Lesson 8: How to Duplicate Any Object Around Another Shape
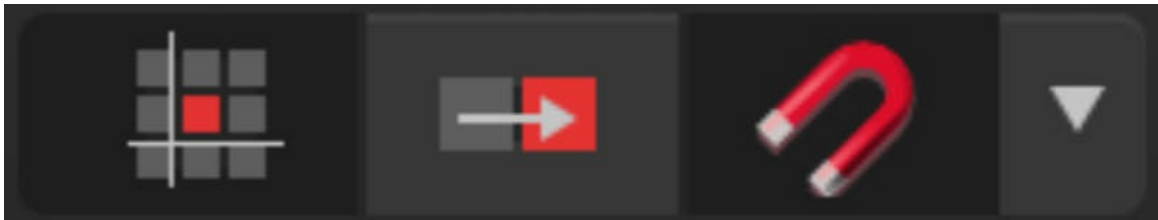
In this lesson, you'll learn how to encircle an object with any shape you want. This is a nice way to create a new object which can be duplicated many times to create special effects like snow or fairy dust. The easiest object to encircle is a circle, but for this lesson, we'll use a star and surround it with a snowflake-
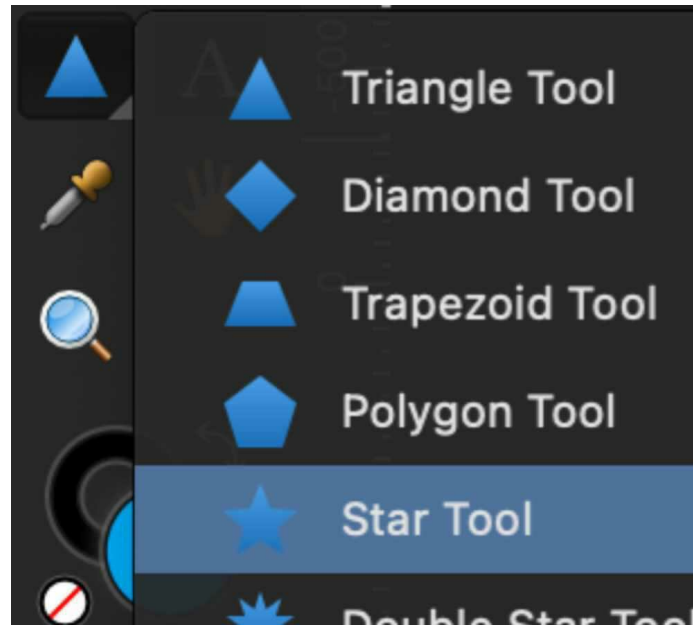
Ready?

Create a **New Document** to these specifics (or use **Ctrl/Cmd+N**):

- **Web - Social Media Square Post**
- **300 DPI**
- **Transparent Background** (*unchecked*)

Activate the **Snapping Tool** in the Toolbar (if not already active). It looks like the red magnet in this screenshot.

Click & *hold* on the **Triangle Tool** until its pop-out window reveals the other shape tools. *Select* the **Star Tool** by clicking on it once.
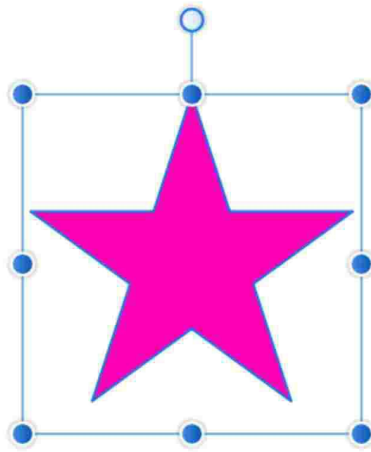
   Click & *drag* a **star shape** on our document. Remember to hold-down the Shift key to create a symmetrical star. Also, make the star's height about 1/3 to 1/4 the height of the document.

   Click on the **Move Tool** (*press* **V** for its shortcut). You can also *move* the **cursor** off the document and quickly *double-click* the **mouse button** and immediately the Move Tool will be activated. This is the shortcut we use.

