

Adobe Illustrator Training : The Basics

Introduction to the [Adobe Illustrator Training](#)

Getting Started with Adobe Illustrator

- General overview of the software and its applications (logos, illustrations, layouts, etc.)
- Getting familiar with the user interface
- Customizing the workspace
- Understanding vector-based design and export formats

Vector Drawing and Fundamental Tools

- Creating and editing predefined objects
- Managing positioning, layers, foreground/background
- Using guides, rulers, grids, and display modes
- Custom paths with the Pen Tool (anchor points, curves, handles)
- Drawing tools: Brush, Blob Brush, Freeform tools
- Selection tools and essential keyboard shortcuts
- Creating charts using the Graph Tool

Transformations and Object Construction

- Basic and advanced transformations (scale, rotate, skew)
- Repeating actions with shortcuts (Ctrl/Cmd + D)
- Creating complex shapes with Pathfinder and Shape Builder Tool
- Distorting shapes using Envelope Distort
- Merging and blending vector objects

Masks, Styles, and Graphic Effects

- Creating clipping masks
- Using the Appearance panel and Illustrator effects
- Managing strokes, dashed lines, arrows, and custom styles
- Creating and applying graphic styles

Advanced Color Management

- Using the Swatches panel and creating global colors
- Applying linear and radial gradients
- Working with transparency, blending modes, and the Color panel

Working with Text

- Adding and formatting typographic content

- Curved text, area text, vertical text, and text on a path
- Font management and using Adobe Fonts

Layers, Isolation Mode, and Organization

- Object hierarchy and layer management
- Using Isolation Mode for precise editing
- Organizing elements efficiently within a document

Saving and Exporting

- Saving in native formats (.ai, .ait)
- Exporting as high-resolution PDFs for print
- Exporting to bitmap formats (JPG, PNG, TIFF, PSD)
- Optimizing files for web or social media

Which tool to use for illustration and vector drawing? : Adobe Illustrator

Are you talented and have you designed the logo for your new company yourself? However, every time you change the size of it, are you affecting the quality? That's because you're not using Illustrator!

Adobe Illustrator: What is it?

Adobe Illustrator is, as its name suggests, software for creating illustrations. So you can prepare logos and designs on it. This is the important distinction to make with Photoshop which instead focuses on photo editing. Another distinction to make is that Illustrator uses the vector image. Basically, the software takes mathematical formulas to generate your illustrations. So when you enlarge or reduce your drawings, it's just the equation data that changes. You won't have to deal with this, all you need to remember is that your image won't lose quality since there are no pixels unlike Photoshop.

Illustrator, like its cousins ☐☐Photoshop, Premiere Pro or InDesign, remains an Adobe creation. Launched in 1987, the software has received myriad improvements since then. Always more accessible, the software which had started on small black and white screens is now a reference for illustration.

Also, Adobe Illustrator chose the Béziere curve as the starting line. Thus,

you only have to modify this curve in order to describe circles or other geometric shapes. Initially, this was intimidating for users. But the latter quickly realized that there were many advantages over the price.

Adobe Illustrator: What are the benefits?

The biggest advantage remains, without a doubt, the possibility of modifying the size of an image without losing resolution quality. This is due to the fact that to constitute an image, Illustrator does not use pixels, but rather vectors.

Obviously, each element that makes up your illustration can also be modified endlessly without losing resolution. It is therefore a plus if you have to create images whose format is gigantic or if you have to transpose an image that was originally small on a large surface.

The number of tools at your fingertips is immense. If you can think of it, chances are you can do it with Illustrator. Moreover, even if in this chapter Illustrator cannot compete with InDesign, you still have the possibility of creating more than one page. This is an advantage over Photoshop where you are limited to one page.

Adobe Illustrator: How can Doussou help you?

As we mentioned, the Béziérs curve or vectors can be off-putting when you are not familiar with them. But if you want to do professional illustrations, learning to use Illustrator will be your most profitable investment.

At the end of your training with us, you will be autonomous with Illustrator and will be able to produce the logo of your future company yourself. You will be able to put your ideas on paper, however brilliant and original they may be.

We will introduce the course with a learning of the interface and the basics. When you're ready, we'll teach you about vector drawing, editing illustrations, and bringing in masks. Next, we'll explore text and layers. Finally, Doussou Formation will teach you how to export your work in order to benefit the world. Our approach allows us to adapt to your needs and desires. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

How do layers work in Photoshop and Illustrator?

