Lesson 7: How to Create a Shadow for an Object

Being able to quickly and easily create shadows for objects in Designer is one of most basic and fundamental skills new users need to know how to do. When we add new shapes or images to an image, it's important to get the shadows correct. Nothing screams "photo edited image" more than a shadow that's leaning towards the sun (or not even present).
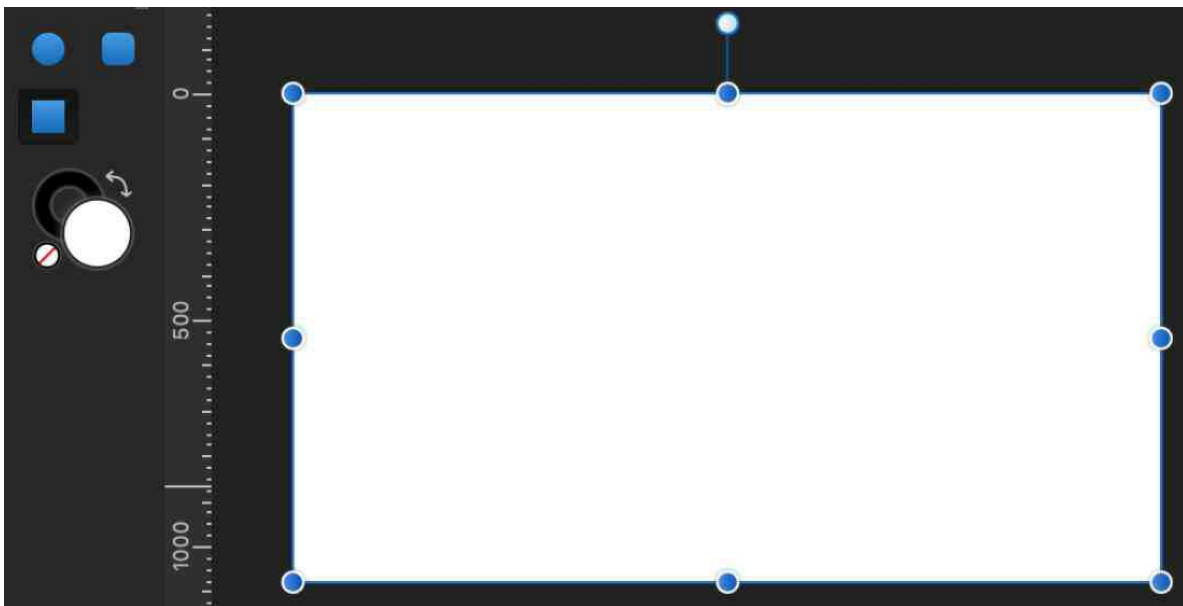
The image we'll be using for this lesson is found in the Designer Images folder and is named **Lesson 7 - Car**. Here is the current hyperlink to the image, too.

Create a **New Document** to these specifics (**Ctrl/Cmd+N** is the shortcut):

