

MASTERING ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR 2025

From Zero to Expert in Vector Design,
Logo Creation, Digital Illustration,
and AI Tools

BRIAR HOLLIS

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR 2025

Overview of Adobe Illustrator

If you need a logo, icon, or artwork that can be resized without sacrificing quality, Adobe Illustrator is the program for you. Its foundation in vector graphics makes it a favorite among designers as it allows them to create visuals that maintain clarity regardless of their size.

You can easily create clean, expert-looking artwork with Illustrator thanks to its precise drawing tools for shapes and lines. For instance, the Pen tool is ideal for making delicate curves and lines, which are necessary for intricate designs.

You can easily work on certain sections of your design without affecting other sections since the program organizes your work using layers. Illustrator provides tools for making patterns, using color gradients, adding shading for depth, and creating bespoke text designs.

You can simply transfer files between Illustrator and other Adobe tools like Photoshop, which is another useful function. Its dependability in producing clean, scalable graphics makes it a popular choice for many tasks, including branding, digital illustrations, and web design.


Key Features of Adobe Illustrator 2025

Align, arrange, and move objects on a path.

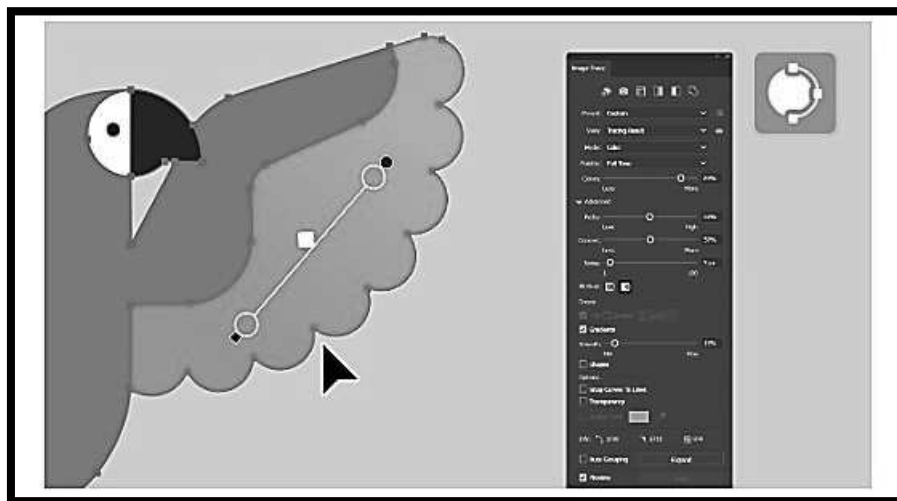
With **Objects on Path**, you can align and connect objects to paths, whether they're straight or curved. You can shuffle them, modify their spacing, rotate them, change their attachment points, and move them down the path without losing alignment after you attach them. The linked objects will automatically reorganize themselves if you make changes to the path or add or delete objects.

Trace images with more accuracy and control

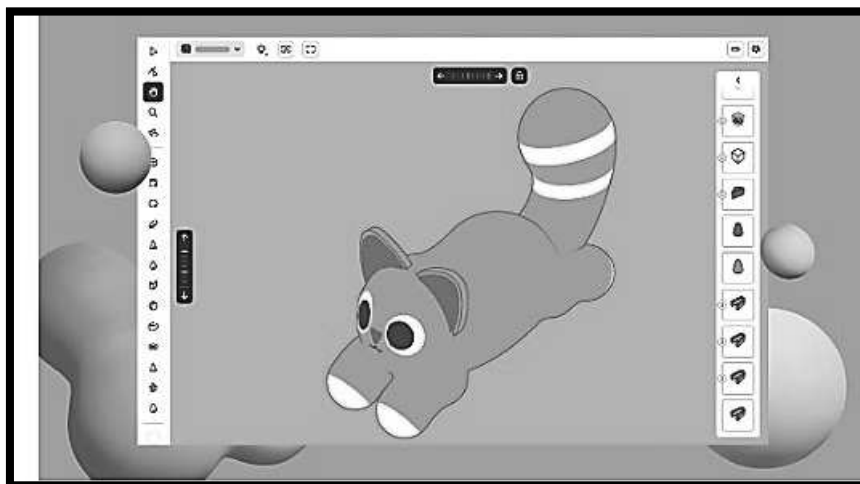
By using the updated **Image Trace** feature, you can make precise traces with curves that are a near match to the original image.

Make sure you don't accidentally trace white on transparent backgrounds while using **Color** mode by using the **Transparency** option. With the **Gradients** option, you can detect and trace linear gradients in either Color or Grayscale mode according to the strength you choose. Once you've traced the gradients, you can simply use the **Gradient** tool  to tweak them.

The trace output is more editable with fewer anchor points and the **Auto Grouping** feature that organizes paths into sensible groupings. To make things even easier to modify, the **Shapes** option item lets you trace common shapes like squares, rectangles, and circles as live shapes.



Create vector art in 3D with Project Neo (Beta)



Experience improved mockup quality for planar surfaces

Vector graphics fit well on flat surfaces when you make mockups.

Adjust density strength for pattern creation.

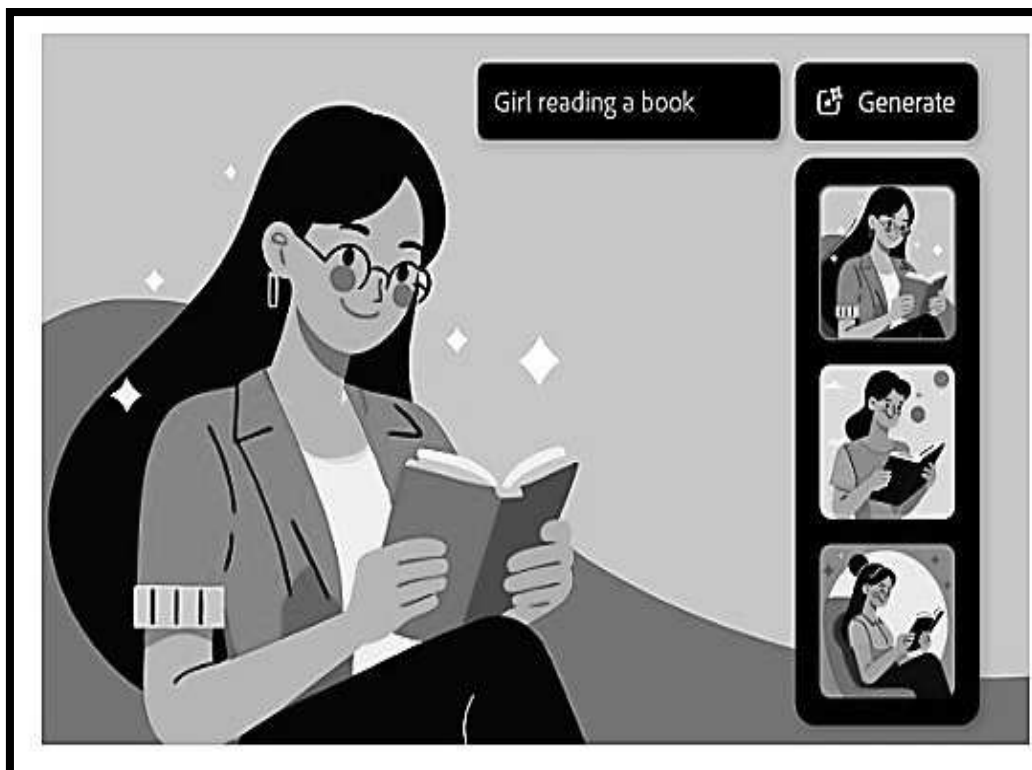
You can choose the density level of the patterns you'll make using **Text to Pattern**. You can now access Text to Pattern from the **Swatches** panel, too. The **Color & Tone** can also be reset.

Add shape fills with more control.

For more freedom of expression, you can now toggle the prompt ideas in **Generative Shape Fill** on or off. For a clean slate, you can also reset **Style Reference**, **Effects**, and **Color** and **Tone** individually or simultaneously.





Create vector graphics with more control.

For more freedom of expression, you can now toggle the prompt ideas in **Text to Vector Graphic** on or off. Bounding boxes may now fit the artwork neatly as no background layer is created when you make subjects and icons. For a clean slate, you can also reset **Style Reference**, **Effects**, and **Color and Tone** individually or simultaneously. Both the Generative Shape Fill and the Text-to-Vector Graphic Reset functions operate autonomously.



Access and explore tools and tasks directly on the canvas

The Contextual Task Bar helps you access the most frequently used next actions for the selected object and tool.

