

Introduction

Adobe Illustrator CC is a vector-based image editing program. Illustrator is used to create scalable vector art for using projects for both print and web. What is vector-based imaging mean? It means that your image can be scaled infinitely without any distortion or pixelation. This allows for flexible artwork that can be used at various different sizes. These can come in handy when needing to scale a poster or artwork object from 8 1/2" X 11" to a digital screen with proportions of 800px by 600px. In this tutorial, we'll cover basics to working in Illustrator such as understanding paths, creating shapes, creating and using artboards, working with type, and more. You'll gain a working knowledge of Illustrator.

Creating a New Document

1) Launch Adobe Illustrator.

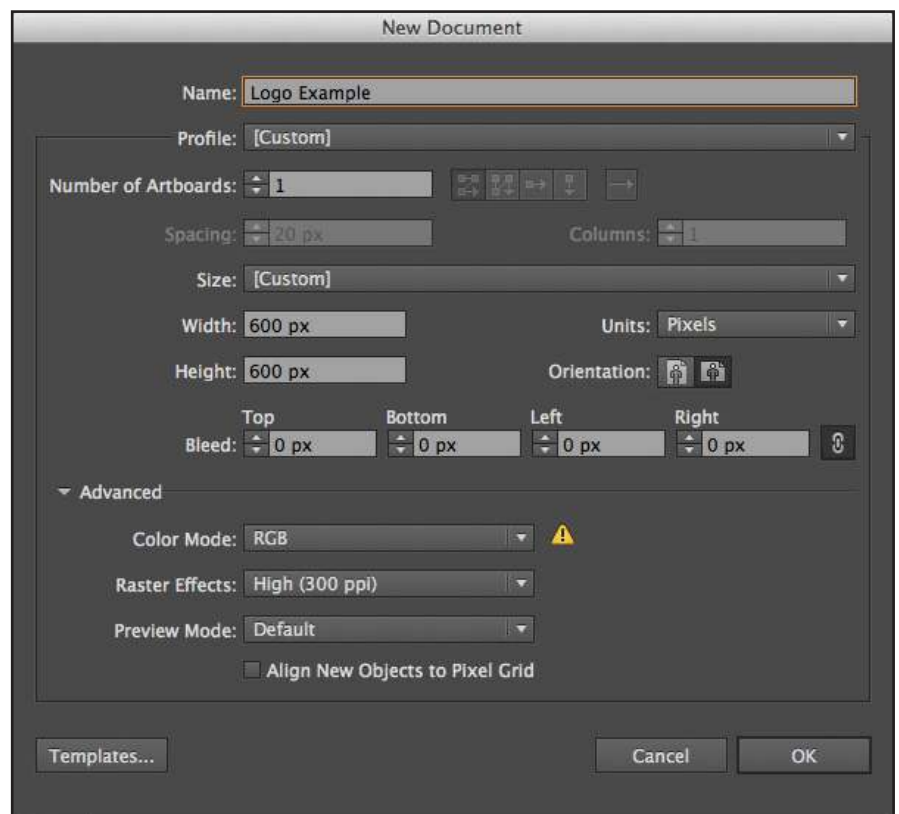
2) Go to **File > New...**

3) A dialog box will appear that will allow you to set the parameters for your file. In Illustrator, you work with Artboards. Note that you can easily change the size of your artboard as you work on it if you need more space. You can even create multiple artboards - we'll go over that in more detail later.

For this tutorial, we are going to create a simple logo.

Give your file a name. For now, let's start with 1 Artboard with the dimensions 600px by 600px. We'll be working pixels, but feel free to work in any units you are most comfortable in. Lastly, we want it to be in Landscape orientation.

Once you've made all those adjustments, click **OK**.

