



Corporate Flow



Illustration



Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



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Creative Department**

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Creating Holiday Postcards

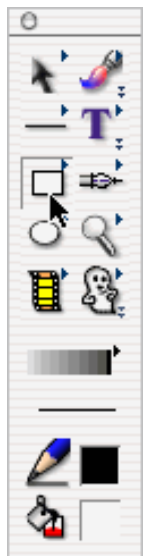


Create custom holiday postcards using Canvas 8

You will discover how to create classic holiday graphics, add your own images, and even get tips on how to print your postcards in this fun and seasonal tutorial.

In this first step we will create holly. Holly is commonly used in holiday layouts because of the festive colors in the leaves and berries.

Step 1



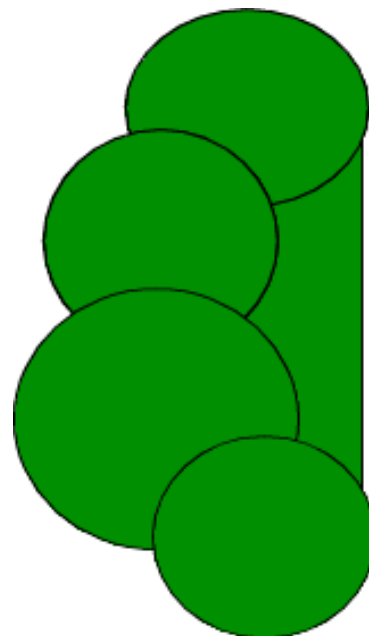
Creating Holly Leaves

We start this exercise by selecting the Rectangle tool from the Toolbox and create a rectangle like the example on the right.



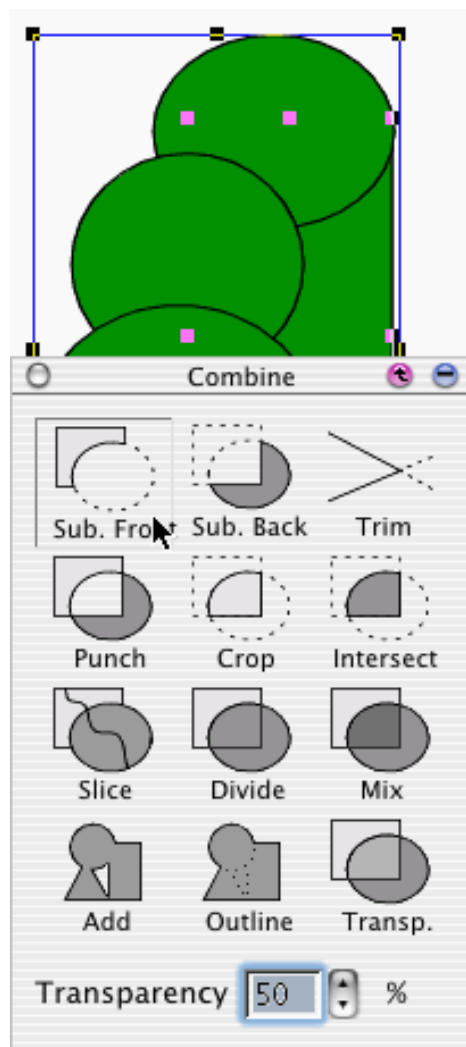
Next, using the Oval tool from the Toolbox create several circles and place them partially on top of the rectangle to create a half leaf shape.

Now, select all the circles by clicking on each one while holding down the Shift key and group them (Windows Ctrl+G or Mac Command+G).



Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Select both the grouped circles and the rectangle (Shift+click), then open the Combine palette (Effects>Combine) and choose "Subtract Front". Your resulting image should be a half leaf like the example below.



Step 2

Now, click on the half leaf and duplicate it (Windows Ctrl+D or Mac Command+D).



Now, flip the duplicated leaf (Effects> Flip > Horizontal) and position it next to the other leaf half to create a complete leaf.



