



# VECTORSCRIBE

Introductory Manual  
for  
Version 



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This Introductory Manual describes only what's required to get up-and-running with VectorScribe—the basic essentials. To get the most out of this Adobe Illustrator plugin, a series of movies has been produced to better illustrate what's possible and how to quickly and easily achieve it.

Visit

[www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html](http://www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html)



## Installation

VectorScribe is supplied as a single standard Illustrator plugin and is installed using standard Mac OS or Windows installer systems. The license key unlocks the trial version into the full version.

VectorScribe requires Adobe Illustrator CS4, CS5, CS6 or Illustrator Creative Cloud version 17 — referred to hereon as “CC(17)” — to operate.

### Unified installer

VectorScribe is available for Illustrator CS4 to CC(17) via a single unified installer. The installer process should automatically locate each version of Illustrator present on your computer and install the correct plug-in version. Note that Illustrator CS4, CS5, CS6 and CC each require a different plug-in version.

### Upgrading on Windows

If upgrading your plugin on Windows systems, it is first necessary to manually remove or uninstall any existing version which may be present on your system. To do so, please use the standard uninstall procedure for your particular version of Windows, typically via the Control Panel.

### Important!

You may require computer administrator rights to install VectorScribe.



## Mac OS 10.5 and above

1. Quit Illustrator.
2. Open the “VectorScribe.dmg” disk image
3. Start the “VectorScribe” installer package and follow the instructions.  
*Note: the installer will attempt to seek all installations of Illustrator CS4, CS5, CS6 and CC and provide options to install for one or more of these. It is also possible to manually specify the target folder for each installation by clicking on the [...] button to the right of each entry.*
4. Start Illustrator. You can confirm that the software has been successfully installed, running initially in its Trial period, but following Illustrator » About VectorScribe... (Cancel closes the window).

## Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8

1. Quit Illustrator.
2. Open the .zip archive and extract the “VectorScribe Setup.exe” program installer file.
3. Start the installer and follow the instructions.  
*Note: the installer will attempt to seek all installations of Illustrator CS4, CS5, CS6 and CC and provide options to install for one or more of these. The appropriate 32 or 64 bit version will be installed automatically. It is also possible to manually specify the target folder for each installation by clicking on the **Browse** button to the right of each entry.*
4. Start Illustrator. You can confirm that the software has been successfully installed, running initially in its Trial period, but following Help » About VectorScribe...

### Notes

- If you later wish to install VectorScribe for other versions of Adobe Illustrator on the same computer (not virtual machines), simply re-run the installation process.



## Trial period and licensing

When installed for the first time, VectorScribe operates in a Trial period for a nominal period. When in this mode, you have access to all tools.

Upon expiry of the Trial period, the tools are no longer active and an information window stating that the Trial has expired will be displayed in the tool's panels or when attempting to switch to one of the tools via the Illustrator toolbar.

To continue using the tools, you will need to purchase a license, which will result in a license key being sent by email. To purchase a license key, please visit [www.astutegraphics.com/buy/](http://www.astutegraphics.com/buy/). Keep this information safe for future reference.

The license key allows you to install on all computers for the number of concurrent users determined by the number of licenses purchased. Confirmation of the number of concurrent users permitted is displayed when a license key is successfully applied.

### Notes

- **As of VectorScribe version 1.9.0, the Designer and Studio levels were dropped. The single VectorScribe product now contains all tools found previously in VectorScribe Studio. Existing VectorScribe Designer licenses require **upgrading** to allow activation of the latest version of VectorScribe.**
- The Astute Graphics licensing system applies valid license keys for the whole computer, not just individual installations of Adobe Illustrator. It's therefore possible to simultaneously operate licensed copies of the plug-in on more than one installation of Adobe Illustrator simultaneously.
- **It is very important that you store your license key safely for both future reference and to ensure that others do not gain improper access to it. As per the license agreement displayed during the installation process, Astute Graphics retains the right to block the use of any licenses which have found to be misused.**



## Activating with a license key

Once you have installed VectorScribe and received your license key following purchase, follow:

Illustrator » About VectorScribe... (Mac OS)

Help » About VectorScribe... (Windows)

To license VectorScribe, take the following steps:

1. Click on the Activate button
2. Copy and paste the license key into the box and click OK

*You may be asked to enter your, or your administrator, password; please do so*
3. If successful, you will be informed that VectorScribe is activated and confirmation of the number of concurrent users permitted
4. Click OK and further confirmation of the plug-in version/level licensed may be seen in the About window
5. Click on the Close button to close the About window and restart Illustrator to ensure you have access to the plug-in toolset

It is also possible to gain direct access to the Activate / Deactivate window by following Help » Astute Graphics » VectorScribe » Licensing...

The activation process may be repeated on all computers to be used by the concurrent user(s).



### Mac OS: pasting your license key

If you experience difficulties pasting your license key into the activation plugin window, paste by right-clicking in the entry box and opting for “Paste”. Alternatively use the alternative license activation window found via Help » Astute Graphics » VectorScribe » Licensing...



## De-activating your computer

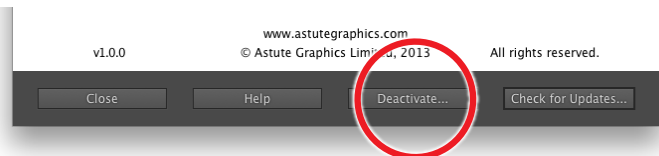
If you intend to change computer, discarding your existing licensed computer, it is essential that you first de-activate your license. Failure to do so may result in abuse of your license key which will result in the key being blocked for future use!

When ready to de-activate your computer, open the About window following:

Illustrator » About VectorScribe... (Mac OS)

Help » About VectorScribe... (Windows)

1. Click on the Deactivate button
2. Confirm that you intend to de-activate your computer
3. Following confirmation, close the confirmation and About window
4. Restart Illustrator



It is possible to re-activate the computer at a later date by following the previous activation instructions.

## Other online services

The Help » Astute Graphics » VectorScribe » menu also contains entries for the following services:

- **Check for Updates:** opens a website page detailing the latest public versions of VectorScribe ready for download.
- **Buy/Upgrade:** if you are still operating in the Trial period, this will take you to the online purchase web page. If you are already operating a licensed version of VectorScribe, you will be taken directly to the upgrade page. If your license number is available, you can proceed immediately with the upgrade process without need of the original invoice number.
- **Licensing Help:** for additional information of the licensing system, including automated assistance tools, this will open the [www.astutegraphics.com/licensing/](http://www.astutegraphics.com/licensing/) web page.



## Introduction

VectorScribe is designed from the ground-up to enhance the workflow, capabilities and experiences of all artists, designers and operators who produce or edit vector artwork in Adobe Illustrator. Editing vector paths becomes a joy with PathScribe; making accurate measurements a cinch with Dynamic Measure; creating shapes and rounding corners a revelation with Dynamic Shapes and Dynamic Corners.

### Get more from VectorScribe - Movies

This Introductory Manual describes only what's required to get up-and-running with VectorScribe—the basic essentials. To get the most out of this Adobe Illustrator plugin, a series of movies has been produced to better illustrate what's possible and how to quickly and easily achieve it.

Visit [www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html](http://www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html)

### Get more from VectorScribe - Example files

Three examples files are supplied with VectorScribe:

#### **Quick Start**

Quickly learn how to use a selection of the key tools with this movie:

[www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html](http://www.astutegraphics.com/products/vectorscribe/movies.html)

#### **Dynamic Shapes and Dynamic Corners**

Load the supplied example file into Adobe Illustrator CS4, or above, and switch over to the Dynamic Shapes or Dynamic Corners tools to examine content present within the artwork.

#### **MCKIBILLO Patent Gadget**

Great example artwork originally produced by renowned designer Josh McKible containing many Dynamic Shape elements.



