

Make a Repeating Pattern in Illustrator - the Easy way - with the Pattern Maker



Make a pattern swatch in Illustrator

1. Create a new document in Illustrator.

2. Make a pattern. I find one of the easiest ways to create a pattern is to use a free dingbat font.

The one I'm using today is a free font called Tanaestel Doodle Leaves Regular. It's free for personal use but it doesn't hurt to make a donation.

3. Type out the alphabet to display all the letters available:



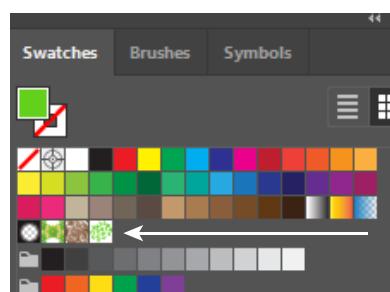
4. Select the letters using the Direct Selection Tool (V):



5. Go to the Type drop-down menu and select 'Create Outlines'.

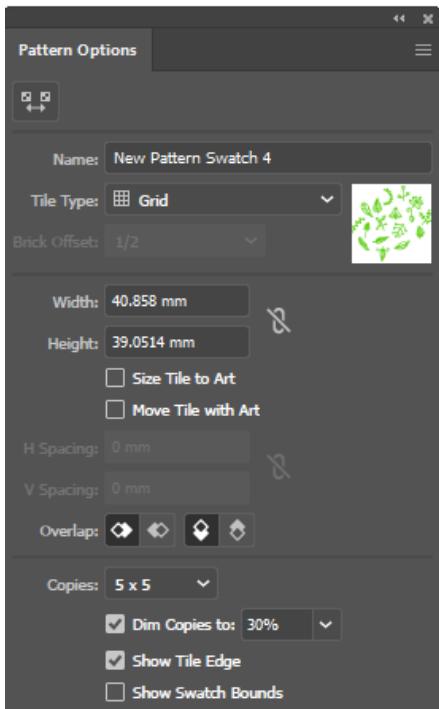
6. Go to Object>Ungroup.

