

# APPLYING A STROKE COLOUR

All objects in InDesign have a **stroke** element. It may be the outline of letters, the box around a graphic or a line drawing. The stroke or outline can be coloured using any colour that is available

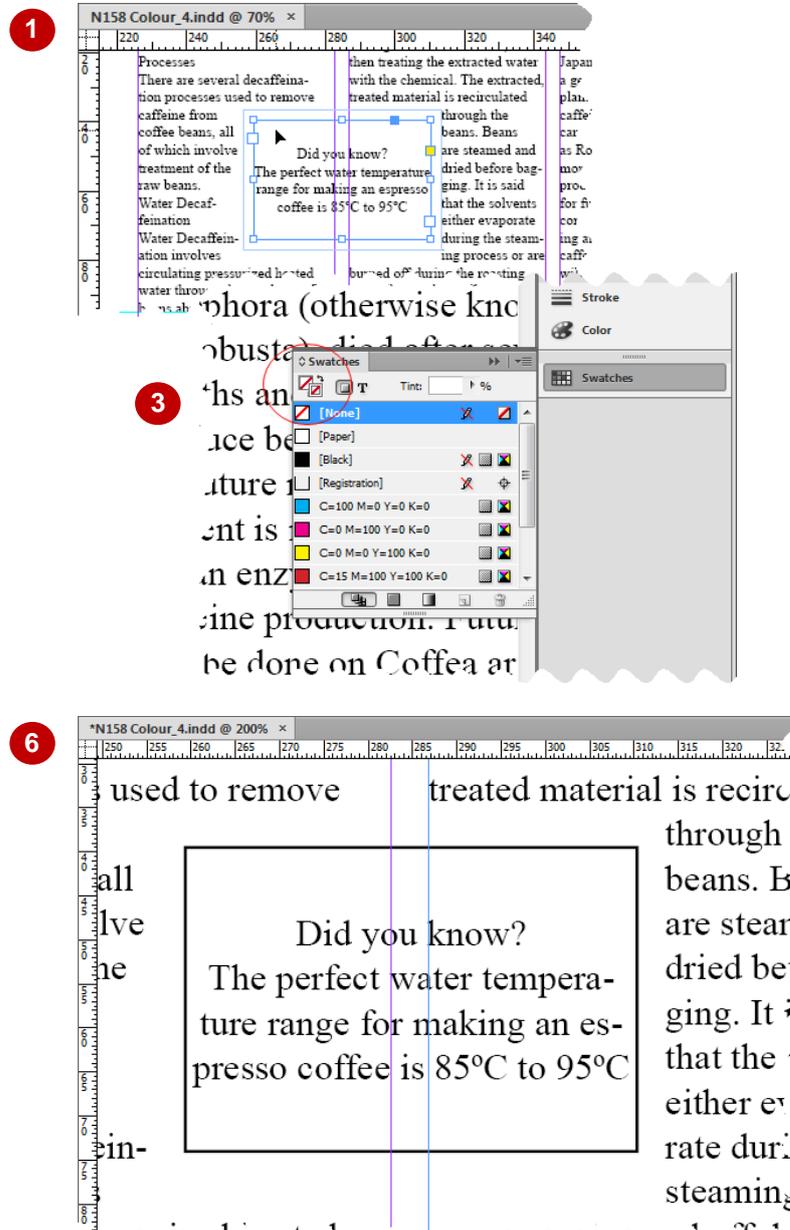
in your **Swatches** panel. Objects can be created with a particular colour stroke or the colour can be added after it has been created.

## Try This Yourself:

Same File

Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the catch-up file N158 Colour\_4.indd...

- 1 Display page 5, click on the **Selection** tool , then click on the call out box to select it
  - 2 Press **Ctrl** + **2** to zoom in
  - 3 In the top left of the **Swatches** panel, click on the **Stroke** icon , so that it appears in front of the **Fill** icon 
  - 4 Click on **Black** to apply colour to the stroke
- This change might be a bit difficult to see if your frame edges are displayed, so let's deselect the object...*
- 5 Click elsewhere on the document to deselect the object
  - 6 Press **Ctrl** + **H** to see the rectangle without frame edges
  - 7 Press **Ctrl** + **H** to see the frame edges again



## For Your Reference...

To **apply** a **stroke colour**.

1. Click on the object to select it
2. Click on the **Stroke** icon  in the **Swatches** panel
3. Click on the colour that you want to apply

## Handy to Know...

- The **Fill** and **Stroke** controls are also accessible in the **Tools** panel.
- You can change **Fill** or **Stroke** colour by applying another colour.

