# Combining and Changing Paths

Vector shapes that are created in FireWorks can be changed in many more ways than simply resizing them. They can be combined to create new shapes or split into different shapes. You have already used the COMPOUND SHAPES section of the PROPERTIES panel to quickly join vector shapes, but the PATH panel provides many more tools to adjust vector shapes.

## Starting a New Document

1   Load Adobe FireWorks or close the current document.

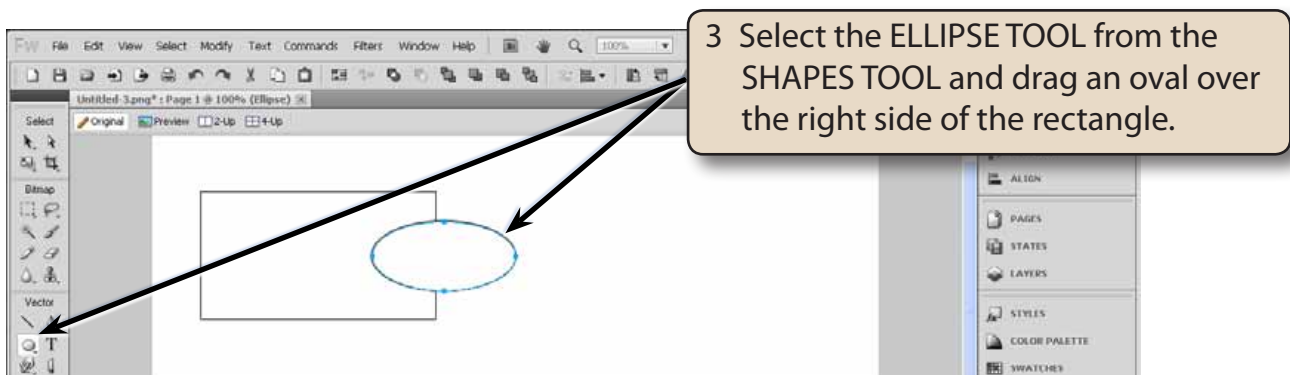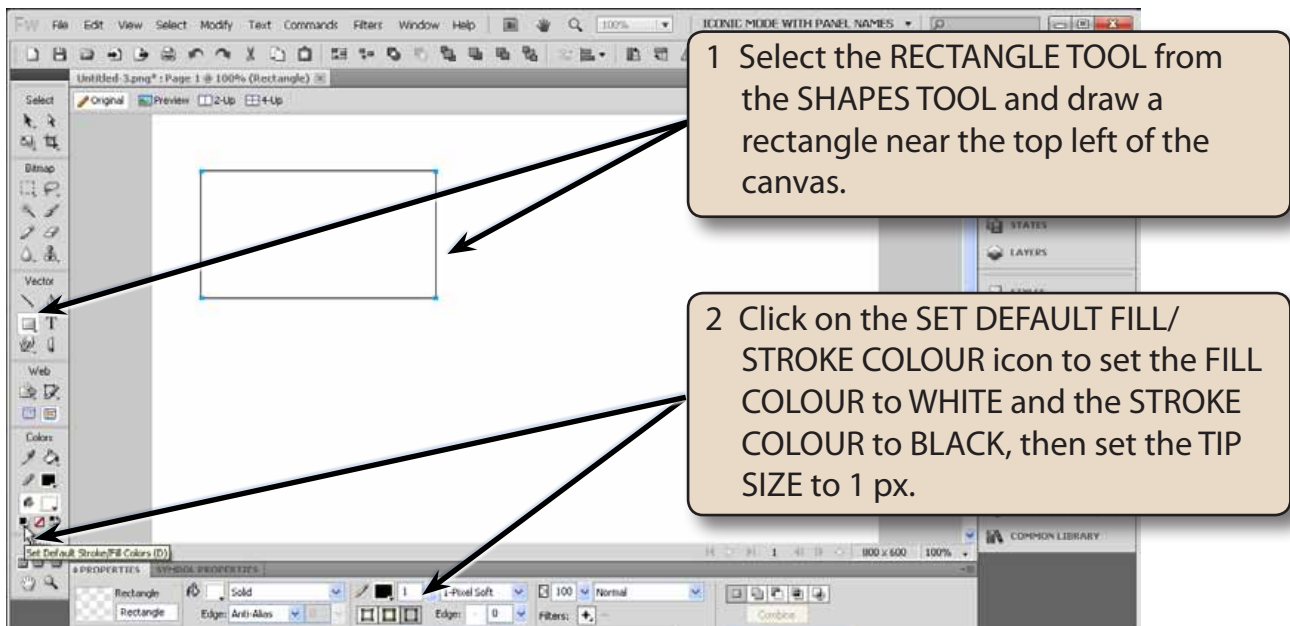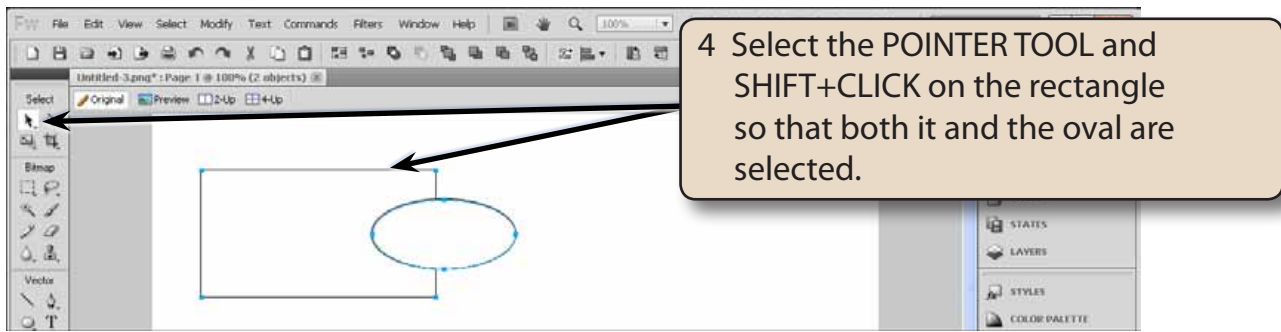2   In the CREATE NEW section of the WELCOME screen click on FIREWORKS DOCUMENT to start a new document.
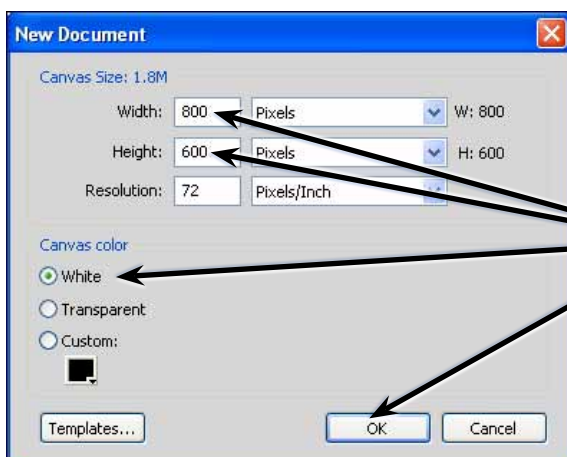
3  Set the WIDTH to 800 pixels, the HEIGHT to 600 pixels, the CANVAS COLOUR to WHITE and select OK.

