ILLUSTRATOR: 1.1 INTERFACE

Adobe Illustrator CC is a Creative Cloud application used by artists and graphic designers to create scalable vector artwork used for logos, video titles, illustrations, and more. In this tutorial, you will learn the interface of Adobe Illustrator CC so you can begin creating art.

Workspace

Workspace refers to the arrangement of elements including panels, bars, and windows. The default workspace is Essentials, which we will be using in this and future tutorials. To apply the Essentials workspace or change to a different one, go to Window > Workspace > Essentials.

The Tools panel across the left side contains tools for creating and editing images, artwork, page elements, and so on.

The Control panel displays across the top displays options and settings for the selected tool or element.

The Document window is the center window which contains the document you are working on. Document windows can be tabbed if working on several projects.

There are miscellaneous panels located across the right side. The default panels include Color, Brushes, Libraries and more. You can select which panels to display or hide by going to Window and checking the panels you want to display. To show or hide the panels on the right click on “tab” on your keyboard.

Tools Panel

The Tools panel is located across the left side of the interface. Click on the two arrows above the tools to display the tools as one or two columns.

SELECTION TOOLS

Selection Tool (V): This is the default tool which allows you to grab and move objects and elements around.

The Direct Selection Tool (A): This tool allows you to select and drag specific anchor points as well as edit specific detailed elements of your artwork.
**Group Selection Tool:** You can make several elements into a group by selecting them and going to **Object > Group.** To select a single element in a group, use the Group Selection Tool.

**Magic Wand Tool (Y):** Use this tool to select a color range. It will select all wherever that color appears in your photos. In the Options Bar at the top, you can change the Tolerance to make your selections more or less precise.

**Lasso Tool (Q):** Use this tool to make a selection by drawing around the selection. The Lasso Tool acts like a freeform pen that helps you select elements of an illustration.

**PEN TOOLS**
- **Pen Tool:** This tool is used to create a linear and curved path.
- **Add Anchor Point Tool:** Paths made by pen tools have anchor points that change the direction and shape of the path. This tool is to add an anchor point for a more precise path.
- **Delete Anchor Point:** This is used to delete an anchor point.
- **Convert Point Tool:** This is used to make an anchor point go the opposite direction.

**Curvature Tool (Shift+):** The Curvature Tool works similar to the pen tool but gives you a preview of your curve by hovering your cursor over the document preview. Click to keep the previewed shape.

**TYPE TOOLS**
- **Type Tool (T):** The type tool is used to add text to your document. After selecting this tool, click anywhere on your document to begin typing, or click and drag to create a text area to type in.
- **Area Type Tool:** This tool is used to create a rectangular area to type in.
- **Type on a Path Tool:** Use the Pen tool to create a path and use the Type on a Path Tool to type on that path.
- **Vertical Type Tool:** Use this tool to type vertically. After selecting this tool, click anywhere on your document to begin typing vertically.
- **Vertical Area Type Tool:** Use this tool to create a rectangular area to type vertically in.
- **Touch Type Tool (Shift+T):** This tool allows you to select single characters from a text and modify that single character.
### LINE AND GRIDS TOOLS

**Line Segment Tool (L):** This tool is used to create a straight line in any direction.

**Arc Tool:** This tool is used to create a ¼ arc. You can modify the settings in the Control bar.

**Spiral Tool:** After selecting this tool, click and drag to create a spiral. Whirls and size can be specified in control bar.

**Rectangular Grid Tool:** After selecting this tool, click and drag to create a grid. It will acquire your default colors. This can be helpful in making illustrations.

**Polar Grid Tool:** After selecting this tool, click and drag to create a polar or curved grid. This can be helpful in creating complex rotational patterns.

### SHAPE TOOLS:

**Rectangle Tool (M):** Helps to draw perfect rectangles or squares. To draw with a specific dimension click the art-board to open the Rectangle Options Dialog Box. To make a perfect square press SHIFT and draw.

**Rounded Rectangle Tool:** Has the same function as the Rectangle Tool but creates rectangles with rounded corners.

**Ellipse Tool (L):** Helps to draw perfect ovals. To make a perfect circle press Shift and draw.

**Polygon Tool:** Click and drag to create a polygon (triangle, hexagon, pentagon, etc). Click on the art-board to specify its radius and sides.

**Star Tool:** Creates 5 pointed stars.

**Flare Tool:** Creates rays and gives the illusion of lens flare.

### PAINTING AND DRAWING TOOLS:

**Paintbrush Tool (B):** Allows you to apply a broad stroke. Click and drag to paint. Adjust the color, stroke, and opacity in the control panel.

