Attractor Pen

Paints particle trajectories on the canvas with either a brush stroke like effect and/or orbital patterns.

Properties

Particles color can be set using the Color Picker Panel. Particles color can also be automatically picked from the image at the location of the tool cursor using the "Color From Image" option (see below).

All properties work together. Changing one value does not necessarily translates into an effective change in the tool behavior. Experimentation and taking note of preferred parameter values sets may be advised to get, over time, a better understanding of this tool.

Particle Count

The number of particles to be generated at each brush stroke. Each particle receives a set of random coordinates.

Spread

Limits the distance that can is randomly generated for each particle in respect with the position of the cursor. The larger the value, the more distant can be a particle.

Alpha

Determines the transparency of each particle trajectory. The lower the value, the more transparent is the rendering. The transparency value can range from 0 to 255.

Color Variance : Frequency

In conjunction with the Color Variance : Range property, the frequency determines at which speed the complete variance cycle occurs; the lower the value, the higher the frequency. The Frequency value can range from 1 to 1000. Note that if the Color Variance : Range is set to 1, even with a high frequency value, no color change will be visible.

Color Variance : Range

In conjunction with the Color Variance : Frequency, the range determines how much variation can be applied to the particle color. The higher the value, the more varied gets the color. Accepted values are 1 up to 255. Note that if the Color Variance : Frequency value is low, there may not be any color variance effect visible.

Color From Image

When this check box is checked, the particle color is taken from the color of the pixel where the cursor is located within the image. This color can be modified using the Color Variance : Frequency and Color Variance : Range.

Force

The base value of the gravity force. Value cannot be 0 or negative. Accepted range is 0.1 to 10.

Intensity

A value determining both the strength and direction of the gravity force. A positive value means attraction; negative value means repulsion. A value of 0 cancels the force. The range of possible values are between -0.09 and 2

Expression

A value that limits the reach of the gravitational force. A lower value means a weaker force, a higher value means a stronger force. Accepted values range from 0.1 to 0.9

Particle Max Magnitude

Limits the amplitude of the movement vector of the particles. A small value restricts the particle flow to a narrow stream. A higher value let the particles evolve more freely. If more particles are available, a higher max magnitude value gives the effect of a wide brush stroke.

Apply Button

For any change made to one or more parameters of the Attractor Pen tool, one needs to click the Apply button to have those changes take effect.

Note that changing the color in the Color Picker (while the check box "Color From Image" is not checked applied directly the color to the tool.

Notes

The current development status of Paintual does not guarantee that each parameter will react exactly as described. Also any or all parameters, their values, and their behavior may change from version to version. As much as it is possible for the author of this documentation, description and instructions will be updated.

Last updated: 2018-08-16