

# Apophysis Xaos Simplified

Small Theory, Big Application

A tutorial on the Xaos function within Apophysis

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## **Table of Contents**

**Page 3 Introduction and Brief Theory**

**Page 4 How to Apply Xaos to a Transform (Example 1)**

**Page 6 Linked Transforms**

**Page 7 Explanation of The First Example**

**Page 8 More Examples**

**Page 11 How to Work Xaos Into Other Fractals (Advanced Example)**

**Page 13 Examples: Provided by [Tim](#)**

**Page 14 Other Ideas and Thoughts**

## Introduction

The chaos feature of Apophysis was released with version 2.08. Since then there has been much confusion about how it works and functions. My goal with this tutorial is to provide a clear explanation, along with practical suggestions and examples to get you off and running with this powerful feature. Stick with this tutorial, and you'll be a chaos master in no time!

It is important to note, that this tutorial primarily focuses on the idea of linking transforms. This is only one aspect of the chaos function. Although being extremely powerful and versatile, it is by no means the only way to use chaos. As always, I encourage you to explore all the possibilities available.

This tutorial assumes that you have some experience with Apophysis. The current version (as of 02.23.09) is Apophysis 2.09 or Xyrus02's Apo7x.12. The tutorial also assumes you are using one of the above two versions.

## Theory

Simply put, chaos allows you to choose where pixels are plotted, making them less random than the weighted system alone previously employed by Apophysis. The majority of the information on chaos currently focuses on a "function" based approach to using it. It's high time we take a look at it from a results-oriented approach.

You can read much on the theory and illustrations of how chaos works in the references below. The approach presented here, while perhaps not being technically correct or accurate, will no doubt help you to envision in your mind better what chaos is capable of.

Picture in your mind two separate parts to a fractal: One a structure or texture, and the second, a map. The structure gets painted onto the map very much like a texture. Wherever the map leads, the structure/texture goes. Without a map, the structure cannot be present. The following section will illustrate this concept more clearly.

For further reading on theory and function:

<http://zueuk.deviantart.com/journal/19827222/>

Here you can read firsthand Peter Sdobnov's explanation of the chaos function.

<http://ideviant.deviantart.com/art/Xaos-a-new-dimension-95768014>

This is an excellent explanation by Ian Anderson of more of the theory and use of chaos in Apophysis.

## How to Apply Xaos to a Transform (Example 1)

In this section, we're going to look at how to apply Xaos to a transform, and in doing so, learn how linked transforms function.

Goal: To link a “structure” to a “map” using chaos.

### Step 1

Open the flame editor and create a **blank frame**. Choose a gradient you will be able to see clearly.  
*Hint: Avoid black in your gradients for the duration of this example.*



Step 1: This is the gradient I chose to work with.

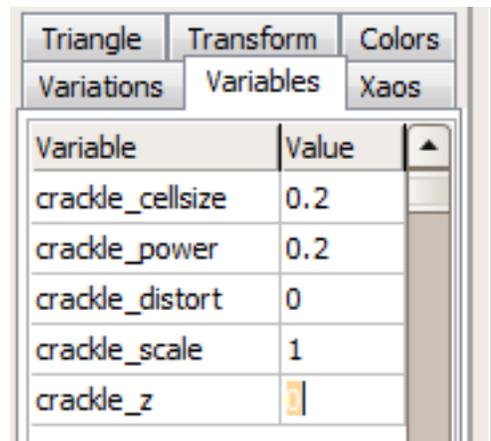
### Step 2

For Transform 1, set the following **Variations**:

**Linear = 0**  
**Crackle = 1**

Change the variables for **Crackle** to match the following:

**Cellsize = 0.2**  
**Power = 0.2**  
**Distort = 0**  
**Scale = 1**  
**Z = 0**



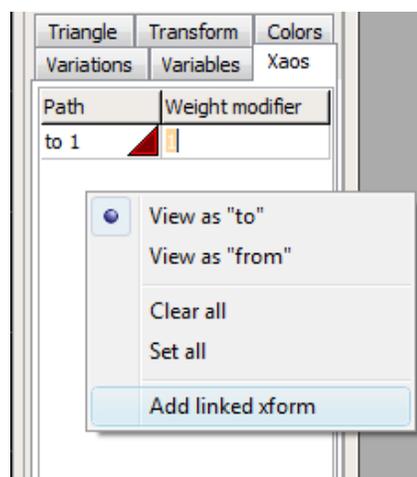
Adjusting the Crackle Variables

Here we have just set up our “texture” for the fractal.

### Step 3

Goto the **Xaos** tab, **right click**, and choose “**Add Linked Transform**”.

