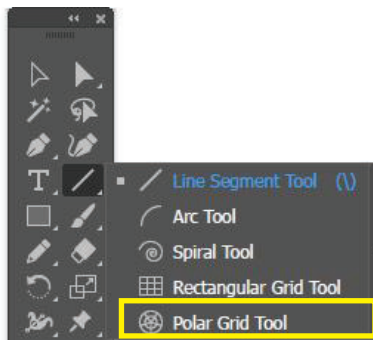


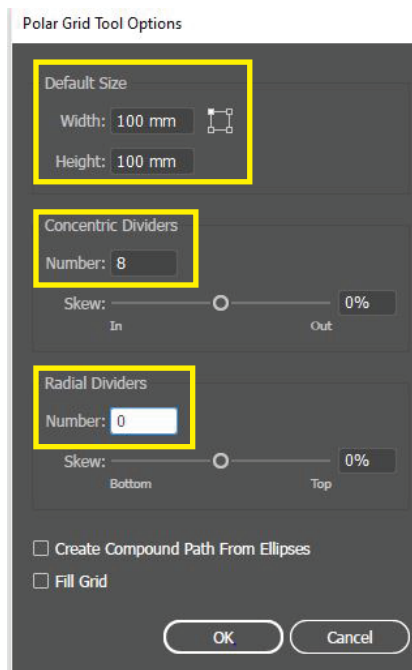


Create a Concentric Spiral Text Path in Illustrator

1. Select the Polar Grid Tool



2. Double-click to bring up the settings for the Polar Grid Tool:

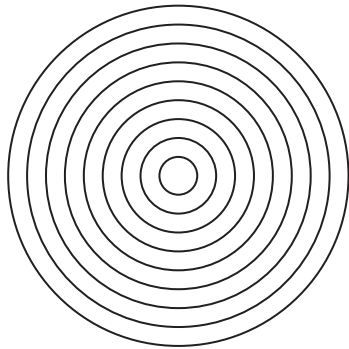


Set the width & height to the same value.

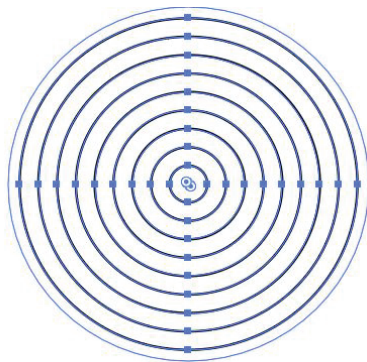
The number of Concentric Dividers determines the number of rows in your spiral.

Set the Radial Divider setting to zero and click OK.

3. Hold down Shift (to keep the grid circular) and draw out your grid.

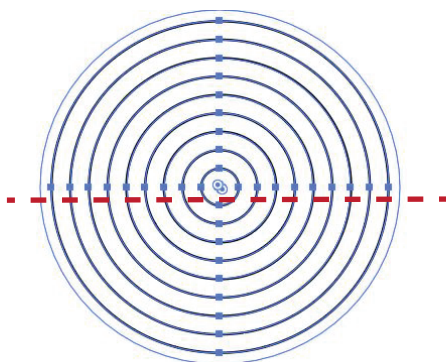


4. Select all the circles with the Direct Selection Tool, (A). This action displays all the anchor points the grid is comprised of.



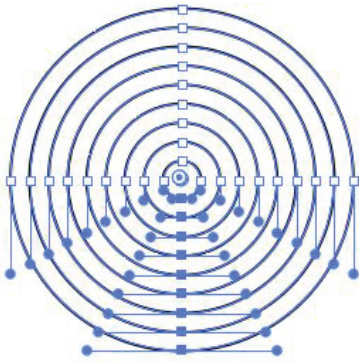
The little blue squares are the
Polar Grid's anchor points

5. Still using the Direct Selection Tool, draw across the bottom half of the circles to select the bottom half of the grid.

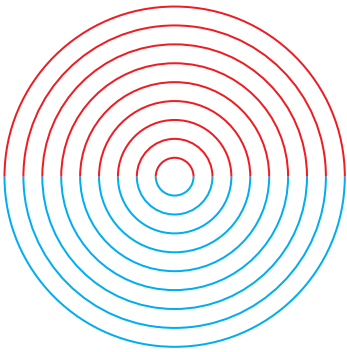


Do not select the central anchor
points; start your selection just
below and draw down to the
bottom of the grid.

This is the result:



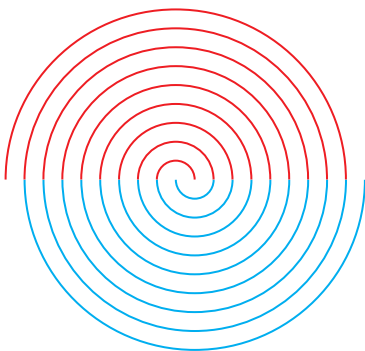
6. While selected, Cut (Ctrl>X) then Paste in Place (Ctrl>F)



I've given each of the halves a different colour to show they are actually separate.

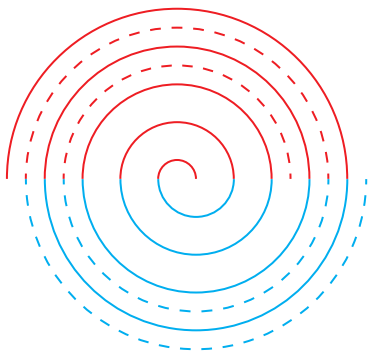
7. Group each half together then select the bottom half and move it across one row till it aligns with the row above:

You will probably need to zoom in and switch to Outline Mode (View>Outline Ctrl>Y) to get them as neatly aligned as possible. (Ctrl>Y toggles back to Preview mode).



