Lesson 12: How to Create a Sunburst Background

In this lesson, we'll learn how to make a very cool sunburst background that can be used as a cool background effect. Before we start, we need to choose the three colors we'll use for this effect.
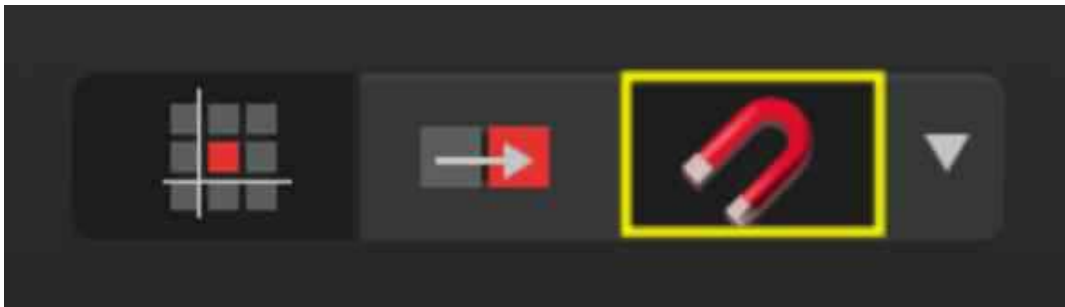
Let's go to the Adobe Color Wheel website and click on Triad Color Harmony. Write down the RGB Hex code for the three colors you want to use. If you want to use the same three colors we're using, here are their codes: Background (#F7D014), Cog 1 (#FA06C7), Cog 2 (#2DF7F2).
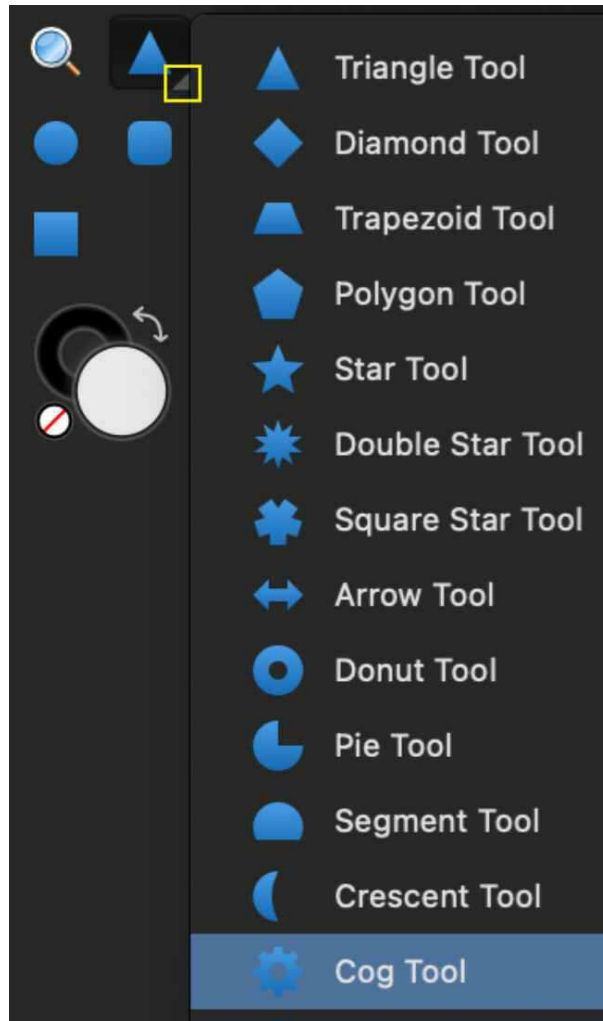
Ready to start?

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+N** to *create* a **New Document** with these specifics:

- **Web - CD Cover Digital Release**
- **Transparent Background** (*checked*)

Go to the **Toolbar** and *set* the **Snapping Tool** as active (see this image for what it looks like when active). You should now know when a tool is active just by looking at it.
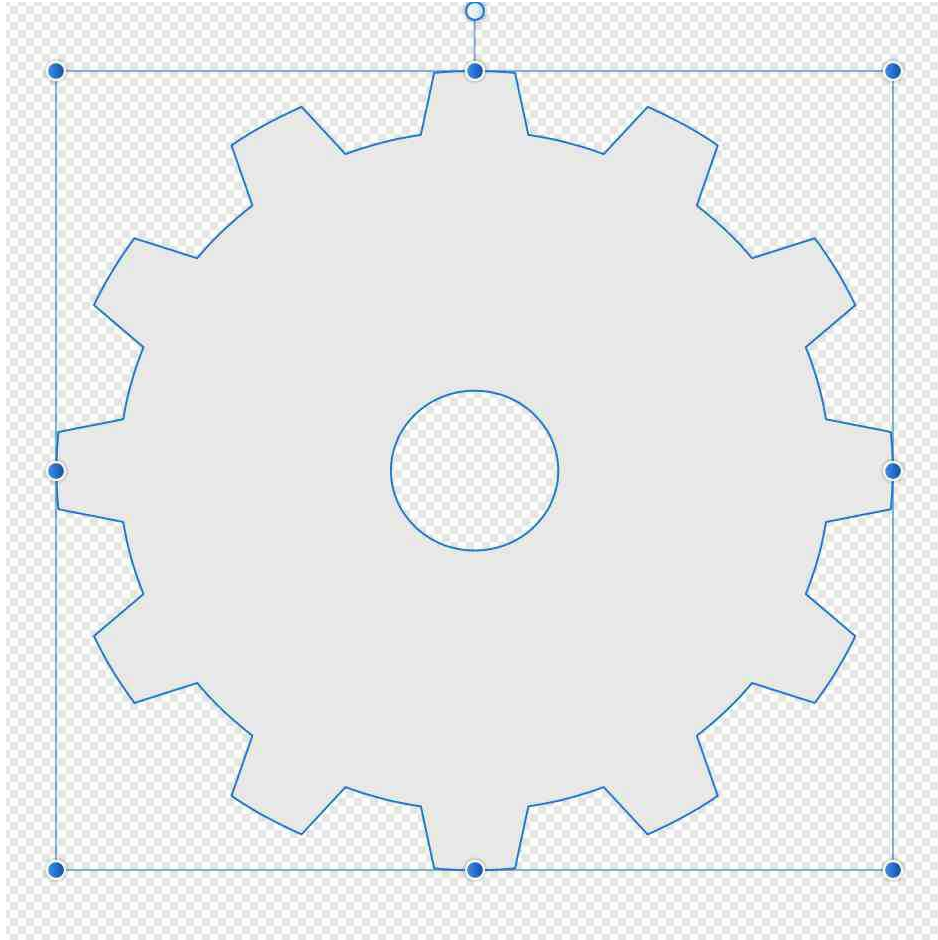

Click on the **small gray triangle** located in the lower right-hand corner of the Triangle Tool (see the small yellow square in the below image) to open up the list of unique tools and *click* on the **Cog Tool**. You can also click & hold the mouse button on the Triangle Tool (or any tool with a small grey triangle in its lower right-hand corner of its icon) and a pop-out window will appear with more choices.

