

Keys to working in Illustrator

From Sketchup:

Export>2d Graphic> PDF

Export from Sketchup using the scale options in the pdf export box.

They are not perfect, but you will get close. In Illustrator you can use the grid to fine tune your proportions.

In Illustrator

View>Show Grid (you can use ctrl/apple ; to hide and show the grid/guides)

About Illustrator>Preferences> Units and Grid

View>Outline (ctrl or apple Y) will allow you to work with just the vector view of your board elements.

This is faster and also more accurate when composing on a grid.

View>Show Rulers (ctrl or apple R) Use the rulers to drag out guides to align your elements.

Making your own poche pattern for use in Illustrator

1. Select a basic photograph that you can use as your base image. This could be a watercolor wash, or a material you are using. Select a piece that has a relatively even tonal range (no strong dark or light in the corners). Be creative with this choice, and experiment. You can preview how it will behave in Filter>Pattern Maker.
2. Crop a section of the photograph in Photoshop to a perfect square (hold down the shift key while drawing your marquee. Resize that section to between 400x400 or 600x600 pixels in the Image Size dialog box.
3. Save this file as a .jpg file.
4. In Photoshop go to Filter> Filter Gallery. Experiment with different filters. The filters with angled edges will tile well in Illustrator.
5. Save your filtered square images as additional .jpg files.
6. Place these files in Illustrator. They will come in a squares. With one active, select Edit>Define Pattern.
7. Activate a shape and then drag the Pattern swatch over the shape.

Live Paint Bucket options

The Live Paint Bucket options let you specify how the Live Paint Bucket tool works, choosing whether to select and paint just fills, just strokes, or both, as well as how to highlight faces and edges as you move the tool over them. You can see these options by double-clicking the Live Paint Bucket tool.

Note: The Paint Bucket tool no longer exists. The new Live Paint Bucket tool is used exclusively for Live Paint groups.

Paint Fills Paints the faces of Live Paint groups.

Paint Strokes Paints the edges of Live Paint groups.

Highlight Outlines the face or edge the cursor is currently over. Faces are highlighted with a thick line and edges are highlighted with a thin line.

Color Sets the color for the highlight. You can choose a color from the menu or click the paint swatch to specify a custom color.

Width Specifies how thick to make the selection highlight.

Live Trace

There may be times when you want to base a new drawing on an existing piece of artwork. For example, you may want to create a graphic based on a pencil sketch drawn on paper or on a raster image saved in another graphics program. In either case, you can bring the graphic into Illustrator and trace over it.

The easiest way to trace artwork is to open or place a file into Illustrator and automatically trace the artwork with the Live Trace command. You can control the level of detail and how the tracing is filled. When you are satisfied with the tracing results, you can convert the tracing to vector paths or a Live Paint object. Select the object and choose Object>Live Trace>Expand