FONTCUE — FREE CHECKLIST

Depth Effect Settings Cheat Sheet

Run every outline, drop-shadow or 3D extrusion effect through these three settings before you call it finished.

- [ ] **1. Pick the base font**

  Start with a bold, simple letterform. Thin scripts and fine serifs break down once you stack an outline or shadow behind them, because there isn't enough stroke width to carry the extra layer.

- [ ] **2. Duplicate and offset**

  Duplicate the text layer, recolor the copy, and nudge it a few pixels down and to the side (or behind, for an outline). This offset layer is what reads as depth once it sits behind the original.

- [ ] **3. Set the light direction once and keep it**

  Decide where the light is coming from, usually upper left, and keep every shadow and highlight consistent with that direction across the whole design. Mixed light directions are the fastest way to make an effect look off.