



twisting lines

Movieclips allow you to use flash to create some interesting effect which allow you to experiment and offer endless possibilities.

animating the line

- create a new flash movie of your chosen size - here 800px x 450px is set - and set your frame rate to 24fps
- call up your rulers and pull out 2 guides to mark the perfect centre of your stage

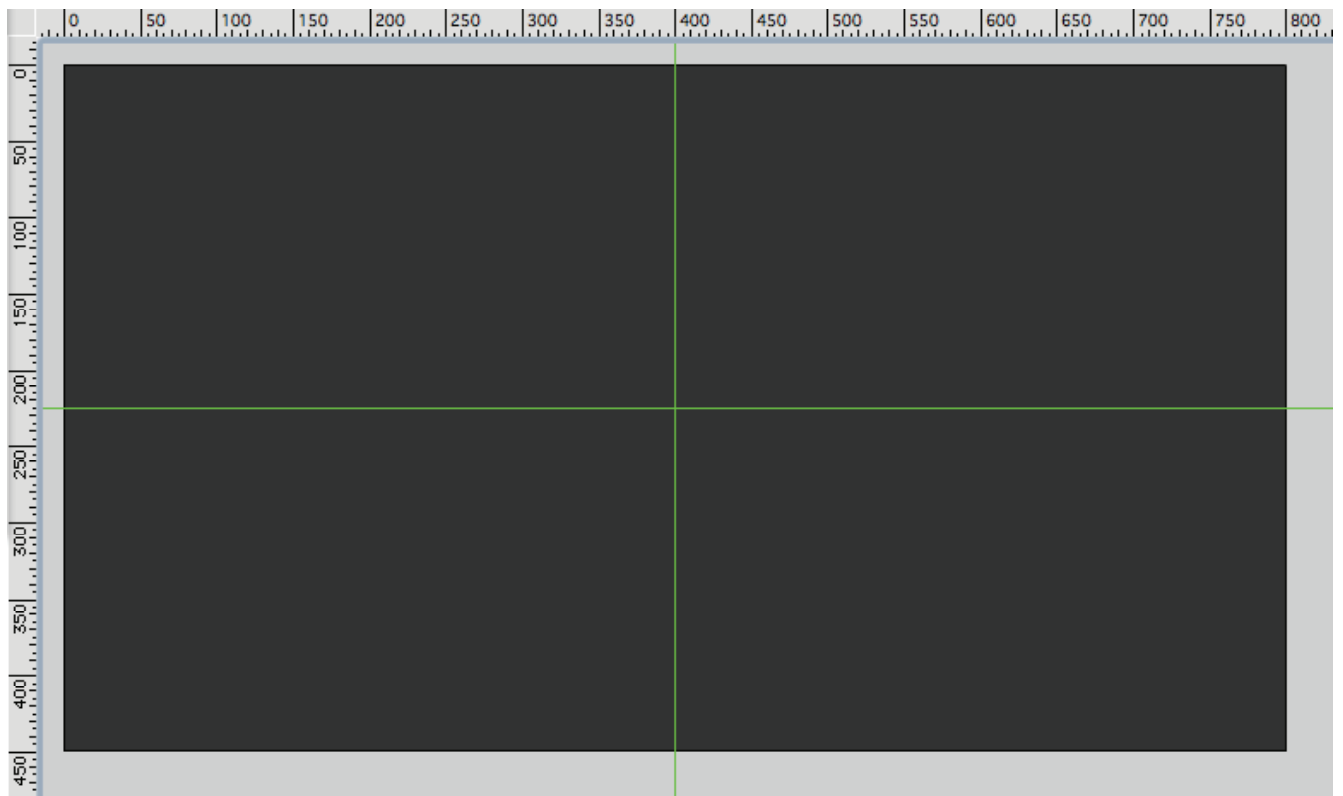
shortcuts

to call up the rulers

command (ctrl for PC) + alt + shift + R
[top menu > view > rulers]

to show and hide guides

command (ctrl for PC) + : (semicolon)



- create small line to the any side of your stage - here the line is set to the vertical centre on the left side of the stage

The visual effect we are going to create relies on smooth movements and soft transitions. To introduce the line animation to the screen we will fade it in from transparent to full colour.

We will set up a repeated animation inside a movieclip which will loop continuously - allowing us to build up a layered and complex final. In order for the loop to repeat seamlessly - we will also fade any graphic elements out at the end of the clip.

