PATTERN SWATCH

Make a

CHEVRON
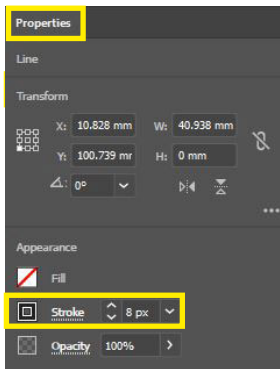
In Illustrator
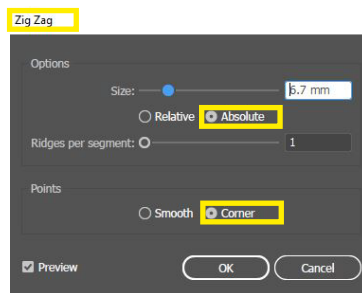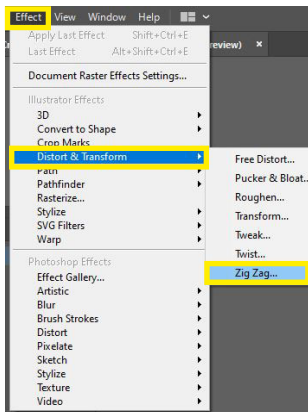
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Create a Chevron Swatch

1. Open a new document, any size.

2. Select the Line Segment Tool, hold down Shift and draw a line. (Shift keeps the line straight).

3. While still selected, go to the Properties panel and change the size of the line to 8px:
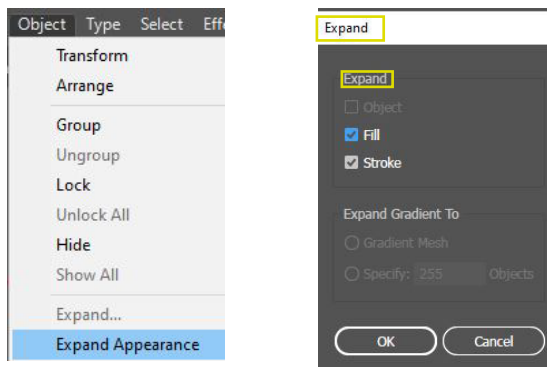

4. With the line still selected, go to Effect> Distort & Transform > Zig Zag (you could select Smooth and follow the steps but

make a ripple instead of a chevron):

5. Select the line and go to Object > Expand (this converts the distorted line into a zigzag:
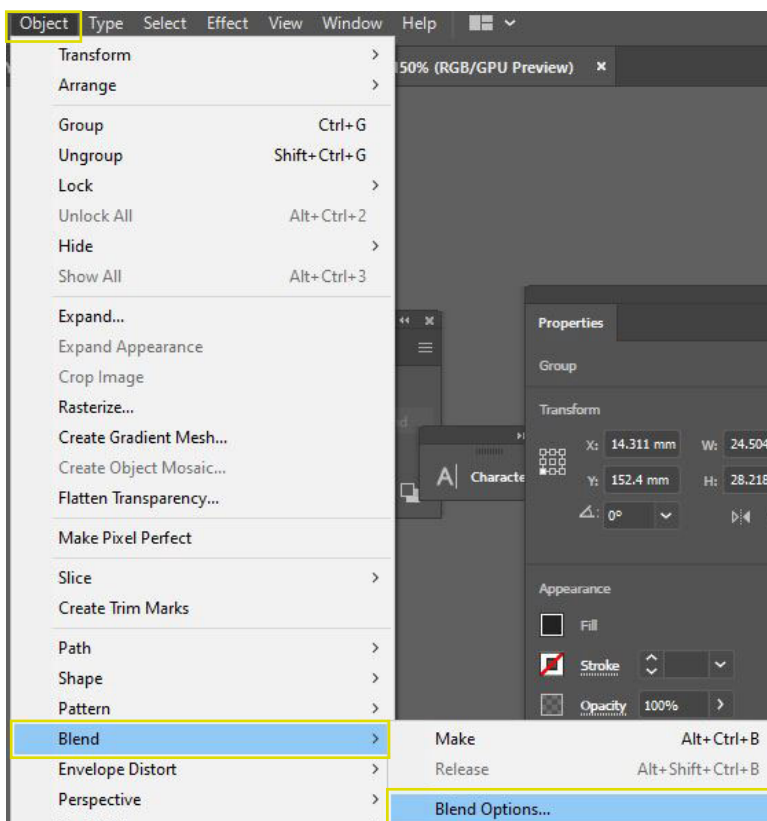
6. Still with the zigzag selected, go to Object Appearance > Expand to convert the zigzag into a shape. The settings default to Fill and Stroke both checked. Click OK.