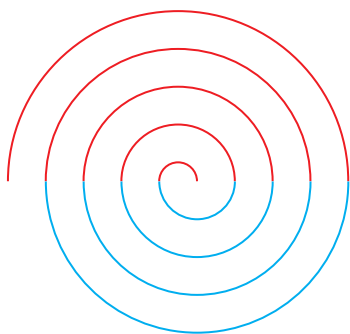
We now have two spirals running in opposite directions within one another.

8. Ungroup each half and carefully delete the path of one of the spirals. They will alternate between red and blue in my example.

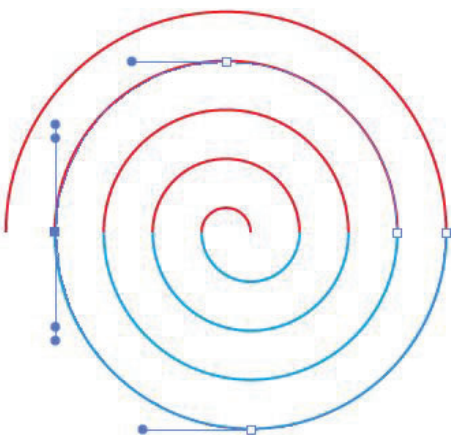


I've already deleted a few path segments; the dashed lines are still to be removed.

9. Remove the path segments until you are left with a single spiral:

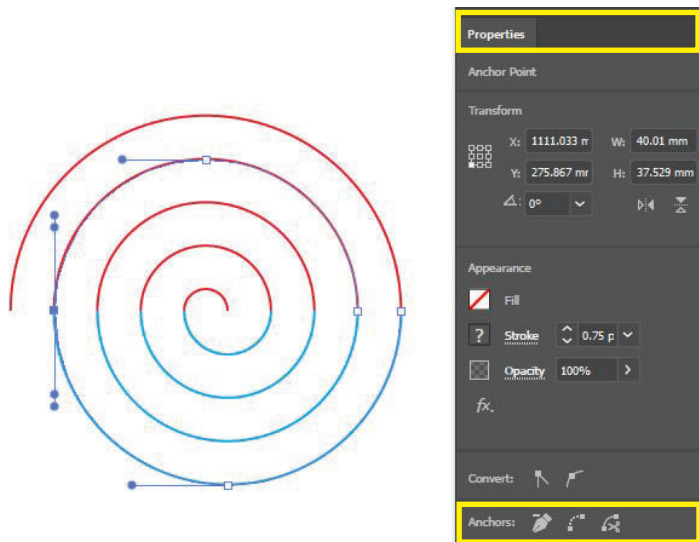


10. These halves are still separate. Select each set of end points with the Direct Selection Tool:

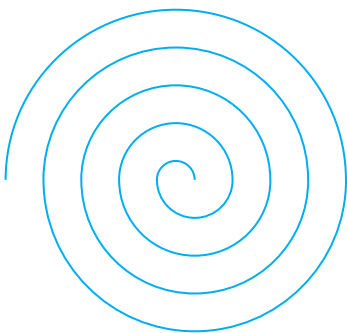


The first two anchor points have been selected: join them together

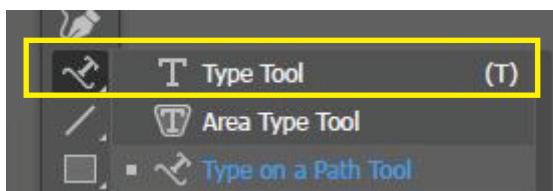
11. Go to Properties>Anchors>Connect Selected. Continue working across each of the anchor points along the middle until the spiral is a single entity.



You now have a solid spiral that you can use as a text path:



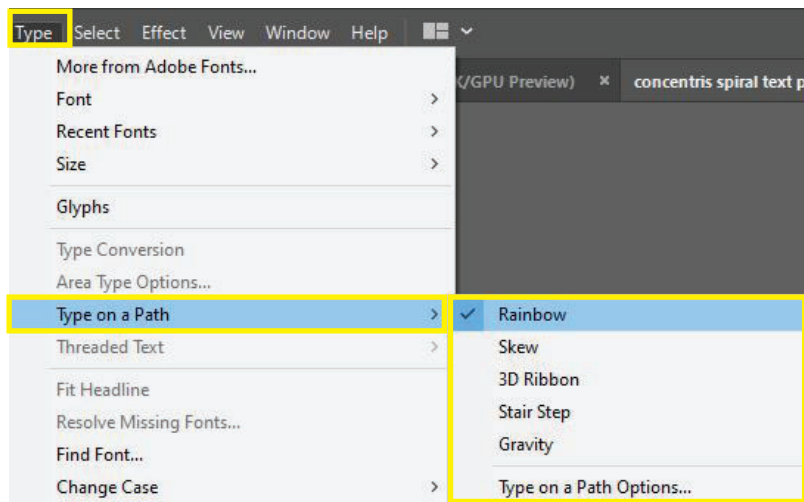
12. Select the Text on a Path Tool from the Tools menu, then click on the start of the spiral.



You can change the font family, size, etc from the Properties panel. There are other options for change the text direction and how the text is applied to the path.

Select the path then go to Type>Type on a Path.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod



* Making text follow a concentric spiral is easy if you use the Polar Grid Tool in Illustrator. You'll find it under the Tools menu where the Line, Arc, Spiral and Rectangular Grid Tools also reside. With persuasion, it produces a chilled concentric spiral that doesn't decay into a dense black hole where everything disappears without trace. The Polar Grid Tool is a useful tool to befriend. It create an effect that adds & interest to austere layouts that need some spice to liven them up. So here's how to use it. :)