



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



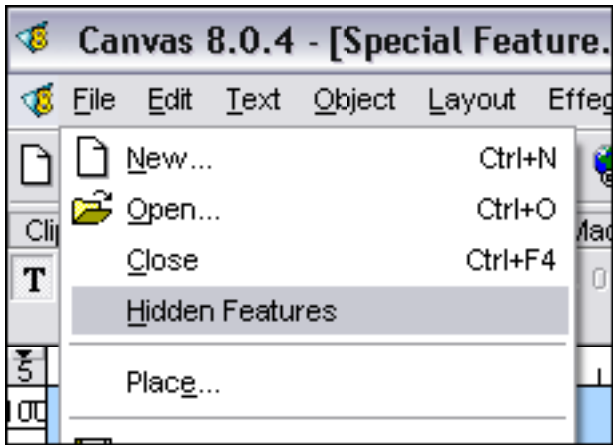
Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



**Deneba
Creative Department**

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Hidden Features

Discover the many hidden and little-known features in Canvas and improve your overall mastery in this informative Canvas special.

If you are like many Canvas users, given enough time you will stumble onto some special or little-known feature. While some of these may be very trivial in nature, others could completely change the way you work in Canvas.

In this special article, we will expose some of Canvas' hidden secrets that, until now, were only thought to be known by a small select few (or hidden deep in the manual). Be warned! After learning some of these secret functions, you may never look at Canvas the same way.

Tip #1

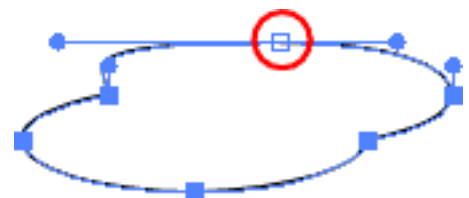
Independent Tangent Lines

In this first section, we will discuss two little known, but useful, tidbits regarding Canvas' Drawing tools.

Sometimes you may have a curved object or path like the one on the right that you want to modify by dragging one of the handles independently of the other.

To do this, you first need to put the object into edit mode by double-clicking on it. The anchor points will appear as small blue boxes when in edit mode.

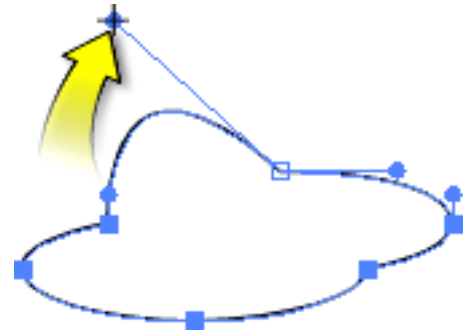
Next, select an anchor point to reveal its tangent line and handles.



Click on anchor point

Hidden Features (Continued)

Now, while holding down the TAB key, drag the handle. Your handle will move without affecting the tangent line on the other side of the anchor point.



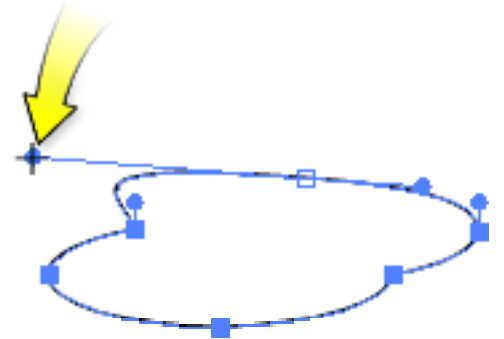
Hold TAB key while dragging handle

Tip #2

Locking the Tangent Lines

There are two ways to undo the independent movement of the tangent line and handles after performing the above mentioned techniques.

