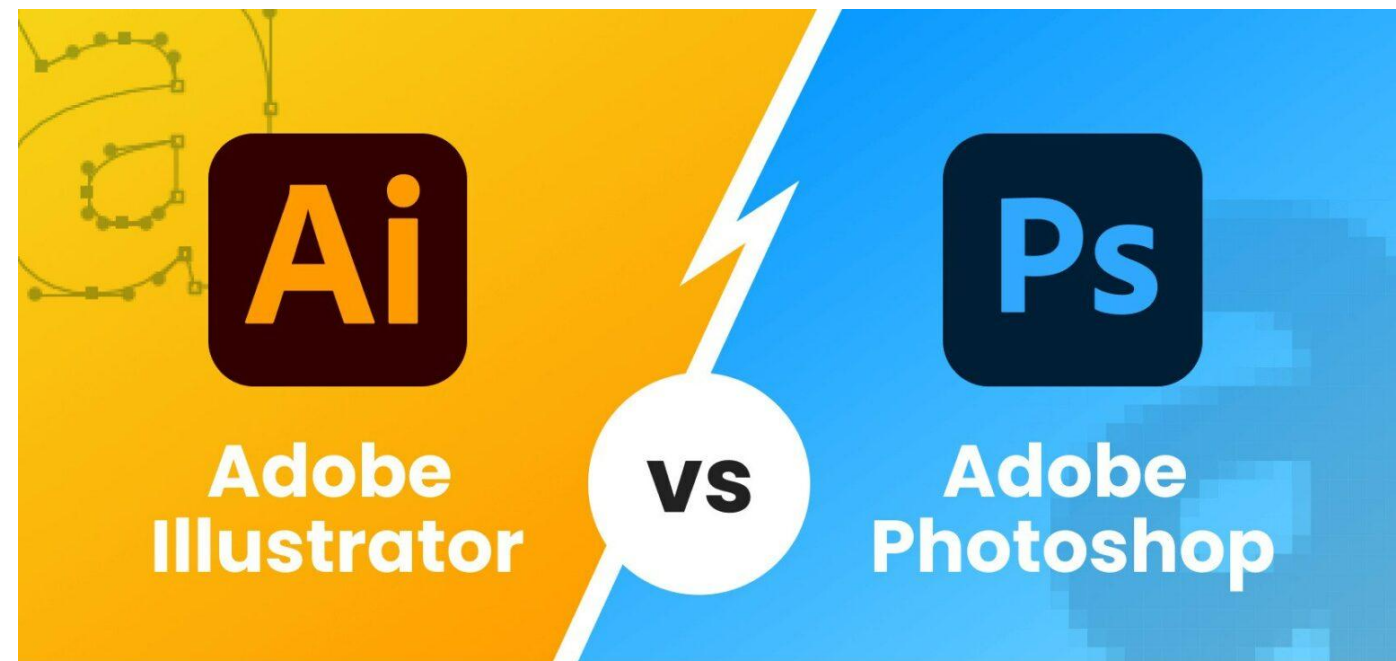


What Is the Difference Between Photoshop and Illustrator?

Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator are graphic design software. Both Photoshop and Illustrator are professional graphic designers' choices, as they come with loads of handy tools. As they are creative design software, the question may come to your mind: *What is the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator**?*

Photoshop is raster-based software, so it uses pixels to create images. What is Illustrator? Illustrator is vector-based software, so it uses points to create impeccably smooth lines. Photoshop is designed to edit and create raster-based photos, whereas Illustrator is used for making & editing vector-based graphics.

Photoshop was initially developed for photographers, but today all kinds of creative artists make the most of this software. Illustrator was initially developed as an easy-to-use drawing program, but nowadays, this software program is used to create refined drawings, designs, and layouts.



The Differences

Which Is Better: Photoshop or Illustrator?

Illustrator started its life before Photoshop in 1987. It was primarily made for typesetting and creating logos. Today, Illustrator has become a tool for graphic designers and digital artists. Both Photoshop and Illustrator are part of the Adobe Creative Cloud (CC) Suite.

Let us compare Photoshop vs Illustrator to determine: *Which one of the two software has the upper hand for performing specific tasks, and what is the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator**?*

1. Logo Design

Both Photoshop and Illustrator can be used to create a logo. Illustrator is a high-resolution software, and Photoshop is a low-resolution software, so the logo's quality can be affected if you use Photoshop to create a logo.

