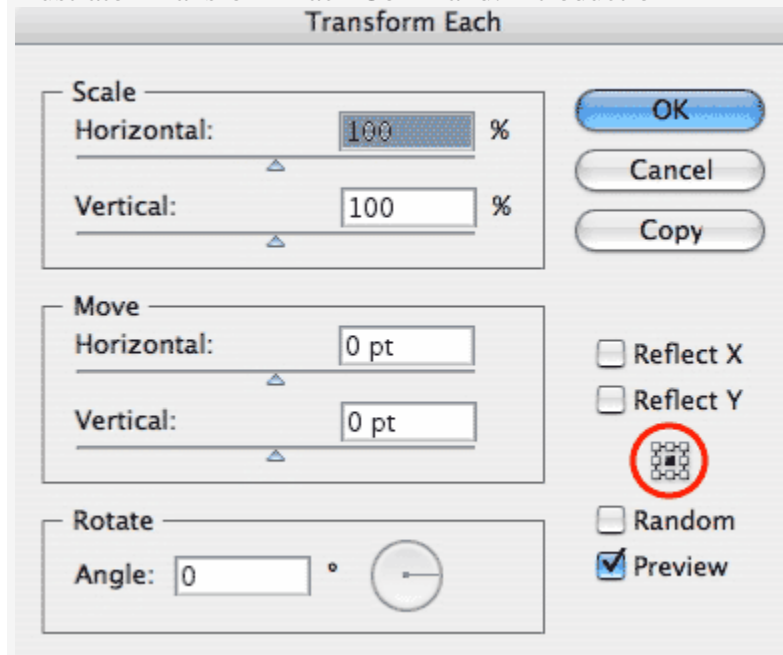# Transform Each Command

Illustrator Transform Each Command: Introduction

An often overlooked feature of Illustrator is Transform Each. Transform Each allows you to perform several transformations at the same time. This week we'll take a look at this command and see how it can save you time and make your work more efficient in Illustrator.

You can find the command at **Object > Transform > Transform Each**. The diagram in the red circle is the point of origin: this is the point around which the transformations will be created. Make sure this is set to center for now by clicking the small box in the center of the diagram. It probably is, unless you have changed it, because center is the default. As you can see from the dialog, you can make several transformations from this dialog: you can scale, move, rotate or reflect, one transformation at a time or as many as you wish. There is also a copy button to allow you to apply the transformations at the same time you make a copy.

Illustrator Transform Each Command: Putting it into Practice

Let's use the Transform Each command to make a quick flower shape. Activate the star tool and set the options to: Radius 1: 100; Radius 2: 80, Points: 25. Click OK to create the star and fill the shape with a solid color. Mine is gold and the stroke is a medium brown.
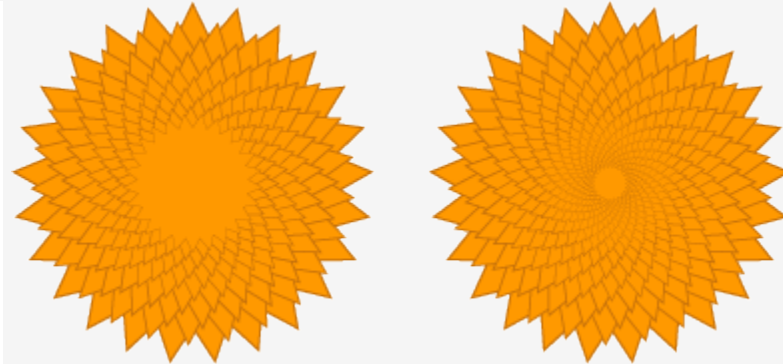
Illustrator Transform Each Command: Duplicate

