I'm not a bot

Designers and artists often face the challenge of accurately reproducing colors across different mediums and devices. One of the most widely used color systems is the Pantone color matching system, which provides a standardized way of matching colors. In the context of Adobe Illustrator, finding Pantone colors can be a bit tricky, but with the right techniques and tools, its definitely achievable. In this comprehensive guide, well walk you through the steps to find Pantone colors in Illustrator, including the different methods and tools available, and provide tips and tricks to help you master the process.Understanding Pantone Colors and Illustrator Pantone colors are a specific set of colors that are defined by the Pantone Matching System (PMS), which is widely used in the printing industry. Each Pantone color has a unique number and is characterized by its specific hue, saturation, and lightness. In Illustrator, Pantone colors are represented as a special type of color called a Pantone Color or Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated color. These colors are created using a specific set of color values that correspond to the Pantone color number.To find Pantone colors in Illustrator, youll need to have a good understanding of the Pantone color system and how it works. Youll also need to know how to use the different tools and features available in Illustrator to create and work with Pantone colors. In this section, well cover the basics of the Pantone color system and how it relates to Illustrator.Pantone Color System BasicsThe Pantone color system is based on a specific set of color values that are defined by the Pantone Matching System. Each Pantone color has a unique number, which is used to identify the color. The Pantone color system includes a wide range of colors, including solids, pastels, metallics, and fluorescents. Each color has a specific hue, saturation, and lightness, which are used to define its unique characteristics.The Pantone color system is widely used in the printing industry, as it provides a standardized way of matching colors. In Illustrator, Pantone colors are represented as a special type of color called a Pantone Color or Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated color. These colors are created using a specific set of color values that correspond to the Pantone color number. Pantone Color NumbersPantone color numbers are used to identify specific colors in the Pantone color system. Each Pantone color number corresponds to a specific set of color values, which define the colors hue, saturation, and lightness. Pantone color numbers are usually represented as a five-digit number, followed by a letter (e.g., 2965C). The first two digits represent the colors hue, the next two digits represent the colors saturation, and the final digit represents the colors lightness.Working with Pantone Colors in IllustratorTo find Pantone colors in Illustrator, youll need to know how to work with Pantone colors using the different tools and features available in the program. In this section, well cover the basics of working with Pantone colors in Illustrator, including how to create and apply Pantone colors, and how to use the Pantone color picker.Creating Pantone Colors in IllustratorTo create a Pantone color in Illustrator, youll need to use the Pantone color picker. To access the Pantone color picker, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to create a Pantone color. You can then enter the Pantone color number in the Pantone Color Number field, and click OK to create the color. Applying Pantone Colors in IllustratorTo apply a Pantone color to a shape or object in Illustrator, simply select the shape or object and go to the Color panel. Click on the Pantone button and select the Pantone color you want to apply from the drop-down menu. You can also use the Pantone color picker to select a Pantone color and apply it to a shape or object. (See Also: Why Is My Beard Multiple Colors? The Surprising Answer)Pantone Color Picker in IllustratorThe Pantone color picker in Illustrator allows you to select a Pantone color from a list of available colors. To access the Pantone color picker, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to access the Pantone color picker. You can then select a Pantone color from the list and click OK to apply it to a shape or object.Methods for Finding Pantone Colors in IllustratorThere are several methods for finding Pantone colors in Illustrator, including using the Pantone color picker, using the Pantone color book, and using online resources. In this section, well cover the different methods for finding Pantone colors in Illustrator.Using the Pantone Color PickerThe Pantone color picker in Illustrator allows you to select a Pantone color from a list of available colors. To access the Pantone color picker, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to access the Pantone color picker. You can then select a Pantone color from the list and click OK to apply it to a shape or object.Using the Pantone Color BookThe Pantone color book is a physical book that contains a list of Pantone colors, along with their corresponding color values. To use the Pantone color book, simply look up the Pantone color number you want to use and enter the corresponding color values in the Color panel in Illustrator.Using Online ResourcesThere