ASTUTE GRAPHICS

WIDTHSCRIBE

Introductory Manual

for

Version ①

🇬🇧 English

Contents

This Introductory Manual describes only what's required to get up-and-running with WidthScribe—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/widthscribe/movies.html

Installation

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

WidthScribe requires Adobe Illustrator CS5, CS6 or Illustrator Creative Cloud version 17 — referred to hereon as "CC(17)" — to operate.

Unified installer

WidthScribe is available for Illustrator CS5 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 CS5, CS6 and CC each require a different plug-in version.

Important!

You may require computer administrator rights to install WidthScribe.

Mac OS 10.5 and above

1. Quit Illustrator.

2. Open the "WidthScribe.dmg" disk image

3. Start the "WidthScribe" installer package and follow the instructions.
   *Note: the installer will attempt to seek all installations of Illustrator 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 WidthScribe... (Cancel closes the window).

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8

1. Quit Illustrator.

2. Open the *.zip* archive and extract the "WidthScribe.exe" program installer file.

3. Start the installer and follow the instructions.
   *Note: the installer will attempt to seek all installations of Illustrator 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 WidthScribe...

Notes

- If you later wish to install WidthScribe 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, WidthScribe 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/
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

- 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 WidthScribe and received your license key following purchase, follow:

Illustrator » About WidthScribe... (Mac OS)
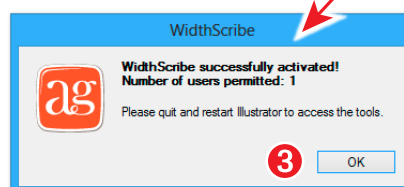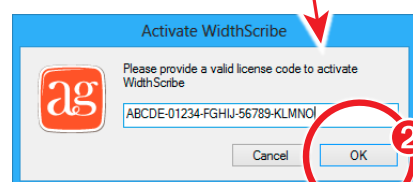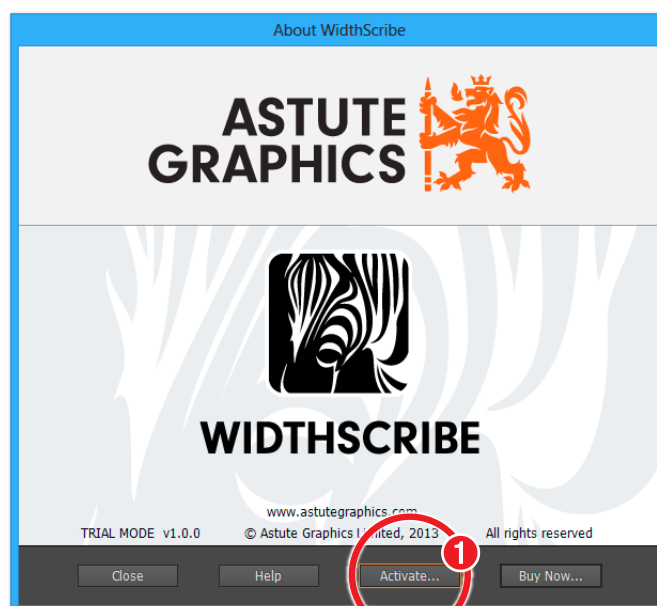Help » About WidthScribe... (Windows)

To license WidthScribe, 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 WidthScribe 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 » WidthScribe » Licensing...

The activation process may be repeated on all computers to be used by the concurrent user(s).
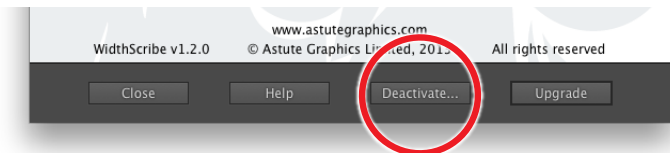
De-activating your computer

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 WidthScribe... (Mac OS)
>   Help » About WidthScribe... (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 » WidthScribe » menu also contains entries for the following services:

•   Check for Updates: opens a website page detailing the latest public versions of WidthScribe 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 WidthScribe, 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/ web page.

Introduction

WidthScribe offers a unique creative experience for vector designers—the ability to add panache and style to otherwise dull line strokes. Taking Adobe's Beautiful Stroke technology introduced in Illustrator CS5, WidthScribe gives you the ultimate power to vary the width of strokes in a free-form or precise fashion.

The more you delve into this tool, the more you will realise a whole new dimension to a design's potential!

