

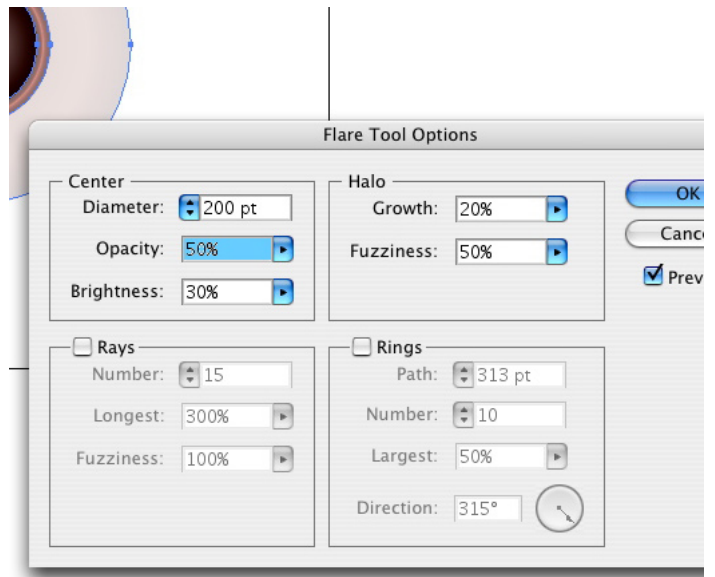
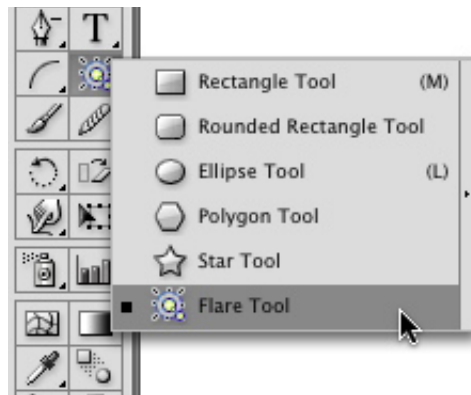


The Flare Tool

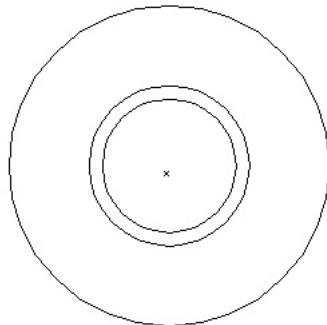
FreeTransform.net

Step 1: Draw a rectangle or square and fill it with black. You can put this square on its own layer, or lock it for now.

Double-click the Flare tool. Enter the values shown here and click okay. Now, either click and drag out a flare, or click once on the artboard. If you do the latter, the flare will be drawn, and then the dialog box will pop up again so you can adjust the settings.



Step 2: If you view the flare in Outline mode, you can see that it's simply a set of concentric circles. You can select each circle with the Direct Selection (white arrow) tool, and check out its fill, opacity and transparency mode. Place the flare on top of the black square, and it will look something like this:



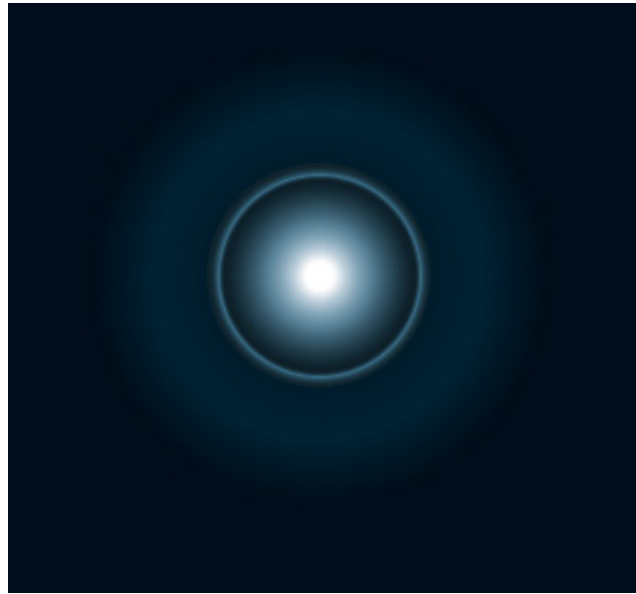
Flare in Outline mode



Flare on 100% black background

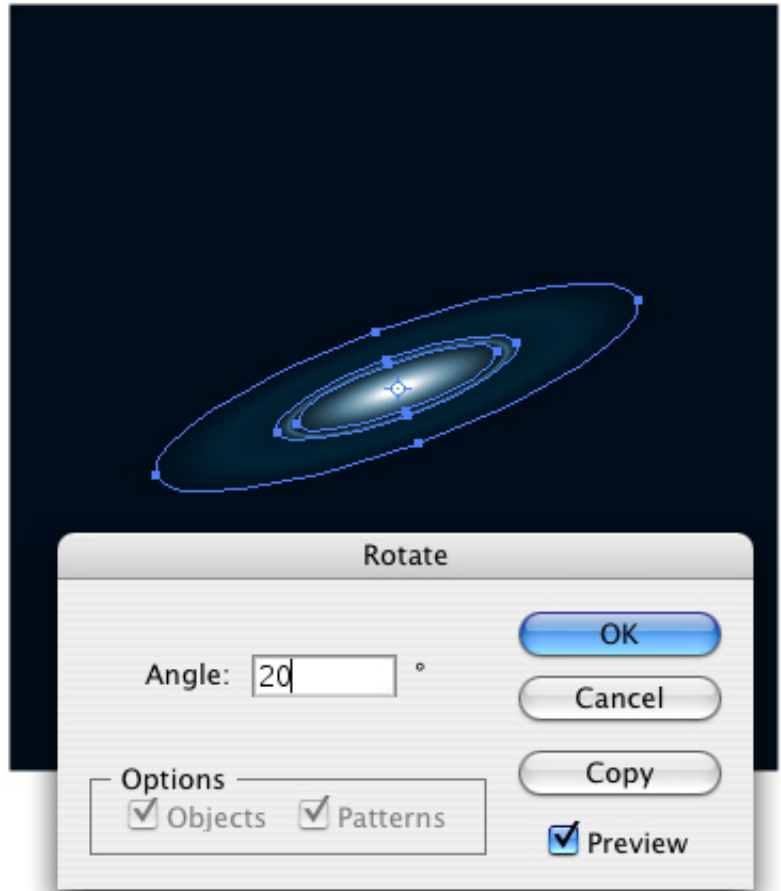
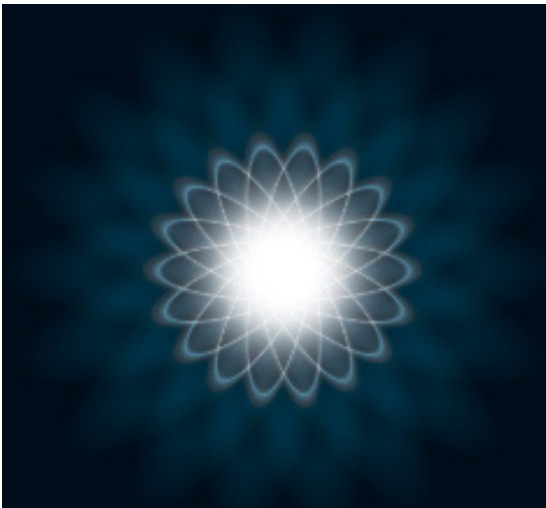
Step 3:

Since the flare contains transparency, it will be affected by whatever color is underneath it. Try adding 100% cyan to the black and see what happens (if you prefer to work in RGB, you probably know how to make a blue-black. It hurts my head to think in RGB). Also play around with different transparency modes and opacities.