are several online resources available that can help you find Pantone colors in Illustrator. These resources include Pantones official website, which provides a list of Pantone colors and their corresponding color values. You can also use online color pickers, such as Adobe Color or Color Hunt, to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values.Using Adobe ColorAdobe Color is a free online color picker that allows you to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values. To use Adobe Color, simply go to the Adobe Color website and select a Pantone color from the list. You can then copy and paste the color values into the Color panel in Illustrator.Using Color HuntColor Hunt is another online color picker that allows you to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values. To use Color Hunt, simply go to the Color Hunt website and select a Pantone color from the list. You can then copy and paste the color values into the Color panel in Illustrator. (See Also: How to Fill Excel Rows with Alternate Colors? Easily)Tips and Tricks for Finding Pantone Colors in IllustratorHere are some tips and tricks for finding Pantone colors in Illustrator:Use the Pantone Color PickerThe Pantone color picker in Illustrator is a powerful tool that allows you to select a Pantone color from a list of available colors. To use the Pantone color picker, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to access the Pantone color picker.Use the Pantone Color BookThe Pantone color book is a physical book that contains a list of Pantone colors, along with their corresponding color values. To use the Pantone color book, simply look up the Pantone color number you want to use and enter the corresponding color values in the Color panel in Illustrator.Use Online ResourcesThere are several online resources available that can help you find Pantone colors in Illustrator. These resources include Pantones official website, which provides a list of Pantone colors and their corresponding color values. You can also use online color pickers, such as Adobe Color or Color Hunt, to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values. You can also use online color pickers, such as Adobe Color or Color Hunt, to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values.Use the Eyedropper ToolThe eyedropper tool in Illustrator allows you to select a color from a shape or object and get its corresponding color values. To use the eyedropper tool, simply select the shape or object and go to the Color panel. Click on the Eyedropper button and select the color you want to use.Recap and Key PointsIn this comprehensive guide, weve covered the different methods for finding Pantone colors in Illustrator, including using the Pantone color picker, using the Pantone color book, and using online resources. Weve also covered some tips and tricks for finding Pantone colors in Illustrator, including using the Pantone color picker, using the Pantone color book, and using online resources.Key PointsHere are the key points to remember when finding Pantone colors in Illustrator:Use the Pantone color picker to select a Pantone color from a list of available colors.Use the Pantone color book to look up Pantone color numbers and enter the corresponding color values in the Color panel in Illustrator.Use online resources, such as Pantones official website or online color pickers like Adobe Color or Color Hunt, to select a Pantone color and get its corresponding color values.Use the eyedropper tool to select a color from a shape or object and get its corresponding color values.Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)FAQsQ: What is the Pantone color system?A: The Pantone color system is a standardized way of matching colors, which is widely used in the printing industry. Each Pantone color has a unique number and is characterized by its specific hue, saturation, and lightness. (See Also: How Much Are Gameboy Colors Worth? Collectors Edition Guide)Q: How do I create a Pantone color in Illustrator?A: To create a Pantone color in Illustrator, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to create a Pantone color. You can then enter the Pantone color number in the Pantone Color Number field, and click OK to create the color.Q: How do I apply a Pantone color to a shape or object in Illustrator?A: To apply a Pantone color to a shape or object in Illustrator, simply select the shape or object and go to the Color panel. Click on the Pantone button and select the Pantone color you want to apply from the drop-down menu.Q: What is the Pantone color picker in Illustrator?A: The Pantone color picker in Illustrator is a powerful tool that allows you to select a Pantone color from a list of available colors. To use the Pantone color picker, go to the Color panel and click on the Pantone button. From the drop-down menu, select Pantone Solid Coated or Pantone Solid Uncoated to access the Pantone color picker.Q: How do I use online resources to find Pantone colors in Illustrator?A: To use online resources to find Pantone colors in Illustrator, simply go to the website of the online resource (such as Pantones official website or online color pickers like Adobe Color or Color Hunt) and select a Pantone color from the list. You can then copy and paste the color values into the Color panel in Illustrator. Although most of the projects use either CMYK or