

Artboards




Artboards help streamline your design process by giving you an area where you can lay out designs for different devices and screens. Artboards represent the regions that can contain printable or exportable artwork. While creating artboards, you can choose from a wide variety of preset sizes or define your own custom artboard size.

You can have 1 to 1000 artboards per document depending on the size of your artboards. You can specify the number of artboards for a document when you first create it, and you can add and remove artboards at any time while working in a document. You can create artboards in different sizes, resize them by using the Artboard tool and position them anywhere on the screen—even overlapping one another. Illustrator also provides options to set the orientation, reorder, and rearrange artboards using the Artboards panel, Properties panel, or the Control panel (when the Artboard tool is selected). You can specify custom names for an artboard. You can also set reference points for artboards in Illustrator.

You can use artboards as crop areas for printing or exporting purposes. Multiple artboards are useful for creating various things such as multiple page PDFs, printed pages with different sizes or different elements, independent elements for websites, video storyboards, or individual items for animation in Adobe Animate or After Effects.

Create an artboard

1 Do any of the following:

- To create a custom artboard, select the Artboard tool , and drag in the document to define the shape, size, and location.
- To use a preset artboard, double-click the Artboard tool, select a preset and specify other options in the **Artboard Options** dialog box, and click **OK**. Drag the artboard to position it where you want.
- To duplicate an existing artboard, select the Artboard tool, click to select the artboard you want to duplicate, and click the New Artboard button  in the Control panel or the Properties panel. To create multiple duplicates, *Alt*-click as many times as you want. Or, using the Artboard tool, *Alt*-drag (Windows) or *Option*-drag (macOS) the artboard you want to duplicate.
- To duplicate an artboard with the contents, select the Artboard tool, click to select the Move/Copy Artwork With Artboard () in the Properties panel or the Control panel, press *Alt* (Windows) or *Option* (macOS), and then drag.



If you want the artwork to contain a bleed, make sure that there's enough artwork beyond the artboard bounds to accommodate the bleed.

2 To commit the artboard and exit the artboard-editing mode, click a different tool in the Tools panel or click *Esc*.

See a [video on using multiple artboards](#).

Artboard options

To open the **Artboard Options** dialog box, do one of the following:

- Double-click the Artboard tool .
- Click the Artboard tool and then click the Artboard Options button  in the Properties panel or the Control panel.
- Choose **Artboard Options** from the flyout menu of the Artboards panel.

In the **Artboard Options** dialog, specify the following options:

Name Specifies the name of the artboard.

Preset Specifies artboard dimensions. These presets set the video ruler pixel aspect ratio appropriately for the specified output.

Width and Height Specifies the size of the artboard.

X: and Y: Position Specifies the position of the artboard according to Illustrator's workspace rulers. To view these rulers, choose **View > Show Rulers**.

Orientation Specifies portrait or landscape page orientation.

Constrain Proportions Keeps the aspect ratio of the artboard intact if you manually resize it.

Show Center Mark Displays a point in the center of the artboard.

Show Cross Hairs Displays cross lines through the center of each side of the artboard.

Show Video Safe Areas Displays guides that represent the areas that fall inside the viewable area of video. You want to keep all text and art that must be viewable to users inside the video safe areas.

Video Ruler Pixel Aspect Ratio Specifies the pixel aspect ratio used for the video rulers.

Fade Region Outside Artboard Displays the area outside the artboard a darker shade than the area inside the artboard when the Artboard tool is active.