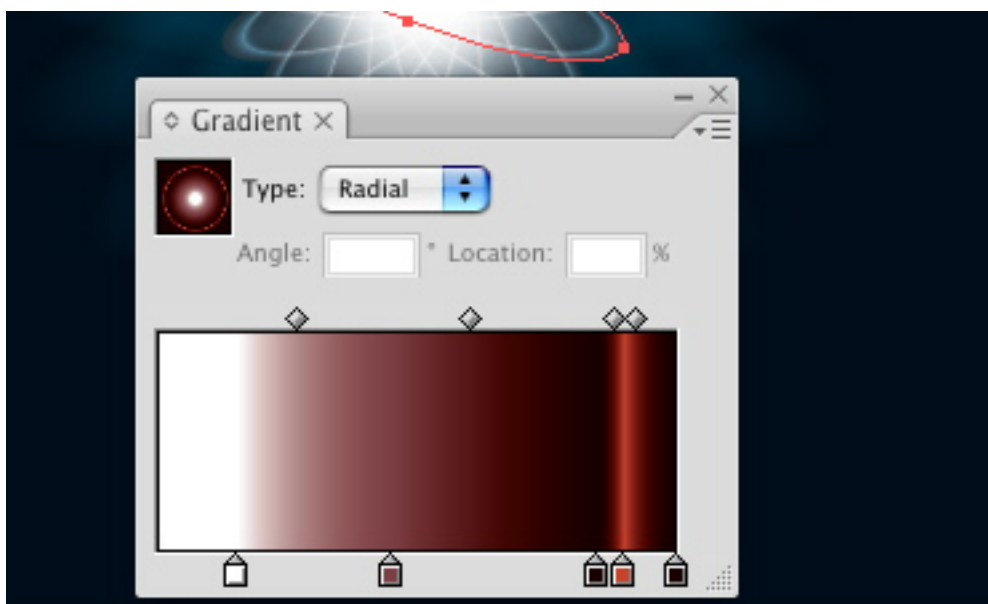
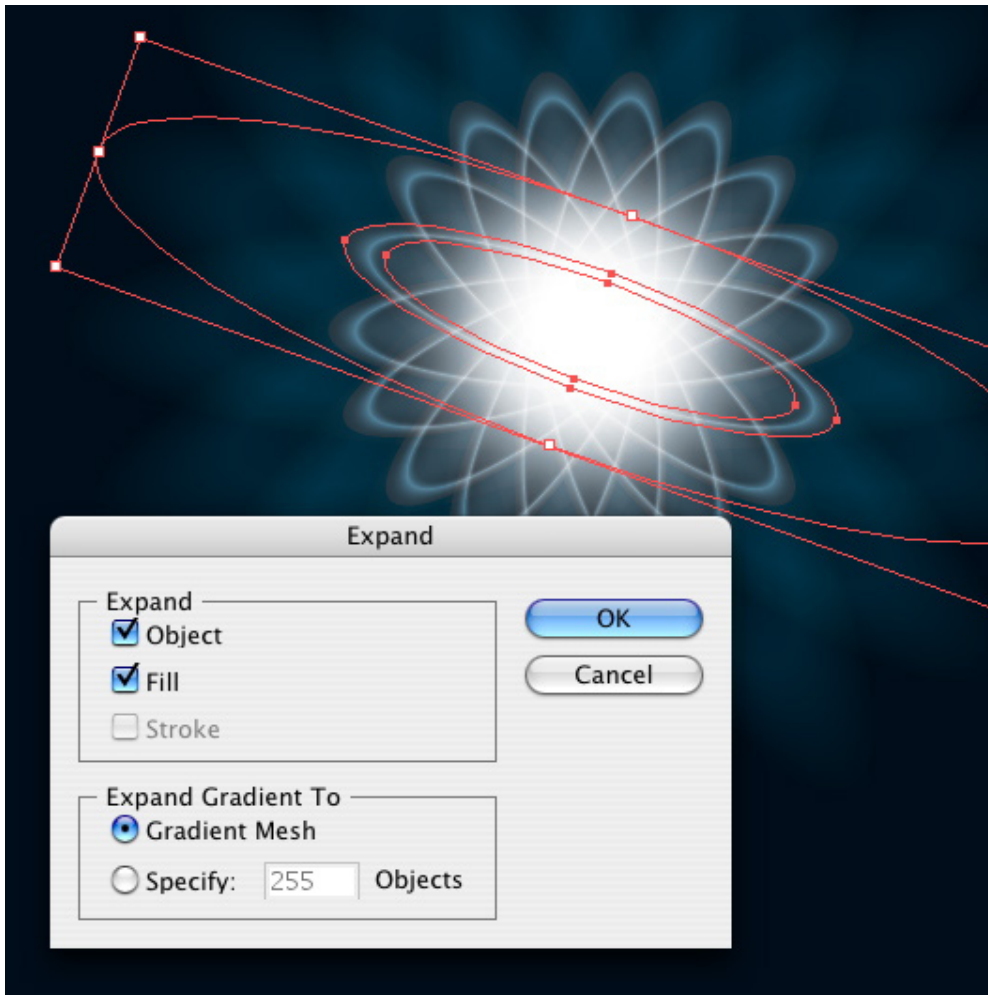


Step 4:

Now let's get the Rotate tool involved. Squash your flare so that it forms an oval. Double-click the Rotate tool, enter 20° and click Copy. Press Cmd-D seven more times to make a complete circular shape



Step 5: You can leave the shapes as they are, or if you want to re-color them, go to Object>Expand. You'll end up with some very cool gradients that you can save for another project. Have fun!



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