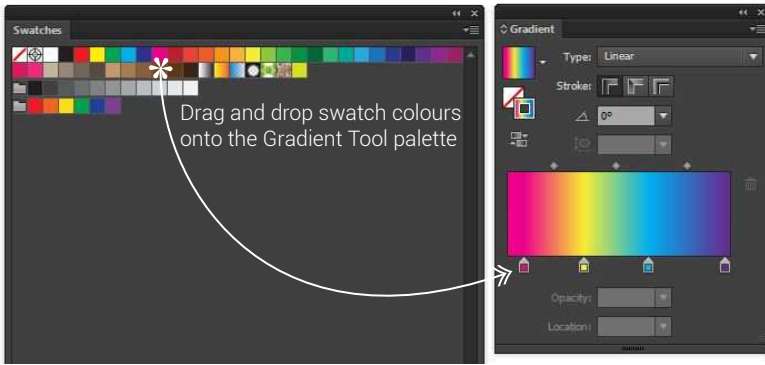


Creating a Coloured Gradient 'Slinky' in Illustrator (CS6)

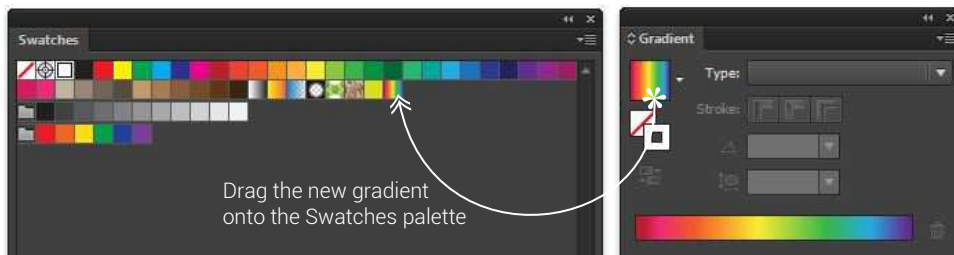


To create a custom gradient:

1. Open the Swatches palette (on the menu bar) and the Gradient Tool (Windows>Gradient or CTRL+F9).

2. Select, drag and drop the swatch colours you want onto the Gradient palette and slide the

colour pots from side to side to create the gradient effect you want.



3. Drag and drop the newly-created gradient onto to the Swatch palette.

*** You don't have to create your own gradient, there are plenty available in the default Swatch library to choose from. ***

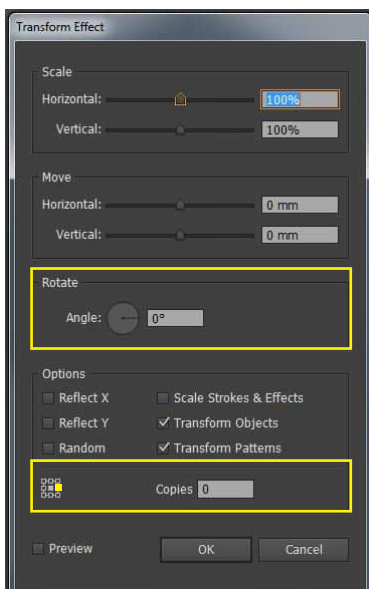
To create the gradient 'Slinky':

1. Draw an ellipse with no fill.



2. Select a gradient from the Swatches palette or Swatch Library for the Stroke.

3. Adjust the stroke weight as you require.



4. Go to Effect>Distort and Transform>Transform to bring up the Transform Effect palette. There are three settings we need to look at:

- * The Rotate value
- * The origin point for the rotation
- * The number of copies to create

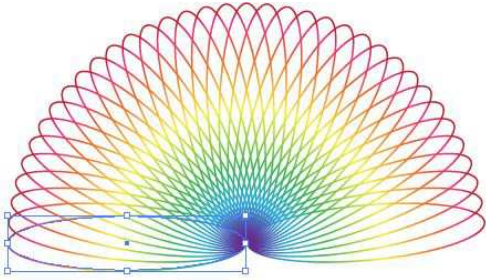
5. Enter 5° (or -5° to reverse the direction) in the Rotate>Angle field. This will repeat the selected element (in this case our ellipse) in 5° rotational increments.

6. Select the middle square on the right of the options by clicking on it. This sets the turning point the ellipse will rotate about.

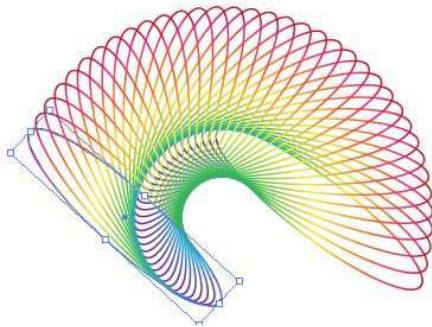
7. Enter 36 copies in the Copies field to create a 'Slinky' with a total of 37 ellipses—the final number of copies created includes the original ellipse plus the number of copies of it.

8. Click OK.

You will now have a 'Slinky' effect gradient. This is still a single element with an effect applied to it despite looking as though it is a series of elements.

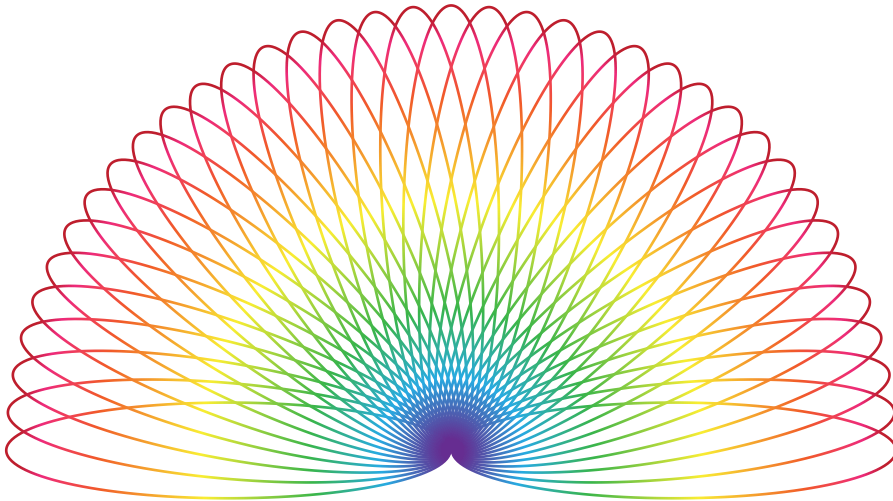


You can still change the appearance by manually turning (or making other changes), to the original ellipse.



9. Go to Object>Expand Appearance. This will convert the 'Slinky' from a single element to a series of elements.

10. They are still bound together as they are grouped. Go to Object>Ungroup to make them totally separate from one another,



Here we have the final 'Slinky'. I hope you enjoyed the tutorial and will find ways to use this effect in your designs.