



# The complete beginners guide to Adobe Illustrator

Get started





# The complete beginners guide to Adobe Illustrator

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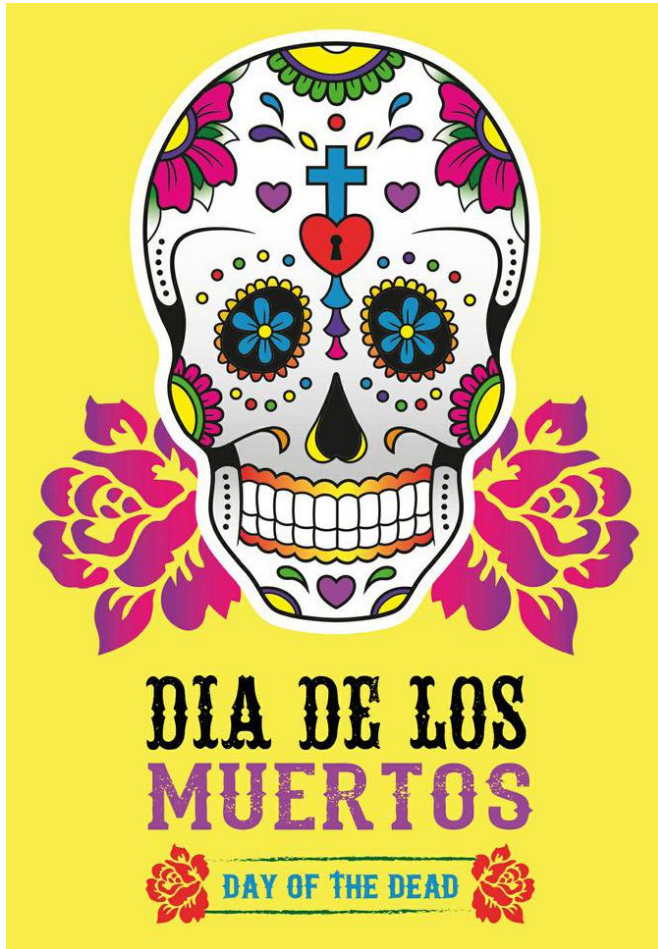
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# What are we going to create on this course

## A vector illustration / Poster / T-shirt design



[Watch speed art video](#)



## COURSE OVERVIEW

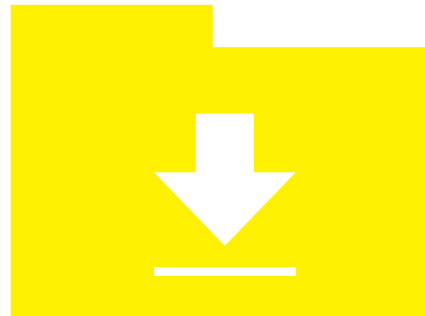
# The complete beginners guide to Adobe Illustrator

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### Overview

In this tutorial I am to going to introduce you to the Adobe Illustrator interface.

Download the project folder here



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[Approx 270MB]

### Project folder directory

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- 4 - Vector basics
- 5 - Fill & Stroke effects
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# Useful Illustrator Short cut keys

V Selection tool  
A Direct selection tool  
S Scale tool  
P Pen tool  
G Gradient tool  
Z Zoom tool  
N Pencil tool  
B Brush tool  
R Rotate tool  
T Type tool  
F Full screen mode  
I Eyedropper tool  
Y Magic wand tool

Shift C Anchor tool  
Shift B Blob & brush tool  
Shift E Eraser tool  
Shift T Touch type tool

cmd (Ctrl PC) + C Copy  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + V Paste  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + O Zoom to fit document to workspace area  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + 1 Zoom to 100%  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + R Show rulers  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + ; Show guides  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + ' Show Grid  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + Z Undo  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + G Group selection  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + A Select all  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + L Create new layer  
cmd (Ctrl PC) + X Cut

cmd (Ctrl PC) + Shift + V Paste in place

Tab Toggle visibility of interface panels

Press & hold shift + click & drag Scale object (with scale tool active)  
Press & hold shift + click & drag Snap rotate (with rotate tool active)  
Press & hold shift + click & drag Snap rotate anchor handles (with pen tool active)

Press & hold shift + click Select multiple objects (with selection tool active)  
Press & hold shift + click Deselect objects (with selection tool active)  
Press & hold shift + click Draw straight & 45 degree lines (with pen tool active)

Press & hold spacebar Maneuver around document

Press & hold alt + click & drag Quick duplicate object (with selection tool active)  
Press & hold alt + click Zoom out (with zoom tool active)

Press up or down Toggle points (with star shape tool active)  
Press up or down Toggle corners (with round rectangle shape tool active)

Press & hold cmd (Ctrl PC) + click and drag Toggle depth of points (with star shape tool active)

Press '[' to increase brush size, press ']' to decrease brush size Toggle brush size (with eraser tool active)  
Press '[' to increase brush size, press ']' to decrease brush size Toggle brush size (with eraser tool active)





## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 1:

## Interface Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

### Overview

In this tutorial I am to going to introduce you to the Adobe Illustrator interface.