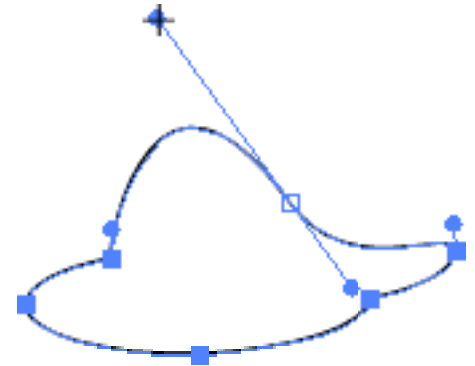
The first way is to move one of the handles parallel to its opposing neighbor, then simply release the mouse button.



Straighten tangent line and release

The second way is to hold down the TAB key while clicking and releasing the mouse button. This will cause the other side of the tangent line to straighten out.

To learn more about tangent line and handles, [see our tutorial on paths and curves](#).



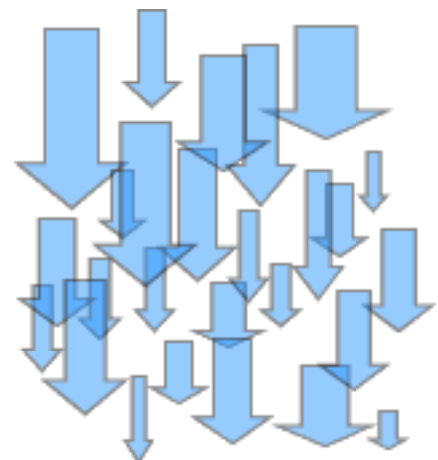
Hold TAB while clicking on handle

Tip #3

Retain Selected Tool

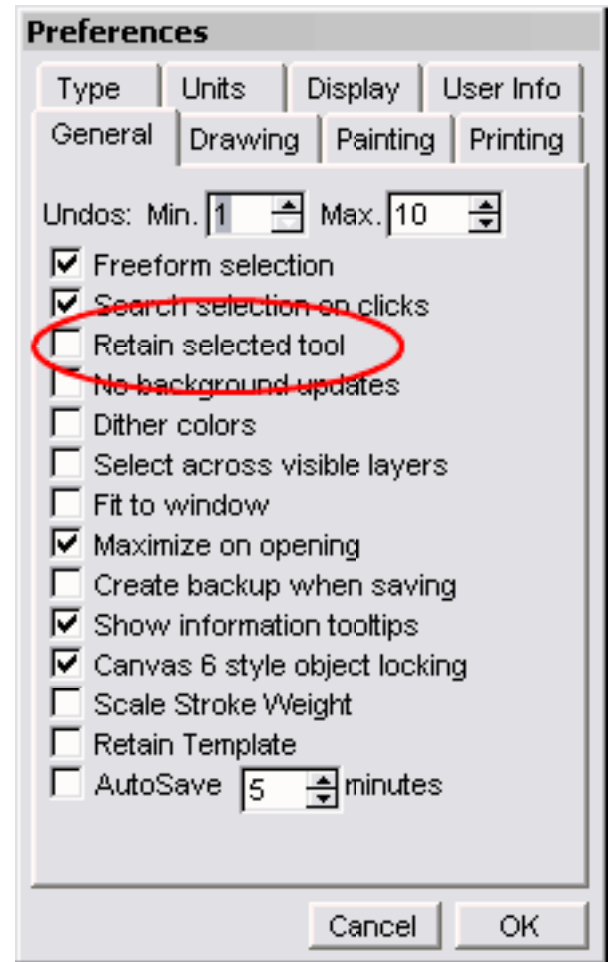
Have you ever wished there was an easy way to retain a selected tool so you could use it repeatedly without having to reselect it over and over again?

Let's say you wanted to make a group of random sized arrows like the one in our example.



Hidden Features (Continued)

One way to keep the Easy Shape tool retained is to go to File > Preferences and select Retain Selected Tool on the General tab.

