

Gradient Mesh

1. Create a new document. With the circle tool, Shift + Click and drag to create a perfect circle.
2. With the pencil tool, redraw the bottom of the circles path. TIP: You must intersect with the path at start and finish.
3. Choose a dark fill colour for your balloon. Then select the Gradient Mesh tool from the toolbar.
4. Click on near the top-left as shown. This creates a Gradient Mesh, and can be edited just like a regular vector path.
5. With this new anchor still active, select a fill colour from the colour palette. This will be the highlight of the balloon, so choose the same hue as the balloon - but lighter.
6. Go nuts! I added some extra highlight with a white object, duplicated, rotated and change the colour of the balloons, then added some string and ribbon.