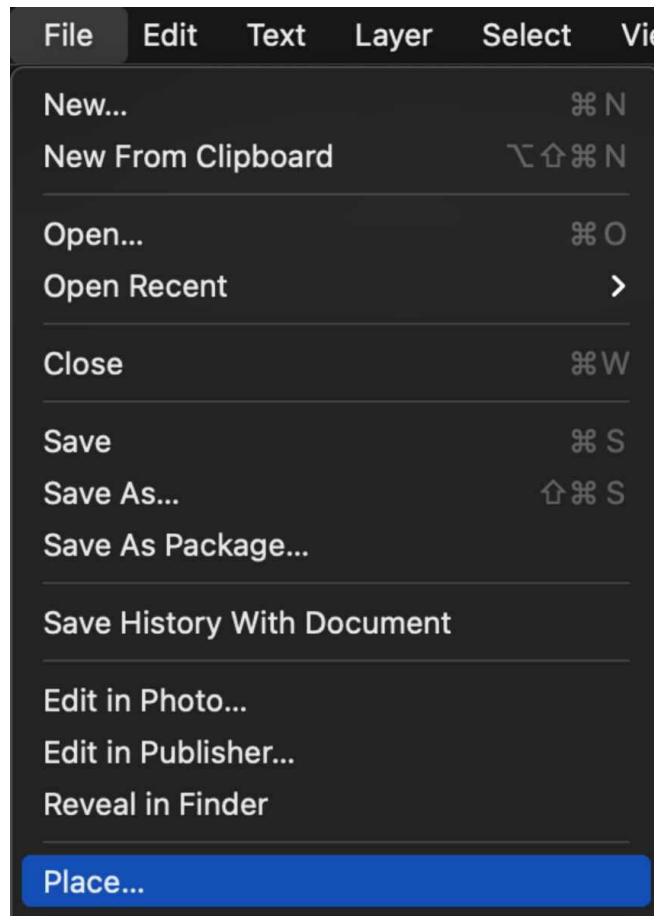   *Use* the **Move Tool** to set the Star perfectly in the center of the document.

   Go to the **Color Wheel** and *move* the **outside Hue node** to nice pink color. The color doesn't matter. Because the Star shape is selected, clicking on the Color Wheel will change the color of the star shape.

This is what our star looks like now after we've done these steps. The reason we want the size of the star to be small is because we will surround it with other shapes, and we want to make sure there's enough room in the document to do this.
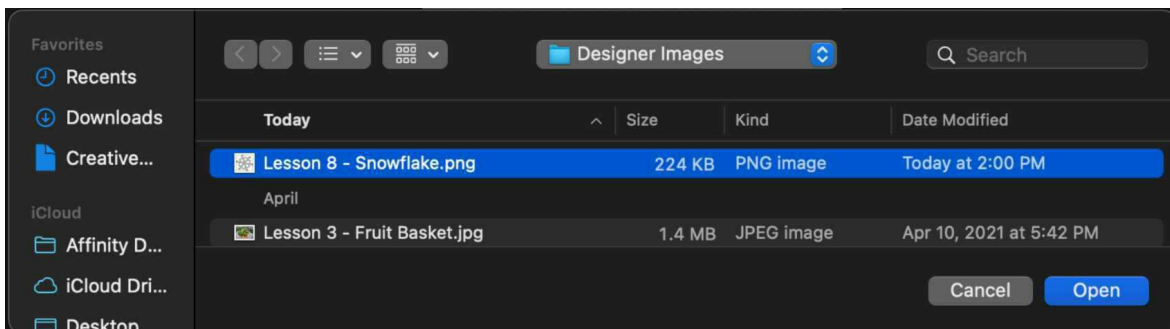
Ready to add the snowflake to our document?

 Go to the **Menu bar** - **File** - **Place...** When you do this, you will be directed to the last folder you had open on our computer.