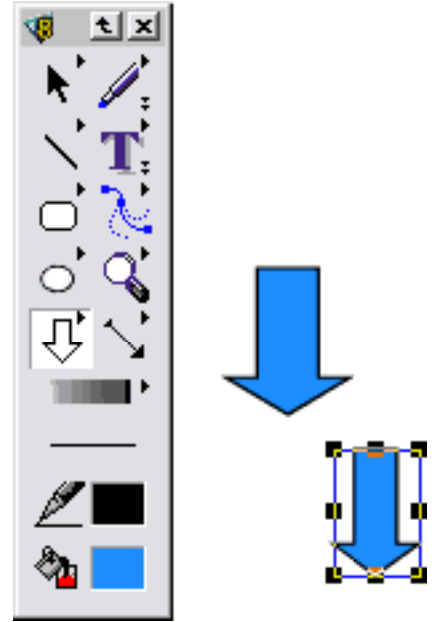


An easier way is to select the Easy Shape tool and then quickly double-clicking the tool again. You will hear a low bell sound to confirm the change. This function will work exactly the same as if you would have used the Preferences dialog box method. This function affects all tools.



Hidden Features (Continued)

Now you could use the Easy Shape tool or any other tool over and over without having to reselect it.



To disable this function, just double-click on any tool. You will hear a high pitch bell to confirm that the change has taken place. Now you could use the tool like normal.

In addition, you could also access the Preferences dialog box and deselect Retain Selected Tool.

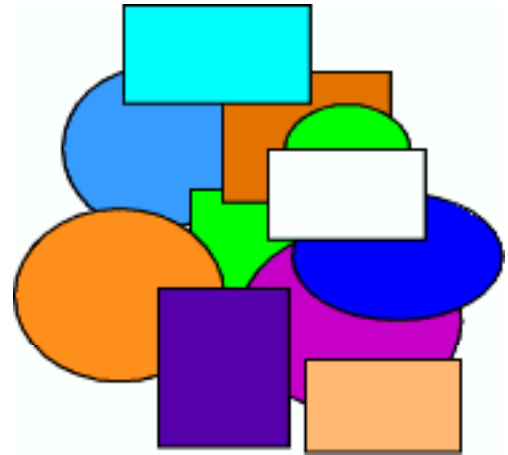


Tip #4

Selecting All Like Objects

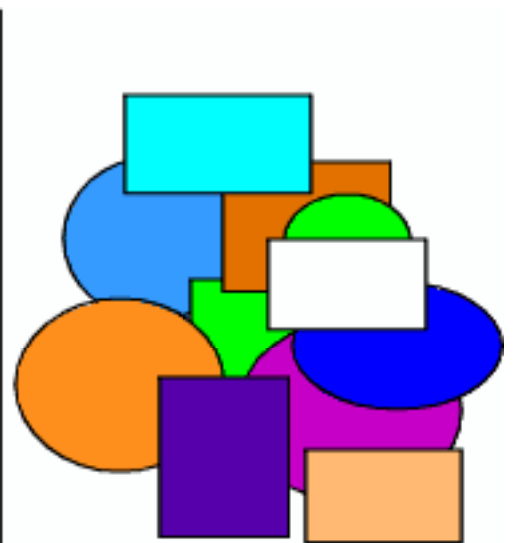
Another little-known feature in Canvas is the ability to select all objects created with a similar tool, such as circles, rectangles, text, etc.

In this example, we want to select the circles created with the Oval tool from the jumble of different objects.



To do this, simply click on the tool used to create the objects you want to select. In this case, we click on the Oval tool. Then choose Edit > Select All.

The keyboard shortcut for Select All is Ctrl + A (Windows) or Command + A (Mac OS).



All of the circles should now be selected.

