

The Artistic Media Tool

Using the **Artistic Media Tool**, you can draw lines of varying thicknesses and shapes, paint with a brush or sprayer, or draw calligraphic lines. The tool has five drawing modes: Preset, Brush, Sprayer, Calligraphic, and Pressure. You can use the **Artistic Media Tool** in two ways:

- ◆ Draw with it as you do the Freehand Tool—click and drag to create lines.
- ◆ Select an existing object, such as a line or circle, and apply one of the **Artistic Media Tool** strokes to it.

To set the **Artistic Media Tool**'s mode:

1. Select the **Artistic Media Tool** from the Curve flyout (**Figure 7.33**) or press [1].
2. Click one of the five icons on the property bar (**Figure 7.34**). Each **Artistic Media Tool** mode produces a different effect.

Using Preset mode

The Preset mode of the **Artistic Media Tool** draws curves using preset strokes that you select from the property bar.

To draw a Preset curve:

1. Select the **Artistic Media Tool** from the Curve flyout (**Figure 7.33**).
2. Click the Preset mode icon on the property bar (**Figure 7.34**).
3. Set the curve's width in the **Artistic Media Tool** Width text box (**Figure 7.35**).
4. Select a stroke shape from the drop-down list of preset strokes (**Figure 7.35**).
5. Click and drag to create the desired shape (**Figure 7.36**).

When you release the mouse button, the curve redraws as an outline—ready for filling with a color, texture, or pattern (**Figure 7.37**).

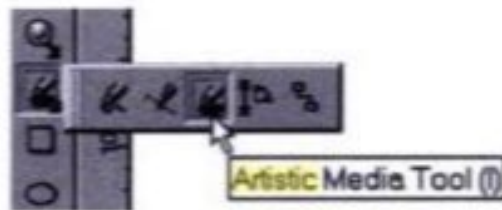


Figure 7.33 Select the **Artistic Media Tool** from the Curve flyout.



Figure 7.34 Click an icon on the property bar to set the **Artistic Media Tool**'s current mode.

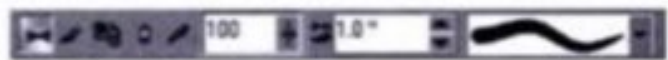


Figure 7.35 Set the **Artistic Media Tool** mode and options using the property bar controls.



Figure 7.36 Click and drag to draw the desired shape.



Figure 7.37 When you release the mouse button, the shape is redrawn to match the tool's settings.



Figure 7.38 Select a brush stroke from the drop-down list on the property bar.



Figure 7.39 Click and drag to create the brush stroke.



Figure 7.40 When you release the mouse button, the shape is redrawn to match the tool's settings.

✓ Tip

- You can alter the stroke width or shape of a previously drawn preset object by selecting it with the **Artistic Media Tool** and choosing different options from the property bar.

Using Brush mode

Brush mode is used to apply predefined brush strokes to curves. It works just like Preset mode. All you have to do is select a brush stroke from the property bar, and then click and drag.

To draw a Brush curve:

1. Select the **Artistic Media Tool** from the Curve flyout (**Figure 7.33**).
2. Click the Brush mode icon on the property bar (**Figure 7.34**).
3. Set the curve's width in the **Artistic Media Tool Width** text box (**Figure 7.35**).
4. Select a brush stroke from the Brush Stroke List (**Figure 7.38**).
5. Click and drag to create the desired shape (**Figure 7.39**).
When you release the mouse button, the curve redraws using the chosen brush style (**Figure 7.40**).

✓ Tips

- You aren't restricted to the brush strokes shown in the Brush Stroke List. If you have others stored on disk, click the **Browse** button to the left of the Brush Stroke List.
- To change the shape of an existing curve, select the curve with the **Shape Tool** and manipulate the curve's nodes and handles. For more information about nodes and handles, see Chapter 6.

Using Sprayer mode

The Sprayer mode lets you add a series of objects—such as ghosts, bats, flowers, and pebbles—to the curves you draw.

