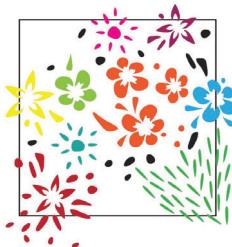


Make seamless repeating patterns in Illustrator

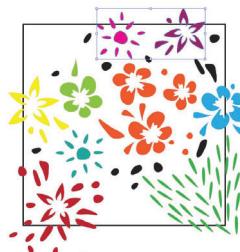


1. Create a square, let's say 3" x 3" or any other size you want but make it a round number as that will make it easier later on.

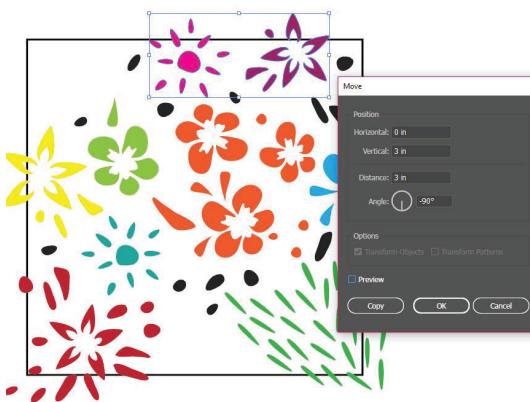
Fill it with your pattern elements making sure that some of them go over the sides.



2. Move and copy the elements that go over the side, one side at a time. Starting with the top side, use the selection tool (V) to 'draw' around the extending elements and the top edge of the square. It is useful to have elements grouped for this. I've grouped my clusters by colour.



3. Go to Object>Transform>Move (Shift+Ctrl+M).



The elements selected must mirror the bottom edge.

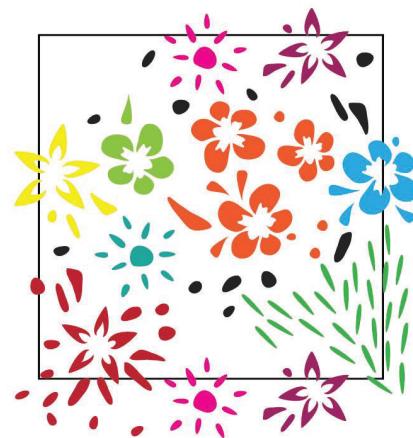
Enter 0 in the Horizontal field (the horizontal field will move the elements to the left or right).

Enter 3" in the Vertical field. This will move the selected bits of the elements 3" (the size of the square) away from the top to the bottom.

Hit Preview to check the elements will move to the correct location.

Select Copy then OK.

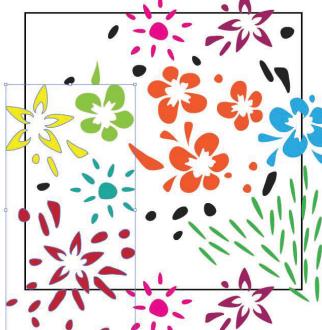
You can see that the copied elements have been overlaid on some of the inner pattern elements.



4. Adjust the inner-square pattern by either moving, shrinking down or removing elements to make room for the copied and moved shapes.

If you compare the pattern to the one above you can see that I've deleted some of the green ovals and moved one of the red shapes.

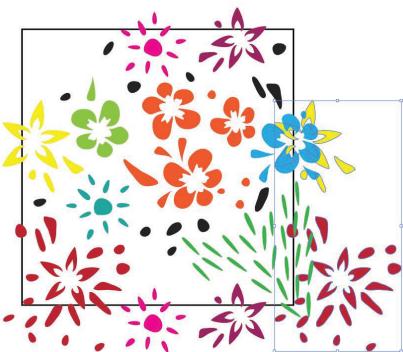
5. Repeat this process with one of the sides. Select the extending elements on the left-hand side.



Copy and move the elements to the right-hand side of the square.

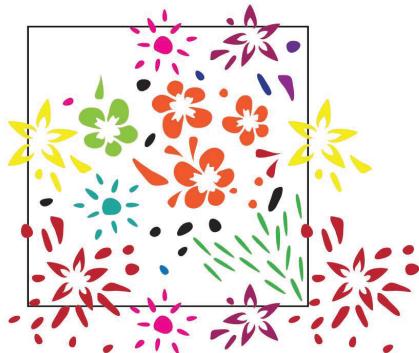


Enter 3" in the Horizontal field and 0 in the vertical field.