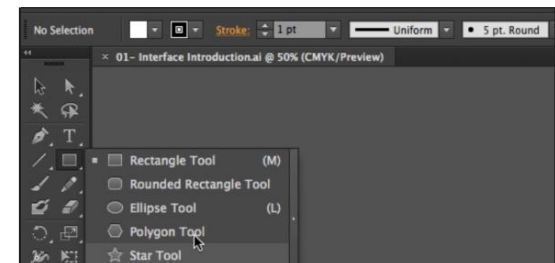
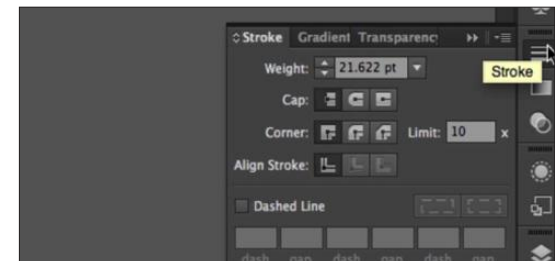
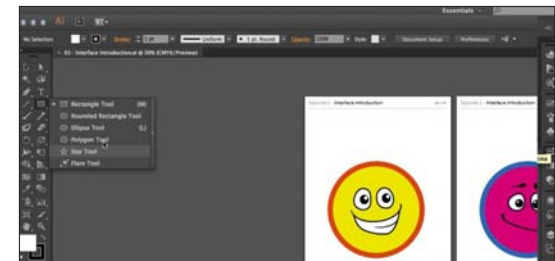
### Please note

In this video tutorial course we will be using Adobe Illustrator CC for mac. Almost all of the principles demonstrated and covered will apply to future and previous versions. Some differences may apply if you are using a previous or future version.

### Topics covered

- The tool panels 00:03:24
- The control panel 00:07:40
- Workspace panels 00:09:55
- The document area 00:13:30

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## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 2:

## Panels & Workspaces in Adobe Illustrator

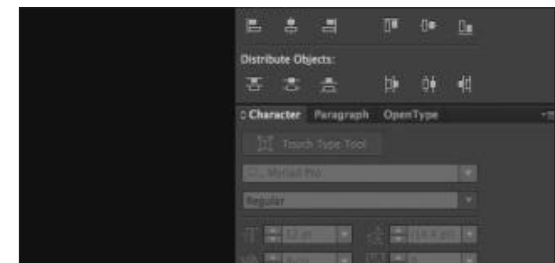
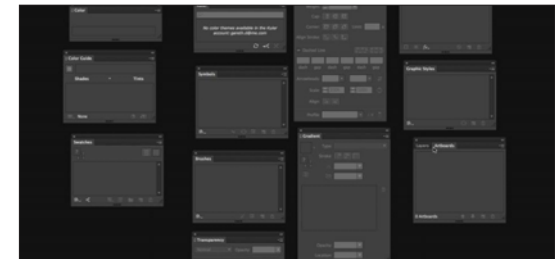
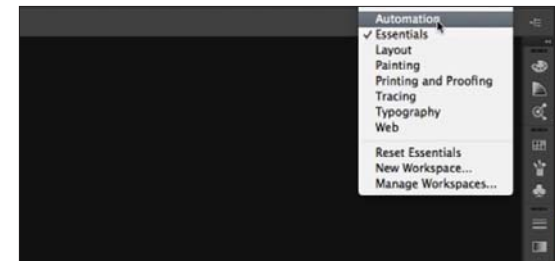
[Watch video](#)

### Overview

In this video I am going to show you how to customise the panel layout to create a more comfortable workspace. Also I will also be recommending my the workspace that I use that I find really effective.

