<u>Illustrator CS2 or later</u>

Create a modern, multi-use pattern

Never created a repeat pattern before? With **Fernando Volken Togni**'s simple step-by-step, it couldn't be easier

I have developed illustrations to cover everything from cars to bags, but it is possible to use patterns on wallpapers, book covers, clothes fabric, purses – well, anything! In this tutorial we'll create patterns to cover any kind of surface. This particular pattern will focus on natural characters and creatures, so we'll draw these elements first then create a composition with them later. Using geometric shapes and a reduced colour palette, it is possible to get a great results with a modern, cool look.

Fernando Volken Togni
⎯ This 26-year-old designer and illustrator graduated in advertising, and now lives and works in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil. His colourful, vector-heavy illustrations have been commissioned by the likes of Quatar Airways and 85Four London. <u>www.cargo collective.com/ nandovt</u>

Time needed
4-5 hours

Skills
⎯ Interplay of vector elements
⎯ Use of minimalist shapes
⎯ Create symmetrical compositions
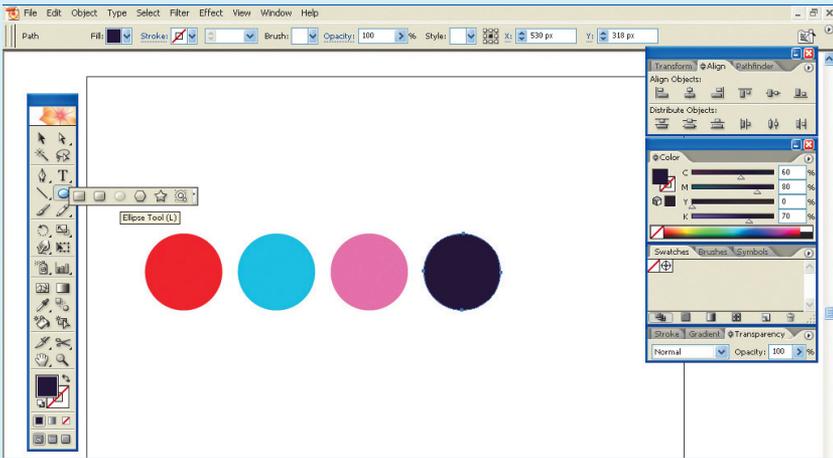
01____First we have to define some things. Set up the canvas for A4 portrait and choose a reduced colour palette. I choose at least two vibrant colours, one not so vibrant and a darker one. I draw four circles – red, cyan, pink and dark purple – clicking the Ellipse tool and holding Shift to make perfect circles.
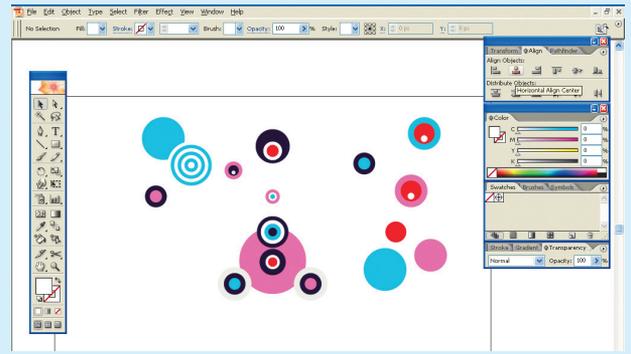

02____I duplicate these circles to create a lot of new shapes, such as concentric circles and cartoon eyes. Choose random colours. Pressing Alt/Opt and drag shapes to duplicate them. For concentric circles, select the circles you want to align then, from Window>Align, select Align objects Horizontal Align Center and Vertical Align Center. You can place one circle inside the other, but place some just inside the border of the larger circle, so they're not all central.
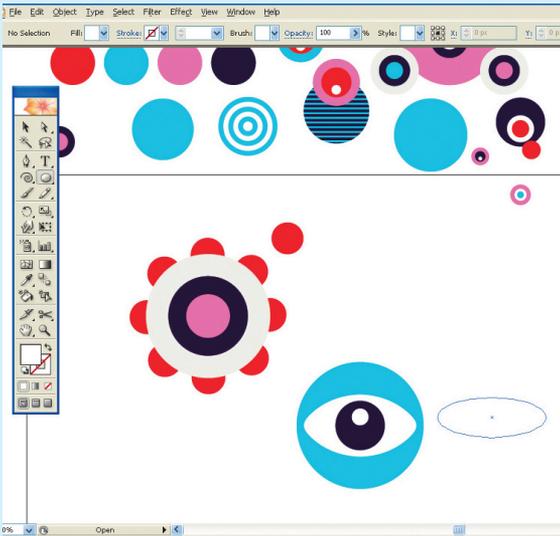

03____We'll pull these elements out of the canvas to use later, and create new, more complex elements. To draw a flower, take three concentric circles and create eight small circles to surround it. Move them to the back by pressing Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+[. To create an eye, make a blue circle, then with the Ellipse tool draw an ellipse (not hitting Shift) so the shape is slightly flat. Put a purple circle in the centre for the iris and a small white one to suggested reflected light.