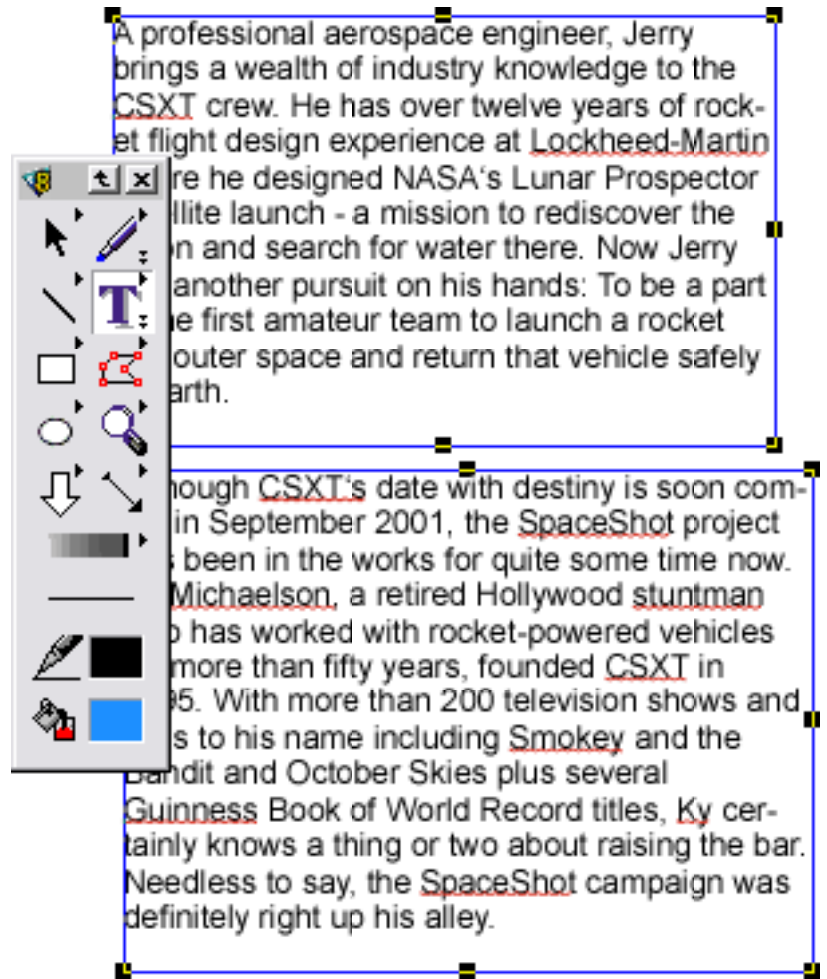


Note: This function may not work if the objects have been modified.



Hidden Features (Continued)

The same techniques work equally as well on text objects.



Tip #5

Useful Paint Commands

When using the Sprite Tool in Canvas to apply a mask to an object or image you may find yourself having to first change your colors to black and white. Sometimes, you may also need to swap the black and white colors in the palettes to fix something you accidentally masked.

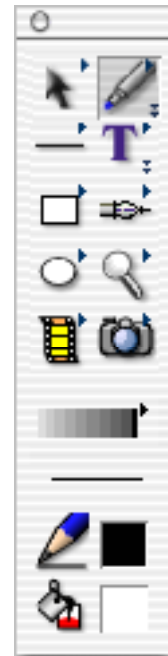
On the right is the Toolbox with the red and blue set as the default colors in the Inks palette.



Hidden Features (Continued)

By simply pressing the ` key, the default inks will revert to black and white, which are needed to effectively mask an image when using the Sprite tool.

Remember when using the Sprite tool to mask an object or image, any section that you paint black using a Paint tool will become transparent.



Note: For this feature to work in Mac OS X, the image must be in paint edit mode and the Paint tool must be selected and active.

Color swapping is another helpful feature when using the Sprite tool to mask an object. You may find that in the course of masking an object, you inadvertently masked a section that was supposed to remain visible. By pressing the X key, the colors in your Inks palette will swap. Now, you could use one of the Paint tools to paint the section of the image or object white.

As you may have guessed it, painting a previously masked area white will make it visible again.