   Select the folder named **Designer Images** and *click* on the image named **Lesson 8 - Snowflake**. *Press* **Open**.
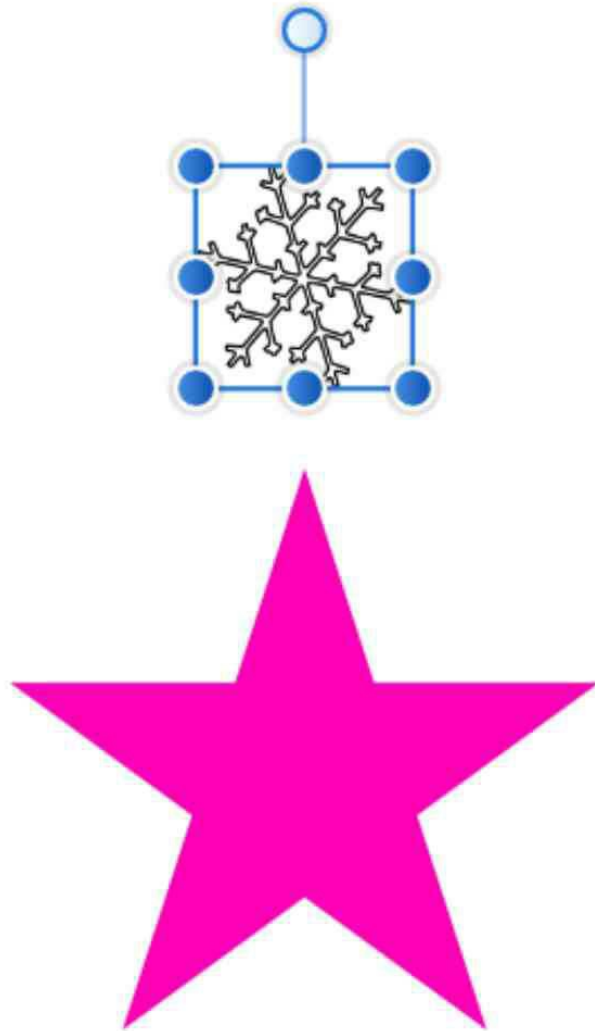

   Click & *drag* the **snowflake** image in the document while *holding-down* the **Shift** key. Try to create this shape over the top center area of the pink star.

   Click on the **Move Tool** (*press* **V** for its shortcut). You can also *move* the **cursor** off the document and quickly *double-click* the **mouse button** and immediately the Move Tool will be activated. This is the shortcut we use.
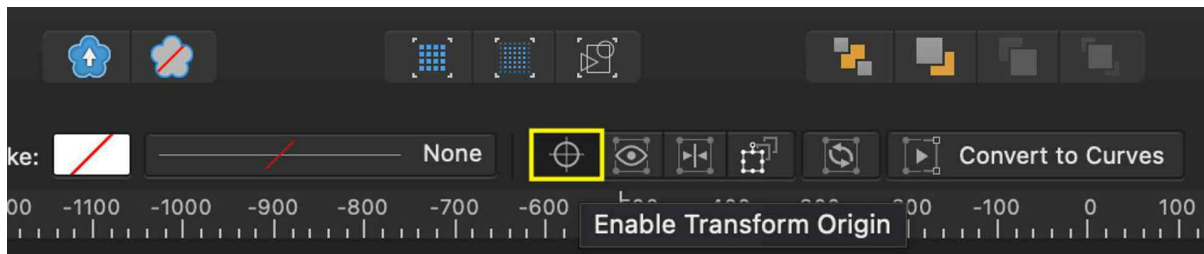
Use the **Move Tool** to set the Snowflake image directly above the top point of the star.

