Illustrator Unit B: Transform again, and Point of Origin

The transform again command in the Object menu is a powerful command. Whenever you transform an object, executing the transform again command will repeat your transformation. For example, if you reduce the size of a rectangle by 50% and use the transform again command, it will transform (scale) the rectangle again by 50%. The cool thing about this tool is that if you combine it with another command, you can create amazing results. For example, if you start with a square and create a copy rotated at 20 degrees, you will have two copies, with one slightly rotated. If you do this repeatedly, you can make a chain of rotated squares.

To do this:

1. Create an object (the rectangle tool or hold down the rectangle tool to select another shape) -> click and drag to draw the shape.
2. Verify that the align stroke to center button is selected. This is found by clicking the word stroke up in the menu bar



Once you click stroke, make sure that the “Align stroke to center button is selected:



1. Click the rotate tool in the tools panel, type 22.5 in the angle text box, then click copy.
2. Press Ctrl or Command C to copy and then Ctrl or Command V to paste.
3. Click Object in the menu bar, point to Transform, then click Transform Again.
4. Press Ctrl or Command V to paste, then Ctrl D to transform/rotate your new shape. Repeat steps 5 & 6 four more times.
5. With the last object still selected, click Select on the menu bar, point to Same, then click Stroke Color.
6. Click Object on the menu bar, then click Group, then save your work.

Specifying a point of origin

When you rotated the object you created, there was a point of origin about which the object rotated. It rotated at it’s center point. By default, all objects will use the same point of origin. You can specify a different point of origin. Lets do the object transformation again, but using a different point of origin.

1. Create an elipse using the shape tool.
2. Click the rotate tool, then in one motion, click and drag anywhere on the page.
3. Undo the rotation, click the left anchor point of the elipse, release the mouse, then drag the mouse pointer. You can see that this rotates the object.
4. Press and hold alt, then click the bottom anchor point of your object.
5. Type 22.5 in the angle text box, then press Command C to copy it.
6. Press Command V to paste it.
7. Apply the transform again command.
8. Repeat the following steps 5 more times: Press Command V then Command D to transform to the desired angle.
9. Save your work.