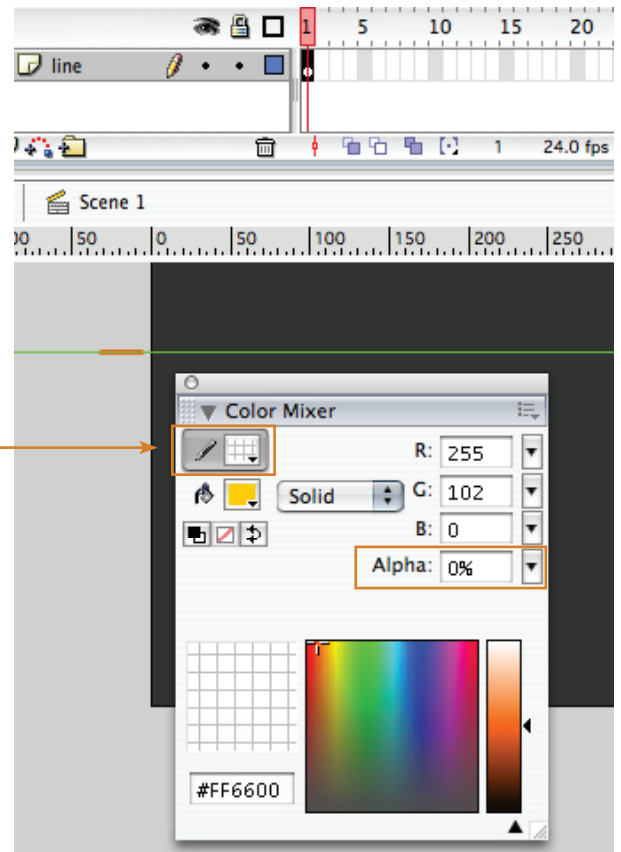
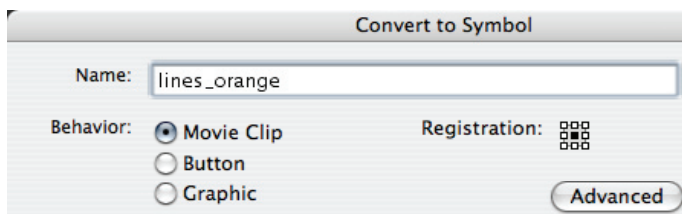


- set the opacity of your line to 0% inside the colour mixer panel as shown here

tip

make sure to select the correct swatch before adjusting your alpha value --> this is easily overseen while you're still new to flash

- select the line and convert it to a movieclip



shortcuts

F8 [top menu > insert > convert to symbol]

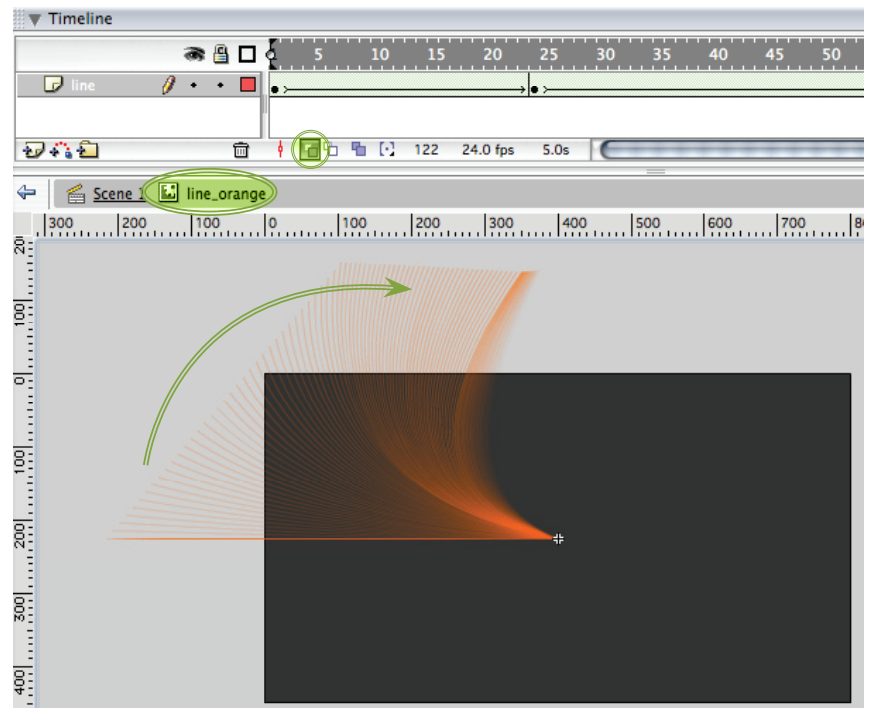
to create the line animation

- double-click the newly created movieclip and proceed with the animation set up
- create a new keyframe to set your chosen speed (here: f24)

shortcuts

F6 [top menu > insert keyframe]