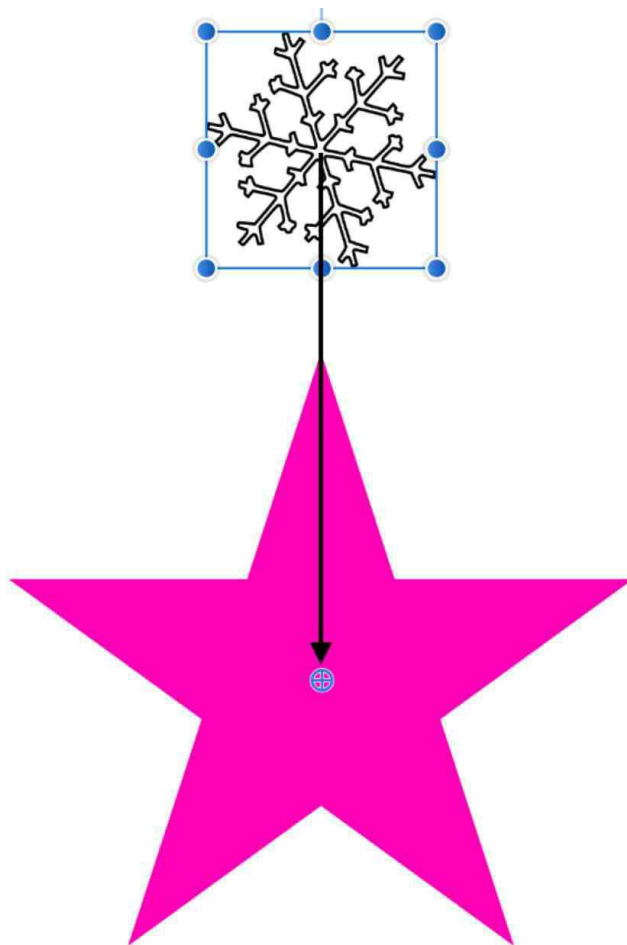This is what your document should look like now:

Next, we need to set the Snowflake's rotation point in the center of the star shape. To do this:

Go to the **Contextual Toolbar** & *click* on the **Enable Transform Origin** button (see the yellow rectangle in the below image). As you click on this, a crosshair will appear in the center of the Snowflake image. To us, calling it the crosshair is simpler than its real name.
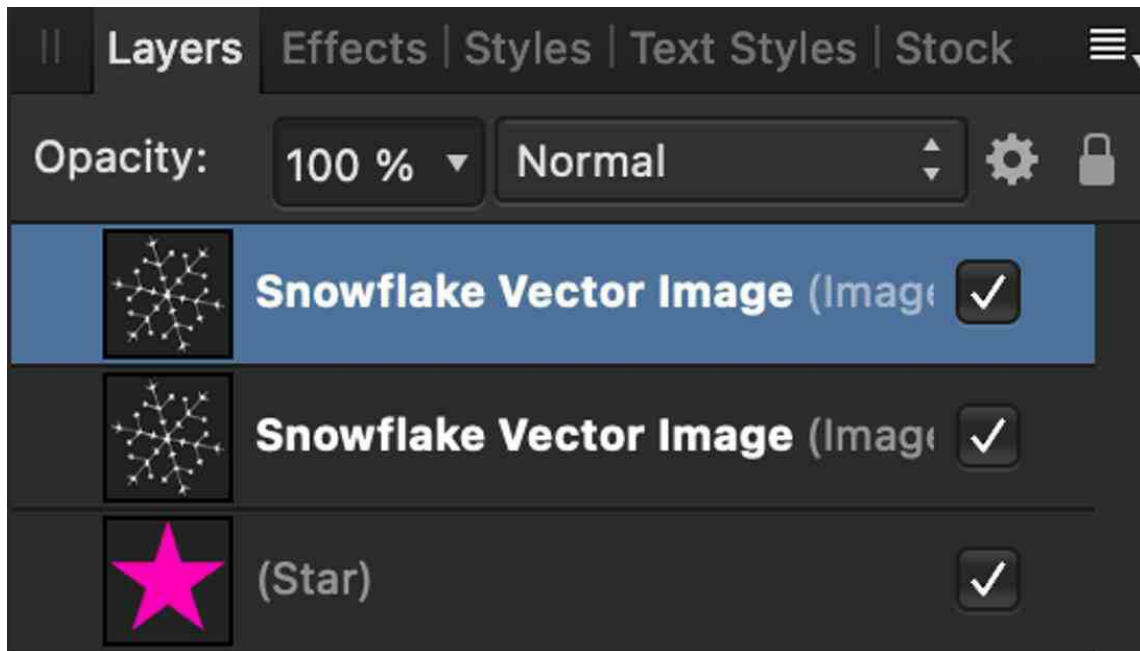
Click on the **crosshair** icon in the center of the Snowflake image & *drag* it **directly down** so it's in the **center** of the Star image (see the black arrow for this action).
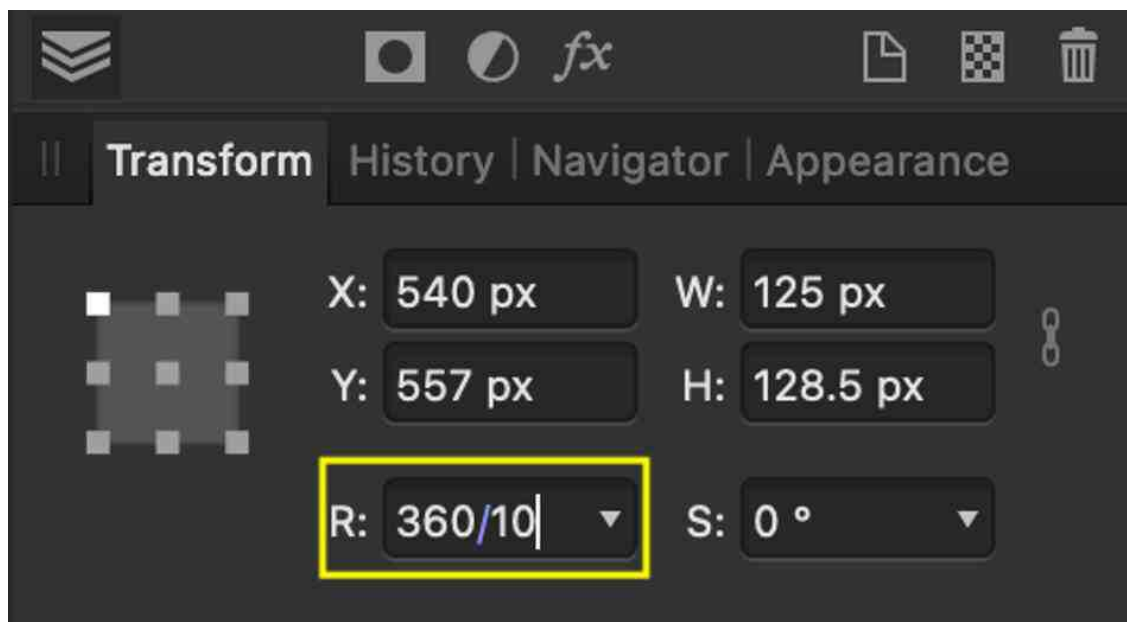