A detailed explanation of what this does follows the steps of this example.



## Step 4

The last step added a new transform, **Transform #2**.  
**Change the variations** to the following:

**Linear = 0**  
**Bubble = 0.5**

This transform becomes our “map” for where the “texture” will be painted.

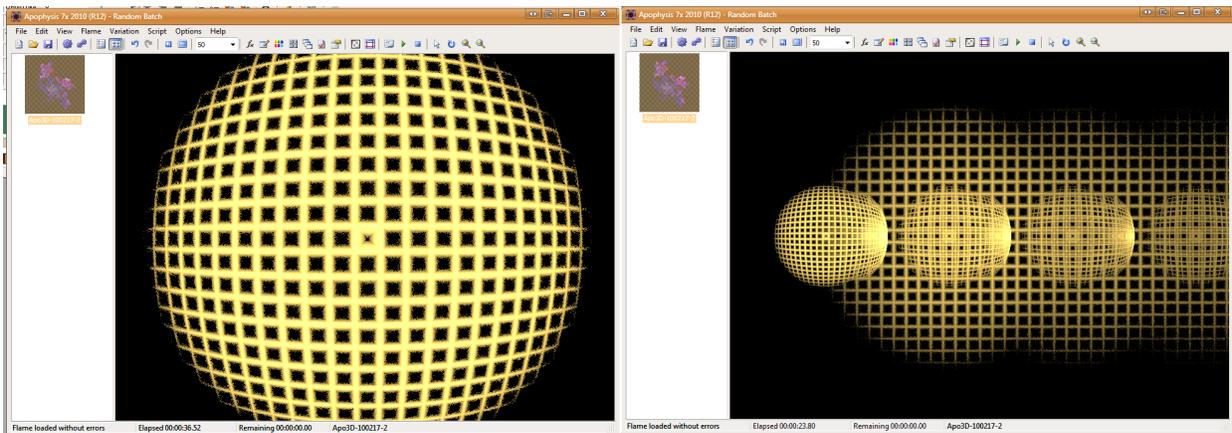
## Step 5

So right now, it doesn't look like much, does it?

**Add a new transform (#3).**

Keep this one set to **Linear = 1**.

**Move the Linear Transform to the right by 1 unit.**

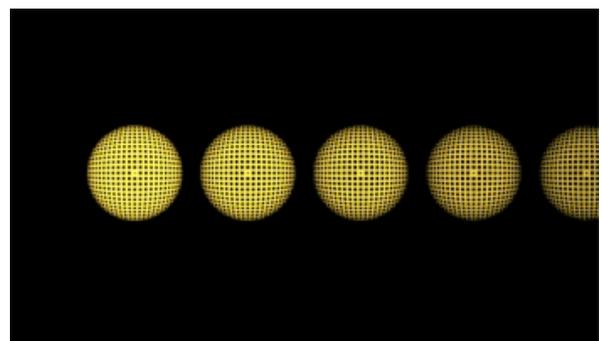


*Before and After Step 5*

## Step 6

Set your **Xaos** Settings as follows:

	<b>Xfrm 1</b> Texture (Crackle)	<b>Xfrm 2</b> Map (Bubble)	<b>Xfrm 3</b> Linear
<b>To 1:</b>	0	1	1
<b>To 2:</b>	1	0	0
<b>To 3:</b>	0	1	1



Now you should have something (slightly) impressive. Take a moment to congratulate yourself, you've just conquered the first step in mastering chaos! What did we do? Let's take a moment first off, to see what linked transforms do, and then we'll explain the chaos map to our fractal.

## Linked Transforms

During this discussion of linked transforms, we're going to forget about transform #3 in our example, and only focus on transforms 1 and 2.

What happens when you add a linked transform? Note the following table.

<b>Xfrm 1 (“Structure”)</b>	<b>Xfrm 2 (“Map”)</b>
Variation: Crackle	Variation: Bubble
<b><u>Xaos</u></b>	<b><u>Xaos</u></b>
To 1: 0	To 1: 1
To 2: 1	To 2: 0
<b><u>Colors</u></b>	<b><u>Colors</u></b>
Speed: 0	Speed: 1
Opacity: 0	Opacity: 1

First, note how the two transforms are linked to each other via chaos numbers. Our “structure” is funneled into the “map” and has no focus on itself. The “map” on the other hand *only* goes towards the “structure”. This is how you will set up any chaos settings when you want to “paint” a texture on a particular part of a fractal. However, there is a bit more.

Secondly, we must look at the *colors* tab of the editor window. This is very important to ensure the “structure” or “texture” appears properly on the “map” and not all over the fractal. Notice how the *opacity* is turned off (or set to 0) for this transform. This means that this transform is transparent to the eye. We will only see this transform (our texture) on the “map” that we have linked it to.

