Special Effects Tools

1. The Special Effects Tools facilitate the modification of objects in very specific ways. The first four tools deal with intersections of contours. The effect of these tools is best described by the drawings below.
2. Click on the Special Effects icon, the Special Effects Tool bar will pop up. Click on the tool to be used.

![Special Effects Tool bar]

3. To create a Union between two contours, select both contours then click on the Union icon.

![Contours Union]

4. If the area where the contours overlap is the desired result, click on the Intersection icon.

![Contours Intersection]
5. Select the Subtraction icon if the desired result is removing the area where one contour intersects with another. The contour selected second will cut the contour first selected, as shown in the drawings below.

**Vertical rectangle selected first**

[Diagram of vertical rectangle selected first]

**Horizontal rectangle selected first**

[Diagram of horizontal rectangle selected first]
6. The Section icon will create completely separate contours. However, all the pieces will act as one until the Split icon is selected. In the drawing below the split function has been performed and the contours have been moved.

![Diagram of split contours](image)

7. To reduce or enlarge an object, by a specific amount, use the Offset icon. When you click on the Offset icon the Offset page will pop up.

![Offset page](image)

Enter the distance of the offset. Click the Offset button that depicts the desired action, outside or inside offset. If the original contour is needed, click Keep initial curves. Select next, the desired shape of the corners, and click OK.
8. Gravostyle has features to facilitate the distortion of objects, or force an object to take the shape of another contour. In the example below text is forced to take the shape of an envelope selected from the symbols library. The text is first converted to curves.

Click on the Envelope to be used, click OK. Drop the Envelope on the material. The size and the shape of the Envelope can now be changed. Click the object to be distorted first, click on the Envelope while holding the control key. Holding the control key allows selection of multiple objects.
Click the Special Effects icon to bring up the Special Effects Toolbar. Click on the Envelope icon to force the selected object to take the shape of the envelope.
Select the Envelope and press the Delete key to remove the envelope.

9. The blue and green line colors in an object represent tool path direction. Blue contours cut in a clockwise direction, green counterclockwise. In some instances it may be desirable to change this direction. Contour direction is what determines on what side that chip residue will be left. Click Direction icon to change the direction.

Select the object to be affected. Click the Direction icon to reverse cut direction.
10. The Convert icon facilitates the conversion of shapes. This is useful where the desired shape is a true circle, oval, or rectangle, but the item on the screen is irregular. Select the object to be converted, Click the Covert icon and the Convert window will pop up.

Click the button of the desired shape, click OK and the shape is changed.