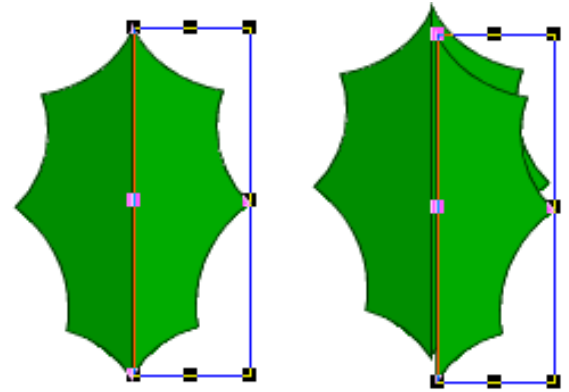
Note: We selected a lighter shade of green for the second leaf half to give our leaf a realistic lighting effect.

Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Step 3

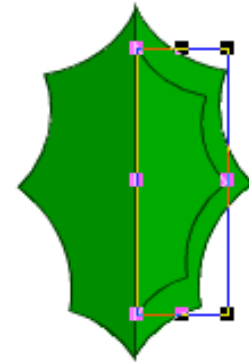
Creating Highlights

Next, select one of the leaf halves and duplicate it (Windows Ctrl+D or Mac Command+D).

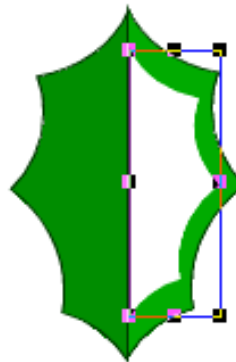


Select a leaf half and duplicate it.

Drag one of the corners of the duplicated leaf to reduce its size and position it inside the larger leaf.



Using the Fill Ink palette change the leaf's color to white and remove the stroke. Then, add a gaussian blur by choosing Object > SpriteEffects > Add Effect > Blur > Gaussian Blur from the menu bar.



Change the fill ink to white and remove the stroke. Then apply gaussian blur to simulate a highlight

Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Duplicate the blurred highlight you just created. Flip it horizontally and change the fill ink to black to represent a shadow.

Tip: You might want to increase the transparency of the highlight and shadow by clicking on the Opacity Slider in the Toolbox and moving the slider to get a natural looking lighting effect.



Step 4

Adding Details

Finally add veins on the leaf using the Auto Curve tool. Make sure you remove the fill ink. Your resulting image should be similar to the example on the right.



In this next section, we will create the berries that go with the leaves you just made.

Step 1

Creating the Berries

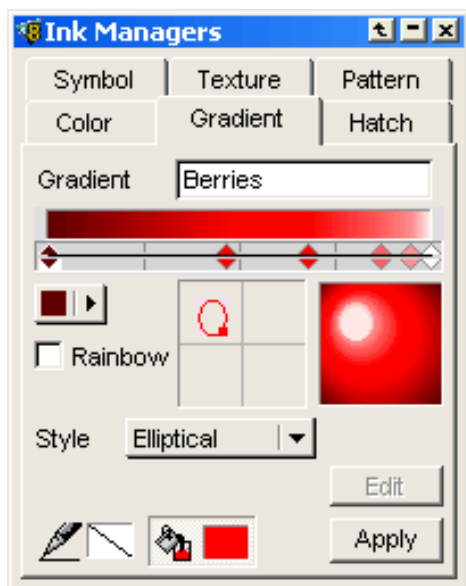
The berries are easily created using the Oval tool. First make a circle like the one on the right.



Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Step 2

Now, with the circle still selected, open the Inks palette and click on the Gradients tab. Click on the Ink Manager button to open the Inks Manager palette. Create a gradient similar to the one below and name it Berries.



The completed holly berry.

Finally, we put together a collection of leaves and berries to create this arrangement. Use varying sizes of leaves and berries for a realistic look.

Adding a shadow (Effects > Shadow) also brings life to the illustration.



The completed festive holly.

