

ILLUSTRATOR

Lab 4: Fish Using Brushes, Gradient Mesh and Symbols

Part 1: Hour Exercises

Complete Hour 9 on Brushes, Symbols pages 80-89 and Gradient Mesh on 180-184

Part 2: Fish Scene

Create (at least) 3 layers. The bottom layer is to contain the background scenery. The two topmost layers are to contain the fish and the signature "title" of your artwork. You will find it useful to lock previously created layers as you make the objects in the new layer.

Background Layer:

1. Create a background using paintbrushes. You may find that the Artistic Sample palette provides some great options for creating seaweed. Use the symbol sprayer to apply fish, bubbles, or objects you have created and turned into symbols. Adjust sizes, colors, positions using the various Symbol modifiers.
2. Use one of the Paintbrush patterns to create a border for the rectangle used as the background. Use the Window..Brush Libraries..Border Sample menu to find more border formats.
3. When satisfied with the background, lock the layer.

Fish Layer:

1. Make the fish body and "parts". You may find the Pathfinder "Add to Shape Area: handy in combining shapes. Make eyes, fins and other fish parts separately.
2. Format as desired with the Gradient Mesh tool. As an additional feature, you could make a custom pattern swatch for scales and add that as a transparent fill for shape that sits on top of the fish body.
3. When satisfied with the layer, lock it and proceed to title.

Signature Layer:

1. Create a text layer that contains title of your piece and your name.
2. Convert this text to outlines to make the document easy to transfer to another computer without worrying about fonts.

Print the Document: Warning

Caution: the gradient mesh requires an immense amount of processing. Inkjet printers which ignore PostScript will probably print fine, but consider that you are spreading a lot of ink on a full sheet of paper. In the lab adjust the transparency level to 50 and lower Rasterization level to 150.

★★★★ Requires: Use of at least 2 Brushes-modified or new (one must be border), 2 Symbols-new or modified, gradient mesh, signature page. Tell me below which Symbol modifiers you used.



Lab Evaluation

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