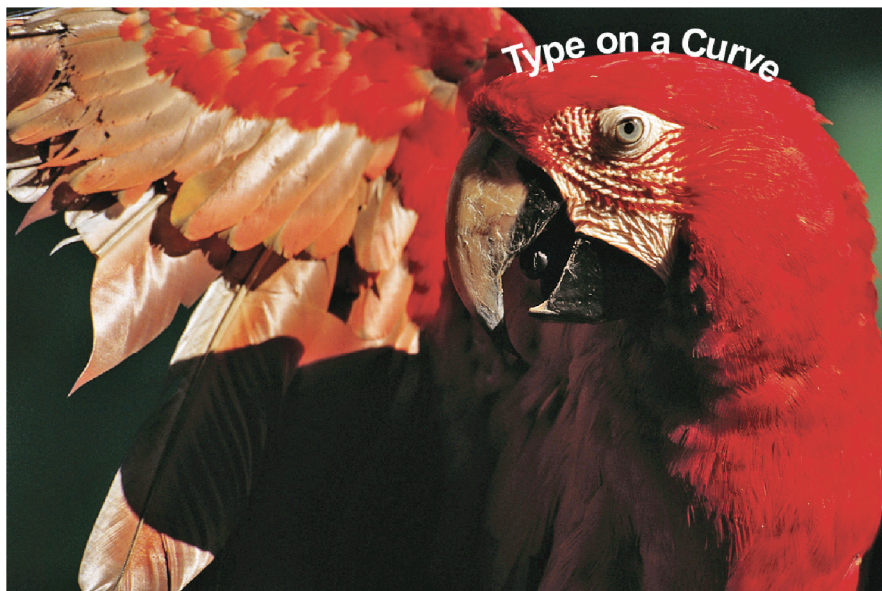# Creating Text That Follows a Path

You can draw a path with the Pen, Line, or Shape tool and then have type follow along that path, line or shape. This type path is a non-printing path; it has no pixels associated with it. Think of it as a stencil or guide for the type.

For example, to have text follow the outline of a shovel, you could draw a path around the blade using the Pen tool, and then type the text on the drawn path. The type follows the direction of the point placement on the path as it flows in. When the text reaches the end of the path it wraps around the other side.

Drawing a path from left to right will cause the text to flow in right side up. If your path is drawn right to left, your text will appear upside down. You can also move a path or change the shape of the path after the type has been added to the path. The type will automatically conform to the new path's location or shape.
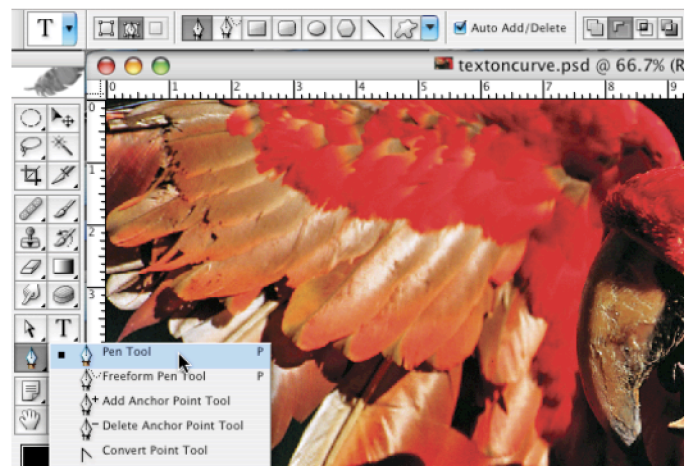
Fine-tuning the type's letter spacing and kerning is almost always needed after it is placed on the path. Doing so will make it flow more smoothly on the path.

How to Draw Your Path

1. Select the appropriate tool: the Pen tool, the Line tool, the Freeform Pen tool, or one of the shape tools.

2. In the options bar at the top of the work area, select the Paths button, and then draw the path you want the text to follow.

Note: When you create a path using a pen or line tool, the type flows in the direction you draw, wrapping around the line when it reaches the end of the line. Draw left to right to see the type right side up. Draw right to left to see it upside down.

3. Click the cursor down an Anchor point will appear. Drag in the direction you want your path to follow.
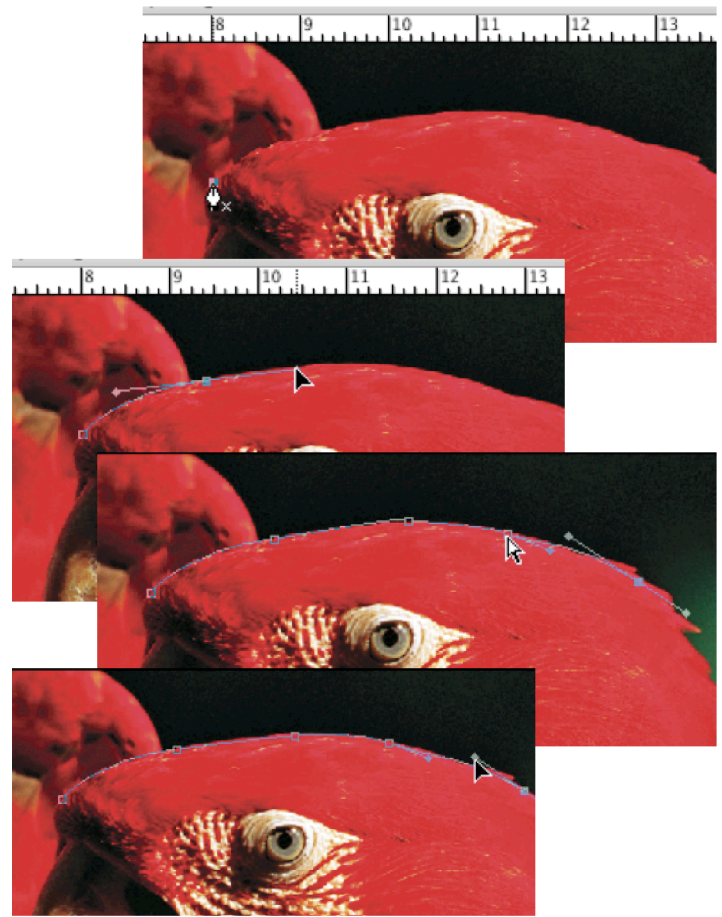
As you drag you will notice a line with some handles appears. These are Directional lines and Path points. The line between the points are called curve segments.

