

DIVIDING SHAPES IN ILLUSTRATOR

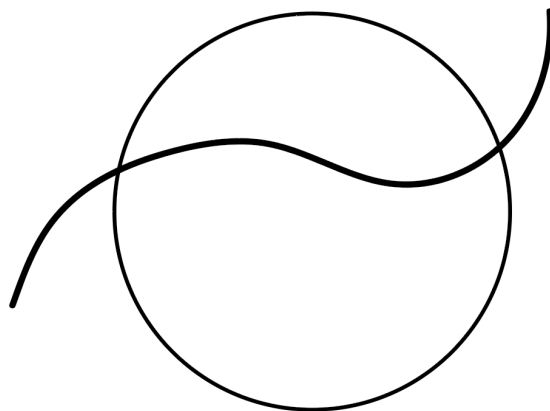
Sometimes you'll draw a shape in Illustrator but want to divide it into several sections — this is a technique that is sometimes useful for drawing shading or shadows without having to duplicate the shape. Or maybe you're trying to design a jigsaw puzzle.

There is a menu item called "Divide Objects Below" that will help you do this exact thing! You can find it by going to Object > Path > Divide Objects Below. (This is much easier than adding and deleting points on a path or using the scissors tool.)

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

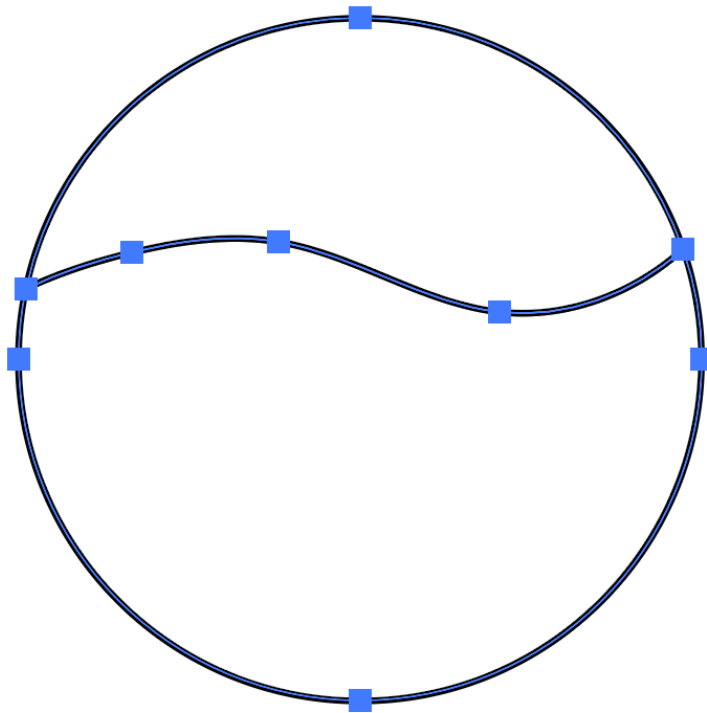
First, draw any shape of your choice in Illustrator. (This example will use a circle.) It doesn't matter if it has a fill only or stroke only, just draw the shape so you can see it.

Next, draw a line — any kind of line on top of the shape. Let it extend past the shape bounds. You can use the paintbrush tool, the pen tool, the curvature tool, the line tool. It can be a straight line or a wavy line. Just make sure you turn on the stroke of the line (so it looks like a line) and turn off your fill for that line. (In this example, the line was drawn with the paintbrush tool.)



Next, select the line you just drew. Make sure you select the line *only*, not the shape below it!

With this line selected, go to Object > Path > Divide Objects Below. Your end result should look something like this:



Notice that the line has been cut off and aligns automatically to your shape. If your line was a different stroke weight, it will also now match the stroke weight of the shape you drew.

You can draw more lines to further divide your shape if you like. Each time you divide, you make individual shapes that can be filled in, moved, distorted, have text added to them, whatever you like!