

Ai

ILLUSTRATOR BASICS GUIDE

Essential tools, shortcuts, and workflow to help you create amazing vector graphics.

YOUR QUICK REFERENCE
CHEAT SHEET

VOL. 1



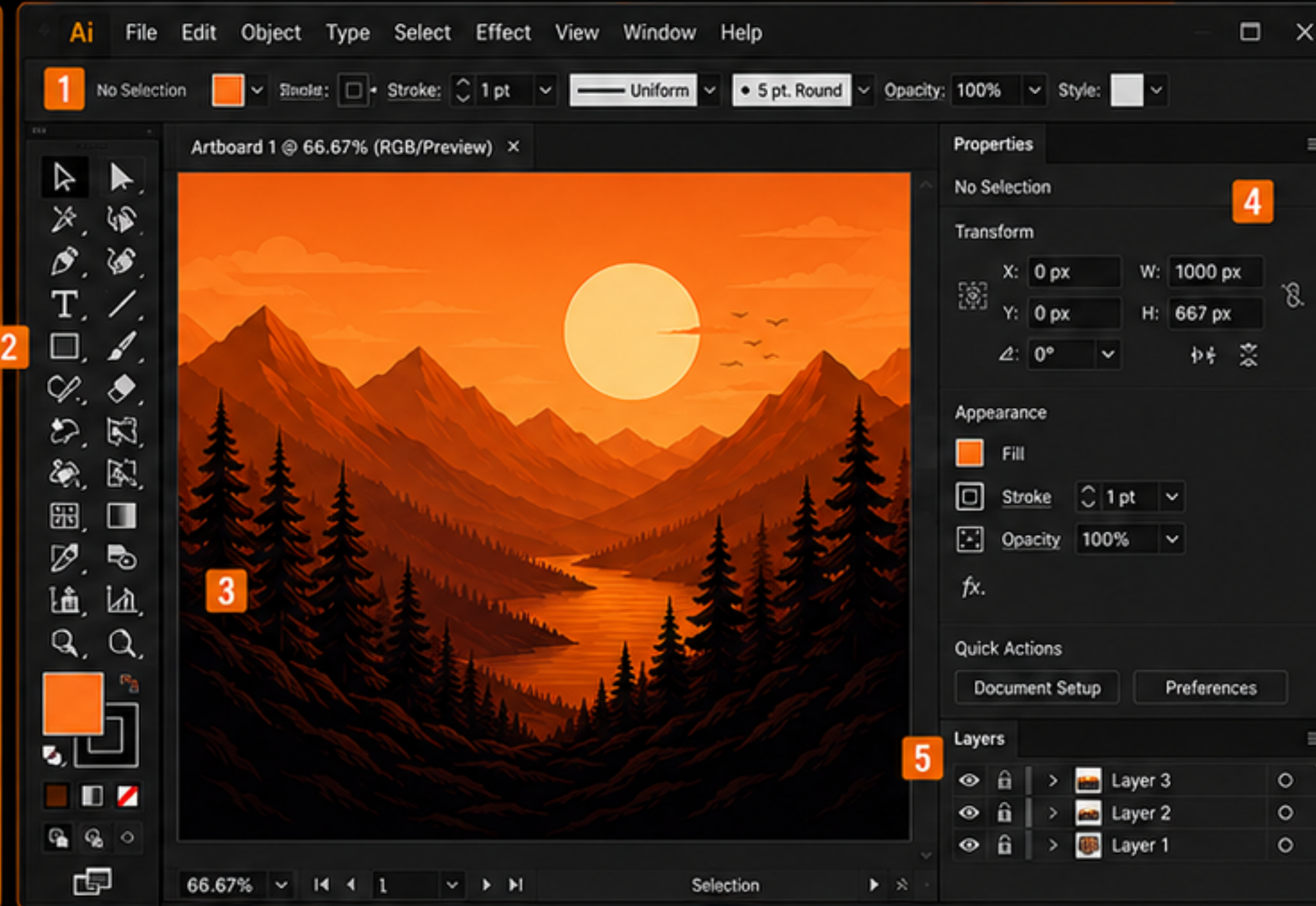
PRO TIP

Learn the basics, master your workflow, and create without limits!

