



# Adobe Illustrator CS5

## Part 1: Introduction to Illustrator

Summer 2011, Version 1.0

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# Introduction

Adobe Illustrator CS5 is used to create graphics and type in vector format. Vector graphics are made up of points, lines, and curves that are defined by mathematical equations. Vector graphics are resolution independent, which means that they can be resized to any size without losing quality. This handout provides an overview of the Illustrator CS5 user interface and vector graphics, and covers how to create different shapes using the Pen tool.

## Downloading the Data Files

This handout includes sample data files that can be used for hands-on practice. The data files are stored in a self-extracting archive. The archive must be downloaded and executed in order to extract the data files.

- The data files used with this handout are available for download at <http://www.calstatela.edu/its/training/datafiles/illustratorcs5p1.exe>.
- Instructions on how to download and extract the data files are available at <http://www.calstatela.edu/its/docs/download.php>.

## Starting the Program

The following steps are for starting Illustrator CS5 using the computers in the ITS Training Program computer labs. The steps for starting the program on other computers may vary.

To start Illustrator CS5:

1. Click the **Start** button, click **All Programs**, click **Adobe Design Premium CS5.5**, and select **Adobe Illustrator CS5.1**.

## Exploring the User Interface

The Illustrator interface offers many tools, menus, and panels that allow you to work in optimum productivity (see Figure 1). Each element is explained in detail in the following sections.

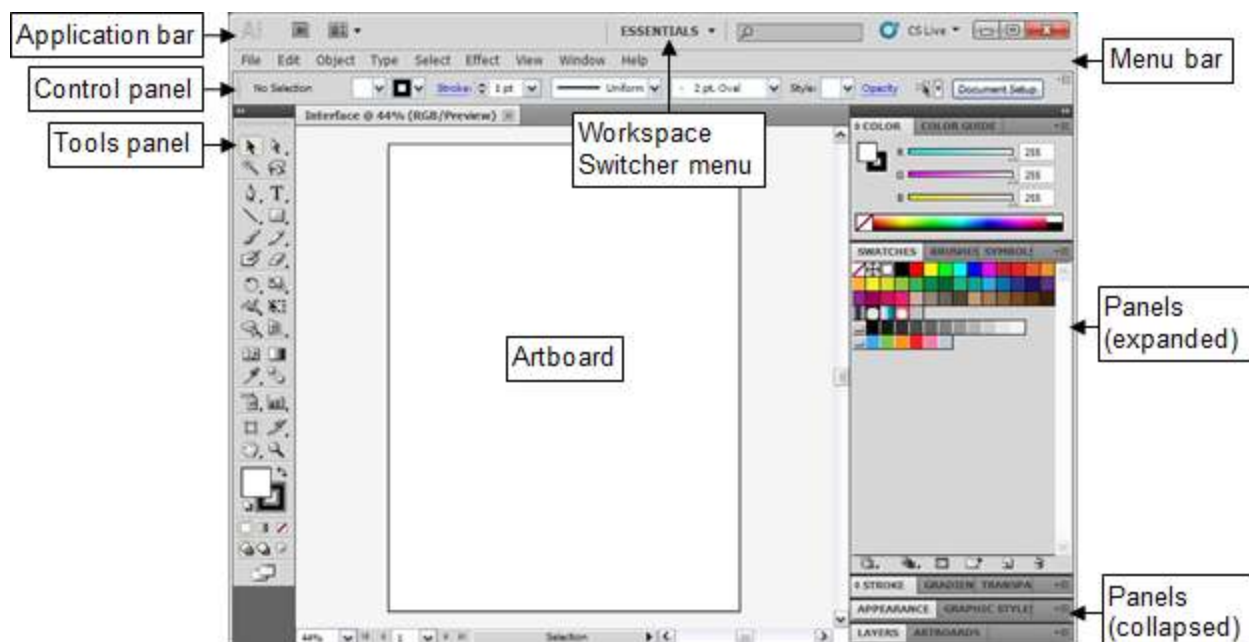


Figure 1 – Illustrator CS5 Program Window

## Application Bar

The *Application* bar is located at the top of the program window (see Figure 2). It contains the Menu bar (depending on the size of the window), the Workspace Switcher menu, the Search box, and other controls. At the right end of the Application bar are the Minimize, Restore/Maximize, and Close buttons which are used to control the program window.



Figure 2 – Application Bar

## Menu Bar

Depending on the size of the program window, the *Menu* bar appears either below or at the left end of the Application bar (see Figure 3). It provides access to many of Illustrator's powerful commands which are grouped according to function (see Table 1).

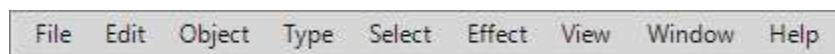


Figure 3 – Menu Bar

Table 1 – Menu Bar

Menu	Description
File	Includes the Open, Save, and Print commands.
Edit	Includes the Cut, Copy, and Paste commands.
Object	Includes command for controlling objects.
Type	Includes command related to typography.
Select	Includes selection commands such as All, Deselect, and Reselect.
Effect	Includes command for creating different types of effects.
View	Includes command for displaying the grid and rulers.
Window	Provides access to all the panels.
Help	Provides access to Illustrator Help.

## Workspace

The Illustrator interface includes various elements such as panels, bars, and windows that you can use to create and manipulate your documents. Any arrangement of these elements is called a *workspace*. You can select from several preset workspaces or create one of your own. The default workspace is called *Essentials*. You can quickly switch to a different workspace using the *Workspace Switcher* menu on the Application bar (see Figure 4).

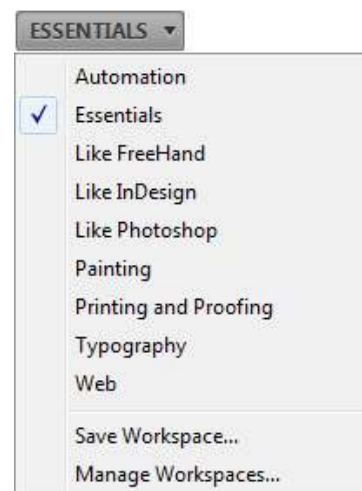



Figure 4 – Workspace Switcher Menu

## Panels

*Panels*, which are listed in the Window menu, provide quick access to many tools that make modifying artwork easier. By default, some panels are docked and appear as icons at the right side of the program window (see Figure 5). Clicking a panel's icon expands the panel (see Figure 6). Clicking the double arrow at the top of the dock expands or collapses all panels. You can move panels by dragging the panel tab or panel title bar to the desired location. You can also resize panels by dragging any side of the panel. Most panels have a menu with additional options that can be accessed by clicking the menu button  in the upper-right corner of the panel.

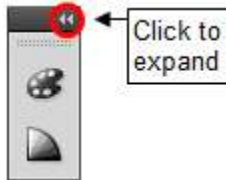


Figure 5 – Collapsed Panels

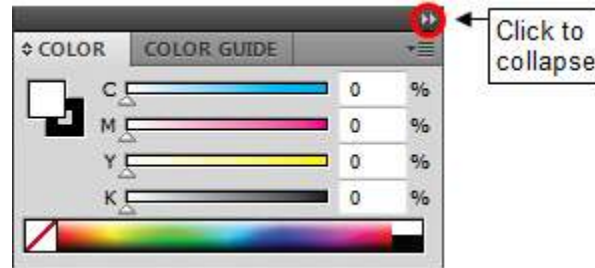


Figure 6 – Expanded Color Panel

## Tools Panel

The *Tools* panel is located on the left side of the program window. It contains selection tools, drawing and painting tools, editing tools, viewing tools, type tools, the Fill and Stroke boxes, and screen mode options (see Figure 7). You can display the tools in the Tools panel in one column or two columns by clicking the double arrow at the top of the panel. Positioning the mouse pointer over a tool displays the tool's name and keyboard shortcut.

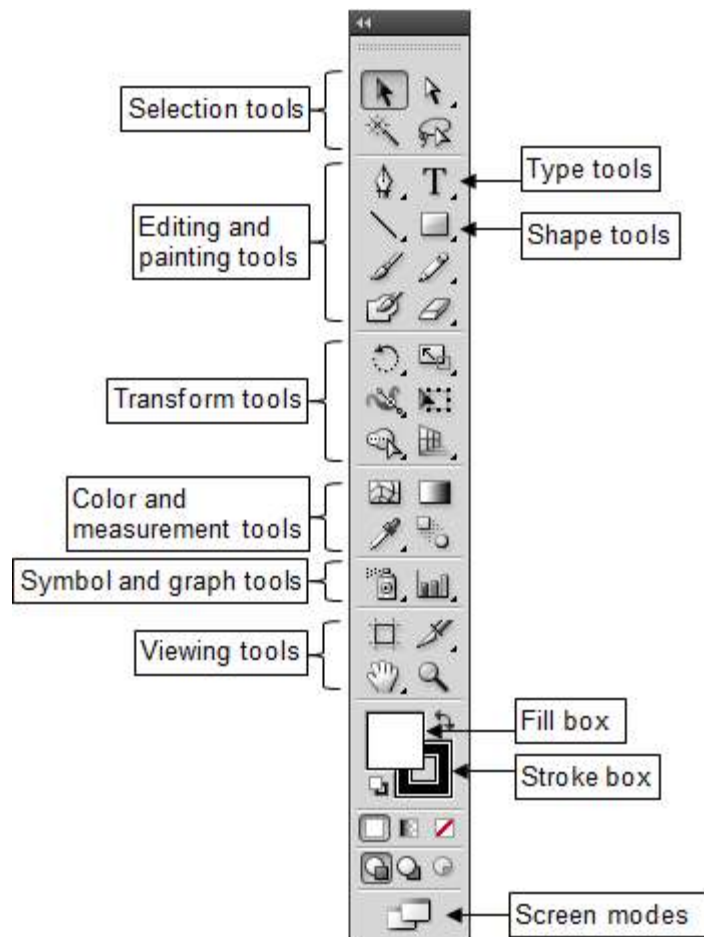


Figure 7 – Tools Panel

## Hidden Tools

The Tools panel groups similar tools together, displaying only one tool from a group at a time while hiding the rest. A small black triangle at the lower-right corner of a tool icon indicates the presence of hidden tools (see Figure 8).

To select a hidden tool:

1. In the **Tools** panel, click and hold down the mouse button on a tool icon with a black triangle, and then drag to the desired tool and release the mouse button (see Figure 9).

NOTE: The selected tool replaces the default tool in that slot until another tool is selected.



Figure 8 – Black Triangle on a Tool Icon

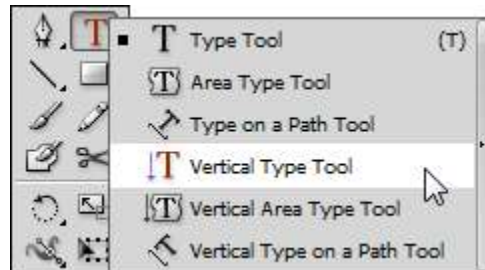


Figure 9 – Hidden Tools Menu

## Control Panel

By default, the *Control* panel appears below the Menu bar (see Figure 10). It provides quick access to options related to the selected object or tool. The options displayed in the Control panel vary depending on the type of object or tool that is selected. When text in the Control panel is blue and underlined, clicking the text displays a related panel or dialog box.



Figure 10 – Control Panel

## Opening a File

You can open files that were created in Illustrator as well as compatible files that were created in other applications. Illustrator recognizes all common graphic file formats such as TIFF, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP, and PSD. The native file format of Illustrator is AI.

To open a file:

1. Click the **File** menu and select **Open** (see Figure 11). The **Open** dialog box opens.

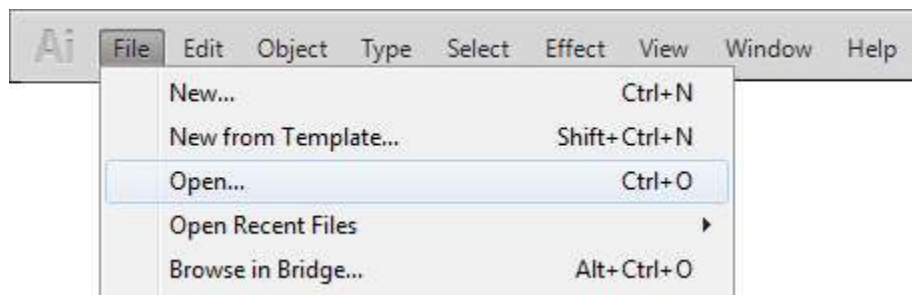


Figure 11 – File Menu

2. Navigate to the folder that contains the sample data files, select the **Layers.ai** file, and then click the **Open** button.

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