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Feature Review, Illustratorworld.com

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Illustratorworld.com Contest
Coverage



SEND SPELLING OR CONTENT ERRORS TO: toddm@illustratorworld.com



COVER CREATED BY: BALKIRIA. His magazine cover won him first place in round three of the March Madness Contest on Illustratorworld.com. Graphics on the TOC pages are also taken from his magazine cover file.





Summer is upon us. That means vacation time. We hope you'll still drop in and visit us - check out the latest posts and contests. Hopefully your vacation will provide you a little extra time to create that vector masterpiece you've been dying to complete - or get started on.

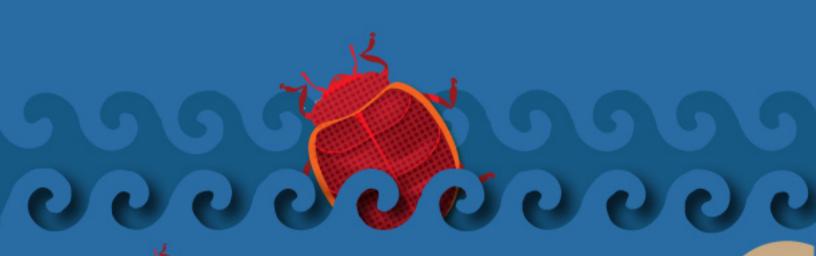
We've included a little bit about the new Illustrator. Illustrator Creative Suite 3 (AICS3). It really has a few cool features that I know I'll use. Take a look, see what you think.

Also, we've included a few interesting techniques with strokes as well as inspiration in the form of student contest winners. The cover and the graphics on these two pages are courtesy of one of the student participants. Not bad, huh? So we hope you'll check those features out as well and find their work fresh and inspirational.

As always, send in your comments or requests. We like to hear from you and value your input.

See you in the gallery!

Todd Macadangdang EIC



with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadangdang LEVEL: BEGINNER

You can't talk about vector art (or most any other type of art for that matter), without talking about color. With the introduction of the computer, printers and the web, one needs to know the difference between CMYK, RGB and Spot color. It's also a good idea to know what the term Out of Gamut means.

Because of some of the questions I get, I thought it would be good to cover some of the basics of color. For those of you who are advanced, feel free to skip forward a few pages to read about a few of the new AI CS3 features.

#### COLOR TERMS

### **CMYK**

That stands for Cyan, Megenta, Yellow and Black. These are the typical, basic printing process colors. These four colors together can create all the colors you see in your average color newspaper or magazines. We work in CMYK color space when the project we're working on will eventually see print (Figure 1).

#### **RGB**

RGB stands for Red, Green, Blue. This is the color space that your monitor uses. So we normally work in this color space when we're creating graphics that will be viewed online (webpage, web gallery etc.). RGB values are between 0 and 255. However, not ALL colors that our monitors can display, can be displayed by all web browsers (Figure 2). So within the RGB color space we have something called Web Safe RGB (Figure 3). There are 216 colors that are recognized/supported by all web browsers.

So to summarize: Work in RGB for web projects. Work in CMYK for print projects. Spot clors are a totally different beast.

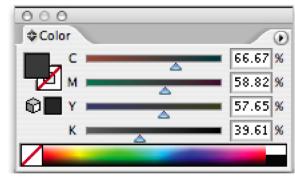


Figure 1 - CMYK Color Palette

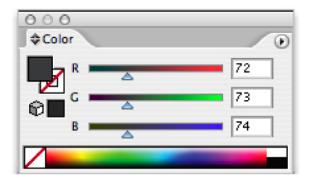


Figure 2 - RGB Color Palette

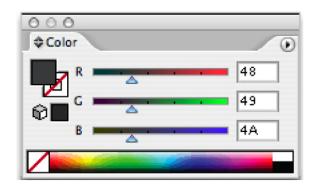
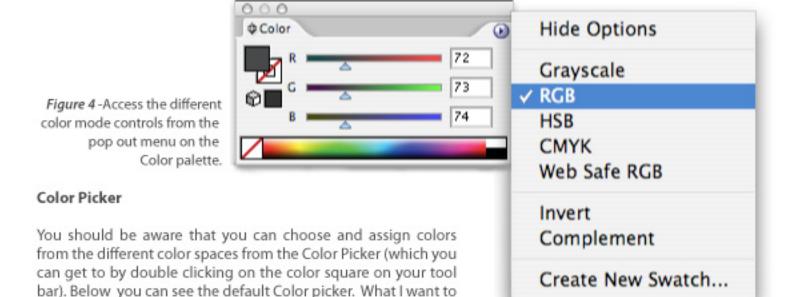


