COMMERCIAL DESIGN

ILLUSTRATOR TUTORIAL

SHAPE BUILDER TOOL

Check out the following instructional videos to learn about this wonderful adobe Illustrator function:

(simple demo)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmmHcr6lddg

(More advanced)

http://tv.adobe.com/watch/learn-illustrator-cs5/creating-complex-art-with-the-shape-builder-tool-/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J551Tz0pJwE

The following runs through the tools and functions important to successful Shape creation and building. Most of this info is related in the above tutorials but make sure you refer to it often during the process.

RECTANGLE TOOL (shape creation tool)

Allows you to draw rectangles, squares, elipses, circles, etc.

Select the shape from the drop down that you wish to create. The click and drag to create the shape in the size and dimensions you wish.

If you hold down the SHIFT key while in this function you can create perfect circles or squares.

If you hold down the OPTION key while in this function it allows you to create a shape from the center rather than the edge.

PEN TOOL

Allows you to create anchor points that will automatically be connected with a line.

This tool allows you to freehand more complex shapes with straight lines.

LINE TOOL

Allows you to create straight lines as well as freehand shapes

SELECT TOOL

Click and drag over an entire image or area to select the element or elements within that area. (you need to select elements before you can manipulate them)

Press OPTION when you are within the SELECT function and click on a shape in order to duplicate that shape.

In order to move an object, click on it with the selection tool and drag it to where you want it OR select it and use your arrow keys for fine maneuvering.

DIRECT SELECTION TOOL

Will show and select anchor points.

If you want to change the location of an anchor point, thereby altering the shape of an object or the angle of a line, select the anchor point using the direct selection tool and use the arrow keys to move that point around.

You can also change the shape or size of objects by click on the line between two anchor points and dragging it around.

SHAPE BUILDING TOOL

Click and drag over two or more overlapping or touching shapes to merge them.

By pressing OPTION while in the function you change the “merge” mode to a “subtraction” mode. You will a see a subtraction sign next to the cursor.

To create black objects select black on your colour palette before merging two shapes.

ROTATE TOOL

Rotate shapes and objects once you have selected them.