RGB mode, they are not always enough. What if you want to use Pantone colors for products? If you use Adobe Illustrator for fashion design, its a good idea to have the Pantone palettes handy. Normally we use CMYK color mode for print. Well, more specifically printing on paper, because printing on other materials is another story. Technically, you can use CMYK or RGB to print on products, but having the Pantone colors is a better option. In this article, youll learn how to find and use Pantone colors in Adobe Illustrator. Note: all screenshots are taken from Adobe Illustrator CC Mac version. Windows or other versions can look different.Since August 2022, Pantone Color Books are not available in Illustrator anymore. So if you want to find the Pantone color swatch, you do need to get the older version of Illustrator. You wont be able to choose Pantone as a color mode, but you can find it in the Swatches panel or when you recolor artwork. If you havent opened the Swatches panel already, go to Window > Swatches. Click on the hidden menu and choose Open Swatch Library > Color Books and then choose one of the Pantone options. Usually, I choose Pantone+ CMYK Coated or Pantone+ CMYK Uncoated depending on the project. Once you chose an option, a Pantone panel will appear. Now you can apply Pantone colors to your artwork. If youre using any Illustrator version later than the 2023 update, you wont see the Pantone swatches in the Color Books anymore. In this case, you need to uninstall your current Illustrator version from Adobe Creative Cloud and download the older version of Adobe Illustrator. From there, you can copy the Pantone swatches and paste them into your current version folder. Here are some recommendations from Adobe, including the detailed steps to make the swatches transfer: Learn about the Pantone Plus libraries in Illustrator. Once you got that fixed, you can follow the steps below to use Pantone Colors in Illustrator. Using the Pantone colors is the same as using color swatches. All you need to do is select the object you want to color and choose a color from the palette. If you already have a color in mind, you can also type in the number in the search bar. The Pantone colors that you clicked on previously will show in the Swatches panel. You can save the colors for future reference if you need them. What if you want to find the Pantone color of a CMYK or RGB color? Of course, you can. You can use the Recolor Artwork tool to convert CMYK/RGB colors to Pantone Colors, and vice versa. Follow the steps below to see how it works! Step 1: Choose the colors (objects) you want to convert. For example, I designed this vector for printing on a T-shirt. Its in RGB color mode, but I want to find out the corresponding Pantone colors. Step 2: Go to the overhead menu and choose Edit > Edit Colors > Recolor Artwork. You should see a color panel like this. Step 3: Click Color Library > Color Books and choose a Pantone option. Then the panel should look like this. You can save the Pantone colors to the Swatches by clicking on the save file option and choosing Save All Colors. The Pantone colors from this artwork will show on the Swatches panel. Hover over the color and youll see the Pantone Color number of the color. There you go, this is how you find out the Pantone colors equivalent to CMYK or RGB colors. There isnt a Pantone color mode in Adobe Illustrator, but you can certainly use Pantone colors on artwork or find the Pantone color of your design. Keep in mind that when you save or export a file, the color mode wont change to Pantone but you can definitely note down the Pantone color and let the print shop know. This website contains affiliate links. As an Amazon affiliate, I earn from qualifying purchases, our own services and products. The content on this website was created with the help of AI.Okay, real talk: when Adobe yanked the Pantone Color Books from Illustrator (starting with version 28.0), I felt like someone had just deleted my favorite fonts folder. You open up Illustrator, head over to Swatch Libraries > Color Books, and nothing. Just a big ol void where your Pantone+ Solid Coated used to live.If youre here wondering:How do I get Pantone colors back in Illustrator 2024? Where did the Pantone swatches go? Is there still a way to find Pantone in Adobe Illustrator without paying extra?youre not alone. And yes, there is a way.This post walks you through everything step-by-stepfrom installing the Pantone Connect plugin (spoiler: its limited unless you pay) to a little-known workaround where you copy Pantone color books from older Illustrator versions into your latest one. Yep. Manual. But it works.Ive also covered how to:Install Pantone swatches manually in Illustrator Find Pantone libraries when Pantone Connect isnt working And how to make Illustrator behave like the good old days (almost)Once youve got the Pantone colors back in your Illustrator, youll probably want to convert your CMYK colors to Pantone for print jobs. I made a super quick guide on that too: How To Convert CMYK To Pantone In IllustratorSo, if youve been Googling around for how to find Pantone color in Illustrator 2024 without plugin or youre just frustrated with the missing swatchestake a breath. Youve got options. And Ill walk you through it.By default, any Illustrator file will either be in the RGB or CMYK color mode. Any CMYK or RGB color depends