7. Select the zigzag, Copy (Ctrl+C) and Paste in Place (Shift + Ctrl + V). Select the Down-Key and press to move the copy directly below the first one. You can do this in a number of ways but it is important that they are perfectly aligned vertically.
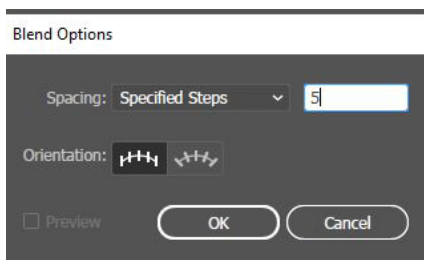

8. Select both lines and go to Object > Blend > Blend Options:

9. Select Specified Steps from the drop-down and enter the number of steps to be inserted between the first and last zigzag a.
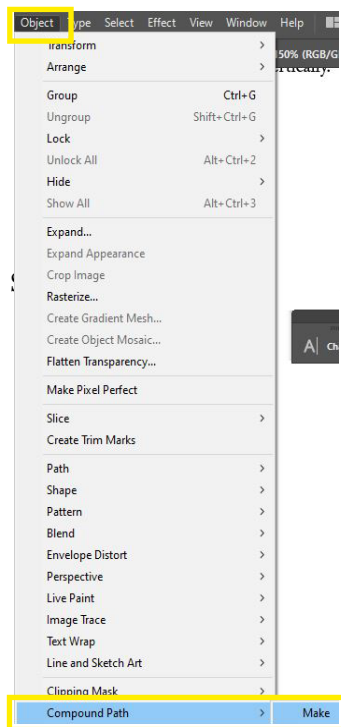
Hit OK:

10. Select the blended steps and go to Object > Expand to convert them to shapes.

11. Select the Rectangle Tool, M, hold down Shift and draw a square. Change the Stroke to 0.25 and the Fill to zero:

12. Place the square over the zigzag shapes , hold down Shift and shrink it then position it so that that the top of the square touches

the point of a chevron and the bottom of the square touches the point of another chevron:
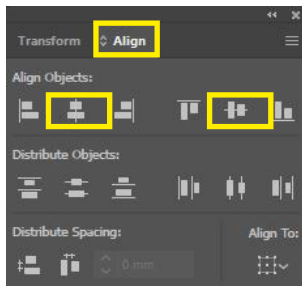

13. Delete the zigzags outside the square. Select the remaining zigzags (not the square) and go to Object > Expand.then convert-

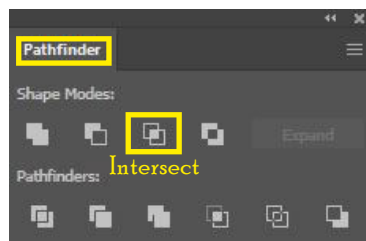them to a compound path, Object > Compound Path > Make:

14. With the square on top (Object > Arrange > Bring to Front, if necessary) and the zigzags selected, align both Vertical and

Horizontal centres:

15. With zigzags and square still selected, go to Pathfinder > Intersect:

16. Select and fill the empty shapes with any colour:

17. Drag and drop the filled chevrons onto the swatches in the Swatches palette:

18. You have now created a chevron pattern that you can save and use in any project. Save it to your pattern library.

19. You can scale the pattern down within an object; go to Object > Transform > Scale and change the size of the pattern, just make sure you only have the Transform Patterns checkbox selected otherwise you will scale the object and the pattern: