



## **XARAXONE.COM TUTORIAL TRANSCRIPT**

December 2012 Tutorial transcript

*This transcript is not verbatim, but it's what Gary used during the filming of the tutorial.*

Hi, I'm Gary Bouton and welcome to a Xara TV Christmas tutorial at Xaraxone.com.

This month I'm going to show you how to create a custom brush stroke that'll make decorating this season a snap. I'm going to show you how to make a garland.

To begin this month, go to [Xaraxone.com/tutorials](http://Xaraxone.com/tutorials). Scroll down the page, click the Download button to download the Zip archive for this month, unpack the contents and let's get ready to go.

To begin making the garland, we need to begin with a few pine needles. To do that, select the Freehand and Brush tool. Once you've chosen the Freehand and Brush tool, open the Line Gallery, choose the Falloff Brush, about 8 pixels in Width, choose the Butt cap, and a Miter joint, and then start making pine needles facing left. This is the top of the bough, and the reason why you're doing this is because when you eventually use the brush you'll be using it from left to right...so this branch will be oriented properly.

So continue to make strokes, and once you have oh I don't know, about 14 or so, do a center stroke and then select all the strokes, then choose Arrange>Convert Line to Shape. Once you've done that, you can use the samples that I've given you (in the Xara document) in the Zip file—to click on a shape, and then with the Eyedropper tool, choose a color green, you should vary these colors—this is why I've given you a number of samples—so that the

branch when it's eventually grouped will look natural. So let's continue to do that.

Once you have the branch colored, what you want to do is drag and drop a copy of it (you right-click and drag the group, then release the right mouse button to drop a copy of the original shape or group). This is the way you can make a whole bunch of branches, with the investment of only having made one once.

And that looks like the top section of this bough, this garland segment is done, What we're going to do is select some, duplicate them by drag-dropping, mirroring them, and as you can see, when you have one branch done, it's very easy to create several of them by varying the angle—the degree of rotation—and the scale. And I'm duplicating another one, and then once you have all of these together, group them and then drag-drop a copy —and I think we have the bough done for this brush.

What we're going to do now is I'm going to ask you to do a little bit of embellishing. What I'm going to do is (in the Xara file) in the Zip file there's an image of an ornament and you're going to use Auto-trace on it. Choose Utilities>Bitmap Trace, and what you want to do is:

- ◆ Set the Remove Noise to about 72
- ◆ The Minimum Area to 20
- ◆ The Tolerance to about 25
- ◆ The Accuracy to about 78
- ◆ The Smoothing to about 78

What that should do when you click Trace is produce an object that has about 600 to 700 shapes; you don't want too many. Now, once it's been traced, you'll notice that some shapes are unwanted, such as the background, Let's ungroup this for a second, delete the background, and there are some edge objects that you probably want to get rid of (such as) the white guys here,

And once that's done, you'll notice that where there should be a gradient toward the bottom, there's a whole bunch of banding, so what we can do is take the Ellipse tool, and drag a shape about that size. Use the Eyedropper tool to select the color we're going to be replacing. Now choose an Elliptical fill, click on the center (control handle) and then with the Eyedropper tool, click the center of the object and what we have here is an elliptical shape that will serve in this ornament to replace several of these color (shapes) that are representing a banded gradient. We don't want them, so they're going to go away — see there's quite a few shapes that we're eliminating. Once you have that in place, why don't you Select All and group them, and copy it to the Clipboard. Let's go back now to the bough shape, paste the ornament in, if it needs scaling, then scale it...why don't you put it where I have it here on-screen, toward the left-hand side. Now in the Zip document there's also a pine cone shape that I've created exactly the same way (using Bitmap Tracer); I took an image and auto-traced it, Let's put it to the right here, and then what you want to do is get rid of the color samples if they're still there.

Group this (Ctrl+G). And now you're ready to create a brush. With the Freehand Brush tool and the grouped object selected, click "Create Brush" and name it. I'm going to name this a "Garland Brush". You can name it anything you like; name it "Fred" if you like. Now that the brush has been defined, in order to use it—let's move this over here—you take the Freehand Brush tool and you'll notice up on the Infobar you can click to select the brush.

Now you're not done yet: you want to edit this (the brush) a little bit. Now we can make this smaller—click "Edit Brush" and then let's reduce the Spacing. It looks as though 30 percent or so will get the garland pieces touching each other. Now on the Scaling tab, what we might want to do is add some Randomness so that when you use the stroke, the garland itself is not the same size. We click "Random" a couple of times,

We're good, and this garland brush is local to the current document and that means that whenever you need the garland brush, you need to copy it (a stroke shape created with the brush) and it will appear in the new document in the Line Gallery under Custom Strokes. So as you can see here, just by making a couple of wavy lines, you now have a very nice garland border that you can use in your documents, and as you can see it's right there. What I've done is I've

loaded an image of a tree and I'm decorating it. And you know it's getting real close to the 25<sup>th</sup> and you should probably be decorating your tree, too.

And so that's it for the Xara Xone this year, you'll be seeing me next year and I wish you a very Happy Holiday.

(On Screen): In Memory of Bill Taylor (Soquili) 1949-2012

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