on your monitor or printer depending on your RGB and CMYK values. But there isnt any Pantone colour mode. Pantone came up with the Pantone Matching System (PMS) to standardize and maintain color consistency or match colors when a design enters the preview and production stage, regardless of the equipment used to produce the color.Pantone is not part of Adobe and its a separate entity altogether.Even without all the Pantone Color Books available in Illustrator, you can still find Pantone Colors in Illustrator. To do that, you will need to install a plugin called Pantone Connect via Adobe Creative Cloud.Pantone Connect is free only for limited functions:Search Pick any 15,000 Colors See Pantone Color Reference Number Measure Up to 10 Palettes Unlimited Share If you need anything else such as extracting colors, analyzing colors, and converting them, you will have to pay US$20.99 per month or US$125.99 per year.To use Pantone Connect, first, you will have to quit all Adobe programs. Next, your desktop has to be logged in to Creative Cloud. Click on the Creative Cloud icon on the top menu bar if you are on a Mac, or open your Creative Cloud platform if you are on Windows. Then, select Stock & Marketplace.Under Search, All Plugins on the left sidebar, type in Pantone Connect to search for the plugin. Then, click the button that says Get on the Pantone Connect box. This will start the installation process.Reopen your Adobe Illustrator. Select Window > Extensions and you will see Pantone Connect as an option. Select Pantone Connect and the Pantone Connect window opens up. Sign up for an account and you are ready to use it.Pantone color books have been removed from Adobe Illustrator between 2022 and 2023. I know, you used to be able to find them via Window > Swatch Libraries > Other Library But now they have disappeared. If you are using Adobe Illustrator v28.0, you will not be able to find any Pantone color books.Before you can do that, you will have to install Pantone color files to your latest Illustrator version. Without those files, you wont be able to find the colors within your Illustrator app.Note: Im using MacBook Pro macOS Ventura Version 13.5 with Adobe Illustrator 2023 Version 28.0.Here are the steps:The first step is to launch Adobe Creative Cloud app on your computer.Navigate to the All Apps section.Go to the Installed section and you will most likely find only one Illustrator version. Go to the right-hand side of the column and select the three dots.Select the Other Versions option in the drop-down menu. A pop-up will show all the current and past versions available for download.Go to the earlier version and select the Install button on the right-hand side.Wait for a few minutes for the installation to complete.In this example, Ive installed Illustrator v27.0, one of the earlier Adobe Illustrator 2023 versions.Go to your Applications folder in Mac or Downloads folder in Windows.Select the Illustrator version folder youve just installed. Select the Presets folder. Then, select the language folder and then, select the Swatches folder. Next, select the Color Books folder. In my example, I have selected Adobe Illustrator 2022 > Presets > en_US > Swatches > Color Books.You will see at least 5 Pantone files:PANTONE+ CMYK Coated PANTONE+ CMYK Uncoated PANTONE+ Metallic Coated PANTONE+ Solid Coated PANTONE+ Solid UncoatedSelect these 5 files and copy them by doing a right-click with your cursor, and selecting Copy in the drop-down menu.With the Pantone color files in your clipboard, go to the Applications or Downloads folder, and select the latest Adobe Illustrator folder. In my example, that would be the Adobe Illustrator 2024 folder.Then similarly to Step 2, go to Adobe Illustrator 2024 > Presets > en_US > Swatches > Color Books. Paste the Pantone files youve just copied into this folder.Quit Illustrator and reopen it. In the next section, you will learn various methods on how to find the Pantone Color you want in Illustrator.The best way to find the Pantone Color of your object in Adobe Illustrator is to first open your object in Illustrator. Then, click on one area of your object to select it. Next, go to the top menu and select Window > Swatches. In the Color Swatches, you will see a color square bar selected. Bring your cursor over it and you will see the Pantone color code of your object area, for example Pantone P Process Black C.Here are the various methods to find Pantone color, or you can also convert CMYK to Pantone in Illustrator:At the Top Menu, select Window, scroll down to select Swatch Libraries, then select Color Books, and select any of the Pantone color guides:Window > Swatch Libraries > Color Books > Pantone Color BooksNote: This will work whether or not your artboard is visible or hidden.Open the Swatches Panel by going to the Top Menu, and select Window > Swatches. This opens up the Swatches Panel.Then, on the Swatches Panel, you will see an icon with 3 lines in the top right-hand corner. That is the Swatches options menu. Select that and a dropdown menu appears. Select open swatch library > color books. This is where Illustrator stores different color libraries including the Pantone color libraries. Select any of the Pantone Color Books based on the Pantone color system.First, open the Swatches Panel by selecting Window > Swatches from the Top Menu. Then, select the Swatch Libraries menu in the