

Clipping Masks in Illustrator Tutorial

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DO NOT DUPLICATE

Hi everyone! I love little tutorials that teach a specific technique! This seven-minute video is meant to help you really get a sense of why clipping masks in Illustrator are so great. These notes follow along with the video.

Getting Started

- You can use Illustrator CC, CS6, CS5, CS4, and CS3 for this tutorial. Clipping masks have been done the same way for several versions now.
- Did you know that you can get Illustrator for free? Yep! That's right! There is an online subscription that lasts one month that allows you to decide if Illustrator is right for you.

Opening a New Document

I don't go over this in the video, but in case this is your first time in Illustrator, go to FILE > NEW and a window will open up. Leave all the settings and push OK.

Find Your Tools

Go to Window > Tools if your Tool Bar are not already open. Generally it appears on the left-hand side of your screen.

Make a Circle

The default for the SHAPE Tool is the Rectangle Tool. Move to the Tool Bar and select the Rectangle Tool. If you continue to click down and pull to the right, a small menu will appear that will allow you to choose the Ellipse Tool. Click on it. To make a circle, hold down the SHIFT Key and click while pulling.

Change the Color

The default colors in Illustrator is a white fill and a black stroke. Move to the little double arrow in the left hand corner of the color swatches and SWAP out the colors so that your black is the fill and the white is the stroke. The stroke doesn't really matter in making the clipping masks, but it will be easier for you to see what is being clipped if we change the Fill color to black.

Make a Star

The star shape is also located in the Shape Tool. Click on the Ellipse (since it was the last one used) and pull out the menu to select the Star Tool. Hold down the SHIFT Key to create a Star that overlaps with the Circle.

Arrange the Objects

Select the Circle using the black arrow Selection Tool. Go to Object > Arrange > Send to the Front. This will bring the Circle in front of the Star.

Clip the Objects together

Select both of the objects using the black arrow Selection Tool. Go to Object > Clipping Mask > Make. The star will then be "clipped" into the circle. To move the clipped object around, locate the clipping area in the top left-hand portion of the screen. Use the "Clip Group" to either Edit the Clipping Mask or Edit Contents.

I hope you had fun clipping stuff in Illustrator! Be sure to check out our [Exclusive Facebook group](#) for Class Folks and subscribe to [my youtube channel](#) for more tutorials!

XOXO-Carina

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