

Adobe Illustrator -- Useful Keyboard Commands

Scrolling and Zooming

spacebar -- hand cursor to move/scroll around document

spacebar + command key -- zoom in (magnify)

spacebar + command key + option key -- zoom out (reduce)

common keyboard using the command (⌘) key

⌘ + A -- select all

⌘ + B -- paste behind

⌘ + C -- copy

⌘ + D -- transform again (repeat the transform)

⌘ + F -- paste in front

⌘ + G -- group selected objects

⌘ + N -- open a new file

⌘ + Q -- quit

⌘ + S -- save

⌘ +] -- move selected object(s) up in stack

⌘ + V -- paste

⌘ + [-- move selected object(s) back in stack

⌘ + X -- cut

⌘ + Z -- undo

⌘ + any tool in use -- gives you the default selection or direct selection arrow

common keyboard symbols for tools

A -- direct selection arrow (select/edit points on path, object, etc)

B -- brush tool

E -- free transform (get bounding box for scale, rotation, etc)

N -- pencil tool

P -- pen tool

R -- rotate tool

S -- scale tool

T -- type tool

V -- main selection arrow (select objects, groups, etc)

some actions using shift and/or option keys

shift key -- hold down for proportional objects (e.g. circles, squares) and 0,90,45 degree lines (with line tool); shift+option --- proportional object from center of cursor

option + drag -- copies an object while dragging (you'll see a double arrowhead)

shift + main selection tool (solid arrow) -- select multiple objects

shift + direct selection tool (hollow arrow) -- select point(s) on object path to edit (e.g. points on Bezier curves)

shift + oval or rectangle tool -- constrain to circle or square

option + oval or rectangle tool -- radiate shape from center

shift + drag on corner point of bounding box -- scale object proportionately

shift + option + oval/rectangle tool -- radiate circle or square from center point

shift + pen tool -- constrains points to straight line or 45°

miscellaneous actions

hold down ⌘ while using any tool -- temporarily switches to selection arrow tool

control click on corner of bounding box -- get a contextual menu for the tool being used for transforms (e.g. flip, skew, distort, rotate object)

arrow keys -- move selected object up/down/left/right in tiny increments

tab key -- hides/reveals tools and palettes