You can use this method with practically any combination of variations to breathe new life into fractals or to provide texture to once “flat” images.

## Explanation of The First Example

Here is the table again for quick reference. Study it along with the explanation.

	<b>Xfrm 1</b> Texture (Crackle)	<b>Xfrm 2</b> Map (Bubble)	<b>Xfrm 3</b> Linear
<b>To 1:</b>	0	1	1
<b>To 2:</b>	1	0	0
<b>To 3:</b>	0	1	1

In our example, we have used the Bubble variation. (This variation lends itself quite nicely to 3D work, by the way.) That means that our “map” is going to look rounded just as if you had placed a Bubble transform in the editor all by itself.

Our “structure” consists of the Crackle plugin ([available here](#)). The Crackle will only be applied where wherever the Bubble structure goes.

Transform #3, our linear transform, now gives us something to work it. Notice how it does not link to transform 2, our “structure”.

**For the “textured” transform: all xaos will point to the “map” or link.**

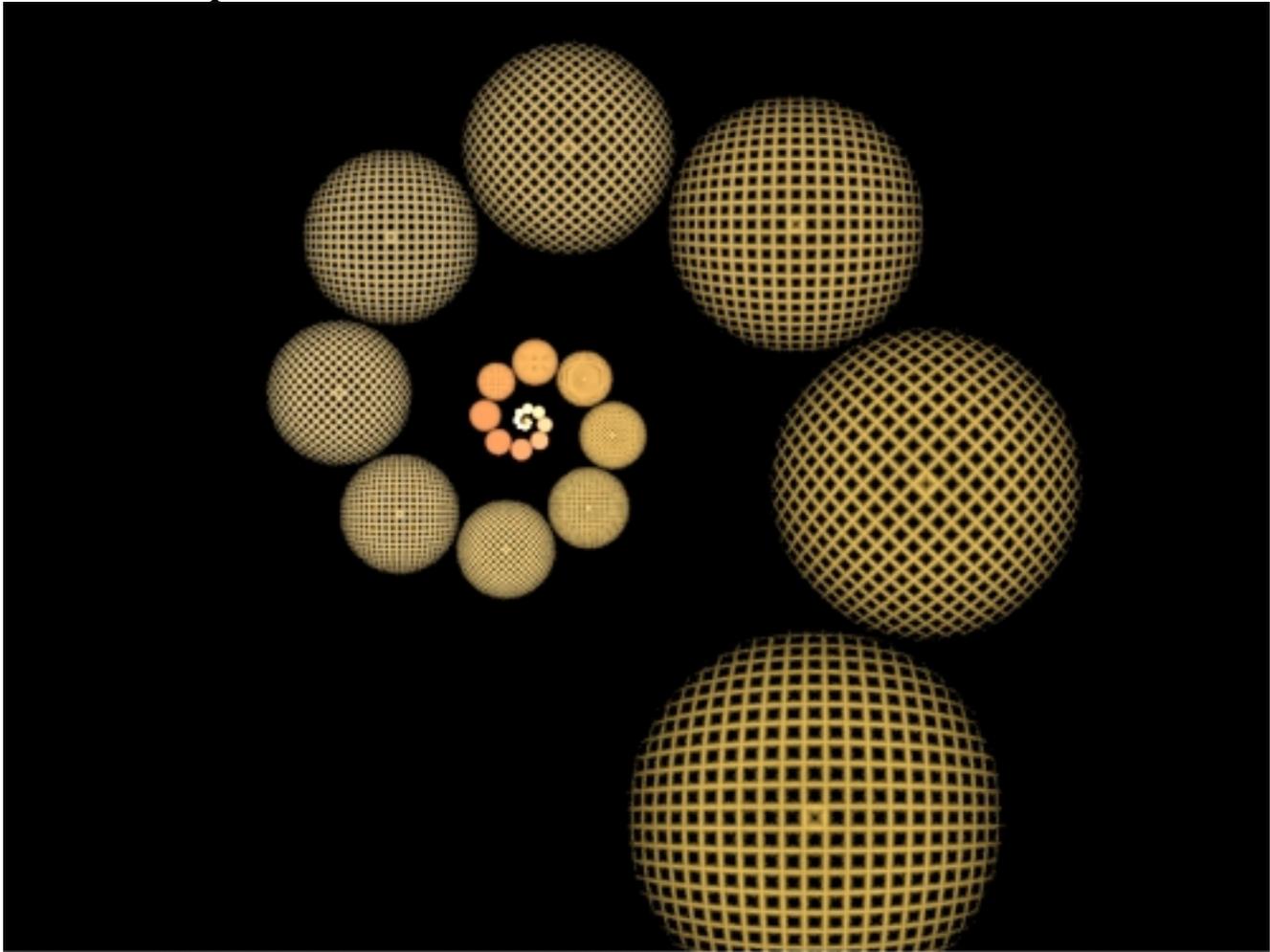
**For the “map” transform: xaos = 0 for itself.**

**For all other transforms: no xaos is directed to the “map”.**

Take a moment now to explore with the linear transform. Move it around, resize it, rotate it. When your finished, put it back where it started. Next, add another linear transform so that you now have 2. Try configuring the xaos so that it follows the rules in bold above.

