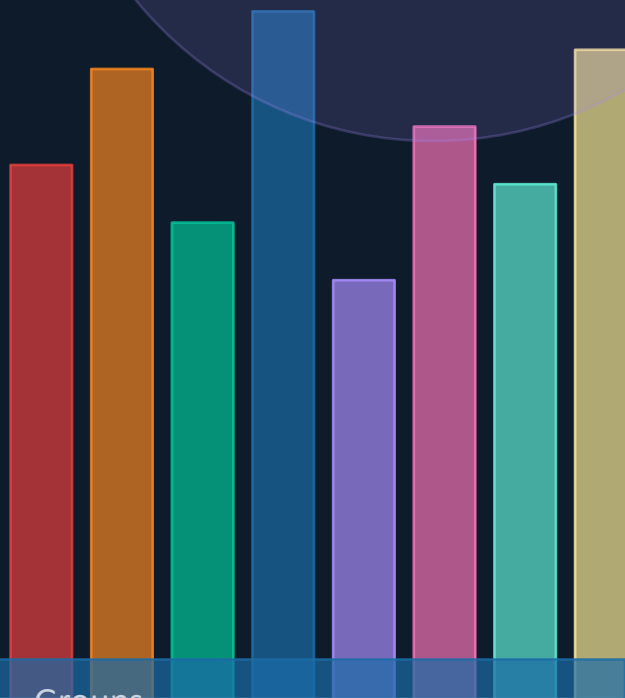


MODULE 4

The Magic of Transform

Functions & Effects

Live effects, transform each, appearance panel, and groups



Concepts at a Glance

Every tool and concept introduced in this activity

Fx

Effect > Transform

A live, editable effect that duplicates an object with repeating offsets. Found under Effect → Distort & Transform → Transform.



Transform Each

Applies scale, rotate, or move to each selected object individually. Supports randomization. Found under Object → Transform.



Appearance Panel

Like Photoshop's Layer Styles — shows and edits all fills, strokes, and live effects applied to a shape.



Expand Appearance

Converts live effects into real, editable paths. Object → Expand Appearance (differs from plain Expand).



Transform Again

Re-applies the most recent transform operation to a new selection. Shortcut: ⌘/Ctrl + D.



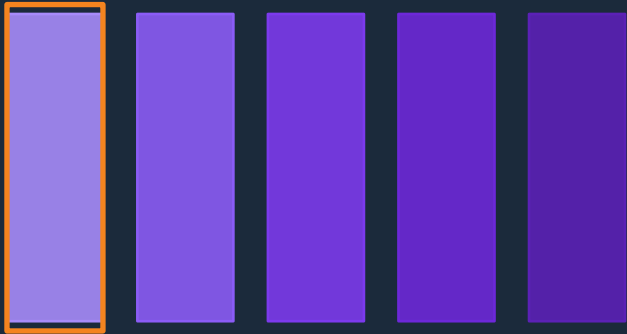
Groups & Ungroup

Illustrator auto-groups expanded objects. Object → Ungroup (may need to repeat for nested groups).

Two Flavours of Transform

Live effect vs. permanent function — knowing the difference matters

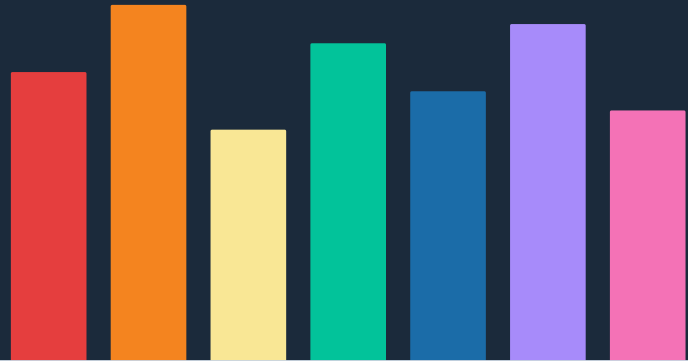
EFFECT · Effect → Distort & Transform



source

- **LIVE:** Editable at any time via the Appearance Panel
- **VIRTUAL:** Copies don't really exist until you Expand Appearance
- **COPIES:** Creates a specified number of offset duplicates

FUNCTION · Object → Transform Each



- **PERMANENT:** Applies directly, expanding objects immediately
- **RANDOM:** Randomizes the effect on each object independently
- **PER OBJECT:** Each item is transformed individually, not as a group

Effect → Distort & Transform → Transform

A live effect for duplicating objects with a repeating offset

Transform Effect

Scale Horizontal:

Scale Vertical:

Move Horizontal: ●

Move Vertical:

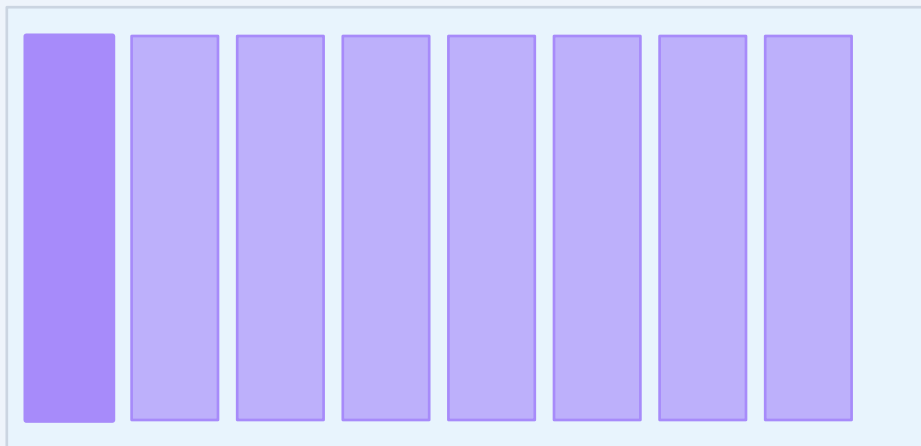
Rotate:

Copies: ●

OK

Cancel

RESULT



← source

(1 shape drawn)

copies (virtual)

Copies

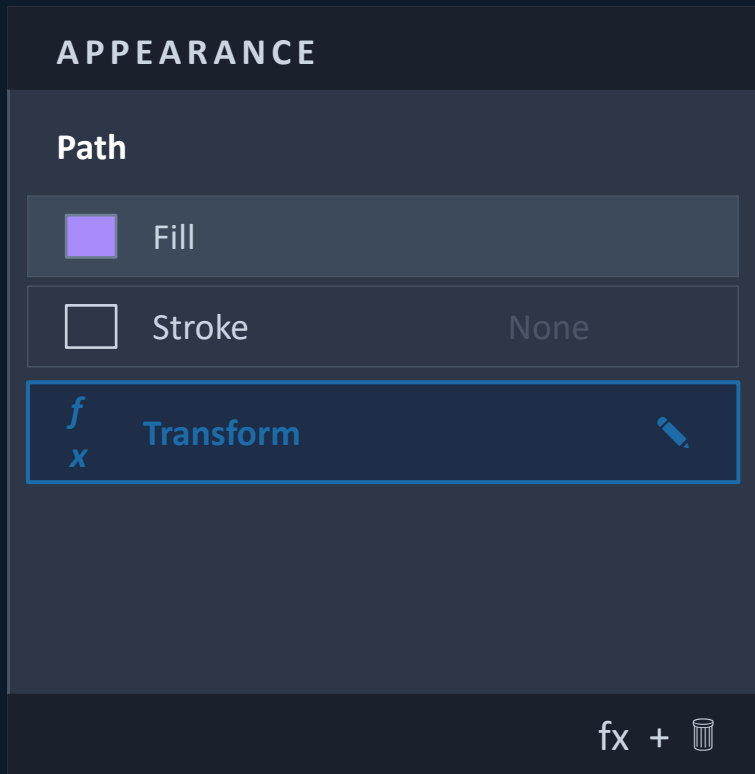
How many duplicates to generate

Move H/V

How far each copy shifts from the previous

Appearance Panel

Window → Appearance · The home for all live effects and styles on a shape



Edit Live Effects

Double-click any live effect row (like Transform) to reopen its settings dialog and adjust on the fly.

Multiple Fills & Strokes

Add more than one fill or stroke to the same shape and control their order, opacity, and blending mode.

← Double-click to edit

Delete Effects

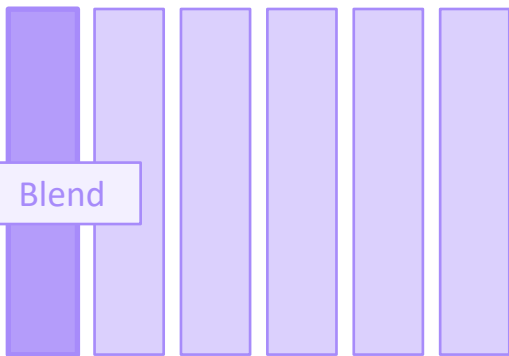
Select the effect row in the panel and click the trash icon to remove it without affecting the original shape.

Think of it as Illustrator's version of Photoshop Layer Styles — but for vectors.

Expand Appearance

Object → Expand Appearance · Not the same as plain Expand

BEFORE



Type indicator
shows: Transform

Virtual copies — can't be
individually selected or edited

→ EXPAND APPEARANCE



Object →
Expand
Appearance

Makes virtual objects
into real editable shapes

AFTER



Type indicator
shows: Group (then Path)

Real paths — each book
is now independently editable

Object → Transform → Transform Each

Applies scale, move, or rotate to every selected object individually

Transform Each

Scale

Horizontal:

85%

Vertical:

random

Move H:

0 in

Move V:

0 in

Rotate:

0°

Transform Objects

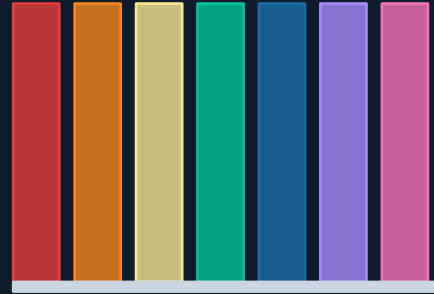
Random

Ref. Point:



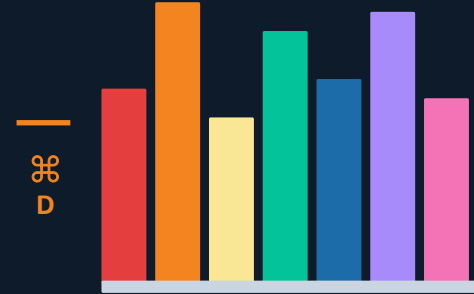
Bottom center

BEFORE



Uniform height

AFTER



Random heights

KEY SETTINGS

- ✓ Random — makes each book a different size
- ✓ Bottom reference point — books grow upward from shelf
- ✓ Vertical scale — controls height variation range

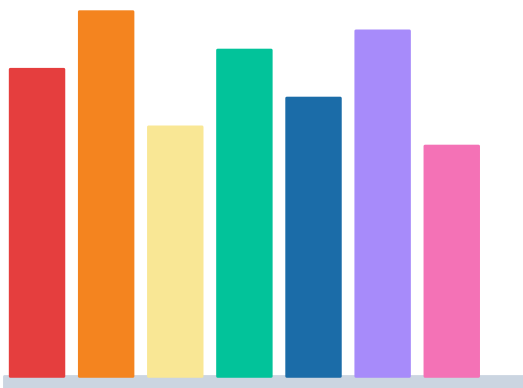
Transform Again · ⌘/Ctrl + D

Object → Transform → Transform Again · Re-applies the last transform to a new selection

HOW IT WORKS

1

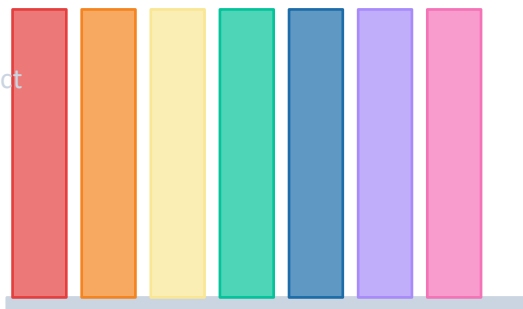
Transform Each applied to shelf 1 books



2

Select shelf 2 books (unexpanded)

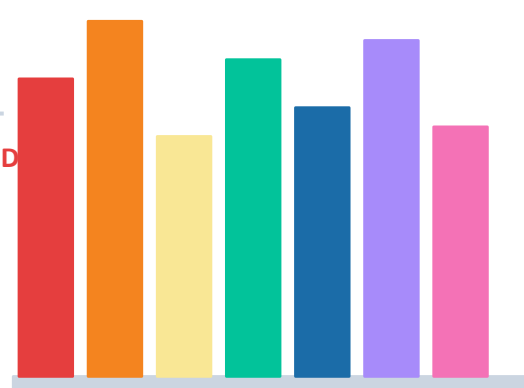
select



3

⌘D applies same random pattern again

⌘D



★ ⌘D remembers the last transform and reapplies it — even with a new random seed, keeping the same style variation.

Groups & Ungroup

Illustrator auto-groups after Expand — always check the type indicator

THE ILLUSTRATOR COMPASS · Top-left of the screen tells you what's selected

Group

Path

Blend

Transform

NESTED GROUPS (Auto-Created)

Group

Group

Path

Path

Path

Path

Path

HOW TO UNGROUP

1

Select the expanded object

Type shows: Group

2

Object → Ungroup (⌘⇧G)

Type shows: Group (still!)

3

Object → Ungroup again

Type shows: Path ✓

Always ungroup twice after Expand Appearance —
Illustrator nests groups inside groups.

Where to Find Each Transform

Menu locations, shortcuts, and what each version does



Effect → Distort & Transform → Transform

LIVE

VIRTUAL

Does: Duplicates shape with offset/copies

Used for: Filling a shelf with evenly-spaced copies of one object

Edit: Appearance Panel — double-click effect name



Object → Transform → Transform Each

Does: Randomizes scale/position per object

Used for: Varying the height of a group of selected books

Edit: Not live — re-run with different settings if needed



Object → Transform → Transform Again



Does: Re-runs the last transform on new selection

Used for: Applying the same height-variation style to another shelf of books

Edit: Not applicable — it's a one-shot repeat

Module 4 Summary



Effect > Transform

Live, editable duplicate effect with offset copies.



Appearance Panel

Edit live effects; like Photoshop Layer Styles.



Transform Again

Re-apply last transform to any new selection.



Transform Each

Randomize scale/position on each object individually.



Expand Appearance

Converts live effect copies into real paths.



Groups & Ungroup

Illustrator auto-groups — always ungroup twice.