# CREATING A TINT

A **tint** is a lighter version of a spot or process colour. It is achieved by printing less of the coloured ink in an area – effectively increasing the amount of white in the mix. **Tints** are a cheap

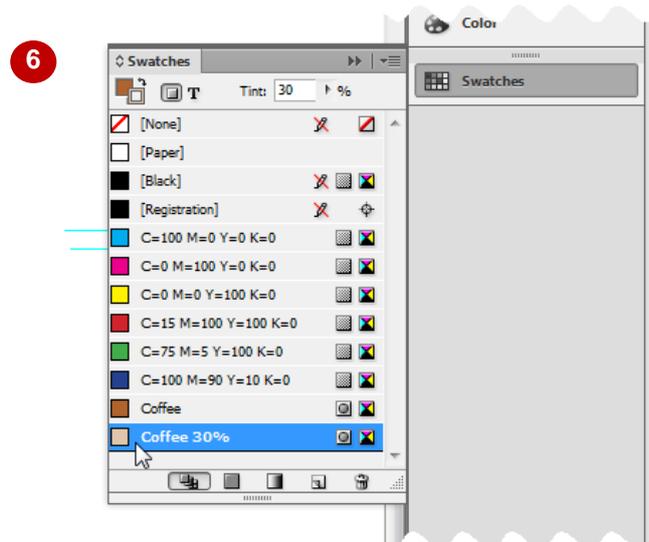
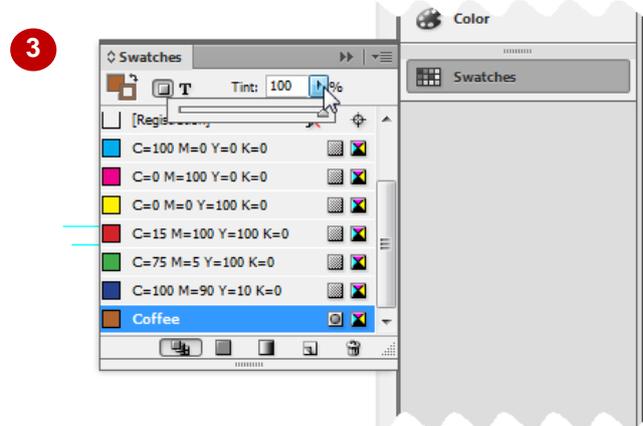
way to create a wide range of different print colours for a single or two spot colour jobs. **Tints** are expressed as percentages of the colour, where 100% is the initial colour and 0% is white.

## Try This Yourself:

Same File

Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the catch-up file *N158 Colour\_5.indd...*

- 1 Press **Ctrl** + **0** to zoom out, then click on the **Pasteboard** to ensure that no objects are selected  
*We don't want to change the colour of any objects just yet...*
- 2 Click on **Coffee** in the **Swatches** panel to select it
- 3 At the top of the panel click on the right arrow  for **Tint** to display the slider control
- 4 Drag the slider to the left to **30%**, then click on the right arrow  to hide the slider  
*You could also type 30%, but it's just not as much fun!*
- 5 In the **Swatches** panel, drag the bottom edge down, so that you can see all of the listed colours
- 6 Drag the **Stroke** icon  with the new colour down the **Swatches** panel to position it below the existing **Coffee** entry and release the mouse to create the new colour swatch
- 7 Display page 3, click on the **Fill** icon  to select it, click on the rectangular frame at the bottom of the page, then click on **Coffee 30%** to apply it



## For Your Reference...

To **create** a **tint**:

1. Click on the colour in the **Swatches** panel
2. Adjust the tint percentage using the **Tint** slider in the **Swatches** panel or the **Colour** panel

## Handy to Know...

- Tints should be added to the **Swatches** panel so that if changes need to be made to the tint, they will flow through the entire document.

# CREATING A GRADIENT

A **gradient** is a graduated blend of two or more colours or of two or more tints of the same colour. Gradients can include process and spot colours, no colour (paper) and mixed ink colours (where a

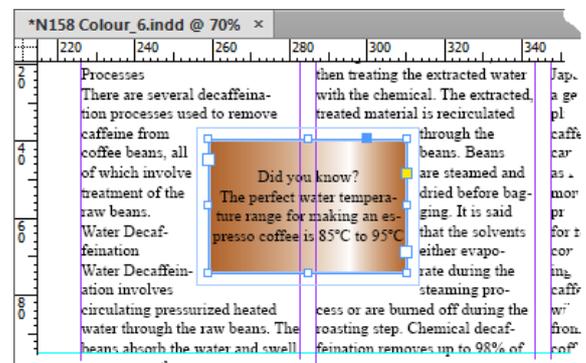
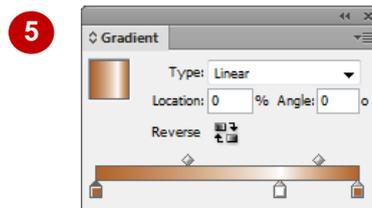
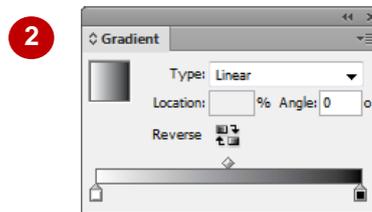
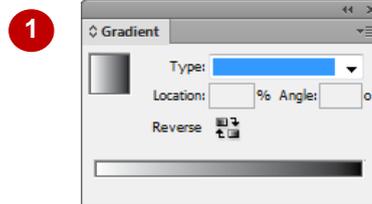
colour is made of a blend of spot and process colours). **Gradients** work around stops – points where the gradient changes from one colour to the next. Stops can be moved, to change gradients.