Tip #6

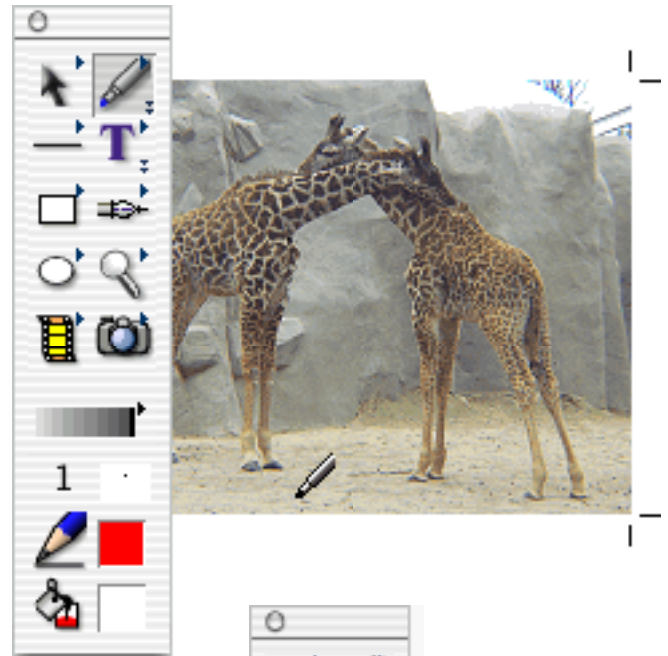
Color Picking

Here is the scenario: you are working on an image in Paint-edit mode and decide you want to pick up one of the colors in the image to cover up an imperfection.

Normally, you would select the Color Dropper tool. Click on the section of the image that has the color you want. Then, you go back to the Paint tool and proceed to use the newly acquired color.

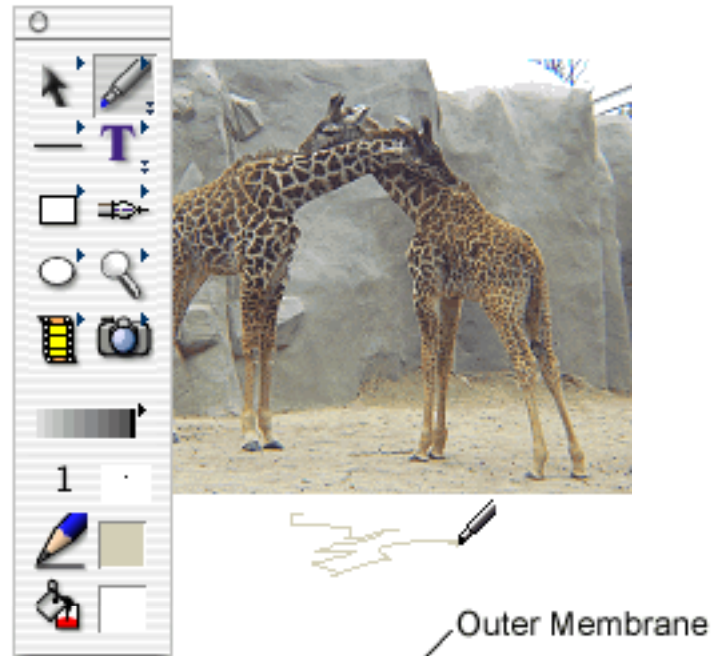
An easier way is to simply hold down the Alt key (Windows) or Command key (Mac OS) while in paint-edit mode.

By holding down these modifiers keys, you will notice your Paint tool will become a Color Dropper. Now, while the Color Dropper is active, click on the image to pick up the color.



Hidden Features (Continued)

Upon release of the modifier key, the cursor will revert back to the previously selected Paint tool, at which point you could continue to paint using the newly acquired color.



Tip #7

Selecting Layer Objects

Sometimes when working with multi-layered Canvas files, you may find it necessary to select objects on different layers. You may need to change the placement of an object or modify it in some other way.

