Symbols

Symbols are elements, predefined shapes that can be used in Illustrator. Listed in the Symbols panel, these shapes can have multiple occurrences in a document. It is possible to modify them or create new ones easily.

## Using symbols

To add a symbol to an artboard, display the Symbols panel, select the desired symbol, and drag it onto the artboard.

As these symbols are vector, you can transform them as you wish. You will notice, however, that there are very few symbols when displaying the panel.

## Symbol libraries

To open a symbol library, click the icon in the lower left corner of the panel and choose a theme. A new panel with many symbols will then appear.

You can easily switch between themes using the two navigation arrows at the bottom of the panel.

## Symbol creation

Nothing could be easier than creating a symbol. To do this,

you just have to produce a complex shape or illustration, then

select it and finally drag it into the Symbols panel.

The Symbol Option window will then appear allowing you to

indicate whether it is a graphic or video symbol.

## Editing Symbols

Although you can transform the instance of a symbol on the artboard, transforming any

component of the symbol requires entering Edit mode.

To switch to Edit mode, double-click the instance of the symbol on the artboard. You will then see a tab appear along with a green line indicating that you are now working in Edit

mode. To exit Edit mode and return to normal mode, simply

click the arrow.

In this mode, you will be able to transform the different components of the symbol. But be careful, this will change the symbol itself and not just its occurrence on the artboard.

To change the occurrence without affecting the symbol itself,

you must break the link between the occurrence and the symbol. You can do this by pressing the Break Link button in the options or by using the appropriate icon in the Symbols panel.


Symbols sprayer

Having selected a symbol in the panel, it is possible to use the Symbol Spray tool to quickly add multiple occurrences of the same symbol to a canvas.

Several different tools allow you to influence the spray result.

To customize tool options, simply double-click them.

Glissement de symboles:

Cet outil permet de repositionner les occurrences pulvérisées

du symbole.

Symbol spacing:

This tool allows you to increase or decrease (ALT) the spacing between sprayed instances of the symbol.

Resizing Symbols:

This tool allows to increase or decrease (ALT) the dimension

of the sprayed occurrences of the symbol.


Symbol rotation:This tool allows you to rotate the sprayed instances of the

symbol.

Symbol coloring:

This tool, along with the choice of a background color, allows

you to color sprayed instances of the symbol.

Symbol transparency:

This tool allows you to assign a level of transparency to

sprayed instances of the symbol.

Stylization of symbols:

This tool, along with the Styles panel, lets you style sprayed

instances of the symbol.

Appearance panel

The Appearance panel contains all the specifics, the elements that make up a shape. Not only does it allow you to see the components of a shape, it also allows you to adjust them as well as add or subtract from them.

Using appearance panel

In the case of the shape below, we can see that the Appearance panel indicates that the shape includes an orange outline of 6 pt and a blue background, both elements having an opacity adjustment by default (i.e. 100% in normal blending mode).

To change the colors, all you have to do is click the color square to choose a different shade.

To change the opacity of any of the elements, click the Opacity label (orange underlined with a dotted line), which will display an options panel including opacity, blend modes and

a mask creation function.

Likewise, click the Contour label to display the options and make the desired adjustments.