### Topics covered

- Panels review 00:00:00
- How to create a workspace 00:03:45





## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 3: Artboards in Adobe Illustrator

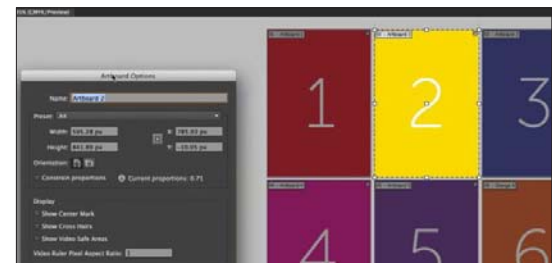
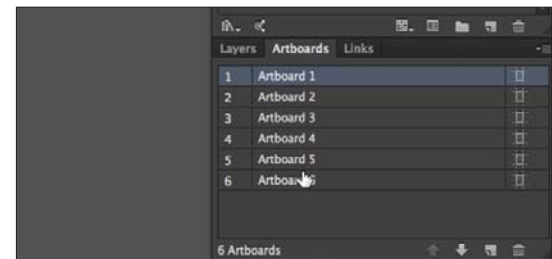
### Overview

In this video we are going to take a closer look at art boards in Adobe Illustrator.

### Topics covered

- The Artboard panel 00:02:14
- Artboard tool 00:05:40

[Watch video](#)







## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 4:

## Vector basics / Selection & Direct selection tool

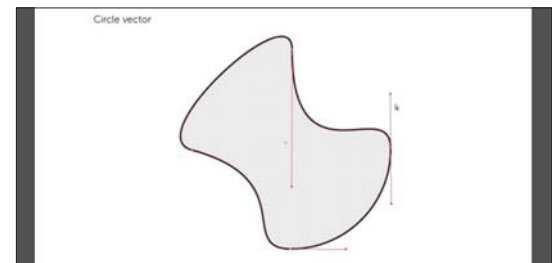
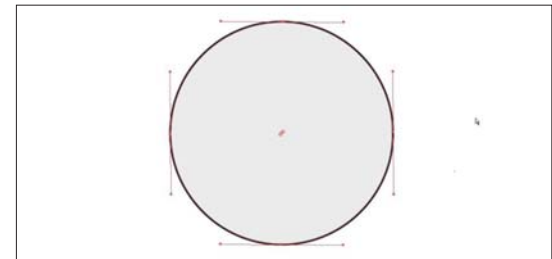
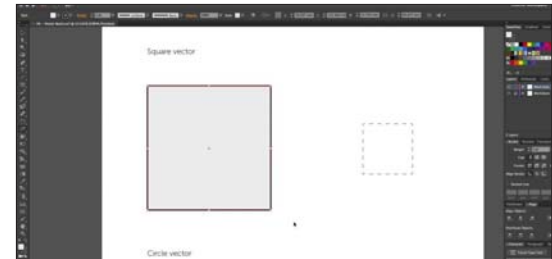
[Watch video](#)

### Overview

In this tutorial I am going to talk about how creative elements work and how we can begin to operate in Illustrator. In this video you will get a good understanding of the basics so we can move on later and start building our own creative elements.

### Topics covered

- Vector overview 00:00:00
- The Selection tool 00:02:05
- The Scale tool 00:06:23
- The Rotate tool 00:07:47
- Multiplying 00:09:05
- The Direct selection tool 00:10:35
- Anchor points 00:12:20
- Anchor handles 00:15:00





## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 5: Fill & Stroke effects in Adobe Illustrator

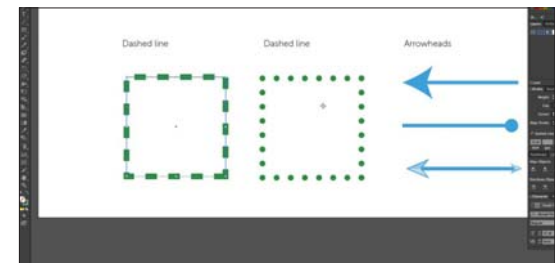
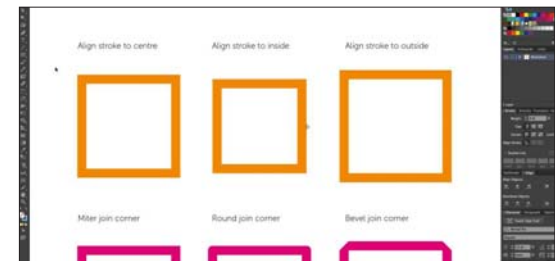
[Watch video](#)

### Overview

In this tutorial I am going to talk about Fill & Stroke effects in adobe Illustrator.