Photoshop and Illustrator software are among the most popular in the Adobe suite. They are also essential for many people working in the world of graphic communications. When you start using this software, how layers work is one of the first concepts to learn.

What is a layer?

A layer is a layer that can contain one or more images, text, one or more graphic elements as well as retouching, depending on the software in question. The layers are organized according to a hierarchy that can be modified by dragging them in the desired order. It is possible to lock them so as not to affect or move them inadvertently. In addition, the eye symbol allows them to be hidden.

The principle of layers in Photoshop and Illustrator is very similar, but there are still differences. Here is how it works, from one software to another.

On Photoshop

Layers in Photoshop are transparent layers, overlapping each other. They are very practical for creating photo montages. Layers are also essential for photo editing, because they allow a non-destructive working method: by performing the editing on separate layers, it is possible to go back, since the modifications are not made directly on the pixels of the original image. The original image therefore remains intact, under the modification layers.

In addition to the layers where you can insert texts, images and retouching, there are also adjustment layers. These layers allow, among other things, to adjust the tones of an image and to add color. Like the other layers, they are non-destructive, i.e. they do not affect the pixels of the image. Changes to an adjustment layer only affect the layers below it.

To better superimpose layers, there are blending modes. These modes allow you to play with the light, tones or even the color of a layer. They can be essential for certain photo montages, allowing interesting effects or smoother fusions of elements.

To properly organize and structure your work, it is possible to group layers together. All you have to do is create a group by clicking on the folder icon and then drag the desired layers into it.

On Illustrator

Layers in Illustrator are like folders: they can group together several elements. Thus, their role is to organize the work and manage the hierarchy of the layering of elements. In each layer, it is possible to create sub-layers, which can also contain elements.

To trace a graphic element from an existing image or simply to have a reference image, the model layer function is very practical. Items that are part of a template layer have reduced opacity, so it's easier to trace over them. In addition, the model layers are non-printable, which avoids making the mistake of leaving them visible when printed.

To facilitate the organization of the layers, it is possible to choose a color for each of them. This makes it easier to identify elements of the same layer in the panel and on the artboard, since the block outline of the elements is the same color as the layer to which they belong. Besides color, it is a good idea to name its layers for better organization.

No matter the software, good layer organization makes all the difference. As you work, it is important to name the layers and group them into the correct group, when necessary. It's a good habit to adopt that will allow you to see much more clearly!

For more details on layers and to learn how to master Photoshop and Illustrator, there are our trainings! We offer 2 day and 4 day training. Visit the links below for more details.

Illustrator Advanced Training

Fundamentals Review of Adobe Illustrator

- Overview of vector drawing principles
- Optimizing the Illustrator workspace
- Managing preferences and essential shortcuts

Training Objectives – Advanced Level

- Deepen your understanding of Illustrator's advanced tools
- Master complex creation functions
- Gain autonomy on demanding professional design projects

Advanced Vector Object Management

- Creating, editing, and applying **custom patterns**
- Creating and manipulating **symbols** using the dedicated panel
- Using the **Appearance panel** for non-destructive visual control
- Utilizing the **Shape Builder Tool** for merging, dividing, and composing shapes
- Advanced transformations (scaling, skewing, controlled repetitions)
- Specialized tools: **Width Tool**, **Envelope Distort**

Graphic and 3D Effects

- Applying and customizing **3D effects** (extrusion, bevel, rotation)
- Using **Blend Tool** for smooth transitions
- Advanced use of the **Gradient Mesh** for realistic shading
- Setting up the **Perspective Grid** and placing objects accurately
- Decomposing and vectorizing complex objects
- Redefining color palettes using **Recolor Artwork**

Bitmap Image Integration and Management

- Importing, linking, and embedding raster images
- Managing assets through the **Links panel**
- Using **Image Trace** for dynamic vectorization
- Generating **automatic swatches** from imported images
- Introduction to **Live Paint**
- Applying **Photoshop effects** within Illustrator
- Pixelation and control of raster effects

Advanced Paths and Masking

- Using advanced **clipping and opacity masks**
- Creating transparent paths with envelope distortions
- Working in **Isolation Mode** for efficient organization

Advanced Typography and Text

- Creating and applying **character styles**
- Creating and syncing **paragraph styles**
- Hierarchical text structuring and automation