   Hold-down the **Shift key** and *click* & *drag* the **Cog Tool** onto the document. Try to keep the middle of the Cog shape centered.

   Click on the **Move Tool** (or *press* **V** or *double-click* on the **canvas**) so it's activated and then *reposition* the **Cog shape** in the center of the document. Because Snapping is activate, positioning the Cog shape in the dead center is easy (i.e. crosshairs will appear when the shape is perfectly centered).

This is what your document should look like now:

Now that we have the shape we want, we're going to be altering its shape using four options in the Contextual Toolbar: Teeth, Hole Radius, Inner Radius, Tooth size (in this order).

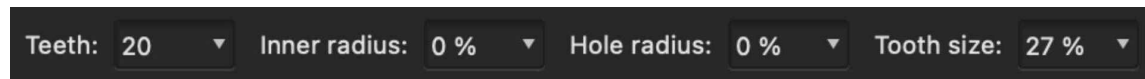Ready to make a very cool design using this shape?

Go to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the **Cog layer** so the shape will be active (if it already is then please skip this step).

Go to the **Contextual Toolbar** and *double-click* in the **Teeth value box** and *type* **20**.

Jump over **Inner radius** and *double-click* in the **Hole radius** value box and *type* **0**.

Go back to the **Inner radius value box** and *type* **0**.

Go to **Tooth size** and *type* **27%**.

Teeth:	20 ▼	Inner radius:	0 % ▼	Hole radius:	0 % ▼	Tooth size:	27 % ▼

Note: We had to change the Hole radius first. If we had changed the Inner radius first it wouldn't have gone down to 0% because the Hole radius wasn't yet 0%.

This is the shape we'll be using to create this effect. You can probably already see what we're about to do next. Can you guess the next few steps?

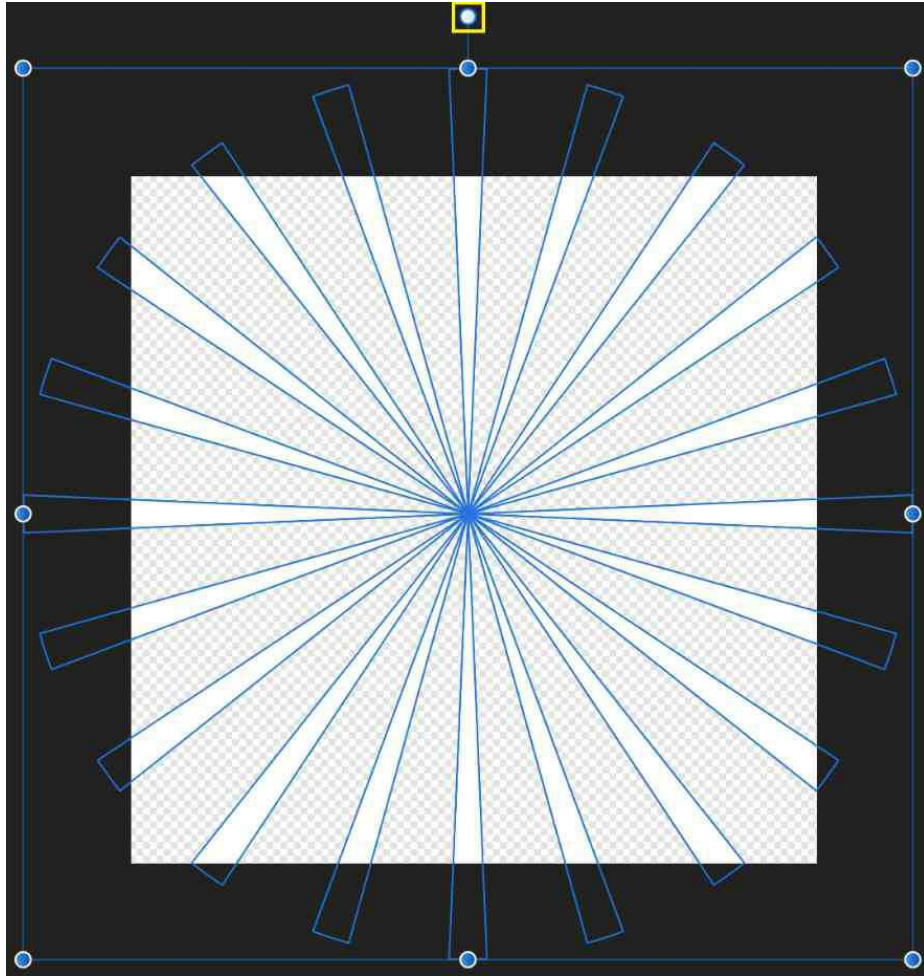We'll tell you what we're going to do and then show you.

- First, we need to extend this new shape so that the cogs extend to all four sides of the document and a bit beyond.
- Second, we'll duplicate the cog and rotate its copy to fill in the space between the cogs so the transparent background will be seen evenly behind it.
- Third, we'll use the Rectangle Tool and using a click & drag motion we'll cover the entire document.
- Fourth, we'll move this Rectangle underneath our two cog layers in the Layers Panel.
- Finally, we'll add color to the three parts of our document.