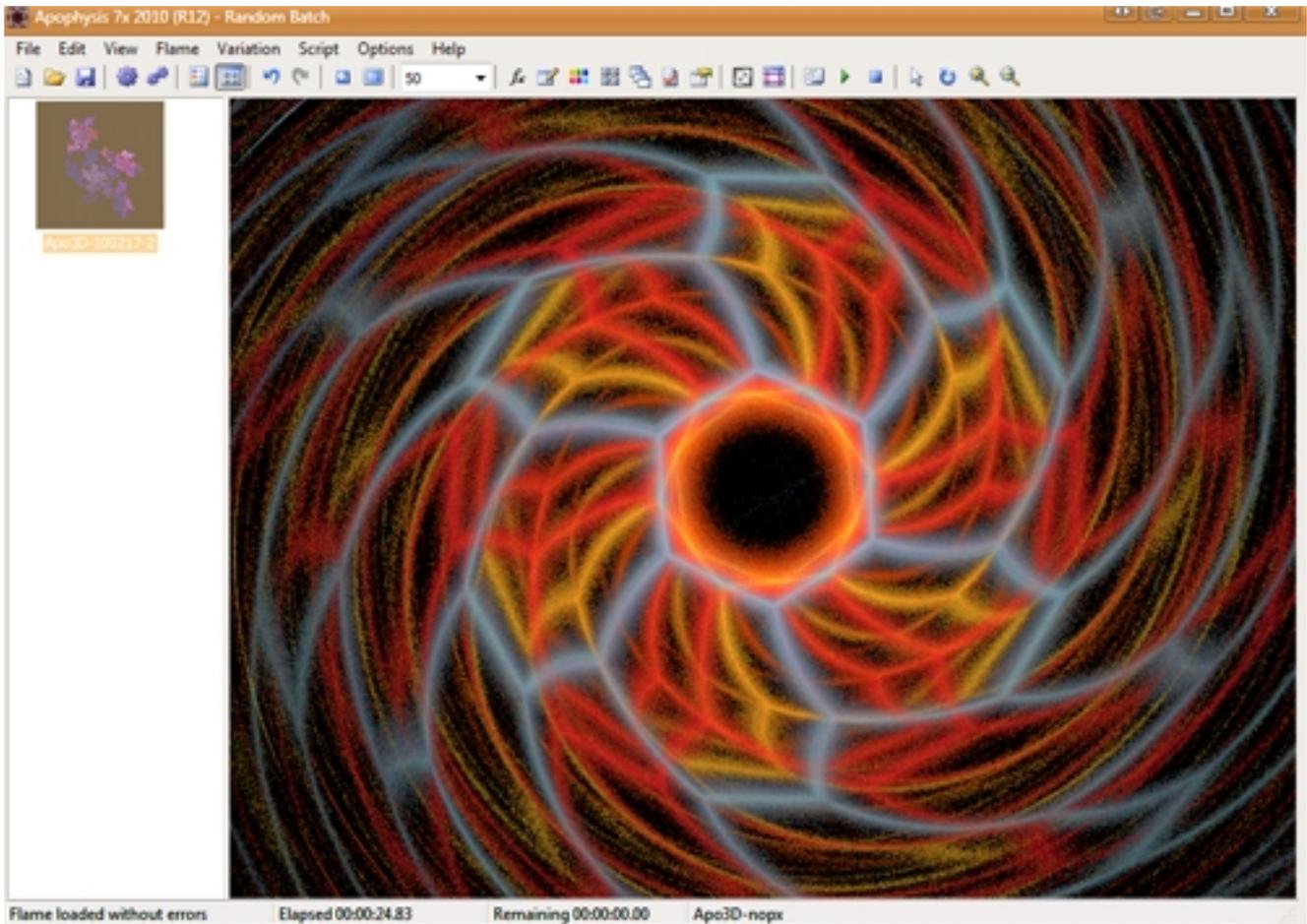
It is incredibly important to note that by adding new transforms, the links from “add linked transform” are effectively destroyed. This method of setting up links requires that you go in and manually adjust the Xaos settings each time a new transform is added. It has been suggested that you could set up your fractal as you normally would, and then add your linked transforms at the end. This would alleviate this problem.