The **Contextual Task Bar** provides some editing options, such as **Simplify** and **Smooth**, when you use the **Direct Selection** tool  to choose a path. The **Contextual Task Bar** makes it easy to reorganize associated objects while working with **Objects on Path**, without sacrificing alignment. In addition, the **Contextual Task Bar** is visually identical to the heritage task bars of the **Smooth** , **Free Transform** , and **Dimension** tools .

Using the **Contextual Task Bar**, making mockups is a breeze when dealing with both images and vector objects. It facilitates speedy access to related tasks after it is generated.

Manage East Asian text layouts.

East Asian language text layouts can be seen, examined, and updated with ease using **Reflow Viewer**. Illustrator alerts you if there may have been modifications to the text arrangement when you access a project made in an older version. The original layout is still available, or you can opt to update it.



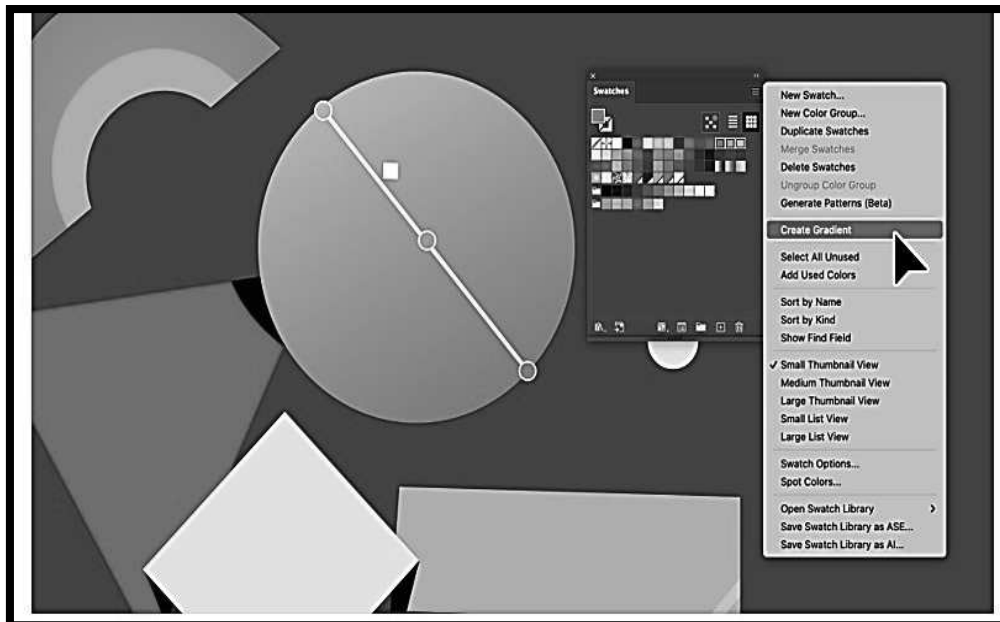
Scale artwork with artboard

To keep the dimensions and layout consistent across various surfaces when designing for things like hoardings, publications, and posters, you may have to resize the artwork and artboard.



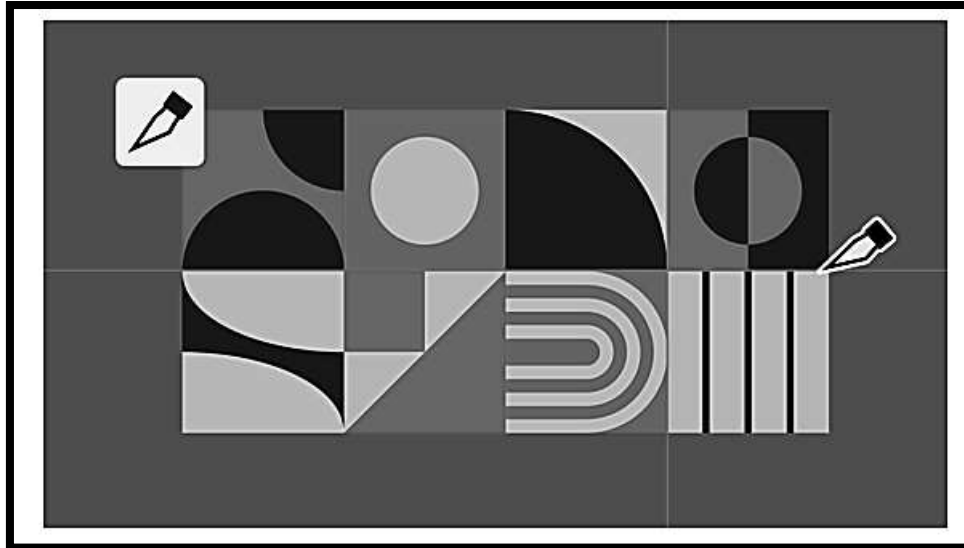
Create stunning gradients from the Swatches panel.

Use the **Swatches** panel to create your gradients by dragging and dropping colors or groups of colors. With these gradients, you can give vector objects more depth or create a dramatic lighting or shadow effect in your artwork.



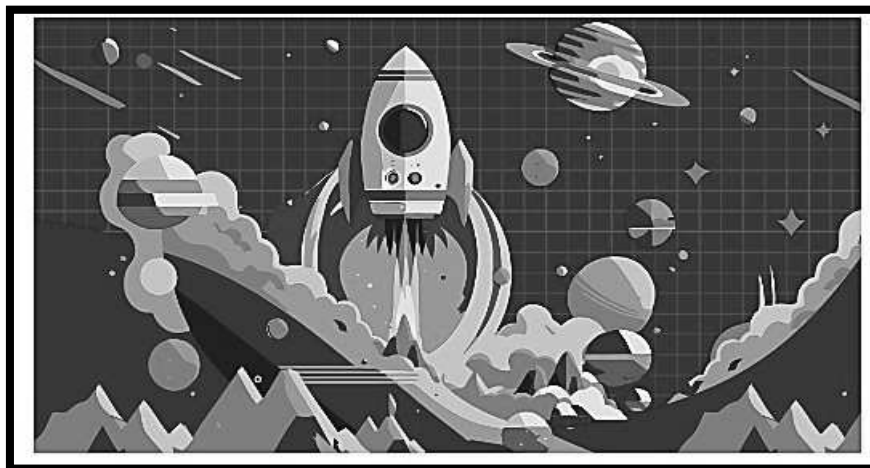
Cut objects evenly using the Knife tool with smart guides

The **Knife Tool** can be snapped to any objects you wish to chop into equal sizes by positioning it in line with the smart guides.



Experience faster performance

With connected image rendering, you can expect performance that is up to five times quicker.



System Requirements and Compatibility

The following are required on your computer to run Adobe Illustrator 2025:

Windows:

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 (64-bit) version 1903 or later.
- **Processor:** Intel®, AMD, or ARM processor with 64-bit support.
- **RAM:** At least 8 GB; however, 16 GB or more is recommended for optimal performance.
- **Hard Disk Space:** 4 GB of available space; additional space is required for installation.

- **Graphics Card:** To enhance performance with the GPU Performance feature, your system must have a minimum of 1 GB of VRAM (4 GB recommended) and support OpenGL version 4.0 or greater.

macOS:

- **Operating System:** macOS Monterey (version 12) and later, including macOS Ventura (version 13).
- **Processor:** Multicore Intel® processor with 64-bit support or Apple silicon processor.
- **RAM:** At least 8 GB; more is recommended for better performance.
- **Hard Disk Space:** 4 GB of available space; additional space is required for installation.
- **Graphics Card:** For GPU Performance, a minimum of 1 GB of VRAM (4 GB recommended) is required, along with support for OpenGL version 4.0 or greater.

These are the bare minimums that must be met. It is advised to use higher specs for best performance, particularly when dealing with complicated designs or huge files.

Installation and Setup Guide

To install and set up Adobe Illustrator 2025, just follow these steps:

- **Visit Adobe's website:** Go to the official Adobe website and navigate to the Illustrator section.
- **Sign In or get a Subscription:** If you don't already have one, go ahead and get a subscription or sign in with your Adobe account.
- **Download the Installer:** Click on the download link for Illustrator 2025 and save the installer file to your computer.
- **Run the Installer:** Open the installer file and follow the on-screen instructions to install Illustrator 2025 on your computer.
- **Open Illustrator:** After the installation is finished, you can access Illustrator from the start menu or app folder.

CHAPTER 2

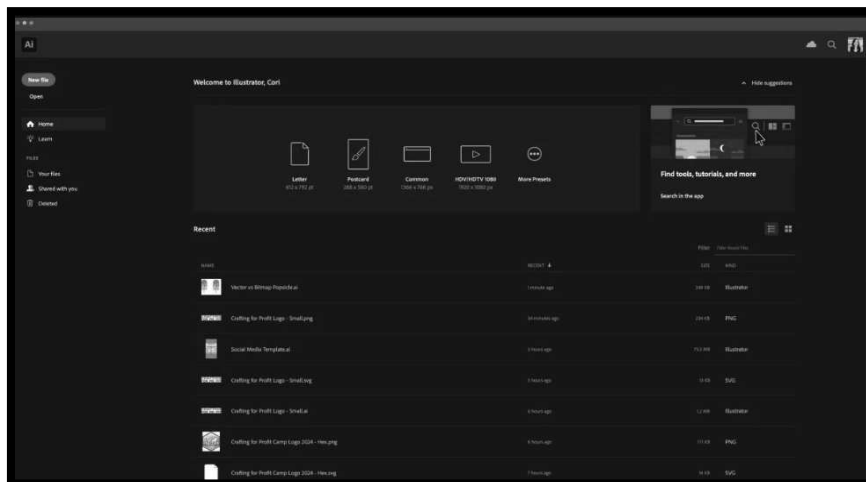
NAVIGATING THE ILLUSTRATOR INTERFACE

Understanding the Toolbar, Panels, and Workspaces

Panels, bars, and windows are among the elements you use to create and edit your files and documents. Any configuration of these elements is referred to as a workspace. You can effortlessly switch between applications in Creative Cloud since their workspaces are visually similar. Illustrator has some predefined workspaces that you can use as it is or create your own to suit your needs.

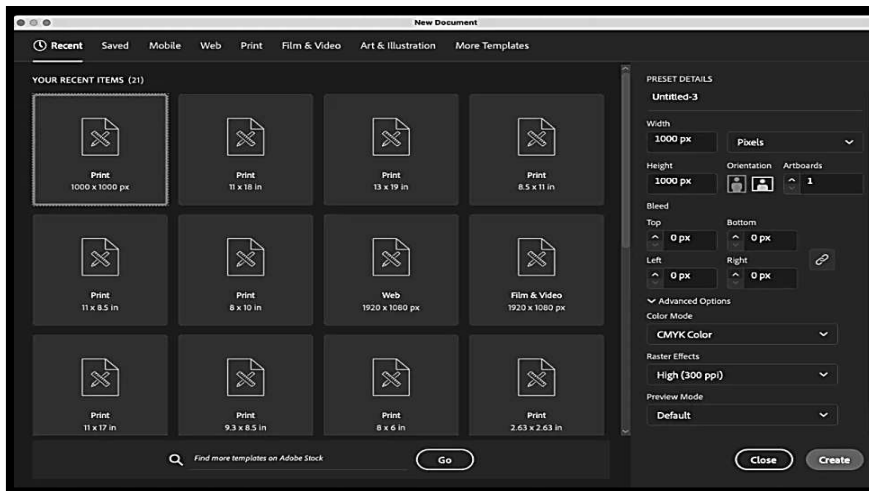
Creating a New File in Adobe Illustrator

Open Adobe Illustrator and you'll be greeted with the welcome screen.



In the center, you can view the current open files and a list of commonly used file sizes from which to choose.

A new file can be created on the right, or an existing one can be opened. Let's click **New File**. Pressing this button will take you to a new screen where you can configure your file. Along the top, you'll see templates for popular file sizes, and in the middle, you'll see any recent file sizes you've worked with.



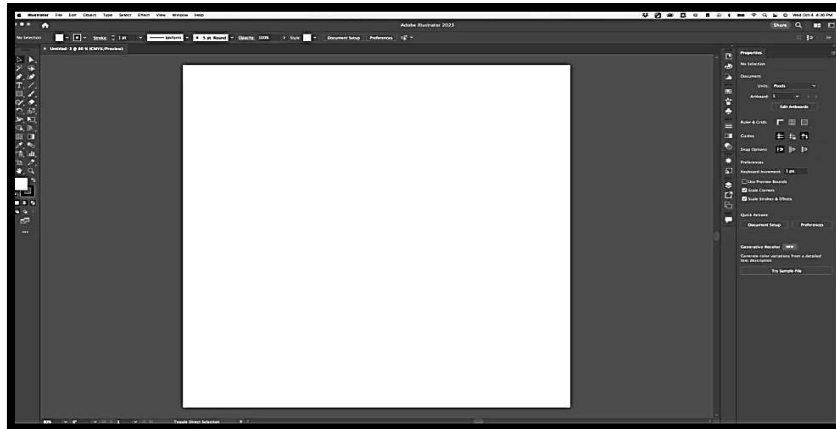
One can choose their preferred unit of measurement on the right. I usually begin with a **1000px x 1000px** page, even though this is vector software; I've become used to working with pixels. If you want, you can also pick from some different units including inches and centimeters.

While making SVG files, I usually keep in mind that printers use the **CMYK color mode**, whereas displays use the RGB mode. This is because the color of the cut file is irrelevant; for instance, you can utilize a purple file on yellow paper. However, in addition to SVG files, I also provide bitmap image formats like PNG and JPEG. Plus, I'd prefer the colors to be as accurate as possible as they will probably be printed. You can switch to RGB from the color option on the left if you're solely designing for screens since your colors will often be more brilliant.

Press the **Create** button.

Adobe Illustrator Workspace Overview

Your workspace is now visible to you! I understand that the whole screen is daunting. (Whenever I get into Photoshop, I am completely overwhelmed and have no idea what anything is.)



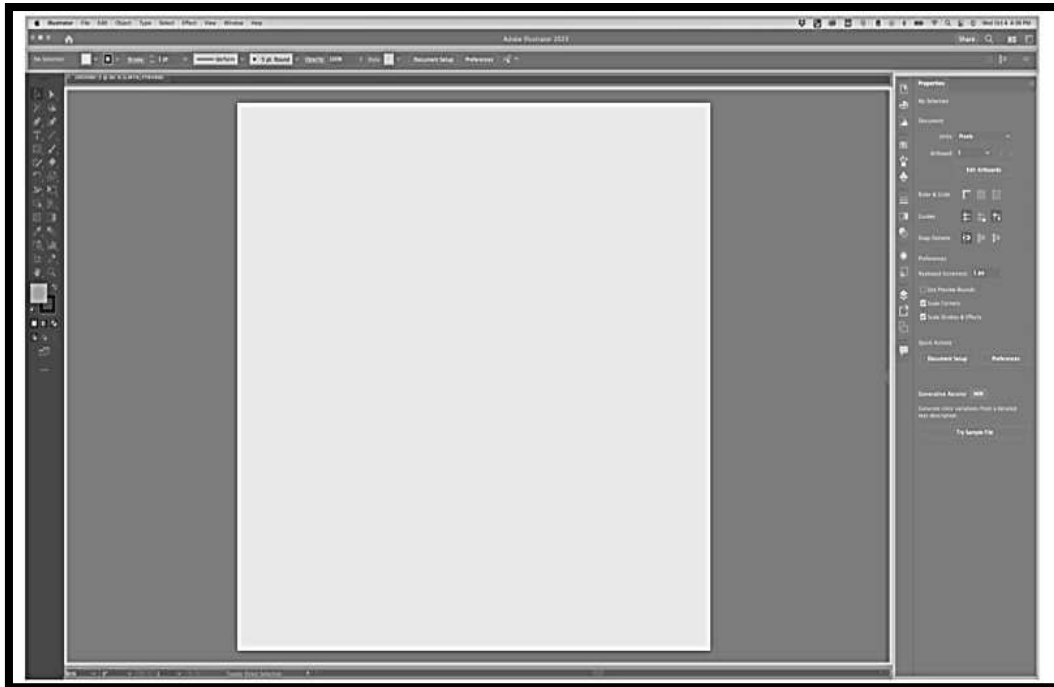
I can attempt to be on the same page even if my workspaces are somewhat different. A symbol resembling a screen with a right sidebar may be seen in the top right corner. Click on that and select **Essentials Classic**.



At this point, my screen should be more similar to yours. You shouldn't be concerned if the Properties panel isn't visible on the left. In a few moments, I will have it added.

Keep in mind that you can completely modify your workplace. Among other things, you can rearrange and add tools, as well as open and shut panels. You can also save your workspace by selecting New Workspace from the same dropdown menu if you find a configuration you like. Then you may be certain that everything will be according to your liking.

Let's examine the workspace components, which I've color-coded for your convenience.



(**Note:** if your toolbars and menus vanish and you can only see your artboard in the center, it's likely because you've pressed the tab key. Press the tab key again, and everything should be back.)

The Menu Bar (Light Pink)

You can see the Menu Bar up top on your screen. The fact that it has the menus for most of the tools you see on the workspace makes this a very potent section. You should be able to locate what you're looking for in one of these menus: **File, Edit, Object, Type, Select, Effect, Window, View,** and **Help** if you can't find it anywhere else in your workspace. I will make extensive use of the tools available in these menus as I go through this Illustrator series.

The Control Panel (Light Blue)

The Control Panel can be found under the menu bar. What this implies is that the Control Panel is contextual, meaning it adapts to your current art board selections. For instance, when you have text chosen, you'll be presented with choices for fonts, size, and spacing. A set of tools for aligning and scaling shapes will appear when you pick a shape.

I also use the color dropdowns at the upper left to deal with colors in Illustrator here. These colors will serve as your fill and stroke. The color within your shape is called fill, and the color outside it is called stroke. However, there are several additional areas where colors may be used; hence, if you find a more suitable method, go ahead and use it.

Document Tabs (Dark Pink)

This is where you can access each of the open documents; you can have many windows open at once. They function similarly to tabs in a web browser.

Artboard (Yellow)

The wonder begins here! The artboard is where all of your design work will take place. The white portion represents the page size that you chose earlier; for example, a 1000px by 1000px square was my choice. Consider it analogous to a blank canvas or sheet of paper. You can utilize the empty area to temporarily remove distractions, but you will want all of your final artwork to stay on the artboard.

Additionally, your workspace can accommodate many artboards. If you'd like, you can increase the number of artboards on the New File screen. Presentations and other multi-page documents benefit from this.

Toolbar (Dark Blue)

The toolbar rests on the left side of the screen. A brief video describing the tool's use and its keyboard shortcut will appear when you hover over it. You can access related tools by clicking the little arrow in the tool's lower right corner.

Although there are many tools available, I will just go over the ones that you should be familiar with immediately. As the series progresses, I will discuss them in further depth:

- **Select (V):** This is your “home base” tool. You can use this tool to do a lot of cool stuff with the objects on your screen, including resize, rotate, and move them around. The shortcut key to return to this tool is V, so get accustomed to using it.
- **Direct Select (A):** To choose a specific area of an object, you can use the Direct Select (A) tool.
- **Pen (P):** This powerful tool will let you draw your images. It's not easy to pick up, but once you do, the possibilities are endless.
- **Text (T):** Use the text tool (T) to enter text.
- **Line Segment (\):** A line can be drawn with the Line Segment tool (\).
- **Rectangle (M):** This tool draws a rectangle. To draw a square with certain dimensions, hold down shift. To access more shapes, such as ellipses, polygons, and stars, click the little triangle that sits next to the rectangle tool.
- **Color:** You can also alter your colors using the two-colored boxes located at the bottom of the toolbar.

You can find a lot more tools in this area, but for now, try out the ones listed to see what they're capable of.

Panels (Green)

More complex operations reside in the Panels. Instead of merely drawing a rectangle, you can utilize the tools in this area to modify the shape by merging it with other shapes, for instance. Be kind to yourself since this part can become a bit complicated. It will inform you what an icon on the panel is when you hover over it with the mouse.

If you are unable to locate a certain panel in the left-hand panels, you can access all of them by selecting Windows from the drop-down menu in the Menu bar. After that, you can just move the panel you want to use to the panel toolbar.

You can find the following panels interesting to experiment with:

- **Properties:** If you can't see the symbol resembling three little sliders, it represents the Properties panel, which is comparable to the Control Panel but more powerful. To access it, go to the menu and choose **Window > Properties**. Like the last panel, this one is contextual and adapts to your choices. Because I find this panel very useful, I often move it to the panel's right side and then open it by clicking the two little arrows on the bar's top. I like using it for applying various procedures to objects; however, you can always reduce it by clicking the slider symbol if it's taking up too much of your screen.

With a rectangle chosen on the artboard, for instance, I can access the following: basic sizing tools, the rectangle's fill, stroke, and opacity colors; align tools; and quick actions, such as the ability to create an offset.



- **Color / Color Guide / Swatches:** More panels to alter the colors of your art board's objects.
- **Pathfinder / Align / Transform:** Select **Window > Pathfinder**. These three interconnected tools will become available if you do this. We'll be dragging and dropping these tools into the left-hand panel toolbar from the top of the window as we'll be using them often.
 - **Pathfinder:** If you're acquainted with the Combine tools in Cricut Design Space, you'll recognize a lot of similarities between Pathfinder and them. It alters overlapping shapes. Unite, Minus Front, Exclude, and so on are all part of this. For a quick test of this tool's capabilities, try drawing two intersecting rectangles on the artboard and then modifying their properties.
 - **Align:** Applying one of the align tools to a single object on the artboard will align it with the rest of the artboard. For instance, using align left will move the object to the left side of the artboard. Aligning all the objects you have

chosen by their left edges is what "align left" does when you have several objects selected; otherwise, they will be arranged to each other. To test out the various alignment possibilities, try drawing many rectangles on the artboard and see what occurs.

- **Transform:** Basic resizing options are available in Transform, and more contextual tools may be available depending on your selection.
- **Layers:** As I go into creating SVG files, this panel becomes more significant. This panel will let you know whether you've done everything right so that it can be imported into your cutting design program.
- **Glyphs:** You'll have to go to **Window > Type > Glyphs** as this panel isn't standard. Every letter in a font is called a glyph, and some fonts even contain alternative glyphs that you can use instead.



Status Bar (Teal)

To be honest, I seldom use this bar, although it could be useful for seeing the current artboard zoom level.

Moving Around the Artboard

When you want to zoom in or out of your artboard, press **CRTL+/CTRL-** on a PC or **CMD+/CMD-** on a Mac. This works instead of utilizing the dropdown in the status bar. Compared to using the menu or going to **View > Zoom In / Zoom Out**, this is a lot quicker.

An additional option is to press and hold the spacebar, which will bring up a small hand that you can use to "grab" and drag the art board. You can navigate the artboard using an Apple Magic Mouse simply by dragging your finger over its surface.

Oh my! All I covered was the fundamentals of the workspace and a handful of tools, and that was already a lot.

Exploring the New Contextual Task Bar Feature


You can access the most relevant next actions for the object or tool you've selected via the **Contextual Task Bar**, a floating bar on the canvas. It guarantees that the object you're working on maintains your primary attention.


The **Contextual Task Bar** can be repositioned to your liking. From the "**More options**" menu, you can also choose to hide it, pin it, or restore its position. Go to **Window > Contextual Task Bar** to bring it back into view after hiding it.

By using the contextual **Task bar**, you can quickly access frequently used activities and tools whenever you make a selection. You can often do simple tasks more quickly by using the choices in the task bar rather than opening the properties panel.

1. Pick out the artwork.

At this point, the **task bar** ought to appear either above or below the chosen artwork. You can do things like recolor the text, duplicate, lock and repeat in that bar.

2. To create an exact copy of an object, just click the "**Duplicate This Object**" button  on the **taskbar**.

Using the little gripper on the left side of the screen, you can move the taskbar. To reset the position, go to the **More Options** menu () on the right side of the **Task bar** and choose **Reset Bar Position**.

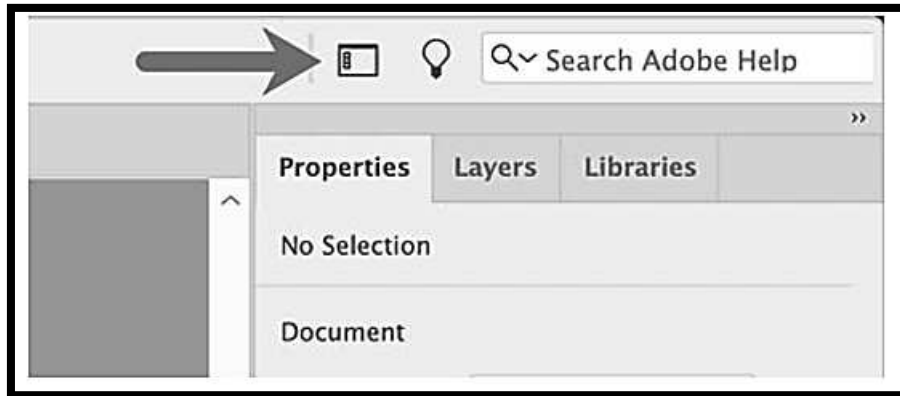
Window > Contextual Task Bar is where you can disable the taskbar entirely if you want it hidden.