bottom left corner of the panel. This opens up a dropdown menu where you can select Color Books, which opens up another dropdown menu. Select your desired Pantone Color Book.This could be one of the best ways to find Pantone Color in Illustrator. Simply select Help on the Top Menu. Enter Pantone in the search bar. Then select any of the options and the dropdown menu opens up to show you where you can find the item in the menu. Pantone Connect is free for basic features like color search, picking colors, and viewing color codes. But if you want to extract colors from artwork, convert CMYK/RGB to Pantone, or access full features, youll need a paid subscription (US$20.99/month or US$125.99/year).To stay on the free plan, you can create up to 10 palettes and use limited features. First, make sure: Youve installed the plugin viaCreative Cloud > Stock & Marketplace. Youvequit and reopened Illustrator. Go toWindow > Extensions > Pantone Connect.If you still dont see it: Reinstall the plugin Check that youre using asupported version (v27 or later) Make sure youre logged into Creative Cloud Although most of the projects use either CMYK or RGB mode, they are not always enough. What if you want to use Pantone colors for products? If you use Adobe Illustrator for fashion design, its a good idea to have the Pantone palettes handy. Normally we use CMYK color mode for print. Well, more specifically printing on paper, because printing on other materials is another story. Technically, you can use CMYK or RGB to print on products, but having the Pantone colors is a better option. In this article, youll learn how to find and use Pantone colors in Adobe Illustrator. Note: all screenshots are taken from Adobe Illustrator CC Mac version. Windows or other versions can look different.Since August 2022, Pantone Color Books are not available in Illustrator anymore. So if you want to find the Pantone color swatch, you do need to get the older version of Illustrator. You wont be able to choose Pantone as a color mode, but you can find it in the Swatches panel or when you recolor artwork. If you havent opened the Swatches panel already, go to Window > Swatches. Click on the hidden menu and choose Open Swatch Library > Color Books and then choose one of the Pantone options. Usually, I choose Pantone+ CMYK Coated or Pantone+ CMYK Uncoated depending on the project. Once you chose an option, a Pantone panel will appear. Now you can apply Pantone colors to your artwork. If youre using any Illustrator version later than the 2023 update, you wont see the Pantone swatches in the Color Books anymore. In this case, you need to uninstall your current Illustrator version from Adobe Creative Cloud and download the older version of Adobe Illustrator. From there, you can copy the Pantone swatches and paste them into your current version folder. Here are some recommendations from Adobe, including the detailed steps to make the swatches transfer: Learn about the Pantone Plus libraries in Illustrator. Once you got that fixed, you can follow the steps below to use Pantone Colors in Illustrator. Using the Pantone colors is the same as using color swatches. All you need to do is select the object you want to color and choose a color from the palette. If you already have a color in mind, you can also type in the number in the search bar. The Pantone colors that you clicked on previously will show in the Swatches panel. You can save the colors for future reference if you need them. What if you want to find the Pantone color of a CMYK or RGB color? Of course, you can. You can use the Recolor Artwork tool to convert CMYK/RGB colors to Pantone Colors, and vice versa. Follow the steps below to see how it works! Step 1: Choose the colors (objects) you want to convert. For example, I designed this vector for printing on a T-shirt. Its in RGB color mode, but I want to find out the corresponding Pantone colors. Step 2: Go to the overhead menu and choose Edit > Edit Colors > Recolor Artwork. You should see a color panel like this. Step 3: Click Color Library > Color Books and choose a Pantone option. Then the panel should look like this. You can save the Pantone colors to the Swatches by clicking on the save file option and choosing Save All Colors. The Pantone colors from this artwork will show on the Swatches panel. Hover over the color and youll see the Pantone Color number of the color. There you go, this is how you find out the Pantone colors equivalent to CMYK or RGB colors. There isnt a Pantone color mode in Adobe Illustrator, but you can certainly use Pantone colors on artwork or find the Pantone color of your design. Keep in mind that when you save or export a file, the color mode wont change to Pantone but you can definitely note down the Pantone color and let the print shop know. As designers, were always on the lookout for ways to ensure our designs are accurate, consistent, and professional. One crucial aspect of achieving this is by using precise colors that match our brands identity or clients requirements. In the world of design, Pantone colors are the gold standard for color accuracy and consistency. However, loading Pantone colors in Adobe Illustrator can be a daunting task, especially for beginners. In this comprehensive guide, well take you through the step-by-step process of loading Pantone colors in Illustrator 2025, ensuring your designs are always on