

## Silhouette Studio – Grouping and Uncombining Objects

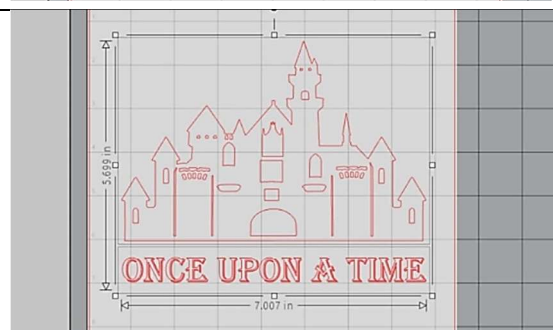
### Step 1: Understand grouping

- Grouping causes multiple objects to be treated as a single object. In the example at left, grouping the image and text would allow them to be moved as a unit, and have their size changed as a unit, rather than having to move or change the size of each element and then having to re-align them.



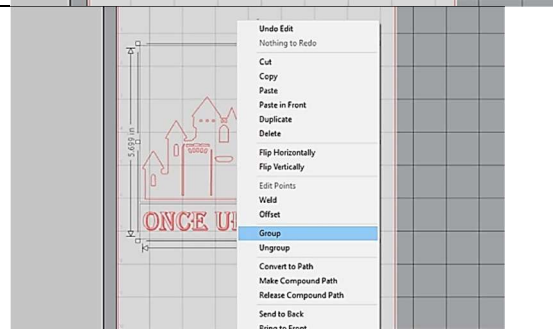
### Step 2: Select all the objects to be grouped

- Click and drag with the mouse until all objects are highlighted.
- Or, click on one object to select it, and then, while holding down the “Shift” key on the keyboard, click on the other object(s).



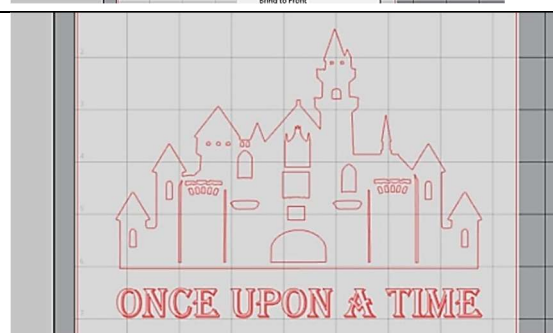
### Step 3: Group the objects

- With all the desired objects selected, right-click with the mouse and select “Group” from the drop-down menu.



### Step 4: Understand compound path

- With objects like image traces and lines of text, the software automatically treats multiple shapes as a single object. A line of text is treated as a single object, rather than as a bunch of individual letters. Likewise, with the image trace of a castle at left, the outline of the castle and all of its windows are treated as a single object, even though it includes many different shapes. The software calls this a “compound path.”



### Step 5: Release compound path

- In order to do something like make the first letter of the line of text larger, or remove some of the windows from the castle, I must break it into separate shapes first
- Click on the object to select it, then right-click to bring up the drop-down menu.
- From the menu, select “Release Compound Path”
- Each shape is now an individual element that can be moved, deleted, changed in size, etc.