Press **Crtl/Cmd+J** to *duplicate* the Snowflake image. We know the Snowflake image is selected and not the Star shape because the Snowflake is surrounded by the blue nodes. If you look in the Layers Panel, you'll also see that the top Snowflake layer is highlighted because it's the active layer.

This is what the Layers Panel should look like with the top layer selected.
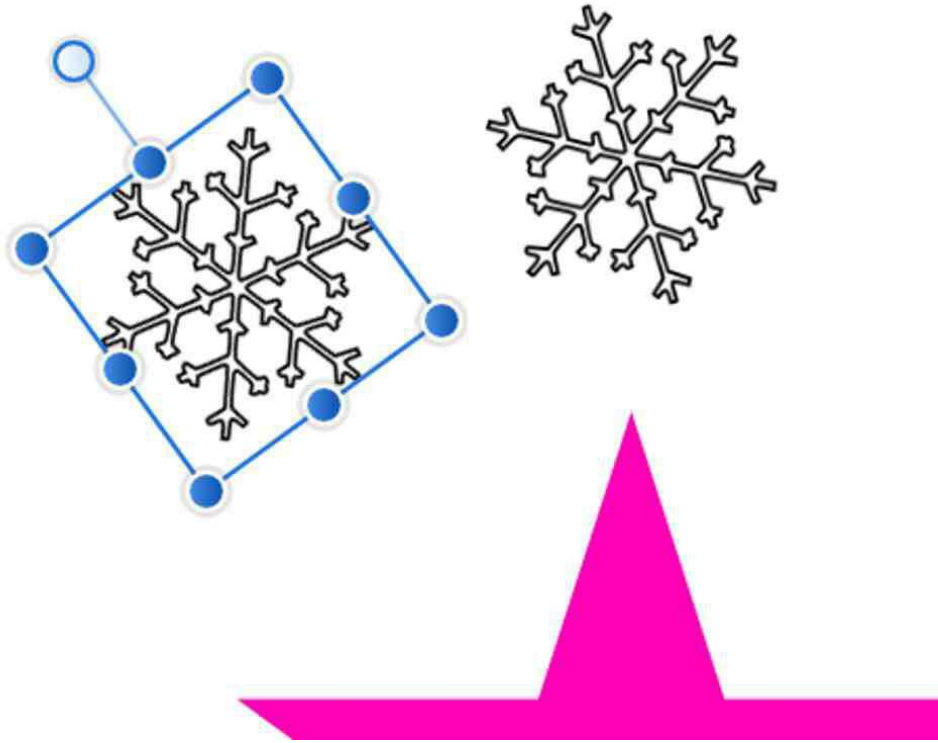
Next, we're going to do some basic math in the Transform panel. For this lesson, we want to create 10 snowflakes around the star image. We'll take 360° (the measurement of a circle) and divide it by 10. The Transform panel is located in bottom right-hand corner of Designer's screen.

