

Intermediate

Making and Animating a Plasma Tube

This tutorial will take you step by step through making and animating a plasma tube like the one seen at *Electric Image Amorphium's* flash web site.

The Tube will be made from mesh primitives and the plasma is made up of biospheres. It's easier to set up the end pieces of the plasma then build the tube around it. So will start by creating a biosphere in composer.

Select the biosphere tool, (*pic. 1*)



then click and drag in the workspace window. Create a biosphere (It will be scaled later) (*pic. 2*)

Now will go to the biosphere module (workspace) To add another biosphere to the initial and position them. Select Biosphere from the list at the top of the window. (*pic. 3*)

First will set up the initial biosphere into the shape and position needed to be one of the end pieces of the plasma.

Select the numeric tool, then click on the center black square on the biosphere.

(*pic. 4*)



To move it to one side change the X position to -122.000

The Y to 0.000

And Z to 0.000

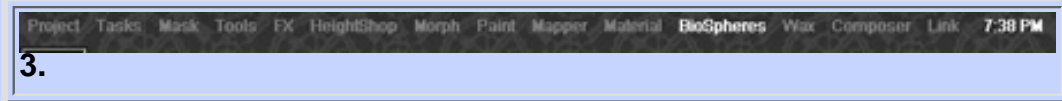
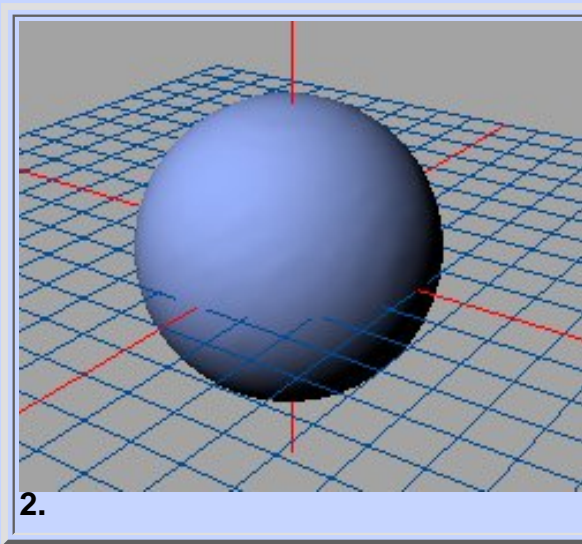
Change the X rotation to 0.000

Y to 1.000

Z to 0.000

Then set the radius to 12.500

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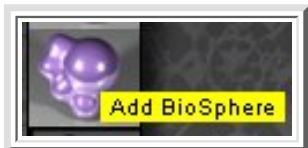


Plasma Tube 1

We want the two end biospheres to be powerful, making their attraction to other biospheres greater, so increase the energy to 100.000 Then change the oblateness to 8.333 (*pic. 5*)

Now the biosphere should look something like this and be located off to the left side of the workspace. (*pic. 6*)

Now select the add biosphere tool (*pic. 7*)

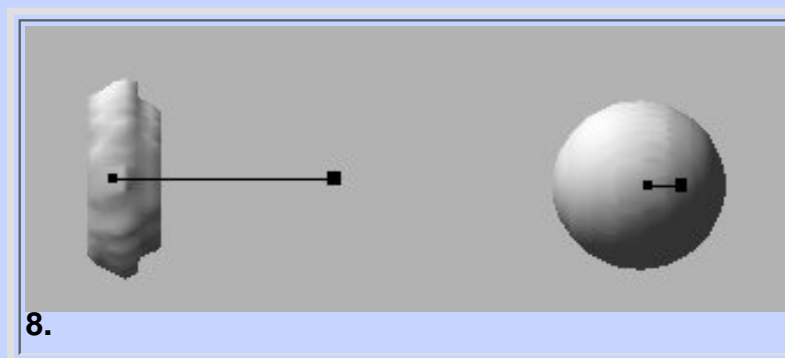
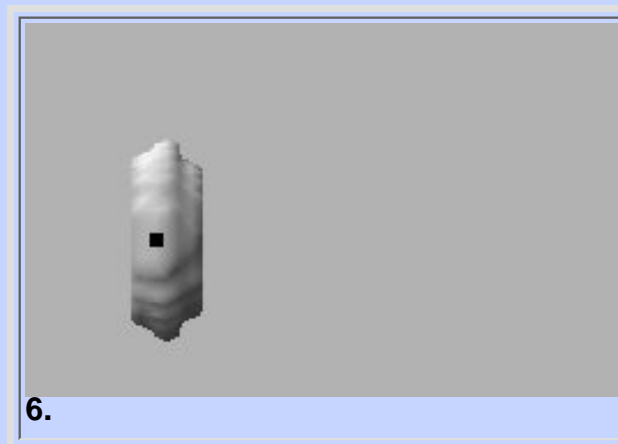
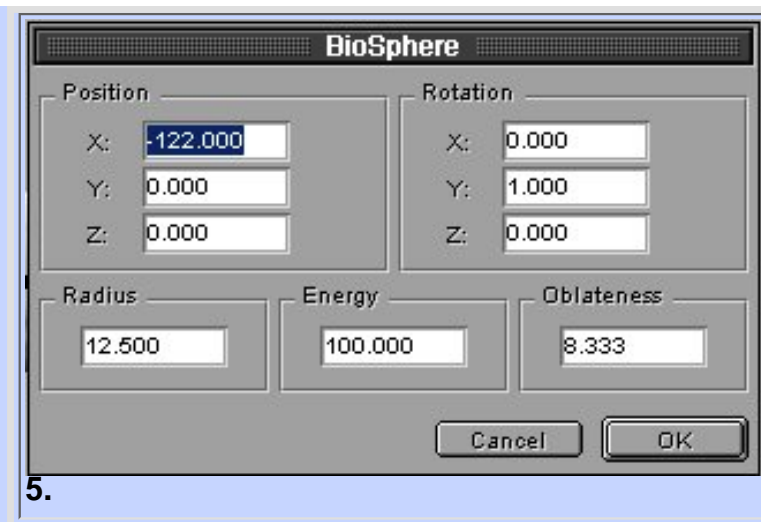