- **Web - FHD 1080p**
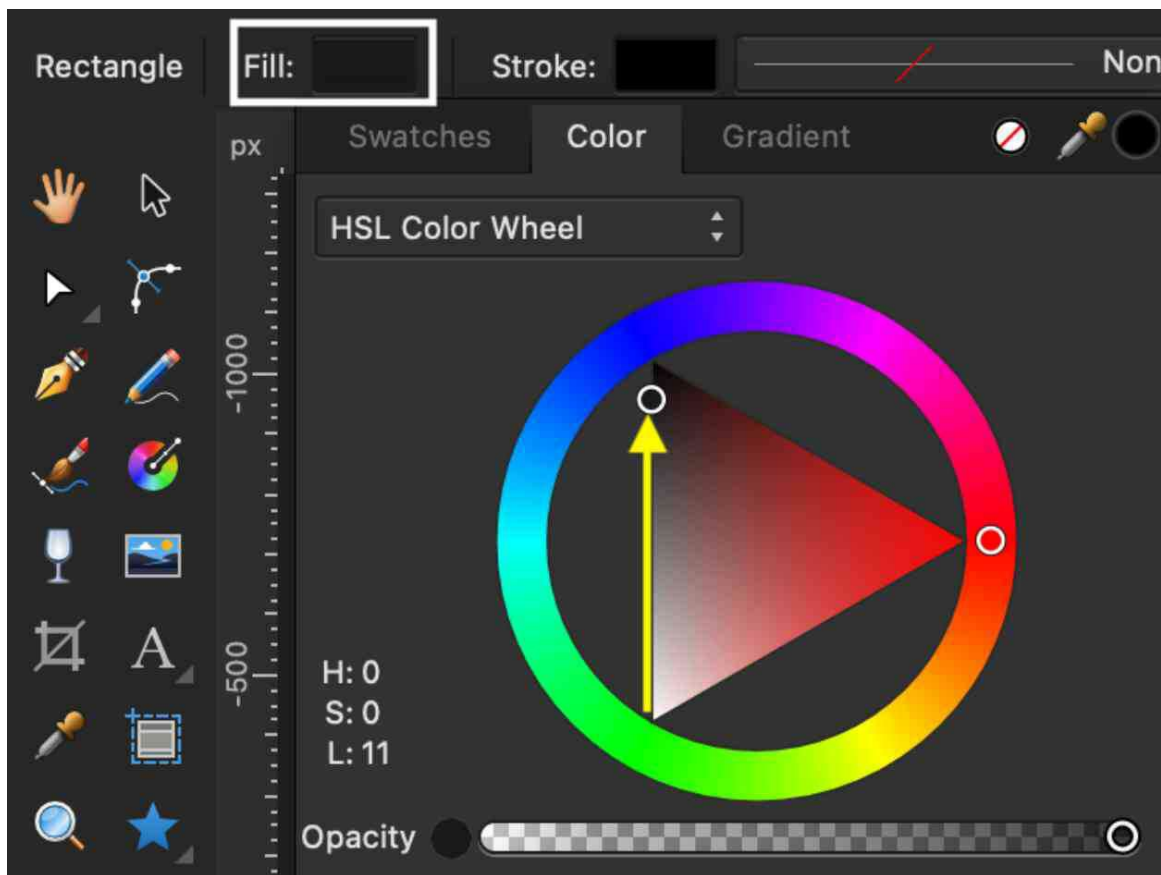- **Transparent background** (*unchecked*)

If you're ready to start...

