



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



**Deneba
Creative Department**

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Seamless Symbol Fill Patterns Revealed

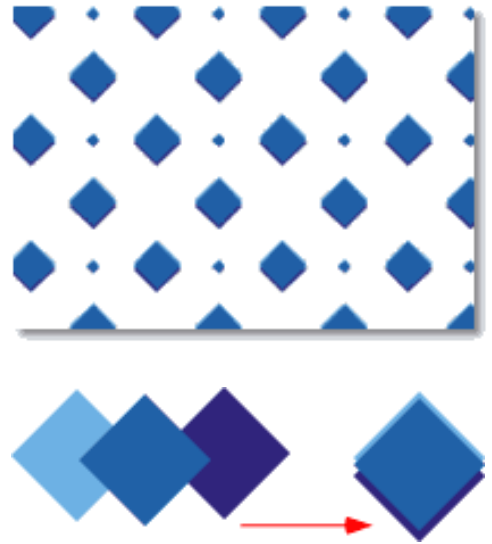
Canvas allows the creation and customization of all types of inks. Creating symbol patterns to use as seamless backgrounds for web and print can be a challenge. In a few steps, here's how to can create perfect continuous patterns every time.

Step 1

Start by drawing a square using the Rectangle tool, holding the Shift key to be sure to get an equilateral square. (Any rectangle will do fine, but a square is easier to understand the concept of the seamless pattern.) I use a 1 inch square because it's a good working size but any size will do. I'll be creating a basic floor tile with simple blue vector diamonds; however, the same method can be followed for much more complex designs.

My design:

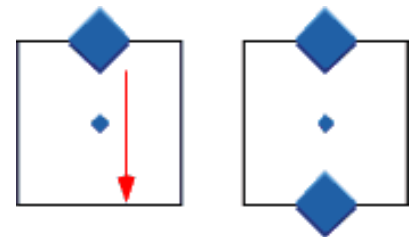
I started with a small square, rotated it 45 degrees and added a medium blue. Then I duplicated it twice and sent both duplicates to the back and offset them vertically, above and below my original. I made the top diamond a lighter blue and the bottom one a darker shade. Next, the three objects were grouped altogether. I used a smaller copy for the center of my floor tile.



Step 2

Adding the design elements: Now, you'll place the objects that make up your design within and overlapping the sides of the square. Next select the object(s) that overlap the top side of the square and make a copy using the Replicate command from the Edit menu. Choose 1 copy, Offset vertically 1 inch. This will place a copy of the object in the same location on the opposite side of the square. Repeat this for any object lying on the top side of the square.

[It's important to note that any object WITHIN the square will not be on the seam of the pattern; however, any part of the design that crosses or is OUTSIDE the square will be on the seam and can affect the final seamless appearance. Therefore planning your design first will save you time later in correcting your pattern.]

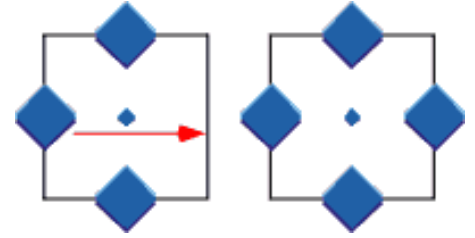


Replicate and Offset vertically.

Seamless Symbol Fill Patterns Revealed (Continued)

Step 3

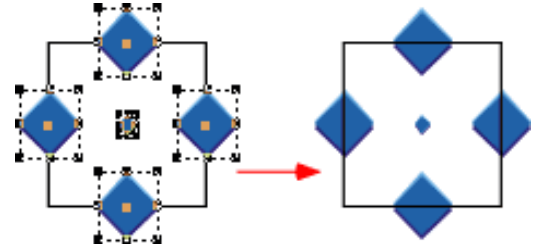
Next, repeat for the same steps to replicate any objects lying on the left side of the square so that you end up with an exact copy on the right side. At this point your tile design should be complete. More complex designs may require additional objects to be replicated. Check out some of the Symbol patterns that come with Canvas to get ideas for your own.