04____Let's make the bird. With the Pen tool, make the shape of an S and join the last point to the first. Fill it and place the eye created in Step 3 on top, resized if necessary. You can also create a bugle shape with the Pen tool, adding a circle on the top, an ellipse at the bottom and the purple detail in the bugle opening using the Pen tool. For the one-eyed creature I've drawn a pink rounded rectangle, placed a pink circle on top and merged both objects, going to Object>Expand Appearance to unify the object. I place another eye and draw a purple mouth with the Pen tool.
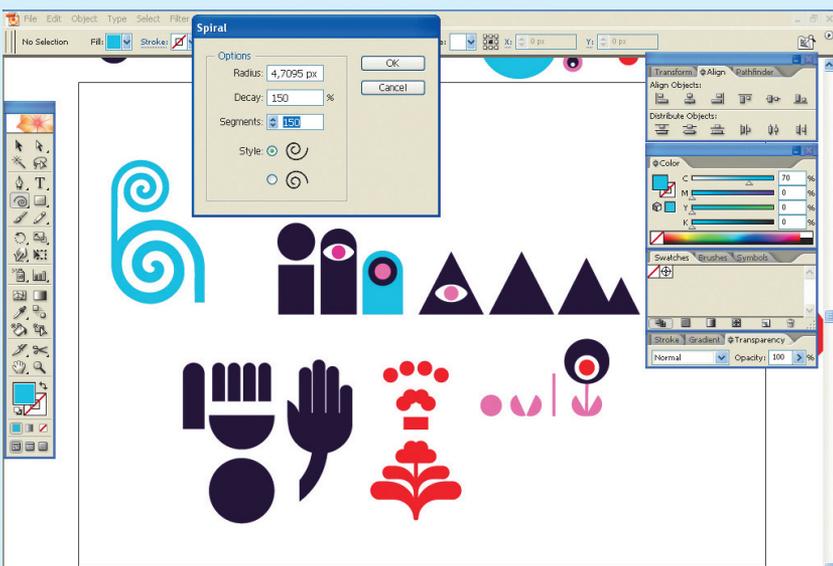

05____A good composition requires multiple elements. Repeat existing ones and change their colour, or merge and cut shapes to create new ones. I've added cyan spirals, a purple creature, a hand, triangles and flowers.
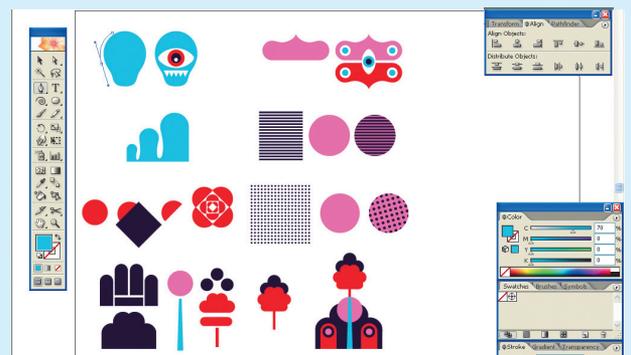
06____Now for the skull. Select the Pen tool, draw the shape of a skull and fill it blue. Place an eye on top, and a line of repeated white triangles for teeth. I also make a tree shape. Continue to make as many elements as you see fit. →
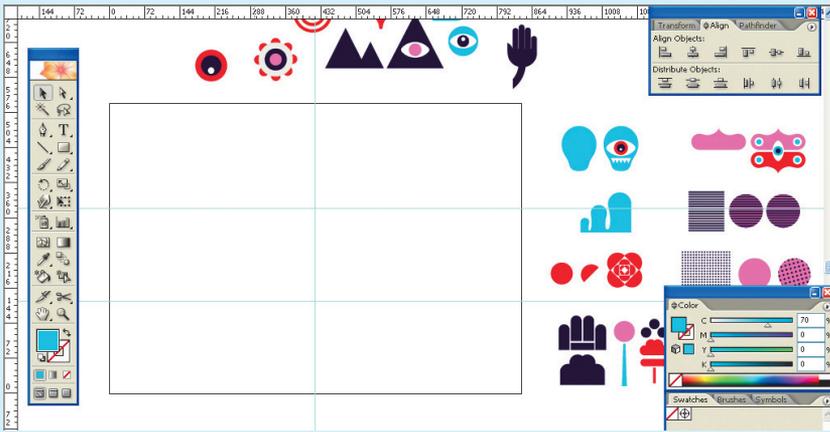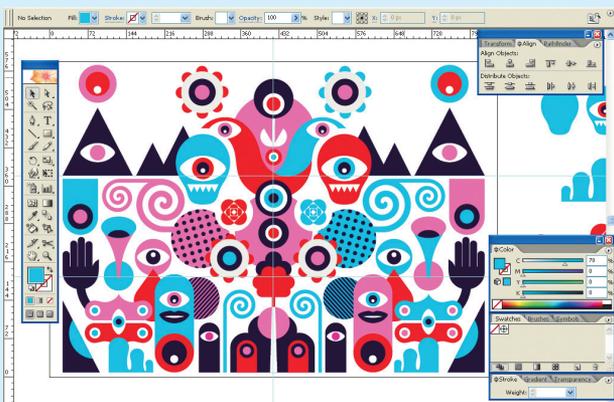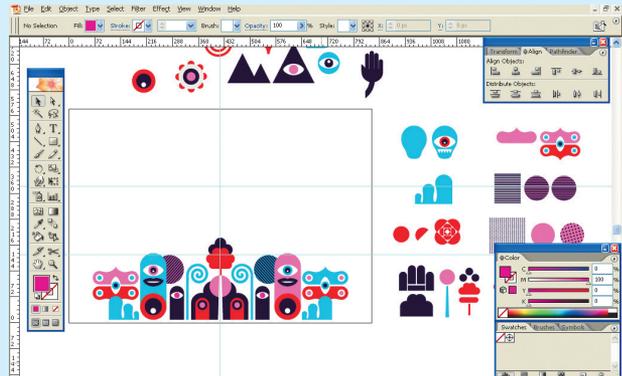
07_____ Clean up the canvas to begin the pattern structure. Surround the canvas with all the elements you created, and press Ctrl/Cmd+R to activate the page rulers. You'll need a six-piece grid on which to arrange the elements, so drag two horizontal blue guide lines down from the top ruler, and drag a vertical blue line from the ruler on the left to the centre of your canvas, splitting it down the middle.