Go to the **Rotation** section of the Transform panel and *type* **360/10** (see the yellow rectangle).

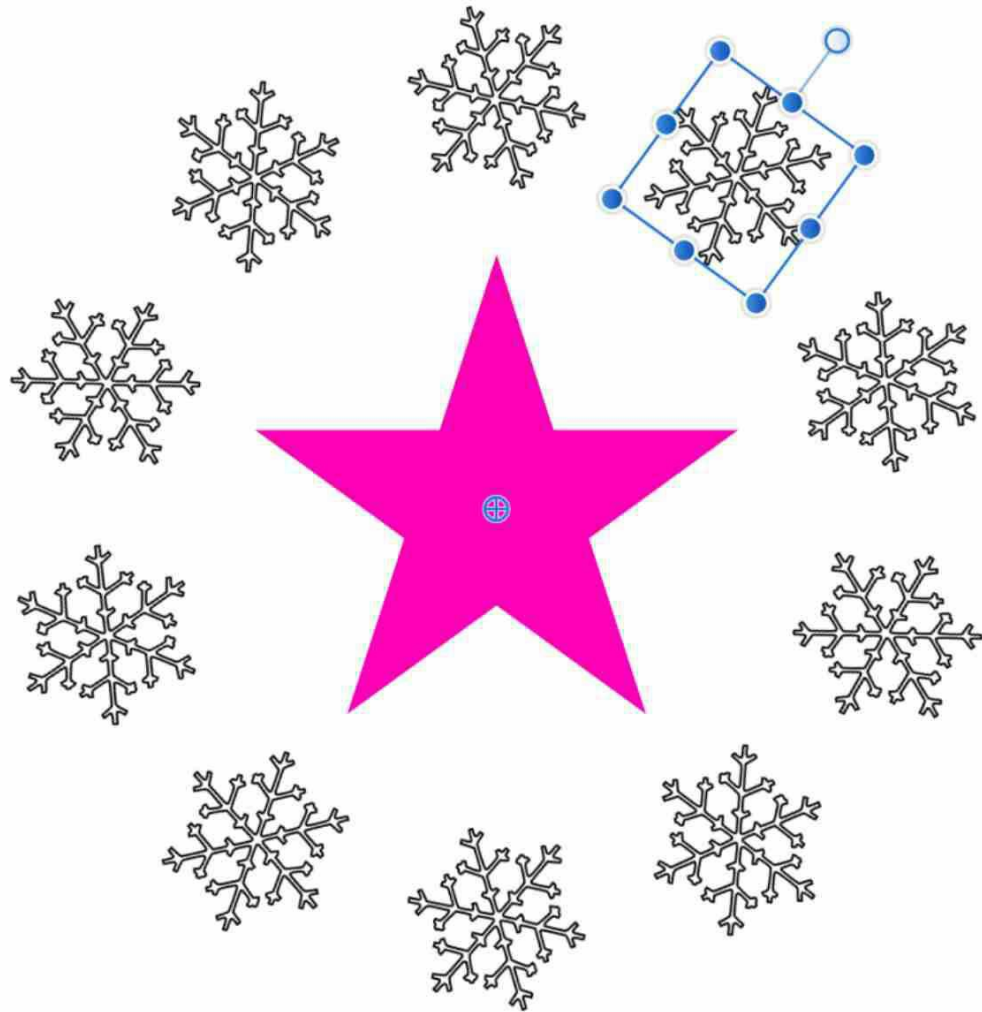*Press* **Return** when done. This will cause the duplicated Snowflake image

