topic: Adobe Illustrator: The Pen Tool, Layers, Duplicate, and Clipping Masks

goal: To demonstrate the use of several key Illustrator techniques. The final will look like the image on the right:

EXCERSIZE # 1 – Layers, Duplicate, and Clipping Masks

1. open a new document
   a. Letter sized, portrait view, CMYK

2. label your first layer “squares”

3. make a black square using the Rectangle Tool
4. “quick” duplicate it using the ALT key.

5. draw a bounding black square, with a thin black stroke and no fill, over the two boxes – this will be your border square.

6. copy this border black square and use “paste in front” to place it on a new layer labeled “border”. You can then hide your “squares layer to double check that you did this correctly.
7. You can then hide your border layer and return to your “squares” layer.

On this layer, create a clipping mask by selecting all three objects on this “squares” layer (your two solid black squares and the border square) and then right-click (or ctrl-click on a MAC) and go to “Make Clipping Mask”. NOTE: MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO NOT SELECT THE BOUNDING SQUARE ON THE “BORDER” LAYER – YOU WILL NEED THIS TO ADD THE BORDER BACK IN LATER.

The result should trim off the area of the black squares that was outside of the area defined by the border square.
8. Now you can “show”, or turn on, your “border layer, and the result should look like this:

![Image of a black square with a white square on a corner]

EXCERSIZE # 2 – The Pen Tool

1. In the same document, make a new layer and label in “heart”. You can hide your other layers.

![Layers panel showing layers: heart, border, squares]

2. On this layer use the Pen tool to draw a curvy heart that looks something similar to this. Choose a red fill with no stroke. Notice how it was drawn using only four points:

![Image of a red heart drawn with the Pen tool]

3. Be sure to use the alt key, in conjunction with the pen tool, in order to make a hard corner at the bottom vertex of the heart.

![Image of a red heart with an Alt key highlighted]
4. Be sure to hold the alt key down while “clicking and dragging” to close the heart at the top – this will allow you to close your shape with a hard corner that looks like this:

5. Use the Selection Tool (white arrow) to clean up your lines when you are done, and your final heart should look something like this: