



ILLUSTRATOR

A Beginner's Guide

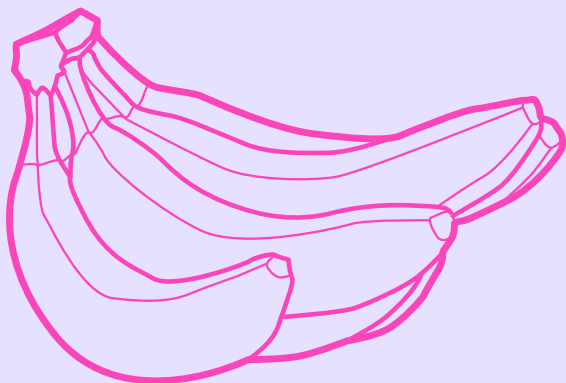
Introduction

Illustrator is Adobe's vector graphics editing program. Illustrator is an incredibly important program for digital media professionals and lets them create everything from web/mobile graphics to logos to printed designs. Let's take a look at some of the most popular features and techniques!

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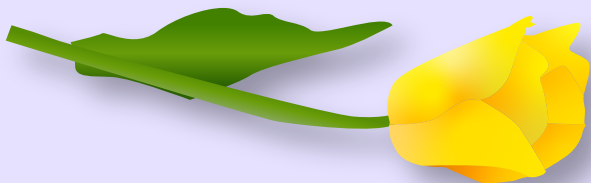
The Pen Tool

The **Pen Tool** is arguably Illustrator's most powerful feature and allows designers to create **paths** and build **vector objects**. A solid grasp of this tool can help with all sorts of projects, from logo design to vector illustration and animation asset creation.



Gradients

A **gradient** is a graduated blend of two or more colors. You can use gradients to create color blends, add volume to vector objects, or add lighting effects to your artwork. Illustrator offers many gradient types, from **Linear** and **Radial** to **Freeform** and **Mesh** Gradients.



Shapes

Illustrator offers many basic **shapes** as presets, which is useful when creating vector assets. Not only can shapes be used on their own, but they are valuable as building blocks for creating more complex forms using the **Pathfinder** and **Shape Builder** tools.



3D Illustration

The **3D and Materials tools** allow designers to create three-dimensional illustrations in Illustrator from two-dimensional vector objects: perfect for logo and icon design! **Material textures** and **lighting** options add realism to illustrations.





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