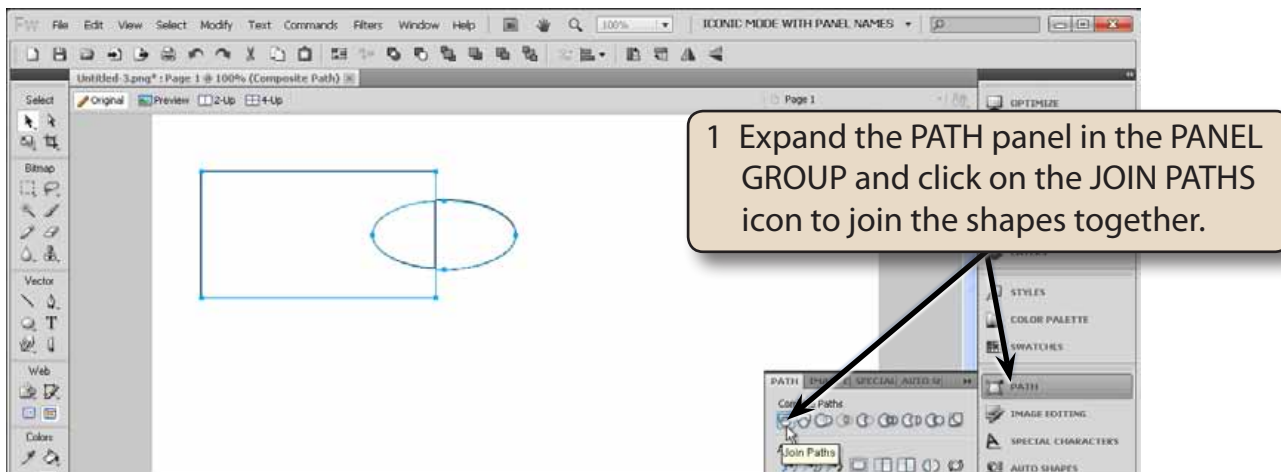4   Check that the workspace is set to ICONIC MODE WITH PANEL NAMES