Note: If you try to repeat this effect on your own, just make sure the Tooth size is not greater than 33%.
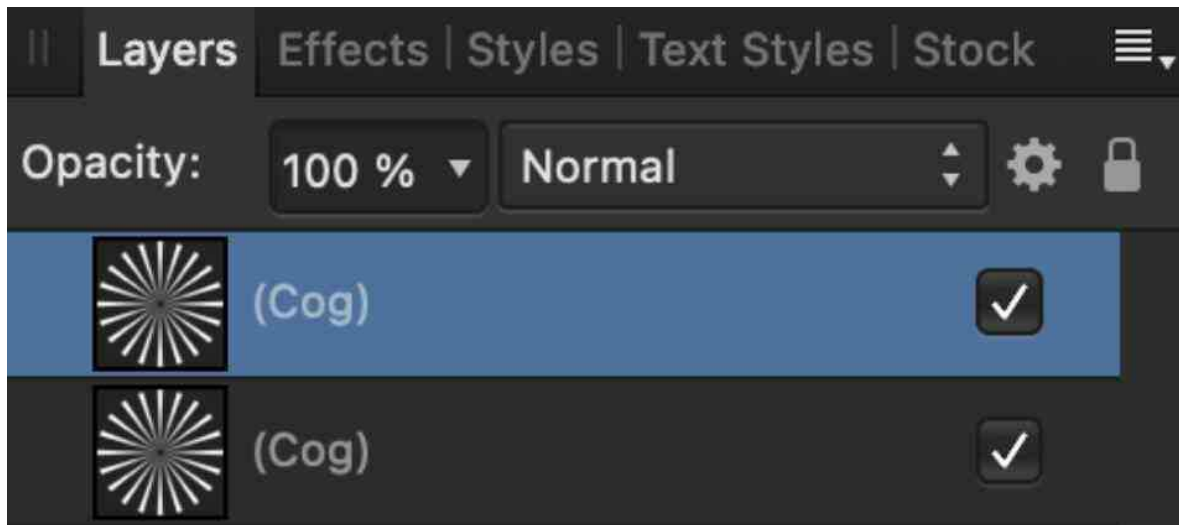
Ready to see how it's done?

 Click & *drag* the **Cog shape's blue nodes** (top-left & bottom right) so all of the cogs extend beyond the borders of the document. H*old-down* the **Shift key** as you do this to keep it symmetrical.

Note: You'll need to reposition the Cog shape several times to get the perfect fit. Because Snapping is active, every time you reposition the Cog, watch for the vertical & horizontal crosshair lines. Take your time. When you're done, try to make your image look like ours (see this below image).
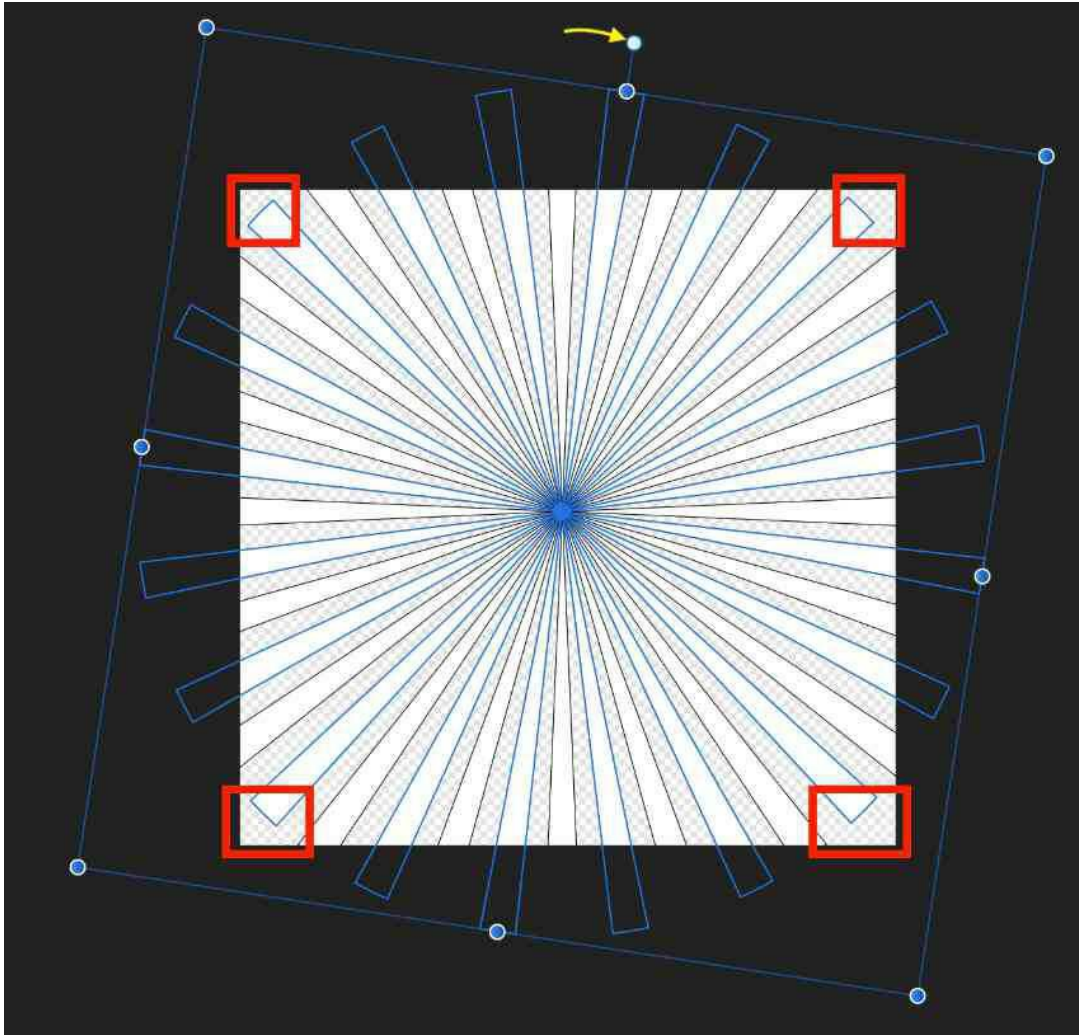
Press **Ctrl**/**Cmd** + **J** to *duplicate* our Cog shape. We know the shape is activated because it already has the blue nodes surrounding it (this is how you can always tell if an object in your document is active).