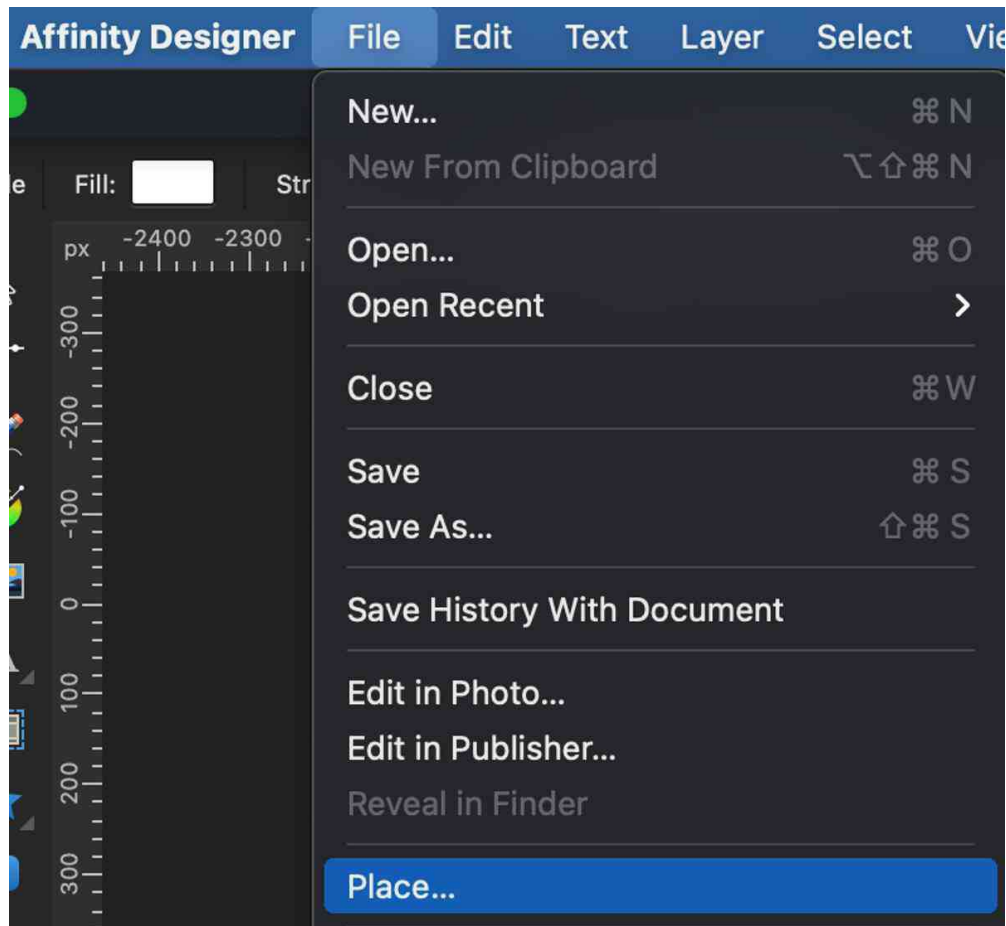*Click* on the **Rectangle Tool** & *drag* a **rectangle** over the entire white document.

