

Adjusting Transparency of Data Layers in ArcMap

Abstract

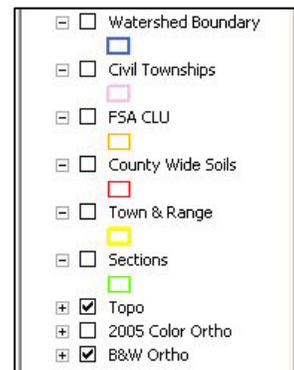
This document contains instructions for adjusting the transparency of individual data layers or images in ArcMap. Making layers transparent is useful for display purposes and can be helpful in analyzing landscapes. An example would be displaying a topographic map over an orthophoto.

Note: This document will demonstrate the use of transparency with a county-wide mosaic topographic map over a county-wide mosaic, black and white orthophoto. However, the instructions for the adjustment of transparency can be done for any data layer.

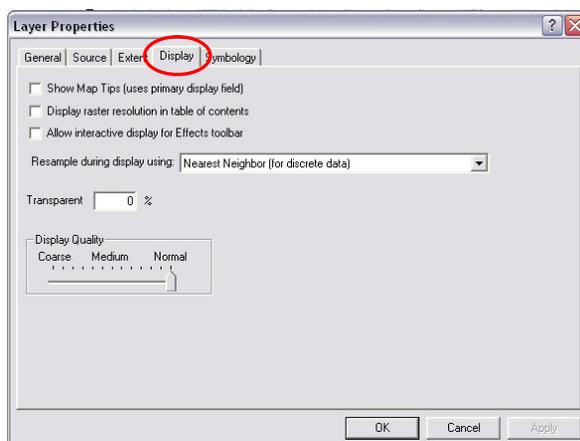
Details

1. Determine which layer will be adjusted with transparency. This is important because the layers must be properly ordered or stacked in the Table of Contents in ArcMap. The layer layers at the top of the list will display above layers lower down in the list.

In the case of Toolkit templates, the topographic map is already listed above the orthophoto. If for some reason it is not, you can simply **left-click** and hold the mouse button directly on the file name, and then drag it upwards in the list to the position you want it to occupy and release the button.



2. **Double-click** directly on the name of the layer that you wish to adjust transparency for, in this case, the *Topo* layer. Alternately, you can **right-click** on the name of the layer and choose *Properties* from the menu that appears. This will bring up the *Layer Properties* dialogue window. **Choose the Display** tab.



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3. On this tab, there is an entry for *Transparent* that has a default setting of 0%. This means that the layer is opaque. If the setting were 100%, the layer would be completely transparent, or invisible. Change 0 to 70% using the keyboard. Note that about 65-75% works well for displaying a topo map over black and white imagery.

Transparent %

4. **Click Apply**, and finally, **click OK**.
5. View your results and adjust as necessary by repeating steps 2 and 3 above. Below is the topo (with 70% transparency) draped over the Black & White ortho-imagery.

