Repeating Patterns in Illustrator

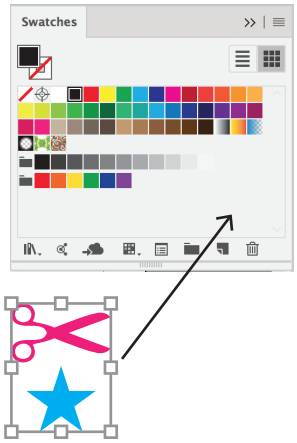
1 MAKE A PATTERN SWATCH

Select the artwork that you want to use to start the pattern, and

Drag it into the **Swatches** window

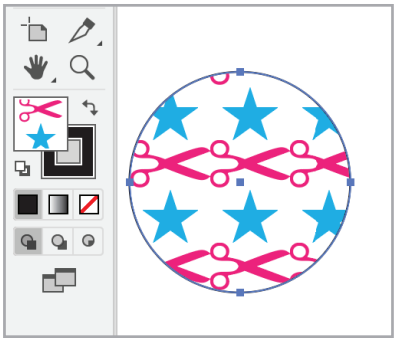
or

go to **Object > Pattern > Make** in the menu



2 APPLY IT

Pattern swatches can be applied to the fill or stroke of a shape in the same way as color and gradient swatches



3 EDIT IT

To edit the pattern, either

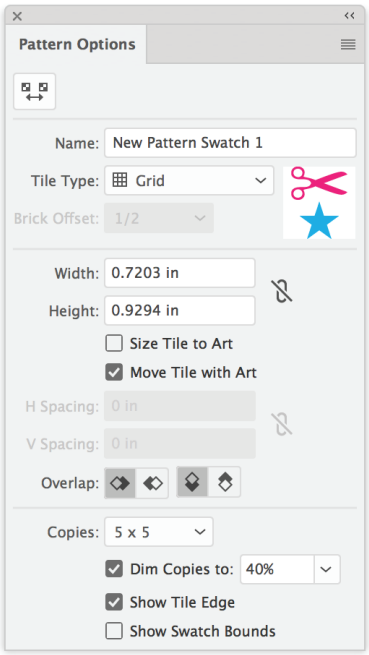
Double-click the pattern swatch in the **Swatches** window

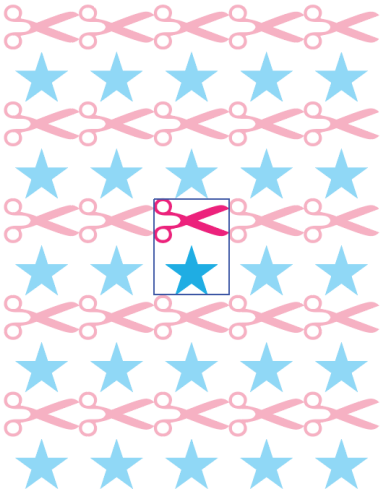
or

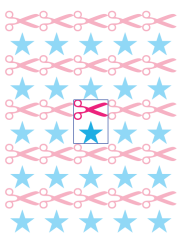
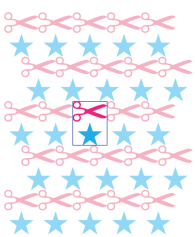
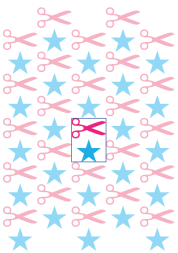
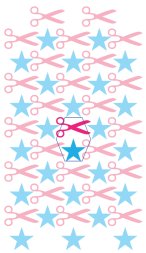
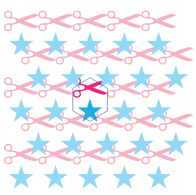
go to **Object > Pattern > Edit Pattern** in the menu

Here, you can change or add to the artwork in the center tile, and the copies around it will preview the rest of the pattern

To exit, either double click anywhere outside of the pattern, or click the arrow at the top left corner of the window.



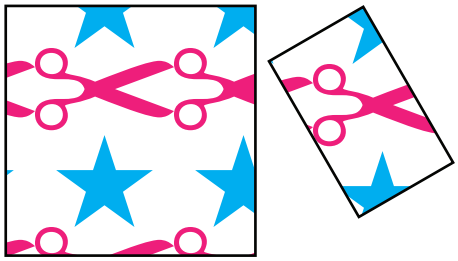


GRID	BRICK BY ROW	BRICK BY COLUMN	HEX BY COLUMN	HEX BY ROW
				

TRANSFORM PATTERNS

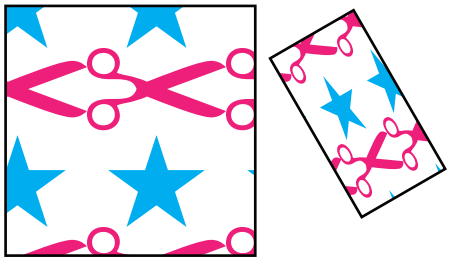
MAC: Illustrator > Preferences > General / **PC:** Edit > Preferences > General
There's an important checkbox called "Transform Pattern Tiles"

❑ Transform Pattern Tiles



OFF: The pattern stays the same even if changes like size or rotation happen to the object.

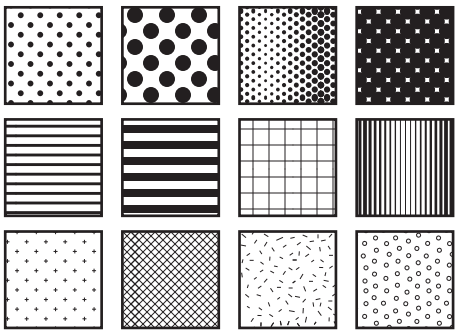
☑ Transform Pattern Tiles



ON: The pattern changes along with the object, and it's possible to distort it and stretch the original proportions

PATTERN LIBRARIES

There are some useful pre-made line/dot/texture patterns hidden in the side menu of the Swatches window:
Swatches > Open Swatch Library > Patterns > Basic Graphics



These can be transformed, edited, or re-colored like any other pattern.

OBJECT > TRANSFORM

In the Object menu:
Move, Rotate, Reflect, Scale, Shear, and Transform Each all have check-boxes for "Transform Objects" and "Transform Patterns"

If you want to transform a pattern, but not the container shape it's in, turn objects OFF and patterns ON.
Note: Doing this will automatically turn on "Transform Pattern Tiles" in the Illustrator preferences.