Customizing Your Workspace for Efficiency

The Starting Point

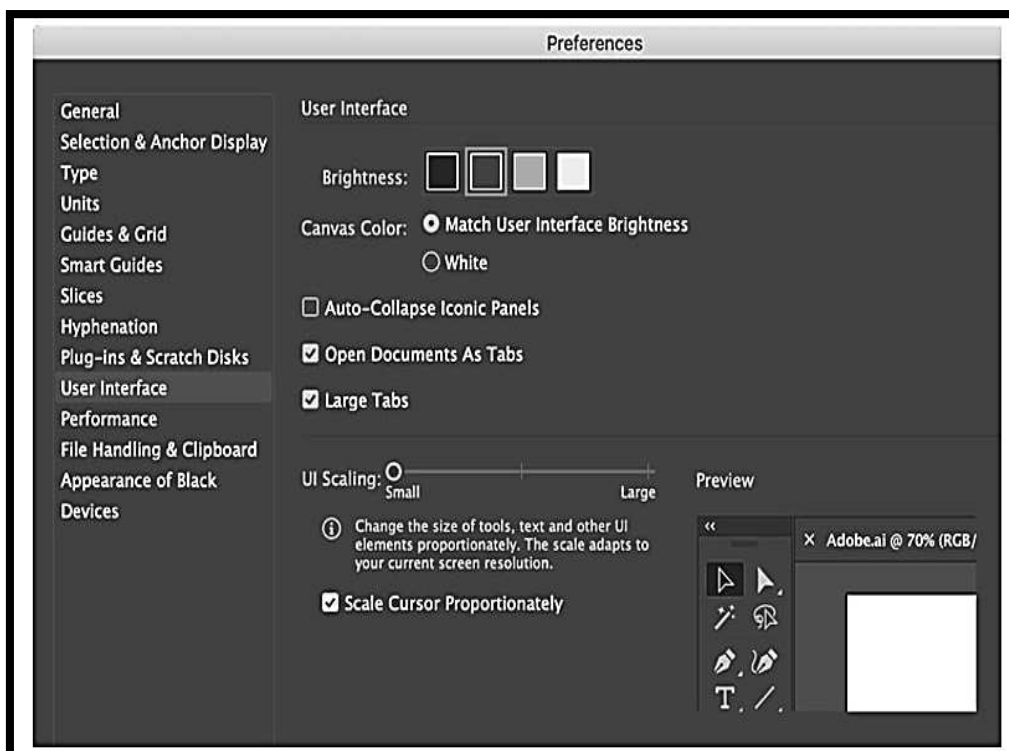
Upon starting Illustrator and navigating to a new document, a selection of tools and panels are shown in the workspace. If you go to **Window > Workspace** and play about with the settings, you can discover a lot more hidden features. In addition, the program

window's title bar on the right side of the window displays the Switch Workspace control, which you can click to switch desktops. For a head start, choose the **Essentials workspace**.



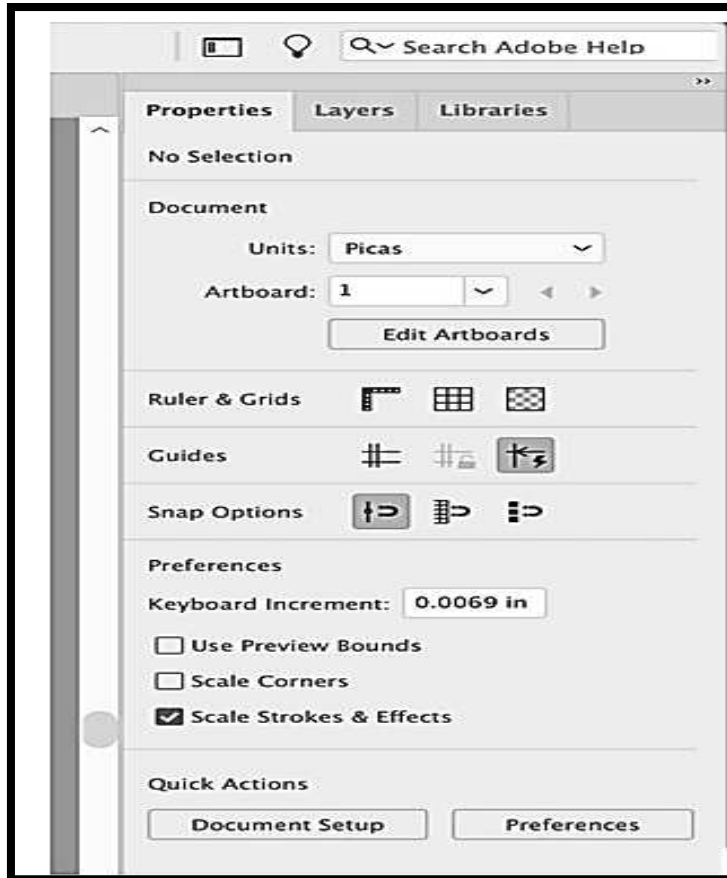
Changing User Interface Colors and Scaling

You can customize Illustrator's look before you set up your workspace by going to **Illustrator > Preferences > User Interface...** on a Mac or **Edit > Preferences > User Interface...** on Windows. Take your pick from the available options for scale, brightness, and more.



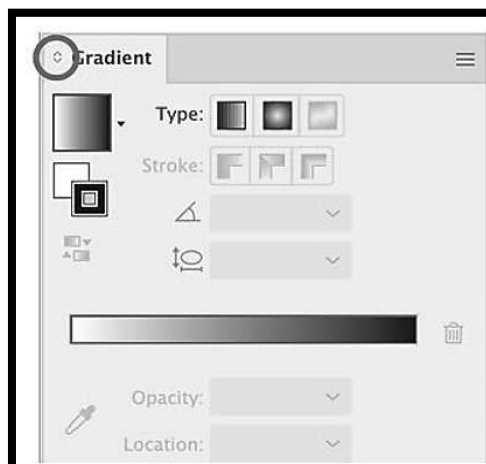
Moving and Arranging Panels

There are three tabbed panels on the right side of the screen: Properties, Layers, and Libraries.



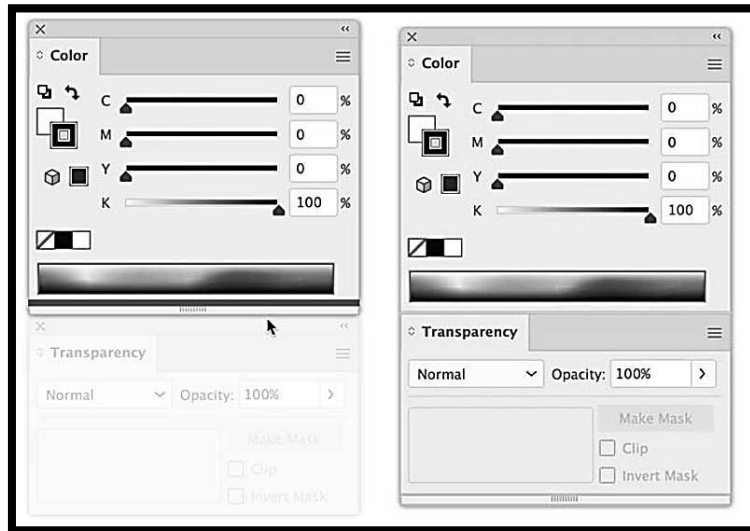
To move panels inside this docked zone, just drag their tabs. You can turn a docked tab into a floating panel by dragging it out of its dock. From the margins or the bottom, you can adjust the size of panels, and you can move them about by dragging their tab or title bar.

To restore a panel's previous size, click the double chevron(») in its upper right corner. To show or hide additional panel features, use the double-arrow button located to the left of the panel's name.



Contextual options can be found in the flyout menu located in the top right corner.

Panels can snap together to form ideal neighboring arrangements when you pull them side by side. Panels can snap together to form ideal neighboring arrangements when you pull them side by side. Gather many tabs from different panels into one by dragging them next to one other. For a vertical connection, just drag the title bar from one panel to the bottom of another.



Panels can be docked by dragging them to the application window's margins. Find a plethora of extra panels under the Window menu.

Showing the Control Bar

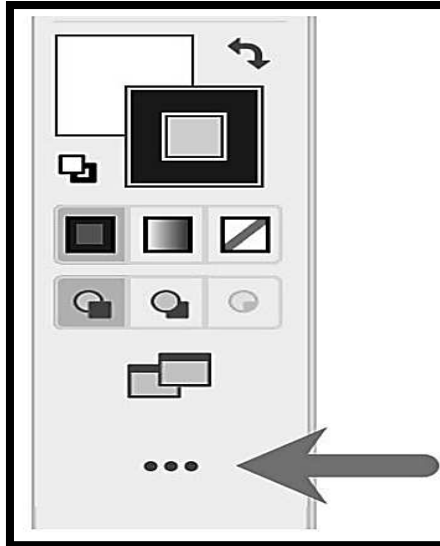
To show the application's control bar across the top of the window, choose **Window > Control**. This handy bar adapts its tool-specific controls and settings to the current environment.

