

Illustrator Navigation

The **Control Panel** in Adobe Illustrator, found under the Menu Bar, gives quick access to different settings depending on the tool or object you're working with. Here's a rundown of what you can do:

General Options (Most Tools)

1. **Document Profile & Artboard Size:** View and adjust document settings and artboard dimensions.
2. **Undo/Redo:** Quickly undo or redo actions.

Selection Tool (V) & Direct Selection Tool (A)

- **X, Y Coordinates:** Shows the object's position on the artboard; you can enter exact numbers.
- **Width (W) & Height (H):** Set the object's size; link to keep proportions the same.
- **Rotation:** Rotate the selected object.
- **Shear:** Skew the object.
- **Flip:** Flip the object horizontally or vertically.
- **Fill & Stroke:** Change fill and stroke colors.
- **Stroke Weight:** Adjust stroke thickness.
- **Stroke Options:** Set stroke styles, like dashed lines or rounded corners.
- **Opacity:** Make the object more or less transparent.
- **Blending Mode:** Change how the object blends with others.
- **Align & Distribute:** Align and space out objects.

Type Tool (T)

- **Font Family:** Choose your font.
- **Font Style:** Pick the font style (bold, italic, etc.).
- **Font Size:** Set the text size.
- **Leading:** Space between lines of text.
- **Kerning:** Adjust space between specific character pairs.
- **Tracking:** Space between characters.
- **Scale:** Change the height or width of text.

- **Text Alignment:** Align text left, center, right, or justify.
- **Text Color:** Choose a text color.
- **Text Effects:** Add underlines, strikethroughs, etc.

Pen Tool (P) & Shape Tools (M, L, etc.)

- **Path Options:** Adjust anchor points and path segments.
- **Pathfinder Options:** Combine and alter shapes.
- **Corner Radius:** Round the corners of shapes like rectangles.

Eyedropper Tool (I)

- **Sample Settings:** Pick appearance attributes or colors from objects.

Appearance Options

- **Effects:** Add shadows, glows, and other effects.

Image Options (For Raster Images)

- **Image Trace:** Convert images to vectors.
- **Embed/Link:** Embed the image in the file or link it.
- **Crop Image:** Crop the image.

Other Tools

- **Artboard Tool (Shift+O):** Resize and manage artboards.
- **Perspective Grid Tool (Shift+P):** Adjust the perspective grid.

Contextual Menus

- **Additional Options:** Extra settings depending on the selected tool or object.

The Control Panel changes to show options that fit what you're doing, making it easier to adjust settings and fine-tune your work.

Selection Tool(V)

Allows you to select, move, and manipulate objects within your workspace.

Direct Selection Tool(A)

Enables you to select and manipulate individual anchor points or path segments within an object.

Group Selection Tool(Shift + Click)

Lets you select individual objects within a group, or multiple objects within a group, without ungrouping them.

Magic Wand Tool(Y)

Selects objects with similar attributes.

Artboard Tool(Shift + O)

Creates and edits artboards.

Lasso Tool(Q)

Selects objects and anchor points by drawing a freeform shape around them.

DRAW:**Pen Tool(P)**

Draws precise paths with straight and curved segments.

Add Anchor Point Tool

Adds new anchor points to an existing path.

Delete Anchor Point Tool

Removes anchor points from a path.

Anchor Point Tool(Shift + C)

Adjusts the direction and position of anchor points and their direction handles for precise path editing.

Curvature Tool(Shift + ~)

Draws and edits smooth, curved paths easily by placing points and adjusting curves intuitively.

Line Segment Tool(\)

Draws straight line segments.

Arc Tool

Draws arcs by specifying the start and end points, and the direction of the curve.

Spiral Tool

Draws spirals with adjustable size, number of segments, and decay.

Rectangular Grid Tool

Creates grids of rectangles with customizable row and column counts and spacing.

Polar Grid Tool

Draws circular grids with customizable radial and concentric divisions.

Rectangle Tool(M)

Draws rectangles and squares by specifying width and height or dragging to create them.

Flare Tool

Creates lens flares and other light effects by clicking and dragging in your document.

Paintbrush Tool(B)

Draws freehand paths with brush strokes, allowing for various brush styles and textures.

Blob Brush Tool(Shift + B)

Draws filled shapes with smooth, brush-like strokes that merge with existing shapes.