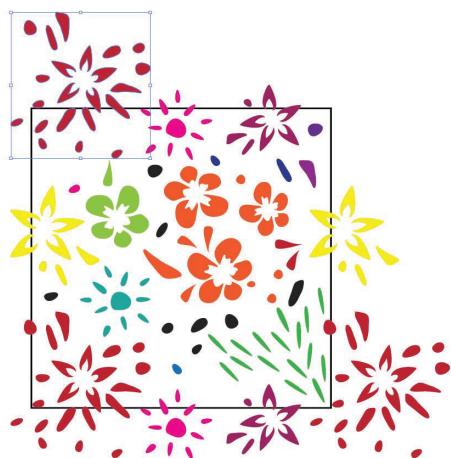
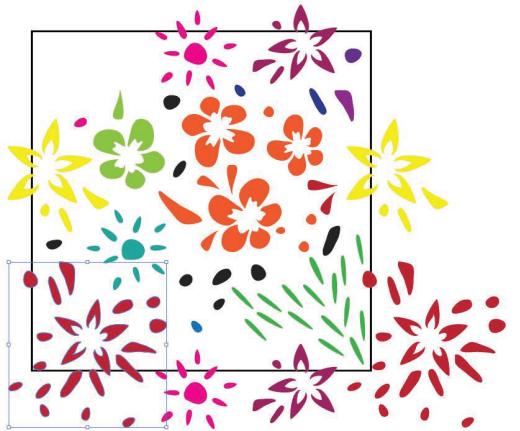
Again, we have copied elements overlaying the inner-square pattern elements.

6. Adjust the inner elements to make room for the copied elements.



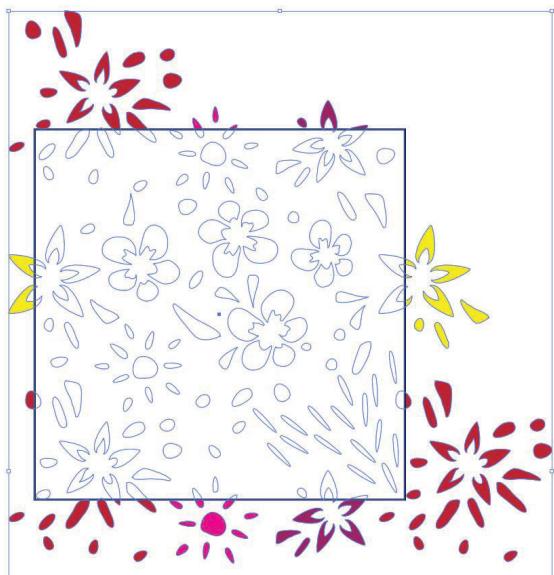
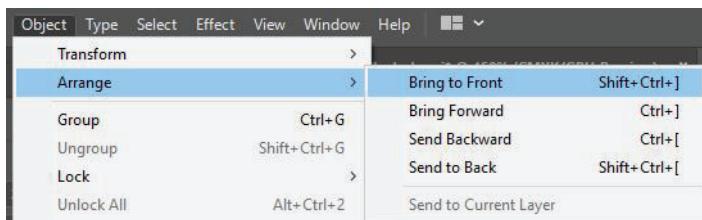
Again, move, delete and shrink various inner elements to accommodate the mirrored shapes in the pattern.

7. Repeat the process for the bottom elements to be mirrored on the top edge. This time only select those elements that weren't copied from the top to the bottom:

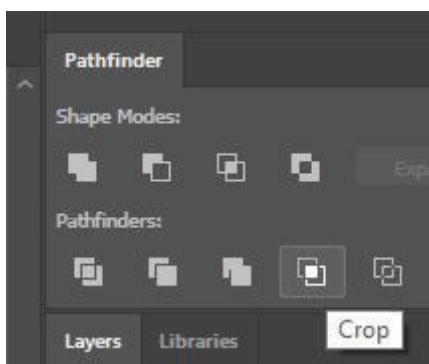


The remaining right-hand side has nothing to mirror so has nothing to copy or move.

8. Select the 3" square and bring it to the front (Shift+Ctrl+] of the pattern and select all:



9. Crop the outer elements from around the square:



10. Finally, drag the cropped pattern onto the Swatches palette and save the swatch library.

