

Draw your own Mac with AppleWorks

by Cindy O'Hora

A good way to reinforce concepts and tools in Drawing is to make something using them. My introduction to drawing lesson on a computer was at the summer computer camp for elementary students. The instructor, Tim Williams, gave a step by step lesson on drawing a computer using ClarisWorks.

This exercise will introduce you to or reinforce your use of 10 different tools/commands/techniques in AppleWorks Draw.

Monitor

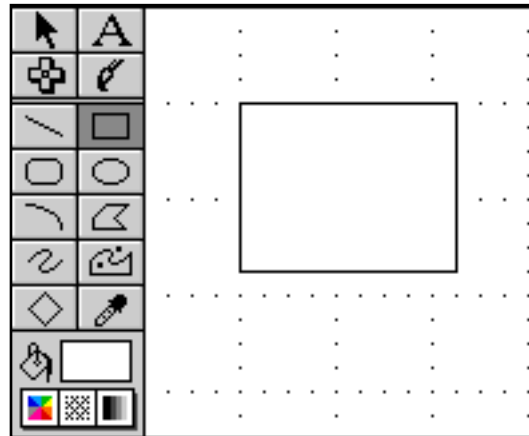
Step 1: Open a new page in Drawing.

Step 2: Click on the rectangle tool. Drag the cross hair tool on the page to create a rectangle slightly more than two blocks wide and one dot more than 1 1/2 blocks long.

Step 3: Double click on the rectangle with the arrow tool. The rounded Corner box opens.

Click in the Radius bullet & enter 10 pt. The corners of the rectangle should now be softly rounded.

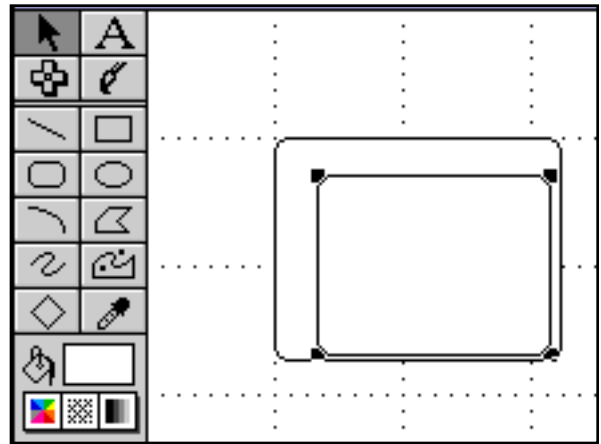
Save.



Step 4: With the handles still on, go command ⌘... D for Duplicate. You'll now have a second rectangle the same size as the first. It is on top on the first and slightly off center.

Step 5: Resize the second rectangle. With the handles on Go Arrange ... Scale by Percent. I used 80% & 80%.

Step 6: Center rectangle 2 on rectangle 1 by selecting both. (Hold down the shift key and click on the outline of the first rectangle.) You should see active handles on both rectangles. Go Arrange ... Align Centers. Select center for both settings.

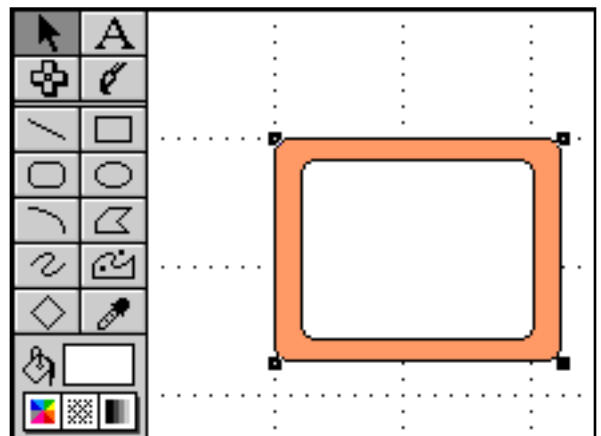


The rectangles should now be centered on each other. Don't kid yourself. Nobody can eyeball the kind of precision centering the computer will give you. Use it.

Save.

Step 7: Click on the top rectangle with the shift key down to deselect it.

