Introduction to Illustrator

Assigned: October 3, 2016 Due: October 14, 2016

Introduction

Like Photoshop, Illustrator allows you to manipulate images and graphics. However, there are some major differences between the two. One of the biggest differences is that Photoshop is a pixel-based software, and Illustrator is a vector-based software.

This vector-based approach is very useful, because vector graphics can be scaled up or down without any loss in quality. As a result, Illustrator is often used to create anything that may need to be printed in different sizes (e.g. logos). In this tutorial you will learn how to use basic tools in Illustrator by recreating the "i" logo from the Incredibles.



To download Illustrator on your personal computer, please use the following link:

https://www.brown.edu/information-technology/software/catalog/adobe-cc-home-use

Lab Goals

- Understand the basics of logo design in Illustrator
- Create and manipulate shapes
- Learn how to add color

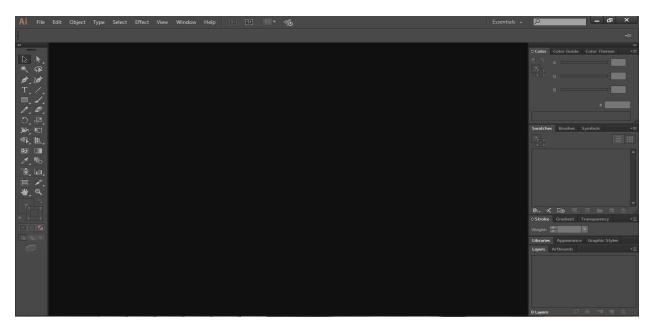
Lab Assignment

Getting Started

To open Illustrator, please find and click on this icon:



The main workspace in Illustrator looks very similar to the one you worked with in Photoshop. The left panel contains the tools you'll be working with. The top bar is your control panel, and the right side contains a number of sub-panels. The sub-panels on the right should include **Color** and **Layers**. If you do not see these panels, locate the **Window** menu at the top of your workspace. A number of options appear, and you should make sure there are check marks next to **Color** and **Layers**.

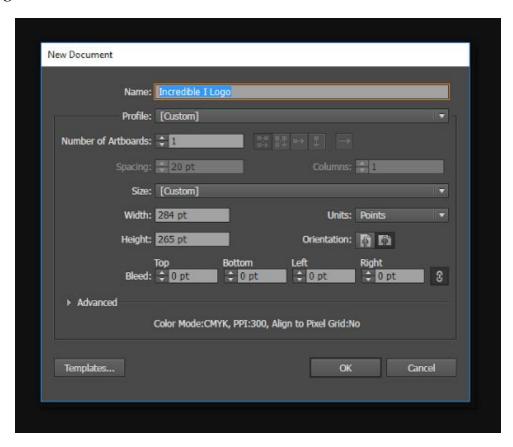


Creating a New Document

On the top right corner, choose **File** then **New** (Ctrl + N). You'll see a new window that pops up. Name this document "**Incredible I Logo**" then change the size so that **width**

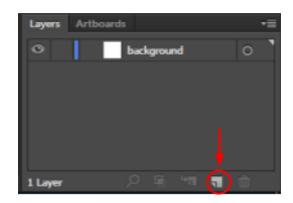
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is 284 and **height is 265**. Make sure your New Document window looks like the following:



Layers

Now that we have a blank document to work with, giving it layers will help us tremendously with organization. For this project you'll need four different layers. In your layers sub-panel, you should see **Layer 1**. Double click to rename the layer to **'background.'** Next, you need to add three more layers. In the bottom of your Layers sub-panel there should be an icon that looks like a piece of paper with a bend corner. Clicking this icon will allow you to add new layers.



When you add your layers, rename them in the following way:

Layer 2 \rightarrow text Layer 3 \rightarrow circle background Layer 4 \rightarrow i



As we work on this lab, we will create each component of the i logo in its properly named layer. This is essential organization skills in Illustrator. You start from the background all the way to foreground to prevent any confusions along the way.

Useful Keyboard Shortcuts when Resizing Shapes

Note: This part will not be checked. This is for your personal reference only.

It will be useful later in this lab to know that pressing **Ctrl** + **C** (copying something) then pressing **Ctrl** + **F** (pasting front) will paste the object exactly on top. **Ctrl** + **V** (pasting something) will paste the object too, but not exactly in front as neatly as **Ctrl** + **F** does.

You learned from Photoshop Lab that pressing **Shift** while dragging shape to resize will change the size proportionally. Another helpful key is to press **Alt** while manipulating shapes. What this does is it will anchor the shape to center and change the size from that

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anchor point. It will also change the width and height on both sides, respective to where you hold your mouse.

Try this: (Again, this part will not be checked. This is for your personal reference only.)

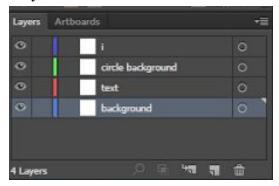
Find **Rectangle Tool** (shortcut M) on the left panel. Create a rectangle of any size of your choice.