Click on the **Fill** box (see white square) & *adjust* the **inner node** of the Color Wheel so the background color is an off-black - or move it straight up

(see yellow arrow for how to adjust this background color from white to our chosen color).
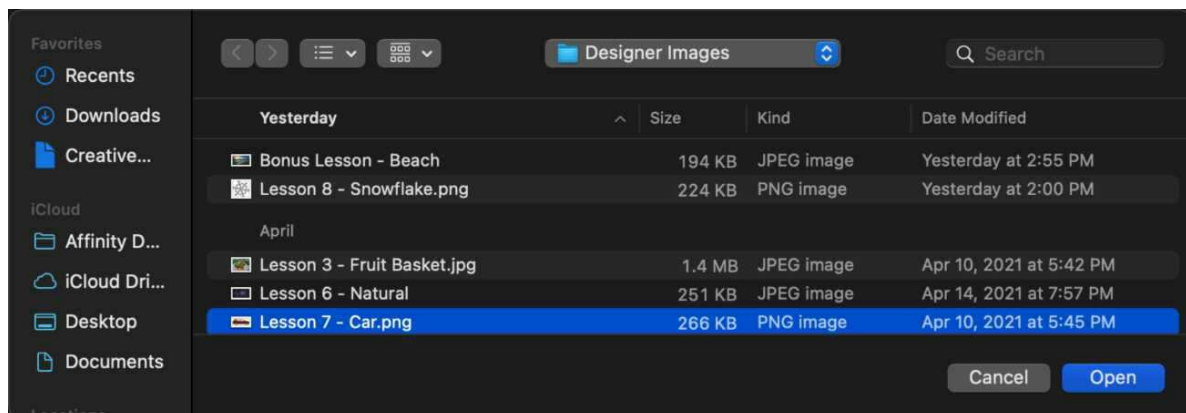

 Click **anywhere** off the document to make the pop-out Color Wheel window disappear.

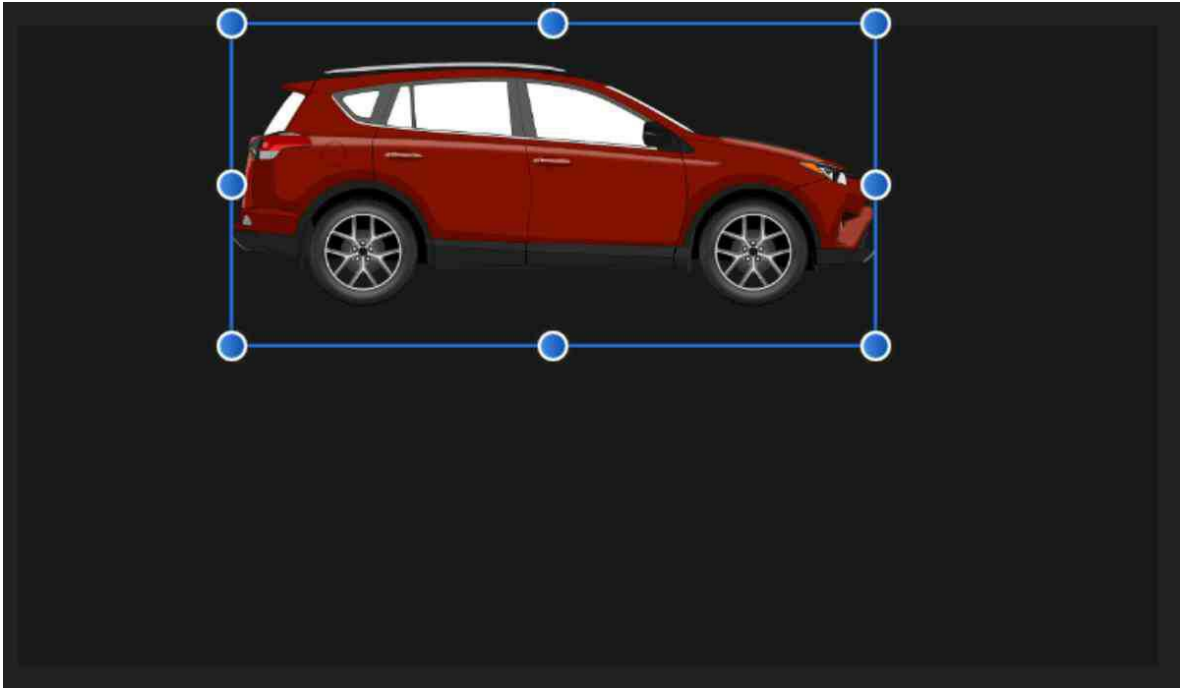 *Go* to the **Menu bar - File - Place**...