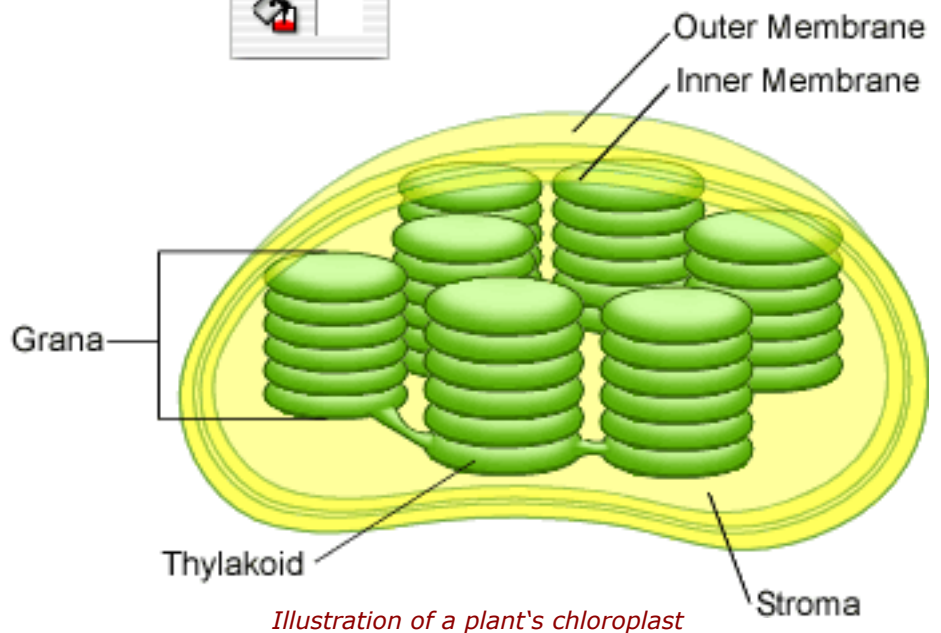
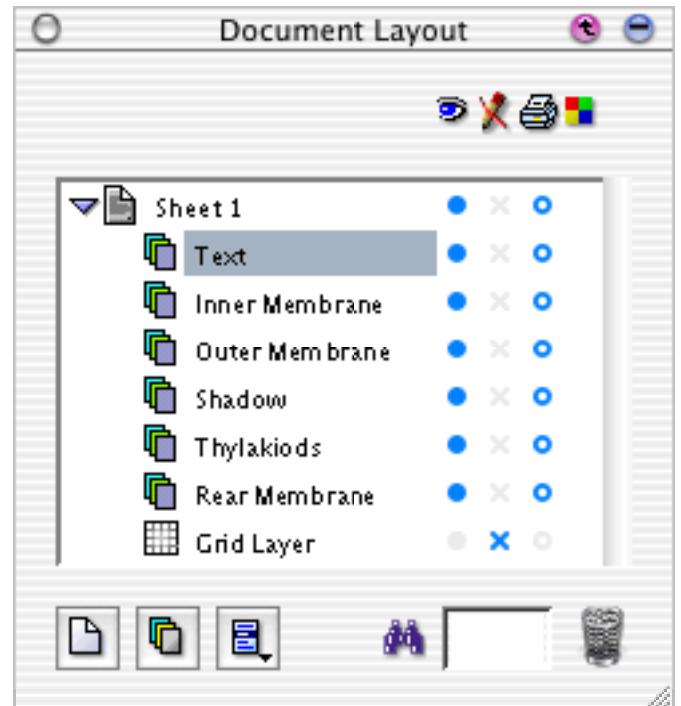


