Adobe Tips: Illustrator
Combine multiple paths into one by drawing lines and selecting Object > Path > Join
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To change the color of multiple objects at once, select one object in that color and go to select > same > fill color to select all objects in that color, then choose a new color from the swatches panel.
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Illustrator provides tools for a number of simple shapes. You can create custom shapes by overlapping simple ones and using the shape builder tool to combine them.