## More Examples



This example is of a simple spiral using the same parameters from our first example. You can copy and paste the parameters below into Apophysis and explore the spiral.

```
<flame name="Apo3D-100219-1" version="Apophysis 7x 2010 (R12)" size="800 600" center="-0.398729749619141 -0.765956555156069" scale="280.524412079417" oversample="1" filter="0.2" quality="50" background="0 0 0" brightness="4"
gamma="4" gamma_threshold="0.04" estimator_radius="9" estimator_minimum="0" estimator_curve="0.4" >
<xform weight="0.5" color="0" crackle="1" coefs="1 0 0 1 0" crackle_cellsize="0.2" crackle_power="0.2" crackle_distort="0" crackle_scale="1" crackle_zs="0" chaos="0 1 0" plotmode="off" opacity="0" />
<xform weight="0.5" color="0" symmetry="1" bubble="0.5" coefs="1 0 0 1 0" chaos="1 0" opacity="1" />
<xform weight="5" color="0.935" symmetry="0.93" linear="1" coefs="0.584386 -0.584386 0.584386 0.25 -0.75" chaos="1 0" opacity="1" />
<palette count="256" format="RGB">
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D4B091DDBEA7E1C9A6E8C79E6C693E4C76BE4D065E2CE44
E6CB3BDFC52EF3C717E8CB28D9BF2EDAAD23C9B223E2BA19
D2A81DCCB03BD99624BC7715D8A313DC9109E19F01DF9D01
DB870CC8615CC7102C16802C37000A7312AD750DB76813
B77620A49B2B8E9B42618A452F583D304F33234A31274834
2A4D3943565A5A5F658E8568A88E5EBB8868C9876ACF8A7B
D18C79D9977AD9977FDE967EDB9886DEA788E3AA90DCAE92
DCB79CDBB09DC0A99B8A88068956C4177562657471D463A
193B361945381D42382B584049755876875D998E4EC19248
C6913DC7A246C49D35DB962FDEA330D9C13BDE93EDEBD52
CFB45DD3B962CDB364BEA161A99A55759E5E5283664B795D
4E775E58795A836657A26926A06521A3681CA6581EB04E03
A94703A62B019F0F089A0808A50603A00300950100940903
320B0A301D0C2E181B3027215246209B671EAC772EB88236
D29C45E3A15BDCA96EE09B6BD28368B86A5EA6556A65B51
9C605586F524C7B5A3E775636745B427B66568E747E9E7B
A3A576D1A877DEB290E1C8A3E2D4A2D0CA7E1D1AAD7D5BC
EACEBEE0D2ABE3C9AEDFCBB2E1B5AADAA393C48E82B58461
B46F3FC65D23C86503D5671AD05E04D15408D24301C34201
C24A02B54600BC4101BD3504B83201B33503AA2904AE0D06
B00D03B23005A64034C55A38BC635D016860DE7A5CCE8370
CE97787CA183ADB48A88B391629C8253937546866B5846A
6E9067A28C88B27654C07A5DC77A1CB7E77C48976BF8371
B6826BA1997868916D4E806735705723665028604734674B
61894F8A9F43BBAD40C0B13BD2BE3DDBB75BE0C468DDCC8B
E1CA9BD1C9989C8B0907378804557601B3A30030303271F2E
5B3B3FA97D51CE9F69D0BA73CC465DFBE55FC4CF7D242
F8D23CF5C53EDEBA4ACFB05BF9B6CA17E66696F6F506266
2B523C243D2D17362812332A203C26354A3349624376875D
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</palette>
</flame>
```



