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Creating a sparkling snowflake



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Chief Instructor

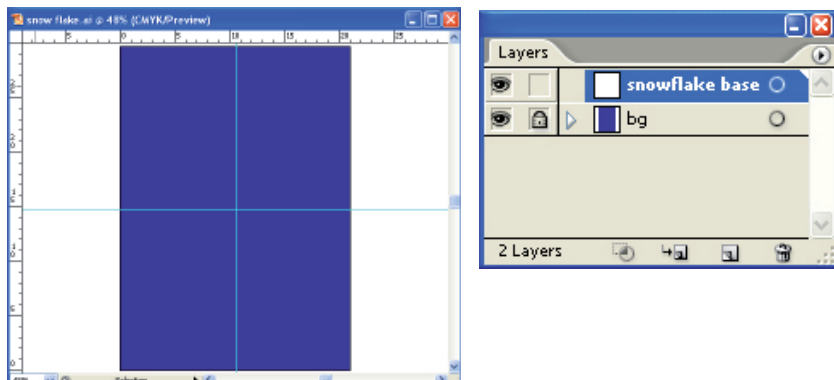
“Since Christmas is round the corner, let’s do some tips that is associated with Christmas. I am sharing steps to create a sparkling snowflake that you can immediately use. Add them to your artwork and spread the Christmas magic and sparkle around! Merry Christmas to you.”



Shirley Tan
*The #1 Adobe Certified
Instructor in SEA*

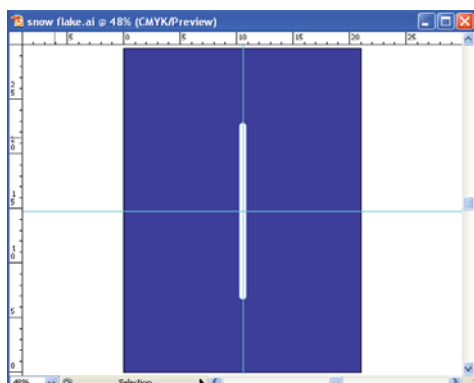
Create the layout grid

- 1) Let's create a dark blue background for the snowflake to sit on. Lock this layer and create a new layer.
- 2) Set rulers horizontally and vertically to set a middle point. Make sure the guides are locked.

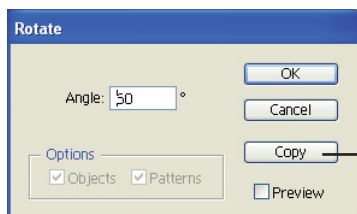


Create the base for the snowflake

- 3) Use the **Rounded Rectangle tool**, position your cursor at the center of the background, hold the **Alt (Win)** or **Option (Mac)** and draw a slim rectangle.

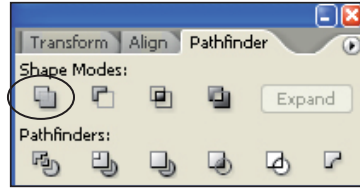
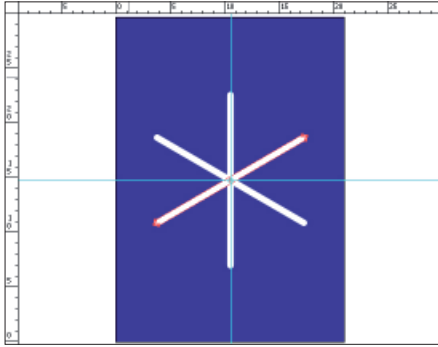


- 4) Select the rectangle that you've drawn and double-click on the **Rotate tool**. I am suggesting you use an angle of 60°.



Click onto Copy to duplicate the second rectangle

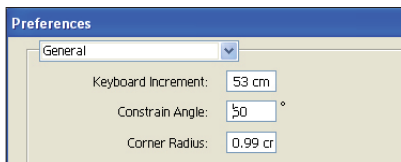
- 5) Press **Ctrl + D (Win)** or **Cmd + D (Mac)** twice to duplicate 2 more rectangles.



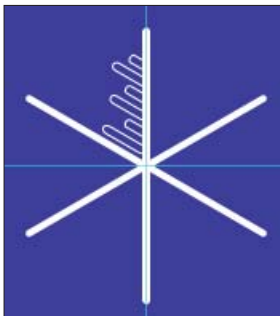
- 6) Select all the rectangles and click the **Add to Shape Area** button in the Pathfinder palette.

Drawing the decorative flakes

- 7) Open **Preferences** and change **Constrain Angle** to **60** degrees.

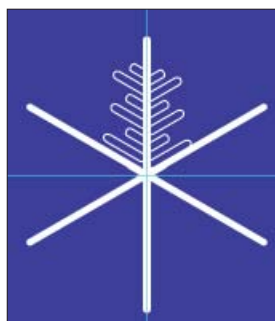
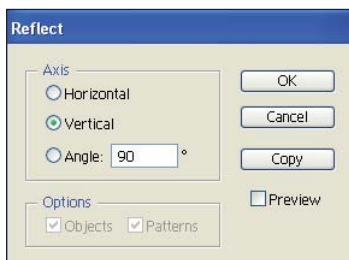


- 8) Create a new layer and lock the previous one. Using the **Rounded Rectangle tool** create one rectangle them make copies and change the sizes as desired.



- 9) Open **Preferences** and change **Constrain Angle** and reset the angle to **0**.

- 10) Select all the spikes and group them. Double-click the **Reflect tool** and choose **Vertical**. Click on **Copy** to duplicate the spikes.

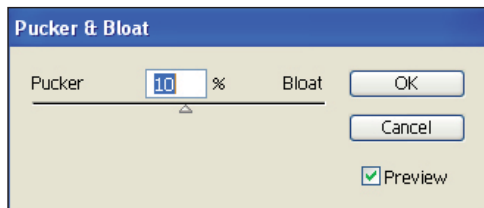


- 11) Continue to duplicate, reflect and rotate the spikes to get this.



Adding the Christmas Sparkle

- 12) Select the base design in the previous layer. Select **Effects > Distort and Transform > Pucker and Bloat**.



- 13) Apply a outer glow to the snowflake by choosing **Effect > Stylize > Outer Glow**. Using the preview, adjust the amount of glow accordingly.

- 14) Select the decorative part of the snowflake, the top layer, and increase the stroke weight.

