Tutroial 3–Part One: Pen Tool

Straight Lines

1. Open the Swatches palette and Stroke Palette (window menu). Change the settings in your toolbar to Fill>none and Stroke>Black.
2. Open the Stroke palette and set your line weight at .5 or 1 point.
3. Select the pen tool and click on each + sign in order, from top to bottom (be sure not to drag the pen tool in this step). Each click will create a new anchor point and a new line segment between anchor points.
4. If you accidently click and drag, you will get a curved line. You can Undo (command Z) or select the Convert tool within the Pen tool to convert your curved line segment to a straight line segment.

Curved Lines

Curved lines are created by a sequence of clicking and dragging the pen tool. Each anchor point will have a control handle that influences the shape of the curve and is only visible when the line or object is selected (it does not print).

1. Click and drag your pen tool straight up (keep your shift key down to insure a straight vertical handle). Release.
2. Move your pen tool to the next anchor point and click and pull down. You will be creating one curve and a second handle.
3. Continue this pattern as you trace the pink lines.
Tutorial 3–Part Two: Pen Tool

Curves with Corner Points (Cusps)

1. Click at the first anchor point and drag upward (see diagram.)
2. Go to the second anchor point, click and drag downward as indicated by the diagram. You now have a curve.
3. Hold down the option key and carefully click on the second anchor point again, dragging upward to create a new control handle.
4. Click and drag downward at the next anchor point to draw your second curve.
5. Continue until you have traced the rest of the diagram.

Note: You can always edit your linework after you draw it. Using the Direct Select tool, select an anchor point, the click and drag the control handle until you like the shape of the curve.

Curves and Line together

1. Draw the first curve by clicking on the anchor point, and dragging straight up. Hold the shift key for a nice curve.
2. Click on the second anchor point and pull the control handle straight down (again, use the shift key)
3. You now have the first curve. The next segment will be a straight line, so you need to “convert” the anchor point. Do this by simply clicking on the anchor point you want to convert.
4. Hold the shift key and click on the number four spot (don’t drag). The shift key insures that the line will be perfectly horizontal.
5. Click on the anchor point and drag down to create a control handle for the next curve.
6. Repeat steps 2 – 4.
Tutorial 3–Part Three: Pen Tool  Trace each object. After you’ve drawn them, go back to each shape and refine curves using your Direct Selection tool to manipulate control handles.