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Acknowledgement

ABOUT AGAINST THE CLOCK

Against The Clock, long recognized as one of the nation's leaders in courseware development, has been publishing high-quality educational materials for the graphic and computer arts industries since 1990. The company has developed a solid and widely-respected approach to teaching people how to effectively utilize graphics applications, while maintaining a disciplined approach to real-world problems.

Having developed the *Against The Clock* and the *Essentials for Design* series with Prentice Hall/Pearson Education, ATC drew from years of professional experience and instructor feedback to develop *The Professional Portfolio Series*, focusing on the Adobe Creative Suite. These books feature step-by-step explanations, detailed foundational information, and advice and tips from industry professionals that offer practical solutions to technical issues.

Against The Clock works closely with all major software developers to create learning solutions that fulfill both the requirements of instructors and the needs of students. Thousands of graphic arts professionals — designers, illustrators, imaging specialists, prepress experts, and production managers — began their educations with Against The Clock training books. These professionals studied at Baker College, Nossi College of Art, Virginia Tech, Appalachian State University, Keiser College, University of South Carolina, Gress Graphic Arts Institute, Hagerstown Community College, Kean University, Southern Polytechnic State University, Brenau University, and many other educational institutions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erika Kendra holds a BA in History and a BA in English Literature from the University of Pittsburgh. She began her career in the graphic communications industry as an editor at Graphic Arts Technical Foundation before moving to Los Angeles in 2000. Erika is the author or co-author of more than twenty books about Adobe graphic design software. She has also written several books about graphic design concepts such as color reproduction and preflighting, and dozens of articles for online and print journals in the graphics industry. Working with Against The Clock for more than ten years, Erika was a key partner in developing *The Professional Portfolio Series* of software training books.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS, ARTISTS, AND EDITORS

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- Matthew Guanciale, Against The Clock, Inc

Finally, thanks also to Angelina Kendra, editor, for making sure that we all said what we meant to say.

Ski Resort Map

Walk-Through

 Inis project incorporates the following skills:
Accessing and managing built-in libraries of a and symbols and symbols Defining courses at and pattern beamless for specific applicat A specific and concretaling break warkes in relation to pathol Soring user-defined libraries created models and Soring user-defined libraries created by other users Understanding and corasing symbols anymbol instances Transforming symbol in tapleted instances Creations a cloping mash.

a dipping mask

Project Goals

Each project begins with a clear description of the overall concepts that are explained in the project; these goals closely match the different "stages" of the project workflow.

Project Meeting



The Project Meeting

Each project includes the client's initial comments, which provide valuable information about the job. The Project Art Director, a vital part of any design workflow, also provides fundamental advice and production requirements.

Project Objectives

Each Project Meeting includes a summary of the specific skills required to complete the project.



Real-World Workflow

Projects are broken into logical lessons or "stages" of the workflow. Brief introductions at the beginning of each stage provide vital foundational material required to complete the task.



Step-By-Step Exercises

Every stage of the workflow is broken into multiple hands-on, step-by-step exercises.

Visual Explanations

Wherever possible, screen shots are annotated so you can quickly identify important information.





Illustrator Foundations

Additional functionality, related tools, and underlying graphic design concepts are included throughout the book.





different aspects of the job.

Portfolio Builder Projects

Each step-by-step project is accompanied by a freeform project, allowing you to practice skills and creativity, resulting in an extensive and diverse portfolio of work.

The Against The Clock Portfolio Series teaches graphic design software tools and techniques entirely within the framework of real-world projects; we introduce and explain skills where they would naturally fall into a real project workflow.

The project-based approach in The Professional Portfolio Series allows you to get in depth with the software beginning in Project 1 - you don't have to read several chapters of introductory material before you can start creating finished artwork.

Our approach also prevents "topic tedium" — in other words, we don't require you to read pages and pages of information about text (for example); instead, we explain text tools and options as part of larger project (e.g., creating a logotype or building a folding brochure).

Clear, easy-to-read, step-by-step instructions walk you through every phase of each job, from creating a new file to saving the finished piece. Wherever logical, we also offer practical advice and tips about underlying concepts and graphic design practices that will benefit you as you enter the job market.

The projects in this book reflect a range of different types of Illustrator jobs, from creating a series of icons to designing a corporate identity to building a Web page. When you finish the eight projects in this book (and the accompanying Portfolio Builder exercises), you will have a substantial body of work that should impress any potential employer.

The eight Illustrator CS6 projects are described briefly here; more detail is provided in the full table of contents (beginning on Page viii).



Glanc

Drawing Basic Shapes



Balloon Festival Artwork project 2

- Drawing Complex Artwork
- Coloring and Painting Artwork
- Exporting EPS and PDF Files





Identity Package

- Working with Gradient Meshes
- □ Working with Type Working with Multiple Artboards
- Combining Text and Graphics

Ski Resort Map

- $\hfill\square$ Working with Custom Swatches
- □ Working with Brushes
- □ Using Symbols





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Letterfold Brochure

- Creating Documents that Fold
- □ Working with Imported Images
- □ Working with Imported Text



oroject 6

Cereal Box

- Building the File Structure
- Understanding Package Requirements
- Working with Effects
- Preparing Artwork for Output
- Previewing the Box Design in 3D



Consumer Infographics Creating Charts and Graphs Drawing in Perspective Unawing in Per

Web Site Interface Using Image Trace and Live Color Creating Web Site Graphics

olect

Our goal in this book is to familiarize you with the majority of the Illustrator tool set so you can be more productive and more marketable in your career as a graphic designer.

rking Solution

It is important to keep in mind that Illustrator is an extremely versatile and powerful application. The sheer volume of available tools, panels, and features can seem intimidating when you first look at the software interface. Most of these tools, however, are fairly simple to use with a bit of background information and a little practice.

Wherever necessary, we explain the underlying concepts and terms that are required for understanding the software. We're confident that these projects provide the practice you need to be able to create sophisticated artwork by the end of the very first project.

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GETTING STARTED

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