



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



Copyright © 1995-2005
ACD Systems of America, Inc.

Protected by the copyright laws
of United States and Canada
and by international treaties.

Aqua Gel Buttons



Creating Aqua Gel Buttons Fast and Easy Using Canvas

In this tutorial, you will learn how to create aqua gel buttons in just a few steps using Canvas. These buttons have become increasingly popular lately due to the release of Apple's Mac OS X.

Step 1

Creating the Button

First select the the Rounded Rectangular tool from the toolbox. In this example, we use this shape for our aqua button but circles and ovals also work well.



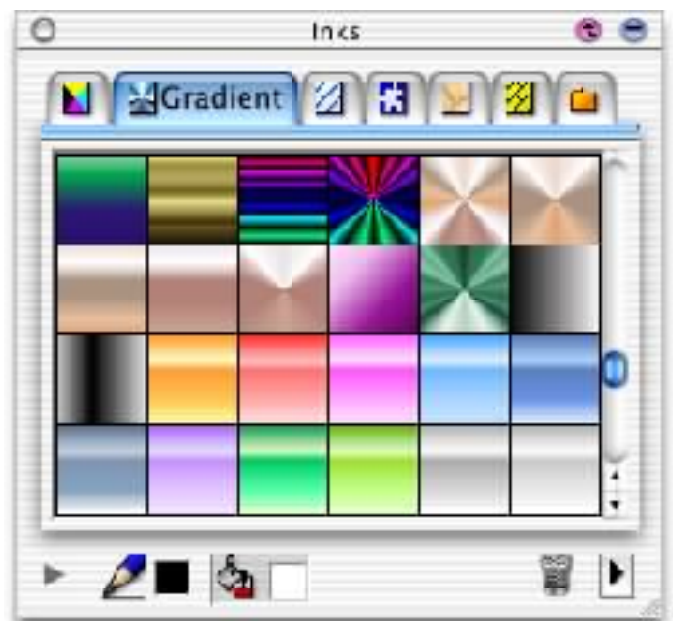
Now drag the Rounded Rectangular tool across and down to create a button similar to the example on the right.



Step 2

Filling the Button

Next, with the button still selected, open your Inks palette (Window > Palettes > Inks). On the Inks palette select the Gradients tab and then click the Ink Managers button on the bottom right of the palette to create the new gradient we will use for our aqua gel button.

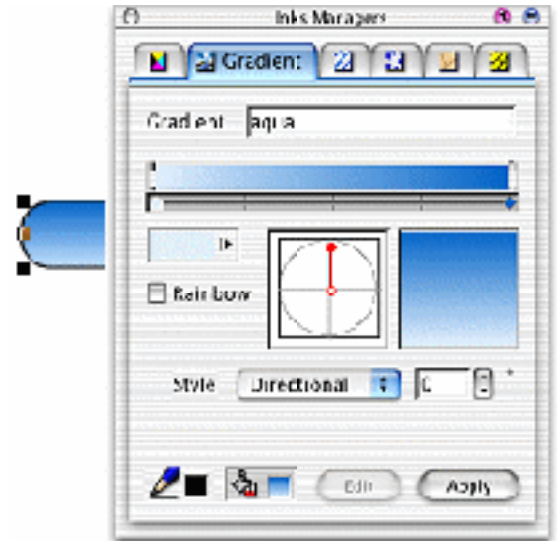


Aqua Gel Buttons (Continued)

Now, click on one of the existing gradients. Change the gradient's name to "aqua". Then, change the style to "directional" and set it at 0 degrees. Clear out any intermediate colors in the gradient sequence bar by clicking on them and dragging them to the sides.

Then, click on the first gradient sequence color on the left and select a color that will represent the lighter portion of your button. You could use a variety of colors but in this example we will use blue to keep in step with the aqua theme. Next, select the gradient on the right and select a color that is a few shades darker than the previous one. When you are satisfied with your color selection press Apply.

Tip: To save your gradient for future use, click on the gradient preview and drag it into your Inks palette.



You should now have a button that looks like the example on the right.

If your button has a stroke, you can remove it via the Strokes palette. With the button selected, open the Strokes palette from the toolbox and choose No Stroke.



Step 3

Creating the Highlights

Next we will create the highlight that will give the button a wet appearance.

To create a highlight, first click on the button you just created in the previous step. Then select Offset Path (Effects > Offset Path) to open the Offset Path palette. Set the distance to -3 and 1 copy then press OK. This will create a smaller duplicate copy of your button.



Aqua Gel Buttons (Continued)

Now select the button you just created by clicking on it and change the fill color to white by using the Fill Ink palette in the toolbox. Your buttons should look like the example on the right.