7. Arrange the pattern elements till you're reasonably happy with your arrangement:

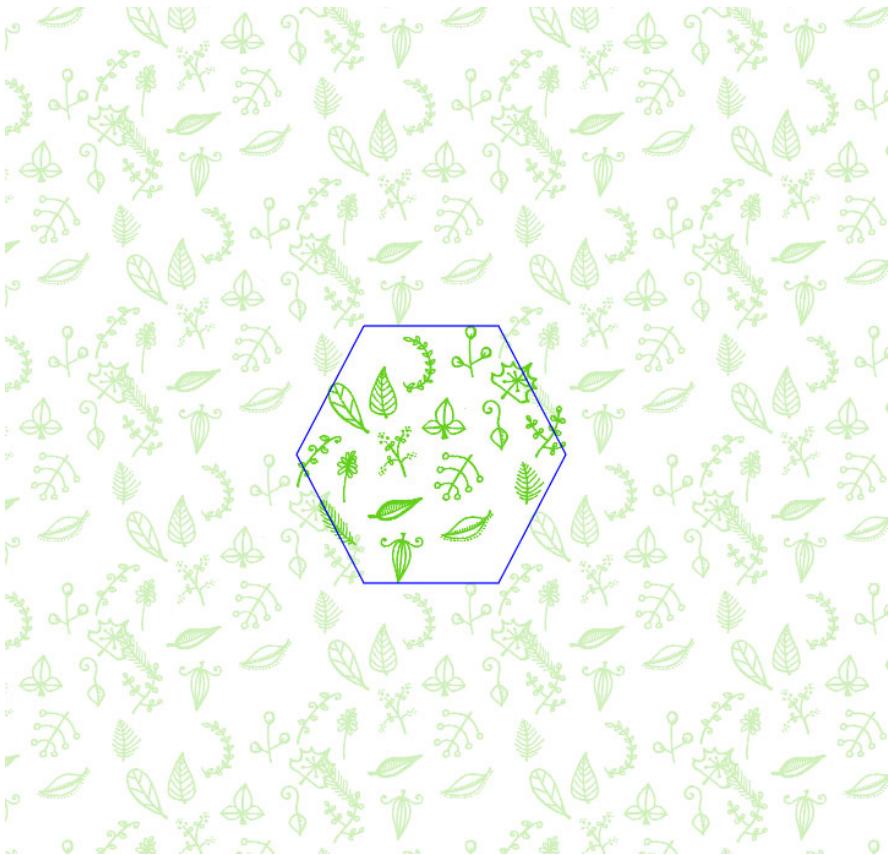


8. Swipe select the grouping, go to Object>Expand then drag into the Swatches Palette.

9. Double-click the new pattern swatch to display the editing options:



There are various 'views' to choose from; I selected hex by row from the Tile Type drop-down and 5x5 copies:





If you look closely at the previous screen grab, you'll see some of the elements overlap within the hex. Simply select them to move, rotate, duplicate, re-size etc, to adjust the arrangement to prevent overlapping. The screen grab above shows the elements moved around to keep them all separate.

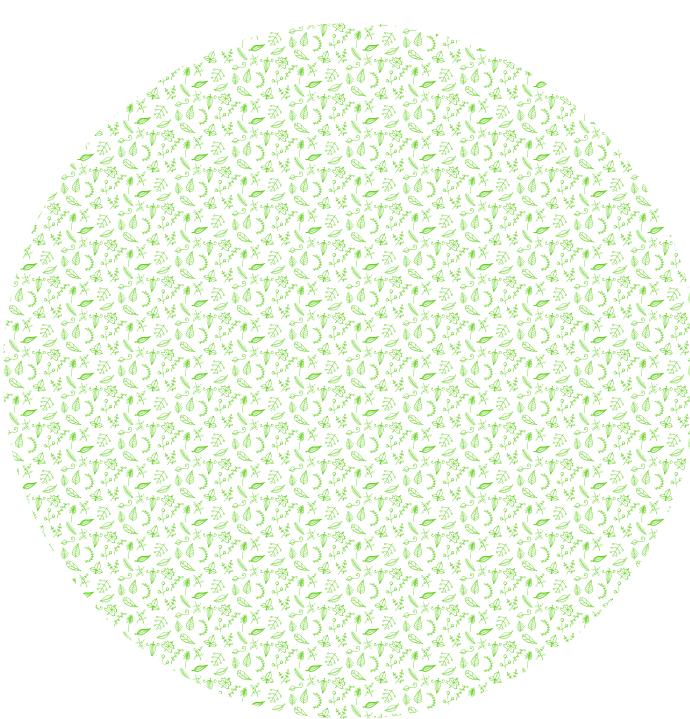
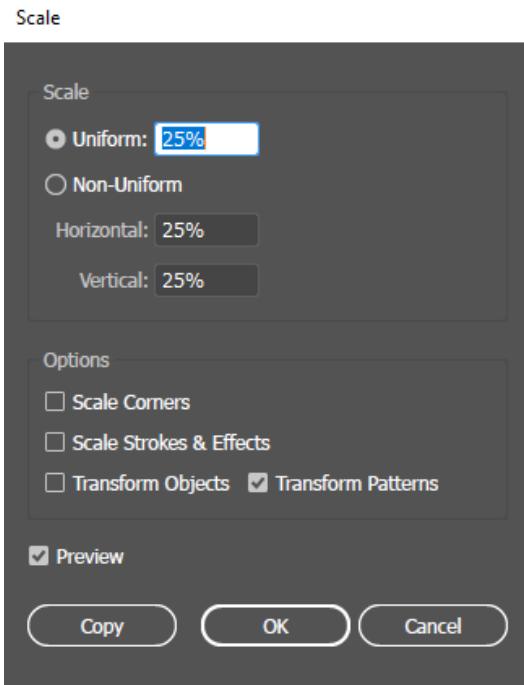
10. Select Done when you are finished.