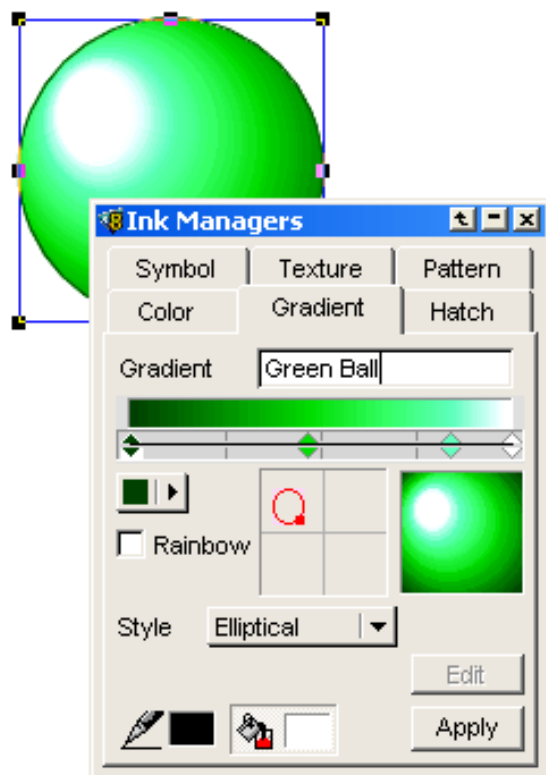
Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Step 1

Making Christmas Balls



To make Christmas balls first create a circle using the Oval tool in the Toolbox. Change the fill ink to a gradient similar to the one in the holly example.

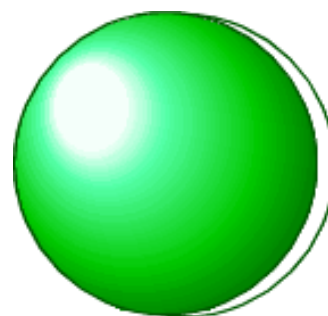
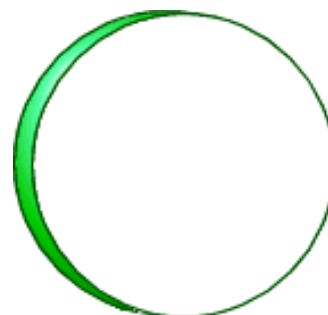


Step 2

Next, duplicate the circle you just created and change the fill ink to white.

Note: Your circles should actually be placed directly over each other. They are displayed offset in this example to make this exercise easier to understand.

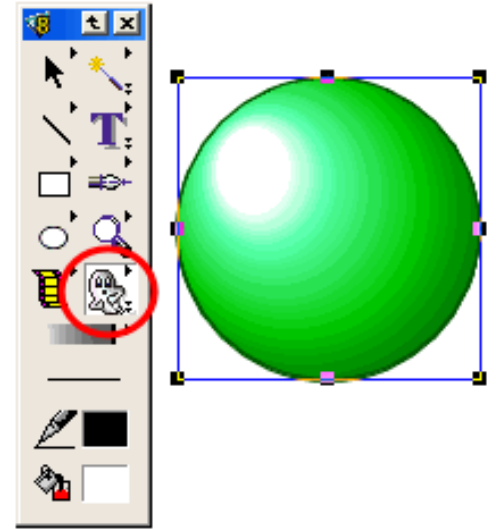
Send the duplicated circle to the back (Object > Arrange > Send to back). Again make sure they are perfectly aligned on top of each other.



Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

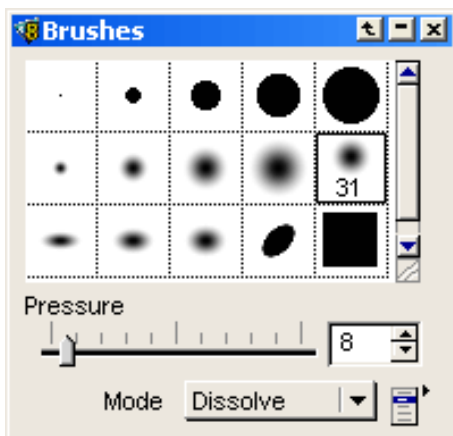
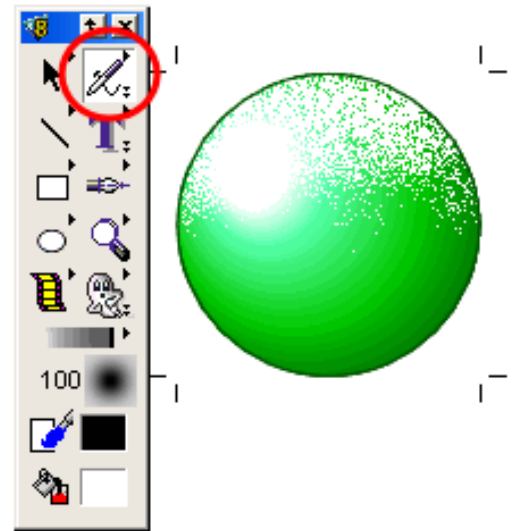
Step 3

