

Inkscape – Image Trace

Step 1: Find a suitable image

- Images that trace best are either completely black and white, or contain only flat areas of color. Any kind of shading makes for poor image tracing.
- In an internet image search, try adding “silhouette,” “icon,” “drawing,” “stencil design,” “tattoo design” or some such modifier after your search terms.



Step 2: Save the image

- In Google Images, click on the desired picture to select it
- Then right-click on the larger version of the picture to bring up options
- Select “Save picture as”
- Click “Save” in the dialog box that opens up, but remember where the image saves. On Idea Studio laptops, the default location is the downloads folder.



Step 3: Open Inkscape

- Click on the Inkscape icon on the desktop



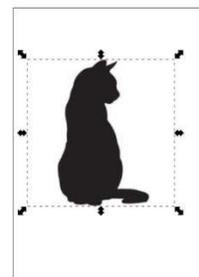
Step 4: Open the image in Inkscape

- In the upper left corner, click on “File,” then “Import”
- From the dialog box that opens, find and open your file



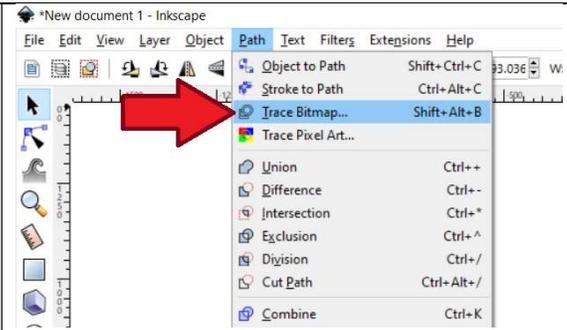
Step 5: Prepare for image trace

- Make sure the image is on the Inkscape page, not elsewhere on the screen
- Make sure the image is selected by clicking on it. An image that is selected has a dotted-line box around it



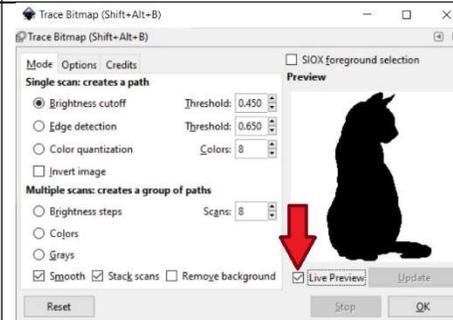
Step 6: Open the Trace Bitmap dialog box

- From the options along the upper left, click on “Path,” then on “Trace Bitmap”
- The dialog box should open



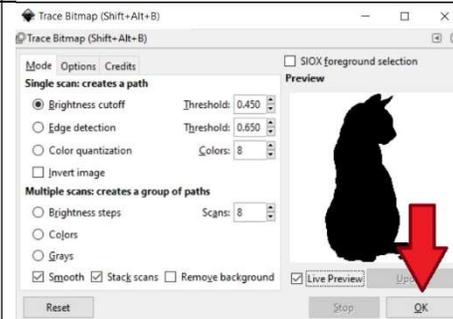
Step 7: Find the best settings for tracing the image

- Make sure that the “Live Preview” box is checked
- For a simple black and white image, the default settings usually do quite well. If desired, play around with different scan options and threshold settings to see what gives the best results



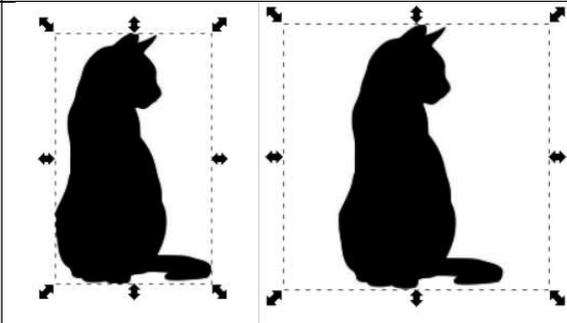
Step 8: Execute the trace

- When settings are satisfactory, click the “OK” button to perform the trace



Step 9: Select the jpeg

- The image trace creates two images stacked exactly on top of one another – the original image and the newly-created vector image. The vector image is only the area with the design (shown in left-hand picture), whereas the original image often contains some white space (shown in right-hand picture)
- Click in various places on the image until you are sure you have selected the original jpeg



Step 10: Delete the jpeg

- With the jpeg selected, press the “Delete” key on your keyboard
- You now have only the vector image in your Inkscape file

