



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Global Color Replacement in Illustrator

Information
Sheet No.



It's easy to draw yourself into a corner in Adobe Illustrator. You may create complex illustrations involving hundreds--possibly thousands--of individual objects. And if you need to make changes (such as modifying fill color) to several objects of a particular type within your larger illustration, you might find yourself looking at hours of manual labor. But the Magic Wand tool can spare you that.

The Magic Wand tool in Illustrator allows you to select all objects in your document that share common attributes. You're probably familiar with the Magic Wand tool in Adobe Photoshop, which allows you to select portions of your image based on color characteristics. But in Illustrator, this tool is much more flexible. You can select objects based not only on fill color, but also stroke color, stroke weight, opacity, even blending mode. And this means that within your complex illustration, you are able to go in and select many sub-objects with a single click, then modify those objects to your heart's content--whether adding or modifying effects, changing stroke characteristics, changing colors or performing any number of other functions.

For this example, a cat's-eye design composed of a few hundred individual elements has been created. None of these objects are grouped. They're all little individual pieces.



There are two things you want to change about this illustration. First, you want to switch to a different shade of green, which means that you need to select all of the green objects and then modify their fill color. Then you want to change the fill and stroke characteristics of the innermost ring of yellow. You'll do these in two separate stages.

Selecting by fill and modifying characteristics begin with the simpler of the two: the change in the shade of green. This is a fairly simple process.

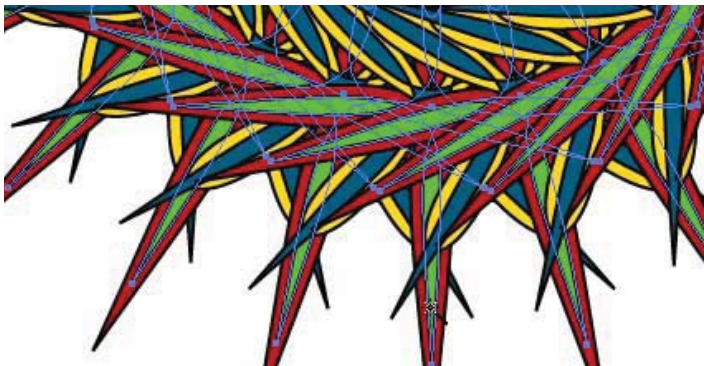
1. Begin by selecting the Magic Wand tool.



2. Double-clicking on the Magic Wand tool, will call up the palette, which you can use to define the characteristics of the Magic Wand's selection. Leave the parameters at default for now.



3. Click with the Magic Wand tool onto an object that contains the fill you want to change. In this case, that's a green object. When you do this, all green objects will be selected.



4. Now simply change the fill color. To do this, open up the Color palette. Select the backgrounds square in the top left of the palette, and then enter a new value for the fill. Like magic, you now have a darker, more muted green for a fill color.



Selecting fill and stroke

For the second phase of this process, you want to change the innermost wreath of yellow in the cat's-eye design. What makes this mildly tricky is that you have multiple yellow objects in the illustration, and you don't want to change them all--just the ones that form the innermost ring.

Fortunately, the yellow objects in the center of the illustration have a stroke color that's different from the other yellow objects in the overall design. The stroke is, in fact, red, while the other yellow objects have a black stroke.

Here's how this will work.

1. Once again, select the Magic Wand tool.

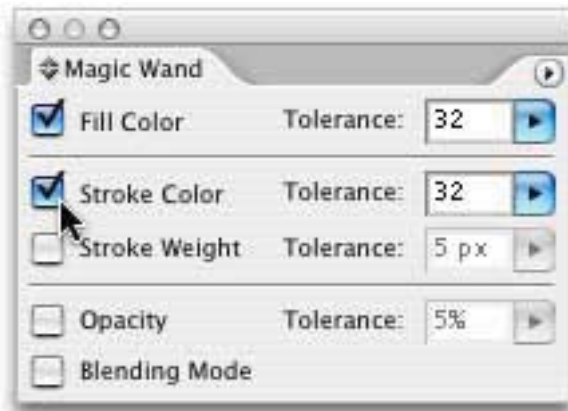
2. Now, go to the Magic Wand palette. If it's not open, double-click the Magic Wand tool in the Tools palette to open it up.

3. This time, instead of just selecting by fill, you also want to select by stroke. Up in the top right of the Magic Wand palette, you'll see a flyaway menu. Click this, and choose "Show Stroke Options" from the menu. (You might as well also choose "Show Transparency Options, if you need to. You won't be using those in this case though.) When you

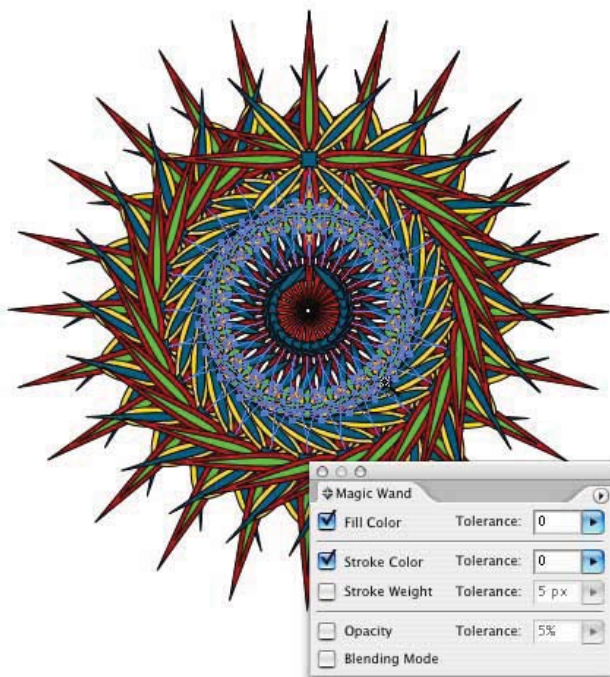
choose the "Show Stroke Options" command, you'll see more parameters become available in the Magic Wand palette.



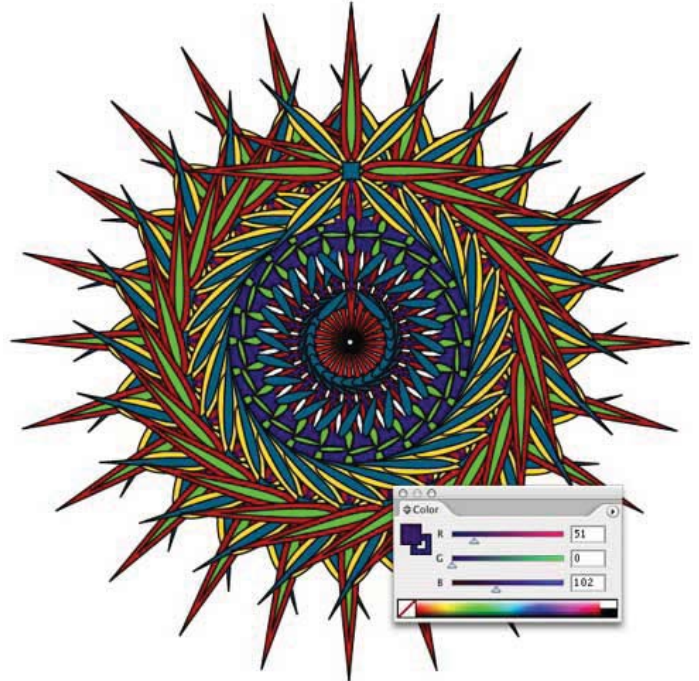
4. Click the "Stroke Color" checkbox to activate this option.



5. Now when you use the magic wand tool, you will click on one of the inner yellow objects in the design. Because you have both stroke and fill selected in the Magic Wand palette, it will select only and all objects in my documents that share both of those characteristics.



6. Then, just as before, you can go in and make any modifications to these objects simultaneously that you want to make. In this case, change both the fill and stroke to a deep purple, so you'll do that in the Color palette, just as before, but this time also changing the stroke color.



And you can see from what you've done here that it's possible to use the Magic Wand to select similar objects based on other characteristics as well, such as stroke weight, opacity and blending mode. The process for these is identical to what you