# How to Create a Paper Shredder Icon in Illustrator

Welcome back to another Illustrator tutorial, in which we're going to learn how to create a simple paper shredder icon, using nothing more than some basic geometric shapes and tools.

So, assuming you already have the software up and running let's jump straight into it!

# Tutorial Details: Paper Shredder Icon

**Program:** Adobe Illustrator CS6 – CC 2018

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Topics Covered:** Design Theory, Compositional Construction, Shape Alignment, Grid Positioning

**Estimated Completion Time:** 25 Minutes

## Final Image: Paper Shredder Icon

# Step 1

As always we’re going to kick things off by setting up a **New Document** by heading over to **File > New** (or by using the **Control-N** keyboard shortcut), which we will then adjust as follows:

- **Number of Artboards:** 1
- **Width:** 128 px
- **Height:** 128 px
- **Units:** Pixels

And from the **Advanced** tab:

- **Color Mode:** RGB
- **Raster Effects:** Screen (72ppi)
- **Preview Mode:** Default

**Quick tip:** most of the indicated settings can be automatically triggered if you set the document's **Profile** to **Web.** The only setting that you'll have to manually adjust being the Artboard's **Size** (**Width** x **Height**).

# Step 2

Once we've set up our project file, we can start working on the actual paper shredder icon and we will do so by creating the background using a **120 x 120 px** circle which we will color using **#808080**, then position to the center of the underlying

**Artboard.**

# Step 3

Add the main shape for the document’s body using a **48 x 48 px** square, which we will color using **#E6E6E6.** Center align to the larger background, positioning it at a distance of **26 px** from its top edge.

## Step 4

Create the main shape for the folded corner using **16 x 16 px** square, which we will color using **#999999** and then center align to the larger shape’s top-right corner.

## Step 5

Give the shape that we've just created an outline using the **Stroke** method, by creating a copy of itself (**Control-C**) which we will paste in front (**Control-F**) and then adjust by first changing its color to **#4D4D4D**. Then, flip its **Fill** with its **Stroke** using the **Shift-X** keyboard shortcut, setting its **Weight** to **4 px** making sure to select and group the two shapes together using the **Control-G** keyboard shortcut.

## Step 6

Start adjusting the document by adding a new **anchor point** to its top and right edges where the corner overlaps it, by simply clicking on its path using the **Add Anchor Point Tool (+)**.

## Step 7

Continue adjusting the document’s shape, by removing its top-right **anchor** using the **Delete Anchor Point Tool (-)**.

## Step 8

Mask the folded corner using a copy (**Control-C**) of the resulting shape, which we will paste in front (**Control-F**) and then with both of them selected simply **right click > Make Clipping Mask**.

## Step 9

Give the document a **4 px** thick outline using the **Stroke** method, making sure to color it using **#4D4D4D**.

## Step 10

Draw in the dummy text lines using three **4 px Stroke** lines (**#4D4D4D**) vertically stacked at **4 px** from one another, which we will group (**Control-G**) and then position as seen in the **reference image**. Once you’re done, make sure you select and group all of the document’s composing shapes using the **Control-G** keyboard shortcut.

## Step 11

Create the upper section of the shredder using a **64 px** wide **4 px** thick **Stroke** line (**#4D4D4D**), which we will center align to the document’s bottom edge so that their paths overlap.

## Step 12

Add the left shredded section using an **8 x 12 px** rectangle (**#EF855B**) with a **4 px** thick outline (**#4D4D4D**), to the upper edge. Add the hard shadow using an **8 x 6 px** rectangle (**#4D4D4D**). Once you have all three shapes, group (**Control-G**) and then position them underneath the document as seen in the **reference image**.

## Step 13

Finish off the paper shredder icon and with it the project itself, by adding the remaining shredded sections using two copies (**Control-C > Control-F**), which we will position onto the original’s right side, at a distance of **4 px** from one another. Once you’re done, select and group all of the icon’s composing shapes using the **Control-G** keyboard shortcut, before finally hitting that save button.

## Awesome Job!

As always, I hope you had fun working on the project and most importantly managed to learn something new and useful along the way.

That being said, if you have any questions, feel free to post them within the comments section and I'll get back to you as soon as I can!

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