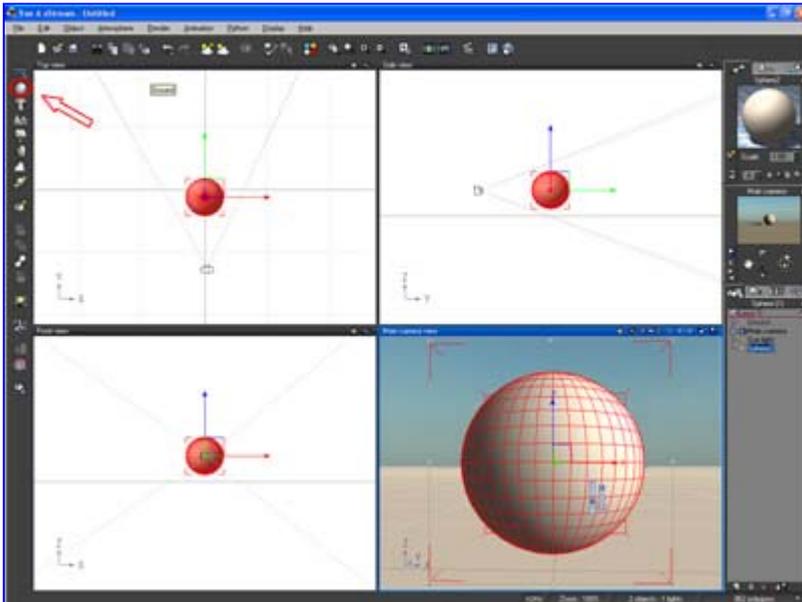


www.chromesphere.com - cutting out a Letter and adding light

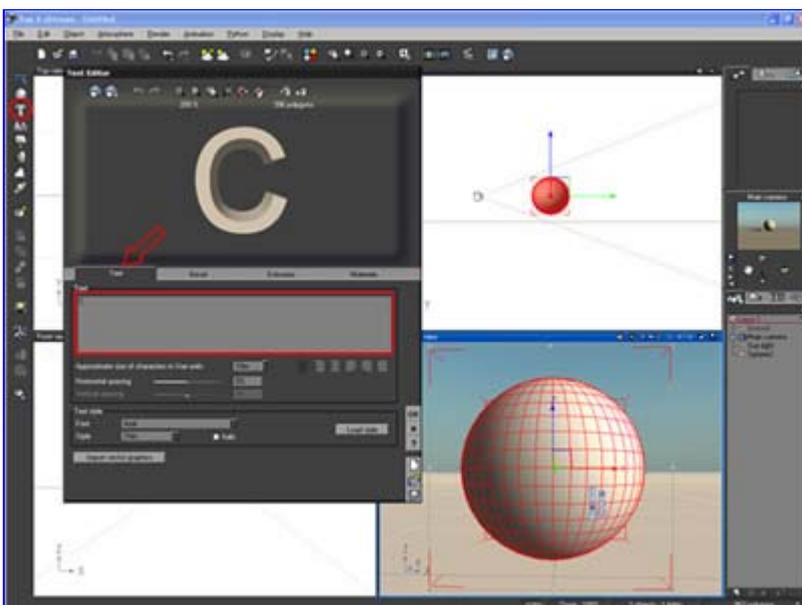
In this tutorial i will be explaining how to cut out a letter from another object and then creating a light inside the cut out area. I used this process to create the C inside the Chromesphere logo above (the rest of the text was created in fireworks). Much like the logo, I will be using the letter C and a sphere in this tutorial however you can use this process with almost any other combination you like.

Create the objects

To begin, create a sphere. Position the camera so that you can see the sphere well.

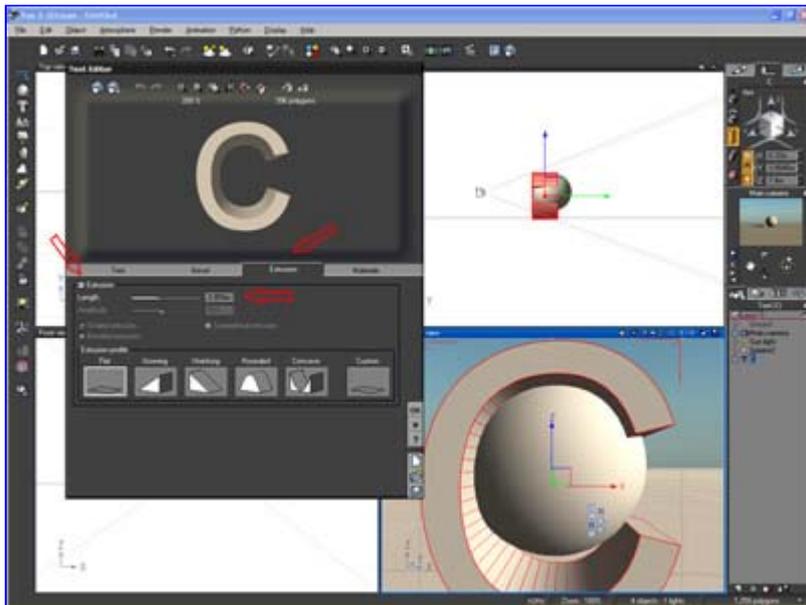


Create a letter. To do this, click on the text editor button on the left hand side of the screen. Click on the "text" tab and then enter the text you want to cut out from you object in the "text" field. In this example i have enter the letter "C". You can change any of the other parameters on this screen if you would like to customise your letter differently.



