









Some Useful tools


At this point you have learned to use most of the tools on the toolbar. In this lesson we will look at the eraser , the subselection tool , and the pen tool .


The Eraser Tool in Flash

The eraser tool will only erase parts of the drawing that are not locked or grouped. It will not erase primitive shapes, text boxes, or other things that are grouped in some way. When you select the eraser tool several buttons appear on the bottom of the toolbar:

The eraser mode  lets you select


- Erase normal  erases both lines and fills.
- Erase fills  erases only fills and leaves the strokes.
- Erase lines  erases only the strokes and leaves the fill.
- Erase selected fills  Erases only fills that are selected before selecting the eraser.
- Erase inside  Select this option, then click inside a fill and start erasing. If the eraser moves into a fill that is not part of the first fill that you started erasing, that second fill will not be erased.



The faucet  works like the paint bucket tool but erases the fill instead of adding it.


The eraser size and shape  option lets you select either a round or square eraser in several sizes.


Experiment: Draw some random lines, shapes, and primitive objects. Try each of the eraser options to understand what each option can do.

Bezier Curves



Curves in vector drawing are Bezier curves. The shape of the curve is determined by control points. These control points can be thought of as magnets that the curve is attracted to. Some people like to think of the curve as a rubber band stretched around the points. To understand how this works, let's start by using the pencil tool to draw a small curve. 

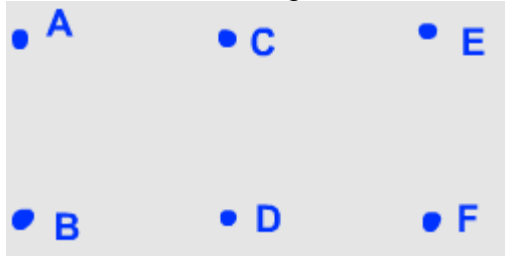
Next, select the subselection tool  from the toolbox and click on the curve. The curve is now shown with small squares where the curve changes and at the end points. 

Click on one of the squares and you will see the control points as small green circles. Each of these circles can be dragged to change the shape of the curve. 

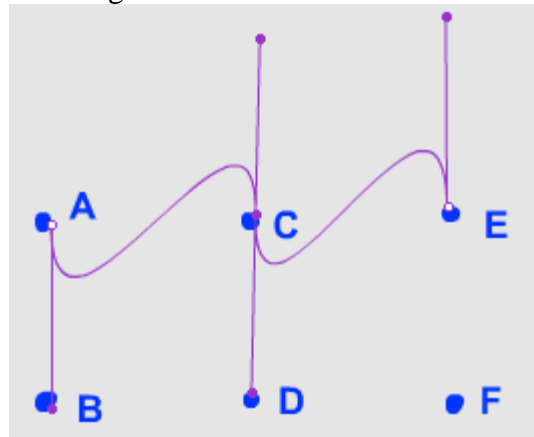
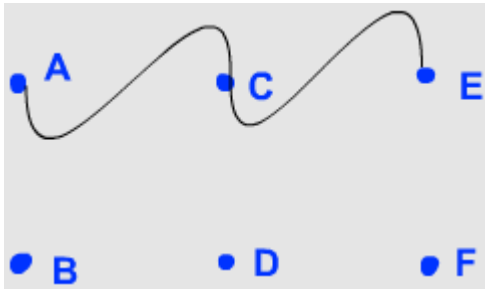
You can simplify the shape by selecting one of the squares and pressing delete on the keyboard. 

The Pen Tool

The pen tool  is used to draw Bezier curves. Select the pen tool, then using the drawing below as a guide press down at A, drag to B and release. Click at C, drag to D and release. Click at E, drag to F and release, then click the selection tool .



The curved line will look like the drawing on the left. If you use the selection tool to see the control points, it will resemble the drawing on the right.



You should spend several minutes practicing with the pen tool to get a feeling of how it works. Try drawing waves, clouds, hills, and mountains.

Between the pen, free transform tool, the subselection tool, and envelope, you should be able to draw almost any wavy shape and smooth it out or distort it.

If you want to know more about Bezier curves, you can find extensive discussion and examples by searching for “Bezier curves” on the internet.