Chapter 3

Creating Timeline Animations: Part 2

In the previous chapter, we covered the fundamentals of timeline animation in Adobe Edge Animate. We say “fundamentals” because these are the animation starting points for anyone new to Adobe Edge Animate. Naturally there are other, more efficient, ways of doing things, and the choice of which to use—the fundamentals or what we are about to talk about—is up to you.

Here is what we will cover in this chapter:

- Shape tweens
- Shadows and gradients
- Nesting
- Symbols
- Using PNG sequences to create animation

If you haven’t already downloaded the chapter files, they can be found at http://www.apress.com/9781430243502. In this chapter, we will be using these files:

- Gondola.an
- Planets.an
- BasicSymbol.an
- Nesting.an
- Assets > PNGSequence
Shape Tweens

One of the more common, eye-catching animation techniques is a shape change. It could be something as simple as a rectangle whose corners round off or a circle that changes into a teardrop shape. Used judiciously, shape changes are a great way of drawing a viewer’s attention to a particular spot in an Edge Animate composition.

In Edge Animate, shape changes are accomplished using the drawing tools. At the top of the toolbar are three tools: the Rectangle tool, the Rounded Rectangle tool, and the Ellipse tool. They do exactly what their names imply, and you can create a couple of interesting effects by changing their shapes using a tween. Follow these steps to create a simple shape tween:

1. Create a new Edge Animate document and set the Stage color to black. Select the Rectangle tool and draw a rectangle on the Stage. When you release the mouse, the rectangle’s properties light up on the Properties panel.

2. With the Rectangle selected, use these settings, as shown in Figure 3-1, in the Properties panel:
   - Click the Link icon in the Width and Height areas. This allows you to create individual values.
   - Width: 100
   - Height: 50
   - Background color: #FF0000
   - Border: None

With the shape created, the plan is to have it extend outward, change color, and have the corners on the right edge round off as the shape grows.