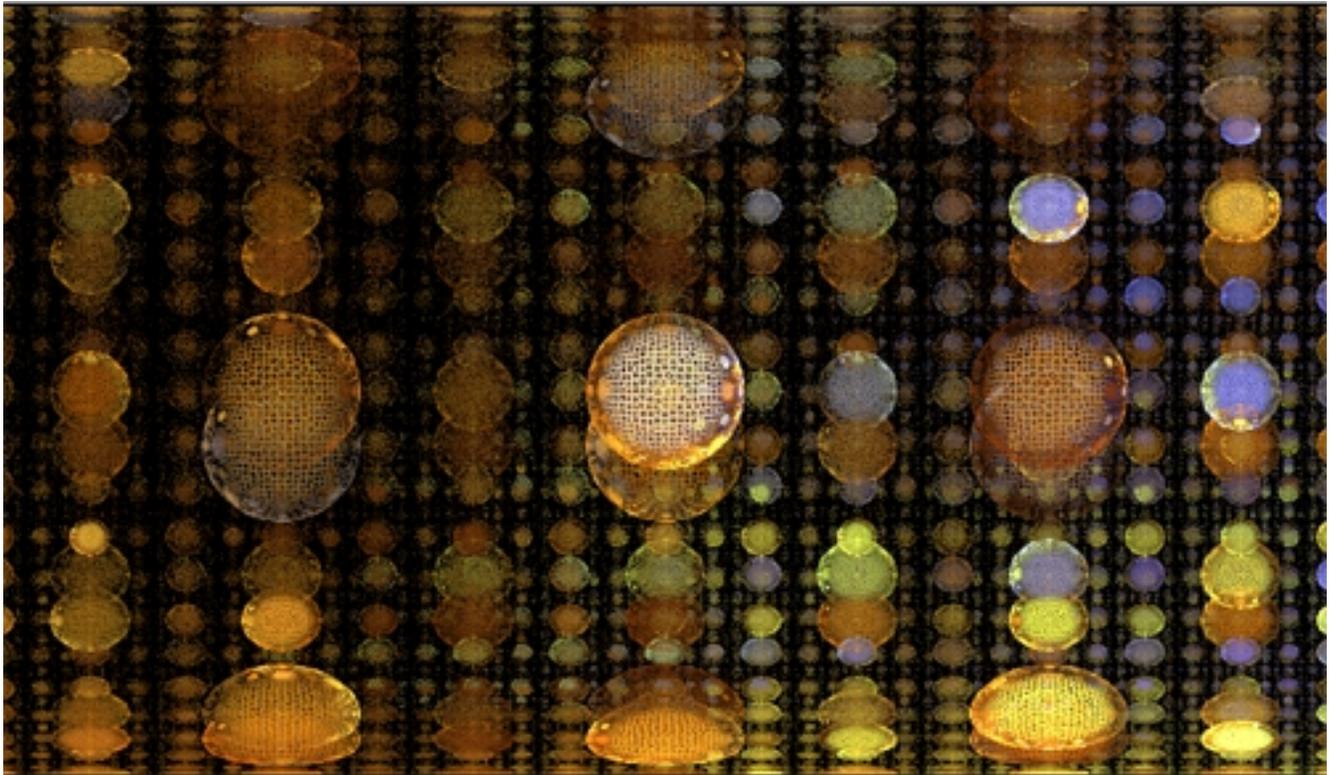
Here is another example to explore. This flame takes advantage of the Hexes variation “mapped” to a swirl transform. A linear transform adds some extra detail.

Pay careful attention that the numbers used in the Xaos tab are not strictly 1 and 0. Change them around and see how they affect the overall fractal. Some suggestions to try: **0.01, 0.1, 5, 10.**

```

<flame name="Apo3D-nopx" version="Apophysis 7x 2010 (R12)" size="800 600" center="-0.00523847375832437 0.0246658985620826" scale="330.925382384279" cam_perspective="0.195" oversample="1" filter="0.2" quality="50" background="0 0 0" brightness="4" gamma="4"
gamma_threshold="0.04" estimator_radius="0" estimator_minimum="0" estimator_curve="0.4">
<xform weight="0.5" color="0" pre_blur="0.5" hexes="1" coef="1 0 0 1 0 0" hexes_cellsize="0.3" hexes_power="0.1" hexes_rotate="0" hexes_scale="1" hexes_distort="0" hexes_z="0" plotmode="off" opacity="0"/>
<xform weight="0.5" color="0.013" symmetry="0.97" swirl="1" coef="0.909091 0 0 0.909091 0 0" chaos="2 0" opacity="1"/>
<xform weight="0.3" color="0.039" symmetry="0.01" linear3D="1" coef="0.866025 -0.5 0.5 0.866025 0 0" chaos="0 1 0 1 0" opacity="1"/>
<palette count="256" format="RGB">
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F3002CF6022D10015AC000971217324264229C4D2E33
1F4F4FB93637641E345D0F315600335801365A034E4026
6D3E1B8C3D11B43108DD2600EE1607FF060FF000BF00016
AC0097D15044F2B004F3E024F51054F4E09504C0D4E1F33
4F0F2A510022511911523304113B0431430728460500813
44A01034A51F25AB2F339F6741949F41959441978A465246
3F593038611B3B58143F500D48420B51340A500D0F4B0010
AC0009C3152ED2A2A5DD355AE14161ED4C68FF14FEF0039
D3045B70052940E49721E405F26394D233464C3745513D
4E40264F42175145095F430B6E420DA4200AB4200AC0009
AC0009AC0009AF000CB2000FAC00092260B4E40264E4325
38611B28810D18A1001B97001F8E002FE60B385E164E4026
4E40264E40264E40264E40264E40264E40264E40264E4026
3F4F0404505513B0A52260AAB0005AB000551001A510022
731D11953A00A73200BA2B00CF0022E4002FE01A00DC1C00
AB42008A3E0F6A3B1E4B483C2D385100374E024D4F023D6C
322C7621C635E2C735A3C848493B8BCB9C2CEFF62E0F35F
E4FF1ADD9A3AD063AD2F22CB1212B8942A05C24449F13
3D821A37652237631F37631F44684C57965F5BA0486FA756
D2D897DDDDA1E9E2ACD2EBC3F3E4B9F5E0CCFDD0DAB1B0C6
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044C5A2652573C94E44473754E2998C3D12AB4200E74800
F34B08F4E10FF6A7AC38C3DD0D695CAC1C7A8AEB6687981
494B494B4A424B453B45503B65A25BA4C165B7E229ACDA28
94AA23BA5A02B23C04A6182967066142458E4086A3408FA7
4087A347386495154533623B295B63156526575438784
45898A447274485656A3F35A4E1300D54000F62100F1511
FF160F12F00E23400D14000AB4200703B1958322E373D42
2B403602513000780016A80B17A90E348E00505100933C00
AB4200B850009BA3198FC72384B06185B0644F8DA548A90
</palette>
</flame>

