

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR

Creating a Pattern

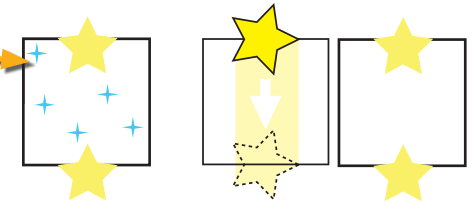
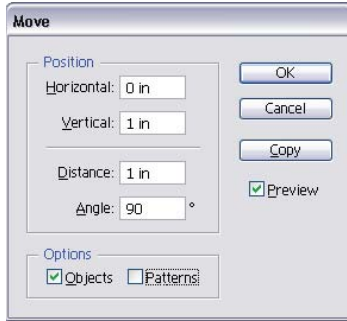
This document explains how to make a seamless repeating pattern and Add it to your Swatches Palette in Illustrator.



The simplest way to create a Pattern is to draw a number of Shapes arrange them into your desired Pattern and Drag them into the Swatches Palette. A simple pattern like the Checkerboard can be easily created this way.

More complex Patterns require a few more things...

1. Begin by drawing a rectangle or square to act as a guide at first and a mask later. You can click or Drag or Single click with the Rectangle tool to type in specific dimensions of a rectangle. You may wish to **Object > Lock** this GUIDE rectangle to prevent accidental movement.
2. Add components for the Pattern in the GUIDE.
3. If any components cross outside the box they must be duplicated on the opposite side. This is easy using the **Object > Transform > Move** feature.
4. After designing the Pattern click on the Guide Rectangle and make it's Stroke and Fill NONE and use **Object > Arrange > Send to Back** to place it below all other parts of the Pattern. This invisible Square indicates to Illustrator how to repeat the overlapping pattern.

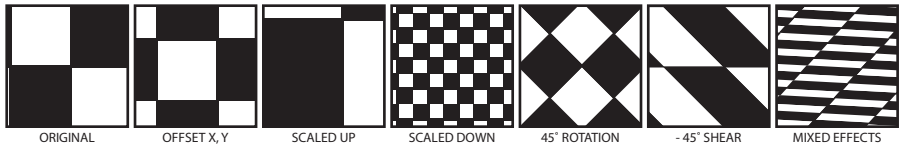


This Star had to be duplicated and moved exactly to the opposite side of its Guide Square to allow for proper repeating in the final Pattern.

By using a standard Size of 1" for the Guide Box, all it takes is to Move the Star 1" down from it's starting position.

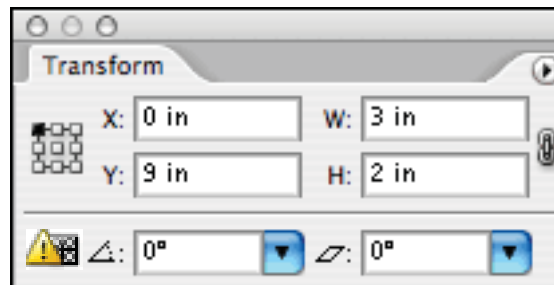
Modifying Patterns

Patterns can be altered using the settings in the Transform Palette. Choose **Transform Pattern Only** under the Options Button and change the Transform attributes of the Pattern.



Indicates that the Pattern Only Option is On, you can click this icon to turn it to Transform Both.

Link Button: Links the Width & Height making Proportional changes easier by only needing to change one field.

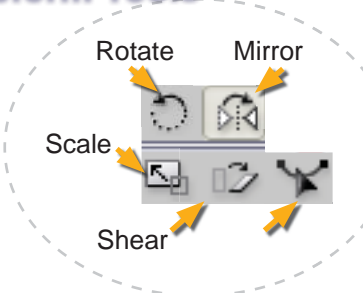


Palette Options Button

- Flip Horizontal
- Flip Vertical
- Scale Strokes & Effects
- Transform Object Only
- Transform Pattern Only
- Transform Both

Transform Patterns w/the Transform Tools

To transform patterns but not objects using a Transform tool, hold down the tilde key (~) while dragging. The borders of the object appear to be transformed, but when you release the mouse button, the borders snap back to their original configuration, leaving only the pattern transformed.



Find all the Transform Tool in the Toolbar. The Warp tool has no effect on Patterns