Next, select the Sprite tool from the Toolbox and click on the first (green) circle.



Now, select the Airbrush tool from the Toolbox and select a large size brush from the Brushes palette. Change the Airbrush pressure to 8 and the mode to Dissolve. When you are ready simply use the Airbrush tool to make parts of your Christmas ball transparent and reveal the white duplicated ball behind it. This effect will simulate snow on your Christmas ball.

When you are done, group the objects to keep them from losing their placement.

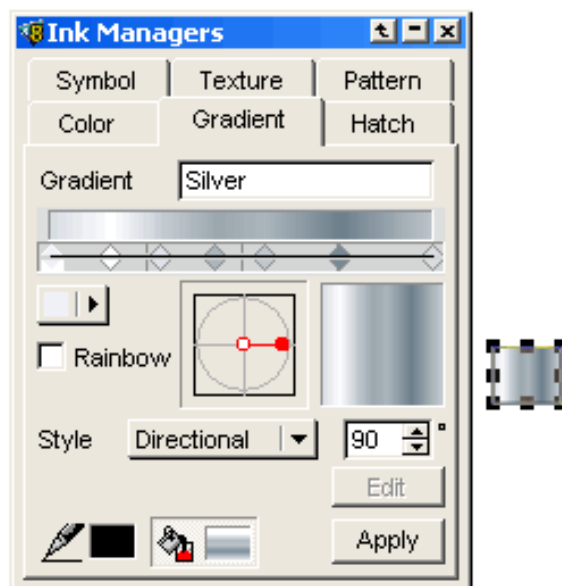


Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

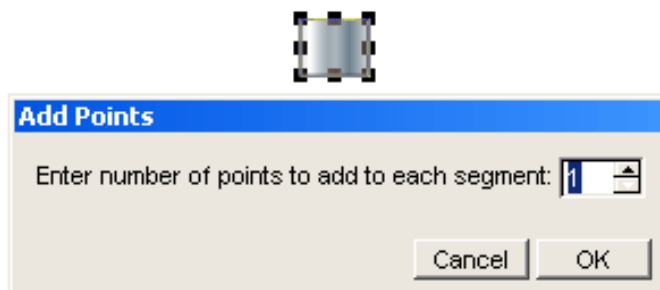
Step 4

Adding Metal Hangers

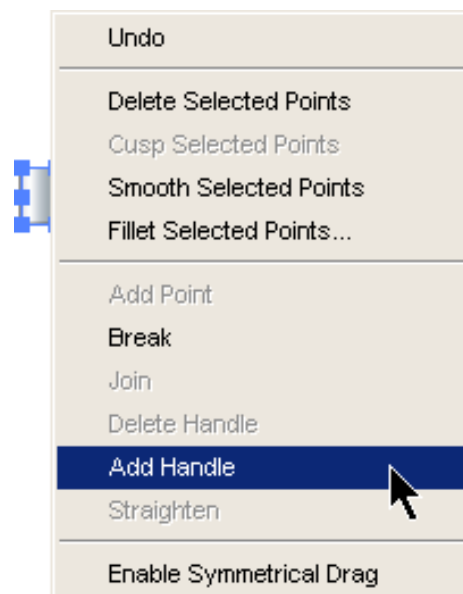
To create the metal hangers first create a small rectangle and apply a metallic gradient as a fill ink.



Next, select the rectangle and convert it to paths (Object > Path > Convert to Paths). Once the rectangle has been converted to paths we will add points to give it a rounded angled look. To add points, select the object then choose Object > Path > Add Points. Enter "1" as the number of points to add.