Click on the **top layer** so its selected. This is the duplicated layer we just created. Because it is the last created layer, its position in the Layers Panel is at the top.
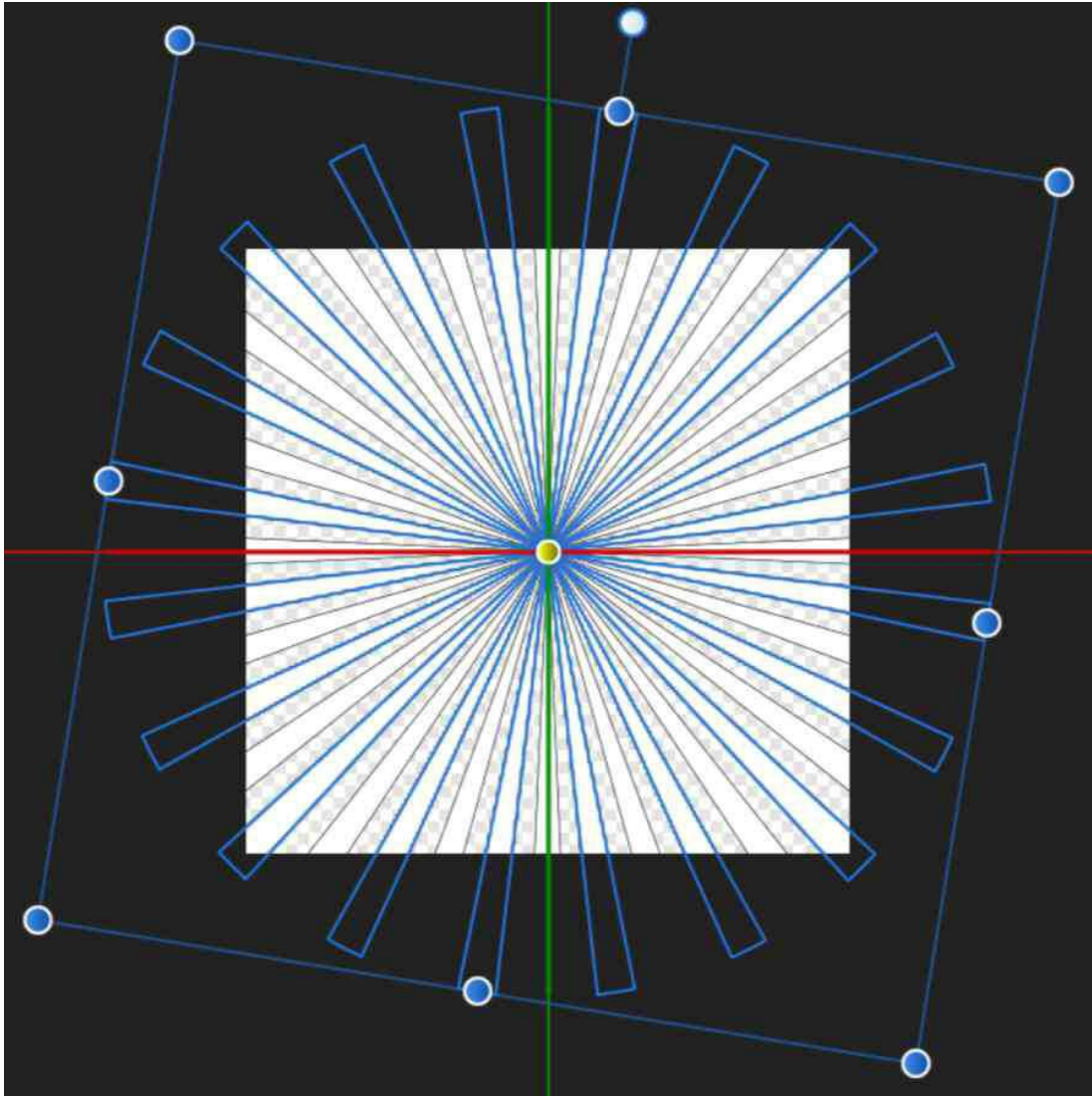
  Click & drag the **top white node** to the right (see yellow arrow for this action) so that it's between the top-most Cog tooth and the one to its right.

Note: When we rotated the duplicated cog, notice how the Cog shape does not extend past the corners of our document (see the red rectangles in the below image). To fix this, we'll simply extend the copied shape just a bit more into the canvas area by using the corner blue nodes (like we did a few steps above). Make sure you hold-down the Shift key when doing this.

   Hold-down the **Shift key** as you *click* & *drag* the **Cog's corner blue nodes** (top-left & bottom-right). You should know now what the Shift key does when we reposition and resize shapes and objects.

