

9 Basic lines and shapes

You can create paths with the line and shape tools two ways. One is with the tool dialog box and the other is to click and drag with the tool. Use the following charts when you create your lines and shapes. The middle column shows the specifications for creating a path with a dialog box. The right column contains key modifiers for click-and-drag creation of shapes and lines.

Dialog box-created line or shape

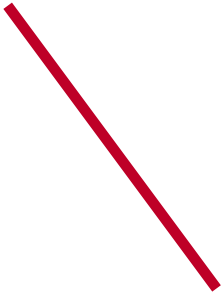
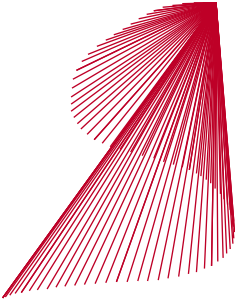

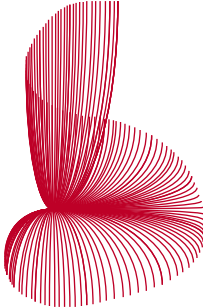
- 1 Select a line or shape creation tool in the toolbox.
- 2 Either click the artboard once to open the tool dialog box; or to create the shape from its center point, Option/Alt-click once to open the tool dialog box.
- 3 Enter the values for your line or shape object and click OK.


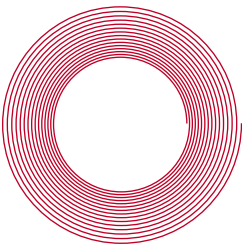
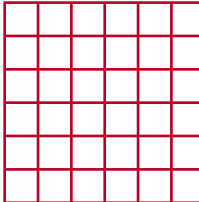

Tool-drawn line or shape

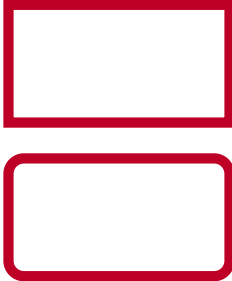
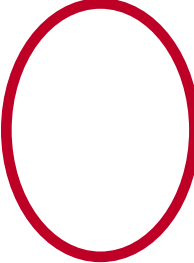
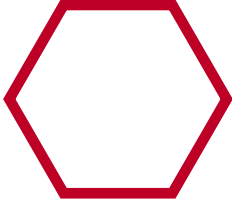

- 1 Select a line or shape creation tool in the toolbox.
- 2 Either click and drag on the artboard until the path is the size you want it to be; or begin dragging, but before releasing the mouse button, use any of the modifier keys listed in the charts.

In general, the following modifier keys work for all of the line and shape creation tools:

- Shift constrains the shape or line to 45° angles or whatever constrain angle is set in your preferences.
- Spacebar halts the drawing process and lets you move the path around. Releasing the spacebar will resume the drawing process.
- Option/Alt draws the path from the reference or center point. (With the spiral tool, Option/Alt-dragging adds or subtracts winds while lengthening the spiral.)

Line or shape	Click once and specify:	Click-and-drag plus:
	<p>Line segment tool Length = 104 points Angle = 303° Fill Line option: Off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option/Alt draws from the center of the line outward. • Shift constrains the line to 45° angles. • Spacebar moves the line.
	<p>Line segment tool This effect is only produced when drawing with the tool. You cannot specify this effect in the dialog box.</p>	<p>` (grave accent) creates multiple line segments with their endpoints wherever you have drawn.</p>
	<p>Arc tool Length X-Axis = 67 points Length Y-Axis = 73 points Type: Open Base Along: Y Axis Slope = 50 Fill Arc option: Off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option/Alt draws from the center of the arc outward. • Shift constrains the arc to 45° angles. • Spacebar moves the arc. • C toggles between an open and closed arc. • F flips the arc while drawing. • Up Arrow or Down Arrow increases or decreases the arc's angle.
	<p>Arc tool This effect is only produced when drawing with the tool. You cannot specify this effect in the dialog box.</p>	<p>` (grave accent) creates multiple line segments with their endpoints wherever you have drawn.</p>

Line or shape	Click once and specify:	Click-and-drag plus:
	<p>Spiral tool Radius = 45 points Decay = 80% Segments = 19 Style: Counterclockwise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the spiral to 45° angles. • Spacebar moves the spiral. • Up Arrow or Down Arrow adds or deletes winds. • Option/Alt-drag adds or subtracts winds while drawing. • Moving the pointer in an arc rotates the spiral.
	<p>Spiral tool Radius = 45 points Decay = 99% Segments = 60 Style: Counterclockwise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Command/Control-dragging changes the decay.
	<p>Rectangular grid tool Width = 75 points Height = 75 points Horizontal Dividers = 5, Skew = 0% Vertical Dividers = 5, Skew = 0% Use Outside Rectangle as Frame option: On Fill Grid option: Off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the grid to a square. • Spacebar moves the grid. • Option/Alt draws from the center of the grid. • Up or Down Arrow adds or removes horizontal lines. • Right or Left Arrow adds or removes vertical lines. • F decreases the skew for the rows by 10%. • V increases the skew for the rows by 10%. • X decreases the skew for the columns by 10%. • C increases the skew for the columns by 10%.
	<p>Polar grid tool Width = 75 points Height = 75 points Concentric Dividers = 5, Skew = 0% Radial Dividers = 5, Skew = 0% Create Compound Path from Ellipses option: Off Fill Grid option: Off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the grid to a circle. • Spacebar moves the grid. • Option/Alt-draws from the center of the grid. • Up or Down Arrow adds or removes concentric dividers. • Right or Left Arrow adds or removes radial dividers. • X changes the skew for the concentric lines inward by 10%. • C changes the skew for the concentric dividers outward by 10%. • F changes the skew for the radial dividers counterclockwise by 10%. • V changes the skew for the radial dividers clockwise by 10%.

Line or shape	Click once and specify:	Click-and-drag plus:
	<p>Rectangle tool Width = 86 points Height = 46 points</p> <p>Rounded rectangle tool Width = 86 points Height = 46 points Corner radius = 6 points Clicking the word Height copies the Width value and vice versa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the rectangle to a square. • Spacebar moves the rectangle. • Option/Alt draws from the center point. <p>Rounded rectangle tool only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up or Down Arrow changes the corner radius. • Left Arrow changes the minimum radius (most angular corners). • Right Arrow changes the maximum radius (most rounded corners).
	<p>Ellipse tool Width = 70 points Height = 95 points</p> <p>Clicking the word Height copies the Width value and vice versa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the ellipse to a circle. • Spacebar while drawing moves the ellipse. • Option/Alt draws from the center point
	<p>Polygon tool Radius = 40 points Sides = 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the polygon to 45° angles. • Spacebar while drawing moves the polygon. • Up or Down Arrow adds or deletes sides to the polygon. • Moving the pointer in an arc rotates the polygon.
	<p>Star tool Radius 1 = 40 points Radius 2 = 17.6 points Points = 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift constrains the star to 45° angles. • Spacebar while drawing moves the star. • Up or Down Arrow adds or deletes sides to the star. • Moving the pointer in an arc rotates the star. • Command/Ctrl holds the inner radius constant. • Option/Alt keeps the sides of the star straight.