**Blob Brush Tool (Shift+B):** This tool helps to draw and merge paths of the same color.

**Pencil Tool (N):** Use this tool to draw or create paths.

**Smooth Tool:** When using the pencil tool, curves often
come out lumpy. Use the smooth tool to automatically smoothen out your pencil drawings.

**Path Eraser Tool:** Use this tool to erase pencil paths.

**Join Tool:** Select the segments that you want to join together and use the Join to connect them seamlessly.

**ERASER TOOLS**

**Eraser Tool (Shift+E):** Use this tool as a brush to erase any information in the eraser path.

**Scissors Tool (C):** Use this tool to cut paths into sections.

**Knife Tool:** Use this tool to slice an object into sections.

**TRANSFORM TOOLS**

**Rotate Tool (R):** Use this tool to rotate objects on an axis.

**Reflect Tool (O):** Flips or creates a duplicate of the original object.

**Scale Tool (S):** Allows you to change the size of an object.

**Shear Tool:** Stretches while turning the object.

**Reshape Tool:** Changes anchor points; consequently, changes the object.

**Width Tool (Shift + W):** Allows you to adjust, move, duplicate, and delete the stroke width. Also, allows you to create and save a variable width stroke.

**Warp Tool (Shift+R):** Allows you to adjust and distort the edges of an object.

**Twirl Tool:** Converts edges into spirals.

**Pucker Tool:** Shrinks areas.

**Bloat Tool:** Allows you to push the edge of an object to transform it into a circumference.

**Scallop Tool:** Randomly, gives to an object arc-shaped outlines.

**Crystallize Tool:** Randomly, gives to an object spiked outlines.

**Wrinkle Tool:** Randomly, gives to an object arc-shaped and spiked outlines.
**Free Transform Tool (E):** Allows you to move anchor points of an object. Good for perspective adjustments.

**SHAPE BUILDER TOOLS**

**Shape Builder Tool (Shift+M):** Allows you to create, edit, combine and fill objects.

**Live Paint Bucket (K):** Allows you to paint a collection of paths. **Note:** Only colors Live Paint groups.

**Live Paint Selection Tool (Shift+L):** Modifies attributes of a Color Live Paint group.

**PERSPECTIVE GRID TOOLS**

**Perspective Grid Tool (Shift+P):** Provides you with a perspective guide line that can be manipulated into various different viewpoints to achieve depth.

**Perspective Selection Tool (Shift+V):** Permits you to move or scaling an object in perspective without altering its viewpoint.

**BLEND TOOLS**

**Mesh Tool (U):** Applies a grid to an object in order to apply unusual gradients.

**Gradient Tool (G):** This tool creates a blending of your foreground color and background color when you click and drag it. This is used to create a background rather than touch up a photo.

**Eyedropper Tool (I):** Picks up attributes.

**Measure Tool:** gives you the dimensions of an area.

**Blend Tool (W):** Creates shapes between two previously drawn objects. Its settings are adjustable.

**SYMBOLS AND GRAPH TOOLS**

**Symbol Sprayer Tool (Shift+S):** Allows you to place a symbol or to create a set of symbols. Click the art-board to open the Symbolism Tools Options Dialog Box; there you can change the symbol’ diameter, intensity, density, etc.

**Symbol Shifter Tool:** Allows you to move and change sets of symbol instances. Hold down
SHIFT to bring the symbol instances forward. To send the symbol instances backward, hold down SHIFT+ALT.

**Symbol Scruncher Tool:** Allows you to move symbol instances together or apart. To push symbol instances apart hold down ALT.

**Symbol Sizer Tool:** Allows you to decrease or increase the size and intensity of symbol instances.

**Symbol Spinner Tool:** Allows you to rotate, spin, or orient symbol instances.

**Symbol Stainer Tool:** Allows you to colorize symbol instances. To decrease the amount of colorization, hold down ALT. To maintain the tint intensity, hold down SHIFT.

**Symbol Screener Tool:** Allows you to adjust transparency of symbol instances. To decrease transparency. Hold down ALT.

**Symbol Styler Tool:** Allows you to apply or remove an style to symbols instances.

**GRAPH TOOLS**

Use Graph Tools to create a various kinds of graphs and charts.

**Artboard Tool (Shift+O):** Allows you to create, re-size, and reposition different art-boards.

**Slice Tool (SHIFT+K):** Divides an image into separate pieces from Web layout.

**Slice Selection Tool:** Select Web slices.

**Hand Tool (H):** Allows you to move the art-board window.

**Print Tiling Tool:** Lets you to adjust the art-board in order to control the printable area.

**Zoom Tool (Z):** This tool is used to zoom in and out of your image. It is set to zoom in, hold the “Alt” key on your keyboard to zoom out.