

Advanced Whiteboarding 1: Layers & Magic Ink

The Object Browser

This browser shows all the objects on the current page, using a small icon and a name. The order shows which objects will appear in front of which other objects – the higher an object appears in the list, the closer to the top of the “pile” it will appear. **Note:** *Tools, like the protractor, appear above all objects, as they are not part of the page.*

Layers

Objects are grouped into four layers: Top, Middle, Bottom and Background. Certain types of object are placed on particular layers by default, but can be moved by dragging them to a new position within the Object Browser.

Anything moved to the Background Layer can no longer be selected (*though action buttons can still be pressed*). It cannot even be deleted from the Object Browser! Move it to another layer to edit it. **Tip:** *While editing a flipchart, place any background objects on the Bottom Layer instead of the Background Layer. Once complete, move them to the Background Layer.*

The Background Layer is also home to any grid, background image and/or background fill on the page. However, they will not show up on the Object Browser, and cannot be edited in this way.

Note: *It's possible to display grids on top of objects, even though they are technically on the Background Layer.*

What you can do with the Object Browser

Reorder objects

- Click + drag to move an object higher or lower in the list. *This determines whether they appear behind or in front of other objects.*
- Move objects from one layer to another. *This can change not only how they overlap but sometimes how they behave (such as on the Background Layer – see above – and with Magic Ink – see below).*

Rename objects

- Double-click to edit. *Good names make it much easier to find a particular object on a busy page.*

Select objects

- Objects can become obscured by other objects, making them hard to click on. Try selecting them on the Object Browser instead.
- Objects that are part of a group can't easily be selected without ungrouping them. Select them in the Object Browser, then use the object's context menu. Use Freely Move to move them without moving the rest of the group.
- Select multiple objects in the browser using the standard Shift or Ctrl keys, then use the context menu to edit them all at once.

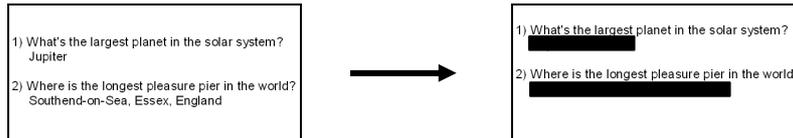
Lock/Unlock and Hide/Show objects

- As well as locking or hiding objects from the context menu, you can also use the Object Browser.
- Double-click under Hidden or Locked to make the drop down list appear, then select what you want.

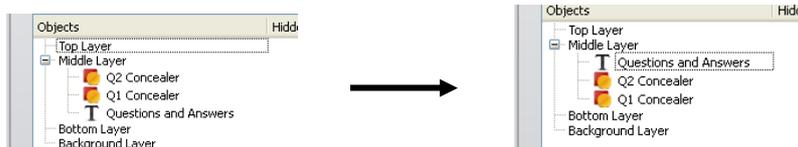
Simple Reveal

You can use layers and a little camouflage to create a simple hidden text effect. The following outlines the process, but you can adjust it as required.

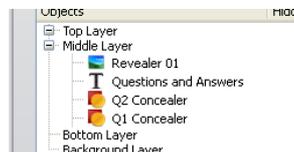
1. Make sure the page background is a solid colour, with no grid or image.
2. Type out some questions and answers – a single text object will suffice.
3. Create some rectangles that are the same colour as the text – the questions can be a different colour, but answers must be the same.
4. Position the rectangles so they cover the answers. You might want to group the Text and Shapes, and even **Lock** them.



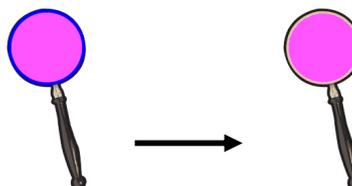
5. Open the Object Browser.  You should see the objects on the Middle Layer. Now is a good time to edit the names of the objects.
6. Drag the Text to a higher position than the Shapes in the Object Browser.



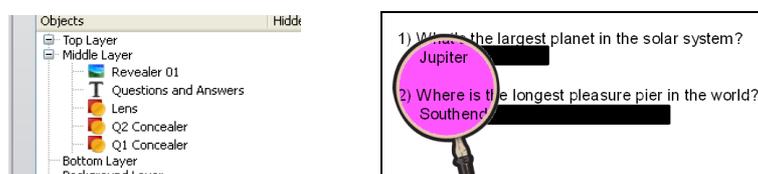
7. Load in the magnifying glass “revealer” outline from the Shared Resources. You may wish to resize and rotate it at this point.
8. Make sure the revealer is positioned above the Text in the Object Browser.



9. Create the actual revealer (the “lens”) – for the magnifying glass, draw a circle, keeping the outline thin (use the pen size slider) and setting the interior colour to either match the page background, or a contrasting colour for an alternative effect.
10. Resize and position the lens so it fits inside the magnifying glass outline.