Pencil Tool(N)

Draws freehand paths with adjustable smoothness and fidelity.

Smooth Tool

Smooths out rough or uneven paths by reducing the number of anchor points.

Path Eraser Tool

Erases parts of paths, breaking them into separate segments.

Join Tool

Connects two or more endpoints of paths to create a single continuous path.

Shaper Tool

Allows you to draw and transform shapes quickly by recognizing and converting freehand sketches into precise geometric shapes.

Symbol Sprayer Tool(Shift + S)

Sprays symbols from the Symbols panel onto the canvas, creating a pattern of repeated symbols.

Symbol Shifter Tool

Moves individual symbols within a sprayed symbol pattern without altering the overall distribution.

Symbol Scruncher Tool

Adjusts the density of symbols within a sprayed pattern by compressing or expanding their spacing.

Symbol Sizer Tool

Alters the size of individual symbols within a sprayed pattern.

Symbol Spinner Tool

Rotates individual symbols within a sprayed pattern.

Symbol Stainer Tool

Applies color or gradient to individual symbols within a sprayed pattern.

Symbol Screener Tool

Adjusts the opacity of individual symbols within a sprayed pattern.

Symbol Styler Tool

Applies graphic styles to individual symbols within a sprayed pattern.

Column Graph Tool

Creates vertical bar graphs to represent data visually.

Stacked Column Graph Tool

Creates vertical bar graphs where each bar is divided into segments representing different data series, stacked on top of each other.

Bar Graph Tool

Creates horizontal bar graphs to represent data visually.

Line Tool

Draws straight lines.

Area Tool

Creates filled shapes or areas.

Scatter Tool

Creates scattered objects or patterns.

Pie Tool

Draws pie chart segments.

Radar Tool

Creates radar charts.

Slice Tool

Divides objects into slices.

Slice Selection Tool

Select individual slices.

Perspective Grid Tool

Creates a grid for drawing in perspective.

Perspective Selection Tool

Selects objects within the perspective grid.

Type Tool (T)

Creates and edits text.

Area Type Tool

Creates text within a defined area.

Type on Path Tool

Creates text along a path.

Vertical Type Tool

Creates vertical text.

Vertical Area Tool

Creates vertical text within an area.

Vertical Type on Path Tool

Creates vertical text along a path.

Touch Type Tool

Allows for interactive text editing.

Gradient Tool (G)

Applies gradients to objects.

Mesh Tool (U)

Creates mesh grids for color transitions.

Shape Builder Tool (Shift + M)

Combines and edits shapes.

Live Paint Bucket (K)

Fills areas with color in live paint groups.

Live Paint Selection Tool (Shift + L)

Selects parts of live paint groups.

Rotate Tool (R)

Rotates objects.

Reflect Tool (O)

Mirrors objects.

Scale Tool (S)

Resizes objects.

Shear Tool

Skews objects.

Reshape Tool

Alters the shape of objects.

Width Tool (Shift + W)

Adjusts stroke width along a path.

Warp Tool (Shift + R)

Distorts objects by warping.

Twirl Tool

Twists objects in a circular motion.

Pucker Tool

Pulls in the edges of an object.

Bloat Tool

Pushes out the edges of an object.

Scallop Tool

Creates a scalloped effect on edges.

Crystalize Tool

Creates a faceted effect.

Wrinkle Tool

Adds wrinkles and folds.

Puppet Warp Tool

Manipulates objects using a mesh.

Free Transform Tool (E)

Allows free scaling, rotating, and skewing.

Eyedropper Tool (I)

Samples colors and styles.

Measure Tool

Measures distances and angles.

Blend Tool (W)

Creates smooth color transitions between objects.

Eraser Tool (Shift + E)

Erases parts of objects.

Scissors Tool (C)

Cuts paths at anchor points.

Knife

Cuts objects into separate pieces.

Hand Tool (H)

Moves the view of the canvas.

Print Tiling Tool

Prepares artwork for printing across multiple pages.

Zoom Tool (Z)

Zooms in and out of the canvas.

Illustrator Navigation

Properties Panel

Function:

The Properties panel in Illustrator lets you view settings and controls in the context of your current task or workflow. This panel has been designed with ease of use in mind, ensuring that you've access to the right controls when you need them. The Properties panel is available by default in the Essentials workspace.