### Topics covered

- Stroke effects 00:01:07
- Stroke align effects 00:05:20
- Stroke corner effects 00:08:15
- Stroke dash effects 00:08:51
- Arrowhead effects 00:09:50





## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 6:

## Using Colour / Swatches / Pantone's / Gradients & more

### Overview

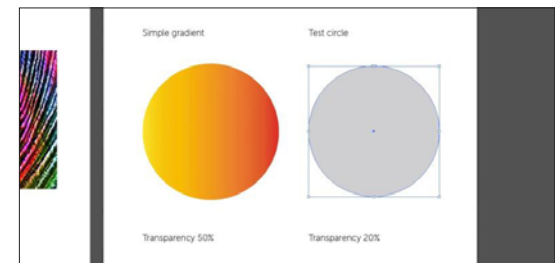
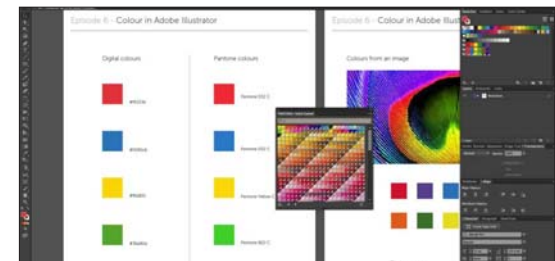
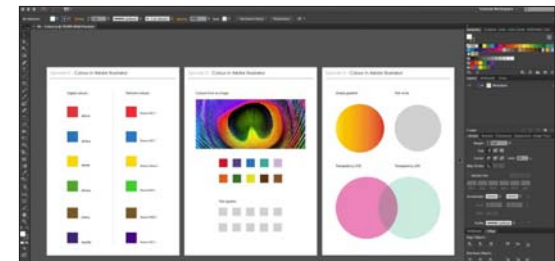
In this tutorial I am going to talk about colour and demonstrate some colour effects and tools in adobe illustrator.

In illustrator there are many ways to use colour. It all really comes down to what exactly you're using the colour for.

### Topics covered

- Swatches panel 00:07:57
- Pantones 00:09:55
- Picking colours from an image 00:11:10
- Gradient bar 00:13:40
- Transparency 00:16:12

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## SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

# Episode 7:

## 10 Handy Tips / Things to know for Beginners

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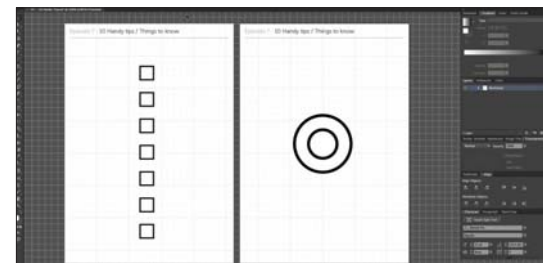
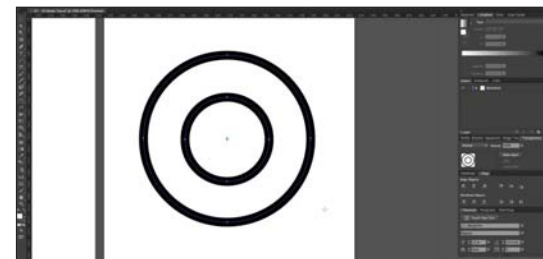
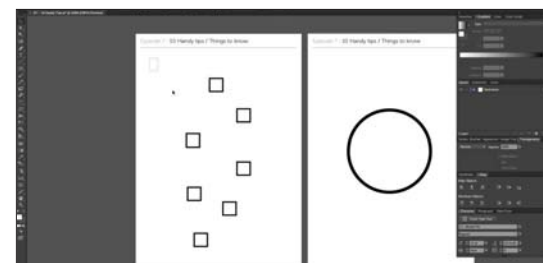
### Overview

In this video I am going to cover 10 details in Adobe Illustrator that you should know and be up to speed with before starting a project.

The things I am going to cover in the next few minutes are things that are going to improve your workflow and help you create your artwork.

### Topics covered

<b>Tip 1</b>	Zooming	00:01:22
<b>Tip 2</b>	Manoeuvring	00:02:36
<b>Tip 3</b>	Duplicating objects	00:03:06
<b>Tip 4</b>	Select Multiple objects	00:03:33
<b>Tip 5</b>	Aligning	00:04:15
<b>Tip 6</b>	Rulers & guides	00:05:10
<b>Tip 7</b>	Smart guides	00:06:53
<b>Tip 8</b>	Scale strokes & Effects	00:08:33
<b>Tip 9</b>	Shift & Full screen	00:09:45
<b>Tip 10</b>	Grids	00:10:16





## SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL PRACTISE

# Episode 8: Creating shape vectors

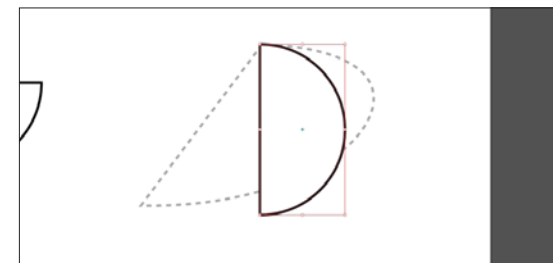
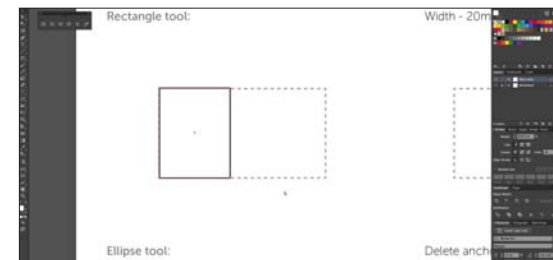
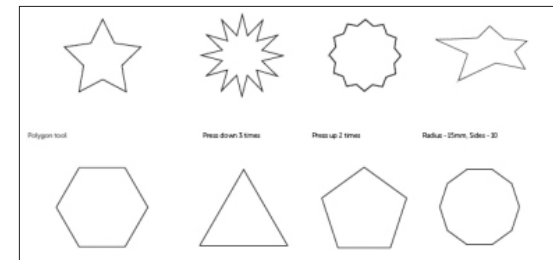
### Overview

In this video we are going to be focusing on shape vectors. We are going to be creating a range of vector shapes then later look at how to manage multiple vectors in groups and then look at how to compound vectors.

### Topics covered

- Rectangle shape tool 00:02:55
- Deleting anchor points 00:08:00
- Ellipse shape tool 00:08:52
- Free transform tool 00:10:49
- Star shape tool 00:11:57
- Free transform tool 00:14:10
- Polygon shape tool 00:15:36
- Rounded rectangle shape tool 00:17:08

[Watch video](#)





## SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL PRACTISE

# Episode 9:

Grouped vectors, Compounding vector shapes & Using the shape builder tool

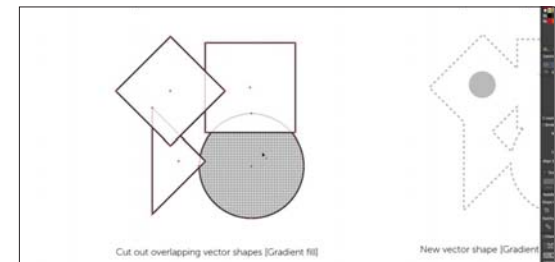
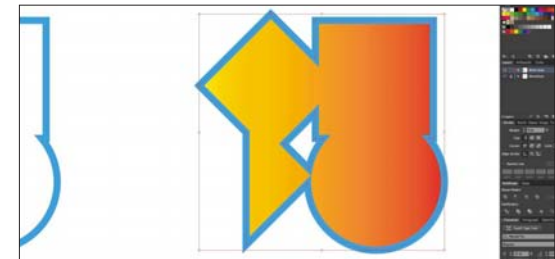
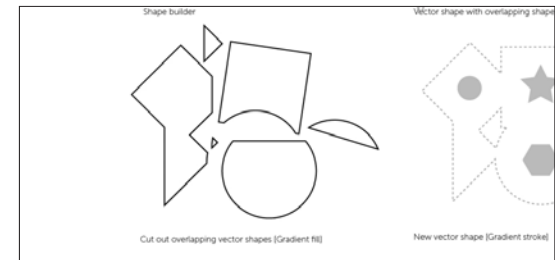
### Overview

In this video we are going to be using some of the shapes created in episode 7 and learn how to create groups and compound vector shapes.

### Topics covered

- Arranging objects 00:03:07
- Grouping vectors 00:05:20
- Compounding vectors 00:07:51
- Shape builder tool 00:09:52
- Cutting shapes out of vectors 00:11:39