Note: Just like before, you'll need to reposition the Cog's shape a few times after you've increased its size. Because we activated Snapping, every time you reposition the Cog, watch for the vertical & horizontal crosshair lines (see the image below for how we did this change - notice the crosshair lines).
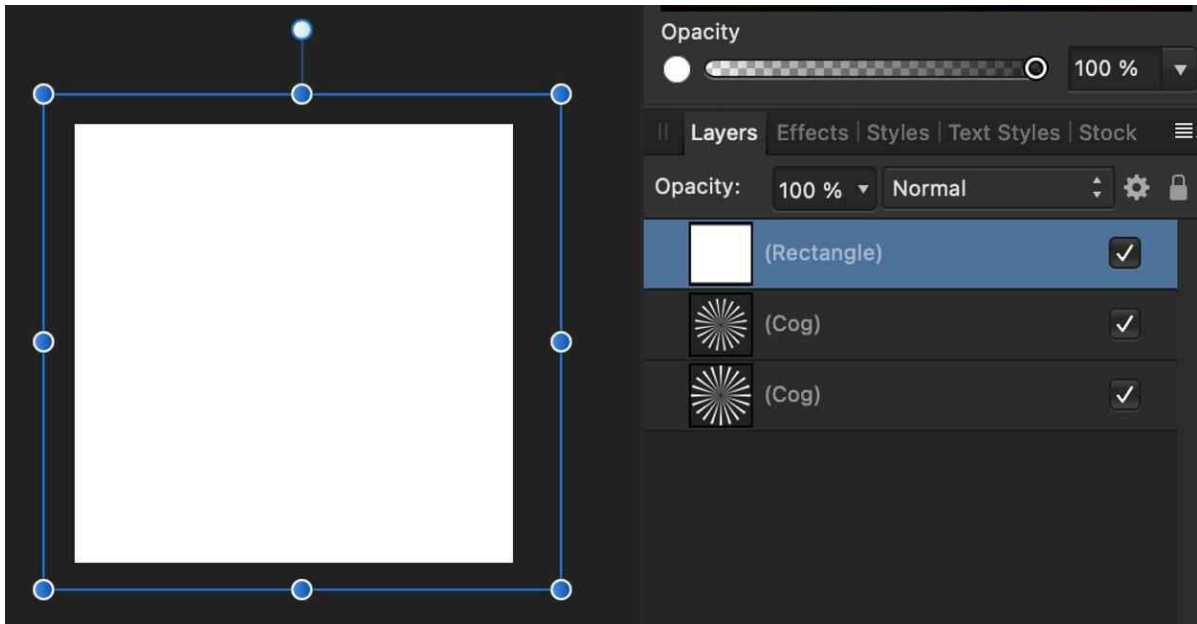
We're almost done. Now, we just need to add a background to our two shapes. Then, we'll colorized each of the three parts of our effect.
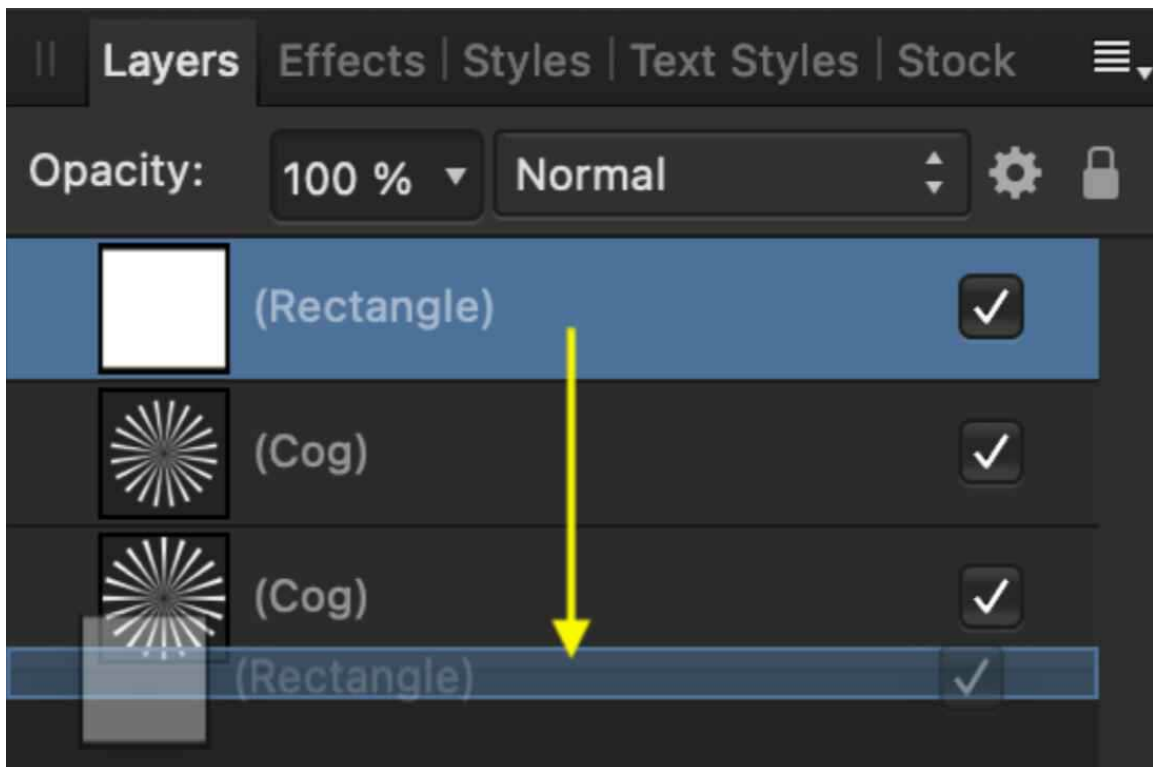
Click on the **Rectangle Tool** so it's activated.

Click & *drag* a **rectangle** over the entire document starting from the top-left and extending below-and-to-the-right of the document (see this screenshot below - we resized the document and placed it next to the Layers Panel so you could see everything together).

Note: Did we create a well-defined rectangle shape? No, not really. It isn't always necessary, so we didn't bother to make it as perfect as we normally do.

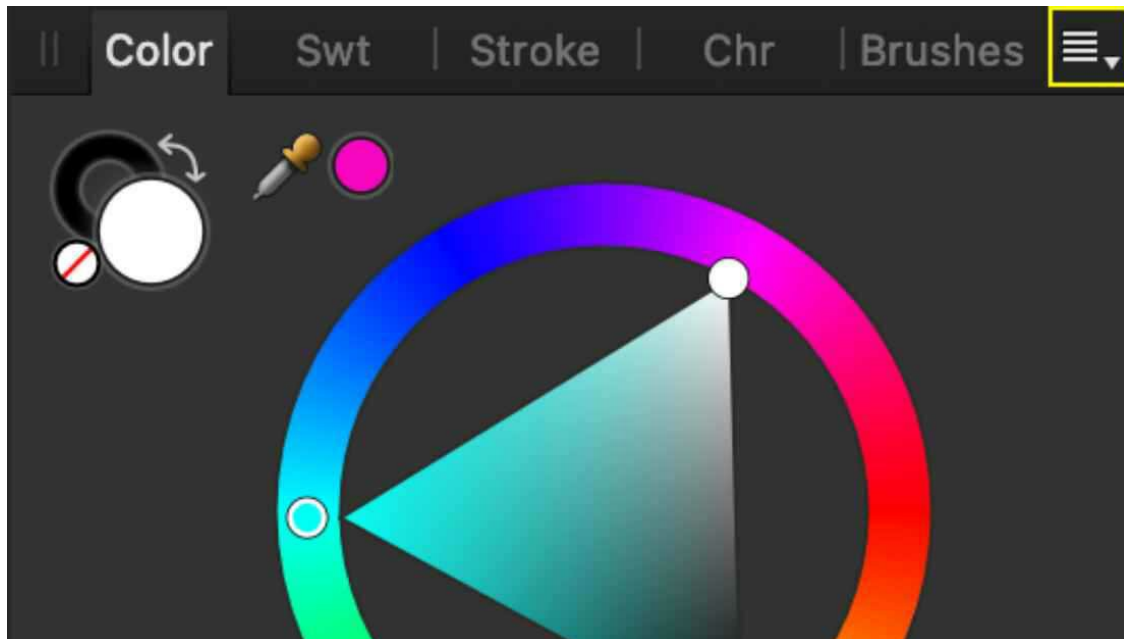   *Click* & *drag* the **top Rectangle layer** to the bottom of the Layers Panel (see the yellow arrow for this action).

