


## Illustrator - bezier pen, advanced techniques

Using the main pen tools in Illustrator allows you to create the bezier paths but is limited unless you know how to use your keys to change direction of the curve.

Curves like this  are to flow in the same direction.

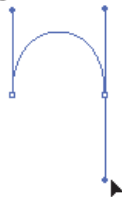
Curves like this  are to flow in the opposite direction.

To change the direction of a curve.

- click on the artboard and drag up to create the first control handle

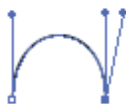


- click to the right of this point and drag down to create this new point's control handles

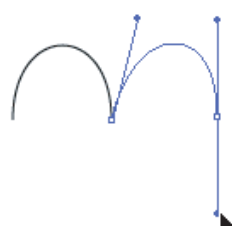


- with the pen tool still selected, bring the mouse over the last anchor point you created. When you are over it a small upside down v will appear next to it.

Hold down the alt button, click on the point and drag upwards to change the normal direction of the curve, creating the new handle in the same upward direction as the previous one.



- click to the right of the second anchor point and drag downward to complete the curve.



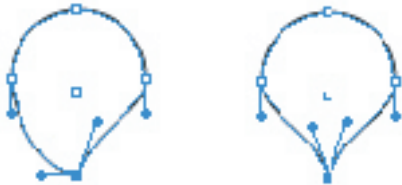
If you already have a shape created and need to adjust the control handles or direction of curve, you will again need to use the alt key, as illustrated on the example of this heart shape, created by transforming this circle.

To create a heart shape from a circle:

- create a circle and drag down the bottom anchor point with the direct selection tool



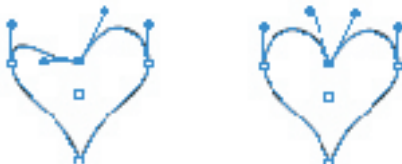
- hold down the Alt key, then click on the bottom right handle and move it up to change the direction of the curve - and do the same with the left side to create the tip of the heart.



- again, use the Direct Selection tool to move the top anchor point downwards.



- again, hold down the Alt key, then click on the right handle and move it up to change the direction of the curve - and do the same with the left side.



- the last step will be to adjust the shape of the heart to your liking and fill it with the chosen colour - try experimenting with different shapes.



# Illustrator - using the type tools

## the type tools



to create text with the type tool, do one of the following:

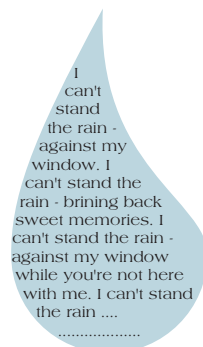
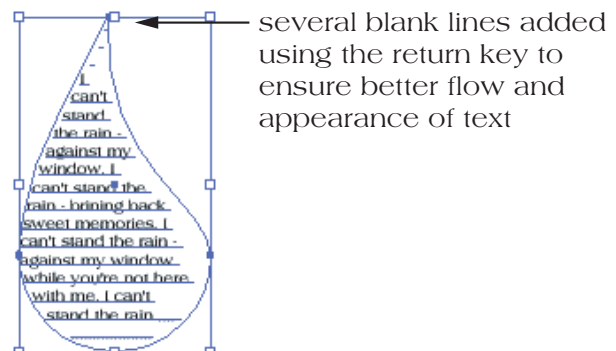
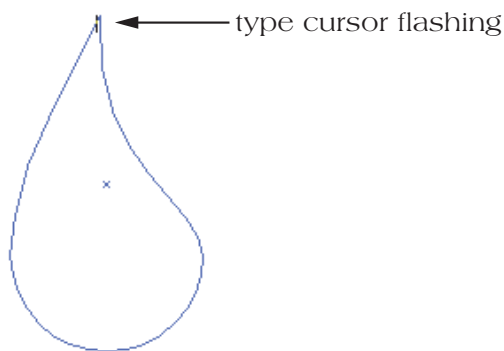
- select one of the type tools
- click on the artboard and start typing
- click and drag to create a text box, start typing  
in this case, the text will be constrained inside its box and stay within the boundaries.

## the area type tools

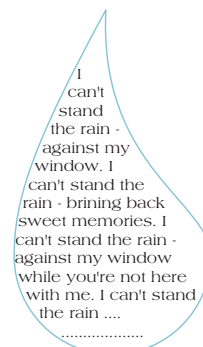


! before typing, create a copy of your shape for later use, if required !  
to use the area type tool, you will need a shape to be filled with the text.  
First create the desired shape, next:

- select one of the area type tools
- place the cursor over the path of the shape and click - you will see the type cursor flashing, indicating that you're ready to type in the text  
!! notice how the stroke colour disappears - you will need to make a copy of the shape if you intend to use either fill or stroke to define the shape !!
- start typing  
depending on the size of text, it will be constrained inside the shape.  
You might need to add a few spaces or returns if the top of the shape is very narrow.



before typing into the shape, a copy of the shape was created, filled with colour and put behind the text.



before typing into the shape, a copy of the shape was created, stroke applied and put behind the text.

