

Envelope Distort: Overview

The **Envelope Distort** feature in Adobe Illustrator allows you to apply complex shapes and distortions to text, making it highly versatile for creative typography effects. It lets you fit your text inside any object and manipulate it by stretching, curving, or reshaping it based on the envelope shape.

Steps to Use Envelope Distort on Typography:

1. **Create Text:**
 - Select the **Type Tool (T)** from the toolbar.
 - Click on the canvas and type your desired text.
 2. **Select the Text:**
 - Using the **Selection Tool (V)**, click on your text to select it.
 3. **Apply Envelope Distort:**
 - Go to **Object > Envelope Distort**.
 - You will see different options here:
 - **Make with Warp:** Distorts text based on preset shapes (e.g., Arc, Bulge, etc.).
 - **Make with Mesh:** Distorts text by creating a mesh structure around it.
 - **Make with Top Object:** Applies the distortion based on the object positioned above the text.
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Using Envelope Distort with "Make with Warp":

This option applies predefined warping effects.

1. **Choose "Make with Warp":**
 - After selecting your text, go to **Object > Envelope Distort > Make with Warp**.
 - A dialog box will appear with several warp styles (e.g., Arc, Flag, Wave, etc.).
 - Adjust the **Bend** slider to control the intensity of the distortion.
 - Use the **Horizontal** and **Vertical** sliders to modify the direction of the warp.
 2. **Edit Warp Effect:**
 - You can always edit the warp effect later. To do this, select the text and go to **Object > Envelope Distort > Edit Envelope**. You can change the warp or adjust the envelope shape.
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Using Envelope Distort with "Make with Mesh":

This option provides more detailed control over the distortion by creating a mesh grid around the text.

1. **Choose "Make with Mesh":**

- Select your text and go to **Object > Envelope Distort > Make with Mesh**.
- The "Make with Mesh" dialog will appear, allowing you to specify the number of rows and columns in the mesh grid.
- You can add more complexity by increasing the number of rows/columns.

2. **Manipulate the Mesh:**

- Once the mesh is created, use the **Direct Selection Tool (A)** to select and drag the mesh points to distort your text.
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Using Envelope Distort with "Make with Top Object":

This option uses another object (such as a shape or path) to define the boundary for the text.

1. **Create the Envelope Shape:**

- Create a shape (like a rectangle, circle, or custom path) above your text. This shape will define the boundary for your text.

2. **Apply the Envelope:**

- Select both the text and the shape.
 - Go to **Object > Envelope Distort > Make with Top Object**.
 - The text will conform to the shape you created above it.
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Editing and Expanding Envelope Distort:

● **Edit Envelope Distort:**

- If you want to adjust the distortion or warp after applying it, select the text and go to **Object > Envelope Distort > Edit Envelope**.
- This will allow you to modify the original object or mesh.

● **Expand Envelope Distort:**

- To convert the text with the applied distortion to regular vector shapes, select the distorted text and go to **Object > Expand**. This will make the effect permanent and editable as individual paths.
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Tips for Effective Typography with Envelope Distort:

- Combine different types of distortions (warp, mesh, top object) for more creative results.
- Use **Live Preview** when applying distortions to see how the effect will look in real-time.
- Consider using a **vector object** as the envelope for more precise distortions, especially when working with complex shapes.

- **Expand** the distortion if you need to work with the text as individual paths for further customization or to use in other vector-based design projects.