Press **Ctrl** + **C** to copy, then **Ctrl** + **F** to paste front. To confirm that a new rectangle has been pasted in front, find the **Move Tool** (shortcut V) on the left panel then drag the rectangle that was pasted in front to the side. You should see two rectangles.

Now try pressing **Alt** then changing its width, height, size, or anything you'd like. Notice that when you change the width or height, they are changed on both sides. When you change the size, the shape changes size respective to the anchor point in its center.

Selecting a Color then Giving Background a Color

First you want to create a new rectangle that will become the background of our logo. Click on the **background** layer as shown:



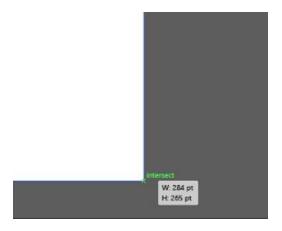
With the **background** layer selected, click on the **Rectangle Tool** (press M for shortcut) located on the left panel.

To fill up the white blank document, we want the rectangle to be the same size. Fear not - the **smart guides** will help you.

First, hover your mouse on the top left corner of the blank document until you see two green perpendicular lines appear along with the text "intersect."



Click and drag to the opposite corner located on the bottom right corner. It should look like this:



Now in our **background** layer, we have a white rectangle without color. Before we give it a color, we need to select a color. While your rectangle is selected, on the left panel, double click on the white rectangle that represents the **fill color** (the black rectangle with a hole underneath it represents the **stroke color**.)



A **Color Picker** window should now appear on your screen. To change the color, we are going to select a specific color by copy and pasting the following **HTML color code** to the text field next to # on your Color Picker window.



When done, hit "OK" and you should see your rectangle set to the same color that was shown above.

To delete the black colored outline surrounding the rectangle, simply click on the **stroke color** and then choose the third of the smaller three rectangles below it, which represents **None**.



Now you should see the rectangle background with an outline.

Creating and Warping Text

Now we're going to work on the **text** layer. Select text layer on your **Layers** panel.

With the **text** layer selected, click on the **Type Tool** (press T for shortcut) located on the left panel.

Click on anywhere on the red rectangle, then type: THE INCREDIBLES.

Highlight the text then change the font to **Gill Sans MT Condensed** at the upper panel:



For font size, set it to 48 pt.

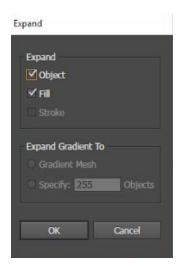
Now we're going to warp the text. To click out of the Text Tool, locate the **Move Tool** (shortcut V) on the left panel. You will see that the text is no longer highlighted but has transformation boxes like shown below.



To warp, we first need to be able to select individual letters, not as a whole.

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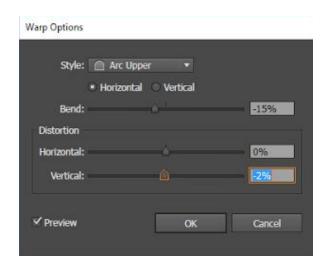
While the whole text is selected, locate **Object** on your top panel, and select **Expand...** On the **Expand** window that appears, make sure **Object** and **Fill** are selected under **Expand.** Click "OK."



Expanding text will convert each letter to an object that's manipulatable.



Now's the fun warping part! On the top panel once again, locate **Effect > Warp > Arc Upper**. Set it as **Horizontal** with a **Bend of -15%** and **Vertical Distortion -2%**. You can check **Preview** on the bottom left corner to see its immediate effects.



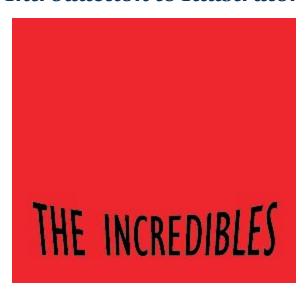
When you hit "OK," you'll find the result as shown below:



Task 1: Using the **Move Tool**, drag the text to the bottom of your document to leave space for our next parts: the two circles and i. Feel free to make the bottom longer by dragging the middle box.

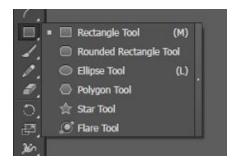
Confirm that your document looks like this:

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Creating Background Circles

We're going to start off with **Ellipse Tool** (shortcut L). You can access the **Ellipse Tool** by pressing **Rectangle Tool** and holding for a few seconds.



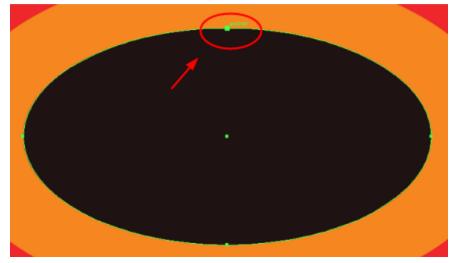
Task 2: Use what you learned with changing colors to create two circles on your **circle background** layer with the following colors: **top dark circle 201414** and **bottom orange circle F6861F**. Use **smart guides** to align your circles in the center. Remember, you can use **alt + click drag** to resize on both sides. Your finished product should look something like this:

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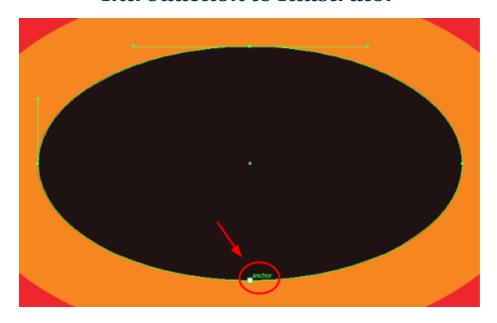
Now select the black circle. We will have to split this into half. Find the **Scissors Tool**(shortcut C) that can be found by clicking and holding for a few seconds on the Eraser Tool.

