Solution

# Shape Builder Tool

Create your first circle by selecting the Ellipse Tool (L) and clicking and dragging outwards while holding the Shift Key. Drag a copy of your black circle up and to the left by dragging your main shape while holding the Alt/Option Key. Next, scale the circle down a bit while holding the Shift Key. Drag another copy of your smaller circle to the opposite side so you have both ears in place. From here, use your Selection Tool (V) to click and drag around all three circle shapes. Next, select the Shape Builder Tool (Shift + M) and click and drag through all three of the circles to merge them together.

For the second example, create a polygon with 15 points and then use the Radius 1 or Radius 2 slider to increase the inner radius of the shape. Next, round all of the points. Select your Ellipse Tool (L) and add a white circle to the center of the shape and fill it with solid white. From here, click and drag around both shapes with your Selection Tool (V) and then grab the Shape Builder Tool (Shift + M). Instead of dragging across both of the shapes like we did to merge them, we will hold the Alt/Option Key and click on the white circle to knock it out of the larger shape.

## Exercise notes

* If you have trouble placing the white circle in the center of your star shape in the second example, remember you can hold down the spacebar while you scale a shape to move it around freely.
* Remember that you need to select the shapes you want to merge or knockout with your Selection Tool (V) before using the Shape Builder Tool (M).
* To merge shapes together with the Shape Builder Tool (M) you simply click and drag through each of the shapes.
* To remove a piece of a shape, select the Shape Builder Tool (M) and then hold down the Alt/Option Key and click on the piece of the shape you want to remove.