



Creating Comics with Illustrator

Presented By: Joseph Bourque



What you will need...

- o Digital or hand drawn rough draft of comic strip / comic cover
- o Adobe Illustrator



Step 1: Cleaning things up

For when things aren't pretty



Tools you will need...

- Live trace



The process...

- o Copy / Paste or open desired file or image into illustrator
- o Go to the option tab at the top and select Tracing Options
- o Adjust settings until you get things looking the way you want them to



Exploring your options

- o Blur – used to smooth sharp edges
- o Threshold – used to remove / add shades to the image
- o Type – choose either black/white, greyscale, or color
- o Number of colors – increases live paint detail



Step 2: Taking things LIVE

Transitioning from bitmap to vector



Tools you will need...

- o Live Paint
- o Live Fill
- o Live Selection
- o Pen Tool / Pencil Tool



The Process...

- Convert live trace to live paint by going to the option menu and choosing live paint.
- After converting image to live paint go to the options menu and select live paint options, adjust gap detection as needed to ensure live paint fills are acceptable.
- Use live fill and live selection tools to apply base fill / gradient layer.
- Use pen/pencil to adjust paint group where needed.



Step 3: The personal touch

Adding details to your panel



Tools you may need...

- Gradient Mesh
- Paintbrush Tool
- Paint inside Tool
- Illustrator Effects
- Illustrator Symbols
- Blend tool



The process...

- Exit live paint mode by going to the options menu and selecting expand.
- Use the paint inside tool to ensure you don't overlap your lines.
- Use tools like the gradient mesh, and illustrator FX tools to bring your comic to life.
- The paintbrush paired with the Gaussian Blur are a great way to add multilevel shading. This effect can also be used with the pen/pencil tool and a blend.



Step 4: Wrapping up

Finishing touches that bring your comic to life.



Tools you will need...

- o Pen / Pencil Tool
- o Ellipse Tool
- o Text tool
- o Illustrator fx
- o 3D fx



The process...

- o Use the text tool to add dialog, titles and more.
- o For text bubbles / thought bubbles use the pen tool along with the ellipse tool to create simple dialog bubbles with ease.
- o Use illustrator's wide fx and 3D Effects gallery to dress up text and create vibrant title art.



Thank you for your time!

- o Want to see it again? Check out Indegon's channel on YouTube or just search "TinPin Tutorials – Comics in Illustrator"
- o Also! Feel free to visit us at <http://www.teragentech.net>