Print Preparation

- Cleaning and verifying the document
- Previewing **transparency flattening**
- Checking **color separations**
- Configuring **overprint settings**
- Quality control of resolutions and files before export

Photoshop + Illustrator + InDesign Training

Creative Cloud

The essentials
How it works

Photoshop

Introduction to Photoshop training

Software interface
Selections and their management
Colors (RGB, CMYK)
Layers, layer styles and how to manage them properly
Drawing tools
Creation and management of text
Touch-ups
Color corrections
Filters

Illustrator

Introduction to Illustrator training

Creating a new document
The toolbox
Zoom and move
Work plans
Guides and the different display modes
Selections and layer management
Drawing with the Pen tool

InDesign

Introduction to Indesign training

Launching the software and customizing the workspace
Creating an InDesign document
Document properties
Grids, rulers and guides
Blocks: creating and transforming them

Spacing between blocks
Managing text in blocks
Characters and paragraphs
Tables
Images
Pages
Long documents

Web Design Training : Adobe Photoshop + Adobe Illustrator

Introduction to the Web Design Training

Adobe Photoshop

Discovering Photoshop

Understand the work environment and the tools
Manage the control panel
Save your workspaces

Choosing colors and color modes

Color modes
Color palette, swatches, gradients

Drawing in Photoshop

Use the pencil, the brush and the airbrush
Use the eraser tool
Use the paint bucket tool
Use the gradient tool

Mastering the selection tools

Move tool
Classic selection tools
Use the Lasso tool
Use the Magic Wand tool
Use the Quick Selection tool
Copy, move or delete a selection
Save and reuse a selection

Expand or reduce a selection
Select or deselect all

Working text in Photoshop

Create and edit text
Format text
Format a paragraph
Area type or point type?
Convert text to image
Create and use character styles on Photoshop

Use layers, masks and styles

How layers work
Use the layers panel
Manage layers
Manage the layout of a document with layers
Manage layer groups
Layer compositions
Build a vector mask and output an element
Use fill layers

Adobe Illustrator course

Discovering Adobe Illustrator

Illustrator interface
Customize the workspace
Uses : logo, illustrations, layouts...
Vector processing and formats

Master vector drawing with Illustrator

Create predefined objects
Precise objects positioning
Foreground and background
Rules, grids and landmarks
Learn selection tools
Create paths and shapes
Pen tool : anchor points, handles and curves
Key combinations
Paths modifications : adding or removing anchor points
Brush tool and Blob Brush tool
Display modes
Graph tools

Modifications

Transformation tools
Ctrl + D Function
Transformations functions
Envelope Distort tool
Pathfinder
Fusion tools

Masks

Create a simple clipping mask
Illustrator effects
Appearance panel
Alignment: objects distribution
Illustration enrichment
Contours
Colors and using swatches : styles
Global colors
Create and apply gradients
Transparency and blending modes

Work with text

Enrichment of point type
Type on a path, area type and vertical type tool
Find fonts

Layers

Layers organisation
Isolation mode

Save and export

Save in Adobe Illustrator format
Export in pixel format
PDF format for printer
Save: EPS, PDF, Flash
Export to common formats: PSD, JPG, TIFF

Illustrator Training : Preparing Assets for After Effects

Introduction to the Illustrator Training: Preparing Your Visuals for After Effects

- Overview of the Adobe Illustrator interface
- Managing panels, windows, and the workspace layout

Creating a New Project in Illustrator

- Choosing templates or predefined formats suitable for animation
- Setting up a custom document
- Introduction to key tools essential for use with After Effects

Guides, Grids, and Rulers: Working with Precision

- Customizing guides and grids based on project requirements
- Using smart guides and rulers for accurate positioning of animated elements

Essential Tools for Designing Animation-Ready Assets

- **Pen Tool:** creating precise paths for animated shapes
- **Brush Tool** and **Blob Brush Tool:** dynamic shape creation
- **Transformation and Warp Tools:** stylizing your visuals
- **Shape Gradient Tool:** smooth transitions and morphing effects
- **Pathfinder Tool:** combining or dividing complex shapes
- **Type Tool:** integrating typography optimized for motion graphics

Layer Management and Export Preparation

- Organizing layers properly for seamless import into After Effects
- Advanced layer operations: naming, grouping, and locking elements
- Best practices for naming layers to prevent import issues
- Exporting to After Effects: compatible formats and recommended export settings

