

Illustrator - Introduction

Suggested duration: 2 days

This course is aimed at new users, and would suit anyone who needs to use Illustrator for production of a wide range of artwork for print or online production. You don't have to be able to draw to use Illustrator! We will show you how to create professional Illustrations, and we concentrate on the most important production skills and techniques, providing a solid base on which to build your skills.

General

- The Illustrator Workspace.
- About Vector graphics.
- How to create documents for print or screen.
- Working with Artboards.
- Using Guides, Grids and other techniques to create accurate artwork.

Creating and editing artwork

- Creating basic shapes - rectangles, ellipses, polygons etc.
- Using the Pencil, Brush and Blob Brush.
- The Line Segment tool.
- Selection techniques.
- Duplicating elements.
- Grouping elements.
- Changing stacking order.
- Aligning elements.
- Working with layers.
- Using the Pen tool to create accurate paths.

Fills and strokes

- Using Process, Spot and Global colours.
- Specifying Tints.
- Creating new colours.
- Working with colour libraries.
- Sampling colours from existing artwork.
- Colour schemes with the Colour Guide.
- Modifying stroke attributes - creating dashes and dots, changing stroke width and other appearances.
- Defining gradients and pattern fills.

Working with type

- Character and paragraph formatting.
- Text within shapes and on paths.
- Converting type to paths.
- Modifying letter shapes.

Transformations

- Scaling, rotating, reflecting and other transformations.
- Free distortion.
- Envelope distortion.
- Step and repeat - tips and tricks.

Special features

- Working with Symbols.
- Combining simple shapes to create more complex elements.
- Converting pixel based images into Vector artwork with Live Trace.
- Using Live Paint to colourise artwork.
- Using Effects and Appearances.
- Creating simple 3D elements.

Production

- Placing images and other artwork.
- File formats and integration with other software – Photoshop, Flash and others.
- Printing from Illustrator.
- Exporting web graphics.