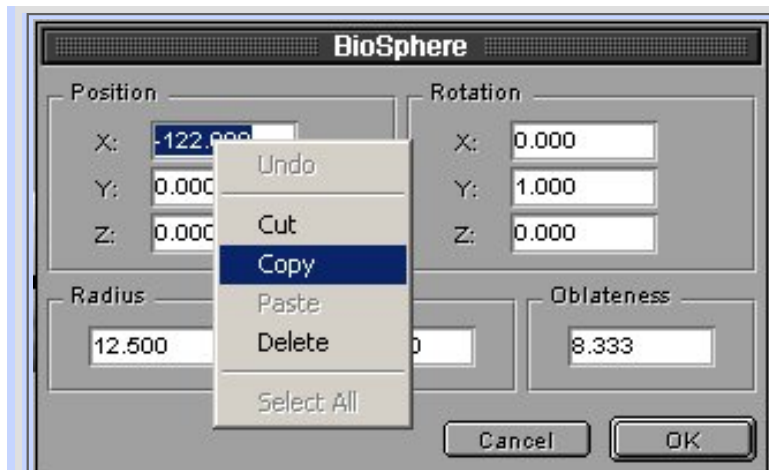
and create another biosphere off to the right of the existing one. This tool works just like the biosphere tool in composer, click and drag in the window. (*pic. 8*)

Set up and position this one just like the first except the X position will be 122.000. Removing the minus sign will place it over to the right side.

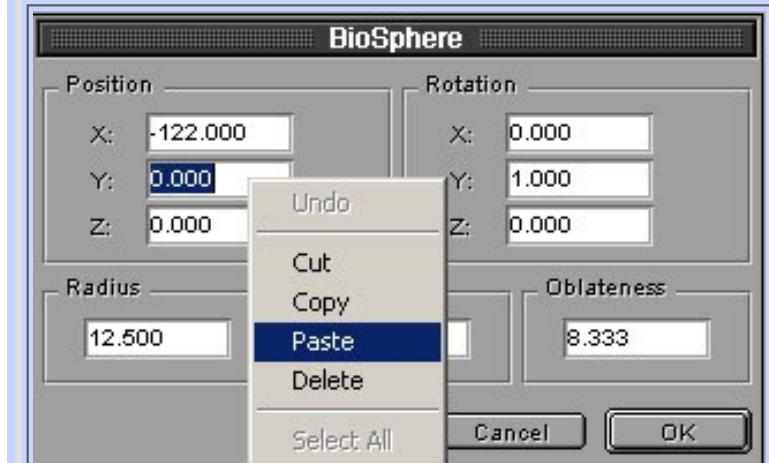
If you like you can copy and paste the coordinates from the first to the second, but each coordinate has to be done one at a time. To do this use the numeric tool click on the first then highlight the coordinates, right click on them and select copy. Select ok then go to the second biosphere using the numeric tool, then select the appropriate digit box, right click and select pasted. This works good for transferring 1 coordinate but I find it easier to write them down to do many. (*pic. 9/10*)

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9.



10.