point.Understanding Pantone Colors Pantone colors are a standardized color matching system used globally in various industries, including design, printing, and textiles. The Pantone color system consists of over 1,000 unique colors, each with its own unique formula and reference number. These colors are created using a specific mixture of 14 base pigments, ensuring consistency and accuracy across different materials and printing processes.In the design world, Pantone colors are essential for maintaining brand identity and consistency across various marketing materials, packaging, and products. By using Pantone colors, designers can ensure that their designs are accurately reproduced, regardless of the printing process or material used.Why Use Pantone Colors in Illustrator?There are several reasons why using Pantone colors in Illustrator is crucial for designers:Color accuracy: Pantone colors ensure that your designs are accurately reproduced, maintaining the desired color tone and hue.Consistency: By using Pantone colors, you can ensure consistency across different design elements, materials, and printing processes.Brand identity: Pantone colors help maintain brand identity and recognition, ensuring that your designs align with the brands visual identity.Professionalism: Using Pantone colors demonstrates a level of professionalism and attention to detail, setting your designs apart from others.Loading Pantone Colors in Illustrator 2025Now that weve established the importance of using Pantone colors, lets dive into the step-by-step process of loading them in Illustrator 2025. Method 1: Loading Pantone Colors from the Swatches PanelThe first method involves loading Pantone colors directly from the Swatches panel in Illustrator.Step 1: Open the Swatches panel by going to Window > Swatches or by using the keyboard shortcut Ctrl + F5 (Windows) or Command + F5 (Mac).Step 2: Click on the New Swatch button at the bottom of the Swatches panel. Step 3: In the New Swatch dialog box, select Pantone from the Color Mode dropdown menu. (See Also: Did the Chargers Change Their Colors? The Shocking Truth)Step 4: Enter the Pantone color reference number or select it from the Pantone Color Finder tool.Step 5: Click OK to add the Pantone color to your Swatches panel.Method 2: Loading Pantone Colors from a Color LibraryThe second method involves loading Pantone colors from a color library file (.ase or .acb).Step 1: Create a new document or open an existing one in Illustrator.Step 2: Go to File > Open and select the Pantone color library file (.ase or .acb) you want to load.Step 3: In the Open dialog box, select the Color Library option and click Open.Step 4: The Pantone colors from the selected library file will be loaded into your Swatches panel.Method 3: Loading Pantone Colors from a Pantone Color BridgeThe third method involves loading Pantone colors from a Pantone Color Bridge file (.acb).Step 1: Create a new document or open an existing one in Illustrator.Step 2: Go to File > Open and select the Pantone Color Bridge file (.acb) you want to load.Step 3: In the Open dialog box, select the Pantone Color Bridge option and click Open.Step 4: The Pantone colors from the selected Color Bridge file will be loaded into your Swatches panel. (See Also: What Do the American Flag Colors Represent? A Symbolic Guide)Working with Pantone Colors in IllustratorNow that youve loaded Pantone colors in Illustrator, lets explore how to work with them effectively.Converting Pantone Colors to CMYKWhen working with Pantone colors, its essential to understand that they are spot colors, meaning they are not part of the CMYK color model. To convert Pantone colors to CMYK, follow these steps:Step 1: Select the Pantone color you want to convert in the Swatches panel.Step 2: Go to Edit > Convert to CMYK.Step 3: In the Convert to CMYK dialog box, select the desired CMYK color profile and click OK.The Pantone color will be converted to its closest CMYK equivalent, ensuring accurate color reproduction.Using Pantone Colors in Your DesignOnce youve loaded and converted Pantone colors, you can use them in your design just like any other color.Step 1: Select the object or text you want to apply the Pantone color to.Step 2: Go to the Swatches panel and select the Pantone color you want to apply.Step 3: Click on the Apply button to apply the Pantone color to your selection.Tips and TricksHere are some additional tips and tricks to keep in mind when working with Pantone colors in Illustrator:Always use the latest Pantone color libraries to ensure accuracy and consistency. (See Also: What Colors Look Good on Light Olive Skin? Flattering Shades Revealed)Use the Pantone Color Finder tool to quickly find and load Pantone colors.Convert Pantone colors to CMYK before sending your design to print to ensure accurate color reproduction.Use Pantone colors in conjunction with other design elements, such as typography and imagery, to create visually appealing designs.Recap and SummaryIn this comprehensive guide, weve covered the importance of using Pantone colors in Illustrator, as well as the step-by-step process of loading them using three different methods. Weve also explored how to work with Pantone colors, including converting them to CMYK and using them in your design. By following these tips and tricks, youll be able to ensure color accuracy and consistency in your designs, setting you