Step 8: With the larger rectangle's handles still active, use the Fill (paint can) Palette to give it a colorful fill. Hold down the cursor on the rainbow colored palette beneath the paint can. A palette opens. Keep holding down on the mouse and drag to a color square to choose it as the fill color.



Step 9: Go Edit... Select All. Both rectangles' handles are now on again. Go Arrange...Group.

Your project should now look like the one on the right. (Your own color, of course.)

Save.

Add the Computer

Step 1: Make another rectangle below the monitor. Use the graphics grid to guide you to size the rectangle satisfactorily.

Step 2: Round the corners just as we did earlier. You might chose to color the computer. Use the paint can palette. Be creative!

Step 3: Add the floppy disk drive. Click on the line tool. Go to the pen palette and set the line thickness by holding down on the pen width box (bottom left box). I chose 2 pt.

Step 4: Color the line for the floppy drive by selecting it with the arrow tool and then use the pen palette's color palette to give it a grey tone.

Save.

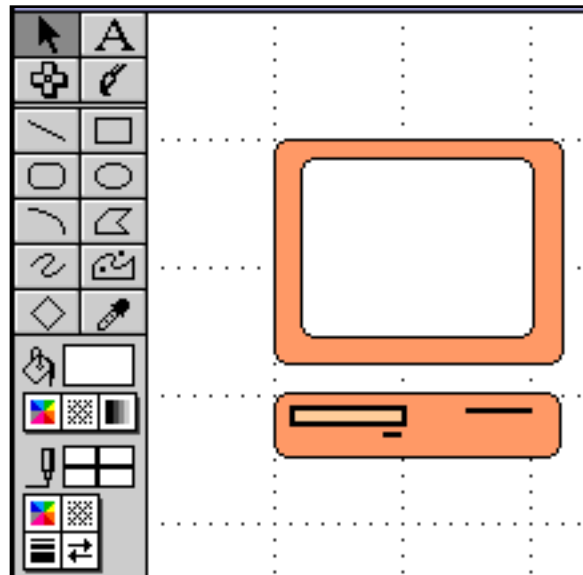
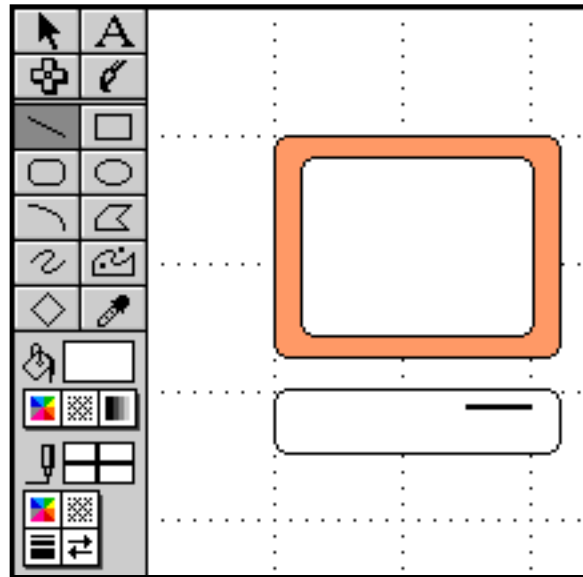
Step 5: Add the CD Drive. Make it a smaller rectangle. (You should be pretty good at them by now!)

I colored mine a lighter shade for fun. Note that it has a heavy outline because the pen palette is still set to 2pt. I need to change the setting of the pen palette line width to go back to the fine lines around the monitor and computer.

Step 6: If you are working on a Mac with a cd drive you'll see that there is a little button to pop out the cd. I added it to my picture by drawing a small straight line. If yours is a circular button - draw a tiny circle.

Step 7: Select all the parts of the computer by holding down the shift key as you click on each one. Group them. Go Arrange...Group or command key ⌘... g.

Save.



