

Adobe Illustrator 10

Build color variation into your brush

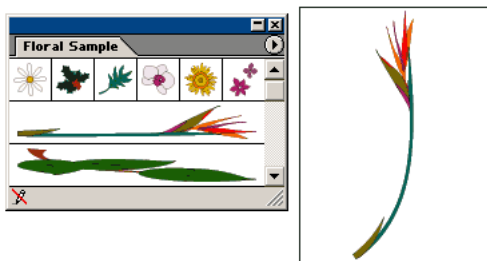
With Adobe® Illustrator® 10, you can create different effects with a single brush by colorizing it in the Brushes palette. Here, we'll show you three approaches: apply tints of the stroke color, apply tints and shades of the stroke color, or shift the entire set of colors in the brush around the color wheel.



1. Select a multicolor brush.

Choose Window > Brush Libraries to open a library, and select a brush. Then use the paintbrush tool to draw a path.

To see the effects in the next steps clearly, choose a brush that has a variety of hues, preferably with some complementary colors such as the reds and greens. (We're using the Bird of Paradise brush from the Floral Sample library.) Illustrator comes with hundreds of Scatter, Art, and Pattern brushes organized in libraries. Some are available through the Brush Libraries submenu; many more are in the Extras folder on the Illustrator CD.

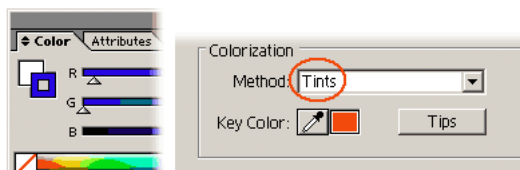


2. Experiment with the Tints setting.

Set a new stroke color in the Color palette. Any color except white or black will do. Double-click the brush in the Brushes palette to open the Brush Options dialog box. Choose Tints from the Method pop-up menu, and click OK. In the alert box, click Leave Strokes so that the path you drew in step 1 will not be affected by your new brush settings. Finally, draw another path.

The Tints method applies a single hue (the stroke color) to a brush, with white added for lighter colors. Areas that are black in the original brush take on the stroke color, and white areas remain white. In effect, we're drawing a grayscale object, but with the stroke color replacing black.

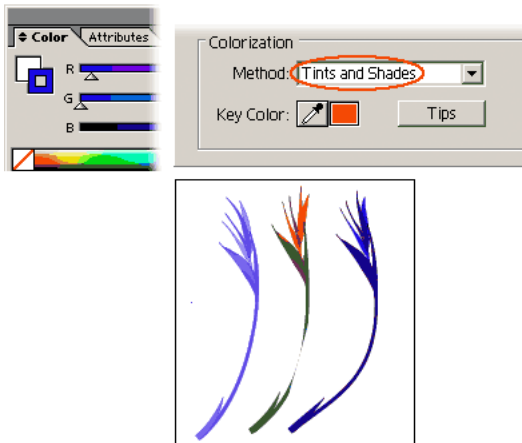
This method is especially useful for elements like leaves or bricks, where you want a variety of tones in a single color family.



3. Adjust the tints and shades in the brush.

Double-click the brush in the Brushes palette. Choose Tints and Shades from the Method pop-up menu, click OK, and click Leave Strokes in the alert. Then draw another path.

Tints and Shades gives you a wider range of tones than Tints alone because white and black are added to the stroke color. Areas in the original brush that are 50% black use the stroke color, black and white remain as they are, and other areas become a blend of black or white with the stroke color.

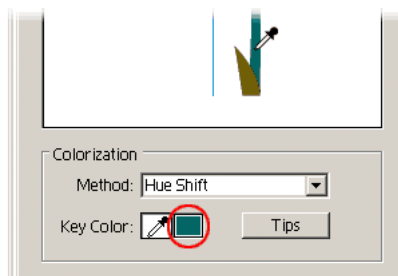


5. Use hue shift and adjust the key color.

Double-click the brush, choose Hue Shift again, and click the Hue Shift eyedropper. In the brush sample, click the color you want to use as the new key. Click OK, select Leave Strokes, and draw another object.

Here, we're using the green in the stem as the key. Notice that the stem changes to the stroke color, and the other colors in the brush shift around the color wheel.

The effects of colorizing a brush can vary enormously, from subtle to surreal. Experiment with it.



4. Apply a hue shift.

Double-click the brush in the Brushes palette. Choose Hue Shift from the Method pop-up menu, click OK, and select Leave Strokes. Draw another path.

With Hue Shift, the brush's key color changes to the stroke color. By default, the key color is the color used most in the brush. In our example, the key is orange. Notice how it changes to the stroke color in our new path. Other colors in the brush shift around the color wheel to preserve the original color relationships.

Hue Shift is especially useful for creating elements like flowers, where you want a lot of color diversity.

