

J359T + J395 Advanced Visual Design | Spring 2006

HANDOUT | Illustrator | Illustrator Help

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Illustrator Help (an extensive Help Menu built into the program) has the answers to many basic questions, if you know where to look, or how to phrase the question. For instance, in the Help Menu, it is well worth your time to review the entire section called Drawing. You also might want to review the entire section called Type.

To access Illustrator Help, follow these simple instructions:

Open Illustrator.

Click on Help > Illustrator Help.

(Help is located in the upper right corner of the Menu bar at the top of your screen).

Below are some Help "shortcuts" to help you find information you may need.

Pen Tool

To learn Pen tool basics, review these topics, under Help Topics > Drawing:

- > About drawing
- > Drawing with the pen tool
- > Reshaping paths
- > Adding, deleting and converting anchor points
- > Erasing, splitting and joining paths

Type Tool

When working with type, you will often want to access the Character Palette. There, you can access or adjust such things as Spacing (Kerning, Tracking, Leading), Font Menu, Style, Size, and so on. Find the Character Palette this way: Window > Type > Character Palette. Or, just type Command (Apple) > T.

For Type basics, review:

Help Topics > Type > Creating type

To convert individual letters to "objects," so you can manipulate parts of letters (example: lengthen only the ascender of a lowercase "d"), review:

Help Topics > Type > Letterforms as graphic objects

To place or adjust type on a path, review this topic, review:

Help Topics > Type > Type on a path

Printing

To learn Printing basics, review these topics, under Help Topics > Printing:

- > Basic printing tasks
- > Setting up pages for printing
- > Printer's marks and bleed

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