Aaron McGarry

As a writer and illustrator working in the technology industry, McGarry created this exploded view of a subwoofer from a CAD drawing for use as an assembly overview in a re-cone kit. McGarry first placed the drawing as a template layer then created an oval using the Ellipse tool and rotated it to match the angle of the drawing. To preserve this angle and shape throughout the illustration, he used this first object to create all the other ellipses within the illustration by holding Option/Alt to make a copy as he dragged, and resized using the bounding box. McGarry began with the uppermost clamping ring and built each component on a separate layer; this naturally organized each component so that it obstructed the previous components. He used an extensive variety of gradients from the gradients library (Window > Swatch Library > Gradients) to emphasize the cylindrical structure of the speaker. He made a single screw, dragged it into the Symbols panel, and then used instances of it to create the others. To make his customized arrows, he used the Pen tool to draw a path, stroked it with a color, and then used the Width tool to shape the arrow (see process left of illustration). Ellipse strokes such as the rim of the black cone also employed the Width tool, thinning the stroke as it circled away from view. He used the Pen tool to draw the cutaway portion of the speaker and the red surfaces on the main basket. He then used the Eyedropper tool to sample various shades of red from a photo of a similar speaker to indicate the red basket shades.