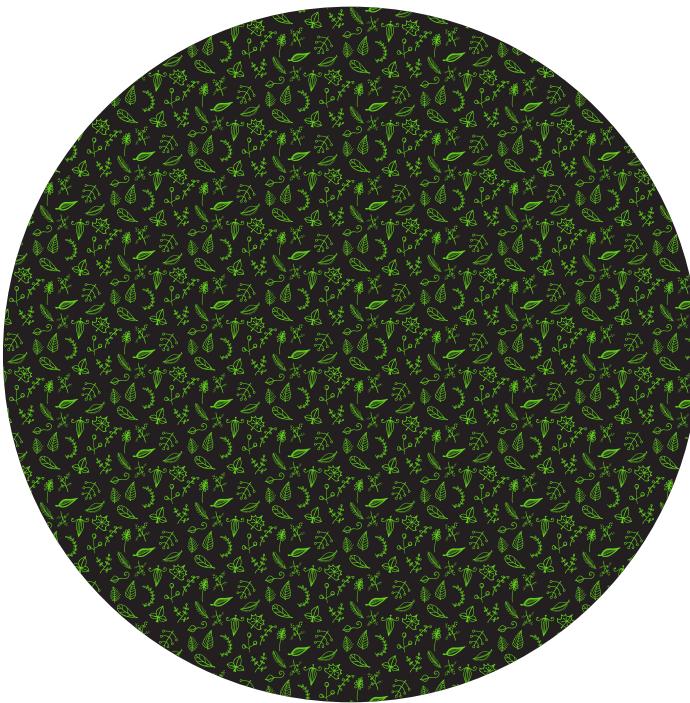
11. Now create shapes and fill with your new pattern.



12. If the pattern is too small or too large for your shape, go to Object>Transform>Scale to resize the pattern. Make sure not to check the Transform Objects checkbox, just the Transform Patterns. This is the pattern swatch rescaled down to 25% of its original size:



13. If you want to add a background colour you could copy and paste the shape, paste in place (Ctrl+V) give it a coloured fill and use Object>Arrange>Send to Back.



You have a seamless pattern fill that took hardly any time to create.

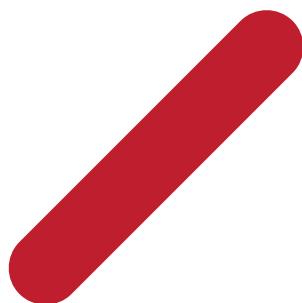
Other elements:

I made the recycling symbol following this tutorial:

How to draw a recycle symbol in Adobe Illustrator

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRWU1FB7yjs>

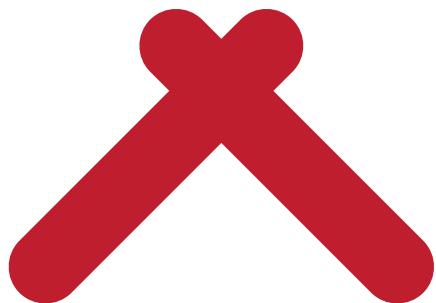
If you want to make the heart, use the rounded rectangle tool to create a smooth oblong.



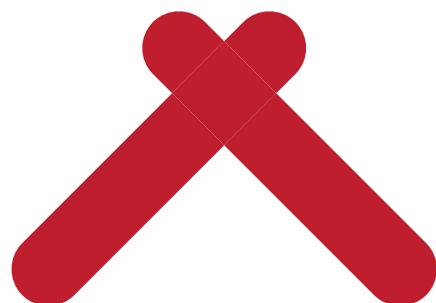
Go to Object>Transform>Rotate and enter 45°.

Select it again, go to Object>Transform>Reflect then select Vertical.

Move the two closer together until you get something of a heart shape:



Select both shapes, go to Pathfinder>Divide.



Then go to Object>Ungroup and delete the unwanted bits:



Finally, select the three remaining shapes, go to Pathfinder and Unite them.