to rotate 36° (or one-tenth) the way around the Star shape (see this image below).

Now that the first duplicated Snowflake has started the movement around the star, each time we duplicate the Snowflake, its copy will complete the journey around the star. Since we want 10 Snowflakes, we'll do this procedure eight more times.
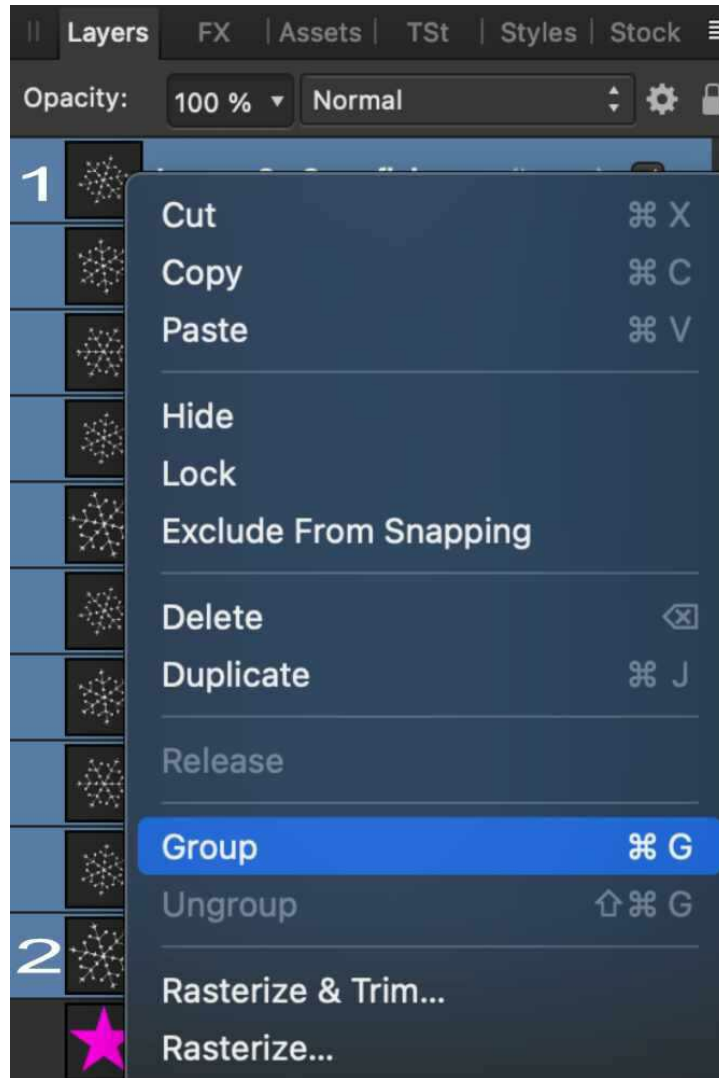
Press **Ctrl/Cmd+J** eight times.

Done. You now know how to duplicate any object around a shape. Before we finish, let's work with our finished work a bit more and see what we can do.

