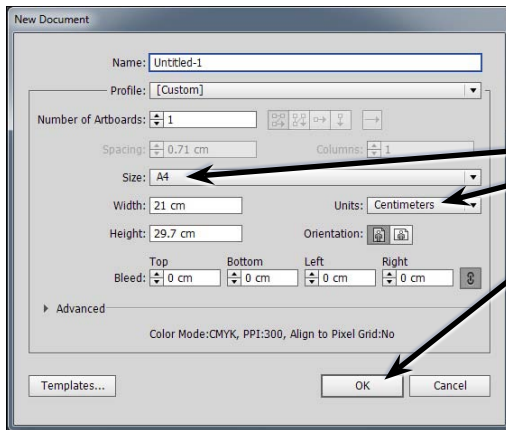


The Pen Tool

The PEN TOOL is one of Adobe Illustrator's more difficult tools, but a necessary tool for creating efficient and more detailed drawings. So, if you are intending to use Illustrator to its fullest, it is worth spending the time to learn the PEN TOOL.

Starting a New Document

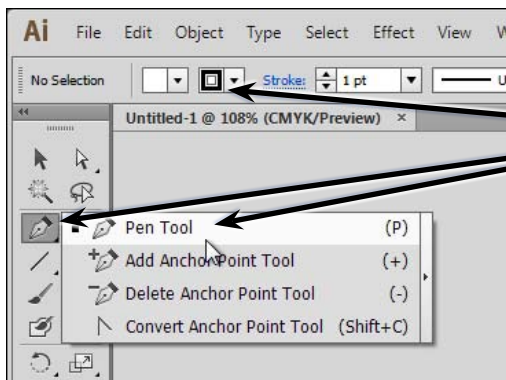
- 1 Load Adobe Illustrator CS6 or close the current document.
- 2 Display the FILE menu and select NEW to start a new document.



- 3 Set the SIZE to A4 (or the paper size your printer uses), the UNITS to CENTIMETRES and select OK.

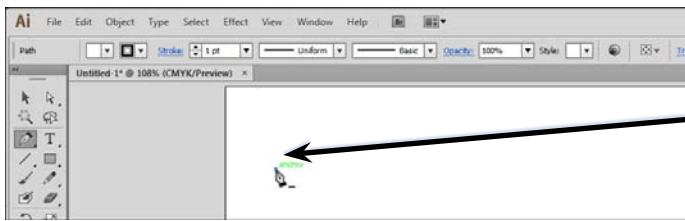
Drawing Straight Paths

The PEN TOOL can be used to quickly create joined straight lines or create objects with straight sides.

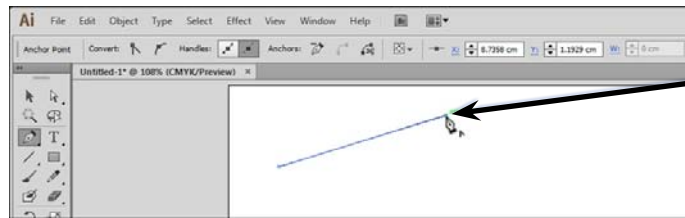


- 1 Select the PEN TOOL in the TOOLS panel and, in the CONTROL panel, select a STROKE COLOUR.

- 2 Press CTRL+0 or COMMAND+0 to set the view to FIT ON SCREEN.