Spacing

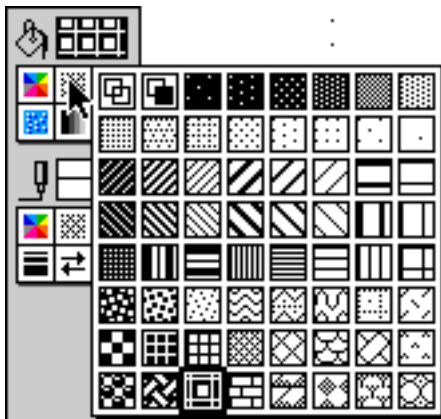
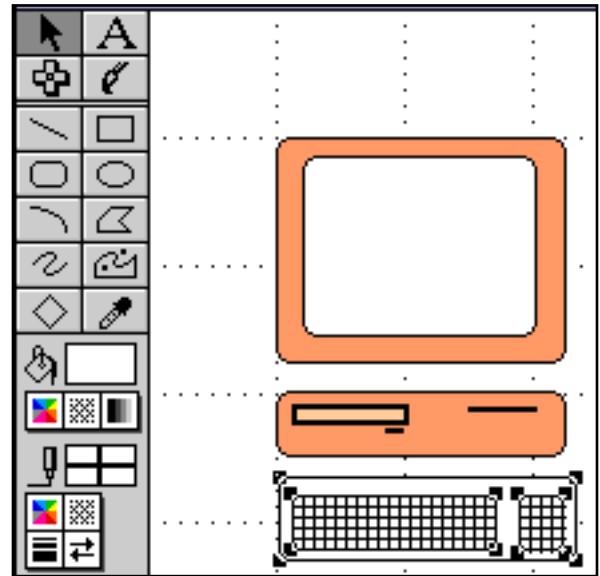
Adjust the spacing between the monitor and computer by clicking on the monitor to make its handles active. Now hit the down pointing arrow key on your keyboard. You'll see the monitor move down 1 set of dots on the graphics grid.

If you want a smaller adjustment, shut off the Auto Grid feature. Go Options ... Turn Autogrid off. Now the graphics will move in small increments when you use the arrow keys.

Adding a keyboard

Step 1: Add the keyboard by selecting the rounded rectangle tool. I deliberately drew mine slightly larger than the computer. Adjust the rounding of the rectangle by double clicking on it and setting the point to 5 pt.

Step 2: Adding the keys could be a real mental health issue if not for the fill palette. Draw the rectangle and then with the handles active go to the pattern fill palette under the paint can. I used the pattern in the 3rd column near the bottom. (see below)



I also shut off the outline by going to the Pen palette and choosing none for line width.

Step 3: Select all the elements of the keyboard and group them by going (command ⌘... g).

Save.

Finishing up

Step 1: Add a cord from the keyboard to the back of the computer. Use the freehand tool to drag the line. Don't worry about the jaggedies. They make it look more realistic.

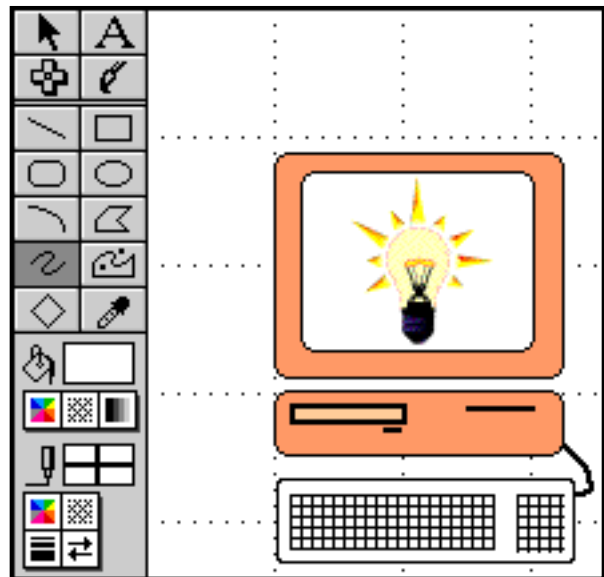
Step 2: Add an attractive something to the center of the monitor. I went to the Scrapbook in the Apple Menu and copied the light bulb. I came back to my work of art and went paste.

I used the arrow tool to reposition the light bulb in the center of the monitor screen. You could also harness the centering commands we reviewed earlier.

Step 3: Group the project one last time.

Save.

Consider Copy ... Pasting your computer into the Scrapbook in the AppleMenu. You can then easily find it to add it to documents in the future.



"Some people are going to leave a mark on this world, while others will leave a stain." ~unknown

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