

05 Assigning Gradients Professor Neuringer

Deleting a Stroke

Notice that by default the Fill is White and the Stroke Box is black.

Go up to the strokes swatch, the second swatch in the Control panel, click on it and make sure it is set to None.

Assigning the Gradient Fill

Option 1.

1. Switch to the two column toolbox, so I can see these color options down here at the bottom.
2. Notice that the fill is active. Underneath the fill and stroke boxes in the Toolbox you will see the fill, gradient and none boxes. Click on that gradient swatch.

Keyboard Shortcuts

comma key – assign a solid color

period – assign a gradient

slash key – assign none

In our case, we want a gradient, so press the period key.

Option 2.

Go up to the Window menu > Gradient panel.

1. click on the gradient bar in order to assign a gradient
2. or go and expand the Gradient panel by clicking on a double arrow icon a couple times (right before the word gradient in the panel), to display the options for the gradients.
3. or click the down pointing arrow to select from the gradients that are loaded into the document. (These are the default gradients for print documents in Illustrator CS6.

Creating a Rich Black

The problem with these default gradients, White Black, is that the black is super soft. (weak blacks). Rich blacks can be created by making C50, M50, Y50 and K100 in the Color panel.

Drag that Rich Black color from the Color panel to Gradient Bar. You can also drag from the Swatch panel, and drop it into place somewhere inside the Gradient Bar. Hover over the end and then release, and you have a white to rich black gradient.

Angle of the Gradient

To change the angle to get different directions, Type -90 degrees and that will create white at the top and black at the bottom.

Reversing the Gradient

You also have the option of reversing the order of the color stops. (sliding them left to right). Or click on Reverse Gradient, arrows under the icon on left side of the panel.

Change Location of Color Stops

1. To change the location of this first color stop, and I could drag it or I can dial in a Location. Make the black stop at the beginning of the gradient move 10% into the gradient. So that the very corners of this shape here are filled with black.

Other Options

2. Double-click on the color stop in order to bring up the Color panel
3. Or switch over to the Swatches panel just by clicking on that icon.
4. You also have control over the opacity of the color stop and can change the Opacity value right here as well for this independent color stop.

Duplicating A Color Stop

In addition to moving a color stop around you can duplicate it. Pressing the Alt key (PC) or the Option key (Mac) and dragging a color stop to a new position.

Creating A New Color Stop

If you just want to create a new color stop, move your cursor below the gradient bar, it changes to a white arrow with the plus sign next to it, and shows you that if you click, you'll create a new intermediate color stop at that location and Illustrator will automatically assign an intermediate color as you can see.

Deleting A Color Stop

1. If you want to get rid of the selected color stop then you can click on a little trash can icon on the right
2. Grab the color stop and yank it down and that will remove that stop from the gradient.