

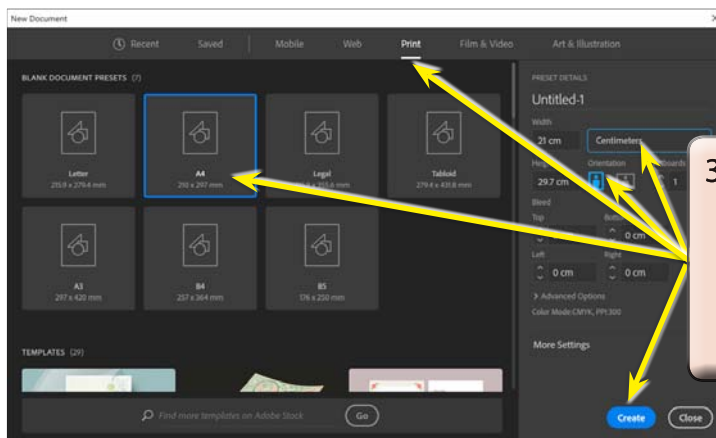
Image Tracing

One of Adobe Illustrator's most powerful tools is the IMAGE TRACE TOOL. It allows you to draw a rough sketch on paper (or find a sketch), scan it, import the scan into Illustrator and convert it to a vector image using the IMAGE TRACE TOOL. The image then acts like it was created in Illustrator.

IMAGE TRACE can also be used to convert photos to artwork. This can be useful if you have a poor quality photo that you want to use in a document and displaying it as artwork can hide the deficiencies in the photo. Setting a photo to a vector image can also reduce the file size of the photo.

Starting a New Document

- 1 Load Adobe Illustrator CC or close the current document.
- 2 Select CREATE NEW from the WELCOME screen or NEW from the FILE menu to start a new document.



- 3 Select the PRINT category followed by the A4 preset (or the paper size your printer uses), set the UNITS to CENTIMETRES, the ORIENTATION to PORTRAIT and select CREATE.

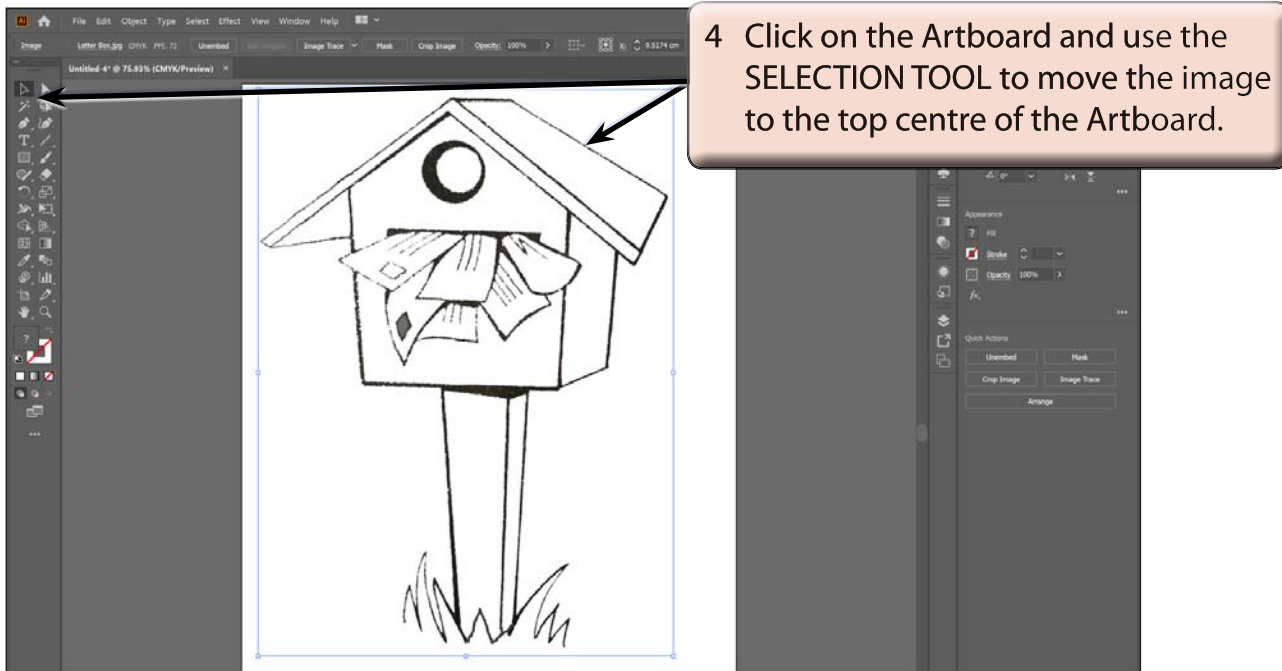
Tracing a Scanned Sketch

A scan of a letter box overflowing with letters has been prepared for you. It needs to be traced and converted into artwork.