```



This example might appear to be more complicated, but fear not. It's actually built off our first example, utilizing a few more linear transforms. Again, take note of how changing the Xaos values makes a difference in the fractal.

```
<flame name="Tiling Example" version="Apophysis 7x 2010 (R12)" size="800 469" center="0 0" scale="232" angle="-1.5707963267949" rotate="90.0000000000002" oversample="1" filter="0.5" quality="50" background="0 0 0" brightness="4"
gamma="4" gamma_threshold="0.04" estimator_radius="9" estimator_minimum="0" estimator_curve="0.4" >
<xform weight="0.5" color="0" symmetry="1" bubble="0.9" coefs="1 0 0 1 0 0" post="0.227273 0 0 0.227273 0 0" chaos="0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0" opacity="1" />
<xform weight="1" color="0.455" linear3D="1" coefs="1 0 0 1 0 -1" opacity="1" />
<xform weight="1.5" color="0.169" linear3D="1" coefs="0 1 -1 0 1 -1" opacity="1" />
<xform weight="0.7" color="0" linear3D="1" coefs="0.5 0 0 0.5 -0.5 -1" opacity="1" />
<xform weight="0.5" color="0" crackle="1" coefs="1 0 0 1 0 0" crackle_cellsize="0.2" crackle_power="0.1" crackle_distort="0.4" crackle_scale="1" crackle_z="0" chaos="1 0 0 0" plotmode="off" opacity="0" />
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B3CF84C0E575EFC66D2FC60D7FD5ADFFE51E7FF49F2FF50
FFFA4FFAD41EDB535E09629D07B18C06107B75805AF4F03
AD5A00AF7D17B2A12FD7B135DF313CFDBF3BFEBE3AF9A626
EA952AB26209A84E0B9F3A0E93390783800883806A390C
96440CA24E0CAE580DBA650BC67309CB840ED19513FEAF30
F7B932BF9646AF8761A0797C67E858D838E7B879D6F6C4B
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6425001409110C082505073A09083C0D0A3F13084D1E073D
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2C15432B18512A1B602F1D6C3420792B1E7A201F7C322591
4531A22B7962A289F2A29A83139B52432D03A34E05D61CF
9595D393A2B891B09E8CA3A28797A68DA7A6A0AFAA9AFB3
8C95BC6F78C76662C25E4DBD4E4FA1606B89936E7FA87445
CE8E37DF8E38F18E39FEB334FFC238FFC13CFFC145F2B354
C0A26EB08B70BA7F56C4733CC37520CA6C0CCF6E0DD2720E
E38511E68815EA8C1AE17F14D57416D27E1EB98740C0B671
C5C85DC3E978C0FE6FC1F85FDEE348CBBC3FAB92369B833B
B1A96B9BA07D86978F8BA395A49A5AF998BC4BA7DCFFA64
F4FA66F1FA4FFCF157FFD449FFD33FFFB39FF9F22FFA81B
F8D33DF6E130F4E033DAE85FADCD7A889A9B26562CB5049A6
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CC5E21C8673C906C06A578E6A598F7374668B6729A74A1E
A94B05A14200AA4D00B54F05BC5C08C6670BCE720DD57E0B
EC8E1AEF911FF3991FFA9A21F8981FF2951CEA8C18D47410
BD5607AE4F00A348019B46069D4807A65915A6620DA2540A
994E00913D01903E04774600803500913700963C00A44902
</palette>
</flame>
```

# How to Work Xaos Into Other Fractals (Advanced Example)

In this section, we're going to take the julian/disc method, and incorporate some chaos into it.