# Drawing the Paths

A rectangle and ellipse will be added to the canvas then combined into different shapes.



1 Select the RECTANGLE TOOL from the SHAPES TOOL and draw a rectangle near the top left of the canvas.

2 Click on the SET DEFAULT FILL/ STROKE COLOUR icon to set the FILL COLOUR to WHITE and the STROKE COLOUR to BLACK, then set the TIP SIZE to 1 px.



3 Select the ELLIPSE TOOL from the SHAPES TOOL and drag an oval over the right side of the rectangle.

4 Select the POINTER TOOL and SHIFT+CLICK on the rectangle so that both it and the oval are selected.

## Combining the Paths



1 Expand the PATH panel in the PANEL GROUP and click on the JOIN PATHS icon to join the shapes together.

2    Try moving the shapes and both should move.



3 Click on the SPLIT PATHS icon in the PATH panel to separate the shapes.

4 SHIFT+CLICK on the rectangle to re-add it to the selection then click on the UNION PATHS icon in the PATHS panel to combine the outsides of the shapes.
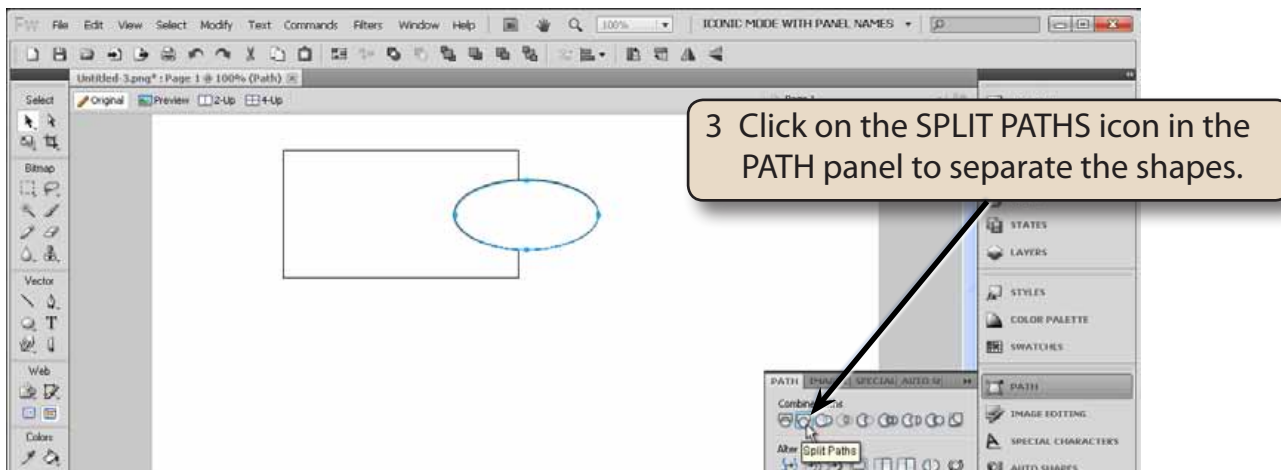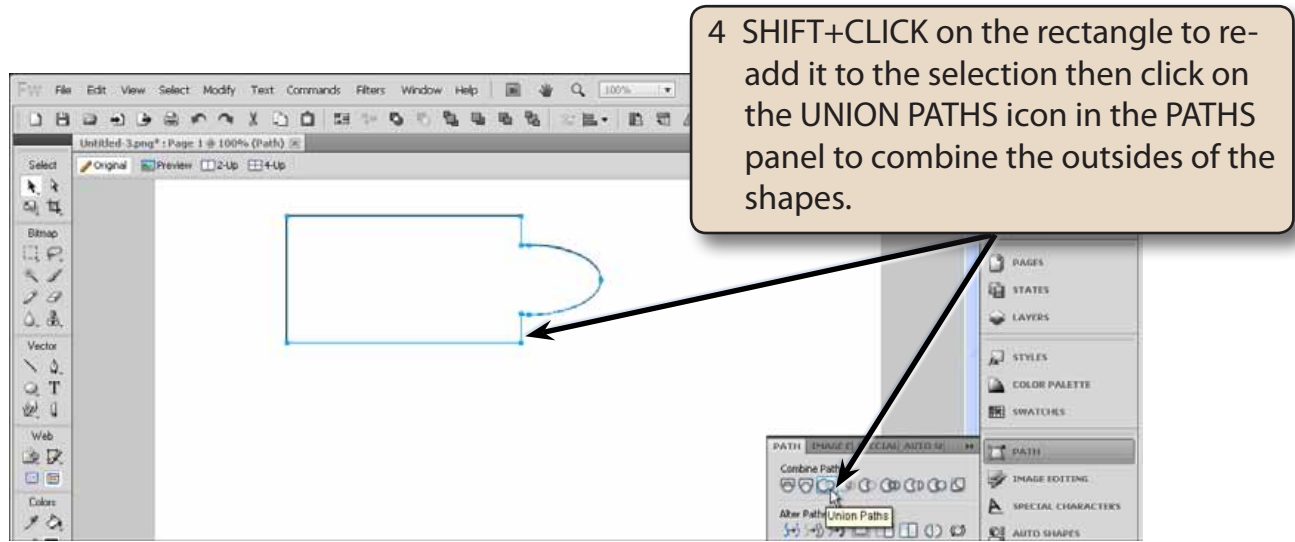
5   Press CTRL+Z or COMMAND+Z to UNDO the union.