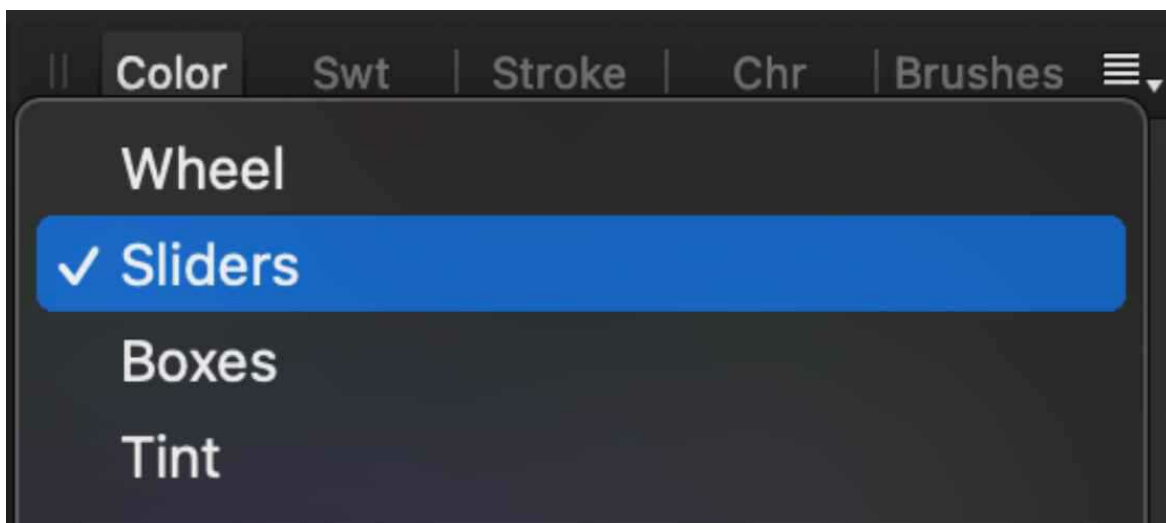Now, the fun part - time to colorize our three layers.

   Go to the **Colors Studio** area of the screen & *click* on it the **Hamburger** -

its menu icon (see the yellow rectangle in the image below). This will open a pop-out box where you can choose the different modes for coloring objects.

Note: Calling this menu the Hamburger is helpful because it makes it immediately identifiable. Nearly every panel in the Studios has its own Hamburger (aka Menu icon).
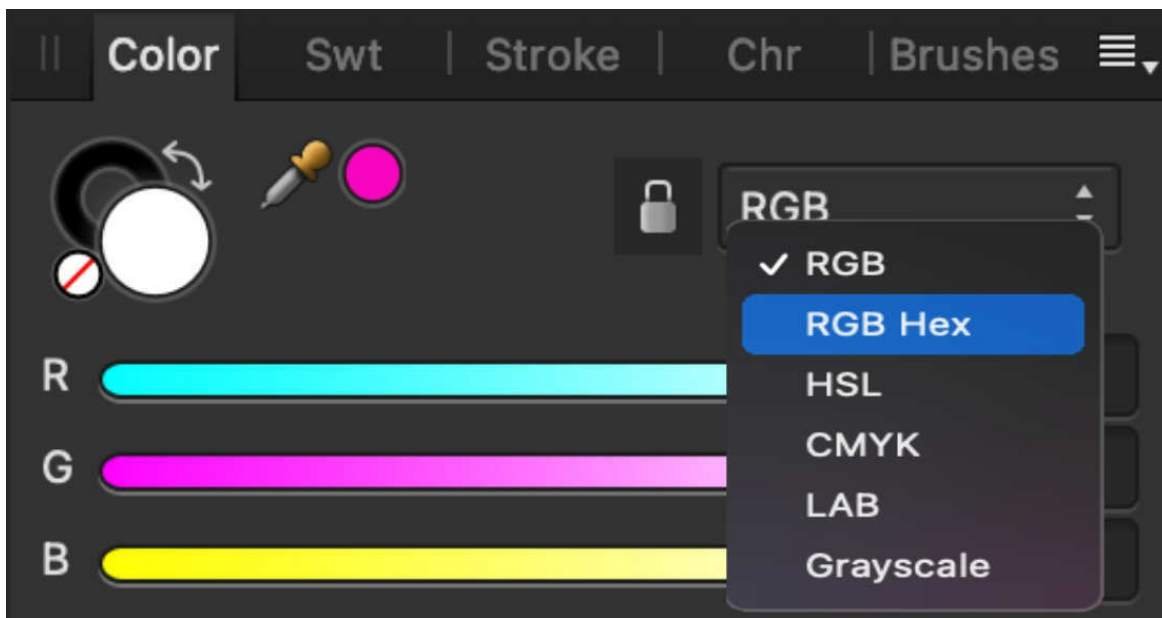

Click on **Sliders**. This choice opens up the options we need to be able to input our three RGB Hex codes in. You should know that we need to use the Sliders options if we're going to be inputting RGB Hex codes.

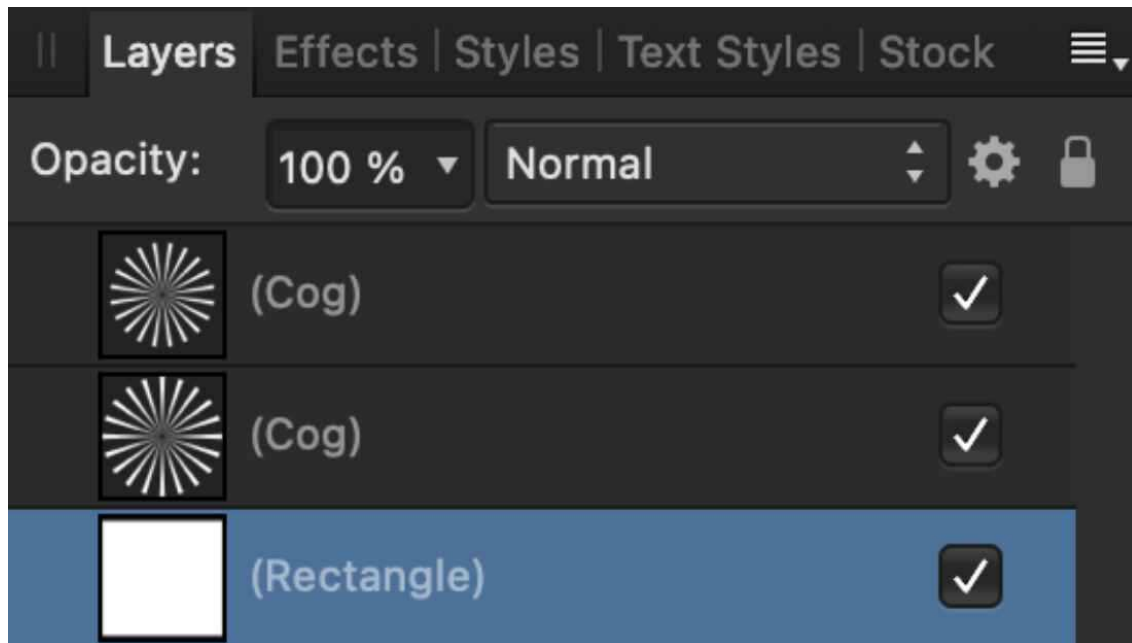*Click* on the **RGB button** and a drop-down window will appear where you

can *click* on **RGB Hex** (as shown in the below image). Notice all of the other available color spaces we could choose from.

