

UNDERSTANDING TYPE IN ILLUSTRATOR

Illustrator provides a range of tools for working with text and can therefore handle many of your desktop publishing needs. You can type text manually or import text files into an Illustrator

document. You can then apply text and paragraph formatting or create varied text effects. You can also convert text to editable paths so they behave like any other object.

Typing Text In Illustrator

There are three main kinds of type in Illustrator: **point type**, **area type** and **type on a path**. The tools to create type can be found in the **Type** group of tools on the **Tools** panel. You can use the **Type** tool, **Area Type** tool and **Type on a Path** tool to create **horizontal** text (where each new character is typed to the right of the preceding character), or the **Vertical Type** tool, **Vertical Area Type** tool and the **Vertical Type on a Path** tool to create **vertical** text (where each new character is typed below the preceding character). Each kind of type and the situations in which they may be most useful are briefly described below.

Point Type

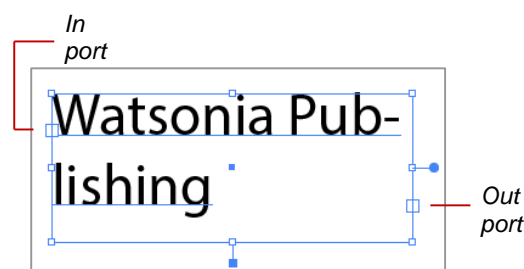
Point type is a horizontal or vertical line of text that continues along with each character you type until you press **Enter**. To create point type, select the **Type** tool in the **Tools** pane, click on the artboard at the point where you would like the text to start, then start typing. The type is anchored by the **point** that you create when you click to start typing. Point type is useful for adding a headline or a few words to your artwork, or for creating type that you plan to format and modify later.



Point type is anchored by a point that you create when you start typing

Area Type

Area type uses the boundaries of an object (such as a shape or a text frame) to control the flow of text. There are two ways you can create area type: you can use the **Type** tool to click and drag on the artboard to draw a text frame, or you can select the **Area Type** tool and click on the path of an existing object such as a rectangle. You can then start typing. When the text reaches the boundary of the object it will move to the next line. Area type is useful for large blocks of text that need to be formatted and flow across several pages, or for isolated text such as call-out boxes.



Area type is contained within a text frame and also contains an in port and an out port for text flow

Type On A Path

The **Type on a Path** tool allows you to type text along the open or closed path of an object. Simply select the **Type on a Path** tool, click on the path of the object at the point where you want to start typing and type your text. When you are finished typing you can select the text object and modify it as required. The text object includes three lines known as **indicators**: one at the beginning of the text (the **start point indicator**), one at the middle point of the text (the **centre point indicator**) and one at the end of the text (the **end point indicator**). You can click and drag these indicators to modify the spacing and position of the text on the path.