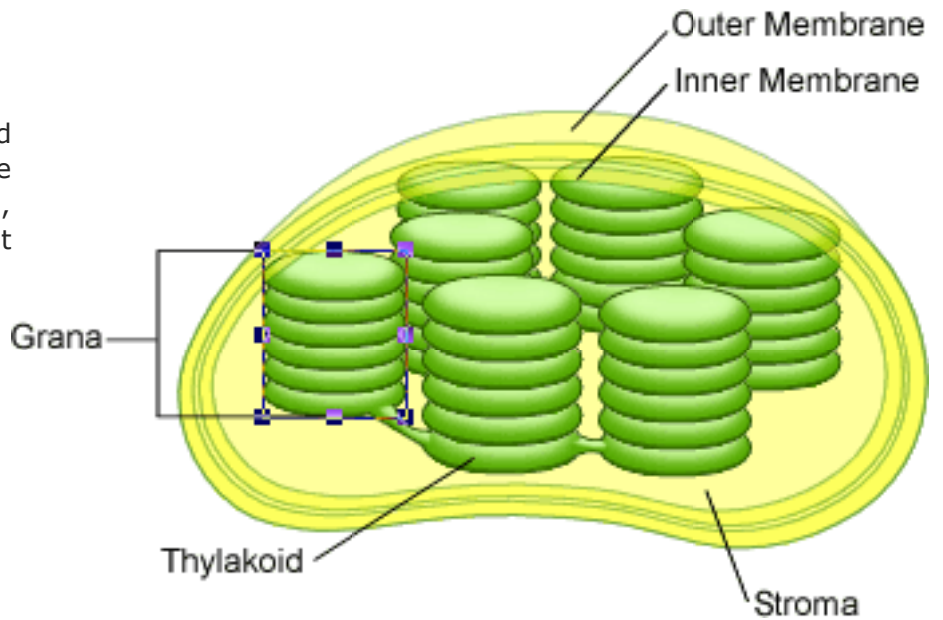
Illustration of a plant's chloroplast

The traditional way of selecting objects on different layers is to first open the Document Layout palette by choosing Layout > Document Layout. Once the palette appears, you would need to expand the sheet or slide you are working on to view the available layers. Once they are in view, you could choose the appropriate layer and go back to the work area and select the object using the Selection tool.

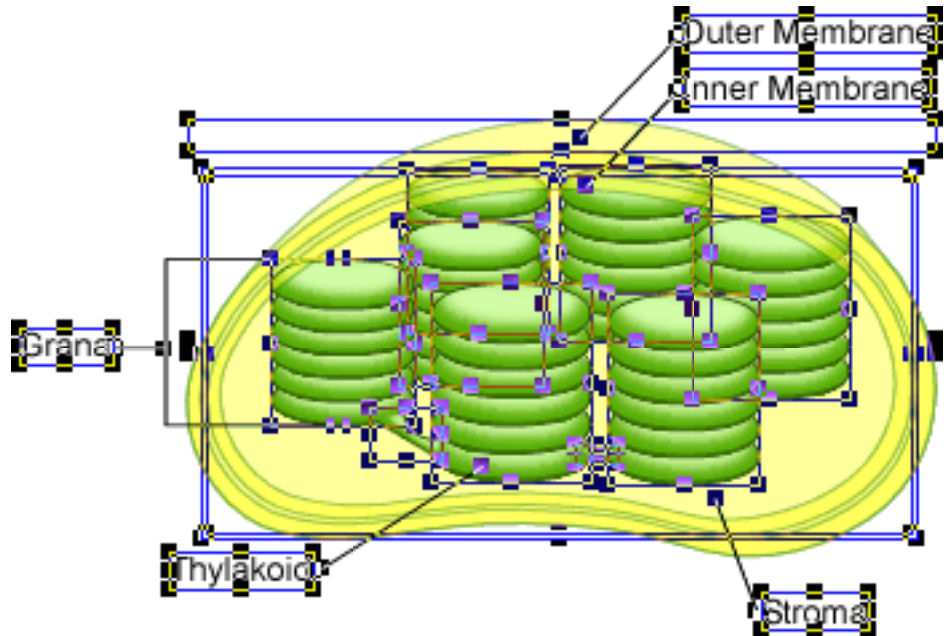


Hidden Features (Continued)

The easy way to do this is to simply hold down the TAB key while clicking on the object you want to select. Once selected, you could move or modify the object regardless of which layer you are on.



To take it a step further, while holding down the TAB key, you could drag the Selection tool diagonally across the entire illustration to simultaneously select every object on every layer. By selecting everything at once, it is possible to move the entire illustration without fear of it falling apart or the objects losing their position.



You could even make color changes to the entire illustration in one step.

As you may well know, there are many more examples of hidden features in Canvas that you will probably run across in your everyday use. The examples listed are among some of the most useful features that could save you valuable production time.