Watch video







## SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL PRACTISE

### Episode 10:

### Drawing with the Pen tool / Brush tool / Pencil tool & more

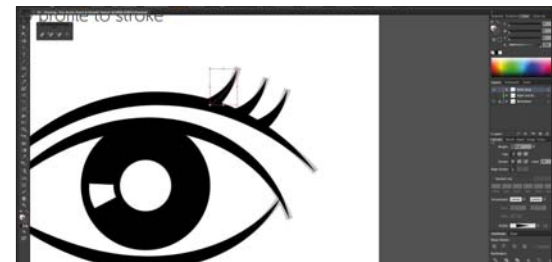
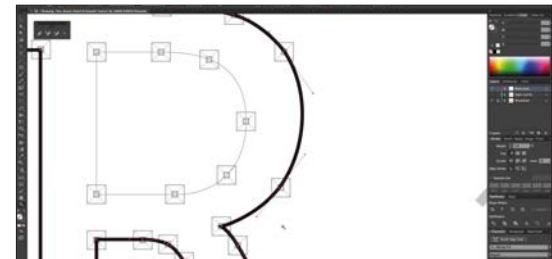
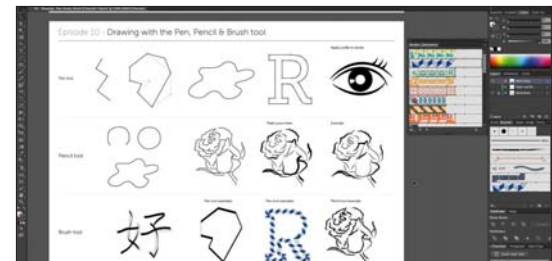
#### Overview

In this video we are going to be covering the drawing tools. Along the way i'll be demonstrating some techniques so you can get a good understanding of the possibilities you have in this programme and what tools you may want to use for any given task.

#### Topics covered

- Pen tool 00:04:18
- Click & drag technique 00:12:50
- Click & convert technique 00:15:26
- Pencil tool 00:32:40
- Brush tool 00:38:18

[Watch video](#)



## SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL PRACTISE

# Episode 11:

## The Blob brush tool & Eraser tool in Adobe Illustrator

### Overview

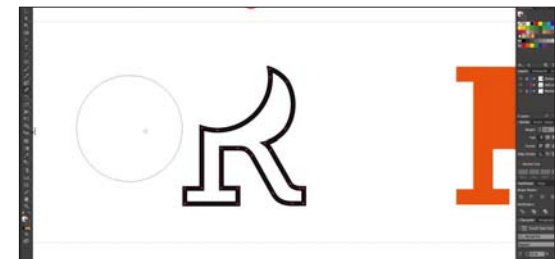
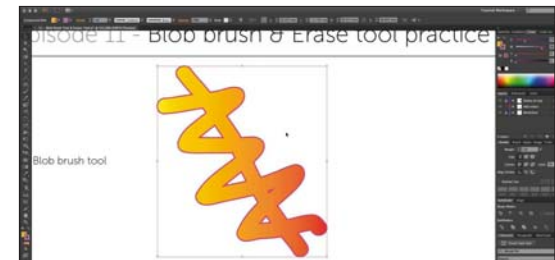
In this video we are going to be taking a look at the blob brush tool and the eraser tool. Now the blob brush tool allows us to draw similar to the brush tool by drawing freehand strokes.

Tho unlike the brush tool, the blob tool does not work along a vector path, the blob tool essentially creates and builds vector shapes.

### Topics covered

- Blob brush tool 00:01:45
- Eraser tool 00:04:23
- Combination 00:05:40

[Watch video](#)





## SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL PRACTISE

# Episode 12:

## Type tools in Adobe Illustrator

### Overview

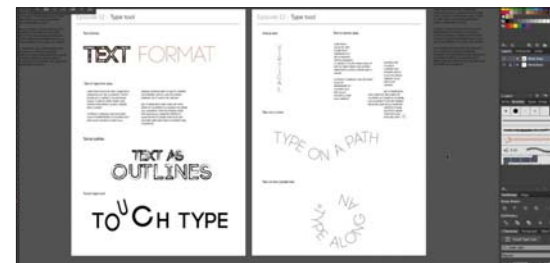
In this video we are going to be focusing on type in Adobe Illustrator. It would be pretty tedious and difficult to create brochures, magazines, newspapers or books in this program but Illustrator does offer a range of tools to be creative with type which you may find useful for logos, T-shirt designs, posters or book covers.

In this tutorial we are going to be looking at the type tools on offer, and how we might use them.