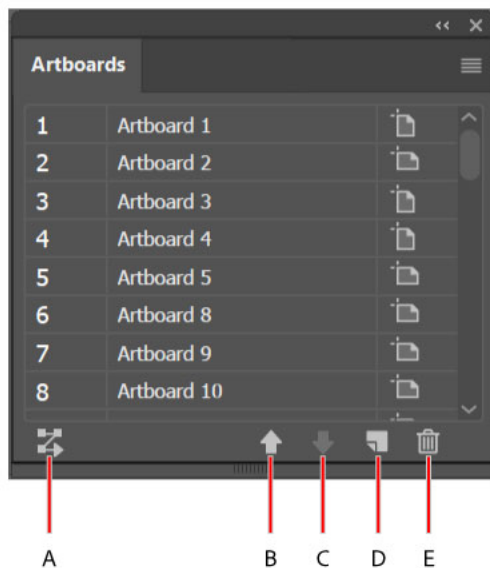
Update While Dragging Keeps the area outside the artboard darker as you drag to resize the artboard. If this is not selected, the outside area displays in the same color as inside the artboard while resizing.

Artboards Indicates how many artboards exist.

Artboards panel overview

To access the Artboards panel, click **Window > Artboards**. You can do the following using the Artboards panel:

- Add, rearrange, and delete artboards
- Reorder and renumber artboards
- Select and navigate through multiple artboards
- Specify artboard options such as presets, artboard size, and relative artboard position



Artboards panel


A Rearrange all artboards B Up Arrow C Down Arrow D Add new artboards E Delete artboards

See a [video on using the Artboards panel](#).


Work with artboards

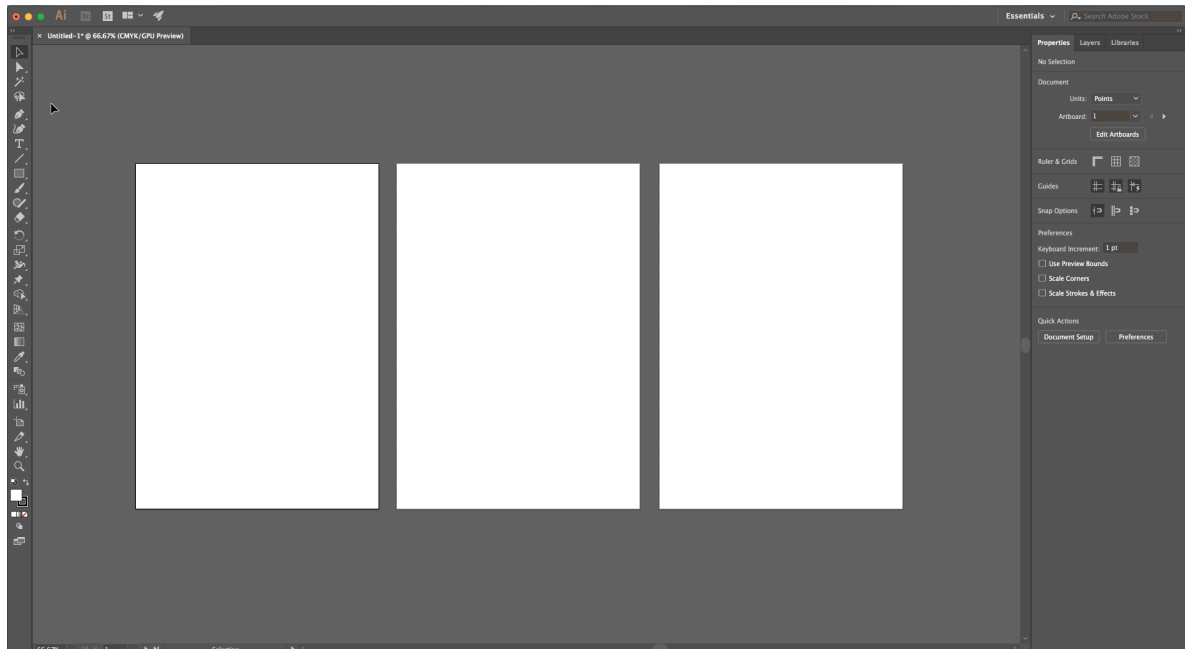
Add artboards

To add artboards, do any one of the following:

- Click the New Artboard icon  in the Properties panel, Control panel, or Artboards panel.
- Select the **New Artboard** option from the flyout menu of the Artboards panel.
- **Alt**-drag (Windows) or **Option**-drag (macOS) to duplicate an artboard.