While the black circle is selected, click on the top center anchor point as shown:



Then click the opposite anchor point below it.

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Using **Move Tool**, drag the split parts of the circle away from each other so it's skewed like this:



Now to the final part - the i!

Building i of the Logo

For this part of the lab, select i layer.

Task 3: Using what you learned, create the i using Ellipse Tool (shortcut L) and Rectangle Tool (shortcut M).

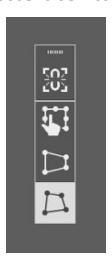
The colors you should use for the circles are as follows: **yellow circle and rectangle FED600** and **white circle FFFFFF**.

Here's what it should look like when you reach the end of this task:



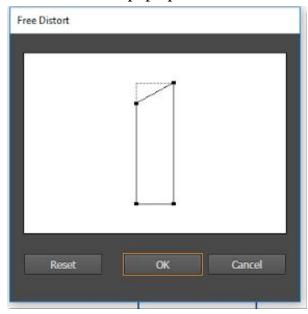
We're almost done! To make the identical I logo we wanted, we need to skew the top portion of the i's rectangle and trim the bottom so that the bottom of the i is round along the circle.

Find **Free Transform Tool** (shortcut E) and select the bottommost icon to allow skewing.



Note: some computers may not actually have this show up, so alternatively, on the top panel, find **Effect > Distort & Transform > Free Transform...**

And see a window pop up that looks like this:



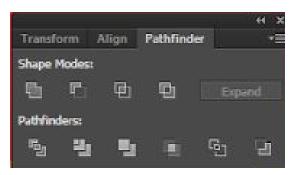
Drag the top left corner of the rectangle downwards so that now we have a skewed top:





Task 4: Now we need to trim the bottom of the i. Before that, we need to tell Illustrator which objects are together and which are not. Select the orange circle, then while holding **shift key**, select both split parts of the dark circle. Press **Ctrl** + **G** to group them together.

Use **Move Tool** to click out of group selection. To split, locate on the top panel **Window < Pathfinder**.



There are many choices to choose from, but for now, we need **divide**, which is located on bottom left of the window.

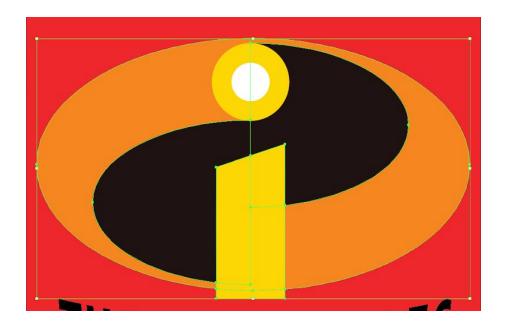


So here's the splitting part: select the group we grouped together before, then press **shift key** and select the yellow rectangle. Once you told Illustrator which objects we are going to split, click on **divide** on **Pathfinder** panel.

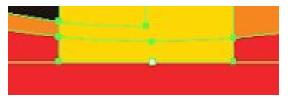
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If the yellow and white circles above the skewed rectangle disappear, simply click on the group that resulted from using Pathfinder then on the top panel, find **Object** > **Arrange** > **Send to Back (shortcut Shift + Ctrl + [).**

Illustrator will automatically divide shapes into parts and group them together as shown below.



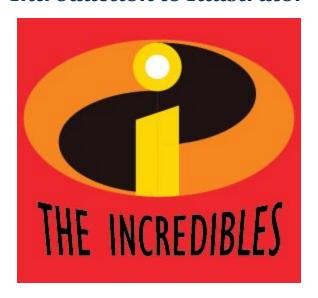
We just need to delete the bottom rectangle where it's protruding out of the orange circle.



To do so, ungroup the parts by pressing **Ctrl** + **Shift**+ **G** then delete the protruding part.

Note: you can use the **Curvature Tool** (Shift + ~) if anything goes wrong with the curved lines by first creating two endpoints then dragging the line to create a curve.

Your final result should look like this:



Check-off Requirements

- Task 1: Warping text with background beneath it
- Task 2: The two circles above text
- Task 3: The "i" of the logo
- Task 4: The final logo with trimmed "i"

Submission

To submit this lab, please raise your hand so a TA can come check your work. Make sure you tell the TA to check you off their list, or else you will not receive credit. If you do not finish your lab in the allotted time, please either come to office hours or another lab section to finish your work. If you are unable to complete this lab due to sickness or injury, please contact BOTH Don and the csoo2 TAs via email. Please contact the csoo2 TA's if you have any further questions.

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