



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



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Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Give your vector illustrations the look of hand-drawn artwork.



Have you ever wished that your digital illustrations had more of a natural hand-drawn appearance instead of the perfect smooth lines of Bezier curves? Well this is easily achieved by applying Canvas' Fractalize effects to your simple vector objects.

This tip is great for illustrators who combine traditional with digital illustration all in one project. Anyone can "customize" a digital illustration (even commercial clip art!) with these few steps.

Step 1

This is a great tip for adding a finishing touch to your vector illustrations. Canvas' Fractalize filter creates random, rough edges, which gives your project the illusion of hand-drawn traditional artwork. Try this on art used for invitations, posters or even editorial illustrations.

For this example, I used the stars in the night sky of a children's book illustration to show the application of the Fractalize filter. The stars for this project were drawn using the Multigon tool, found in the Toolbox (double-click on the yellow Star icon to access the Multigon palette).

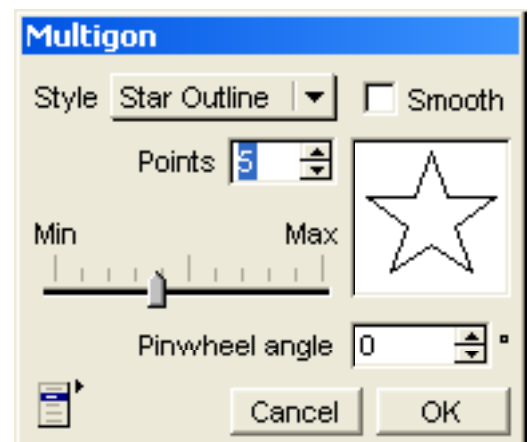
Once you've created the star multigon, convert the object to paths. With the star selected, choose Object>Path>Convert to Paths... This is an important step, since Fractalize will not work on a Multigon shape unless it is converted to outlines (paths) first.

Tip:

This technique is a great way to make commercial clip art illustrations look more original and fresh!



Simple objects such as this star created with the Canvas' Multigon tool can take on a completely new appearance by applying filters such as Fractalize.



The Multigon Palette with the settings for a basic star shape.

Give your vector illustrations the look of hand-drawn artwork (Continued)

Step 2

To apply the Fractalize filter, select the star shape and choose Fractalize from the Effects menu. Experiment with the "Wiggle" and "Density" setting for your desired results. I used 5 for each to create the lightly altered star on the right.



The Settings:

Wiggle - Refers to how far away the line is altered from the original position. The higher the number, the wider the new shape will be.

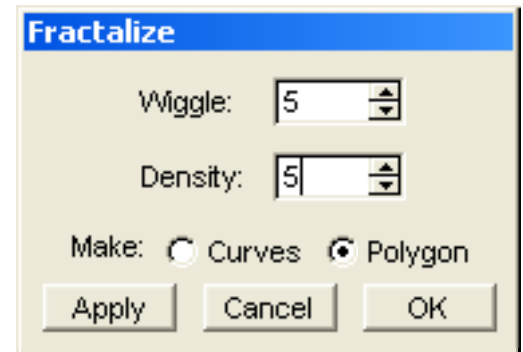
Density- Refers to how many Wiggles in a given segment. The higher the number, the more condensed the line alteration. Note: High Density greatly increases the points, so use the Reduce Points from the Object menu for better results if your final objective is a laser or other type of printer.

Making Curves or Polygons:

You can choose to create Bezier curves for a more rounded appearance or straight line segments for more pointed edges.

Another Option:

Here's another star with a much higher Wiggle and Density settings.

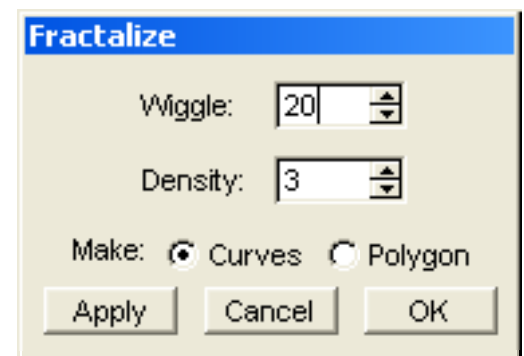


Choose Effects>Fractalize... and play with the settings for the desired results.



Tip:

Try several variations of the same setting before clicking OK. Just click on the Apply button several times and Canvas displays a new option each time.



Try higher Wiggle and Density settings for a shakier appearance to your vector objects. Be sure to experiment to see what works best.

Give your vector illustrations the look of hand-drawn artwork (Continued)

Step 3

Next, I chose a few shades of yellow to apply to the different stars and removed the strokes.

Use the same methods as in steps 1-2 to complete your illustration. For this example, the loose, hand-drawn appearance was perfect for a children's story book illustration.

To finish the stars, I used a selection of different stars on a dark blue gradient sky. Next, I applied bright yellow image drop shadows by selecting the Shadow... tool from the Effects menu. The yellow shadow color gave the stars a soft glow. I also applied Fractalize to the rest of the objects using several different settings.

On the right is the basic drawing before I applied the Fractalize filter to add a natural line and soften the look of the illustration.

Below is the close-up of the completed illustration including the "hand-drawn" stars. Notice that all the line art has been altered for the final.



Left: Use the Freeform tool from the Effects menu to quickly rotate the stars for variety. If you use the Freeform tool a lot, then be sure to first set the Preferences in the Edit menu (Edit>Preferences>General Tab) to automatically access the Freeform tool with a slow-double click on any object.

Right: the completed stars with soft shadows.



Give your vector illustrations the look of hand-drawn artwork (Continued)



Howard Hoots Hello!