Arranging the Toolbar

The Essentials workspace displays a Basic toolbar down the left side of the window in one column. **Windows > Toolbars > Advanced** will bring up two extra columns of tools. The area just under a toolbar's title bar can be dragged to undock and relocate it. Alternating between single and double-column layouts is accomplished with the chevron (»).

Customizing the Toolbar

To access the **All-Tools Drawer**, click the three dots located at the bottom of the toolbar.



The current toolbar's tools are grayed out. To add or remove tools from the toolbar, just drag them to and from the drawer. To add several tools at once, press Shift and click on them. You can rearrange the tools on the toolbar by dragging them around while the drawer is open. To create a new toolbar with your desired layout, use the flyout menu located in the drawer's top right corner.

Saving Your Workspace Changes

After you've customized the workspace with the panels and tools to your desire, you can save your changes. Name your new workspace as you go to **Window > Workspace > New Workspace...** The current state of the workspace's panels and tools is preserved. At any moment, you can move between different workspaces.

Illustrator keeps track of your workspace configuration changes as you drag and drop panels and tools as you work. You can restore a workspace to its last known state by going to **Window > Workspace > Reset (workspace name)**.

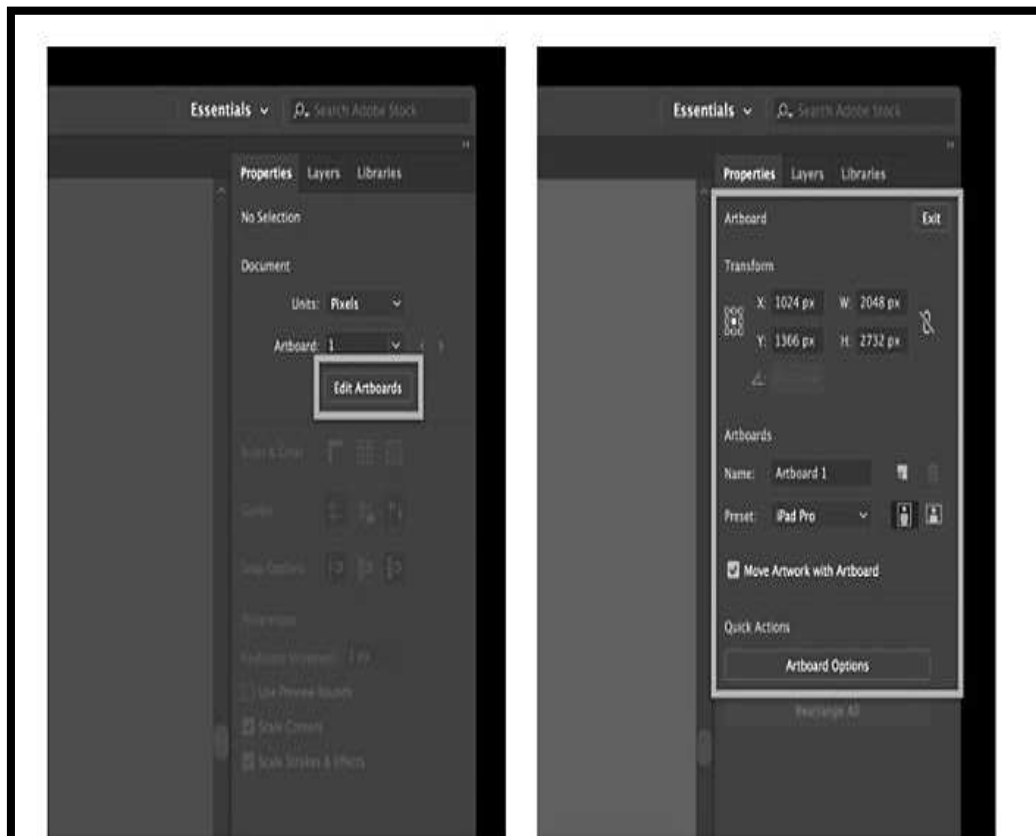
Edit an artboard

The paper on your desk serves a purpose similar to that of an artboard in Illustrator. You have the freedom to create for several projects and output sizes simultaneously since artboards can be any size and your document can contain many artboards of different sizes. This will save you time.

Navigate to **Window > Properties**. When no artboards are currently chosen for your project, click the **Edit Artboards** button.

You can alter the artboard's dimensions by inputting new width and height values in the Properties panel's **Transform** section. To add more artboards, go to the toolbar and click the New Artboard button. You can manually adjust the size of an artboard by dragging its widgets or removing it using the Delete key after you've chosen it.

To exit the Properties panel, either use the Esc key on your computer or select the **Exit** button at the panel's very top.



Edit the document

Regardless of the number of artboards in your project, it is as easy to make a global change. Look for the **Document Setup** button in the Properties panel's **Quick Actions** section and click on it. Before clicking **OK**, make sure the units and bleed settings are as you want them.

Illustrator also has a **Preferences** button in the Properties tab that you can use to quickly access and change any setting in the application. (Any adjustments you make to the Preferences are saved when you close Illustrator.)



How to open Adobe Illustrator files with Illustrator

Method 1: Double-Click Method

1. **Launch Adobe Illustrator:** Simply double-click the Adobe Illustrator icon to launch the program.
2. **Access File Menu:** If you're already in Illustrator, you can go to the **File Menu** by selecting "**File**" from the main menu.
3. **Pick Open:** After clicking "**File**," a drop-down menu will show; choose "**Open**" from that menu. When you do this, a file browser window will pop up on your screen.



4. **Select Your .ai File:** Browse your computer's files for the Adobe Illustrator file you want to open. To open a file in Adobe Illustrator, find it in your computer's file system and look for an extension ending in .ai, such as "**myartwork.ai.**" After you've selected the file, click the "**Open**" button in the folder browser.

Method 2: Drag and Drop Method

1. **Find Your .ai File:** On your computer, find the .ai file that you want to open in Adobe Illustrator. You can find it in a folder, on your desktop, or in the file explorer.
2. **Drag the File:** Click and hold the .ai file with your mouse or trackpad until it stops moving, and then drag it. While still holding the file, move it such that it lands on the Adobe Illustrator icon. The Illustrator program will be highlighted when you drag the file over the Illustrator icon.
3. **Release to Open:** Once you've chosen the Illustrator app icon, you can open the file by dragging and dropping it onto the icon. Doing so will launch Adobe Illustrator and open the .ai file for you.

Method Three: The Right-Click Approach

1. **Locate Your .ai File:** Find the .ai file on your computer that you want to open.
2. **Right-Click on the File:** Using your mouse or trackpad, right-click on the .ai file. When you do this, a context menu will pop up.
3. **Choose "Open With":** To access the "Open With" option, either click on it or move your mouse cursor over it in the context menu. There will be a list of suitable applications shown in the submenu.
4. **Select Adobe Illustrator:** From the drop-down option, choose "**Adobe Illustrator.**" This will open the file in Adobe Illustrator without any intermediate steps.

Each of these three methods provides a foundational framework for gaining access to and opening your .ai files inside Adobe Illustrator. Here you have a range of choices to choose from, so you can tailor it to your preferred workflow.

Performance Improvements and Enhancements

Optimize Illustrator Settings

1. **Disable Animated Zoom:** Find the "Enable animated zoom" option and deselect it in **Edit > Preferences > Performance**. The responsiveness of scrolling and zooming can be enhanced in this way.
2. **Use Low-Resolution Proxy for Linked EPS:** Check "**Use low-resolution proxy for Linked EPS**" from the "**File Handling & Clipboard**" submenu in **Edit's preferences**. By doing so, you can lessen the strain on your computer when handling EPS files.
3. **Enable GPU Performance:** Navigate to **Edit > Preferences > Performance** and turn on GPU performance. Things like previewing and rendering will be accelerated using your graphics card.

Optimize Document and Workflow

1. **Simplify File Structure:** Avoid overly complex file structures and use nested layers effectively. Both the file size and performance can be improved in this way.
2. **Optimize Image Resolution:** Rasterize photos till their resolution is just right for your assignment. Images with high quality can slow down Illustrator.
3. **Use Smart Guides and Snap to Grid:** Make use of Smart Guides and Grids to precisely align objects and keep the layout neat. Your process can be made more efficient and less tweaky using this.
4. **Utilize Compound Paths:** Convert multiple paths into compound paths to reduce the number of objects and improve performance.
5. **Optimize Fonts:** To minimize font loading delays, optimize your fonts by using embedded or linked fonts. Make sure to change any fonts to outlines if needed.

