



Drawing a Pencil in Illustrator 9 and 10

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Drawing a Pencil with Illustrator

This tutorial was done in Illustrator 10, but it will also work with version 9. Versions before that, I don't know because I don't have any version before 9, so if you try it with a previous version and it does work, please [email me](#) with the version number of Illustrator and any changes you had to make to get it to work. Thanks!

- **Before we start**, change your units preferences to **pixels** by going to **Edit > Preferences > Units and Undo**. Set **General** to **pixels** in the dropdown list. You can work without doing this, but if your preferences are in inches, make sure you type "**360 px**" or whatever (without quote marks) and not just "**360**" or Illustrator will assume you want a 360" (or point or pica or whatever) image. Since I'm making this image for the web, and not print, I'm working in pixels.
- Start a new image in **RGB mode**.
- Go to **View > Grid** to turn on the grid.
- Go to **Edit > Preferences > Guides & Grid** and set up the grid. **Grid every 72 pixels; subdivisions: 4** This will ensure that your document is set up the same as mine.

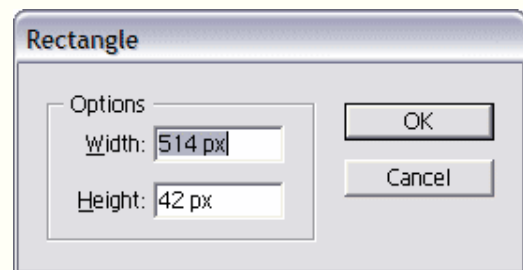
Now we're ready to start.

Pencil Body

Step 1. Click on the **rectangle tool** in the toolbar to activate it and click once on the art board to open the rectangle options.

Enter **514 pixels** for the width and **42 pixels** for the height.

Click **OK**, and the rectangle appears on the artboard.



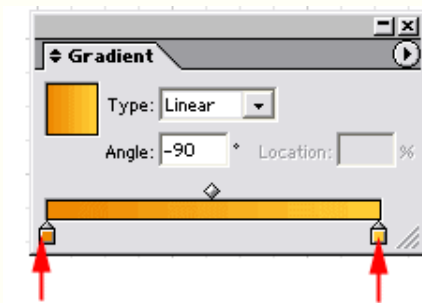
Step 2. Leave the pencil's rectangle selected and change the **fill to a gradient**, and the **stroke to black**.

Set the **stroke width to 0.5** in the **stroke palette**.

Open the **Gradient palette** and set the **type to linear**, and the **angle to -90°**.

Set the left gradient stop to **Red 237-Green 135-Blue 0**.

Set the right gradient stop to **Red 255-Green 204-Blue 51**



R237-G135-B0

R255-G204-B51



ILLUSTRATOR 9 Step 3. Click on the **pen tool**. Click once on one end of the pencil and then hold the shift key. Click once at the other end of the pencil. Set the stroke weight to 0.50 in the stroke palette and duplicate the line.

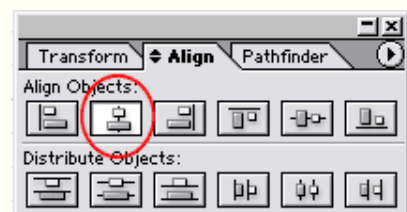
ILLUSTRATOR 10 Step 3. Click on the **Line tool** in the toolbar and then click once on the artboard to open the line options. Enter **514 pixels for the length** and **0° for the angle**. Click **OK**. Copy and paste it so you have two lines. **Note: If you don't see the line tool in Illustrator 10, it may be behind another tool! Look for the arc or polar grid...if you haven't customized the toolbar it should be directly under the pen tool.**

Step 4. Move the lines over the pencil and space them so one is about a third from the top of the pencil and one is about a third from the bottom.