08_____ We're going to have a symmetrical pattern, so some shapes will be duplicated and have their colours changed during the process. Always start from the middle, and it is easier if you start from the base. I select my tree and place it centrally at the bottom, then place other elements with a flat base alongside it. Duplicate all elements so that each side of the central line is symmetrical.

09_____ Carry on doing the same up the canvas, filling it with your elements and always maintaining symmetry. Circular shapes are good to fill blank spaces. Ensure you have shapes of different colours touching each other to create contrast, and create more elements if you need to. Flip them horizontally to maintain symmetry.


10_____ Overlap shapes at the centre if you like, as I've done with my birds. To send the shape back, hit Shift+Ctrl/Cmd+[.

11_____I like to keep my illustrations balanced. To do this you can work with guides, or with an imaginary axis. Imagine vertical lines crossing some shapes, then align the elements by their vertical centre. For example, I've placed circles on the top of the pyramids, aligning each one by the centre of the pyramid. Continue until you've filled all the blank spaces.
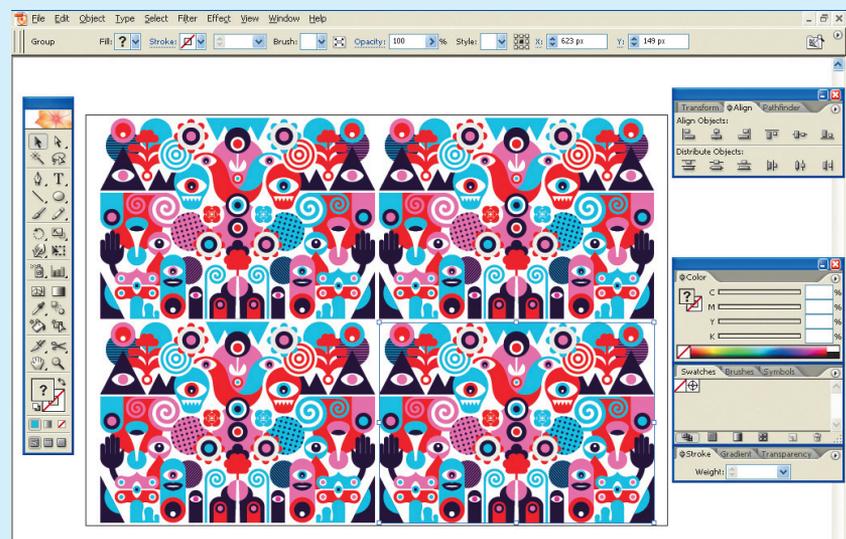
12_____ Once you're happy with your pattern rectangle, deselect the line guides (Ctrl/Cmd+;) then select all the elements with the Selection tool and group them (Ctrl/Cmd+G). Pressing Alt/Opt, drag the rectangle horizontally and vertically to multiply the rectangular shape as many times you want. Your pattern is ready!