Click on the "Extrusion" button in the text editor. Make sure the extrusion check box is checked. Move the Extrusion slider to about a third of the way along. Click ok to exit the text editor.

Note: You can return to this screen whenever you like by double-clicking your text object in the any of the preview windows.



Modify the objects

There's a good chance your letter will not be in the right proportions to your sphere, so you will need to edit the letters object properties.

- 1) Select your letter C object.
- 2) Click on the measuring tape button in the object properties box at the top right corner of the screen. Also make sure that the "size" icon on the left hand side of this tab is selected.
- 3) Make sure that the "Constrain Proportions" icon (a small padlock) is on.

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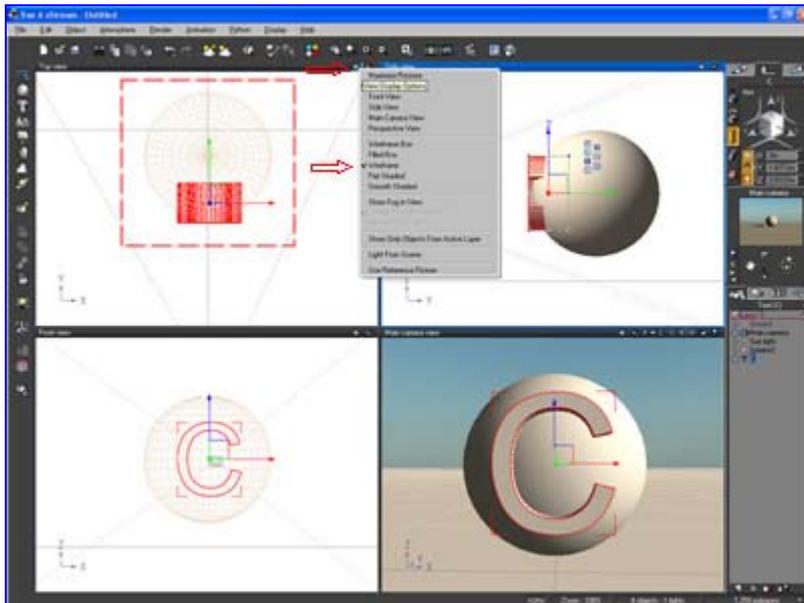
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Still inside this dialogue box, adjust the "X" axis until your C object will fit comfortably inside your sphere.

Try entering different values and watch to preview screens to find the right value. Position the letter so that it enters the spheres center. Note: This will be easier to do by changing the preview option for your "Top View" preview window the "wireframe" type.

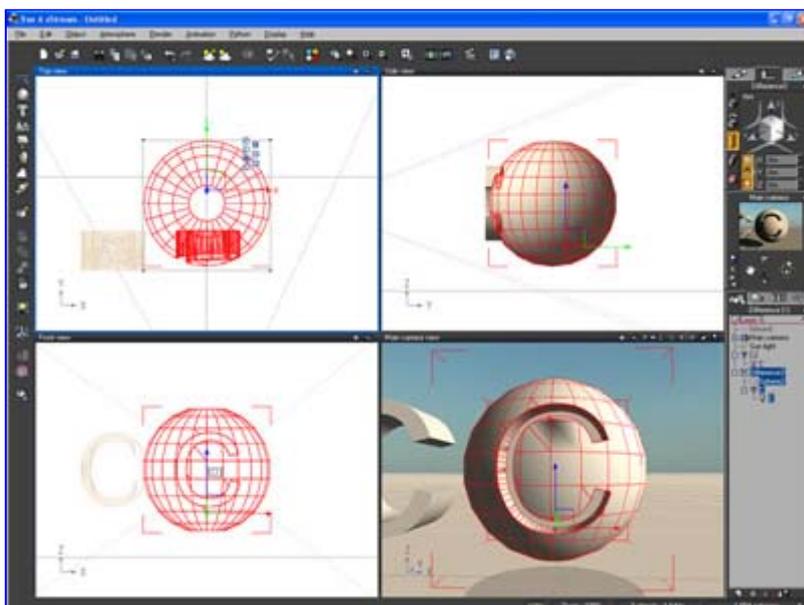
The picture below shows the result we are trying to achieve.



With only the Letter C selected, press shift-D to Duplicate this object. You can move this new object out of the way if you like, but please note that you will need to position it back exactly to where it was after the following step..