### Topics covered

- Type tool 00:01:50
- Type area box's 00:05:05
- Type as outlines 00:06:45
- Touch type tool 00:08:09
- Vertical type 00:09:37
- Area type tool 00:09:55
- Type on a path tool 00:11:00

[Watch video](#)





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 1 - SETUP & IMAGE TRACE

### Episode 13:

#### Setting up a document / Placing in a drawing / Sketch

[Watch video](#)

##### Overview

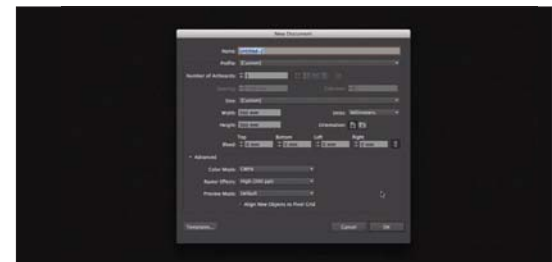
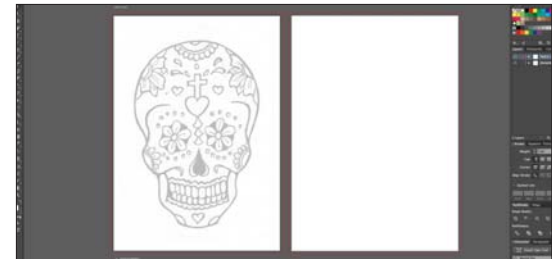
In this video we are going to begin our project by setting up a document in Adobe Illustrator for our poster and Tshirt design. Then we will be placing in a previously scanned drawing, and arranging the layers in such a way to prepare us to begin tracing it.

I will be taking you through some of the details you need consider as we set up a new document.

Later In this project we are going to convert the scanned drawing into vector artwork by using the drawing tools in Illustrator. Once converted into vector artwork we will be able to apply stroke and colour effects in future.

##### Topics covered

- Set up a new document 00:01:35
- Place in a sketch 00:05:20
- Apply transparency 00:06:30
- Prepare layers 00:07:15





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 1 - SETUP & IMAGE TRACE

### Episode 14:

#### Image trace tool for sketches in Adobe Illustrator

[Watch video](#)

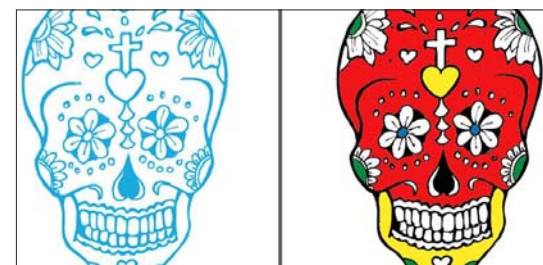
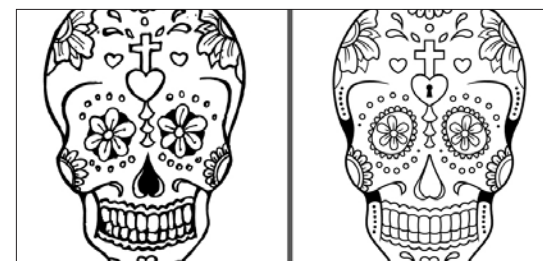
##### Overview

In this video I will be showcasing a particular tool called the image trace tool, known in earlier versions of Illustrator as the live trace tool.

We will be taking a look at this tool, how it works, and later on I will be discussing its pro and cons and why we may, or may not want to use it.

##### Topics covered

- What is the image trace tool? 00:01:36
- Why use the image trace tool? 00:02:25
- How do we use the image trace tool? 00:04:45
- Why use drawing tools instead of image trace tool? 00:10:55





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 2 - DRAWING

### Episode 15:

### Tracing a hand drawn sketch & Converting to vector artwork

#### Overview

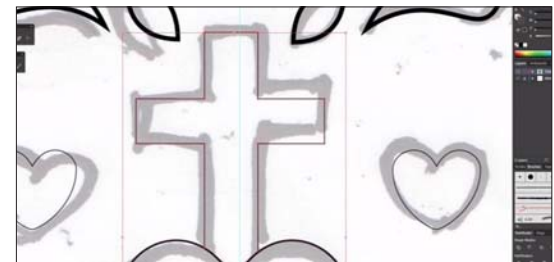
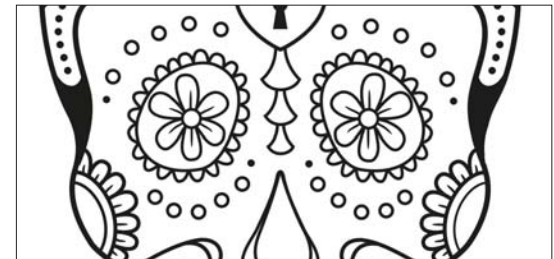
In this video, we are going to use the drawing tools in Adobe Illustrator to trace a drawing. We are going to be using the pen tool, the brush tool, the blob brush tool and the Eraser tool to convert a scanned in sketch drawing into vector artwork.

