

Adobe Photoshop

Photoshop and Illustrator Integration

Software needed: Adobe Photoshop 7.0 and Illustrator 10



Did you ever wonder how to move files between Photoshop and Illustrator (and vice-versa) most effectively? This tip and technique demonstrates the top nine ways that Photoshop 7 and Illustrator 10 play well together when moving files back and fourth between them.

1) Common UI

Across the Adobe product line, tools, palettes, features and keyboard shortcuts are created with consistency, logic and ease of use in mind. Where appropriate, products share core technologies such as the Save for web feature, the pen tool, type, pdf and color management. When needed however, both applications are customized to meet the needs of the customers such as the object-based model in Illustrator and the layer based model in Photoshop.

2) Consistent color settings

Color management settings from both Photoshop 7.0 and Illustrator 10.0 can be created, saved out as a file, loaded back into the other application and shared. Colors are also displayed consistently on screen and print accurately from either application.

3) Layers

You can export Illustrator files in native Photoshop format (.PSD) retaining Layer information, including stacking order, layer names, and sub layers, transparency, blend modes and opacity masks. When creating files to be exported from Illustrator to Photoshop (because Illustrator follows an object model and Photoshop a Layer model), it is to your advantage to apply effects in Illustrator to at the layers level (by targeting the layer) as oppose to the object level. When opening a layered Photoshop document in Illustrator, the option to support layers is available. This option keeps Photoshop layers separated so that changes like applying filters, repositioning and editing masks are available. (Note: not all layers (such as type and adjustment layers) are editable when opened in Illustrator)

4) Editable Text

Exporting text from Illustrator to Photoshop (as long as it's on it's own layer) remains editable. With large bodies of text, there might be a slight text reflow between the two applications when asked to convert the text if you try to edit it in Photoshop. Selecting type in Photoshop and copying it allows you to paste editable text in Illustrator.

5) Transparency and Blend Modes

Layer transparency and Blend Modes are maintained for Illustrator objects on their own layers when exporting from Illustrator as a PSD. Multiple objects with multiple transparency and Blend

Mode settings in a single layer in Illustrator will be flattened onto the same layer when exported to Photoshop keeping the layer Blend modes and Transparency for the layer. Photoshop files with layers, when opened in are converted into objects, retaining layer transparency and blend modes

6) Opacity masks

Opacity masks are retained on export from Illustrator to Photoshop. Likewise Illustrator has the ability to open Photoshop files with opacity masks and retain their information. Tell me, does it get any better than that?!

7) Vector paths

Paths from Illustrator (including Illustrator's 10's compound shapes) can be copied and pasted into Photoshop with the option to be defined as a path, shape layer, or pixels. Note: in order to do this, you must change the "Copy and Paste" Preferences in Illustrator 10 to copy "AICB" instead of PDF which is the default. In addition, placing Photoshop files with Layer clipping paths into Illustrator will remain editable even if they extend beyond the Photoshop image area. Photoshop paths can be copied and pasted into Illustrator to be used as spines for gradient blends, type on a path and masking.

8) Templates

Photoshop files placed into Illustrator in a variety of ways. They can be placed as templates (dimmed to a lesser opacity) and used for tracing or, they can be placed and embedded or placed as linked to be used as elements in a layout. Illustrator also understands Photoshop's transparency so no clipping paths are needed when you embed a file. Plus, when embedding a file from Photoshop into Illustrator, Illustrator will ask if you want to place the Photoshop file as a single flattened image or if you want to turn the Photoshop layers into individual objects.

9) Shared Plug-Ins

Photoshop and Illustrator can share third party Plug-Ins for raster filters.