## the path type tools



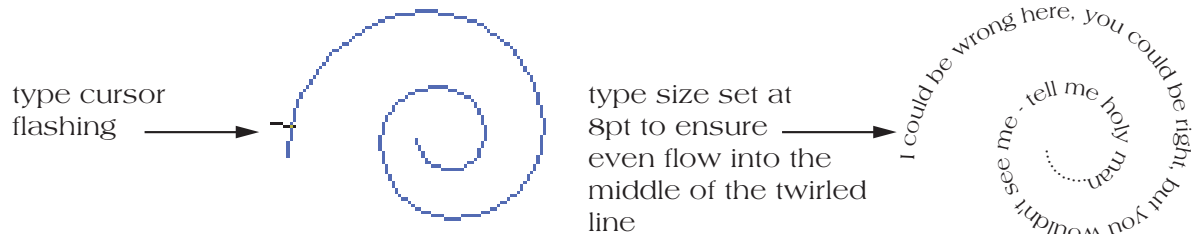
path type tool



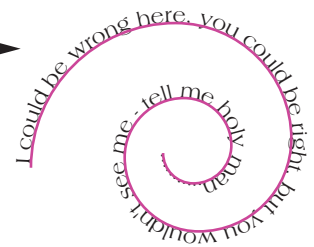
vertical path type tool

! before typing, create a copy of your path for later use, if required !  
to use the path type tool, you will need a path for the text to follow. First create the desired path, next:

- select one of the path type tools
- place the cursor over the path and click - you will see the type cursor flashing, indicating that you're ready to type the text  
!! again. notice how the stroke colour disappears - you will need to make a copy of the path if you intend to use either fill or stroke to define the line !!
- start typing  
the text will follow the lines and again its size affects its flow. For narrow curves, smaller text size is advised.



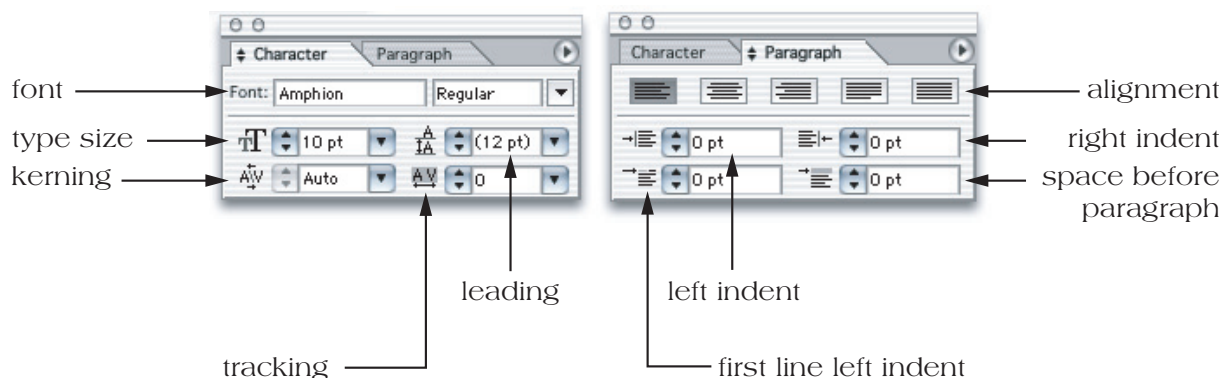
before typing onto the line, a copy of the path was created, stroke applied and aligned with the text.



## editing text

To edit the texts attributes such as font, size and alignment - call up the character and paragraph palette by doing one of the following:

- topmenu › window › type  
select either character or paragraph
- hold down the command key (ctrl for the PC) and press "T" (for character palette) or "M" (for paragraph palette).





## converting type to shapes

In order to edit any type further, ie alter its shape fundamentally - you need to convert it into a path. The 'create outlines' command will turn the selected text into shapes but you will no longer be able to adjust type attributes.

Experiment with different typefaces for this technique, not all fonts are suitable. Bold fonts with straight lines and simple outlines are easier to edit than more elaborate fonts with a lot of detail.

Before creating outlines, ensure that the text is set up as required, next:

- select the text with the selection tool



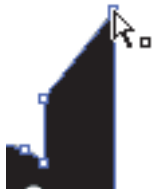
make sure to chose the selection tool - and not the type tool!

- top menu › type › create outlines



the text is now converted to a shape, anchor points have been created where needed.

- select the direct selection tool and start editing the anchor points



if the small square however has a black fill, you are about to move the line rather than a single anchor point.



the possibilities are endless and you can treat the text as you would any other shape in illustrator

### note...

- after creating outlines - all characters of the selected text will be grouped - to ungroup: top menu › object › ungroup
- if a font is corrupted or damaged - you will have problems with letters such as q, r, o, p, a, d, g, b as they contain a compound path which will not be created if the outlines of the font are not set up correctly. In this case you will either have to create it yourself manually, try to find an undamaged copy of the font file or chose a different font.



## logo design exercise

The brief for this exercise is to design a logo for a record company. You can decide on the name and the type of music, e.g. Rock, R&B, Drum&Bass, whichever.

The important thing to remember is to be clear about which type of image you'd like to portray to decide on which kind of logo is suitable. Keep in mind which audience to target, which influences in style and design need to be obvious.

### requirements:

- size: 5cm x 3cm
- set colour: black  
limit of 2 additional colours
- use of at least 2 letters in the overall logo

As you will need to get used to producing sketches for your projects - it would be a good idea to draw a few ideas out on paper first. Practise might not make perfect, but it sure helps ;)

Produce a few drawings and take note of your choice of colours and a few basic elements and then go into Illustrator to design your logo.