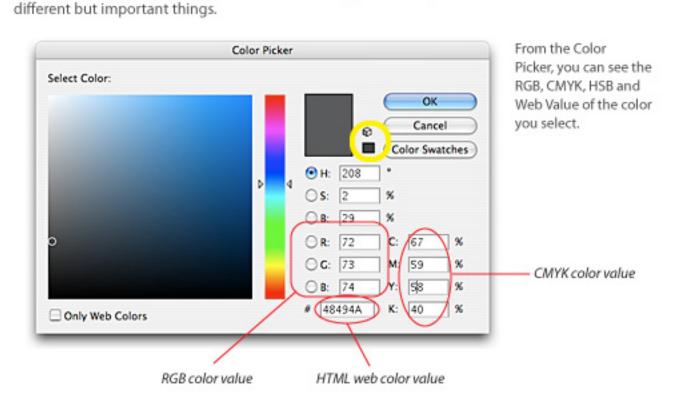
Figure 2 - Web Safe RGB Color Palette. Note that it's a limited version of the RGB color palette, that limits you to the colors that browsers can display.

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadangdang

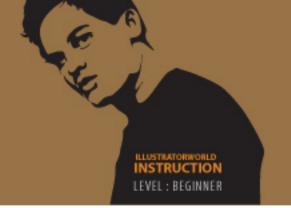
point out to newer folks is the small square next to the color swatches- which I've circled with yellow. This icon, and the warning triangle icons mean two different things. Two very





## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

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#### Out of Gamut

The cube icon appears when the color you've chosen is out of gamut (Figure 6). Out of gamut means that the current color can not be accurately converted int CMYK values. So if you're creating artwork for print, and any color you use in your art triggers the Out out of Gamut indicator (the cube icon), you should know that the final printed piece may not look like it does on your screen. You can click on the Out of Gamut indictor and Illustrator will automatically choose the closest color to your original color that CAN be displayed accurately in CMYK color space.

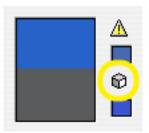


Figure 6 -The Cube icon (above)
is the Out of Gamut indicator.
It appears when the color
you've selected cannot be
displayed accurately in
the CMYK color space.

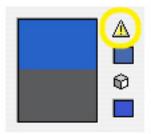
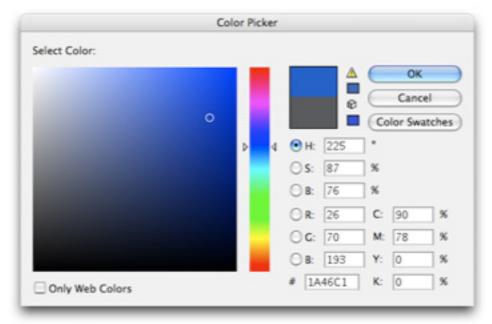


Figure 7 - The Warning triangle is displayed when the color you've chosen cannot be displayed on the web and cannot accurately match a HTML defined color.



#### Web Safe Colors

The other warning icon, the yellow triangle, lets you know that the color you've chosen isn't a web safe color- a color that will display exactly as you see it on your screen. This IS something you should pay attention to if you're doing web interface designs. You may create a graphic that should blend seamlessly on the background of your web page (a color that you've defined in html as #DDFFGG) only to find that you didn't use a web safe color and a slight difference can be detected between your button and the background. I know- you can see that I didn't use web safe color for the Illustratorworld.com menu bar!

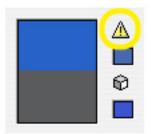


## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

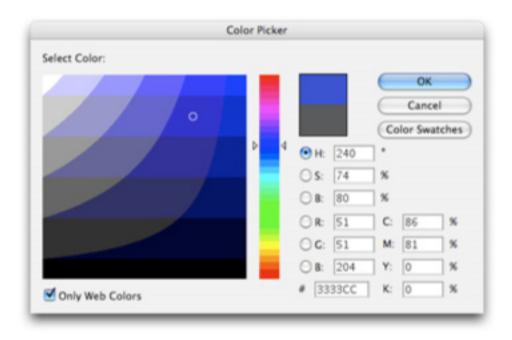
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### Only Web Colors

One thing you can do to help insure that all your graphics match perfectly to the colors defined by your html document, it to use only web colors. You can do this by clicking on the Only Web Colors option at the bottom of the Color Picker dialog box. You can visually see that your color choices are decreassed in the graphic below.