Replicate and Offset horizontally.

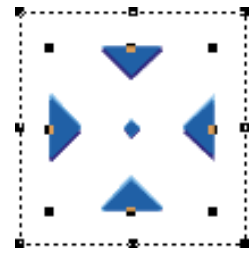
Step 4

Select all the objects and Shift>click on the rectangle to deselect it. Group all the objects (Object>Group) and send them to the back so that the rectangle is in front.



Make sure the rectangle is in front and the objects are grouped.

Now select both the rectangle and the group and choose Object>Clipping Path>Make. It's a good idea to select both objects and group them so you can move it around easier. Your symbol tile is complete.



The completed clipped tile.

Seamless Symbol Fill Patterns Revealed (Continued)

Step 5

The last step is to add the new tile to the Inks palette to save it and make it available to use. Simply drag the new tile into the editor window of the Symbol tab (as shown at right). Test the new pattern by applying it to a rectangle. The pattern should be perfectly seamless.

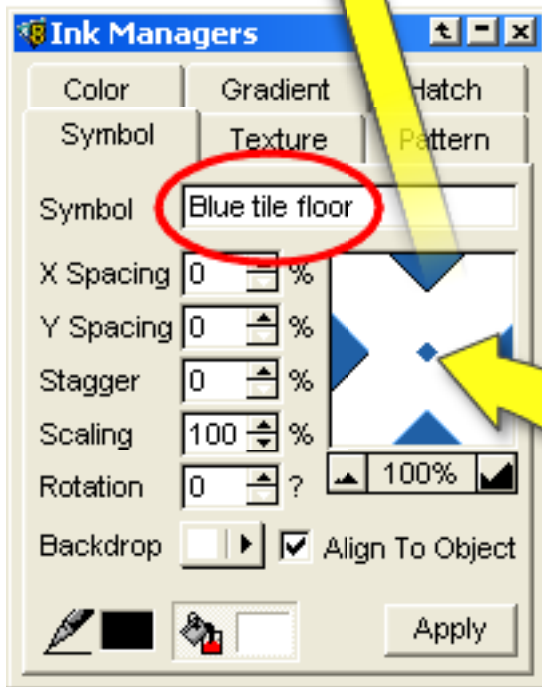
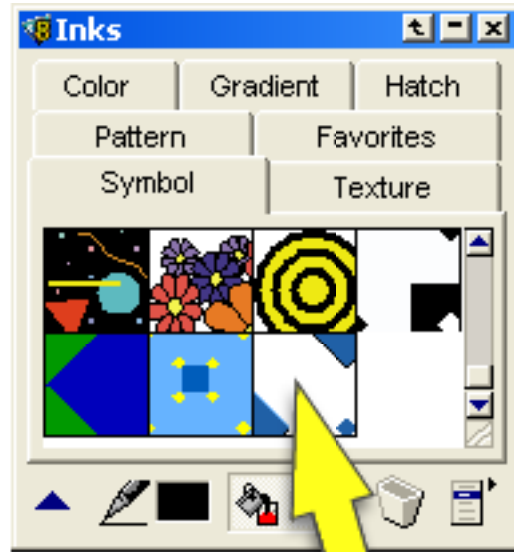
Before saving your new pattern tile, be sure to name your tile. You can also experiment with several modifications available in the manager for different effects; however, some adjustments will throw off your seamless pattern. Try adding a backdrop color by selecting a fill color at the bottom left of the manager. Also, checking the Align To Object checkbox will "freeze" the pattern so it doesn't shift as you move the object around on your document.

Tip 1:

For best viewing onscreen: Set the Canvas Preferences (File>Preferences>Display) to Display/Normal not anti-aliased. This will avoid the display of seams caused by onscreen anti-aliasing, even though they won't print incorrectly.

Tip 2:

For accuracy: Use the Align palette to make sure objects are placed accurately.



Drag the final tile (seen at right) to the editor window of the Symbol tab. Try the options in the manager for different effects. Align To Object "freezes" the pattern in an object.