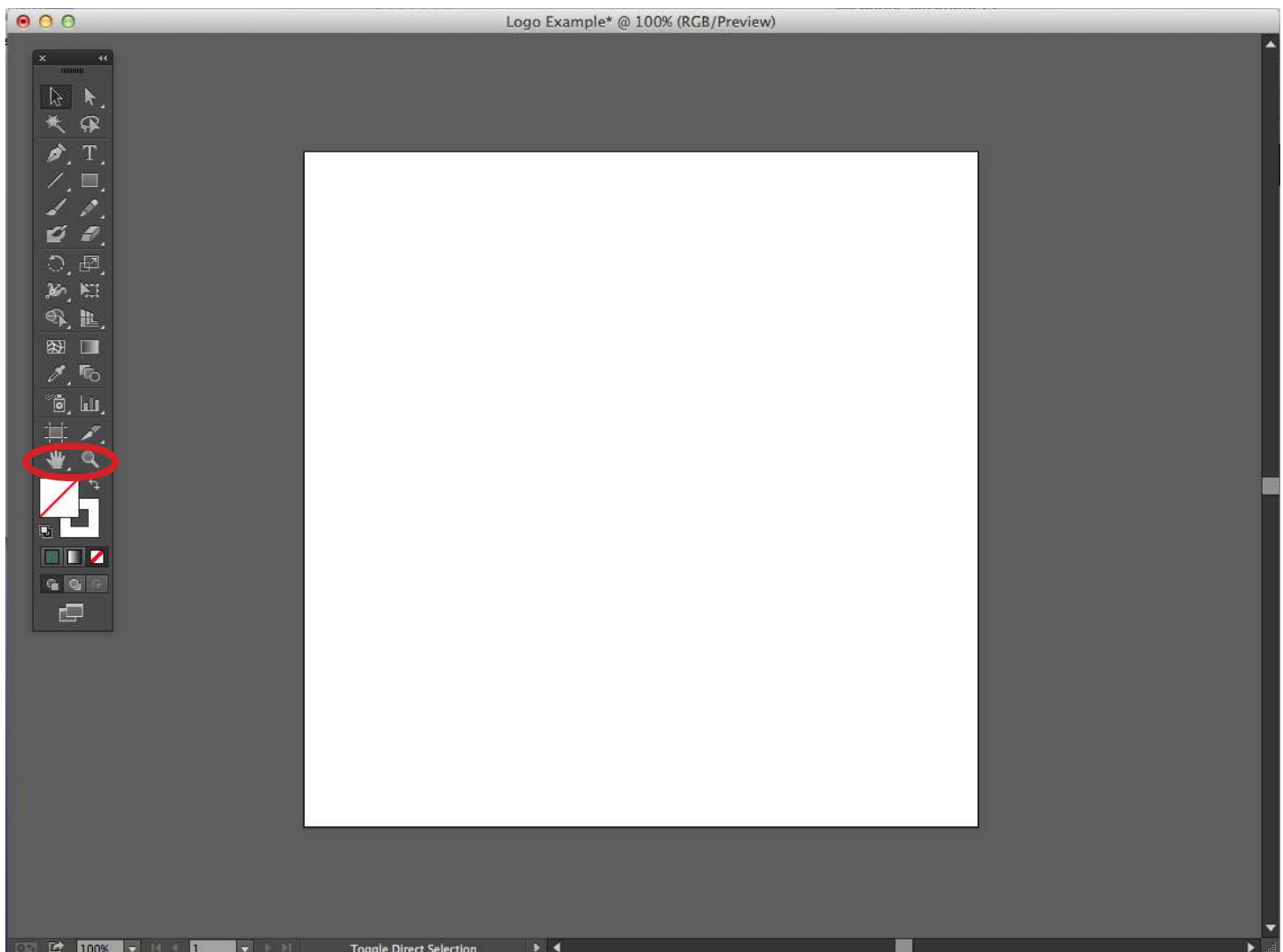


Navigating Your Document

Your window will look like this. Within Illustrator, it's pretty easy to navigate around your document using the **Hand Tool (H)** and the **Zoom Tool (Z)**. Try using the tools to move your document around and to zoom in and out of it. Use their shortcuts (H, Z) or click on them on the tool bar (circled below).