A Importing the Scan

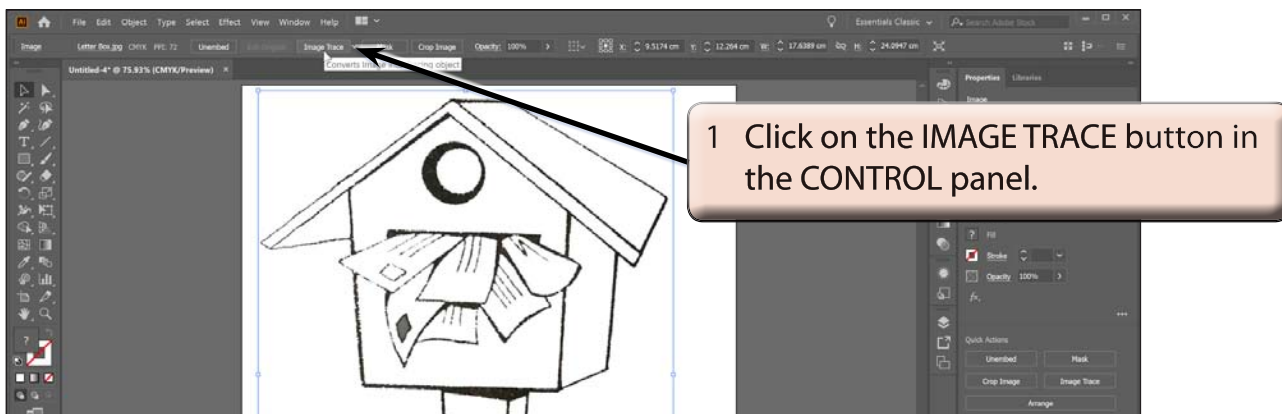
- 1 Display the FILE menu and select PLACE.
- 2 Access the ILLUSTRATOR CC SUPPORT FILES folder and open the CHAPTER 10 folder.

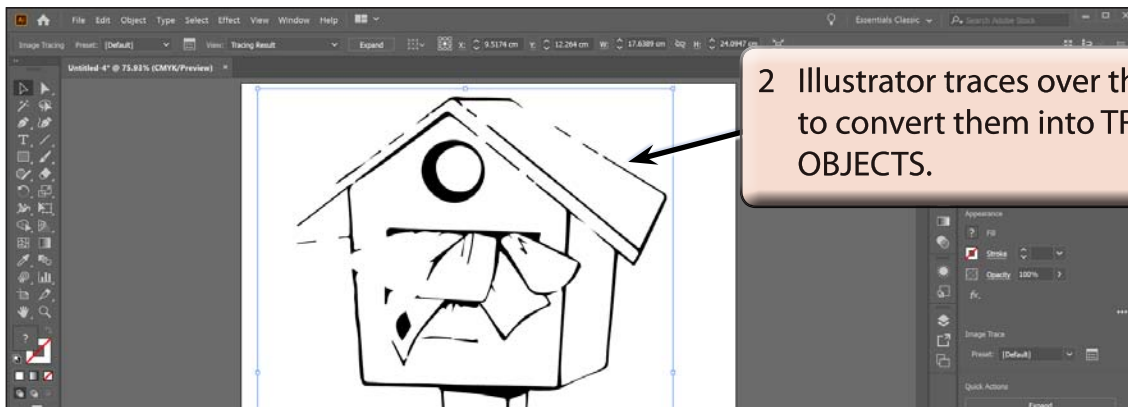
- 3 Select the LETTER BOX file, check that the LINK box is deselected and select PLACE.



NOTE: The image has been increased in size so that you will be able to see its sections more clearly. It will be reduced in size once its sections have been coloured in.

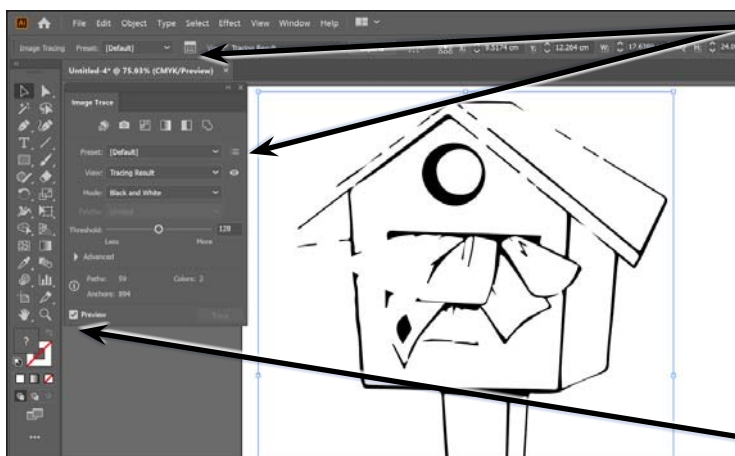
B Tracing the Scan





- NOTE:**
- i There are tracing presets in the CONTROL panel that can be applied to TRACING OBJECTS and these will be looked at a little later once you are familiar with the adjustment process.
 - ii If you prefer to use the PROPERTIES panel, click on the IMAGE TRACE button and select DEFAULT to create the trace.

