Corporate Flow

Illustration
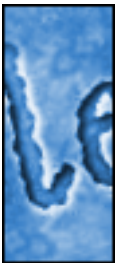
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Binding a Group of Objects to a Path

Binding a group of objects to a path can be a shortcut to creating more complex shapes. By using Canvas' Replicate and Bind group to Path commands, drawing complex objects is easy.

Step 1

This basic example of a sun and it's rays illustrates the use of Replicate... and Bind Group for quickly adding a set of objects to an existing path. Start by drawing a circle (constrain the circle by selecting Shift as you draw for a perfect circle) and a triangle. I used an EasyShape from the Tool Box for the triangle.
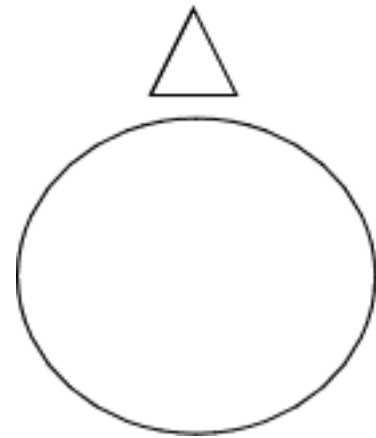
Step 2

Select the triangle and make several copies. I used the Replicate command, which is very powerful. It allows you to make several copies of an object and affect the offset and rotation of the objects as they are duplicated. For this example, I selected 20 copies and used a horizontal offset.

Step 3

Method A

Now select the group of trian-
gles and the circle. Now choose
Effects>Bind Group. Notice that
the triangles are bound to the
path from the bottom side.
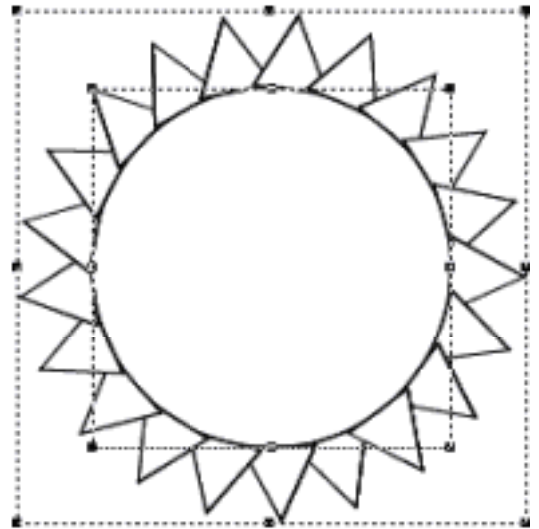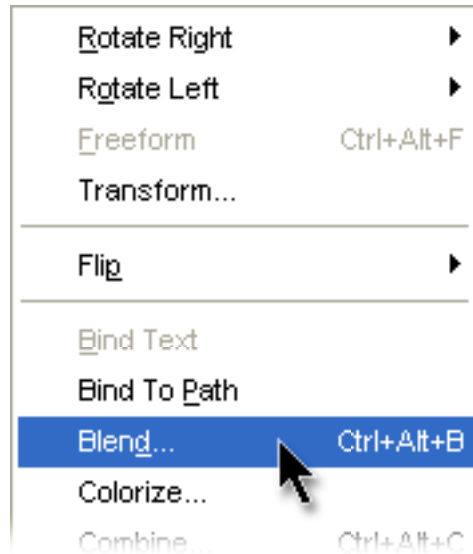
That's it. Just add color and you have perfect sun with
emanating rays. Apply this technique whenever your
project calls for objects along a path.


Step 4

Method B

To bind the objects along the MIDDLE instead of the
BOTTOM side, try using the Blend command from the
Effects menu. For the string of pearls example, I started
with 2 circles in two sizes, with fill but no stroke. Next I
used the Pen tool to draw a path (the "string") for the
pearls. Select the pearls and choose the Blend command
Effects>Blend...

Step 2

Now that you have your pushpin, you can make it a little less ""cartoony"" by adding some metallic gradients. First ungroup the push pin, several times if necessary until you have only single objects. Next remove the stroke from all the objects and begin adding the gradients for a metallic effect.

In the Blend dialog, select the total number of pearls (I used 32), and make sure both "Bind to path" and "Dynamic" are selected and click OK. Next, Canvas prompts you to select the "path" so click on the path.
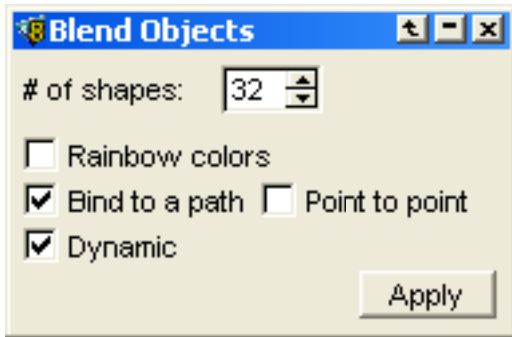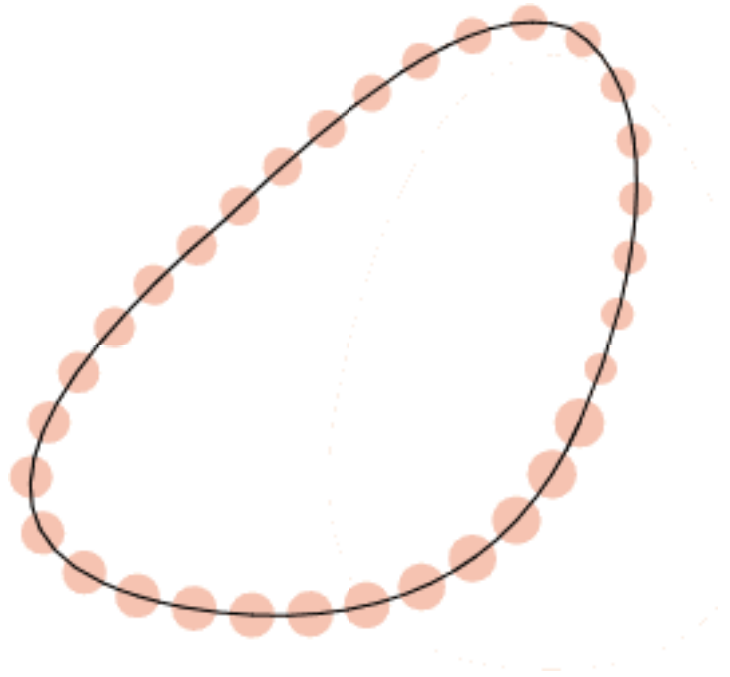
To complete the string of pearls, I added a gradient and removed the path.

You can choose which ever method is best, depending on whether you need your objects to bind to the path from the baseline or from the middle of the object.