## Step 1

Create a **new fractal and blank flame**. Change the **variations** to the following:

**Linear = 0**  
**Julian = 1**

**Julian Variables** (Change these at your discretion.)

**Power = 88**   **Distance = 1**

## Step 2

**Add a new transform**. Set the **variations** to the following.

**Linear = 0**  
**Disc = 1**

**Increase the Weight to 5.**

## Step 3

**Shrink transform 2 (disc) once by 110.**

In the **colors** tab, change **transform color** to **1.0**

**Rotate Counter-clockwise by 15 degrees twice** (30 degrees total).

## Step 4

With **transform 2** active, **right click in the chaos tab** and choose "Add Linked Transform".

## Step 5

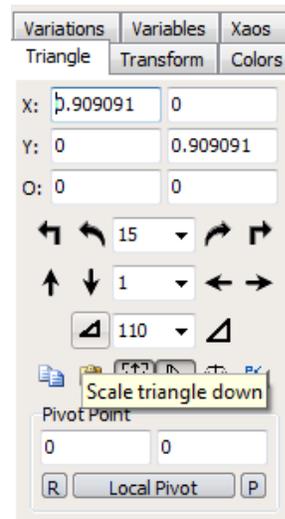
On **transform 3**, set the following **variations**.

**Linear = 0**  
**Swirl = 1**

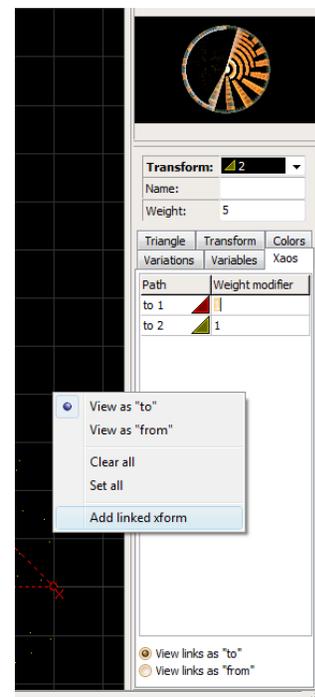
## Step 6

**Enable the Final Transform**, and set the following **variations**.

**Linear = 0**  
**Polar = 1**



*Step 3: Scaling Down Transform 2*



Your final result should be similar to the following image.



Bear in mind that this is only one option for the Xaos settings for this type of fractal. Play with different settings, variations, variables and find what suits you best.

*Hint: You may find it easiest to delete the Final Transform while you experiment and then add it in again once you've found a suitable design.*

# Examples: Provided by [Tim](#)

```
<flame name="Apo3D-ngon" version="Apophysis 7x 2010 (R12)" size="266 266" center="0 0" scale="66.5" cam_perspective="0.195" oversample="1" filter="0.5" quality="50" background="0 0 0" brightness="4" gamma="4" gamma_threshold="0.04" estimator_radius="9" estimator_minimum="0" estimator_curve="0.4">
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  <xform weight="0.5" color="0" linear3D="1" coefs="1 0 0 1 0 0" opacity="1" />
  <xform weight="0.5" color="0" linear3D="1" coefs="1 0 0 1 0 0" opacity="1" />
  <xform weight="0.5" color="0" linear3D="1" coefs="0 -1 1 0 0 0" chaos="0 1 0 0" opacity="1" />
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F3002CF60022D10015AC000971121737242642292C4D2E33
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## Other Notes and Thoughts

The “texture” / “map” idea works well in most cases, but will not work when your “map” includes blur variations. The blurs cover over any of the “textured” aspects.

The “texture” / “map” idea is simply an analogy used to explain in different terms how chaos works. Its power goes far beyond this approach, and I encourage you to continue to explore the different facets of how it works.

There are times where you will find it advantageous to link your “texture” to more than one transform. Also in the reverse, there may be times where you'll find a better result by linking more than one transform to your “texture”.

Variations to start exploring with: crackle, hexes, truchet, loonie, synth, pie, swirl.

Don't limit yourself to the variations above, they are just some suggestions to get you going. Chaos, just like fractals in general, is unlimited. Let your creativity take you places you never thought you could achieve before!

This tutorial was not meant to be an all-encompassing instruction on chaos. There is still much to be explored with this function.