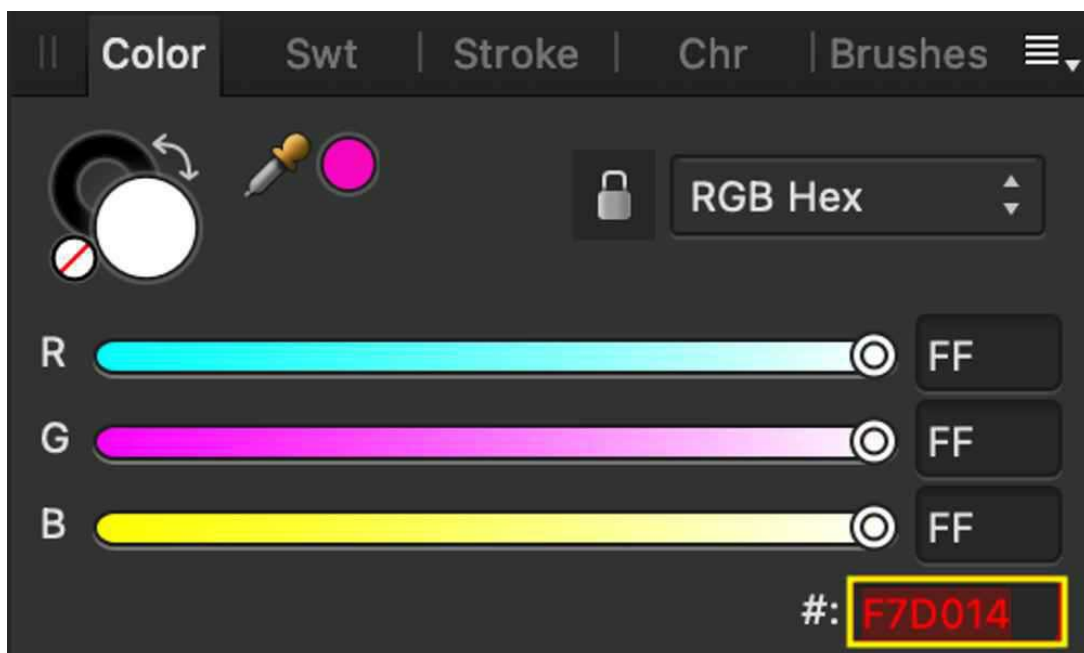**Question**: Now we want to colorize the background Rectangle layer. What is our next step?

Answer: First, we need to click on its layer so it's selected. Then, and only then, can we input the RGB Hex code into the Hex value box. Trust us, we know this is difficult to remember. When we were creating this lesson, we also forgot to click on the layer before we started inputting the Hex code. It's not a big deal because if you forget, nothing happens. But it sure is frustrating.

 Click on the **bottom Rectangle layer** so it's highlighted in blue.

   Double-click on the **RGB Hex code's value box** (yellow rectangle) & *type* **F7D014**.
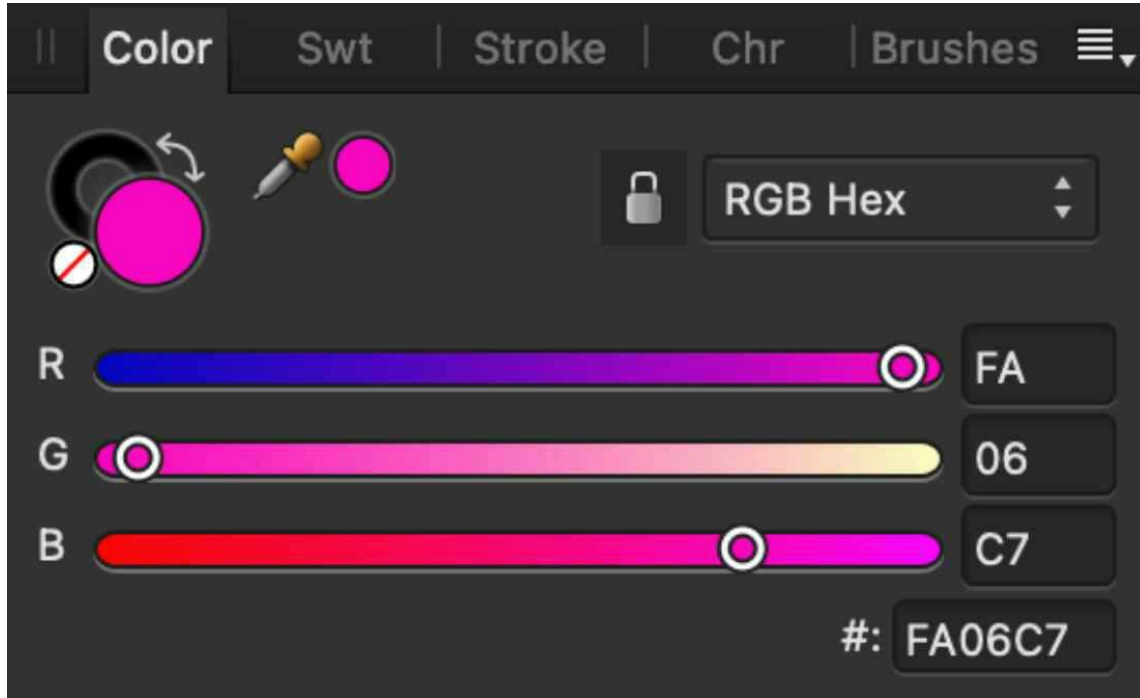
   Press **Return** when done. This will cause the preview thumbnail on the lower Rectangle layer to turn a new color.