Regular Maintenance and Updates

1. **Regularly Update Illustrator:** You get the latest performance improvements and bug fixes, be sure you keep your Adobe Illustrator program updated.
2. **Perform Regular Maintenance:** Clearing up unnecessary plugins, fonts, and preferences files is a great way to regularly maintain and make it run faster.
3. **Optimize Startup:** Look over your startup programs and remove any extraneous ones that might slow down Illustrator.

CHAPTER 3

DRAWING AND ILLUSTRATION TOOLS

The Basics of Drawing in Illustrator

Without a doubt, Adobe Illustrator is among the greatest vector programs available for drawing and making graphics. There are some straightforward tools and methods for learning how to draw with Adobe Illustrator, as you will see.

There is a so-called steep learning curve that you may have to climb to master Illustrator. So that you don't get confused by all the technical terms and features in Illustrator, I've broken down these techniques into smaller stages in this section.

No prior experience as an artist or graphic designer is required. Its user-friendly tools allow you to effortlessly master drawing any subject you can imagine. The nicest part is that you can simply click "undo" to return to an earlier version if you change your mind.

Main Drawing Tools in Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Illustrator comes with a set of fundamental drawing tools that you can use to start drawing anything. These are the ones:

1. ***Pencil Tool (keyboard shortcut is N)***
2. ***Paint Brush Tool (keyboard shortcut is B)***
3. ***Pen Tool (keyboard shortcut is P)***
4. ***Blob Brush Tool***
5. ***Curvature Tool***

Most likely, these tools are hidden from view if you don't see them in your Toolbar. Locate the three dots at the very bottom of your Toolbar; clicking on them will add them to your Toolbar. A tooltip reading "**Edit Toolbar...**" will show when you hover over the three dots. When you click on it, a list of tools will appear.



You can sort all the tools by their potential applications. For a complete list of drawing tools, go to the **Draw** section. Simply click and drag any tool you want to the Toolbar if you'd like to have quick access to it.

By dragging it to the Edit Toolbar area, you can return the tool to the hidden view.

Learning to draw lines is the next stage in becoming comfortable with these drawing tools.

How to Draw Lines in Illustrator

A common question people have about Illustrator is whether or not it can simulate hand-drawn objects like triangles and stars. Particularly when using a mouse rather than a tablet, I can imagine that there will be times of frustration. Learning to draw with Adobe Illustrator doesn't need any special talent, which is great news.

Simply drawing lines can give you a lot of creative control in Illustrator, whether you're using a real pencil or one of the various tools available. One approach to learning Illustrator is to start by drawing lines; from there, you can learn to draw whatever you want, depending on your eventual artistic goals.

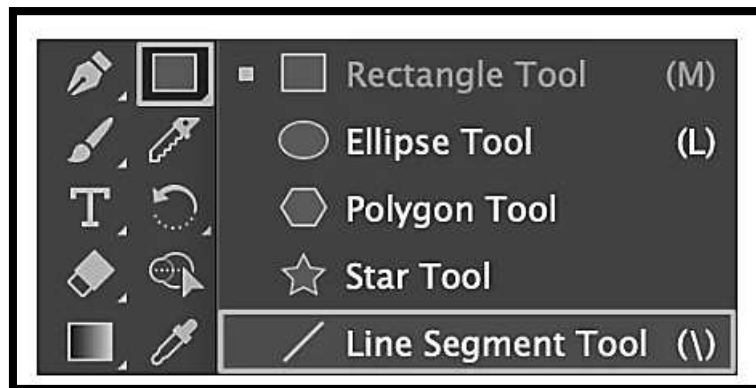
Does Illustrator Have a Line Tool?

How Do I Make Straight Lines in Illustrator?

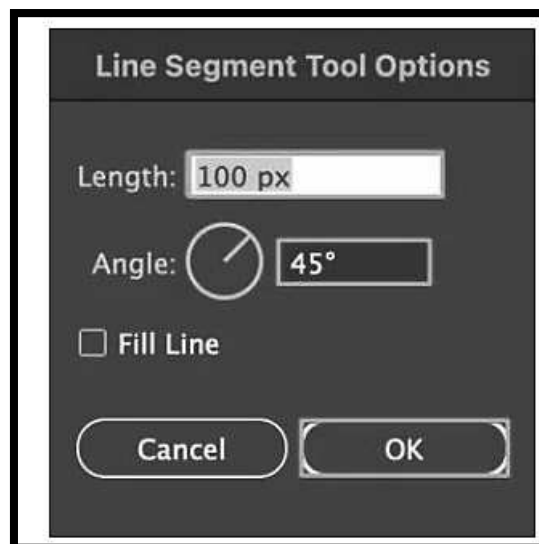
Line Segment Tool

There is a tool called the Line Segment Tool that you can use if you just want to draw lines.

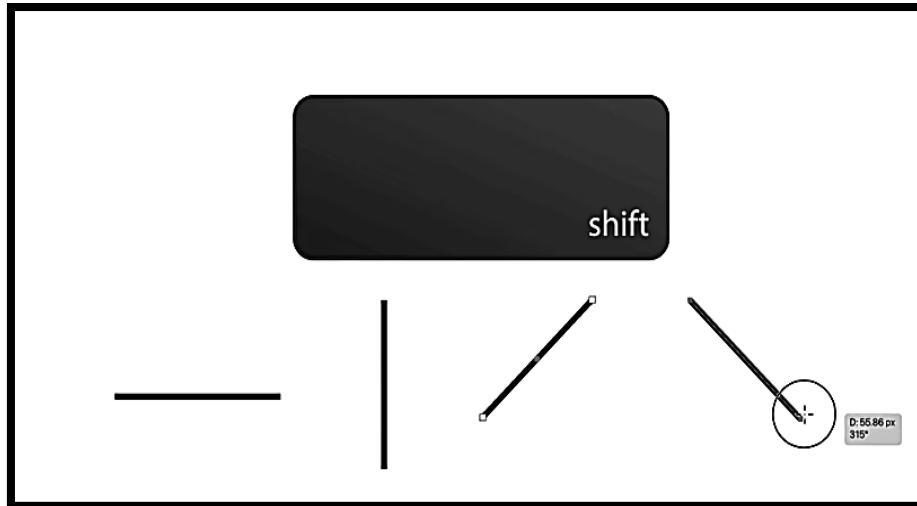
You can access it by navigating to the Toolbar, finding the Rectangle Tool, and right-clicking on it. The Line Tool, represented by the diagonal line icon, will be visible. One alternative is to use the \ key on the keyboard, which will transform your cursor into a Line Tool equivalent.



Once you've found the spot on your artboard that you like, click and let go of the cursor. The options for the Line Segment Tool will show up. Both the desired line length and the angle to be drawn against can be entered here. Once you're ready, hit Enter or Return on your keyboard or click the OK button in the dialog window.



Quickly create lines at 0, 45, or 90 degrees by dragging the cursor over the artboard while holding down the Shift key. You can draw a straight line horizontally at 0, 180 degrees, vertically at 90 degrees, or diagonally at 45 degrees in angle relative to the horizontal line (constraint to 45 degrees).



Without pressing Shift, you can also draw a straight line by dragging the mouse; however, it will not be limited to 45 degrees. Any angle from the point you began drawing the line will still allow you to make a straight line. Using this method, the dialog box for Line Segment Tool Options will not be shown. A line may be drawn quickly, however, without the need for an additional step.

Alternative Tools to Draw a Straight Line

To create a straight line, you can use the Line Segment Tool or any of the following: Pen, Paint Brush, Blob Brush, Curvature, or Pen Tool. There are many options, and they will all be effective.

Draw a Straight Line with a Pencil Tool

Pick up a pencil by navigating to the Toolbar or using the context menu that appears when you right-click the paintbrush icon. Another option is to use the N key to transform your cursor into a pencil tool.



Now you can create a straight line on your artboard by clicking and holding the Shift key while moving the mouse. Afterwards, release the Shift key. Like a real pencil and paper, all you have to do this time is click, hold, and move the cursor. Although your line may not

be completely straight, you will no longer be limited in where you can move the cursor. You can use this method to create a freehand drawing.