Select multiple artboards

- 1 Select the Artboard tool  from the Tools panel.
- 2 Do one of the following:
 - Press *Control/ Command* + *A* to select all the artboards in your document.
 - Shift-click to select artboards.
 - Shift-click the canvas and drag the cursor to select multiple artboards using a marquee.




Press Shift while dragging the Artboard tool to select multiple artboards using a marquee control

Note:

Marquee selection toggles the selection state of the artboard. Selected artboards are deselected when you drag the marquee.

Delete an artboard

- 1 Select the artboards you want to delete.
- 2 Do any one of the following:
 - Click the Delete Artboard icon  in the Properties panel, Control panel, or Artboards panel.
 - Select the **Delete** option from the Artboards panel menu (flyout menu).
 - Press *Delete* key.

View artboards and the canvas

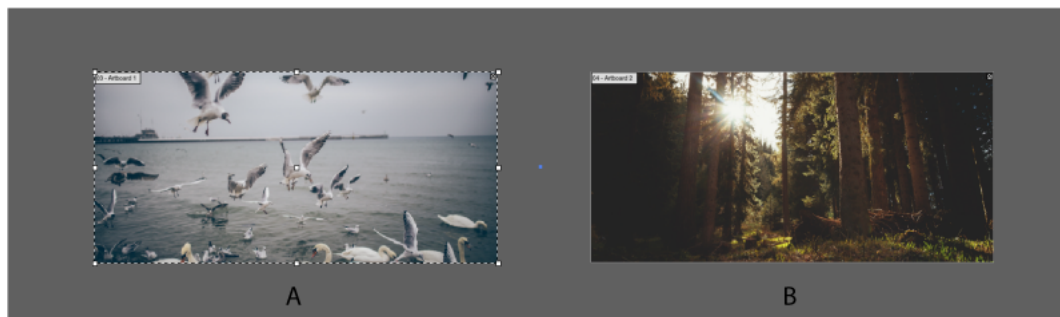
Each artboard is bound by solid lines and represents the maximum printable area. To hide the artboard boundaries, choose **View > Hide Artboards**. The canvas is the area outside the artboard that extends to the edge of the -220inches square window. The canvas represents a space on which you can create, edit, and store elements of artwork before moving them onto an artboard. Objects placed onto the canvas are visible onscreen, but they do not print.

To center an artboard and zoom it to fit the screen, click the artboard number in the status bar, at the bottom of the application window.

1 Select the Artboard tool  from the Tools panel.

2 Do any of the following:

- Click an artboard to make it active. (Clicking in or drawing over an artboard using a different tool makes the Artboard tool active.) If artboards overlap, the artboard with the left edge closest to the click location becomes the active artboard.



View artboards

A Active artboard B Inactive artboard

- To navigate between artboards, press *Alt* (Windows) or *Option* (macOS) and click an arrow key.
- To view artboards and their contents as outlines, right-click and choose **Outline** from the context menu. To see artwork again, right-click and choose **Preview**.

Note:

You can view the page boundaries in relation to an artboard by showing print tiling (**View > Show Print Tiling**). When print tiling is on, the printable and nonprintable areas are represented by a series of solid and dotted lines between the outermost edge of the window and the printable area of the page.

Edit artboards



You can create multiple artboards for your document, but only one can be active at a time. When you have multiple artboards defined, you can view them all by selecting the Artboard tool. Each artboard is numbered for easy reference. You can edit or delete an artboard at any time, and you can specify different artboards each time you print or export.

1 Select the artboards you want to edit.

2 Do any of the following:

- To resize the artboards, position the pointer on an edge or corner until the cursor changes to a double-sided arrow, and then drag to adjust. Or, specify new **Width** and **Height** values in the Properties panel or the Control panel.
- To change the orientation of the artboards, click the Portrait or Landscape button in the Properties panel or the Control panel.
- To rotate between artboards, press *Alt* (Windows) or *Option* (macOS) and click an arrow key.
- To view artboards and their contents as outlines, right-click and choose **Outline** from the context menu. To see artwork again, right-click and choose **Preview**.