To draw a Sprayer curve:

1. Select the **Artistic Media** Tool from the Curve flyout (see **Figure 7.33**).
2. Click the Sprayer mode icon on the property bar (see **Figure 7.34**).
3. Select a stroke style from the Spraylist File List on the property bar (**Figure 7.41**).
4. Click and drag to create the desired curve. (You'll note that the curve is a nice, thin line rather than the blobs generated when you draw in Preset or Brush mode.)

When you release the mouse button, the curve redraws, displaying the sprayer objects you selected (**Figure 7.42**).

✓ Tips

- To make the objects smaller or larger, enter new percentages in the Size of Objects to be Sprayed text boxes. If you want the new size to be proportional to the original size, be sure that the tiny padlock icon is closed (depressed).
- To space the objects differently, enter new numbers in the Dabs/Spacing of Object(s) to be Sprayed text boxes on the property bar (**Figure 7.43**). The number in the top box represents the number of objects that will appear at each spacing point. The number in the bottom sets the distance between spacing points.

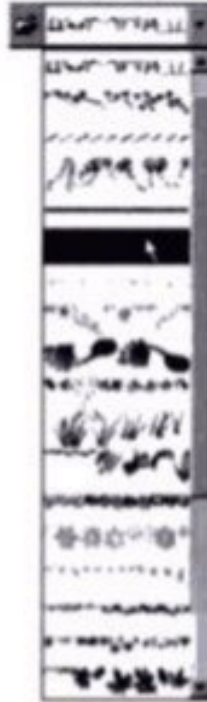


Figure 7.41 Pick a stroke style from the Spraylist File List.



Figure 7.42 When you release the mouse button, the shape is redrawn to match the chosen spray pattern.

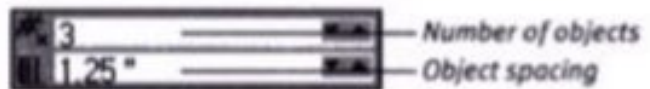


Figure 7.43 You can change the number and spacing of objects in the spray pattern.



Figure 7.44 Set the pen's width and drawing angle in these two text boxes on the property bar.

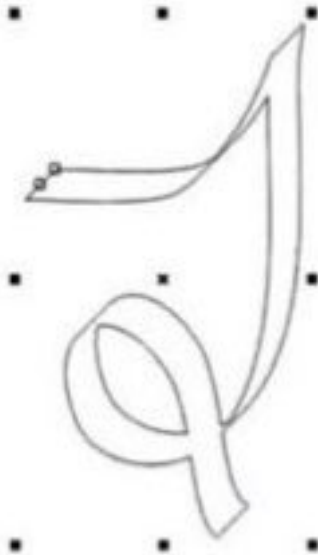


Figure 7.45 Release the mouse when you're done drawing to reveal the calligraphic outline.



Figure 7.46 You can fill the object with a color, pattern, or texture, such as this grayscale fountain fill.

Using Calligraphy mode

You use Calligraphy mode to create curves that look as though they were drawn with a calligraphy pen. All you have to do is set the width of the curve and the nib angle.

To draw a Calligraphy curve:

1. Select the **Artistic Media** Tool from the Curve flyout (see **Figure 7.33**).
2. Click the Calligraphy mode icon on the property bar (see **Figure 7.34**).
3. Set the curve's width in the **Artistic Media** Tool Width text box (**Figure 7.44**).
4. Set the angle of the tool's nib in the Calligraphy Angle text box (**Figure 7.44**).
5. Click and drag to create the desired curve. When you release the mouse button, the curve redraws, displaying the outline of the calligraphy curve (**Figure 7.45**).

✓ Tips

- You can use the Shape Tool to manipulate the curve's nodes and handles, changing the shape or size of the calligraphy curve. For details, see Chapter 6.
- As was the case with Preset mode curves, you can fill a calligraphy outline with a color, texture, or pattern (**Figure 7.46**). For instructions, refer to Chapter 10.