Moreover, the bitmap graphic formed in Photoshop cannot be resized without the loss of quality. On the other hand, Illustrator is a vector-based program, so a logo can be reshaped and resized using this software program.

Winner in Logo Designing: Adobe Illustrator.

2. Web Design

Photoshop is a pixel-based software, so it seems the optimal choice for designing on-screen media; however, if you have to design user interfaces, Illustrator has the edge over Photoshop.

Many web designers prefer using Photoshop over Illustrator for designing web layouts, as it has more handy tools for designing web layouts as compared to Illustrator; still, it does not mean Illustrator cannot be used to design web layouts. Photoshop has an edge with a little margin here.

Winner in Web Designing: Adobe Photoshop.

3. Digital Art

If you compare Adobe Illustrator vs Photoshop, you may come to know that Illustrator is the best software to produce clean and graphical illustrations, and Photoshop is the best to come up with photo-based illustrations.

When it comes to digital art, both Illustrator and Photoshop have many useful tools, especially if you consider the latest versions of Photoshop and Illustrator that imply Photoshop CC and Illustrator CC.

Winner in Digital Art: It's a Draw.

4. Sketching and Wireframing

Pen and paper are usually the starting point of graphic artists when it comes to sketching and wireframing, but many creative artists jump to graphics editing programs to perform this task.

As compared to Photoshop, Illustrator is a lot quicker and easier to use when it comes to sketching and wireframing. Illustrator allows designers to resize, control, and reuse elements quickly, so it has the upper hand.

Winner in Sketching and Wireframing: Adobe Illustrator

What Are Photoshop and Illustrator Used for?

You may have realized the main difference between Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop: that is, Photoshop is a software program based on raster graphics, and Illustrator is a software program based on vector graphics. However, there are even more differences between the two in terms of use.

1. The Users

Adobe Photoshop is a tool for designers, developers, graphic artists, photographers, and professionals to create low-resolution images; however, Adobe Illustrator is used by artists and graphic designers to create high-resolution images.

2. The Uses

Adobe Photoshop is a vital tool that is used for image editing, retouching, image composition, website mockups, and adding effects. Conversely, Adobe Illustrator is a tool that is used to create clean and beautiful works of art.

3. The Compatibility

If you are just a beginner as a graphic designer or a creative artist, you should first start using Adobe Photoshop to perfect your design skills. If you are not a rookie or an expert graphic designer, Adobe Illustrator is the software that is meant for you.

4. The Purpose

If you compare Adobe Illustrator vs Photoshop, you should also know that they have different purposes. Adobe Photoshop is an ideal software if you want to create web templates; on the other hand, Illustrator should be your choice for creating logo designs.

Do I Need Illustrator If I Have Photoshop?

It all depends on your needs, whether you need Illustrator together with Photoshop or not. If you carefully analyze the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator**, you can understand when to use Photoshop and when to use Illustrator.

When to Use Photoshop?

- *If your major goal is to edit an image or enhance it, Photoshop can help you out, as it comes with various useful tools and features for image editing and enhancements.*
- *If you want to make corrections to your existing work, such as adding a border, retouching, blemish removal, or other things like that, Photoshop is a handy software.*
- *If your artwork needs to be designed in pixels or you need to use raster-based graphics, Photoshop is the right choice.*
- *If you want to modify basic vector artworks, Photoshop will work for you in that case.*

When to Use Illustrator?

- *If you are going to create an image from scratch, based on your perception, you should go for Adobe Illustrator.*
- *If you want flexibility in a design, such as creating a freehand design, you should opt for Adobe Illustrator.*
- *If you want to convey your thoughts in the form of a logo, you should utilize Illustrator, as it comes with plenty of handy tools for designing professional logos.*
- *If you are working on vector-based projects that require you to create smooth edges, high-resolution images, and zooming capabilities, Adobe Illustrator is the right choice.*
- *If you want to create digital documents, such as annual reports and brochures, Illustrator can serve your purpose well.*
- *The plugins provided for Adobe Illustrator can help you turn a blank web page into a highly inspirational one.*

So the answer to the question about whether you need Illustrator if you have Photoshop can be inferred from the above-mentioned points. You should know the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator** to determine if you need Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator simultaneously or not.

Which Is Easier to Use: Photoshop or Illustrator?

