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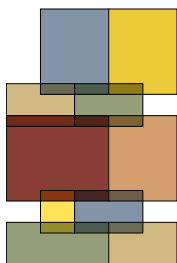
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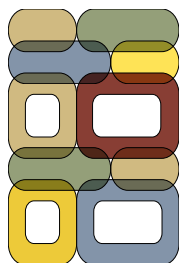
Illustrator 2026 shape tools guide plus shortcut modifiers



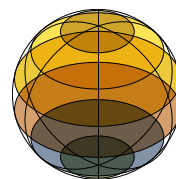
Rectangle (M) click the artboard for Rectangle dialog box; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used Selection tool; shift constrains square; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move object



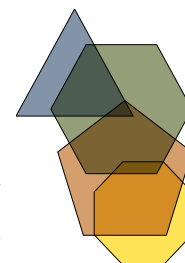
Rounded Rectangle click the artboard for Rounded Rectangle dialog; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used Selection tool; shift = square; opt/alt = from center; spacebar moves; ↑/↓ changes corner radius in 1pt increments



Ellipse (L) click the artboard for Ellipse dialog box; shift constrains to circle; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move object; drag pie widget handle to make pie segments, see Transform panel; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used selection tool



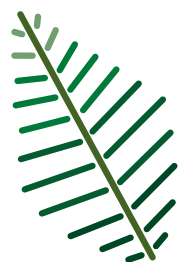
Polygon click artboard for Polygon dialog box; cmd/ctrl = last-used selection tool; shift constrains bottom horizontal; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar drag to move; ↑/↓ arrows while dragging = number of sides



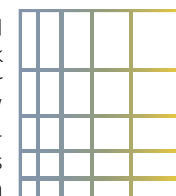
Star click the artboard for Star dialog box; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used Selection tool; shift constrains bottom side horizontal; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move object; ↑/↓ arrows while dragging changes number of sides; cmd/ctrl while dragging holds inner radius still



Line Segment (N) dbl-click tool or click artboard for Line Segment Tool options; shift constrains; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar drag to move; ~ key drag draws array of lines; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used selection tool



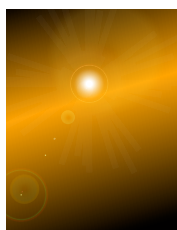
Rectangular Grid dbl-click tool or click artboard for Rectangular Grid Tool options; cmd/ctrl = last-used selection tool; shift constrains square; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move; V F C or X while dragging to change skew values by 10%; ↑/↓/←/→ arrow keys while dragging to change number of lines



Polar Grid dbl-click tool or click artboard for Polar Grid Tool options; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used selection tool; shift constrains to square; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move; V or F or C or X while dragging to change skew values by 10%; ↑/↓/←/→ arrow keys while dragging to change number of lines



Flare dbl-click tool or click artboard for Flare Tool options; drag to place the center handle, then drag to set center size, the halo size, and to rotate angle of rays. While dragging, press Shift to constrain rays. ↑/↓ arrow to add or subtract rays; cmd/ctrl to hold the center of flare constant. Drag again to add rings to flare and place end handle. While dragging, ↑/↓ add or subtract rings. ~ key randomly places rings. Each element [center, halo, rings, and rays] has different opacities



Spiral double-click tool or click artboard for Spiral options; cmd/ctrl dragging changes decay rate; shift constrains to 0°, 45°, 90°; R = reverse; ↑/↓ arrows adds/subtracts spiral segments; opt/alt while dragging adds/subtracts spiral segments while changing length of spiral; spacebar moves the object; press cmd/ctrl and opt/alt to reset the tool



Arc dbl-click tool or click artboard for Arc Segment Tool options; shift constrains proportions; opt/alt draws from center; spacebar interrupts drawing to move; ~ key plus drag draws array of arc segments; C while dragging makes closed/open arc; F or X while dragging flips arc to concave/convex path; ↑/↓ keys while dragging changes arc angle in 5% increments; cmd/ctrl invokes last-used selection tool



Fill Button double-click fill button for Color Picker; x toggle activates stroke or fill

Stroke Button (X) double-click for Color Picker; x toggle activates fill or stroke

Swap Fill and Stroke (Shift X) swaps fill color for stroke color on selected object

Default Fill and Stroke (D) this sets the fill color to white and the stroke color to black on the selected object