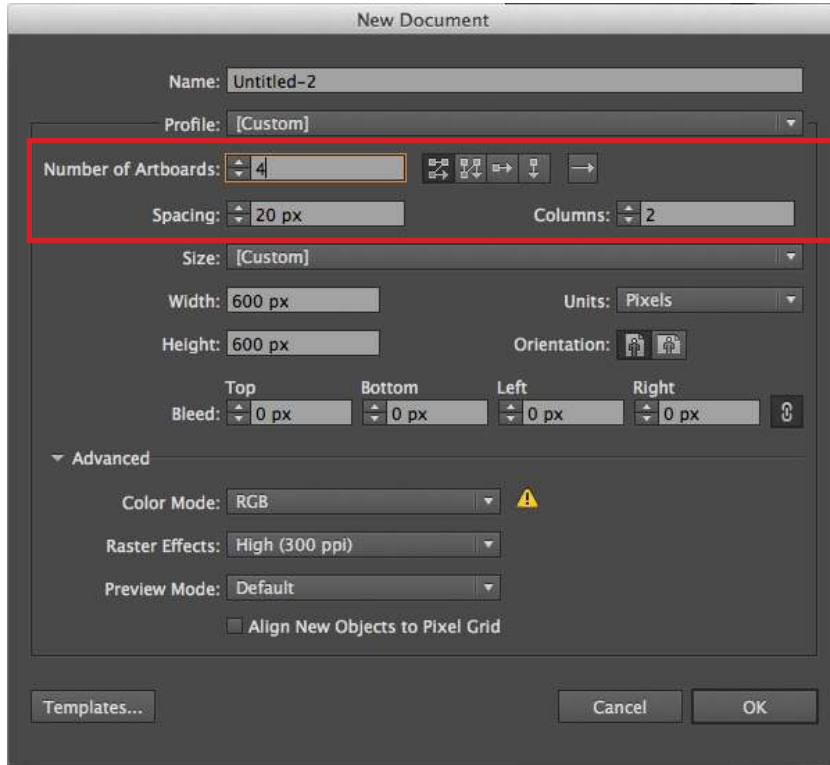
Tip: If you hold down the space bar, you can use the hand tool while you're using most other tools. Once you let go, your cursor will go back to the tool you were using. This is helpful when you need to move around your document while using a tool and saves you the time it takes to switch tools.

When using the zoom tool, it defaults to zooming in. Hold down the Alt key while using the zoom tool to change it to zoom out. You'll notice the cursor now shows a magnifying glass with a minus sign (zoom out) in the middle instead of a plus sign (zoom in).




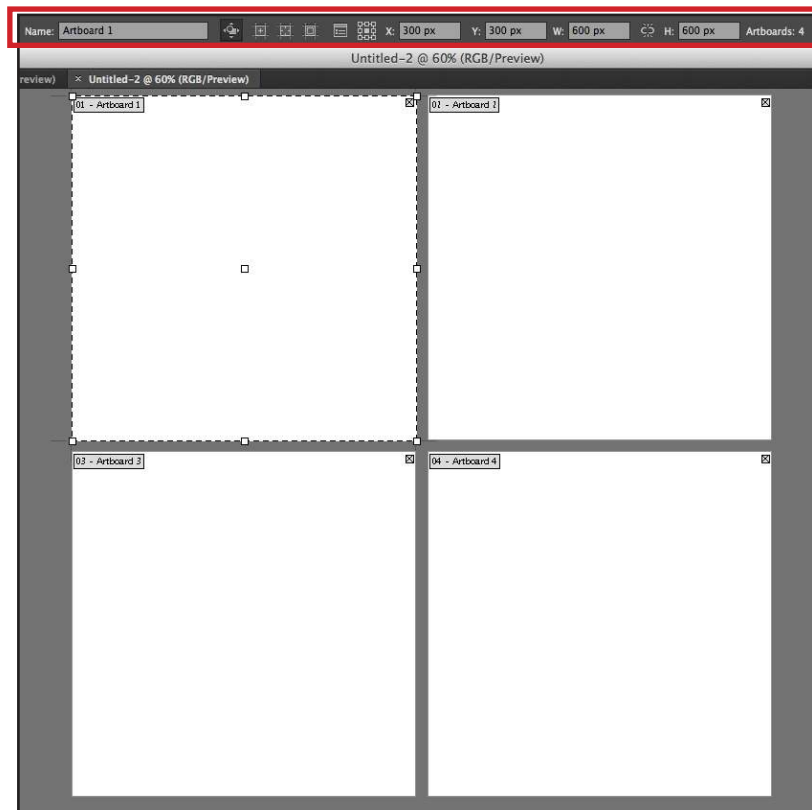
Understanding & Creating Artboards

As noted before, when you create your file, you can create multiple artboards from the beginning. You can also add them later as well.



When creating a new document, you will notice this section here. You can increase the number of artboards, set the spacing between artboards, change the way the grid of artboards is set up (Grid by Row, Grid by Column, etc.) and set up how many columns of artboards you want.