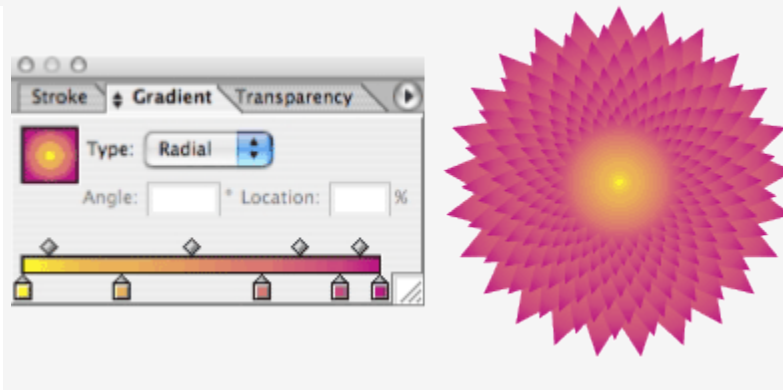Make sure the start is selected, and go to **Object > Transform > Transform Each**. Set these options:

- Scale: 90% horizontal and 90% vertical
- Move: 0% horizontal and 0% vertical
- Rotate: 20 degrees
- Click the **copy** button.

- Illustrator Transform Each Command: Duplicate 8 Times

You should have a second copy of the star shape on top of the first, and the new copy should be selected. Without deselecting, hit **command/control +D** to duplicate the effects 8 times. You will get a nice flower effect very fast, like the one on the left above. You could add a center to this for a fast stylized flower. The one on the right was duplicated 30 times.
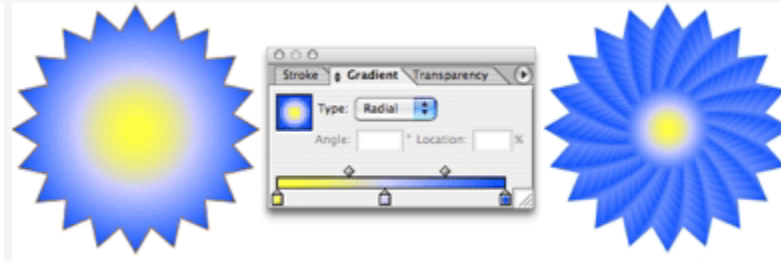
- Illustrator Transform Each Command: Gradient

- For a variation, create another star with the same settings, but do not add a stroke.
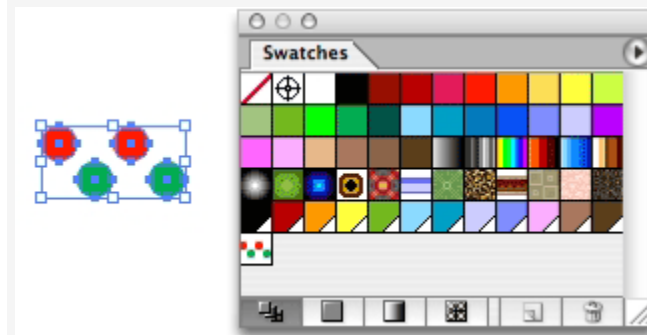
Fill this one with a gradient. Repeat the Transform Each command using the same settings as before. This one was made with the Magenta, Yellow gradient that comes with Illustrator CS in the Color Combinations gradient library. To load it, open the Swatches palette options menu and choose **Open Swatch Library > Other Library**. When the Finder (or Explorer if you are using Windows) opens, choose **Presets > Gradients > Color Combinations.ai**. After you apply the gradient, open the Gradient palette and change the gradient type from "Linear" to "Radial".

- Illustrator Transform Each Command: Variations

- Use a custom radial gradient, and try another one. Vary the number of points on the star (the one above has 20 points) and the angle and number of duplications for a different look, and you can make a whole bouquet in a few minutes.

Illustrator Transform Each Command: Other Uses for Transform Each (Continued)

Select both circles and open the Transform Each dialog. Use the following settings to make a second group of two circles below the first.

- Scale: Horizontal 100%; Vertical 100%
- Move: Horizontal 15 px; Vertical: -15 px. These settings will again depend on the size of your circle; my circle is 15 pixels, so I used 15) for the Horizontal measurement and -15 for the Vertical distance to move down 15 pixels
- Rotate 0º
- Uncheck: Reflect X, Reflect Y, and Random
- Click the center of the to set the point of origin at the center, and click the Copy button to create two new dots offset below the first row.

Select the two bottom circles and change their color, then select all four circles and drag them to the Swatches palette and drop them in to save them as a pattern swatch.