

How to Make A Symmetric Design Using Live Mirror in Illustrator

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVt782RyvQ&t=228s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQxkccf4Oac&t=94s>

1. Create a **new document** I'll make it **800 by 600 pixels**.
2. Go to Window > Workspace > Essentials Classic then go to Menu > View > Smart Guides.
3. With the Pen Tool (no fill and a black stroke), **create a vertical line** in the center of the document holding the Shift Key. Align it to the Pasteboard vertically and horizontally.
4. Open the Layers Palette and rename this layer 1 "**Guide**" and lock it.
5. **Create a new layer** then with the pen tool **create a horizontal line** across the document. (hold Shift Key)
6. Select the line by **clicking on little circle on the Layer** to select the whole layer. Choose align objects to the artboard. Then, click on Vertical Align Center and then click on the Horizontal Align Center option from the Align Panel.
7. Go to Menu > Effect > Distort and Transform > Transform.
8. Check the **Reflect X** box and set the **copies value to 1**, and then press ok.
9. Then Click on the arrow (downward) in the layers panel and **make the line layer invisible** by clicking on its eyeball.
10. You have your symmetry template so anything that you draw on the right side of the canvas will be reflected on the left side. Name the layer "**Symmetry**."
11. You can use this method to illustrate one of your sketches by pasting your drawing on a new layer. (Cmd + C, Cmd + V)
12. Bring the layer to the bottom of the stacking order with the sketch image selected .(Below guides)
13. Click on horizontal align Center now decrease the opacity to the level you want so you can see when drawing on top of it.
14. Lock the layer to make everything clear.
15. Name the layer. Everything you draw on the right side will be reflected on the left side
16. With the pen tool I start to illustrate only the right half of your sketch and automatically the left side of the canvas will be updated.

17. After you have the final illustration you will discover you can't select anything from the left side.
18. Select the symmetry layer then go to object (on menu) and click on expand appearance. Now you need to join the two sides
19. Control click (on a Mac) and ungroup the illustration then repeat it for each side to join this two lines you need to make overlap two anchor points.
20. Select two points together then press Cmd + J to join them. This is the process of joining the two sides of the design.

A more advanced way you can easily make complex mandalas using this method check out this video on Youtube.

To create a mandella see this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHQi0I6dwmq&t=14s>



What is a Mandella?

A **mandala**, which is Sanskrit for “circle” or “discoid object,” is a geometric design that holds a great deal of symbolism in Hindu and Buddhist cultures. ... In their most basic form, **mandalas** are circles contained within a square and arranged into sections that are all organized around a single, central point.