A Directional line's length, angle and Anchor point placement determine the path's shape.

Once the first Anchor point is set and a line has been drawn out, you will click and drag to add another point, always moving in the direction of your desired path. Repeating the process until the length and shape of the path is completed

Until you get use to the way the points and lines work these paths can be a bit tricky.

The angles of curves can be adjusted at any time by: selecting the Direct Selection tool and clicking on an Anchor point and moving it to a new positions, or by clicking on and adjusting a Path point.
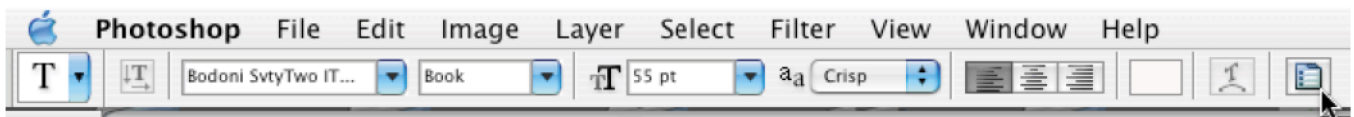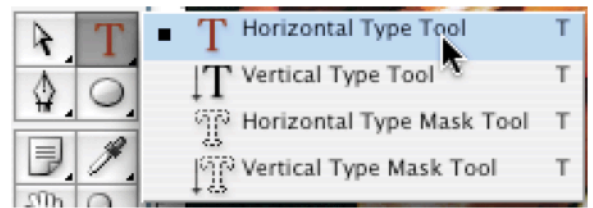
How to Enter Type Along a Path
1. Select one of the various Type tools or Type Mask tools.
    The Horizontal Type Tool's text appears along the path, along the baseline.
    The Vertical Type Tool's text appears along the path, parallel to the baseline.

2. In the Tools Options bar, or Character palette (last icon in the Type Tool Options), select the font and other type attributes for the text's appearance.

3. Place the cursor so the base of type tool's I-beam is on the path and click once to set the insertion point. A point now appears on the path.

4. Type your text.

5. When your type is down and adjusted, press the ENTER Key on the Number Keypad to set the type.
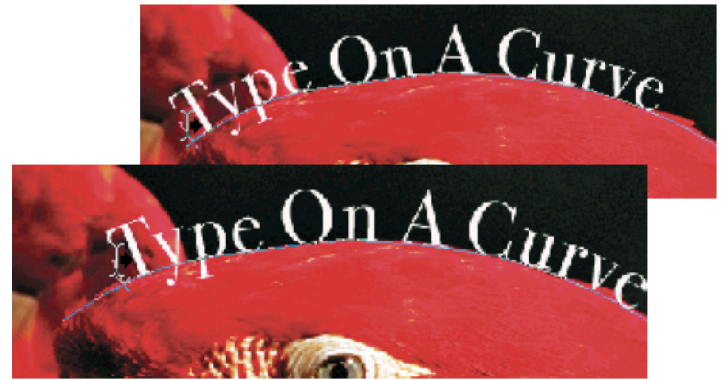
Creating Text That Follows a Curved Path

How to Reposition Type On a Path
1. Select the Direct Selection tool (white pointer), or Path Selection tool (black pointer) and position it over the type. The pointer changes to an I-beam with double black arrows.

2. Click and drag the type along the path.
Be careful not to drag across the path. If you do, the text will move into the shape or the other side of the path.
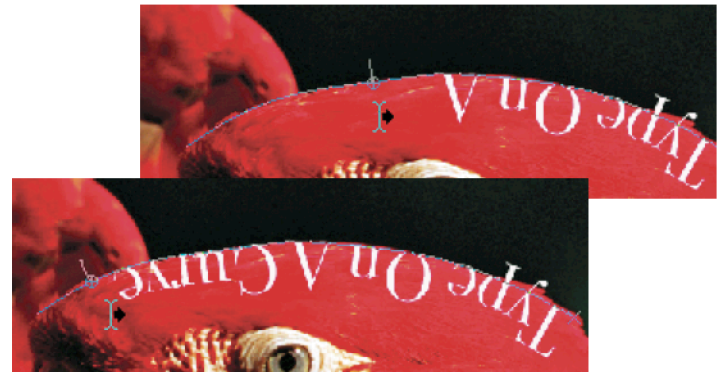
Or maybe you want it flipped.

How to flip type to the other side of a path:
1. Select the Direct Selection tool or Path Selection tool position it over the type.
The pointer changes to an I-beam with arrows.

2. Click and drag the type over the path. The type flips into the shape or other side of the path.

To move a path with type:
Select the Path Selection tool or the Move tool, and then click and drag the path to a new position. If you're using the Path Selection tool, make sure the pointer does not change to an I-beam with arrows or you'll move the type along the path.

To change the shape of a path with type:
1. Select the Direct Selection tool.

2. Click an anchor point on the path and use the handles to change the shape of the path.

Use the Type Palette to make any
adjustments to the type. This includes changing the font size, color letter spacing, etc.