Illustrator (Ai)

GET TO KNOW THE INTERFACE

- Open **Illustrator**
- Arrange your workspace by clicking on **Windows** > **Workplace** > **Essentials**.
- Illustrator is organized into many menus and panels, each of which has a specific role. In the **tools panel** (left), you'll access a variety of commands, adjustments, settings, and panels. On the right, you can find **panels** that control properties, layers, and other aspects of your artwork. The **document window** (middle) displays the files you're currently working on.

CREATE A NEW DOCUMENT

- The start screen appears when there are no documents currently open on Illustrator. Choose **File > New**.
- In the **New Document** dialog box, start by choosing a preset. For example, the **Print** preset shows various sizes and document options.
- When choosing a preset or creating your document, make sure to save it in the **correct unit of measurement**. For example, some professors may want you to create your file in **inches,** but others may prefer in **Picas**.

Finished? How to save your project

- Choose **File > Save** or **File > Save As**.
- Saving Illustrator (Ai) format retains **layers, type, and other editable Illustrator properties.** You can also choose to save your files as a PDF, but the PDF will not be editable.
- The **Illustrator Options** dialog box appears when you first choose **File > Save or File > Save As**. This dialog box offers other options when saving an Illustrator document.

Beginner Links:

Basics
Create Shapes
Add Text
Using Layers
Combine Shapes
Colors
Strokes

Intermediate:

Create patterns
Create pattern brushes
Join and Trim Paths
Seamless Designs
Using Masks
Brushes

VRC Related:

Adding Crop Marks to PDFs

Schedule an appointment using the calendar on our website.

Contact Us
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