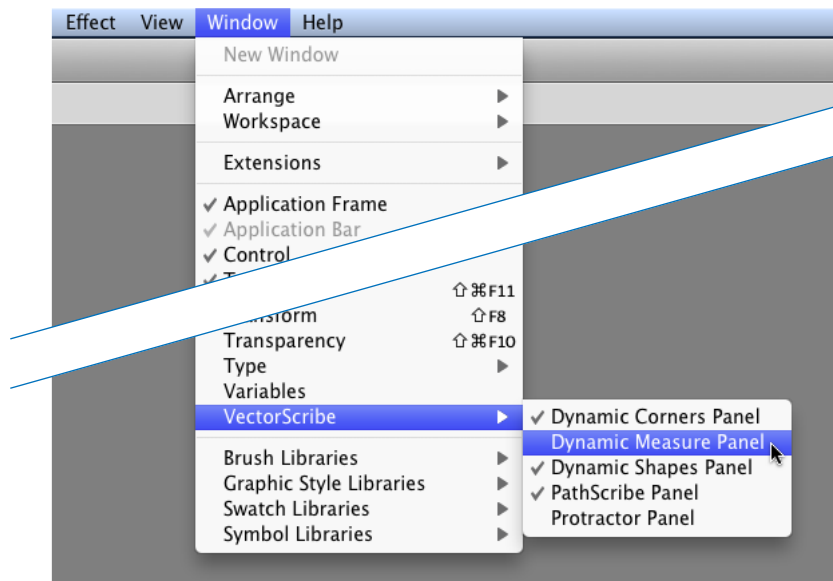


## Accessing VectorScribe's Tools

Once the VectorScribe plugin is installed, each of the tool's panels may be opened by clicking in turn on all entries via the Window » VectorScribe » ... menu (shown right).

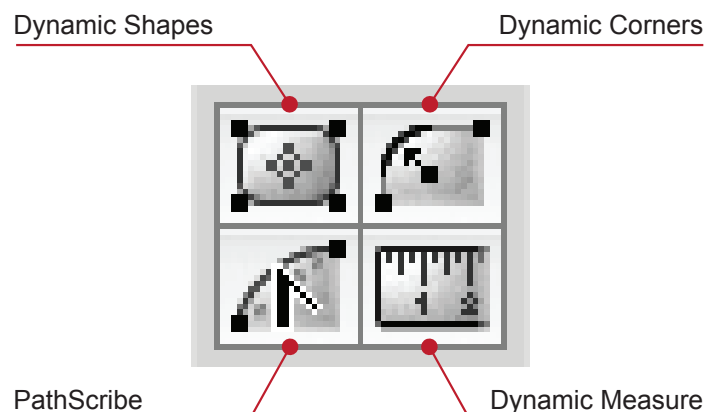
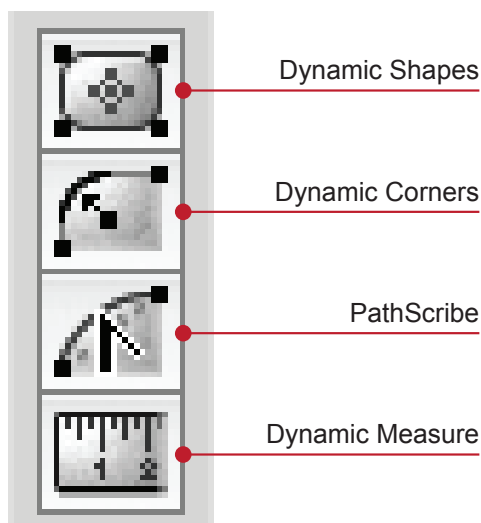
Alternatively, all VectorScribe Panels plus all other Astute Graphics plugin panels may be opened in a single operation by opting for Window » Show All Astute Graphics Panels

Once all the panels have been opened, they may be docked and arranged with standard Adobe Illustrator panels as normal.



## Toolbox tool buttons

VectorScribe adds 4 new tools in the Illustrator toolbox. Depending on whether your Illustrator toolbox is set to a single or double column state, they can be identified as below:





For the latest information, please visit the Astute Graphics website: [www.astutegraphics.com](http://www.astutegraphics.com)

## With thanks to...

We wish to thank all those who helped in the development and success of this product with special mentions to:

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