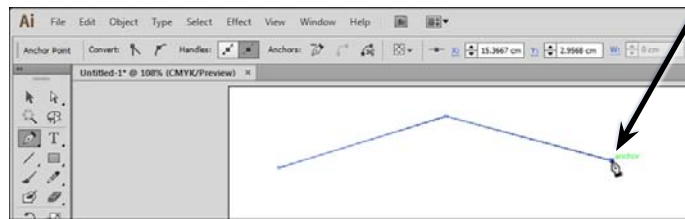


3 Position the pointer near the top left of the ARTBOARD and click the mouse button to set the start anchor point.

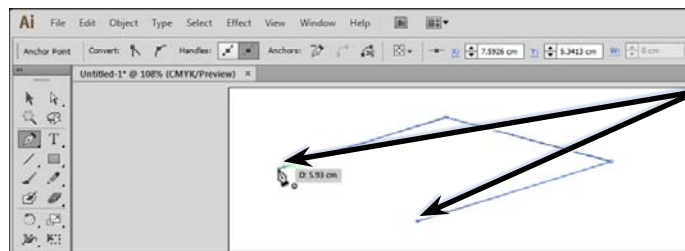


4 Click near the top centre of the ARTBOARD to set the second anchor point and a straight line segment is created.

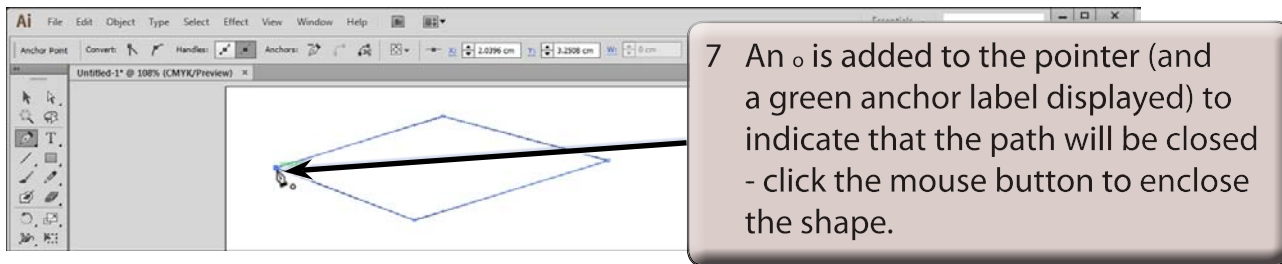
NOTE: You can set the STROKE WEIGHT for the line segment in the CONTROL panel as you did for the LINE SEGMENT TOOL.



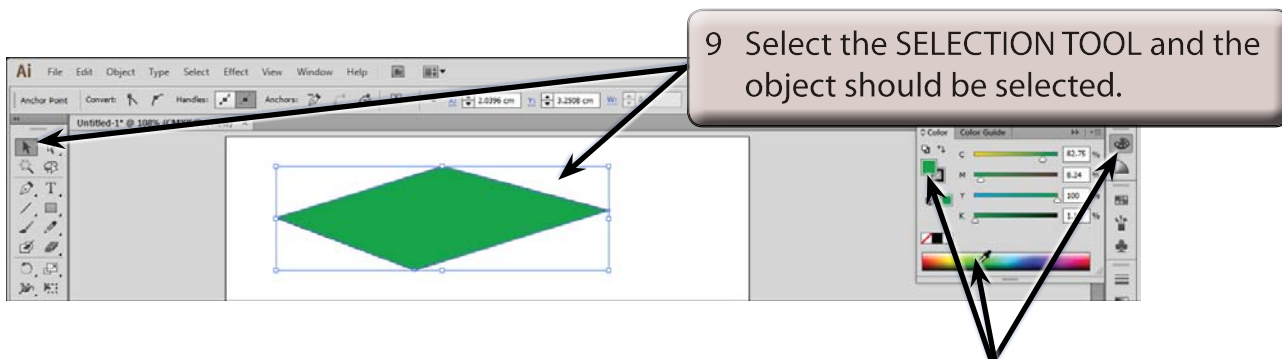
5 Click near the right of the ARTBOARD to set the third anchor point and another straight line segment is created.



6 Click near the centre of the ARTBOARD to create another line segment then move the pointer over the start anchor point.



- 8 You can now apply a fill to the object or move the object around the ARTBOARD like other objects you have created.

