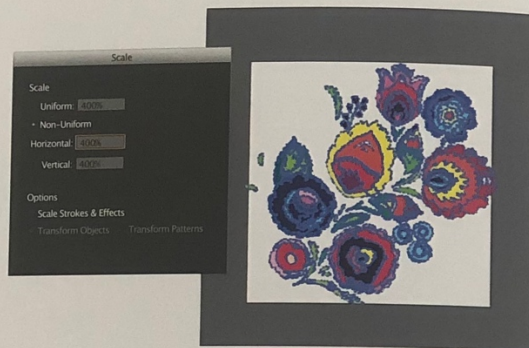
Scarf layout

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Enlarge the image to fit the scarf document. To scale the image go to the Option bar and select

Object > Transform > Scale

A dialogue box will appear, put 400% in the Uniform box and select Non Uniform. Click OK. If your design is over the document, select the Scale tool and, holding down the Shift key, scale to fit your image.



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Now arrange the motifs and space them out. Select the Direct Selection tool from the toolbar, carefully hover it over the motif to select it and move it to fit in the space. You can always go back to paint some more motifs and add some extra detail. Save your finished scarf design.



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To export your Modern Folk scarf design

File > Export

Locate where you want to save it and choose a file type (in this case a Tiff). Click OK. A dialogue box will appear. Select RGB in the Colour Model and 200dpi in resolution. Click OK and your design is ready to send to the printer.

