



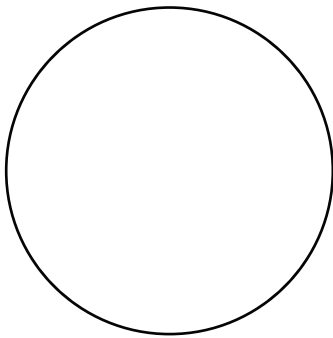
# Create a Celtic Trinity Knot with Adobe Illustrator

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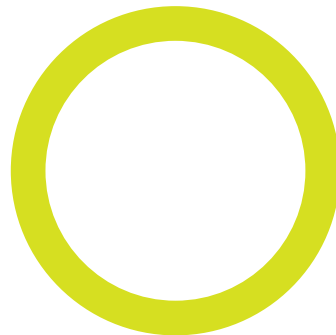
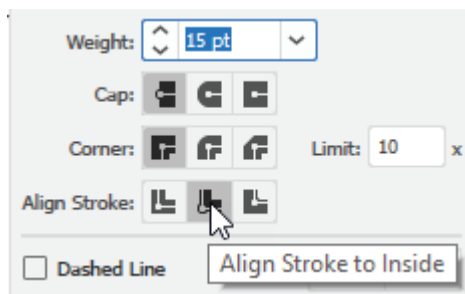
Today I'm going to show you how to create a 'triquetra', also known as a "trinity knot" and a popular design element in Irish jewelry such as claddaghs and wedding or engagement rings. Like all Celtic Knots, it's comprised of intertwined loops and lines that may look difficult to reproduce.

However, Illustrator provides some excellent tools to make them fairly simple to create. Let's get started.

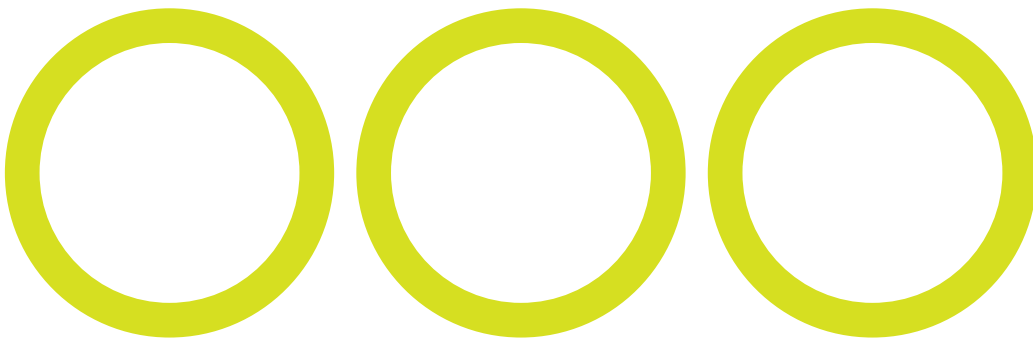
1. Use the Ellipse Tool (L) to create a circle with a stroke but no fill.



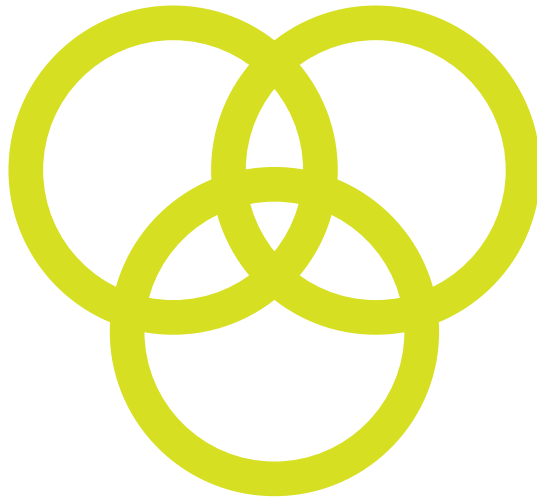
2. Go to Properties, or the Appearance Panel, to increase the stroke weight. Select Align Stroke to Inside from the Stroke options:



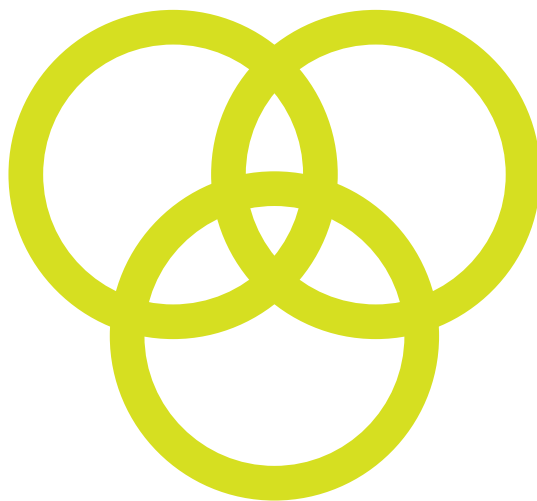
3. Copy and Paste the Circle twice so you have three circles.



4. Arrange them as so:



5. Select the three circles and go to Object > Expand Appearance. Give the circles a fill colour.



6. Select the three circles then select the Shape Builder Tool (Shift + M), hold down the Alt key and delete the outer parts of the rings by clicking on them.

7. Give the remaining shapes a stroke to make the next step clearer.



8. Select the remaining shapes and the Shape Builder Tool, this time do not hold down the Alt key. (Shape Builder plus Alt deletes shape elements; without Alt, Shape Builder unites shape elements).

9. Unite the separate elements by 'drawing' the Shape Builder Tool along the shapes you want to join.



That completes the triquetra. I think you'll agree it was straightforward and looks a lot more complicated than it is.