Move an artboard

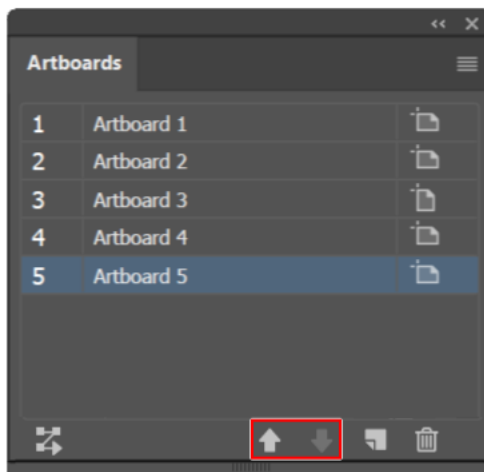
- 1 Select the artboards you want to move.
- 2 Do one of the following:
 - To move the artboards and its contents, select the **Move Artwork With Artboard** options in the Properties panel or click  in the Control panel, and then position the pointer in the artboard and drag.
 - To move the artboards without its contents, click to deselect the **Move Artwork With Artboard** option in the Properties panel or click  in the Control panel, and then position the pointer in the artboard and drag.
 - Specify new X and Y values in the Properties panel or the Control panel.

Note:

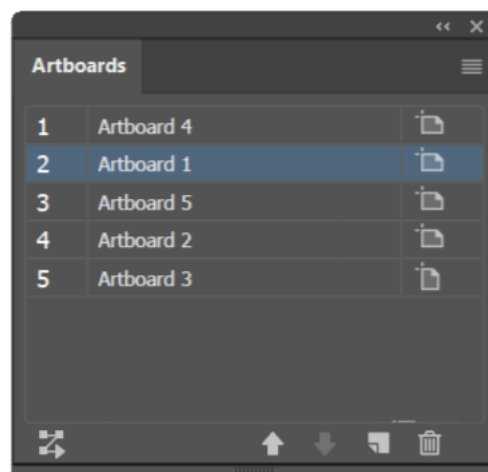
Starting from the March 2018 release of Illustrator (version 22.1), when you move an artboard, Illustrator doesn't move locked or hidden objects with the artboard by default. If necessary, you may disable this experience and revert to the experience that Illustrator provided by default in the October 2017 release of Illustrator (version 22.0). Go to **Preferences > Selection And Anchor Display** and select the **Move Locked And Hidden Artwork With Artboard** option.

Reorder artboards

In the Artboards panel, you can use the Up and Down Arrows at the bottom of the panel to reorder the artboards. However, reordering artboards in the Artboards panel, does not reorder the artboards in the work area.



A



B

Rearrange artboards

A Default order in the Artboards panel B Reordered artboards in the Artboards panel


Rearrange artboards


To fit all artboards in view, you can rearrange artboards using the Grid by Row, Grid by Column, Arrange by Row, and Arrange by Column options.


To rearrange artboards, do the following:


- 1 Select the **Rearrange All Artboards** option from the Properties panel or the flyout menu of the Artboards panel.

2 In the **Rearrange All Artboards** dialog box, choose any one layout from the following options:

Grid by Row  Arranges multiple artboards in the specified number of rows. Specify the number of rows in the Rows box. The default value creates the most square appearance possible with the specified number of artboards.

Grid by Column  Arranges multiple artboards in the specified number of columns. Choose the number of columns from the Columns menu. The default value creates the most square appearance possible with the specified number of artboards.

Arrange by Row  Arranges all the artboards in a single row.

Arrange by Column  Arranges all the artboards in a single column.

Change to Right-to-Left Layout/Change to Left-to-Right Layout Arranges the artboards from left to right or right to left. By default, artboards are arranged from left to right. If you select the Change to Right-to-Left Layout option, the Grid by Row and Grid Column options change to Right-to-Left Grid by Row and Right-to-Left Grid by Column.