6 Click on the INTERSECT PATHS icon in the PATHS panel to display just the paths of the two shapes that overlap.
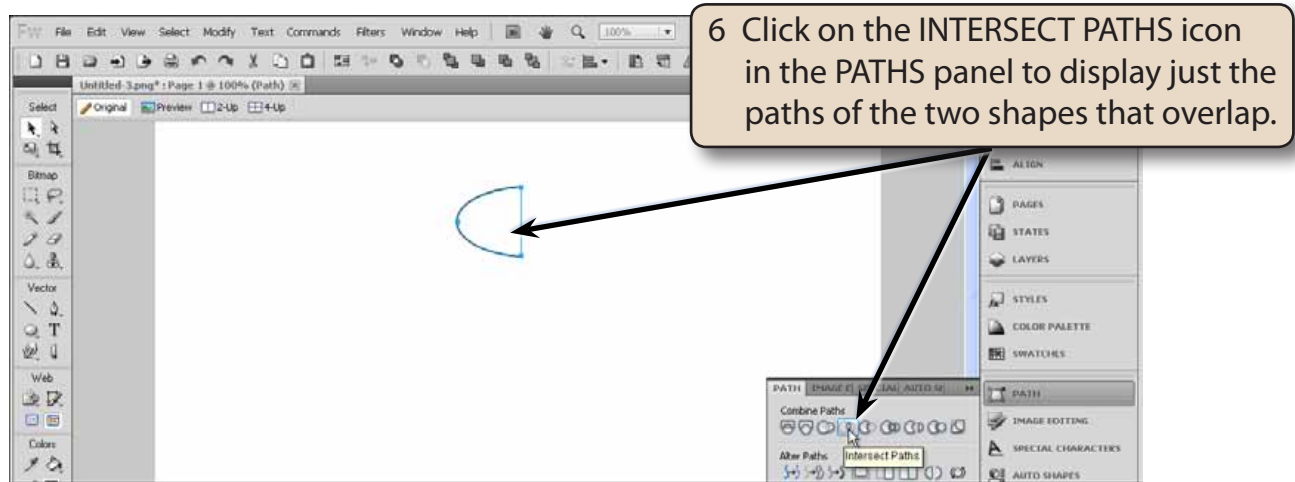
7   Press CTRL+Z or COMMAND+Z to UNDO the intersection.