3 The trace needs some help.

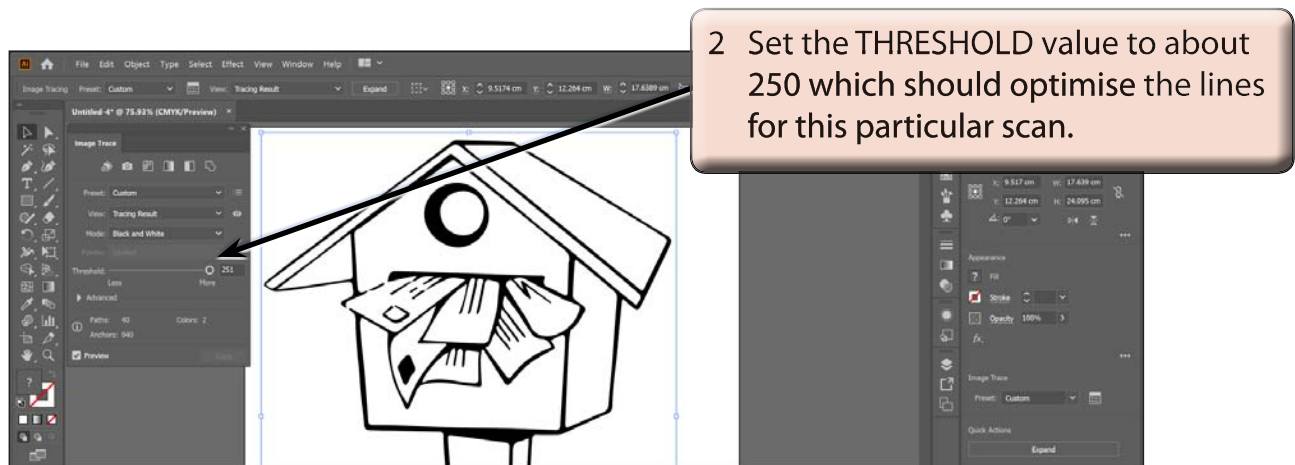
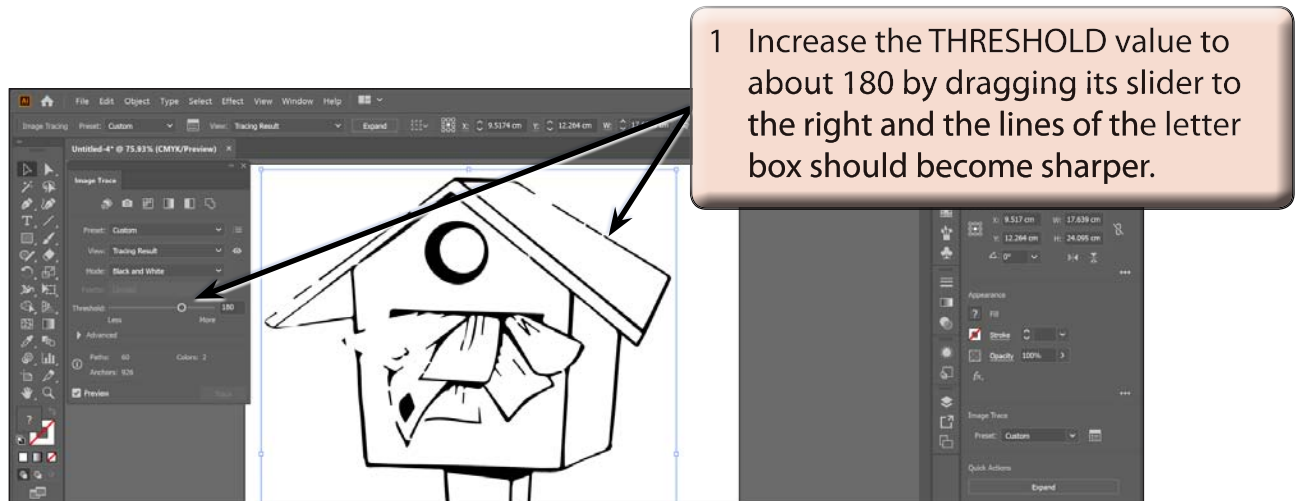


4 Click on the IMAGE TRACE PANEL icon in the CONTROL panel and move the IMAGE TRACE PANEL next to the scan.

5 Check that the PREVIEW box is turned on so that you can view the adjustments.

C Adjusting the Threshold

There are numerous options that can be adjusted in the IMAGE TRACE panel, but the main one for a scanned sketch is the THRESHOLD.



NOTE: The THRESHOLD controls how much black and white is displayed in the image.