If you click on the yellow triangle or color swatch Illustrator will automatically choose the closest web safe color for you.



Normally we would talk about Spot colors as well. But we'll have to save that for another time. But hopefully for those of you who are starting out with Illustrator, and have questions about what color space you should be working in for your various projects, this little tutorial has given you some idea and direction.

As always, if you have more questions, post them in the forum. There are quite a number of color pros ready to share their two cents. Or in some cases, a buck fifty.

See you in the gallery!

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

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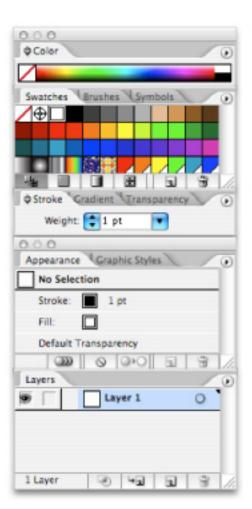


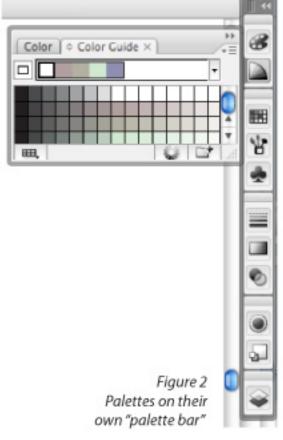
Figure 1

The old tool bar used two columns. The new is a single column. OK, so we've waited till the official release of Illustrator Creative Suite 3 to get this eMag out, so we could include a few little tid bits about the new release. We of course, won't cover everything, or go into great depth (our online courses will cover all the new features from Al10 onward, including CS3). But we'll just give you a small taste of the new release.

The first thing you'll notice is that you have more workspace real estate. Your tool palette has thinned out a bit and is now a single column. Your default palettes are also collapsed. The palettes only take up space when you need them.

So to the far left you have the old tool bar, and the new, slimmer version directly to your left (Figure 1). Below you see the old set of default palettes as well as the new look on the right. The palettes pop-up, only as you need them (Figure 2). Do I like the change? Doesn't matter.





## ILLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

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Personally, I wish the icons for the palettes matched the toolbar palette. But that's just a little picky thing. Yes, I'll probably get use to the change.

Ok, now let's get to one of the new features: LIVE COLOR

The Live Color feature can be accessed via a dialog box (Edit Color Guides Palette>Edit Colors) (see Figure 3). What Live Color allows you to do is create harmonious color groups and then apply them to your artwork. For the seasoned designer this is a nice little tool to help you get started, or just give you some ideas. For the beginner, this is a tremendous LEARNING TOOL. I recommend that students or folks wanting to improve their design/illustration skills just spend a day messing around with the Live Color harmonies picker. This will help train your eye as far as choosing complementary colors are concerned.

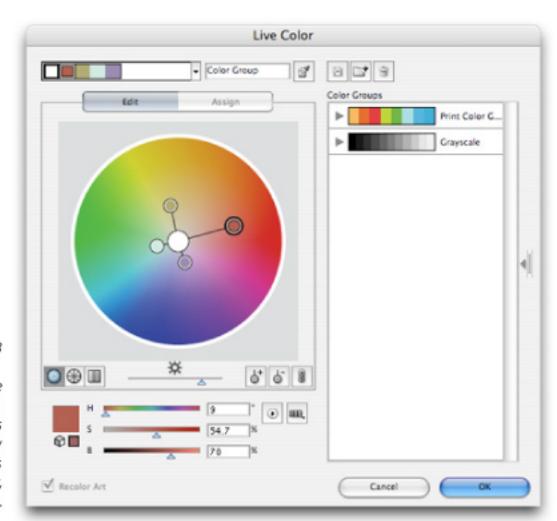


Figure 3

Choose any one of the four color picker circles and automatically generate suggestions for complimentary, harmonious colors.