Now, double-click on the rectangle to get into object edit mode. Select the two center points and right click (Windows) or Control+click (Mac) and add handles to both center points.



Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

With the rectangle still in object edit mode, click on one of center points to which you just added handles and drag it down a little or use the down arrow key. Repeat this step on the second point you added handles to.

The resulting image will be a rectangle with a downward curved top and bottom.

Now, using the Oval tool from the Toolbox, create a metal colored oval to place on top of the rectangle. Group both objects together to keep their placement.

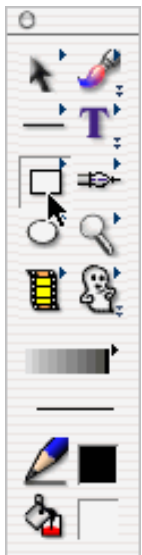
Finally place the metal rectangle on top of the ball you created to complete your Christmas ball.



Now that you have learned how to create holiday images lets put it all together and create a card. Below is an example of a holiday card with a family image added to give it a personal touch.

Step 1

Creating the Background



To create the background we first select the Rectangle Tool from the Toolbox and drag it diagonally to create a rectangle like the one in our example.

For this exercise we choose an Ink Fill texture (Texture 23 in Canvas 8's Inks palette) that would work well with the objects we created earlier. Make your rectangle 8.5 X 5.5 inches (612 X 396 pixels). It is easy to resize your rectangle by selecting it and choosing Objects> Object Specs from the menu bar. When the

Object Specs dialog box opens enter the dimensions and press Apply.



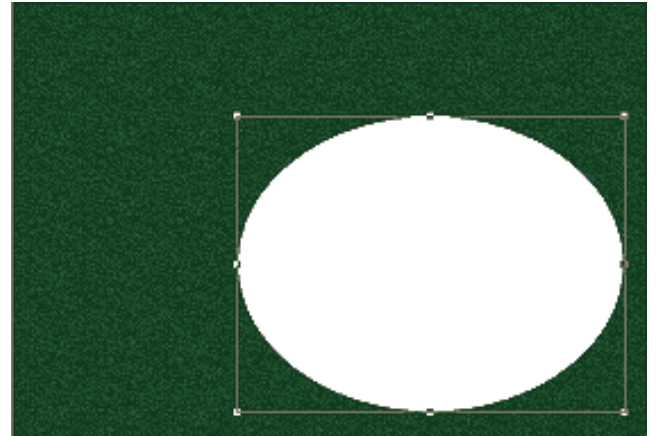
Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

Step 2

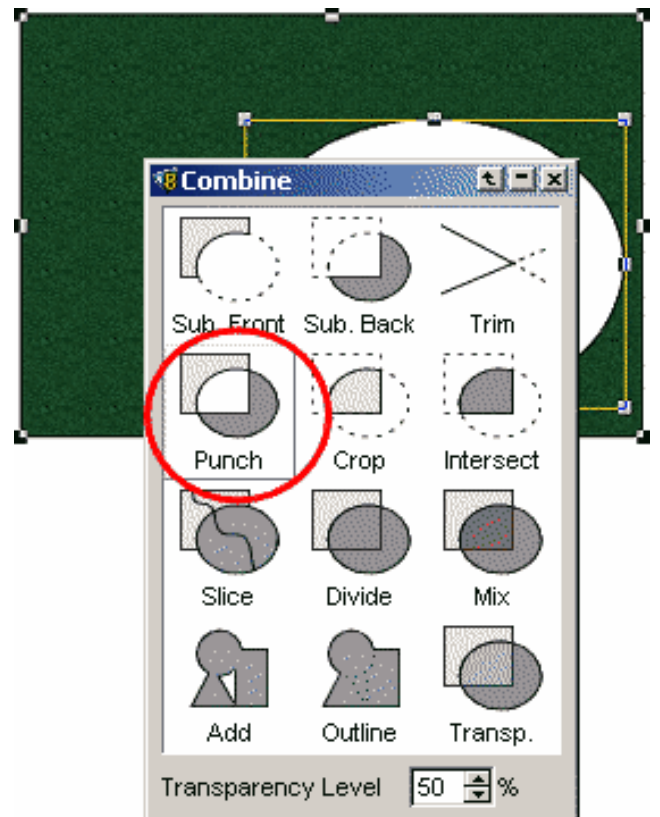
Punching a Hole in your Background



Now create an oval using the Oval Tool and place it inside the rectangle you just created in the previous step.