By the end of this tutorial you will be very familiar with the drawing tools and equipped with the knowledge to create your own artwork. I will also be sharing some of my tips and tricks.

#### Topics covered

- Commence tracing 00:03:20
- Create a custom brush 00:44:25

[Watch video](#)







## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 2 - DRAWING

# Episode 16:

## Compounding vector shapes & strokes / Pathfinder Tool

### Overview

In this video I am going to demonstrate how we can take the vector drawing composition created in the previous video and compound it into a single flat vector.

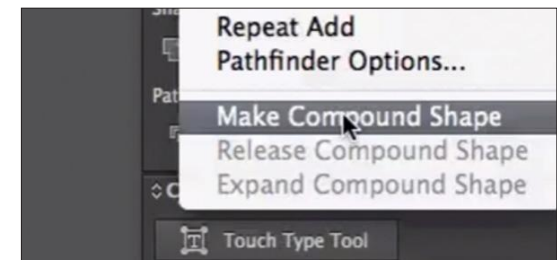
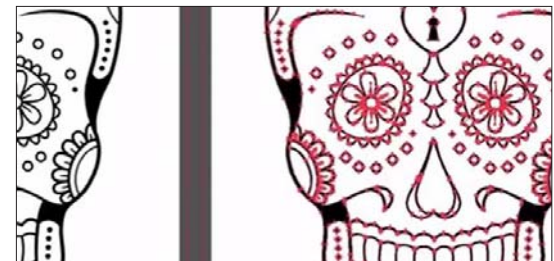
There are many good reasons to use this technique. The main reason why we are going to compound our vector is to help us add colour to the artwork in the next tutorial.

In this video I will be also be demonstrating how to use the compounded shape vector as a stencil.

### Topics covered

- What does compounding a vector mean? 00:01:17
- Why compound vectors? 00:01:39
- How to compound vectors 00:02:30
- Using a compounded vector as a stencil 00:06:30

[Watch video](#)





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 3 - COLOURING & ADDING TYPE

### Episode 17:

### Colouring a vector drawing in Adobe Illustrator

[Watch video](#)

#### Overview

In this video we are going to carry on from where we left off in the previous video and add colour to our vector drawing. Now for this project we are creating artwork for both a printed poster and a T-shirt.

In this video we are going to deal with CMYK colors and pantones colours and look at the approach for both the Poster design and the T-shirt design. What you will soon discover is that there are various technicalities we need to keep in mind to provide the right artwork for the printers.

#### Topics covered

- Colouring poster design 00:02:45
- Colouring the T-Shirt design 00:13:55
- Using Pantone colours 00:14:40





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 3 - COLOURING & ADDING TYPE

### Episode 18:

#### Adding type to a poster design in Adobe Illustrator

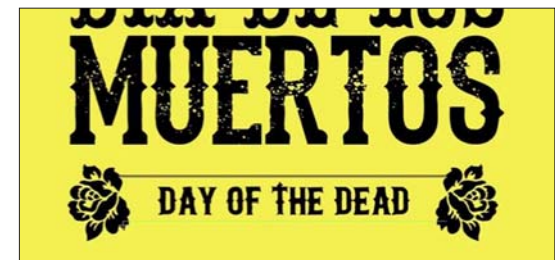
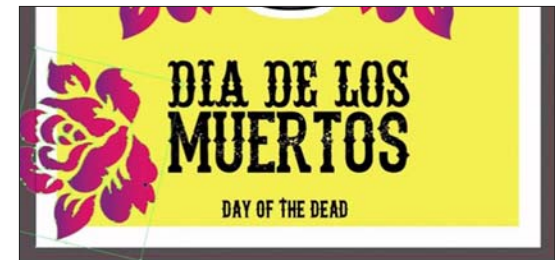
[Watch video](#)

##### Overview

In this video we are going to carry on from where we left off in the previous episode and using the type tools, continue to add some type elements to our poster and Tshirt design.

##### Topics covered

- Adding type 00:01:35
- Using Touch type tool 00:12:25





## SECTION 3 - CREATE A PROJECT / CHAPTER 4 - FINISHING & EXPORTING

### Episode 19:

### Exporting ready for print in Adobe Illustrator

[Watch video](#)

#### Overview

In this video we are going to prepare the artwork for print. Getting your artwork complete to your design is one thing, tho making sure the printer receives your artwork to print it exactly to your design is another.

Before I send my artwork to print, there are a few things I need to prepare, review and be certain are correct before sending the artwork off to be printed.

#### Topics covered

- What is a PDF? 00:02:05
- Review checklist 00:04:34
- Export PDF 00:10:40