Open the **Designer Images** folder and *click* on the image named **Lesson 7 - Car**. Here is its current hyperlink if you'd like to find the image this way.
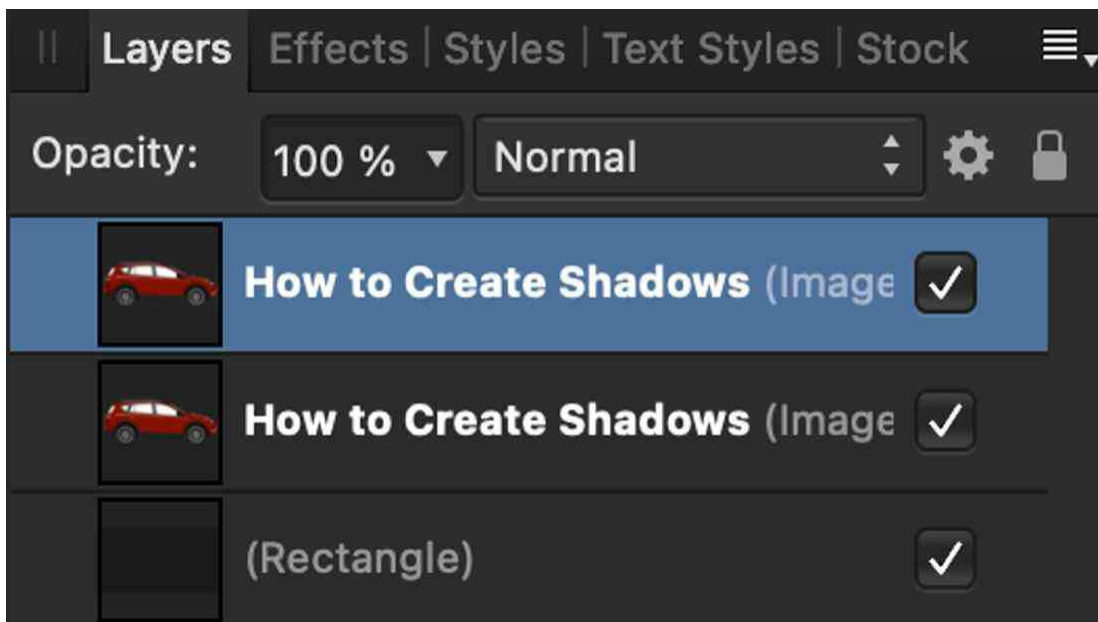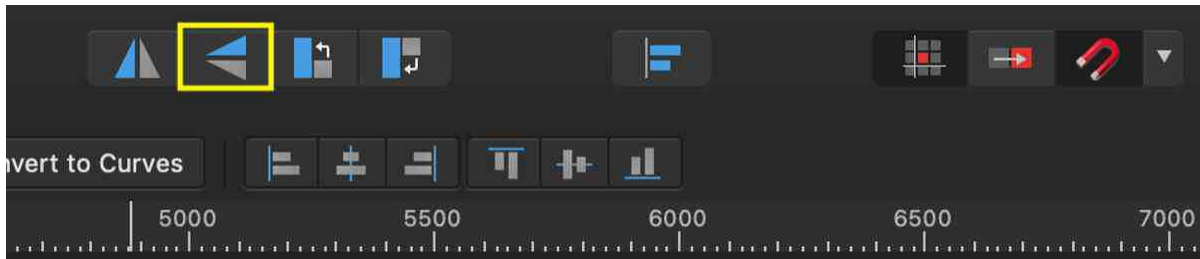
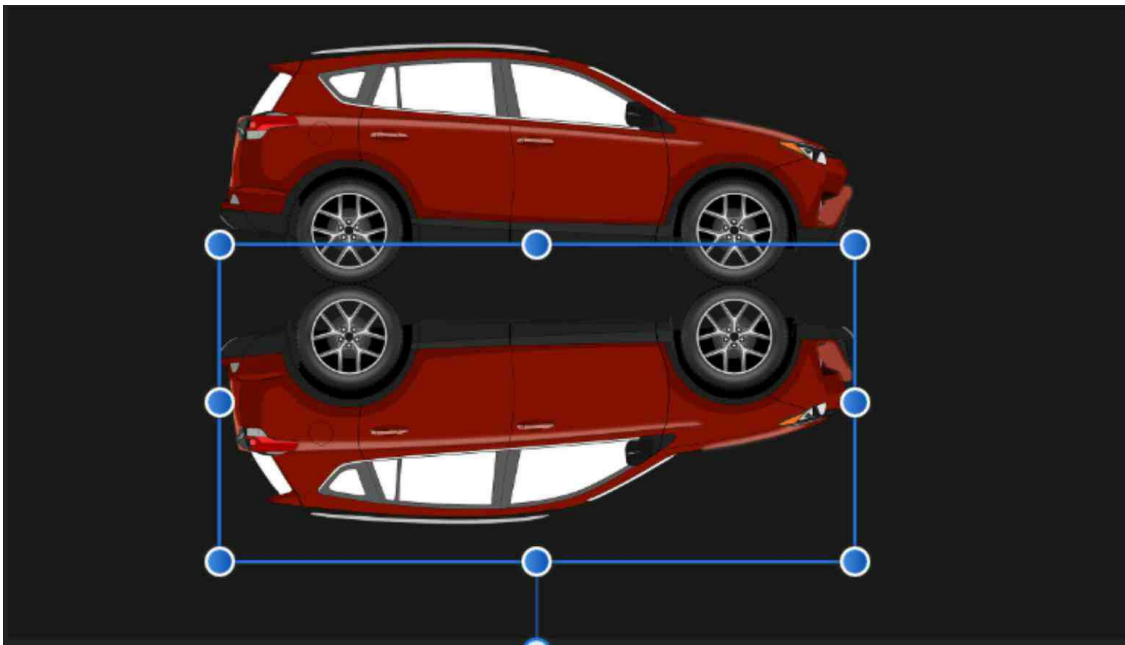*Click* & *drag* the **car image** in the middle-top area of the document.