Next, select both the oval and the rectangle and open the Combine palette (Effects > Combine) and select "Punch". This will create a oval shaped hole inside of the rectangle.



Creating Holiday Postcards (Continued)

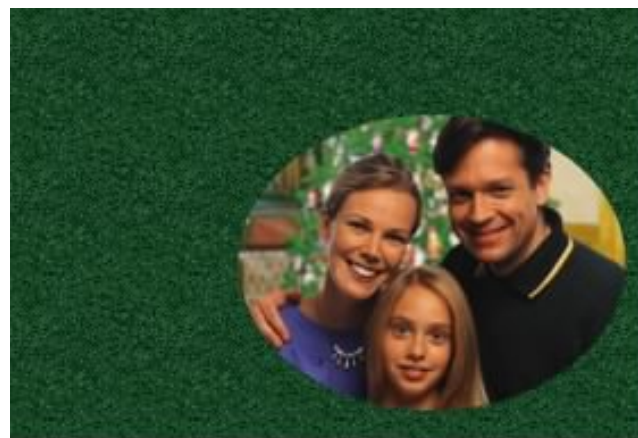
Step 3

Adding an Image

Now you are ready to add an image to your holiday card layout. To bring your image into Canvas go to File> Place in the menu bar and select the image you want to use from your hard drive, CD or anywhere else your favorite pictures may be stored. In this case we are using a picture of a family in front of a Christmas tree.



Place the picture on top of the rectangle and with the image still selected, choose Object> Arrange> Send to Back from the menu bar. This will place your image behind the rectangle. The may need to resize the image to fit the opening in the rectangle.



Step 4

Decorating your Card

Now you are ready to decorate your card with some of the objects we created earlier. For best results use a variation of colors and sizes.

Add shadows to your Christmas balls and holly berries by selecting them and choosing Effects> Shadow from the menu bar.

Tip: It is a good idea to keep object such as the holly berries and Christmas balls grouped to prevent them from separating.



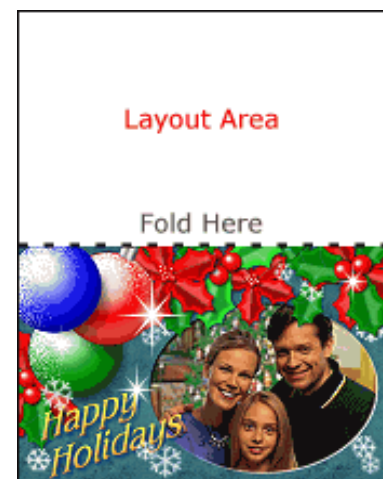
We wrap this project up by adding some text and snow flakes to our layout.



Printing Tips

When printing your holiday cards, there are some things to keep in mind.

- Use high resolution images 300 PPI or better for high quality prints.
- Keep important objects and images away from the edges. Plan your design to have a 1/8 inch border on most printers if you are printing your card to a full or half page
- Color laser printer owners may want to print their cards without a border or edge to edge (full bleed). If your printer has this capability, you must extend you holiday card layout at least 1/8 inch over the layout area. This will ensure that none of the edges are cut off.
- A quick way to design a folding card is to select a document size of 8.5 X 11 inches or Letter Size. Now, design a card that is 8.5 X 5.5 inches in size. Render the card and place it on the lower half of your layout area (see example on the right). Once the card is printed simply fold the paper in half.



Web Tips

Instead of printing, you may want to share your creation over the Internet or e-mail it to a friend. This is easily done by using the Camera tool. Using the Camera tool, drag your mouse to select the area you wish to render. You will be presented with the Render Images dialog box. For best results, make sure the resolution is set to 72 pixels per inch and the anti-alias is set to coarse.

Once your image is rendered you are ready to export it. To export your image select Image > Export > GIF/JPEG from the menu bar.

