

Ok, so the pen tool can be challenging to learn. You're already over the first hurdle- ending lines. But sometimes it can be hard to get the lines exactly horizontal or vertical. This page helps you draw those lines and practice creating individual lines.

In this second exercise, we are going to trace the lines below. The secret is to grab the pen tool, click and press the SHIFT key on the keyboard. When you do this, it forces the line to be horizontal, vertical, or exactly 45 degree angles. All the lines in the image below are drawn this way. Play this page like a game. Trace all the lines below using the pen tool, holding shift to constrain to the right angles. (don't forget to control-click after each line to draw a new one). Click, Shift-click, Ctl-click. Click, Shift-click, Ctl-click. Do this whole page and you'll be a certified "straight-line with the pen tool" ninja. I know there's a lot. Do them all. You have to build this skill with repetitive practice. That's the only way. You want to be able to go relatively quick when making the individual lines and holding the right keys. Keep doing it until it feels natural.

SET THE STROKE TO RED 4 POINT LINE WITH NO FILL TO COMPLETE THE EXERCISE. CLICK THE LINE WITH THE EYEDROPPER.

