

2017 release of Illustrator CC



The 2017 release of Illustrator CC (November 2016) rolls out exciting new features for designers and illustrators. Read on for a quick introduction to these features and links to resources offering more information.

For a summary of features introduced in earlier releases of Illustrator CC, see [Feature summary | Illustrator CC | 2015 releases](#).

Jump-start your creative projects

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*



Now, while creating a document in Illustrator, instead of beginning with a blank canvas, you can choose from a wide variety of templates, including templates from Adobe Stock. Templates include assets and illustrations that you can build on to complete your project. When you open a template in Illustrator, you can work with it just as you would work with any other Illustrator document (.ai).

In addition to templates, you can also create a document by selecting one of the numerous presets available in Illustrator.

 For more information, see [Create documents](#).

User experience refresh

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

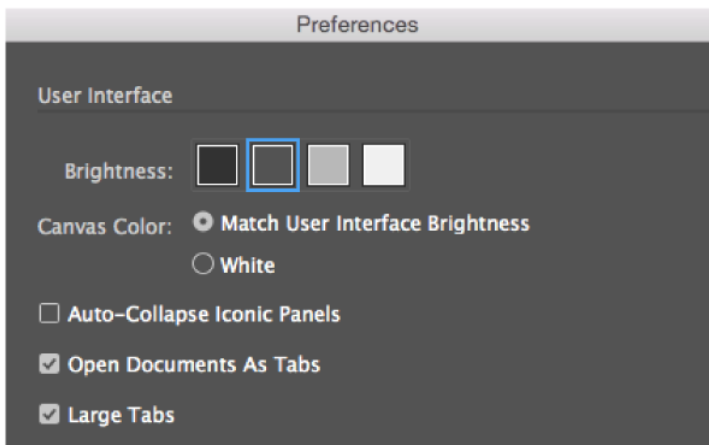
Illustrator now has a brand new user interface that is flat, modern, and easy on the eyes. The tools and panels have new icons. You can customize the interface to sport one of the four available color options designed for optimal user experience: **Dark**, **Medium Dark**, **Medium Light**, and **Light**.

[For more information, see *Customize your workspace.*](#)



User interface: then versus now with brightness set to Light

A. Earlier Illustrator releases **B.** Illustrator CC 2017 release



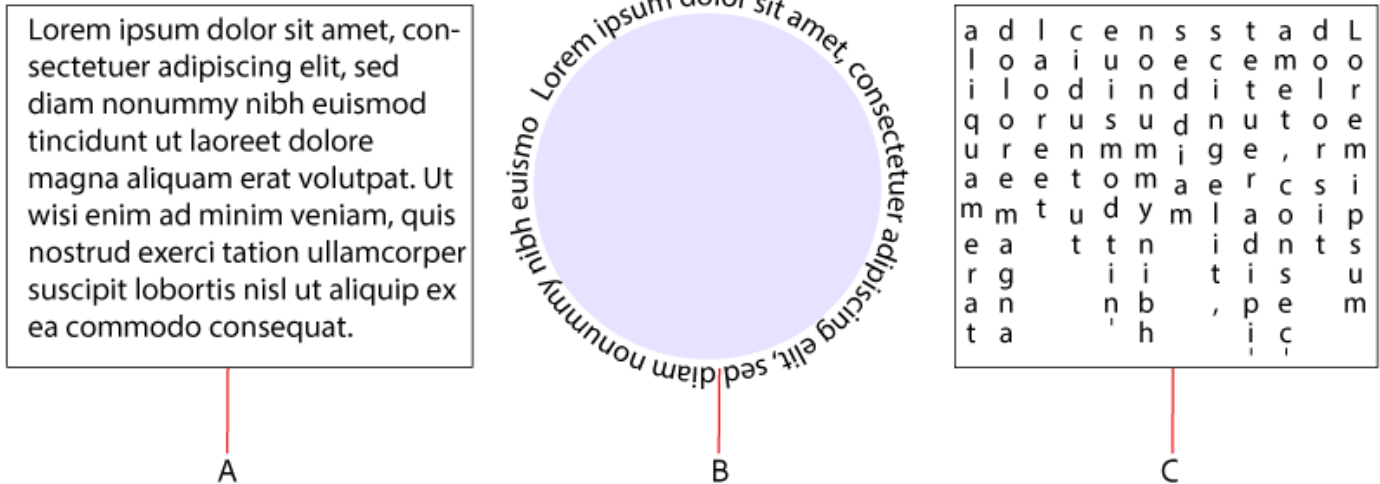
Available UX color options

Fill type objects with placeholder text

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

Filling type objects with placeholder text helps you visualize the design better. Now, by default, Illustrator automatically fills new objects created using type tools with placeholder text. The placeholder text retains the font and size applied to the previous type object.

 For more information, see [Create text](#).



Samples of type objects with placeholder text using Type tools

A. Type Tool **B.** Type On A Path Tool **C.** Vertical Area Type Tool

Import text into a path/shape

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

Place text from a supported file right inside an object, such as a shape. You can place text from files in the `.txt` or `.rtf` formats, or files from word-processing applications. For example, place text from a `.rtf` file into a polygonal shape.

 For details, see [Import text into a container](#).



Place text from a file right inside a path/shape

Font-related features

Easily find the perfect font

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

Quickly find the fonts that you use often by starring individual font families as favorites or selecting from recently used fonts that appear on top of the font list. Recently used and starred fonts are preserved across Illustrator sessions.

While searching for fonts, you can narrow down the results by filtering fonts by classification, like Serif, Sans Serif, and Handwritten. Further, you can choose to search among fonts installed on your computer or synchronized fonts from Typekit.

You can also search for fonts based on visual similarity (≈). Fonts closest in visual appearance to the font you're searching for appear on top of the search results.

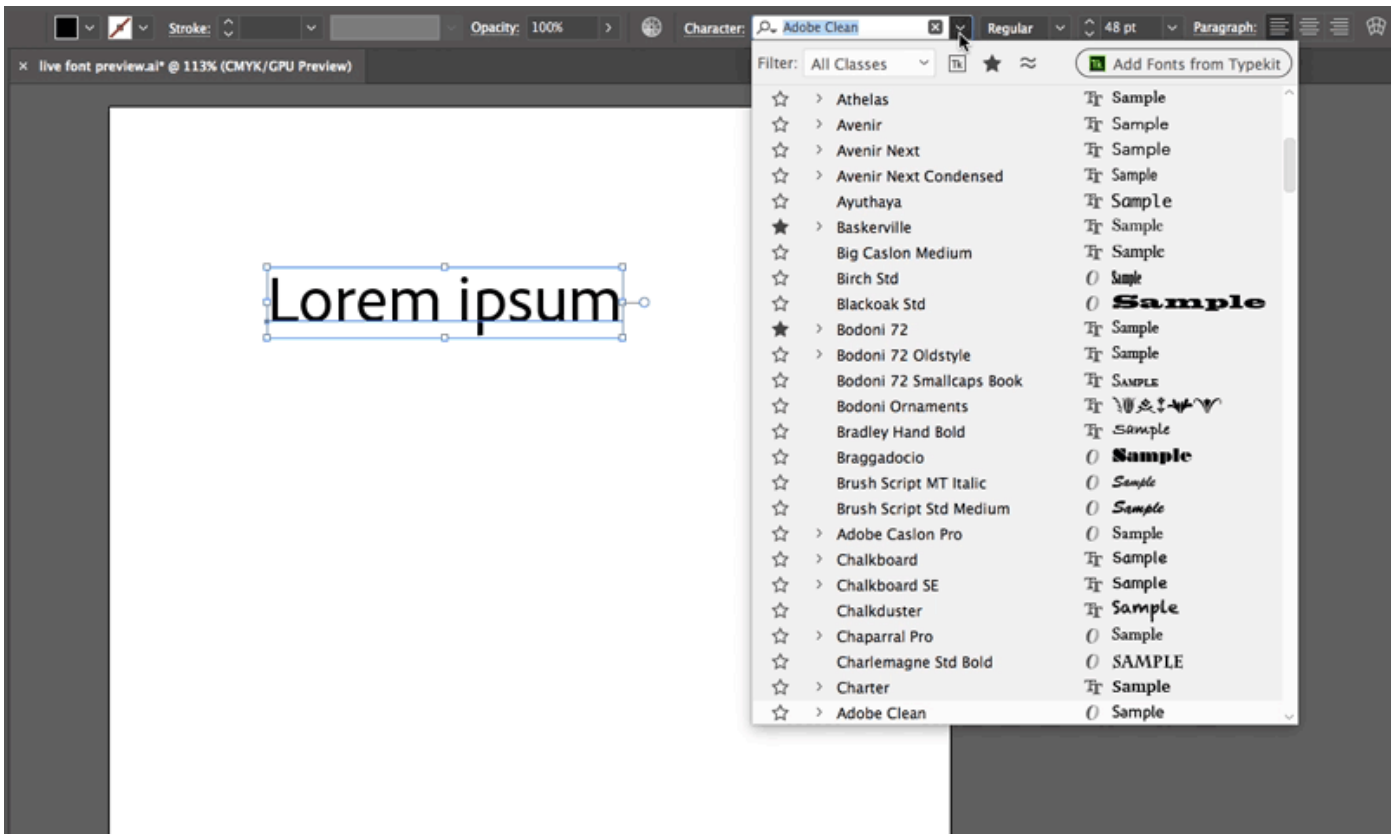
 See [Organize and filter fonts](#).

Live font preview

 *Enhanced in this release of Illustrator CC*

Preview your selected type objects with different fonts in real time by simply hovering over the font name in the font list available in the Control panel and Character panel.

 See [Live font preview](#).



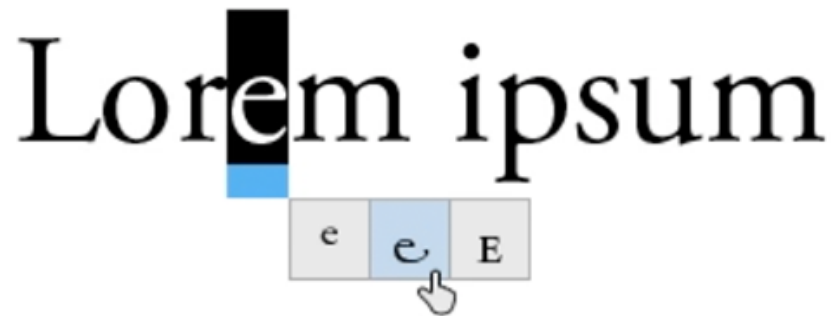
View live font previews

In-context alternate glyphs

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

While working on a type object, you can now select a character to quickly view alternate glyphs right next to it in an in-context widget. Simply click an alternate glyph to replace the character with it.

 For more information, see [Replace a character with on-canvas glyph alternatives](#).



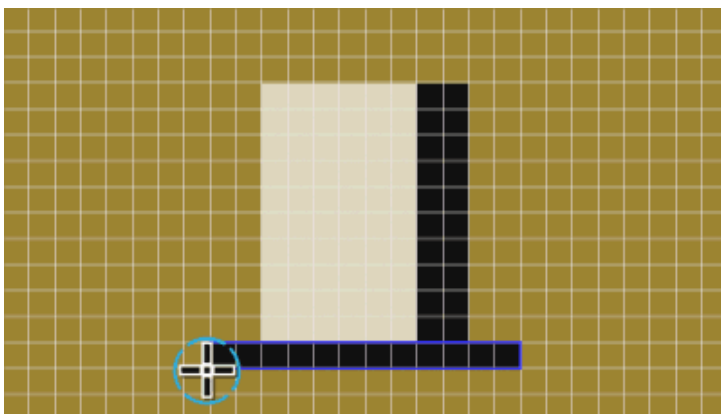
In-context glyph alternatives

Create pixel-perfect art

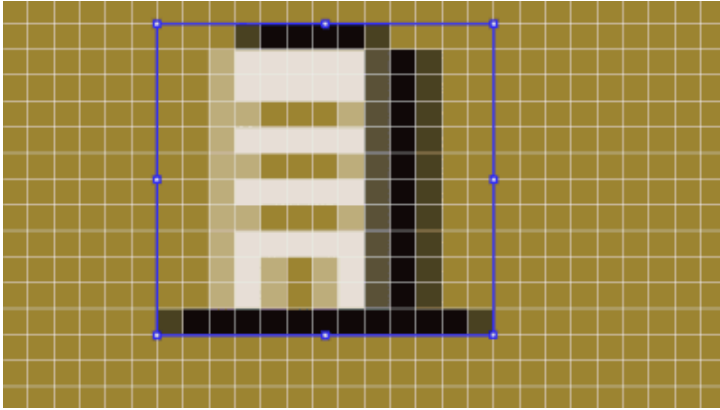
+ *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

Creating pixel-perfect art in Illustrator is now easier and more intuitive than ever before. Draw pixel-perfect art that looks sharp and crisp on screens at different stroke widths and alignment options. Choose to align an existing object to the pixel grid with a single click or align a new object right while drawing it. While transforming objects, you can preserve pixel-alignment without distorting the artwork. Pixel-alignment works for objects as well as individual path segments and anchor points that comprise them.

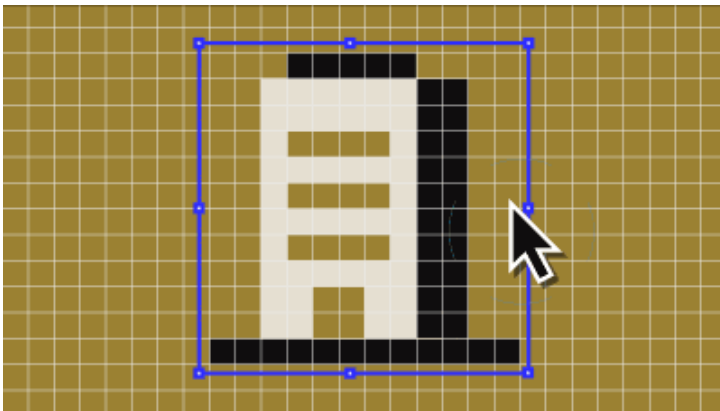
[🔗](#) For more information, see [Draw pixel-perfect art](#).



Draw an object aligned to the pixel grid



Keep an object pixel-aligned while moving it

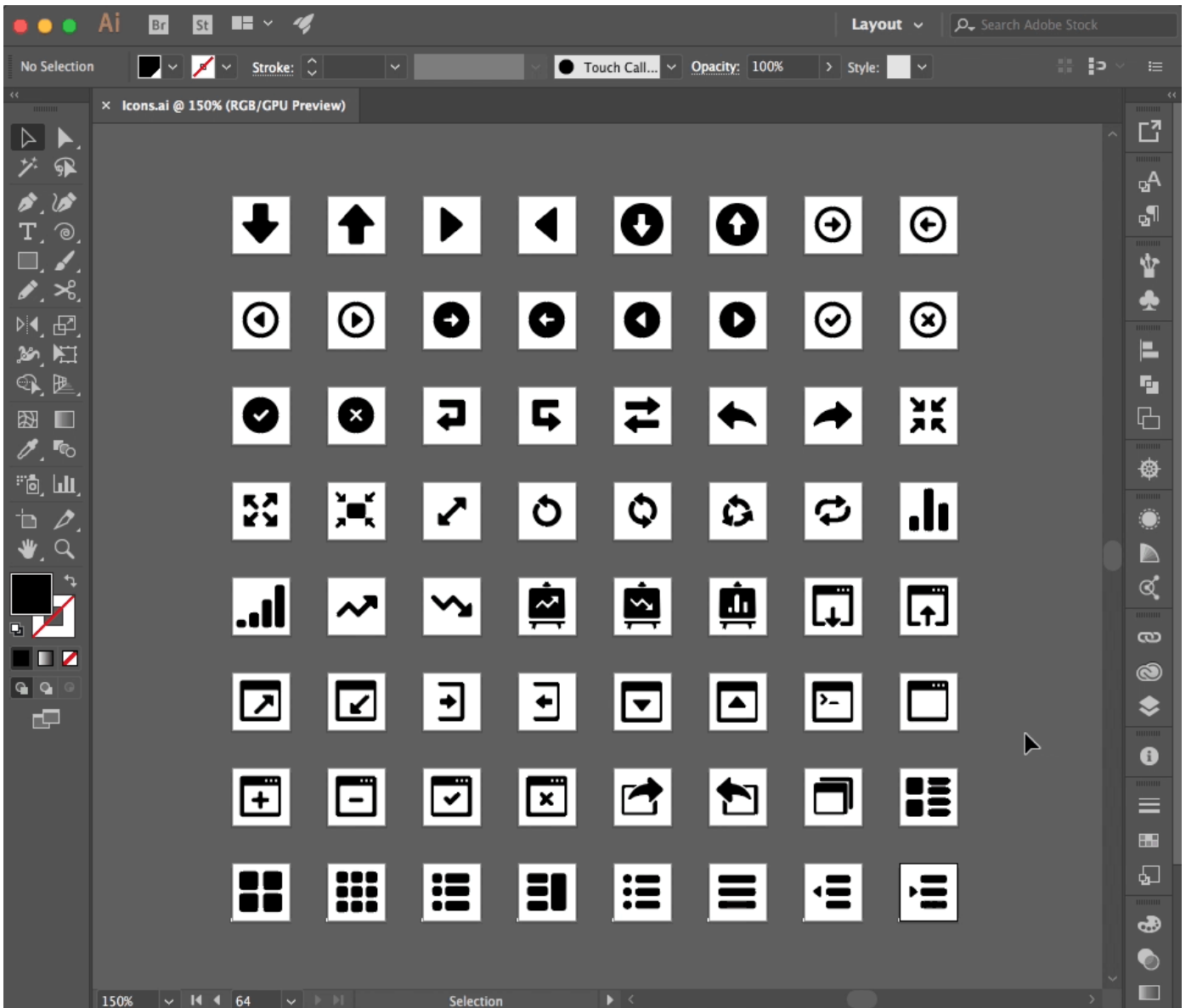


Keep an object pixel-aligned while scaling it




Zoom to selection

 *New in this release of Illustrator CC*

Now, when you zoom in or out while working on artwork, using the Zoom tool or its keyboard shortcuts, Illustrator brings the selected art in the center of the view. If the selection has anchor points or segments, Illustrator also brings those anchor points to the center of the view when you zoom in or out.



Other enhancements

-  Now, you can choose from a wide variety of special characters available in the Type menu and context menu, such as symbols, hyphens, quotation marks, white-space characters, and break characters. For details, see [Special characters](#).
-  Keyboard shortcuts for the following hidden characters: En Space, Em Space, Thin Space, Superscripts, Subscripts, Discretionary Hyphen, and Non-Breaking Space. You can also customize these shortcuts in the keyboard shortcuts list.
-  Easily work with type objects having text in a common font family but in different styles, or vice versa. Consider two

type objects containing text in the Arial font family—one in the Regular style and the other in the Bold style. When you select these type objects, Illustrator keeps the Font Style field blank, but displays the Font Family as Arial.