

Page of Blended Shapes

This is what we are going to make:

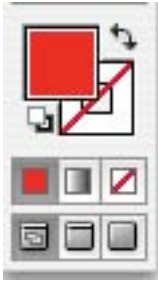


1. Using the Rectangular Tool, create a 1" by 1" square



Illustrator Tip: Hold the "option" or "alt" key and a dialog box will appear allowing you to input the exact dimensions you want your shape to have.

2. Give it a fill color, and get rid of your stroke



3. Using the black arrow tool, move your shape to the upper left hand corner if it is not already there
4. Create a new shape, in this example I will create a star of about the same size using the Star Tool under the Rectangle tool, but this exercise should work with any vector art as long as it has a fill and no stroke.
5. I'm going to color my star a light blue by clicking the light blue swatch in the "swatches" palette.

Illustrator Tip: If you are ever missing, or cannot see one of your palettes, you can turn it on using the "Window" menu. All your palettes will be under there.

6. Now with the black arrow tool, select your first shape (for me it will be my red square)
7. Select the "blend" tool, and holding down the "option" or "alt" key click on the red square



8. In the dialog box that appears, change spacing to "Specified Steps" of "4" with an up-down orientation. Click "Ok".



9. Now click on your second shape (for us it will be my blue star)



Illustrator Tip: If your two shapes are too close together, you can use your white arrow tool to select a particular shape and move it, just make sure your objects are deselected first. You can also use the white arrow tool to select a shape and change its color.

10. Next, we'll create our bottom shapes by creating another shape in the lower left hand corner about the same size as our 1" by 1" square. I'm going to make a green circle. The Circle Tool is located under the Star Tool.
11. Then I will create a second shape for my green circle to be blended into. I'm going to create an orange polygon. Again, the polygon tool is located in the same place as our Rectangle, Star, and Circle Tool.

12. Now I will repeat steps 6-9 to create a blend between by green circle and my orange polygon



13. To create a full page blend between our two blends we will need to first expand both blends.

14. With the black arrow tool, select both blends

15. Go "Object > Expand"

Illustrator Tip: Once a blend is expanded, you will not be able to change the color of a shape in the blend and have the rest of the blend change accordingly, so make sure you like your colors before you expand!

16. Now take your blend tool and click on your first shape in your first blend (our red square) and then click on your first shape in your second blend (our green circle)

Viola! You now have a page full of blended shapes!