Draw a Straight Line with Pen Tool

Unlike the Pencil and Paint Brush Tools, the Pen Tool does not mimic the feel of an actual pen or pencil when used. The Pen Tool in Adobe Photoshop is functionally identical, in case you're acquainted with that program. The steps for using the Pen Tool to create a straight line are as follows:

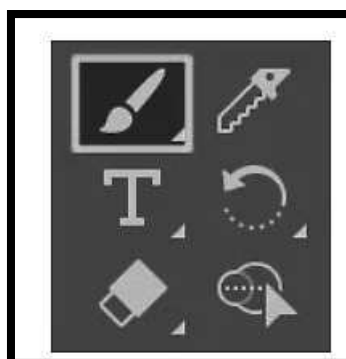
Use the keyboard shortcut **P** or the toolbar's pen icon to bring up the pen. Release the mouse or trackpad after clicking once on the artboard; then, drag the pointer to a different region of the artboard and click again. As you drag the Pen Tool from one location to another after clicking, a line will appear at the tip of the tool. Every time you click one more to release it, a straight line is drawn and they are all linked.



After you click once to make an Anchor Point or path, release the mouse or trackpad. Then, while holding down the Shift key, drag the pointer to a different spot and click again to draw a straight line at a 0 or 45-degree angle.

Draw a Straight Line with Paint Brush Tool

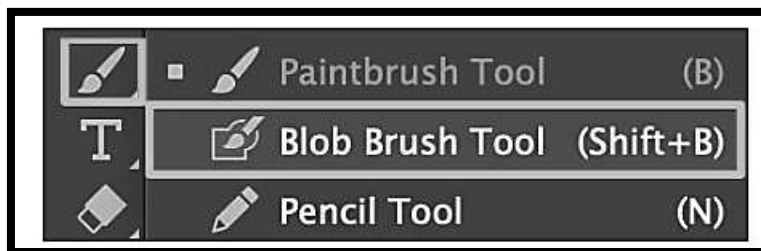
To use the paintbrush tool, either press the **B** key on your keyboard or use the drop-down menu.



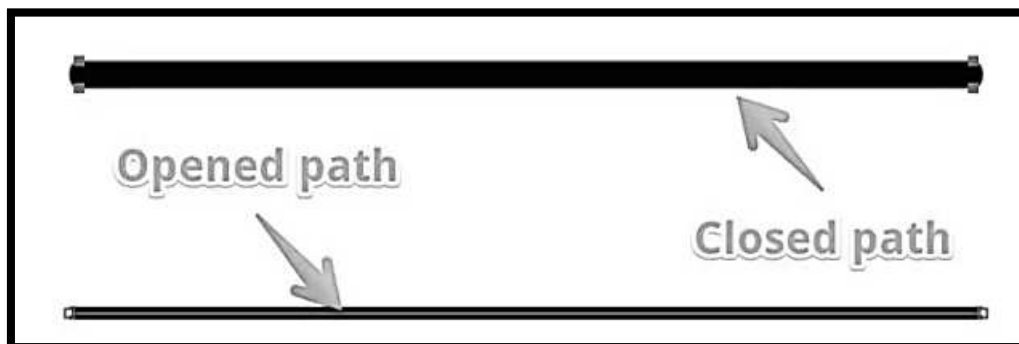
With the Paintbrush Tool, which is analogous to a real brush, you can create freehand drawings in Illustrator, much as with the Pencil Tool. Lines can be drawn in any direction by clicking and dragging the mouse. If you press the Shift key and the Line Segment Tool, you can get the same result: a perfectly straight line. The line thickness will be thicker than when using the Pencil and Pen Tools by default.

Draw a Straight Line with the Blob Brush Tool

With the Blob Brush Tool, you can create straight lines much as with the Pencil and Pen Tools. However, there is a separate path line. Select the Paint Brush Tool from the toolbar, then right-click on the paintbrush icon with the rectangle around it. This will bring up the Blob Brush Tool. You can also use the keyboard shortcut **Shift + B**.

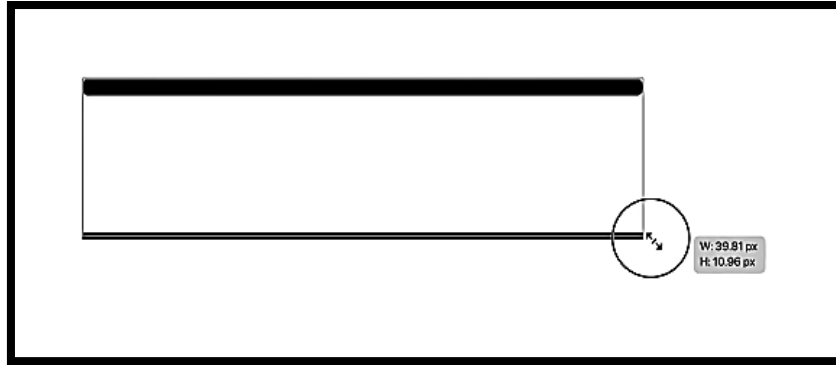


The next step is to click and drag the cursor on the artboard while holding down the Shift key. Lines made using the Pencil, Pen, and Paint Tools will have closed paths instead of open ones, resulting in a straight line.



When you use the Blob Brush Tool to create a line, its thickness will fluctuate depending on how big or little you make it.

The single-lined paths that have been opened have not been widened just yet. These lines will remain the same thickness regardless of how long you make them.



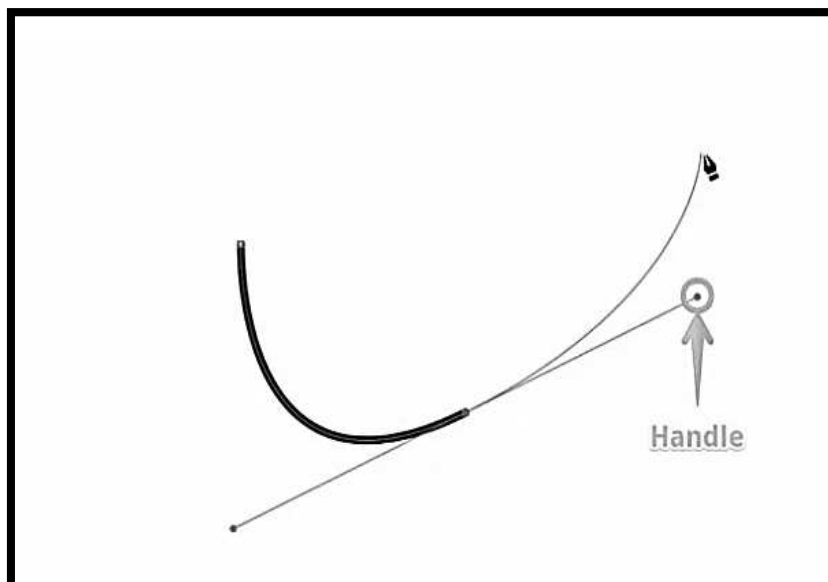
How to Draw a Curved Line on Illustrator in 3 Ways

Drawing curved lines, in addition to straight ones, can greatly enhance your ability to produce images that use curves.

You are not alone if you find freehand drawing curves to be a challenge. You can utilize a variety of curved line tools in Illustrator.

1. Draw a Curved Line with the Pen Tool

With the Pen Tool, you can draw both straight and curved lines, but there are several approaches for each. Click once on the artboard after selecting the Pen Tool from the Toolbar. Next, go to a different area of the artboard by dragging the cursor. Click on the area you want and hold down the mouse button as you move the cursor. When you release the mouse button, a pair of straight lines joined by a sharp corner will be drawn. A straight line will begin to curve and handles will start to extend from the anchor point as you move the cursor. A more gradual curve can be achieved by extending the handle.



The angle of your curve will be increasingly acute as the handles are pulled closer to the anchor point, which in turn makes the pivot point sharper.

To make a specific curve, just click once to establish an anchor point, and then drag the handle to the desired location. The curve drawing is now complete. To switch to the **Direct Selection Tool** and release the Pen Tool, press and hold the Command key on your keyboard. Then, on a blank area, click once with the cursor.

2. Draw a Curved Line in Illustrator with the Curvature Tool

Locate the symbol of a pen with a curved line emanating from its tip on the Toolbar. You may not be able to view it on the standard Toolbar since it is hidden.

Locate the three dots on the Toolbar's base to add it there. You can edit the toolbar using that button. A menu with drop-down options will eventually show up. To add the Curvature Tool to the standard Toolbar, locate it in the drop-down menu and click and drag it. In this manner, the tool will be more convenient for you to utilize when time is of the essence.



The next step is to click once on the artboard, then release the cursor and go to a different area of the artboard. Reposition the cursor to a different area of the artboard, click and release, and then click again. In contrast with the Pen Tool's