   Press **Ctrl/Cmd+J** to *duplicate* the image. This is what the Layers Panel should look like now.

   Go to the **Toolbar** and *click* on the **Flip Vertical** button (see yellow rectangle).
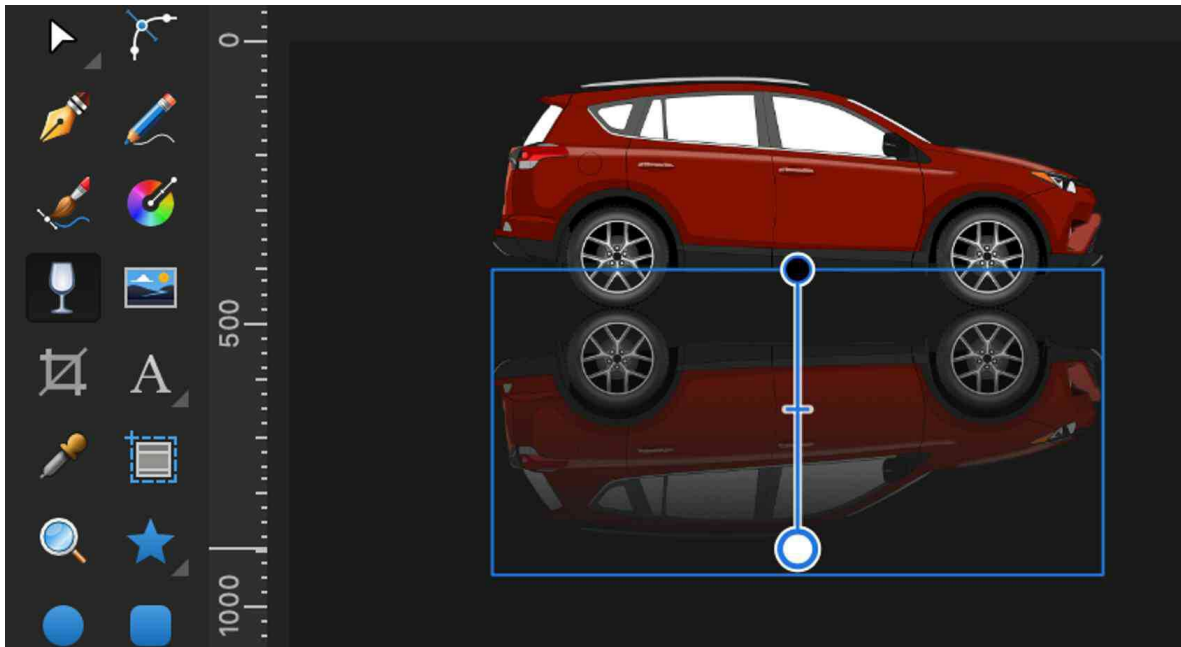
Click on the **car image** so it's selected with the blue nodes surrounding it & *drag* it to a position **directly below the top car**.

Note: Make sure you have the Snapping Tool active. This helps you perfectly align your work in real time as you move objects around relative to other objects. The Snapping Tool is located to the right of the Flip Vertical button and looks like an old-fashioned red horseshoe magnet (see two images above).
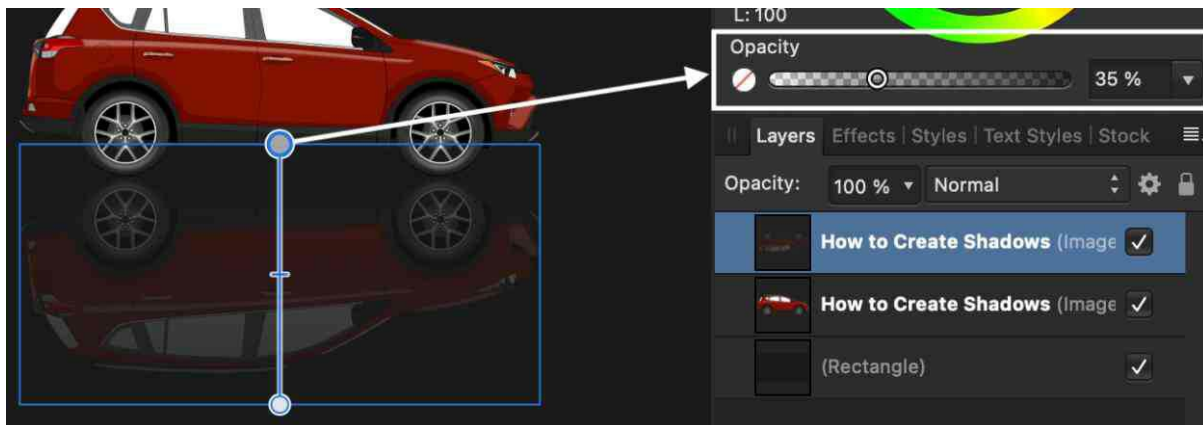
Click on the **Transparency Tool** to activate it (looks like a wine glass - see below image for reference).