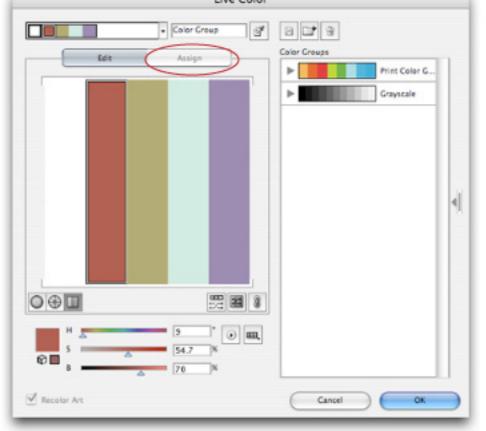
## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

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As I mentioned, one cool thing is that you can replace colors in your current document with new color groups created in the Live Color dialog box. You must have an object or number of objects selected to swap out colors. At that point you can click on the Assign button and designate which new colors will be replacing the exisiting colors in your document. But again, artwork must be selected. This is great if you're trying to create several versions of the same logo or design but want to see what it would look like with different colors groups assigned.





Above is the logo I created for a Norwegian American Football team, the Kristiansand Galdiators. If I had CS3 I could have easily copy dragged several versions of the original (at left) and then replaced the colors of one copy at a time with different color groups.

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

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Another cool feature with Live Color is that you can specify what type of color relationship you want in your group. Complementary, Complementary 2, Split Complementary, Left Complement, Right Complement. Analogous, on and on. You get the picture.

The type of harmony rule you choose will effect the number and movement/placement of your color pickers. Figure 4 shows the color picker configuration for Analogous harmony.



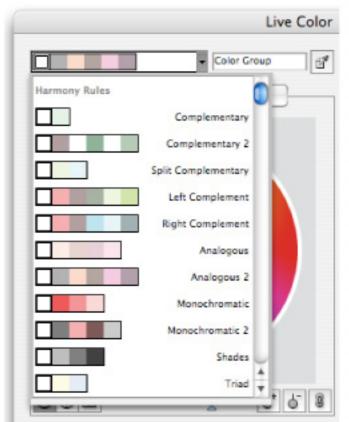


Figure 4 -shows the relationship between the Harmony rule you choose and the number, positioning and interaction of the color pickers on the color wheel.

There is a bit more to the Live Color palette then what I've covered. For example you can save color groups as well. All in all I really like this feature. What they call color editing, is really a very creative process that is quite enjoyable when you're trying to get the color scheme of your illustration or design just right. I think folks will have fun playing with this and USING it in real world situations. Illustratorworld.com gives this feature 5 out of 5 pen tools!

NEW FEATURE: LIVE COLOR



## ILLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadanodans





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I have to mention the Eraser Tool. Why? Because I'm happy it finally made it in to the tool set. Back when I was at Adobe, this was one of the tools that I suggested along with the other Flash-like tools Live Paint and the Blob Brush. The Blob Brush hasn't made it in, but I'm hoping.

Why was I interested in a tool like the eraser? Because I appreciate tools that allow you to edit objects in a very tactile and creative way. I used it quite a bit in Flash. With the pen tool and bezier curves you can get as precise as you like. But when I wanted to be creative in Illustrator, I didn't feel there were enough free form tools. I really liked the smooth tool - or just editing paths with the pencil tool. But the eraser (and hopefully blob brush) will allow you to work with and really form shapes.

Having written the spec doc for the feature when I was with Adobe, I can say it does exactly what it's supposed to do -almost.

You can see that when I swipe across multiple paths, which includes different colors/fills, it simply erases nicely without changing the appearance of the original art (Figure 5). However, if you have a stroke on any of the objects, Illustrator will apply the stroke to fragments of the original that may be left unlike Flash that would treat the strokes like an expanded path..

It also falls short in that you can't erase just the stroke, or just the fill, or just a specific color. Maybe it had to do with a Flash patent infringement thing. I don't know. But it's too bad. The eraser tool was implemented in the simplest form possible.



Figure 5 - Erasing preserves the appearance of the original artwork left behind.

