

Fun with Adobe Illustrator: Making Mandalas and Geometrical Designs

1 or 2-day workshop with Janet Ashford

707/937-4555, jashford@jashford.com, www.jashford.com

Class Description

Want an easy and enjoyable way to learn the basics of Adobe Illustrator? For now, let's forget the powerful but hard-to-learn "pen tool" and have fun drawing geometrical designs and luscious color gradients. We'll also learn autotracing and add color to our scans of our own handmade drawings or clip art.

Instructor Biography

Janet Ashford is the author of seven books on computer graphics including *The Arts and Crafts Computer: Using Your Computer as an Artist's Tool* (Peachpit Press, 2002) and *Start with a Scan: A Guide to Transforming Scanned Photos and Objects into High Quality Art* (with John Odam, Peachpit Press, 2nd ed. 2000). Her graphic design business provides services for clients in Mendocino County, California. See her web page at www.jashford.com.

Outline

Day 1—Basics of Illustrator

Morning:

Basics of drawing in Illustrator

- Using drawing tools
- Copy, paste and paste-in front
- Align palette
- Transformations (rotate, scale, reflect and shear)
- Blend tool
- Pathfinder tools

Basics of color in Illustrator

- Color swatches and libraries
- Mixing colors in RGB, HSB and CMYK
- Sampling colors from imported scans
- Specifying solid color strokes and fills

Creating gradient fills

Lunch break

Afternoon

Drawing and coloring a geometrical design

- Making a rough sketch and scanning a template
- Drawing over a template
- Creating complex shapes
- Copying and transforming to create patterns

Review of day's work

Day 2—Using Scanned Drawings

Morning

Working with hand-drawings and clip art

- Autotracing scanned art with Streamline
- Adding color in Illustrator

Lunch break

Afternoon

Continuing work on your own patterns and designs.

Review of final work