Next, select the Directional Transparency Tool from the toolbox. Now click on the white button and drag the mouse upward until you get a highlight effect similar to our example



Tip: To keep the Directional Transparency Tool aligned vertically, hold down the shift key while dragging the tool.

Step 4

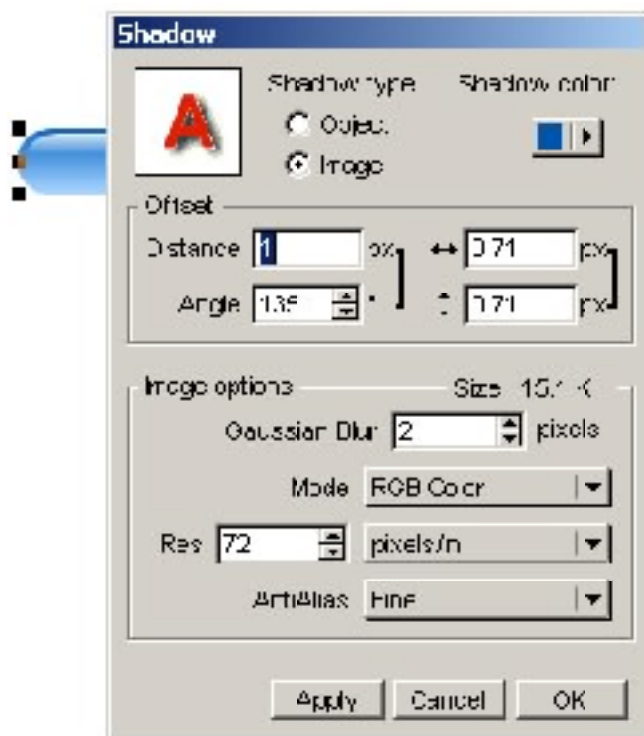
Adding a Shadow

Now we will add a shadow to our button to give it more of a realistic appearance.

Simply click on the aqua button and open the Shadow Palette (Effect > Shadow). For Shadow Type select Image, then choose a color for your shadow. Set the distance to 1 pixel and the angle to 135. Next give it a Gaussian Blur of 2 and make sure the AntiAlias is set to Fine. When you are done press OK

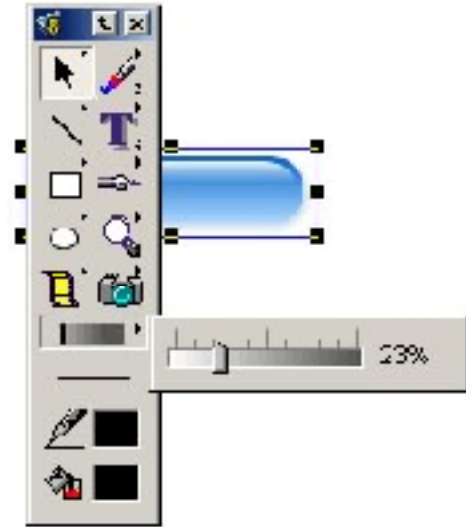


Button with Shadow Applied



Aqua Gel Buttons (Continued)

Next with the shadow still selected, click on the Opacity Slider and lower the opacity of the shadow to give it a soft transparent appearance.



Button with shadow applied

Step 5

Adding Text

Now we are going to add text to our aqua button. Select a font that is thick and big for best results.

Place the text over the button we created earlier in this tutorial.

HOME



Now select the highlight object we created in Step 3 and bring it to the front (Object > Arrange > Bring to Front).

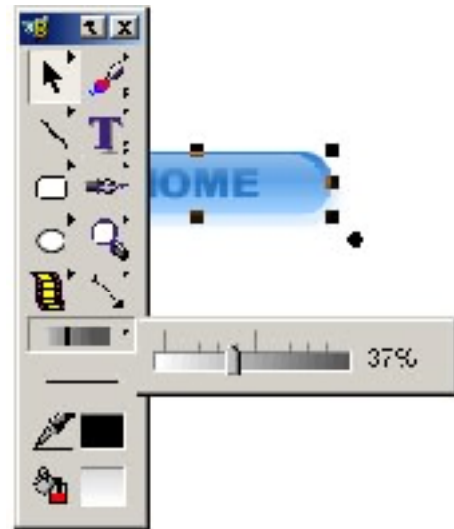


Aqua Gel Buttons (Continued)

Next, select the original button created in step 1 and duplicate the object (Windows Ctrl+D, Mac Command+D)

With the duplicated button still selected click on the Opacity Slide and lower the opacity until the text behind it becomes visible and place it behind the highlight object by selecting Object > Arrange > Shuffle Down.

This step will give you the illusion that the text is being viewed through the aqua button.



This is your completed aqua gel button. As seen in the examples below, there are many ways that aqua buttons can be used to add a clean, futuristic look to all kinds of different projects.



The completed aqua button