Click & *drag* a **vertical downward line** in the center of the duplicated car starting at the top-middle (see the below image for this action). This will cause the lower portion of the duplicated car to appear more faded than the portion nearest the top car. Notice how the vertical line created by the Transparency Tool has two nodes on it. One at the top if black and the other is white. In the next step, we'll adjust these.
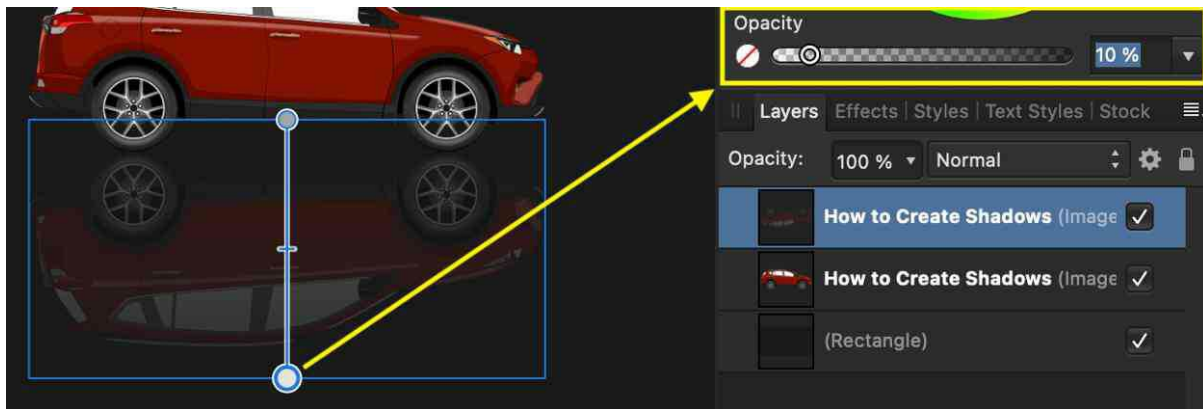
Note: If you want perfectly straight lines (or symmetrical objects) remember to hold-down the Shift key when drawing your lines.

  Click on the **top node** & *adjust* its **Opacity** to **35%** (see the white rectangle). We added the white arrow to show you that the larger top node is active and can now be adjusted.

  Click on the **bottom node** & *adjust* its **Opacity** to **10**% (see yellow rectangle). We added a yellow arrow to show you that the lower node of the Transparency Tool is active (see how it's bigger than the top node) and the effect in the yellow rectangle is being applied to it.
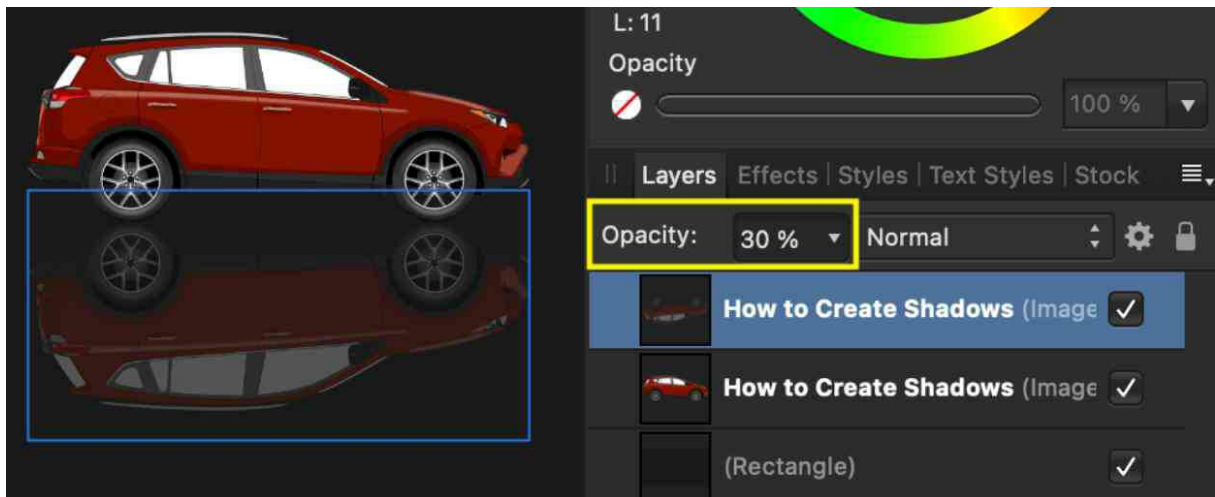
Done. This is the final image.

Note: Another way of creating a similar effect is to not do the last two steps, but simply adjust the Opacity for the entire bottom car. There won't be a gradient effect on its Opacity, but it's a simpler effect to do.

This is what the shadow looks like when you just change the Opacity of the shadow layer to 30%. While using the Transparency Tool makes the shadow look more professional, this edit is much faster.

Finished. This ends this lesson.