3 Specify the spacing between the artboards. This setting applies to both horizontal and vertical spacing.

4 Select the **Move Artwork with Artboard** option to move the artwork whenever the artboards location changes. Additionally, an artboard within an artboard is treated like a crop area and is moved along with the containing artboard.

Align and distribute artboards

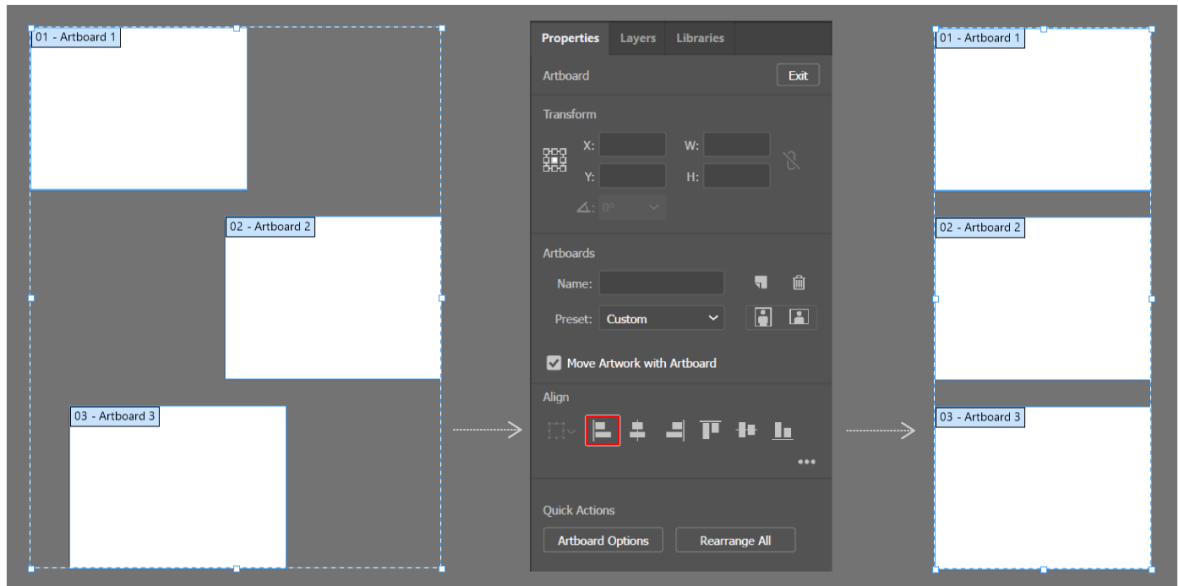
You can align or distribute selected artboards along the axis you specify using the Properties panel, the Align panel, or the Control panel.

To align or distribute artboards, do the following:

1 Select the artboards you want to align or distribute.

2 Do one of the following:

- In the Properties panel (**Window > Properties**), click the icon for the type of alignment or distribution you want.
- Click **Align** in the Control panel, and then click the icon for the type of alignment or distribution you want.
- Choose **Window > Align**, and then click the icon for the type of alignment or distribution you want.
- Choose **Window > Properties**, and then click the icon for the type of alignment or distribution you want.




Align artboards

Customize artboard names

Each artboard can now be given a custom name, when in artboard edit mode.

To assign a custom name to an artboard, do the following:

- 1 Select the Artboard Tool  to edit the artboard.
- 2 Select the artboard and specify the artboard name in the **Name** box of the Artboard Control Panel or the Properties panel.

Alternatively, you can provide a custom name in the **Name** field of the Artboard Options dialog box. To open the dialog box, click **Artboard Options** in the Properties panel or the flyout menu of the Artboards Panel. Click **OK** to commit the new name for the chosen artboard.

The new artboard name appears on the upper-left side of the artboard. The custom name also shows up in the Artboard Navigation field and drop-down next to document's status area.

If you assign a custom name to artboards, these names are added as suffix to the filename while saving artboard-specific files to all formats.