Author: MaryLou White   **Level:** Beginner   **Download:** Jaggededge.zip   **Version:** 1.6
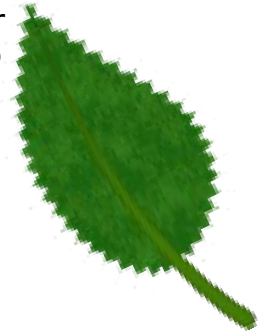
JAGGED EDGE

In this tutorial, you will learn how to create a jagged edge around a vector shape. This concept was presented in the PIRC forum by Teejay Joyce who graciously allowed me to write a tutorial so the idea doesn't get lost. To demonstrate this technique, we'll be making a leaf similar to the one shown here.

LET'S GET STARTED

Download the **jaggedge.zip** file and unzip it. It contains a brush file called **TJ wool 2.afbrushes**. Double-click the brush file and it will automatically install into the vector brushes.

MAKING THE LEAF

1. Open a **New Document** in a size of your choosing, units set to **Pixels**.

2. Set the **Fill** color to a nice shade of green and the **Stroke** color to none on the **Color** panel

3. Using the Ellipse tool, draw out an ellipse that's about 100 px wide and 150 px long.

4. Right-click and select **Convert to Curves** from the pop-up window.

5. Select the **Node** tool from the toolbar and click the top node on the ellipse to select it.
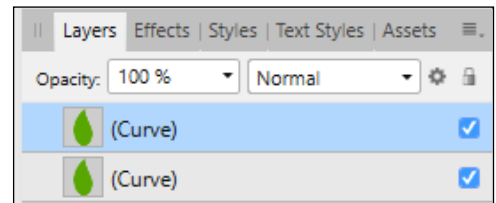
6. Click the **Convert to Sharp** icon which will change the shape of your ellipse to look more like a leaf.

7. Using the **Node** tool, adjust the other nodes to shape your ellipse into something that looks more like a leaf. There is no right or wrong.

8. While your image is still active, press **CTRL+J** to copy and paste the image. You should now see two images in the **Layers** panel.

9. While the top layer is still selected, click the double-headed arrow on the **Color** panel to reverse the colors on the top layer have to a green stroke with no fill.
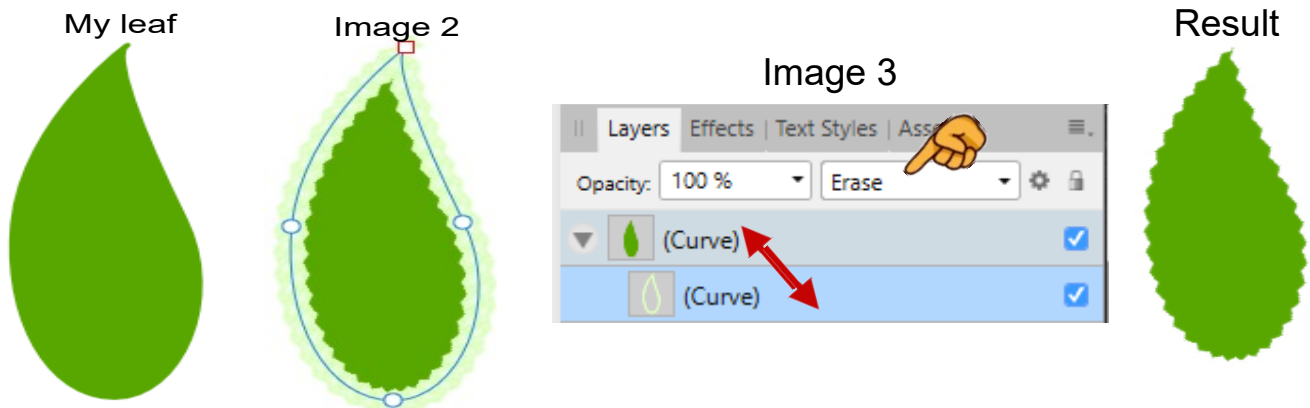
THE JAGGED EDGES

Now comes the fun part, adding the jagged edges to our leaf. This is created by using a textured brush. We will be using **TJ's Wool 2** brush although there are other brushes that will work. You have lots of choices.
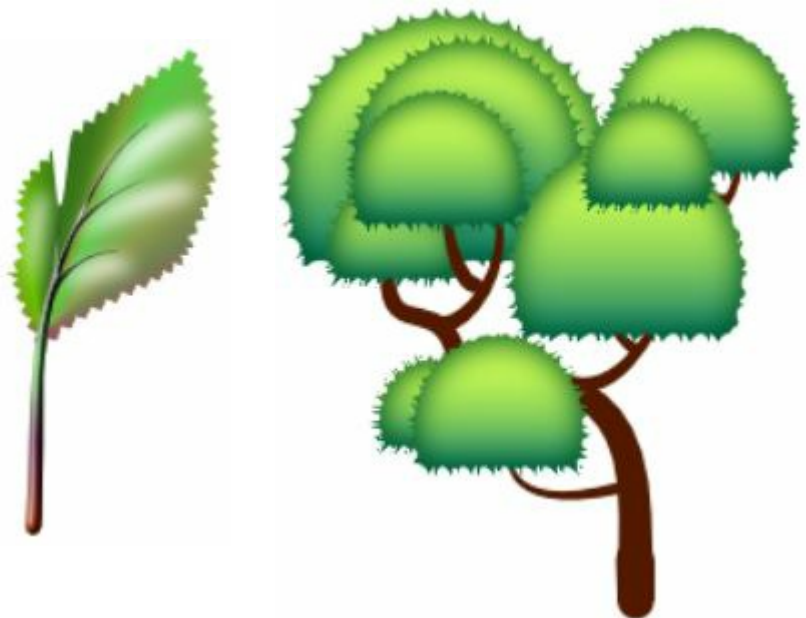
Make sure you have the top layer selected (the one with just the outline). Open the **Brushes** panel, find the **TJ wool 2** brush and click it. This will cause the brush to follow the outline of the leaf.

On the **Stroke** panel, adjust the **Stroke Width** to your liking. Your image should now look similar to **Image 2** below.

On the **Layers** panel, drag the top ellipse downward while pulling it to the right to clip the image inside of the solid green ellipse.   Set the **Mode** to **Erase** (Image 3).

My leaf   Image 2   Result

Image 3

Now you can add a stem to your leaf or just leave it as it is. Try using this technique with other shapes and brushes . The possibilities are endless! The images below were all created by Teejay to show what one can do with this technique. Thanks Teejay!