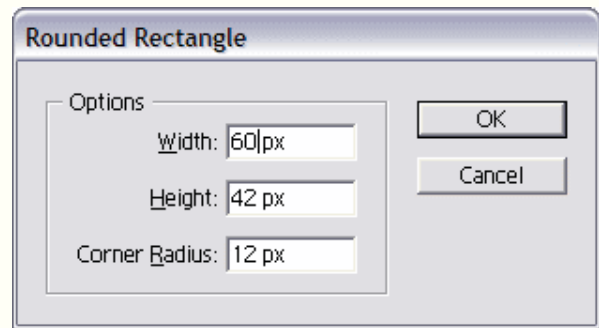
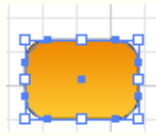
Select the pencil and both lines, and in the Align palette **align them horizontally**.

Then **Object > Group** to keep them together.



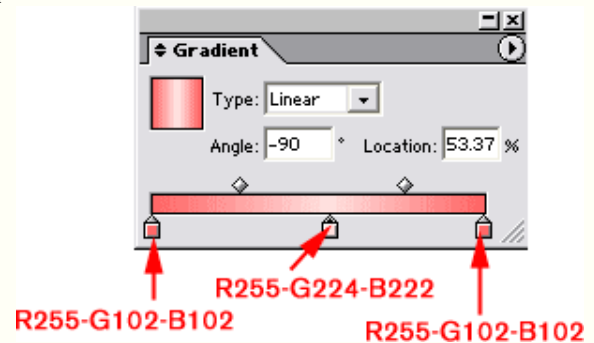
Making the Eraser

Step 5. Select the **Rounded Rectangle** tool in the toolbar. Click once on the artboard to open the options and set the **width to 60**, the **height to 42**, and the **corner radius to 12**. Click **OK**, and the rectangle appears on the artboard.



Step 6. The fill is the last used fill, the pencil gradient. The stroke should still be 0.50. It doesn't look much like an eraser yet. We need to make another gradient. Open the gradient palette. Set the **Type to Linear** and the **angle to -90°**. Set **three gradient stops in these colors:**

- **Left: Red 255, Green 102, Blue 102, at Location 0%**
- **Center: Red 255, Green 224, Blue 222, at Location about 53%**
- **Right: Red 255, Green 102, Blue 102, at Location 100%**

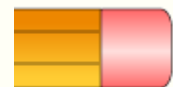


To add the extra gradient stop, just click once on the area below the color ramp about midway between the two original stops.



Step 7. Position the eraser at the right end of the pencil, and keeping it selected, go to **Object > Arrange > Send to Back** so it pops behind the pencil.

Select the eraser and the pencil-lines group and go to **Object > Group** in the menu.



Metal Bands

Step 8. Once again activate the rounded rectangle and click once on the artboard to open the options. Set the options as follows:

- **Width 5 pixels**
- **Height 44 pixels**
- **Corner Radius 12**

Click **OK** and the rectangle appears on the artboard. It's the last used fill so it will be the eraser gradient. We need to change that.

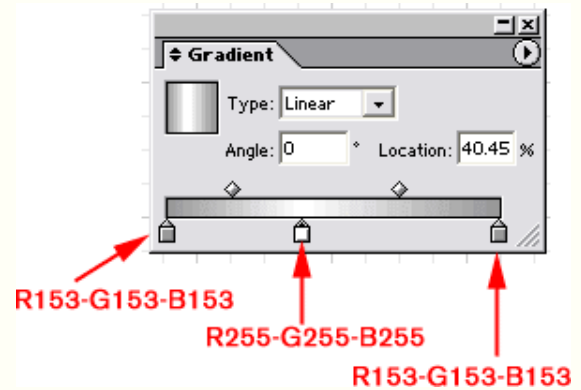
Keep the metal band selected.

Step 9. Open the gradient palette set three stops:

- **At 0% AND 100% set Red 153, Green 153, Blue 153**
- **At about 40% set Red 255, Green 255, Blue 255 (white)**

Set **Type** to **Linear** and **Angle** to **0°**

Now we have a gray metal band.