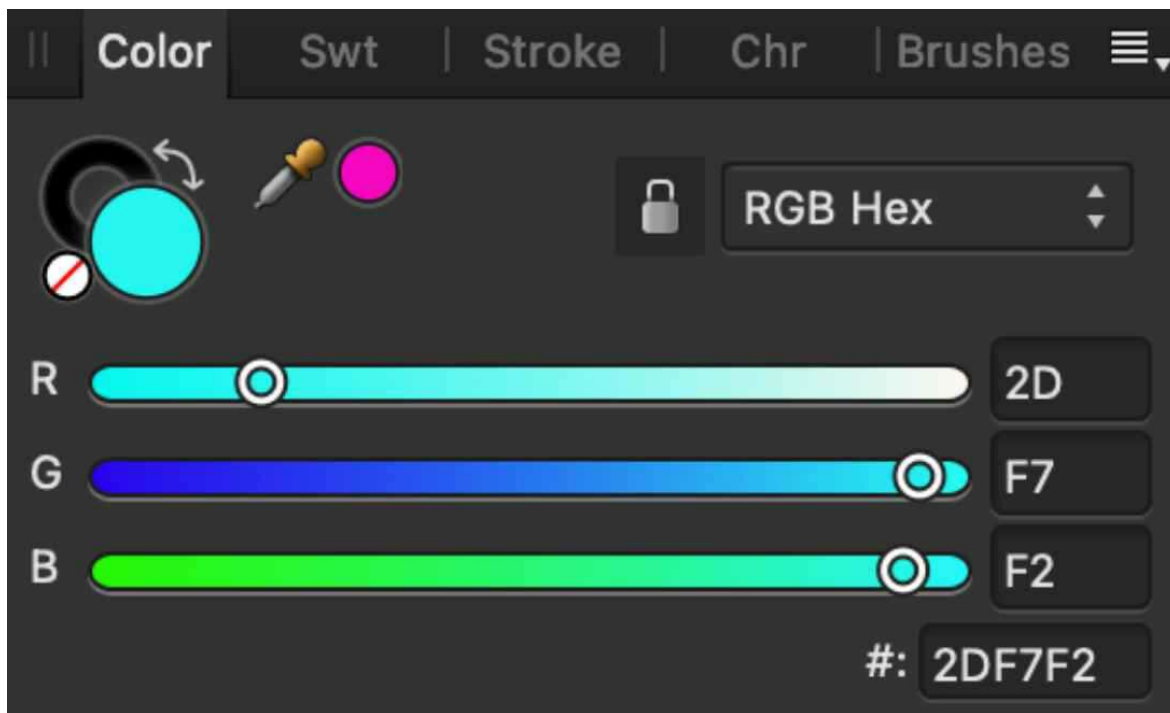Next, we are going to repeat these steps for the two Cog shape layers.

   Click on the **first Cog layer** (middle layer) so it's highlighted in blue.

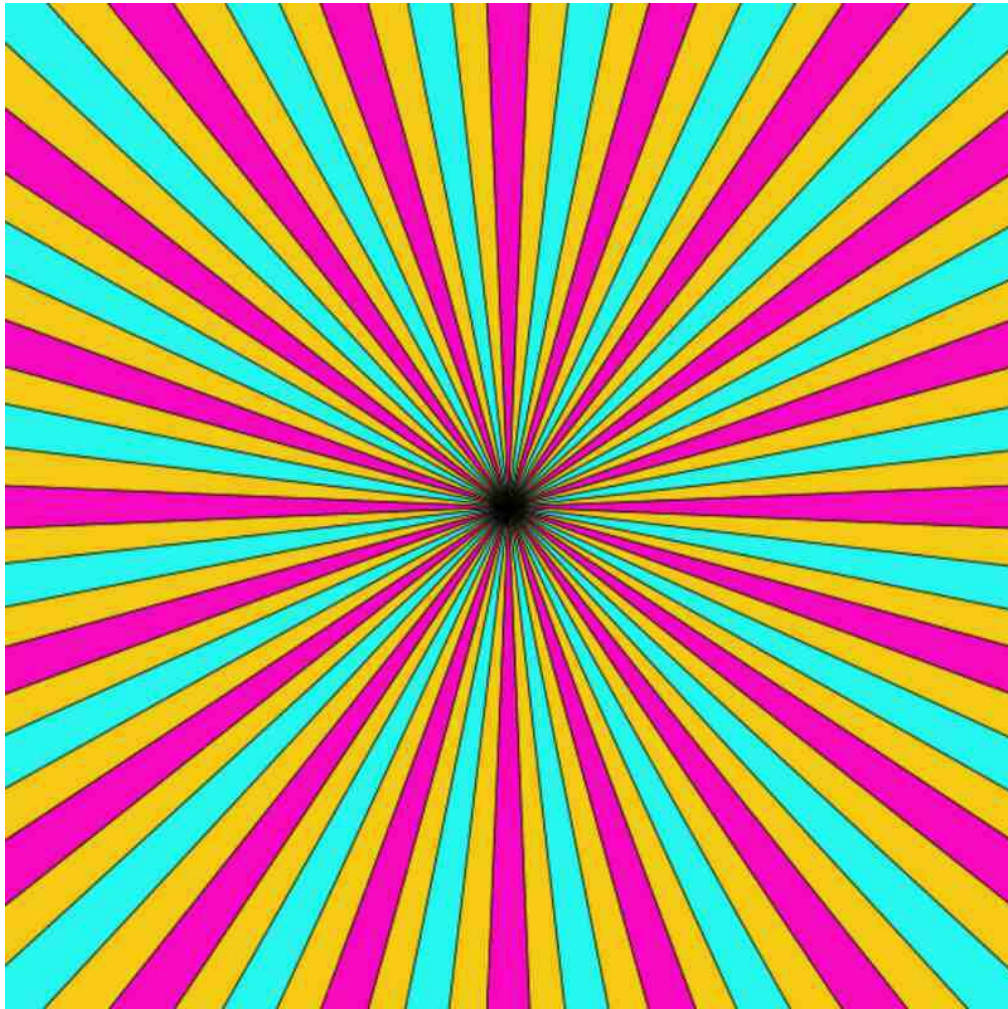*Double-click* on the **RGB Hex code's value box** & *type* **FA06C7**.

Click on the **second Cog layer** (top layer) so it's highlighted in blue.

Double-click on the **RGB Hex code's value box** & *type* **2DF7F2**.

Done. This is our final image.

When you have this image, you can now save it and change the colors to anything you want. You can also add text to the middle or add an image for use in advertisement.

We love this effect, and we hope you like it too.

Finished. This ends this lesson.