Illustrator Training : Complete 4-

day course

Introduction to Adobe Illustrator Training

Getting Started with the Illustrator Environment

- Overview of the interface and main tools
- Display settings, grids, smart guides, and panels
- Preferences setup and color management
- Using smart guides for fluid positioning

Creating Vector Graphics

- Using predefined shapes and drawing tools
- Precise positioning, layer and stacking order management
- Rulers, guides, selection tools, and alignment
- Mastering the Pen Tool: curves and anchor points
- Editing techniques: brush, blob brush, and path modifications
- Creating simple charts with the Graph Tool

Object Transformation & Shape Construction

- Multiple transformations and action repetition
- Object fusion and envelope distortions
- Advanced use of Pathfinder and Shape Builder

Masking & Graphic Enhancements

- Effective use of clipping masks
- Applying effects and managing with the Appearance panel
- Strokes, alignment, and global color management
- Using gradients and blending modes

Typography & Text Formatting

- Creating point text and text on path
- Using curved, area, and vertical text
- Finding, managing, and customizing fonts

Layer Organization & File Management

- Efficient structuring with layers and Isolation Mode
- Saving and exporting to PDF, JPG, PNG, EPS, and more

Advanced Concepts: Optimization & Recap

- Managing artboards and drawing modes
- Precision work with the pixel grid

Advanced Vector Objects

- Creating patterns, symbols, and complex transformations
- Deep dive into Width Tool and envelope distortions

Complex Graphic Effects

- 3D effects, gradient mesh, and smooth transitions
- Using the perspective grid
- Expanding objects and recoloring illustrations

Working with Bitmap Images

- Managing linked/embedded images and the Links panel
- Image tracing, live paint, and Photoshop effects
- Generating automatic swatches and pixelation

Advanced Paths & Masking Techniques

- Transparent paths, opacity and clipping masks
- Organizing artwork with Isolation Mode

Professional Typography

- Creating and applying character and paragraph styles
- Building a consistent typographic hierarchy

Preparing Files for Print

- Document cleanup and final checks
- Previewing transparency flattening, separations, and overprints
- Print-ready quality control and export

Illustrator Development Training

Introduction to Illustrator Development Training

Introduction: basics reminders

Vector Objects

Pattern creation and application

Creating and using symbols

Symbol manipulation tools

Aspect Panel

Shape designer tool

transformations

Distortion of the envelope

Width tool with variable contours

Advanced tools

3D effects

Decomposing objects

Redefining the colors of an illustration

Using the shape gradient

Coloring with the gradient mesh

Perspective grid

Objects on a perspective plane

Raster images

Linked or embedded image

links panel

Dynamic vectorization of pixels image

Automatic creation of a color chart

Dynamic Painting

Photoshop effects

Object Pixelization

Particular tracks

Transparent trace: envelope

Fusion mask

Insulation mode

Text functions

Character style leaves

Paragraph style sheets

Printing

Cleaning function

Overview of Transparency Flattening

Separation overview

Verification of resolutions

Overprint options

Creative AI with Adobe: Boost Your Visual Workflow

Introduction to AI in Graphic Design

- Overview of generative AI
- Challenges and benefits in the creative workflow

Photoshop & Generative AI

- Using intelligent selection tools (Object Selector, Sky, Subject)
- Creating layer masks
- Removing unwanted elements using Generative Fill
- AI-powered background replacement
- Adobe Generative Expand: how it works and best practices

Workshop 1 – Retouch an existing image using AI tools

Objective: Remove an element, change the background, and apply a mask using the AI extension

Illustrator & Generative AI

- Generate simple graphic elements via prompts (objects, icons, scenes)

- Apply visual reference styles
- Use filtered searches and get tailored results
- Create generative vector patterns
- AI-powered recoloring of illustrations

Workshop 2 – Create a mini brand identity using AI

Objective: Generate a set of assets (icon, pattern, recoloring) from a simple creative brief

New: InDesign & Image Generation

- Generate images directly in InDesign from a prompt
- Choose and adapt styles to match your layout
- Use cases: cover images, ambient illustrations
- Hands-on: quickly build a layout using a generated image
- Professional workflow insights (validation, editing in Photoshop/Illustrator)

Workshop 3 – Design a cover or promo sheet using AI-generated visuals

Objective: Use image generation in a layout tailored to the document's style and purpose