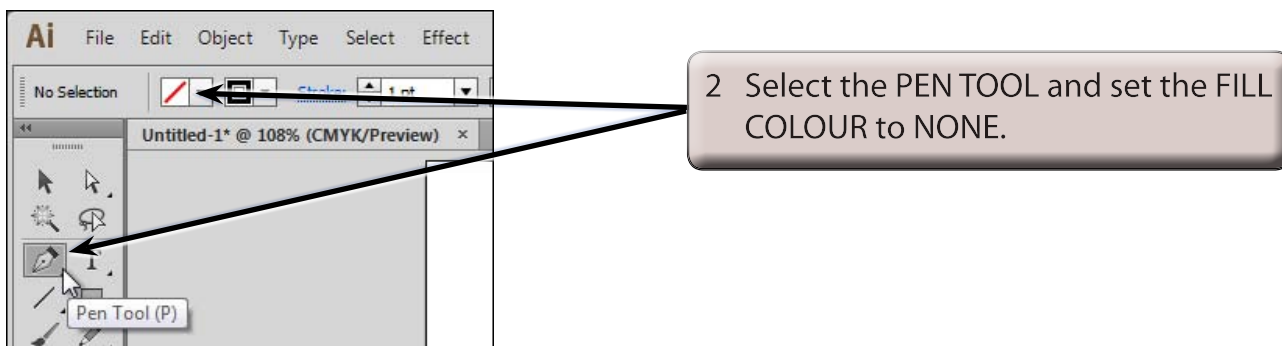


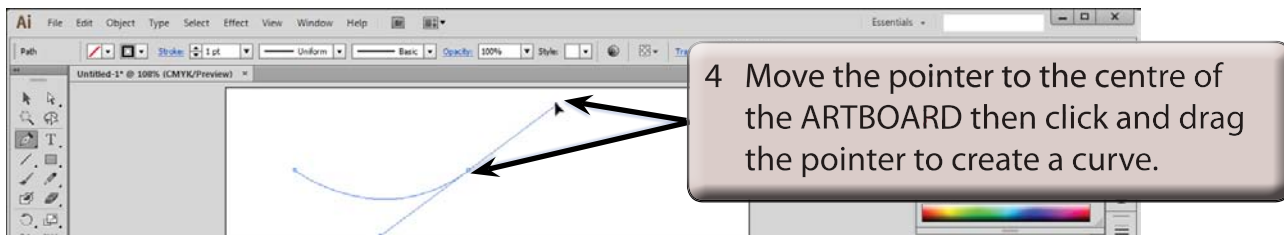
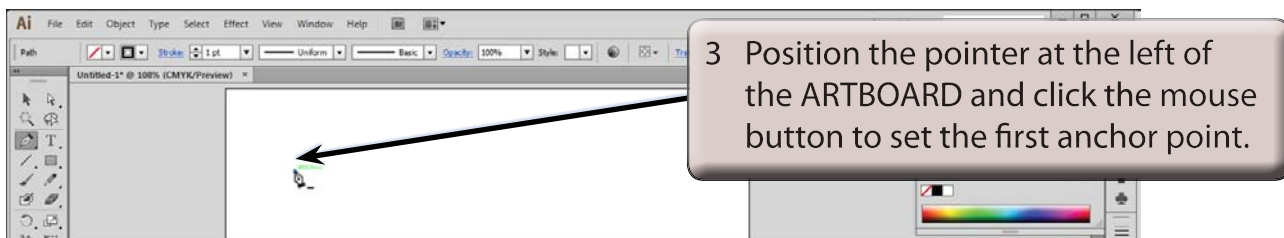
- 10 Expand the COLOUR panel, select the FILL BOX (left box) and select a colour to fill the shape.

Drawing Curved Paths

The PEN TOOL can be used to create curves with a minimum number of anchor points. This means that the shapes will print faster and be more accurate.

- 1 Delete the previous shape.





NOTE:

- i When you click and drag at an anchor point, lines with handles (called Bezier handles) are added to the anchor point and these handles can be dragged to adjust the curve.
- ii In general, you drag in the opposite direction that you want the curve to take.

5 Display the SELECT menu and select DESELECT to set the curve.