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadangdano

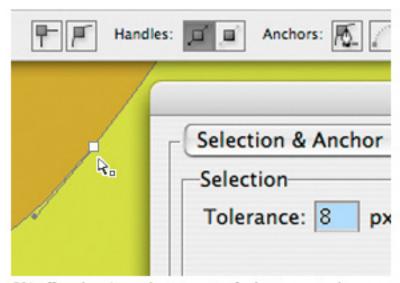


I just have mention briefly that a pretty cool enhancement was the refinements to path/point selection, and the ability to grab the path itself to alter the curve of the path. Again, it's not Flash (with path selection and editing) - and there are/were plugins that did the same thing. But I think you'll get use to the enhancements and find them a plus in the long run.

There are a number of other features and enhancements in the latest version that I didn't even mention. Go to Adobe, com to see what else is new.

As always, I know upgrading is a matter of money (or lack thereof). In addition if your current version of Illustrator is getting the job done, it might be easy to think that there's no need to upgrade.

My personal take is IF you have the funds. Yes, upgrade. You'll like the new version - and they've had a chance to refine features that debuted in CS2. If you're getting the job done with your current version of Illustrator but feel a bit out of touch, I'd say the new version is worth saving for. Especially if you're still using AI10 or later.



CS3 offers drawing enhancements for better control.

NOTE: These are my OWN personal veiws. I was not paid to provide any information or opinions on the latest version of CS3. Just in case you were wondering.. - Todd



# ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR CS3

# PATH, PATH, PATH ... OBJECT! ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

with Illustratorworld.com community member Ray Mullin



You've just spent fifteen minutes drawing a lovely cartoon character. Of course you didn't draw one object, you drew multiple unclosed paths. Now when you put your background in, your character is see through. You can't have this, now we have to zoom in and retrace the edge, right? Nah, just take some time to think about it and it shouldn't take more than a few clicks.

Before Adobe gave us LivePaint, us illustrator users were stuck with this age old problem. I still don't trust LivePaint (mainly because I don't want to abandon this trick and one time my buddy couldn't get something to print right that was LivePainted). Anyway it never hurts to know another way around a problem. You may end up with a job that doesn't have the latest and greatest software.



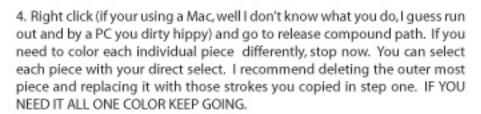
 Select your art that you need object-a-fied and copy it to the pasteboard (ctrl+C). (don't paste it, just copy it)



Then outline the strokes (OBJECT>PATH>OUTLINE STROKE) and reselect the art (somethings may not be stroked but still need to be included in the final object, illustrator unselects all but the outlined paths after outlining).



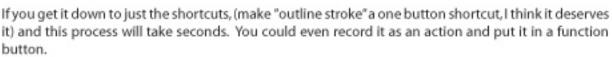
Go to the Pathfinder pallete and "ADD" (and expand)







- Now ungroup it (under right-click) and pathfinder> "ADD" again. Heres your shape, one solid chunk, fill it as needed.
  - Lastly, Paste (ctrl+F) those paths that have been sitting in your pasteboard.





## DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

## LLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

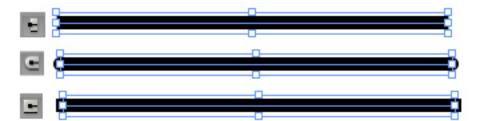
with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadangdano



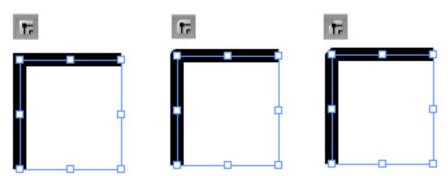
We normally don't think much about strokes. Unless we're using brushes, stroke are just something that defines what we're drawing. An outline if you will.

However, in our pursuit of getting to really know Illustrator we should review some of the basic and new features related to strokes. In addition we'll look at a few cool (I think) things you can do with strokes.

So first the basics. You should know about caps and joins. There are three types of each. For caps you have butt, round and projecting. You can see these in figure 1 as applied to a 10 point stroke. For joins (or corners) you have miter, round and bevel.



The Cap Option will affect the placement of your bounding box. Above you can see the icon and resulting effect for butt, rounded, and projecting caps.



Above you see the icons and resulting effect for miter, rounded and beveled joins.

Unlike Caps, joins do not affect the placement of your bounding boxes. Line weight is pretty self explanatory as is the dashed line option. However, it's important to be aware of the ability to align the stroke to your path.