Cut out the letter and position objects

In the layers window (bottom right-hand side of the screen), hold down shift and click on the sphere object followed by the Letter C Object, **in this order**. On the right hand side of the screen right click on the boolean operations button and select the "difference" operation. The result is shown here with the duplicate C letter pushed to one side.



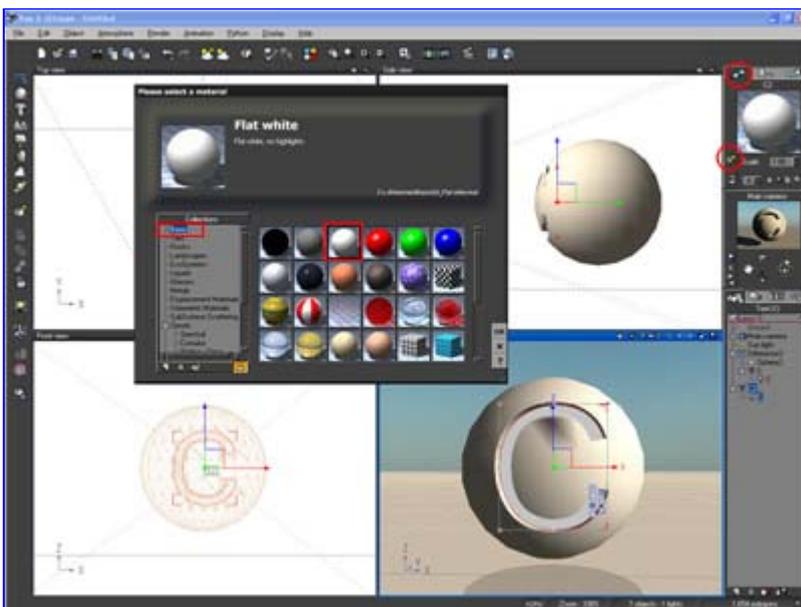
If you have moved the duplicate C letter aside move it back to its original position, ie, inside the C cutout. With the duplicate C letter selected and in the object properties "Numerics" tab, uncheck (turn off) the padlock "constrain proportions" and enter .1 (point 1) for the Y axis under "size".



With the C object still selected and in the top view preview window, grab the duplicate C letter on the Y axis and move the object to the back of the cutout we made before.

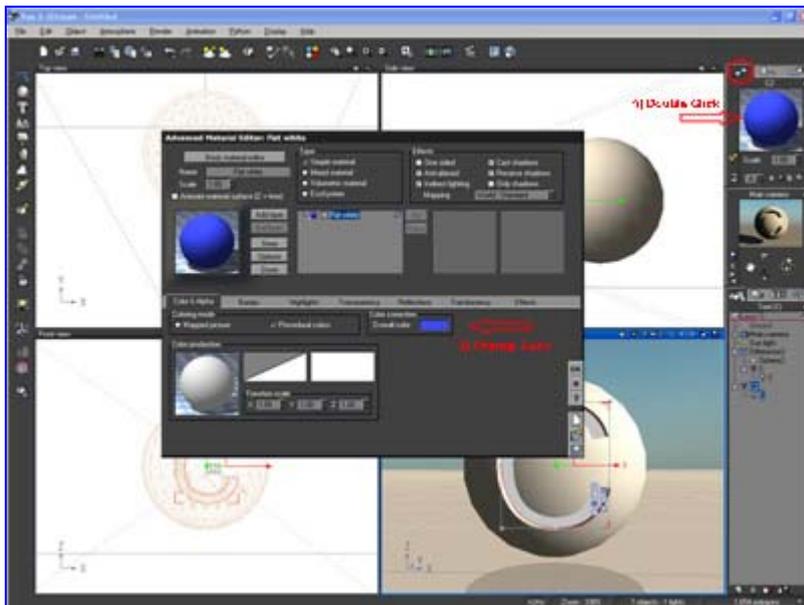
Apply Materials and Light

Click the aspect tab in the object properties dialogue box and select "load a material" and select "flat white" from the "basic" collection. Click ok to close the material library window.



1) In the "aspect" tab of object properties, double click the object preview (ie: the white sphere), to bring up the material editor.

2) Inside the material editor, change the "overall color" to the color of the light you want. In this screenshot i have selected a neon blue color.



Still inside the material editor click on the "effects" tab. Check the "Glowing Material" setting and adjust the "intensity" and "radius" until you have the desired effect.

Note: If even at 100% the glow effect is hard to see try moving the duplicate C letter object forward inside the cut out so that it is more visible.

Finish

You can apply a texture to the sphere too. In this final render, i applied the Vue 6 library material "Chrome" which i though would be appropriate for this websites name. I also added a soft spotlight to the face of the sphere as the atmosphere i was using was too dark to see the features.



This concludes this tutorial. Thanks for reading!

Chromesphere