1 WORKSPACE OVERVIEW

Familiarize yourself with the Illustrator workspace. These are the main areas you'll use the most.

- 1 Control Bar**
Contextual options for the selected tool or object.
- 2 Tools Panel**
All your essential tools for creating and editing.
- 3 Artboard**
Your design space. Create multiple artboards for different layouts.
- 4 Properties Panel**
Adjust your selection's appearance, transforms, and more.
- 5 Layers Panel**
Organize and manage your design elements.



2 ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- Selection Tool (V)**
Select entire objects.
- Direct Selection Tool (A)**
Select anchor points and paths.
- Pen Tool (P)**
Create and edit anchor points and paths.
- Type Tool (T)**
Add and edit text.
- Rectangle Tool (M)**
Create rectangles and squares.
- Ellipse Tool (L)**
Create circles and ellipses.
- Line Segment Tool (\)**
Draw straight line segments.
- Eyedropper Tool (I)**
Sample and apply colors.
- Shape Builder Tool (Shift+M)**
Combine, subtract, and reshape shapes.
- Zoom Tool (Z)**
Zoom in and out.
- Hand Tool (H)**
Pan around the artboard.

3 PEN TOOL BASICS

- 1 Click to Add**
Click on the artboard to create anchor points.
- 2 Click + Drag**
Drag to create direction handles for curves.
- 3 Edit Points**
Use Direct Selection (A) to adjust anchor points and handles.
- 4 Join Paths**
Connect open paths using Object > Path > Join or Cmd/Ctrl + J.

4 SHAPES & PATHS

SHAPE TOOLS

- Rectangle Tool (M)
- Ellipse Tool (L)
- Polygon Tool
- Star Tool
- Flare Tool

PATHFINDER PANEL

Combine shapes using the Pathfinder.

Shape Modes:

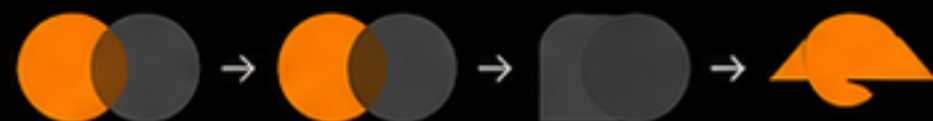


Pathfinders:



SHAPE BUILDER TOOL (Shift+M)

Click and drag to merge, subtract, or intersect shapes intuitively.



5 TYPOGRAPHY

TYPE TOOLS

- Type Tool (T)
- Area Type Tool
- Type on a Path Tool
- Vertical Type Tool
- Vertical Area Type Tool

CHARACTER PANEL

- Font: Montserrat
Style: Bold
Size: 72 pt
Leading: 0
Tracking: 0
Color: [Color Picker]

PARAGRAPH PANEL

- Align: Left, Center, Right, Justify
Indent: 0 pt
Outdent: 0 pt

6 EXPORT SETTINGS

Choose the right format for your project.

FORMAT	BEST FOR	NOTES
PNG	Web, digital graphics	Supports transparency
JPG	Photos, web use	Smaller file size
SVG	Web, icons, logos	Scalable vector format
PDF	Print, sharing	High quality, editable
AI	Native Illustrator	Keep layered, editable

EXPORT TIPS

- ✓ Use File > Export > Export As...
- ✓ Use Artboards to export multiple assets.
- ✓ Use "Use Artboards" in export dialog.
- ✓ For web: 72 PPI. For print: 300 PPI.



7 PRO TIPS

- Use Layers**
Keep your artwork organized by using layers.
- Name Artboards**
Double-click artboard name to rename for easy export.
- Use Global Colors**
Edit once, update everywhere. Great for branding.
- Save AI Files**
Always save your project as AI to keep it fully editable.
- Use Smart Guides**
Hold Cmd/Ctrl while moving objects to align perfectly.
- Learn Shortcuts**
Speed up your workflow and stay in the creative flow.

Art Form Designs



CREATE. LEARN. GROW.

artformdesigns.com