

How to Use Rotation tool

Creating a mandala in Adobe Illustrator using the rotation tool is a simple and efficient process. Follow these steps to make a symmetrical, intricate mandala:

Step 1: Set Up Your Document

1. Open Adobe Illustrator.
2. Create a new document by selecting **File > New** and choosing your desired size and orientation.
3. Enable the **Rulers** (Ctrl + R / Cmd + R) and drag out guides to find the center of your artboard.

Step 2: Draw the Base Shape

1. Use the **Ellipse Tool (L)** or **Pen Tool (P)** to create a base shape that will be repeated around the circle.
2. Position the shape at the center or near the center of the artboard.

Step 3: Use the Rotate Tool

1. Select your base shape.
2. Press **R** to activate the **Rotate Tool**.
3. Click once on the center of the artboard to set the rotation point.
4. Hold **Alt** (Windows) or **Option** (Mac) and click the center point again. This will bring up the rotation dialog box.

Step 4: Set the Rotation Angle

1. In the rotation dialog box, enter an angle that divides evenly into 360 (e.g., 30°, 45°, 60°). For example:
 - **12 shapes** = 30°
 - **8 shapes** = 45°
 - **6 shapes** = 60°
2. Click **Copy** instead of **OK** to create a duplicate of the shape at the new angle.

Step 5: Repeat the Rotation

1. Press **Ctrl + D** (Windows) or **Cmd + D** (Mac) to repeat the last action and create additional copies until the circle is complete.

Step 6: Add More Details

1. Add more base shapes and repeat the rotation process to build layers of your mandala.
2. Experiment with different shapes, strokes, and colors to enhance the design.

Step 7: Expand and Finalize

1. Once you are satisfied with your mandala, select all the shapes and go to **Object > Expand** to finalize your artwork.
2. Group the elements by selecting everything and pressing **Ctrl + G** (Windows) or **Cmd + G** (Mac).

Tips for Creating Complex Mandalas

- Use **Stroke Panel** to adjust the thickness and style of the lines.
- Combine shapes with **Pathfinder Tool** to create unique designs.
- Use **Brush Tool** for more organic lines and patterns.
- Work with **Layers Panel** to keep your mandala organized.