

Adobe Illustrator Keyboard Shortcuts

Page 1 of 2 · Everyday essentials: tools, editing, selecting and navigating

macOS

Tools

Selection	V
Direct Selection	A
Magic Wand	Y
Lasso	Q
Pen	P
Curvature	Shift + ~
Add / Delete Anchor	+ or -
Anchor Point	Shift + C
Type	T
Line Segment	\
Rectangle	M
Ellipse	L
Paintbrush	B
Blob Brush	Shift + B
Pencil	N
Eraser	Shift + E
Scissors	C
Rotate	R
Reflect	O
Scale	S
Free Transform	E
Width	Shift + W

Tools (continued)

Shape Builder	Shift + M
Blend	W
Mesh	U
Gradient	G
Eyedropper	I
Live Paint Bucket	K
Artboard	Shift + O
Hand	H
Zoom	Z

Edit & duplicate

Undo	Cmd + Z
Redo	Shift + Cmd + Z
Cut	Cmd + X
Copy	Cmd + C
Paste	Cmd + V
Paste in Front	Cmd + F
Paste in Back	Cmd + B
Paste in Place	Shift + Cmd + V
Paste on all artboards	Option + Shift + Cmd + V
Duplicate by dragging	Option + drag
Transform Again	Cmd + D
Transform Each	Option + Shift + Cmd + D
Revert	F12
Preferences	Cmd + K

Select & arrange

Select All	Cmd + A
Deselect	Shift + Cmd + A
Reselect	Cmd + 6
Group	Cmd + G
Ungroup	Shift + Cmd + G
Lock selection	Cmd + 2
Unlock All	Option + Cmd + 2
Hide selection	Cmd + 3
Show All	Option + Cmd + 3
Bring to Front	Shift + Cmd +]
Bring Forward	Cmd +]
Send Backward	Cmd + [
Send to Back	Shift + Cmd + [
Make Clip Mask	Cmd + 7
Release Clip Mask	Option + Cmd + 7
Compound Path	Cmd + 8
Repeat Pathfinder	Cmd + 4

View & navigate

Zoom In	Cmd + =
Zoom Out	Cmd + -
Fit artboard	Cmd + 0
Fit all artboards	Option + Cmd + 0
Actual Size (100%)	Cmd + 1
Hand (hold)	Space
Zoom in (hold)	Space + Cmd
Zoom out (hold)	Space + Cmd + Option
Outline mode	Cmd + Y
Pixel Preview	Option + Cmd + Y
Rotate View tool	Shift + H
Reset Rotate View	Shift + Cmd + 1
Rulers	Cmd + R
Guides	Cmd + ;
Grid	Cmd + '
Smart Guides	Cmd + U
Hide Edges	Cmd + H
Hide panels	Tab
Cycle screen modes	F
Presentation Mode	Shift + F

Adobe Illustrator Keyboard Shortcuts

Page 2 of 2 · Type, paths, color, panels, files, plus Pixflow's recommended custom set

macOS

Type

Create Outlines	Shift + Cmd + O
Align left	Shift + Cmd + L
Align center	Shift + Cmd + C
Align right	Shift + Cmd + R
Justify (last line left)	Shift + Cmd + J
Font size bigger	Shift + Cmd + .
Font size smaller	Shift + Cmd + ,
Tracking tighter	Option + Left
Tracking looser	Option + Right
Leading tighter	Option + Up
Leading looser	Option + Down
Character panel	Cmd + T
Paragraph panel	Option + Cmd + T
Hidden Characters	Option + Cmd + I
Exit text editing	Esc

Color, fill & stroke

Default fill & stroke	D
Toggle fill / stroke	X
Swap fill & stroke	Shift + X
Apply color	<
Apply gradient	>
Apply none	/
Color panel	F6
Gradient panel	Cmd + F9
Stroke panel	Cmd + F10
Transparency panel	Shift + Cmd + F10
Appearance panel	Shift + F6

Panels

Brushes	F5
Layers	F7
New Symbol	F8
Align	Shift + F7
Transform	Shift + F8
Pathfinder	Shift + Cmd + F9
Info	Cmd + F8
Graphic Styles	Shift + F5
Symbols	Shift + Cmd + F11

Files & export

New	Cmd + N
Open	Cmd + O
Place (insert image)	Shift + Cmd + P
Save	Cmd + S
Save As	Shift + Cmd + S
Save a Copy	Option + Cmd + S
Export for Screens	Option + Cmd + E
Document Setup	Option + Cmd + P
Print	Cmd + P
Close	Cmd + W
Shortcuts dialog	Option + Shift + Cmd + K

Paths & drawing

Join	Cmd + J
Average	Option + Cmd + J
Pen: convert anchor (hold)	Option
Pen: direct select (hold)	Cmd
Constrain angle (hold)	Shift
Draw from center (hold)	Option
Brush size down / up	[or]
Make Blend	Option + Cmd + B
Make Guides	Cmd + 5
Lock Guides	Option + Cmd + ;

Pixflow recommended custom set

Offset Path	F9
Outline Stroke	F10
Expand Appearance	Shift + F9
Crop Image	Shift + F11
Simplify	Shift + F12
Export As (replaces GPU toggle)	Cmd + E

Not defaults. Add them in Edit > Keyboard Shortcuts. Mac tip: hold Fn for F-keys, or turn on "Use F1, F2, etc. keys as standard function keys" in System Settings.

Shortcut not working?

- Press Esc first. Tool keys type letters while you are editing text.
- Click the canvas so a panel field is not holding focus.
- Check the active set in Edit > Keyboard Shortcuts.
- Switch your keyboard input to English (US).
- Still broken? Hold Cmd+Option+Shift while launching Illustrator to reset preferences.