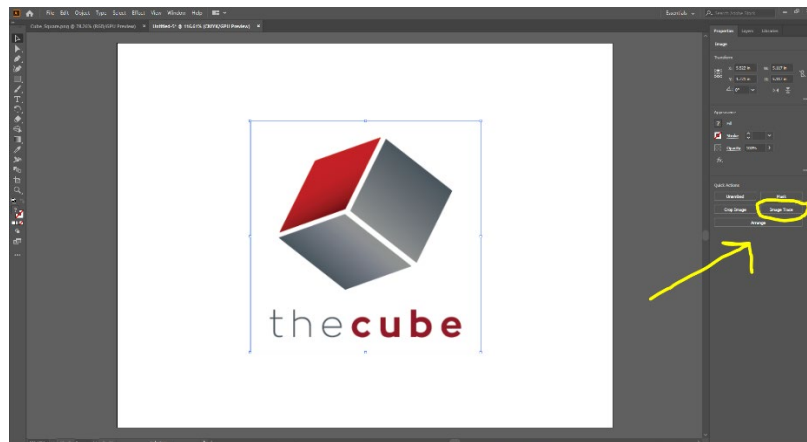


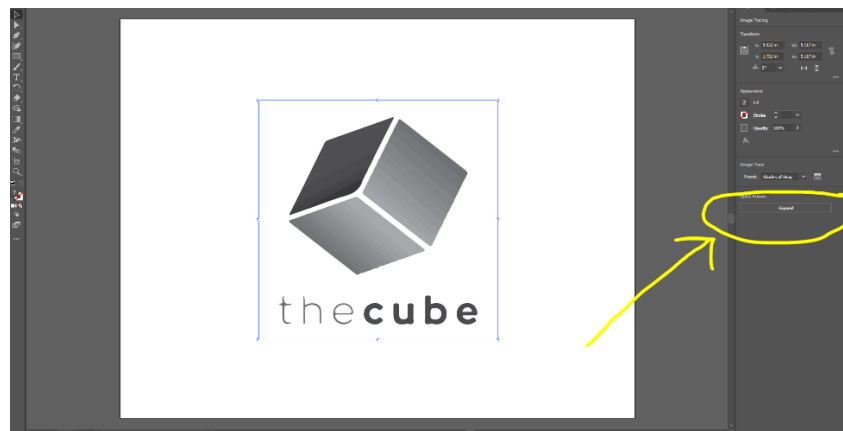
Converting images in Illustrator for laser engraving

- Start Illustrator and then go to file>open and select the location of your picture
- You can scale the image down or zoom out to have a better view
 - To scale the image hold shift while you click one of the corners so that the proportions stay correct
 - To zoom in and out hold down “ctrl” while clicking the plus or minus button
- Once you have a good view you can start the image trace function by clicking the button on the right

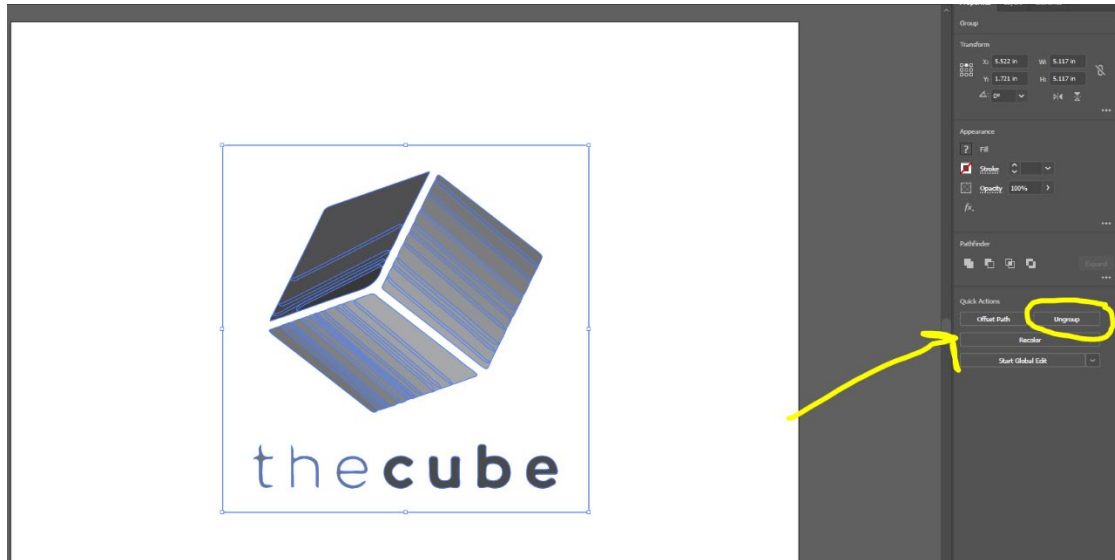


If you do not see any option on the right make sure you are clicked on the picture and the “properties” tab at the top is selected

- You can play around with which trace tool works best for your purposes but my suggestions are:
 - Shades of grey- If your image has multiple colors and the object you are engraving will have color distortion from the laser ex: wood
 - Black and white- good for images that are already black and white and will be engraved onto material that does not have color distortion ex: rubber or plastic
 - Sketched art- similar to black and white but might be better depending on the input image
- Once you find a conversion that looks like it kept all the detail you need click “expand”



- This will highlight all the individual pieces and you can click “ungroup” and then click somewhere outside of your picture to unhighlight everything



- You can now click on individual parts to edit them
 - You can change the color of parts to create a full black and white image
 - You can delete unnecessary areas, like the giant white background of your picture
 - You can also delete words that did not convert correctly and re type them