- reset the opacity of the line to 80% -100%
- create a shape tween
- continue to set up the required keyframes to create a curving of the line towards the right, fading out the line in the very last keyframe



[lines viewed with onion skin]



line combination #1

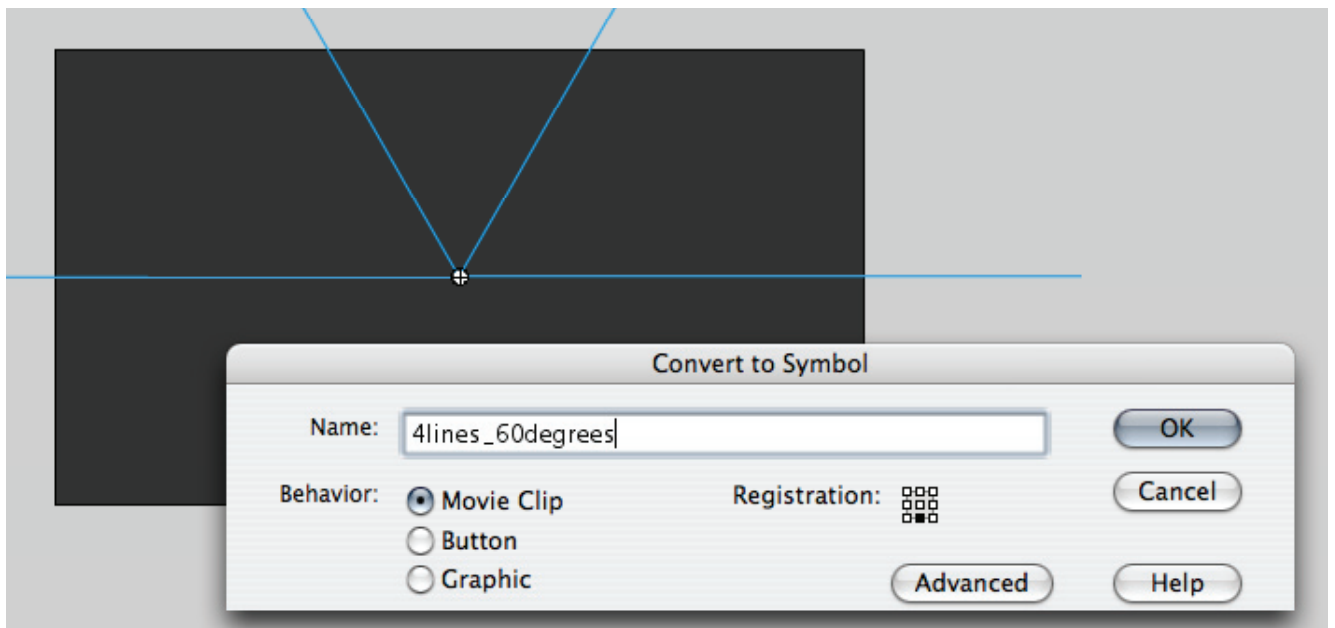
- make sure to save your movie - if haven't done so already ;)
- to create the "twist" - return to the main timeline and duplicate the existing movieclip 4 times, rotating the clip by 60 degrees each time

tip

as the movieclip's first frame (ie the only frame of the movieclip visible on stage) contains only a small transparent line it can be difficult to work with and can make alignment almost impossible.

To make this easier - set up a new layer called "delete" (as a note to yourself) and copy the full straight line form the 2nd keyframe into the first frame. This can now act as a visual guide while we work on the duplication of the clip

- ensure that all lines meet exactly in the centre marked by the guides always zoom in and out to keep an eye on your overall animation ;)
- select all 4 movieclips and convert them into a new movieclip symbol
› set the registration point to bottom centre for further editing later on



- to fill the bottom half of the screen - duplicate this new movieclip once more and rotate it by 180 degrees to reflect the top half
- save and test your movie