Get more from WidthScribe - Movies

This Introductory Manual describes only what's required to get up-and-running with WidthScribe—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/widthscribe/movies.html

Get more from WidthScribe - Example files

Some great examples files are supplied with WidthScribe, including:

Power Lines
Created by leading designer Josh McKible, this artwork demonstrates Width Gradient Tool and Vary Width Markers to great effect.

Gizmo
Sketched by Laura Boast, this effective profile of a dog is brought to life by the variation in stroke widths using the Width Brush Tool.

Storyboard
International storyboard artist Edward Cook ensured an extra level of interest in these sketches using WidthScribe in combination with another Astute Graphics plugin, DrawScribe.

Mountain
Inspired by historic art from the far East, Astute Graphics blog tutorial author Iaroslav Lazunov makes great use of all WidthScribe tools.
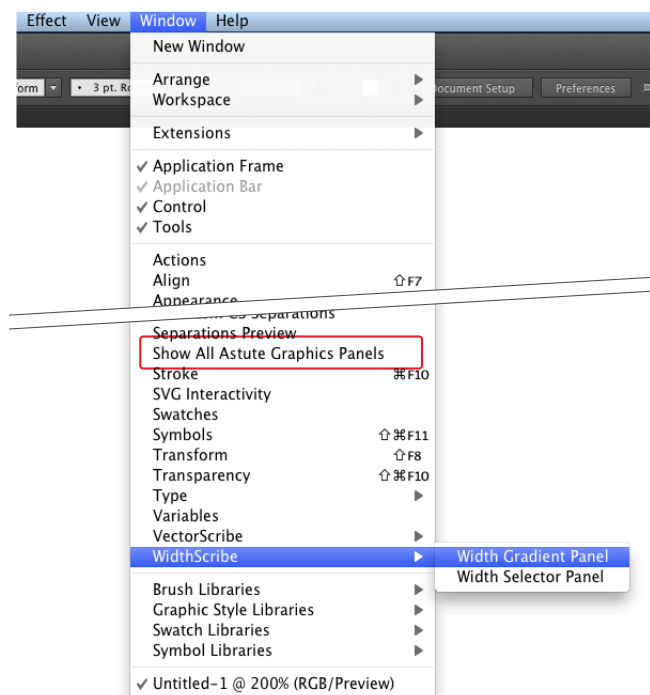
Opening the tool's panels and windows

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

Alternatively, opt for Window » Show All Astute Graphics Panels which opens all installed Astute Graphics panels (for all current latest plugins).

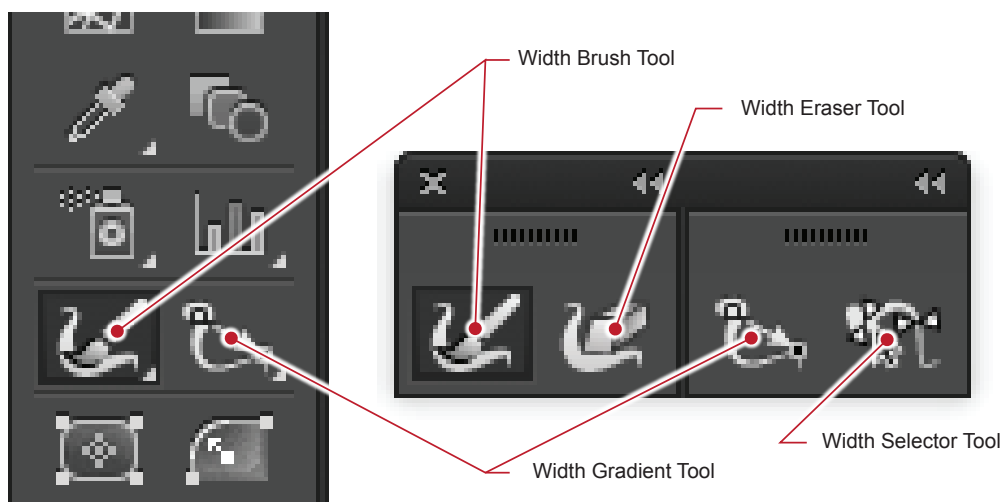Two other WidthScribe functions are also available via:

Object » Path » Optimise Width Markers...

Object » Path » Vary Width Markers...

Toolbox tool buttons

WidthScribe introduces 4 new tools in the Illustrator toolbox. Click-hold on the top-most tool icons to reveal the ones underneath. It is also possible to rip the tools off in separate dockable windows as shown below right:

Width Brush Tool

Width Eraser Tool

Width Gradient Tool

Width Selector Tool

For the latest information, please visit the Astute Graphics website: www.astutegraphics.com

With thanks to...

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