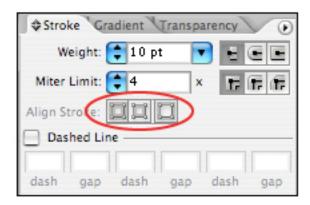
# DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

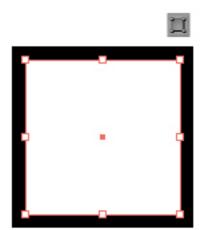
## LLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

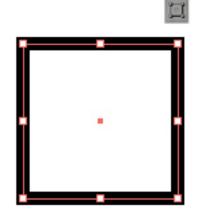
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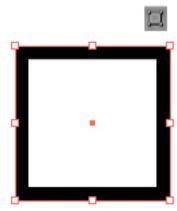


Since CS2 you now have the ability to Align strokes to the inside, outside or center of your actual path.









Now you can align your stroke to the outside (top left), center, or inside. Not how this affects the placement of the bounding box.

The final point of interest is the Dashed Line option. I won't go into that much. It's pretty self explanatory.

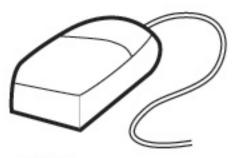
However, I thought it might be fun to look at some things you can do with strokes. How useful these techniques will be to you in the real world, I don't know. I don't use them in my personal illustration style. But some of you may find a way to use the following techniques.

## DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

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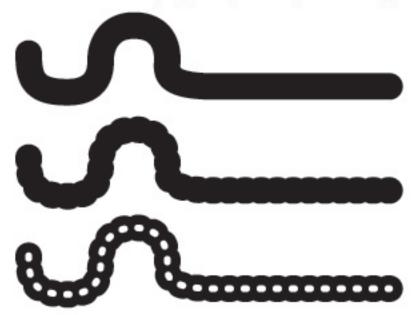


Example 1 A 4pt black stroke is copied, and the new stroke is placed on top of the old stroke. The new stroke is white, 2pts.

The first thing you might try is overlaping strokes for effect. This simple technique was something I used quite a bit when I did technical illustrations. It's perfect for making cords and such (see example 1).

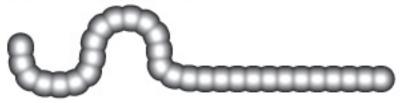
But you can make some pretty interesting borders or strokes with this concept of overlaping strokes.

Try this: Create a stroke. Make it black, with a width of 20 pixels. Make it dashed, 2, 10. Make the cap Round and Join Round. Copy this path and paste in front (command + F). With the new stroke selected, give it a width of 5 and make it white. Make sure it has the same cap and join values as well as the same dash values (it should since you just copied and pasted the original).



1) Start with a single stroke. 2) Make it a dashed stroke. 3) Copy, paste in front, and change thickness and color. 4) Blend

That's an interesting stroke. It could be used to make chain for example. But let's do something more with this. The next trick is blending overlapped strokes. Select both strokes and blend them. And here's what you get:



# DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

## ILLUSTRATORWORLD **STEP-BY-STEP**

with Illustratorworld.com IAVAP member Todd Macadangdang



So now you have a worm perhaps? Entrails? Like I said - some of you may find a use for this technique. The point is, try overlapping strokes to see if it can produce anything useful for you. Try making a neon stroke for example.

Perhaps you need decorative borders. Try these overlapping recipes:

All strokes will have round caps and joins. Blue 20 pts. White 10 pts Blue 7 point blue, blend to white 2 point stroke



Black 10 point, dashed, 0, 10. Cap and Join, Round White 8 point, dashed, 0, 10. Cap and Join, Round Black 6 point, dashed, 0, 10. Cap and Join, Round



Now try selecting the stroke above, but change the cap to butt. See what happens.

Now get really wild. Throw your inhibitions to the wind. Overlap dashed lines with solid strokes. Mix and match caps and joins AND dashed and solid strokes. Go ahead. Don't be scared. Give it a try.

Ok. As fun as this is, we have to move on. Just a real quick comment: remember that you can assign patterns to your strokes. You can't assign gradients to your stroke. You can achieve that look. But that's for another tutorial. Not this one.



# DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

### ILLUSTRATORWORLD STEP-BY-STEP

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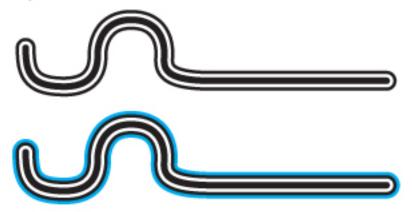
Select your path, and click on a pattern in the Swatch palette. Easy as that.-go ahead, give it a shot now before we wrap this tutorial up.



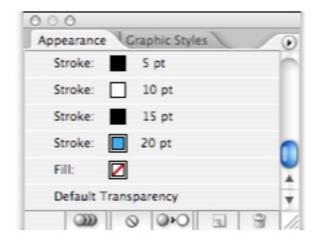
Now let's create a custom path using the appearence palette. If the Apperance palette is not visible, go to Windows in your menu and choose Appearance. Create a path with a stroke. Make the stroke black, five pts.



With the path selected, go to the Apperance palette and in the pop-up memu, choose **Add New Stroke**. Make the next path white, 10 pts. Repeat that step but make the next stroke black, 15 points.



Using the Add New Stroke from the pop-up menu on the Apperance Palette again, create one final stroke - give it a color (I've used blue), and give it a line weight of 20 points. If you've done this correctly, your apperance palette should look like



the figure above. You can see the multiple strokes applied (in the Apperance palette) to your original path. You've just created a custom stroke.

Mess around with adding strokes via the Apperance palette to see what types of effects you can create.

So again, most of the time, a stroke is just a stroke. But give these techniques a try and perhaps you may find one of them useful in a future project.

As always, let us know if this subject/ tutorial was of any interest or use at all.

## coming to illustratorworld.com this summer

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Sign up for an online Project course where you can watch an IW pro complete a project from start to finish! Pick up their pro-tips and tricks.

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illustration by Todd Macadangdan

### Reserve your spot now!

Because most of the classes provide feeback and interaction from the course instructor, spaces are limited. If you are even slightly interested in finding out more about a specific class, or would like to reserve your spot, contact Todd today at toddm@illustratorworld.com!

# winners 1 and all ILLUSTRATORWORLD CONTESTS!

### Illustratorworld.com contests

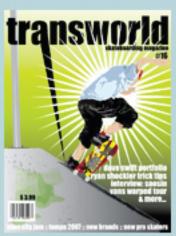
As of late the number of participants in our contest hasn't been that great. Not sure why. Maybe folks don't have time. That's probably the number one reason. Some folks are scared to go up against other artists. I can understand that. But if more people went into these contests with an open mind-thinking that they'll have fun and challenge themselves to be creative, I think we'd have a much better turn out.

On the following pages you'll see some artwork from folks who had that outlook and participated in the March Maddness and Package Design contests.

To me, the title expresses how I view everyone who participated in the contests. All of these folks are winners - one and all.







Balkiria- Contact85-self portrait
Balkiria- Cover design assignment
Popdisaster and Theroom, cover design
assignment from the March Madness
contest





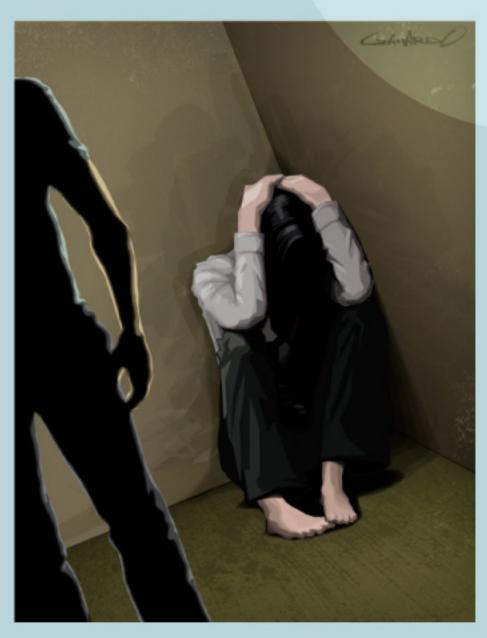
*Left* -Runner up in the Package Design competition, MzMrs *Below*- Winner of the Package Design competition, Michelle aka Mismatched



# winners 1 and all ILLUSTRATORWORLD CONTESTS!

If you want Illustratorworld.com to continue to provide contests (and free software) for the community, please participate. Have fun, push yourself and get exposure while you're doing it. Otherwise, bye-bye contests.





Above-Winner of the March Madness competition, David Gallardo. This was their final assignment: Spot Illustration about violence against women.