The first thing we normally do it to group all of the new effects into one group so we can more easily work with them in either the current project or in future ones.
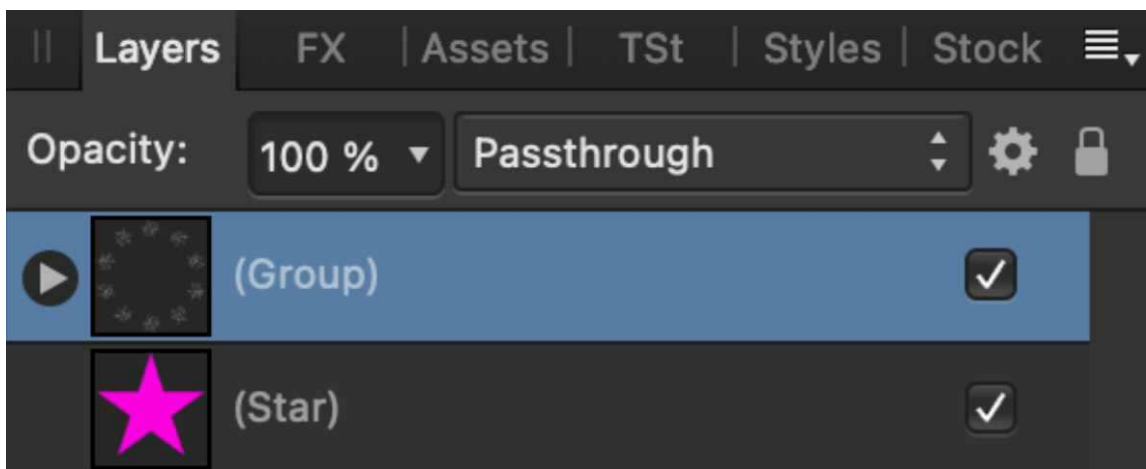
To do this...

  Click on the **top snowflake layer** (see the **1**) and then while *holding-down* the **Shift** key, *click* on the **lowest snowflake layer** (see the **2**). This will cause all of the layers to be selected (or highlighted in blue).

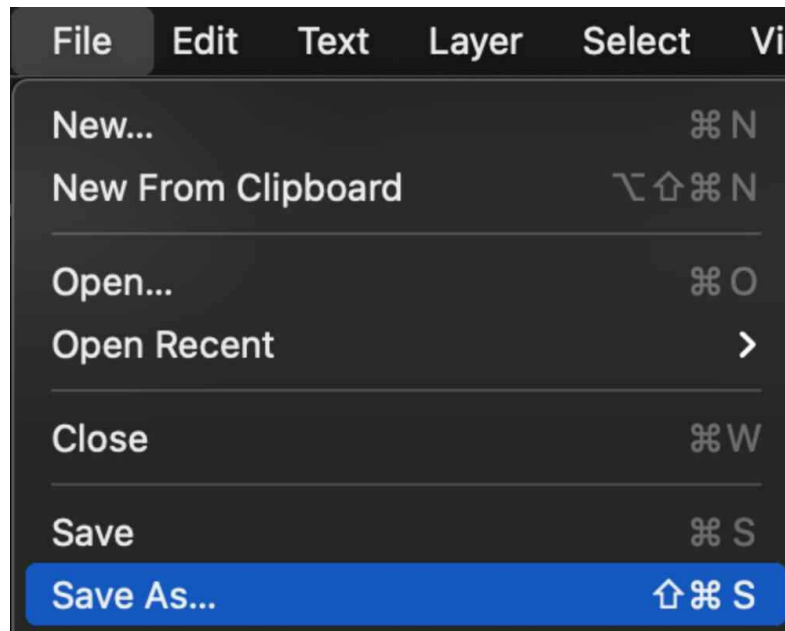 *Right-click* on **any snowflake layer** and then *select* **Group** from the pop-out window.

When you do this, the Layers Panel looks much cleaner (see this below image).

Done. You now know how to duplicate an object around another. But, before we end this lesson, let's save this work in its proper way. Before we go to the Save window, do you know what file type we will want to use in order to maintain the transparency our image has? Think .jpeg, .pdf, .png. If you chose the underlined choice, you're correct.

Let's save our document now.

 Go to the **Menu bar** - **File** - **Save As...** After you click on the Save As.. button, you'll be given a choice of where you want to save the file.

Note: Review **Basics 10** for a more in-depth lesson on how to Save, Export, and Share you document(s).

Finished. This ends this lesson.