

## Basic Techniques in Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Illustrator is an illustration program used to create vector graphics for print and Web. Many of the tools look the same as those in Photoshop. We will focus on those that are new. Illustrator is excellent for making logos and other identifying marks that need great clarity and crisp typography. Native file format – ai; exported as eps; also pdf.

### Work Area

Artboard – area within solid black lines; items in this area will print.

Scratch Area – area outside solid black lines; items in this area will not print, but will be saved in an exported file (such as one being saved to use in InDesign).

### Toolbar

- **Selection Tool** – drag object; transform; can marquee to draw around objects to select more than one.
- **Direct Selection Tool** – reshape object with anchor points; use when object is not selected; can marquee to select individual points in multiple objects
- **Magic Wand** - selects objects of like color
- **Lasso** - selects what you draw over
- **Pen Tool** – same as Photoshop – draws paths, adds or subtract points, convert points; draws with stroke and fill selected.
- **Text tool** – type text, on path, in shape, horizontally and vertically
- **Line Tools** – draw different lines, can be manipulated as paths
- **Paint and Pencil Tools** - same as Photoshop, select brush for drawing.
- **Polygon Tool** – drag, then use up or down arrow to add or subtract points.
- **Scale Tool** – Option click brings up context menu
- **Rotate Tool** – turn selected item
- **Warp, Pucker, Bloat, etc.** – try these out for different effects
- **Free Transform** – resize selected object; can also do with direct selection tool.
- **Symbol Tools** – Spray, size, shift symbols
- **Charting Tools** – easily create charts and graphs from inside Illustrator
- **Gradient** – change direction of gradient
- **Eyedropper, Paint Bucket** – same as Photoshop
- **Measure** – measures distance between two objects.
- **Hand Tool** – repositions images on screen
- **Zoom Tool** – zoom in or out of objects.
- **Fill and stroke colors for objects** – use swatches to select (Choose color, gradient or none)
- **Create swatches** – use New Swatch Icon in Swatch Palette

## **Menus**

### **File Menu**

New Document – set mode and size  
File, Document Setup – change units of rulers  
Open  
Save  
Place – import graphic image into Illustrator.

### **Edit Menu**

Normal cut, copy, paste features

### **View Menu**

Show, Rulers  
Show, Grid

### **Object Menu**

Transform – adjust size, shape and location  
Arrange – arrange images on artboard  
Group – group multiple symbols  
Blend – blend two objects  
Text Wrap – wrap text around object  
Crop Area – Sets crop marks on designated shape

### **Type Menu**

Font, Sizes, Glyphs  
Area type options – set up columns and offsets  
Type on Path Options – adjust type made on a path

### **Select Menu**

Select, Deselect, Inverse  
Select, Same – allows you to select objects with the same feature and then change them all at once

**Filter and Effects Menus** – cool things you can apply to objects in Illustrator

**View** – show guides, rulers, grids, zoom options, snapping, etc.

**Window** – access to all palettes

### **Palettes**

Layers palette – like Photoshop, visibility icon  
Transparency – change opacity  
Swatch – make color chips for reuse  
Color – mix colors  
Stroke – change weight of Stroke  
Transform – mathematically create transformations  
Align – horizontal and vertical alignment options  
Pathfinder - combine paths into new objects and shapes  
Type – Character and Paragraph palettes

**Process and Spot Color** – Choose Window, Swatch Libraries to select a Pantone Library