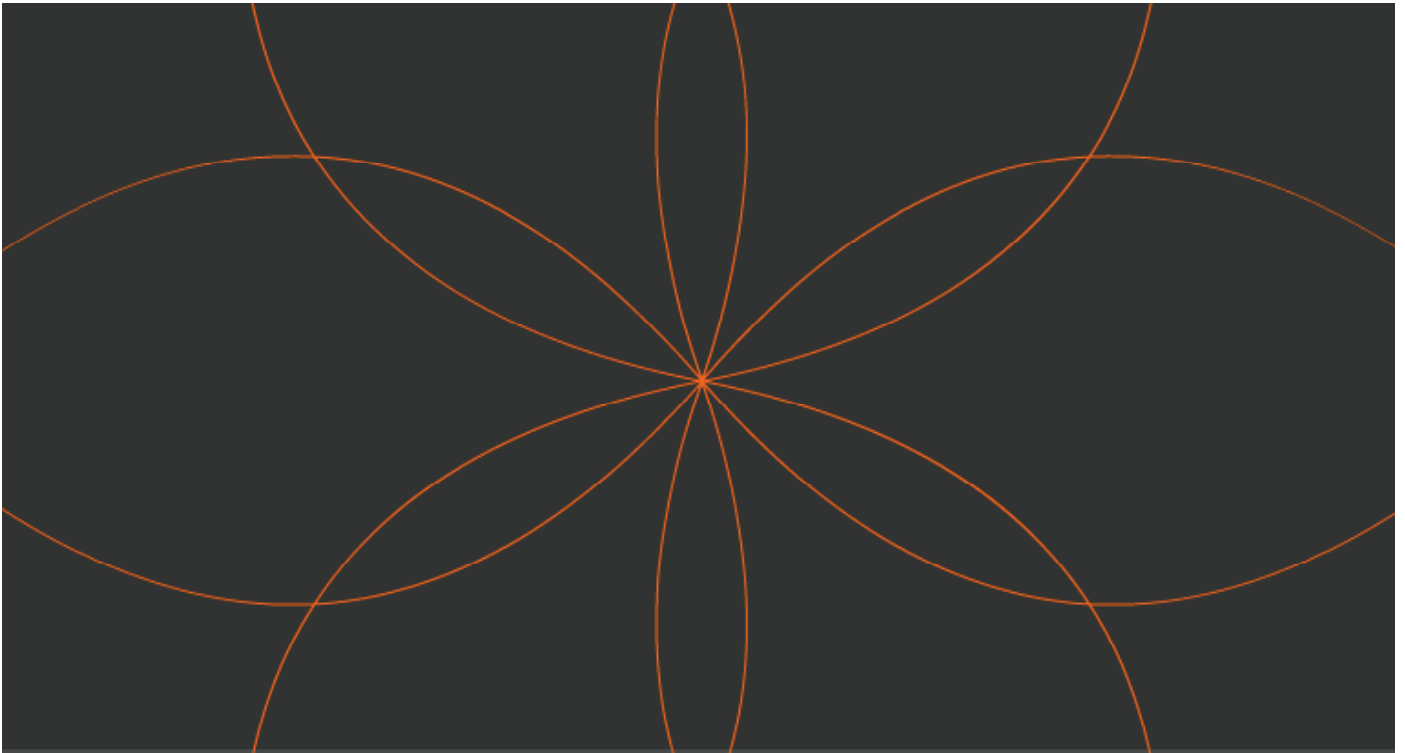
line combination #2

- as last step of the basic set up - duplicate the existing frame onto a new layer flip both movieclips horizontally (remember to remove the 'delete' layer!)

[top menu > modify > transform > flip horizontal]



You should now have the a good basis with a visual looking similar to the image shown below. You can now expand on this experimenting with various different visuals.



a few tips and suggestions ;)

- experiment with bringing in the clips at different point in the main timeline to create a richer display
in this case - remember to add a stop action in the very last frame to ensure that your movieclip play fully and loop smoothly
- to add a stop action
- 1 add a new layer at the very top of your layer stack and call it something like "AS" - or "script" - to reserve this layer for the actionscript alone
 - 2 add a new keyframe in the very last frame of your script layer
 - 3 call up the actions panel [top menu > window > actions]
 - 4 click into the keyframe to add a frame action
 - 5 add the following script (exactly as it is written): `stop();`
- remember that you can treat these movieclips as any other, ie you can transform them, fade and tint them - even animate them further
 - set up additional and different line animation clips and overlay them with others
 - try using shapes and other graphics with different types of motion
 - experiments with setting up guide layer and controlled motion inside the movieclips
 - you can use masks either inside the clips or on the main timeline to create further static and/or animated visual effects

have fun - and be creative ;)