11. Select both lens and magnifying glass and group them.
12. On the Object Browser, drag the lens to below the Text, but above the Shapes acting as “concealers”. (The magnifying glass should stay on top for the effect to work completely.)

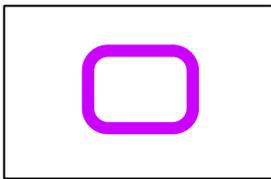
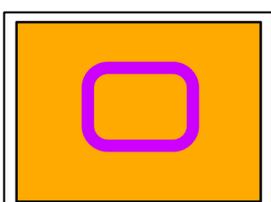
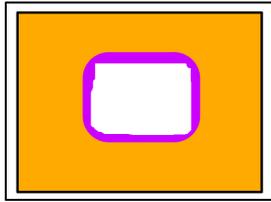
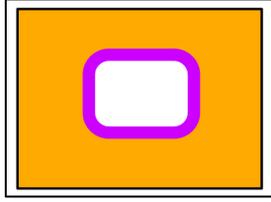
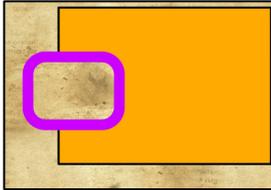


Magic Ink Reveal

Magic Ink is a special type of ink that, when applied to the Top Layer, “punches a hole” to reveal anything on the layers beneath. Like the other pen tools, it can be moved, resized and erased (with the Eraser  or the Clear Annotations  tools).

Note: Magic Ink will only see through objects on the Top Layer, and only if those objects are beneath it in the order. If moved to any other layer, Magic Ink stops working.

If you want to create a revealer tool, you can use the following steps as a guideline:

1. Create or load an image that will act as a frame and move it to the Top Layer. The hole where the Magic Ink “lens” will go needs to be transparent. Ideally, the area surrounding this hole will not be too thin either. 
2. Create a temporary shape with a contrasting colour to the background. Move it to the Top Layer, but lower than the frame. Position it underneath the hole in the frame. (This is so you can see, in the next step, where you have placed the Magic Ink.) 
3. Select the Magic Ink tool and “colour in” the hole. (Try to do it in one “take”, as this will give you a single Magic Ink object to work with. Don’t worry about going over the inner edge of the frame, but avoid going over the outer edge.) 
4. Move the Magic Ink to a position immediately beneath the frame in the Top Layer. This should tidy up the rough edges where you’ve gone over the inner frame edge. 
5. Slide the temporary shape to one side so it is far away from the frame and Magic Ink.
6. Drag and select both the frame and Magic Ink, and group them.
7. Test your new revealer with the temporary shape. Load a background for a more interesting effect. Save it in your Resource Library (see the **Media & Gadgets** training notes for details). 

Locking and Hiding Tips

- If you don't want an object to be moved or selected, and moving it to the background won't suffice (because it will place it behind objects you want it to appear in front of), you can **lock** it.
- Some objects can be used in advanced features such as movement paths (see **Advanced Whiteboard 4**), and are functional without needing to be visible. Make them **hidden** to accomplish this.
- Once an object is locked or hidden, you'll find you can't select them (which was kind of the point!), even to unlock or show them again. There are two ways round this:
 - The Object Browser still allows you to use the drop down lists.
 - Switching the Design Mode button  to orange  will unlock all locked objects and show all hidden objects.

Magic Ink Reveal Tips

If you are using Magic Ink revealers on an image (e.g. the inside of a building, an animal's skeleton, etc), the effect works best with two copies of the image.

1. Place the front image on the top layer.
2. Place the revealed objects (images/text, etc) on the middle layer.
3. Make a copy of the front image and place it beneath the revealed objects on the middle layer.

When the revealer passes over the front image, instead of exposing the background, the duplicate will appear underneath the revealed objects, creating a better illusion.

For an extra effect, increase the transparency  of the duplicate image – it will look like it is slightly obscured by the “lens” of the revealer.

Cutting Out and Aligning Images for Magic Ink Reveal

When you use the Area Snapshot camera tool , ActivInspire remembers the position and size for next time. This makes it an ideal tool for cutting out identically sized pictures, which can be important in getting a good comparison between overlapping pictures.

To help get the images aligned, try the following steps.

1. Place one roughly on top of the other.
2. Select both images by clicking and dragging, then select the Object Edit Menu from the marquee handles.
3. Select Transform > Align > Align Complete.
4. This should place the objects on top of each other.
5. If you're unhappy, select the top image and use the keyboard cursor arrows to “nudge” the it in the correct direction.
6. Once satisfied, select both again and Group them.