## Try This Yourself:

Same File

Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the catch-up file N158 Colour\_5.indd...

- 1 Click on the **Pasteboard** to deselect all objects, then select **Window > Colour > Gradient**
- 2 Click on the drop arrow ▾ for **Type** and click on **Linear**
- 3 Display the **Swatches** panel, then click on **Coffee** and drag it over the black gradient icon at the right of the slider 🏠 in the **Gradient** panel  
You should see a closed hand icon 🖱️
- 4 Release the mouse to replace the black gradient box with a coffee one
- 5 Drag the white gradient box 🏠 until **Location** is about **70**, then drag **Coffee** from the **Swatches** panel to the left end of the gradient, to form a three colour gradient
- 6 Drag the **gradient** swatch 🏠 to the bottom of the **Swatches** panel to add it, then double-click on it to display the **Gradient Options** dialog box
- 7 Type **Coffee Gradient** in **Swatch Name** and click on **[OK]**
- 8 Display page **5**, select the call out box, then click on the **Fill** icon 🗑️ in the **Swatches** panel and click on **Coffee Gradient** to apply it to the frame
- 9 Click on the close button of the **Gradient** box



8

## For Your Reference...

To **create** a **gradient**:

1. On the **Gradient** panel, select the colours, position of the stop point, angle and gradient type
2. Drag the **Gradient** swatch into the **Swatches** panel

## Handy to Know...

- There are two types of gradient – linear and radial. **Linear** gradients blend from one colour to another from one side of an object to the other. **Radial** gradients create a circular effect where one colour blends to the other from the centre of a circle out to the edges.

## REMOVING COLOUR

Colour can be **removed** from an object in much the same way in which it was added in the first place. The option **None** is the first colour in the **Swatches** panel. This option is used to replace

the existing colour applied to the fill or stroke. For instance, if you want lettering to be an outline only, you can apply black as the stroke and **None** as the fill.

### Try This Yourself:

Same  
File

Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the catch-up file N158 Colour\_7.indd...

1

Display page 3 and press **Ctrl** + **0** to zoom out

2

Click on the rectangular frame currently filled with a **30%** tint of the colour **Coffee**

The object should now be selected and the fill colour displayed and selected in the **Swatches** panel...

3

Click on the **Fill** icon  in the **Swatches** panel to ensure it appears in front of the **Stroke** icon 

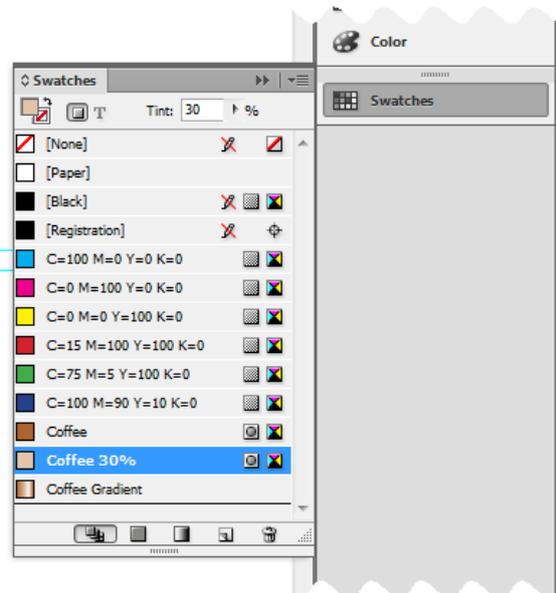
4

Locate and click on **[None]**  in the **Swatches** panel to remove the colour from the object

5

Click on **Swatches** to close the **Swatches** panel

2



### For Your Reference...

To **remove colour**:

1. Select the object
2. Click on the **Stroke** or **Fill** icon in the **Swatches** panel
3. Click on  **[None]**

### Handy to Know...

- The **Paper** swatch in the **Swatches** panel specifies the colour of the paper so that you can get a realistic idea of how the final product will look. If you apply **Paper** as a colour to the **Fill** or **Stroke**, it will take on the same colour as the paper and, in effect, remove the colour.