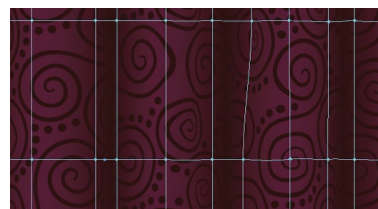


PAIDRICK



Ann Paidrick

To explore combining a pattern swatch with mesh to simulate drapery folds, Ann Paidrick used Illustrator's Pattern Editing features to make a seamless, swirling design on a transparent background. She next created a gradient swatch, adding many stops in a range of values to mimic drapery. To add vibrancy to the gradient, she adjusted not only values but the hue and saturation of the main color. Paidrick filled a rectangle with the gradient and then, to ensure that the pattern would "disappear" into the darkest folds of the drapery, she colored the swirls of the transparent pattern the same color as the darkest color in the gradient. In order to distort the pattern to match the folds, she needed to create an expanded version of the pattern, trimmed to the dimension of the "curtain" gradient. To do this, she chose



Object> Expand, kept Fill enabled, and clicked OK. The expanded pattern consisted of both the portion clipped within the rectangle shape and of repeating pattern elements extending beyond the clipping mask. To work with only the pattern elements inside the rectangle, and with the expanded pattern selected, she chose Trim in the Pathfinder panel, deleting excess pattern objects. The pattern now trimmed to the correct dimensions, she chose Object> Envelope Distort> Make with Mesh, using 4 rows and roughly three times as many columns. Using the Direct Selection tool, she marquee-selected several rows at a time and dragged them until the pattern matched the "folds" in the gradient. She adjusted individual points to wiggle the mesh, until she succeeded in melding the pattern with the drapes.