Pattern Brushes
Creating Details with the Pattern Brush

Overview: Create interlocking chain links by drawing and cutting duplicate curve sections; select the link artwork and create a new Pattern brush; draw a path and paint it with the new brush.

At the left, the ring drawn with the Ellipse tool and given a thick stroke, in the middle, the ellipse cut into four curve sections shown in Outline view (sections are separated to show them better); on the right, the four curve sections shown in Outline view, after using the Object > Path > Outline Stroke command.

On the left, the two left curve sections copied and pasted, and colors changed to light brown in the middle; on the right, the two sections are slid to the right to form the right half link.

On the left, the half-link selected and reflected using the Reflect tool (the X in the middle of the guide ellipse served as the axis); on the right, both half-links in position.