Step 10. Select the band with the select tool (black arrow) and start to drag it to the right, hold down the ALT and SHIFT keys as you drag to make a copy and keep it moving at a 90° angle, and don't let go till you have the copy to the right and butting up against the original.

Step 11. Type Control +D two times to duplicate the transformation twice and make 4 bands.

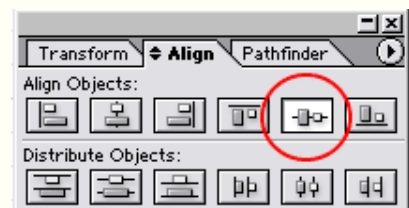
Step 12. Drag a marquee around all four bands to select them and then **group** them.

Step 13. Drag the group of bands to the pencil and position them on top of the pencil and eraser as shown. Select all pieces of the band, pencil and eraser.



Step 14. In the **Align palette**, choose the **vertical align center** button to align the pieces horizontally.

Group all the pieces.

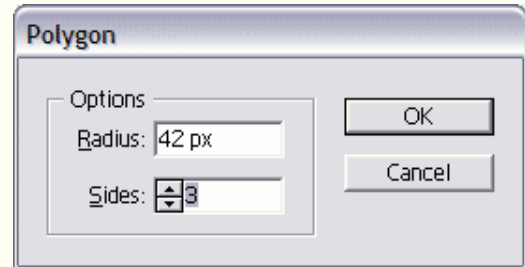




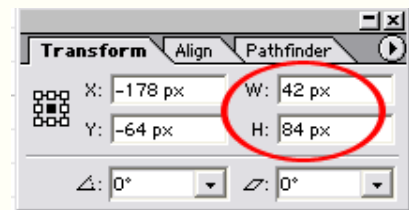
Point and Lead

Step 15. Activate the Polygon tool in the toolbar. (In **Illustrator 9** it's on the ellipse tool flyout, and in **Illustrator 10**, you'll find it in the rectangle tool flyout.) Click once on the artboard to open the polygon options and set the **Radius to 42 pixels** and the **Sides to 3**.

Click **OK**. You'll get this:



Step 16. First we'll fix the size. Keep it selected and open the **transform palette**, and set the width to 42 pixels and the height to 84 pixels. Hit the enter key to set the transformation and your pencil point changes shape to this:



Step 17. Keeping the point selected, go to **Object > Transform > Rotate** and then type **90** in the dialog box. Click **OK**. Leave it selected.



Step 18. Set up a new gradient in the gradient palette with these colors and positions:

- **Red 255-Green 204-Blue 153 at location 0°**
- **Red 255-Green 247-Blue 230 at location 50%**
- **Red 209-Green 166-Blue 130 at location 100%**
- **Type: Linear**
- **Angle 90°**



Press **Enter** to set the fill change.

Lead

Step 19. The lead is a tiny triangle. Use the **polygon** tool to lay down a triangle as before and in the **transform palette**, change the size to **Width: 10 pixels, Height 20 pixels**.

Rotate it 90° as before.

Step 20. Use the **gradient palette** to fill it with a **white at 0%** to **black at 100%** gradient, **linear** type at location **90°**.

Step 21. Position it over the pencil's wood point at the end and align it vertically. Then **group these two pieces**.

Step 22. Drag this group to the pencil and butt it against the left end. Select all pieces of the pencil and the point and align them vertically as before. **Group all the pieces**.



Resizing

Step 23. We made this a bit large so you could see it easily while working on it, particularly the small pieces like the metal bands and the lead. Since Illustrator is a vector program, resizing is as simple as selecting it and grabbing one of the corner handles on the bounding box.

Hold down the shift key to constrain the proportions and drag inward to the size you wish.



For other scaling methods, check out the [Resizing Tips tutorial](#).

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(requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to view)

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June 5, 2002

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