Again, you can edit them after you create the document by using the **Artboard Tool (Shift + O)** or finding it on the toolbar. 



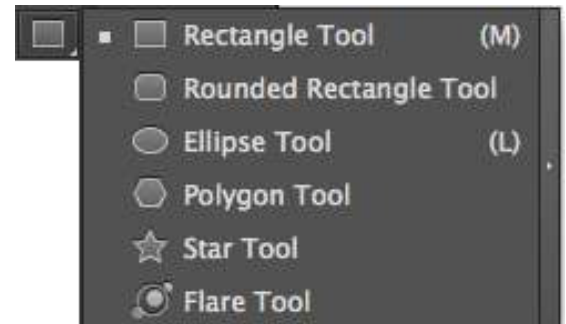
Once in the Artboard tool, in the top toolbar, you'll be able to rename your Artboard and change the dimensions of each artboard. You can also manually hover over the markers around the artboards until the cursor appears and cinch it in. You can also hover over the center of your artboard and move it around your screen in the case that you want more space between your artboards.

Again, multiple artboards can come in handy when you want multiple artwork to exist on the same document. It also makes it easy to export each artwork individually when you place them each in their own artboard. See 'Exporting.'

Creating Shapes & Adding Fill and Strokes

For this tutorial, we only need 1 artboard for our logo. Let's say I want to create a simple personal logo for my website. First, I'll come up with a concept. I want to start off with a simple box that I'm going to have my initials running through.

1) Click on the **Rectangle Tool** in the tool bar. If you click and hold on it on the toolbar, you'll notice lots of different shape tools at your disposal.



2) Click and drag until you've got the shape desired or double click on the screen until a dialog window shows up that allows you to input specific dimensions for your rectangle. You can always adjust the size manually later by dragging the markers around the shape or on the top toolbar, you can adjust the width and height by inputting specific dimensions. In this case I've created a rectangle that is 350 px wide and 150 px tall.



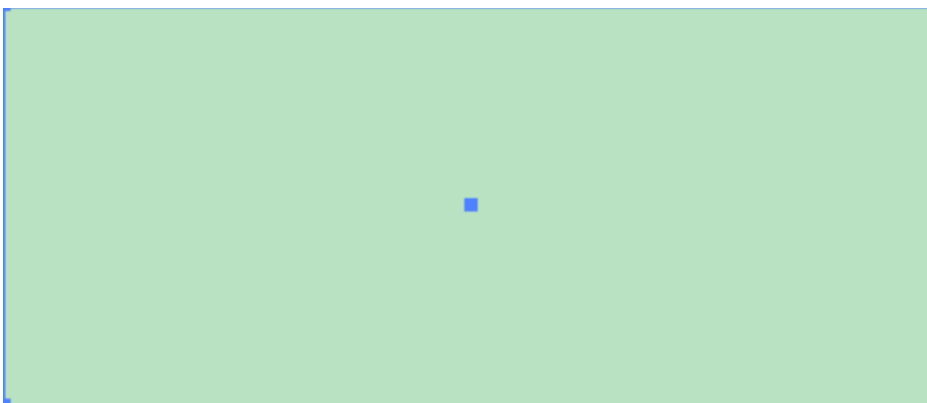
3) Now, we need to change the stroke and fill of our shape. Free free to make it any color you want. You can access this in your side toolbar. It usually defaults to a white fill and black stroke. I'm going to double click on the fill box and change it to a seafoam green.



4) Single click on the stroke box and click on the handy 'No Fill' button underneath the Stroke/Fill box. My Stroke and Fill now looks like this on the toolbar:



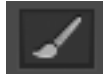
5) My shape appears like this:



Using the Paintbrush Tool

For my logo, now I want to place a cursive lettering of my initials on top of the rectangle in white. In this case, I'm going to use the paintbrush tool. Note: you can also use a premade type here, but I want mine to have a homemade look.

1) Open up the **Paintbrush tool**.



2) Hold and start painting on your artboard.

3) Change the stroke of your line to white. This is what mine looks like:



You can also make adjusts to the line you've created by going to your top toolbar, where you can change the fill/stroke, stroke line width, opacity, and style.



Illustrator gives you lots of options for preset styles. In this case, I've used the default 5pt. Round. If you click on the little triangle next to it, it will drop down a menu with different types of brushes that you can use.

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