If you are a graphic design student, you may accept that it is harder to work on Adobe Illustrator than Adobe Photoshop. The graphic design teachers have to invest more time to let students familiarize themselves with Adobe Illustrator than with Adobe Photoshop.

Adobe Photoshop is a program that works on layers. If students learn how to create layers in Photoshop, it becomes as easy as pie for students; on the other hand, Adobe Illustrator is software that heavily relies on professional tools, so it is more difficult to use Illustrator than Photoshop.

If you are a beginner or intermediate-level graphic designer, Illustrator is a software that is very hard to use for you. Nevertheless, Adobe Photoshop is a graphic design software that is ideal to use if you are a rookie or an intermediate-level graphic designer.

The more advanced tools of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator are for experts. There are also free tutorials available online on websites, such as YouTube, for mastering their advanced tools. Hopefully, you are now clearer about the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator**.

Can You Use Illustrator Files in Photoshop?

A question may come to the mind of a graphic artist: *Can I take my Illustrator (.ai) file into Photoshop and still keep it completely editable?* The answer is: Yes. Many graphic artists want to work this way. To help you out. Here is how to do this:

Take your prudently crafted Illustrator file with all its layers intact, and do not forget to name those layers if you want easy editing. Go to File→Export. Select Photoshop (.psd) from the drop-down menu and press Ok. Then, a dialog box will open containing ‘Photoshop Expert Options’. What’s next to do?

As we want to keep the file editable, we shall click the ‘Write Layers’ radio button. It will tell Illustrator to maintain the layers you have set intact when exporting to the Photoshop format. You will need to check the ‘Preserve Text Editability’ and ‘Maximum Editability’ checkboxes to keep your text completely editable.

Also, keep the Resolution at ‘High’ for web work. Press Ok. Now, your Illustrator file is a native, layered Photoshop file. Open your newly exported file in Photoshop, and you will realize that the layers are named just as they were in Illustrator while maintaining their transparency. This is done!

Similarities Between Photoshop and Illustrator

So far, we have been discussing the **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator**; however, there are also some similarities between the two software programs serving different purposes for graphic artists. Here are their similarities:

1. **Interface:** Both Photoshop and Illustrator are very similar in terms of the interface. Both of them have a tool palette, color palette, menu bar, alignment tools, etc.
2. **Layers:** Both applications have layers. Adobe Photoshop works completely on layers, while Adobe Illustrator can be deployed using a few layers.
3. **Clipping Mask:** Both Photoshop and Illustrator have the option of ‘Clipping Mask’. The clipping mask is an excellent way to insert an image in a particular shape. You can clip any image that you want to.
4. **Color Correction:** Both applications support color correction. Color correction is crucial for both images and videos. With color correction, you can adjust images’ ‘Hue’, ‘Saturation’, and ‘Contrast’.
5. **User-Friendliness:** Both Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator are user-friendly, and both can run on Windows and Mac.

However, these are not the only similarities between Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. If you keep using the two software programs, you will uncover more similarities between the two.

Conclusion

The main **difference between Photoshop and Illustrator** is that Photoshop is a raster-based software, and Illustrator is a vector-based software. Photoshop was initially made for photographers, and Illustrator was initially launched as an easy-to-use drawing program.

Sometimes, Photoshop is a better software. At times, Illustrator is better. For instance, if you want to design a professional logo, you should consider using Illustrator. However, if you need something for web design, you should consider utilizing Adobe Photoshop.

There are differences between Photoshop and Illustrator in terms of users, uses, compatibility, and purposes. Adobe Illustrator is the choice of many graphic design artists to create high-resolution images. Adobe Photoshop is the pick of graphic design artists for image editing.

The following question may come to the mind of a person who begins using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator: *Do I need to use Photoshop if I know Illustrator?* The answer is dependent on the purpose: *When to use Illustrator and when to use Photoshop.*

Some early users of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator also question: *Is it easier to deploy Photoshop or Illustrator?* The answer to this question depends on expertise. If you are an expert at using layers, Photoshop is easy. If you do not like working on layers, Illustrator is meant for you.

One of the major benefits of Illustrator is that designers can use Illustrator files in Photoshop. There are also several similarities between Photoshop and Illustrator in terms of interface, layers, clipping masks, color correction, and user-friendliness.

Knowing the differences between Photoshop and Illustrator, you can conclude: *Which software is better for you to use in terms of use?* Both Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator are highly useful software, so one cannot question their credibility.

Lastly, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator are software worth a try if you are into graphic design.