- The Properties panel is available by default in the Essentials workspace. It is also available in **Windows > Properties**.
- **Default controls when no object is selected**

When no objects are selected in your document and the Selection tool is selected, the Properties panel displays controls related to the artboards, ruler, grids, guides, snapping, and some commonly used preferences. In this state, the Properties panel displays quick action buttons that let you open the Document Setup and Preferences dialog boxes and enter the artboard editing mode.

- **Controls for selected objects**

For any selection, the Properties panel displays two sets of controls:

- *Transformation and appearance controls:* Width, Height, Fill, Stroke, Opacity, etc
- Dynamic controls in the Properties panel change based on the type of object you select. For text objects, you can adjust character and paragraph attributes. When selecting an image, controls for cropping, masking, embedding, and Image Trace are available. If you select a text box, the panel displays options for modifying text.
- *Quick Actions:* Quick action tasks, depending on the contents of your selection, become available.

Layers Panel

Description:

- Layers are arranged in a stack in the Layers panel. In the document, content on the layers at the top of the Layers panel appears in front of content on layers that are lower in the panel. Layers

Purpose:

- You use the Layers panel to list, organize, and edit the objects in a document. By default, every new document contains one layer, and each object you create is listed under that layer. However, you can create new layers and rearrange items to best suit your needs.
- The Layers Panel in Photoshop. By default, you'll find the Layers panel in the lower right of the screen.

Function:

- The Layer Panel allows users to explore and set the visibility state of the different layers in the loaded model. A layer is identified by a string label and represents a collection of geometry grouped by some criteria.

Libraries Panel

Purpose:

- The idea behind the library is that you're going to take content that you may reuse. You're going to take things like graphic content, you're going to take styling, maybe paragraph style and character styling you want to reuse, or even colors that you want to reuse.
- You can use the libraries menu to create a new library and name it, or simply add assets to the default, My Library. Click plus (+) in the libraries panel to add graphics, text styles, colors, and effects from your document.
- Libraries make the core design assets for your brand or personal projects available to you anywhere. Easily collect, organize, use, and share these assets across projects, devices, Creative Cloud apps, and teams to produce consistent experiences.

Bibliography

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- <https://creativecloud.adobe.com/learn/illustrator/web/ai-layers-basics#:~:text=Layers%20are%20arranged%20in%20a,affecting%20content%20on%20other%20layers.>

Swatches

What It Means

Swatches in Illustrator are pre-defined sets of colors, gradients, and patterns that you can save and reuse across your projects. They help ensure consistency and efficiency when applying colors to your artwork.

What It Does

- **Color Swatches:** Store solid colors that can be quickly applied to fills, strokes, and text.
- **Gradient Swatches:** Save gradient settings (a gradual transition between two or more colors) for consistent application.
- **Pattern Swatches:** Create and save repeating patterns that can be applied to fills.
- **Global Swatches:** Update all instances of a swatch across the document when you edit the swatch color.
- **Color Groups:** Organize related swatches together for better management.

Brushes

What It Means

Brushes in Illustrator are tools that allow you to create and apply various stroke effects to paths. Brushes can be simple solid lines or more complex patterns and textures.

What It Does

- **Calligraphic Brushes:** Simulate traditional calligraphy with adjustable angle and roundness.
- **Scatter Brushes:** Scatter a specified object along a path with random rotation, size, and spacing.
- **Art Brushes:** Stretch an artwork along a path. Great for creating custom strokes.
- **Pattern Brushes:** Repeat an object along the path with options for the start, end, and corner tiles.
- **Bristle Brushes:** Simulate natural brush strokes with variable opacity and thickness.

Symbols

What It Means

Symbols in Illustrator are reusable graphic elements that you can save and reuse throughout your document. They help maintain consistency and can reduce file size and complexity by referencing a single definition.

What It Does

- **Create Symbols:** Save a graphic element (such as a logo or icon) as a symbol.
- **Place Instances:** Place multiple instances of a symbol throughout your document. Editing the symbol definition updates all instances.

- **Symbol Sprayer Tool:** Quickly place multiple instances of a symbol and adjust their attributes (size, rotation, color).
- **Dynamic Symbols:** Allow for modifications to individual instances while maintaining a link to the original symbol definition.

Summary

- **Swatches:** Manage colors, gradients, and patterns for fills and strokes.
- **Brushes:** Create and apply complex stroke effects to paths.
- **Symbols:** Save and reuse graphic elements to maintain consistency and efficiency.