

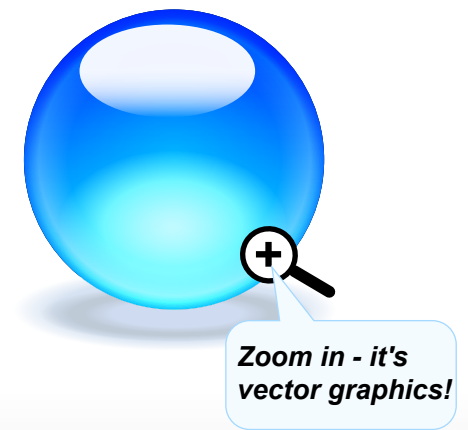
# How to Create Vector Glass Buttons - Aqua Style

With the Aqua graphical user interface for Mac OS the glass button look took off like a rocket.

This tutorial shows how to create lightweight, scalable vector graphics with that glossy glass look using Adobe Illustrator.

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Created: 2005 07 30

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- 1** The glass button consists of a total of 7 objects stacked on top of each other. They differ in transparency type to generate a realistic glossy finish.

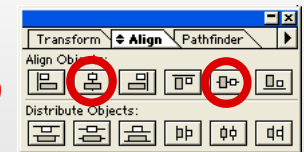
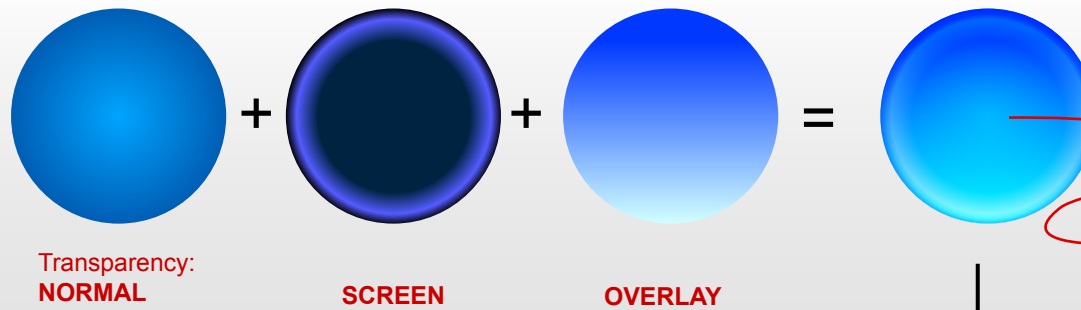
First create a disc and change its fill to a radial gradient. Then copy and paste this master disc to obtain three identical discs. Change the gradients and transparency of disc no 2 and 3 to match the image to the right.

- 2** Once the basic look is achieved we add a greenish glow and the trademark catchlight to obtain that familiar look.

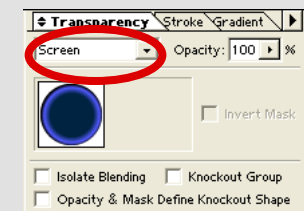
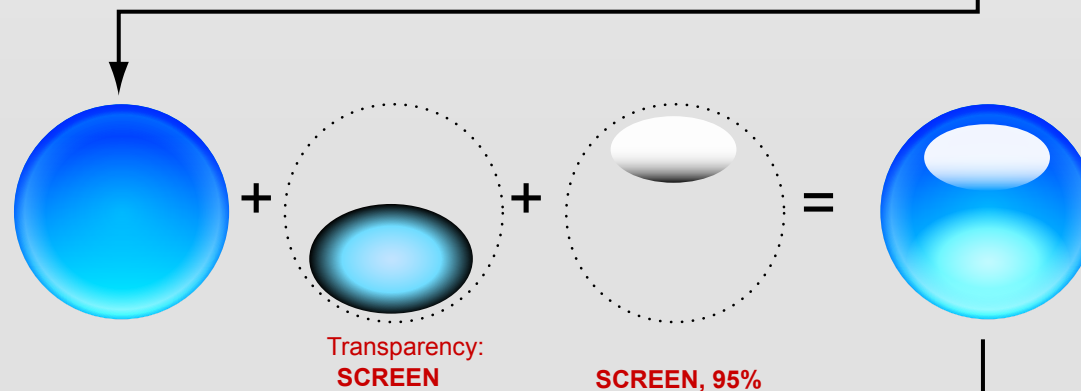
Create a round disc first, apply the radial gradient fill and *then* squash the shape to obtain an ellipse with an elliptic radial gradient. Place both the glow and the catchlight ellipses above the other objects.

- 3** Now the glass button is complete and to round it off we add a drop shadow and an icon.

Place the shadow as the bottommost object and the icon as the second topmost object (the catchlight is the topmost).



Use the Align tool to place the three discs on top of each other.



Change the transparency type and the opacity to the values indicated below the discs.