apart from others in the design industry.Frequently Asked QuestionsQ: What is the difference between Pantone colors and CMYK colors?Pantone colors are spot colors, meaning they are not part of the CMYK color model. CMYK colors, on the other hand, are process colors created by combining cyan, magenta, yellow, and black inks. Pantone colors are used for accurate color reproduction, while CMYK colors are used for printing.Q: How do I know which Pantone color to use for my design?Choose a Pantone color that matches your brands identity or clients requirements. You can also use the Pantone Color Finder tool to find the closest match to your desired color.Q: Can I use Pantone colors in other Adobe Creative Cloud applications?Yes, Pantone colors can be used in other Adobe Creative Cloud applications, including Photoshop, InDesign, and Premiere Pro. However, the process of loading Pantone colors may vary depending on the application.Q: Are Pantone colors compatible with all printing processes?Pantone colors are compatible with most printing processes, including offset printing, digital printing, and screen printing. However, its essential to check with your printer to ensure compatibility and accurate color reproduction.Q: How often are new Pantone colors released?New Pantone colors are released annually, with the Pantone Color Institute announcing the Pantone Color of the Year in December. Additionally, Pantone releases new color libraries and updates existing ones regularly to ensure designers have access to the latest colors and trends. Although most of the projects use either CMYK or RGB mode, they are not always enough. What if you want to use Pantone colors for products? If you use Adobe Illustrator for fashion design, its a good idea to have the Pantone palettes handy. Normally we use CMYK color mode for print. Well, more specifically printing on paper, because printing on other materials is another story. Technically, you can use CMYK or RGB to print on products, but having the Pantone colors is a better option. In this article, youll learn how to find and use Pantone colors in Adobe Illustrator. Note: all screenshots are taken from Adobe Illustrator CC Mac version. Windows or other versions can look different.Since August 2022, Pantone Color Books are not available in Illustrator anymore. So if you want to find the Pantone color swatch, you do need to get the older version of Illustrator. You wont be able to choose Pantone as a color mode, but you can find it in the Swatches panel or when you recolor artwork. If you havent opened the Swatches panel already, go to Window > Swatches. Click on the hidden menu and choose Open Swatch Library > Color Books and then choose one of the Pantone options. Usually, I choose Pantone+ CMYK Coated or Pantone+ CMYK Uncoated depending on the project. Once you chose an option, a Pantone panel will appear. Now you can apply Pantone colors to your artwork. If youre using any Illustrator version later than the 2023 update, you wont see the Pantone swatches in the Color Books anymore. In this case, you need to uninstall your current Illustrator version from Adobe Creative Cloud and download the older version of Adobe Illustrator. From there, you can copy the Pantone swatches and paste them into your current version folder. Here are some recommendations from Adobe, including the detailed steps to make the swatches transfer: Learn about the Pantone Plus libraries in Illustrator. Once you got that fixed, you can follow the steps below to use Pantone Colors in Illustrator. Using the Pantone colors is the same as using color swatches. All you need to do is select the object you want to color and choose a color from the palette. If you already have a color in mind, you can also type in the number in the search bar. The Pantone colors that you clicked on previously will show in the Swatches panel. You can save the colors for future reference if you need them. What if you want to find the Pantone color of a CMYK or RGB color? Of course, you can. You can use the Recolor Artwork tool to convert CMYK/RGB colors to Pantone Colors, and vice versa. Follow the steps below to see how it works! Step 1: Choose the colors (objects) you want to convert. For example, I designed this vector for printing on a T-shirt. Its in RGB color mode, but I want to find out the corresponding Pantone colors. Step 2: Go to the overhead menu and choose Edit > Edit Colors > Recolor Artwork. You should see a color panel like this. Step 3: Click Color Library > Color Books and choose a Pantone option. Then the panel should look like this. You can save the Pantone colors to the Swatches by clicking on the save file option and choosing Save All Colors. The Pantone colors from this artwork will show on the Swatches panel. Hover over the color and youll see the Pantone Color number of the color. There you go, this is how you find out the Pantone colors equivalent to CMYK or RGB colors. There isnt a Pantone color mode in Adobe Illustrator, but you can certainly use Pantone colors on artwork or find the Pantone color of your design. Keep in mind that when you save or export a file, the color mode wont change to Pantone but you can definitely note down the Pantone color and let the print shop know. In November of 2022, Adobe and Pantone parted ways. The ultimate color couple split because Pantone got greedy and demanded Adobe pay up for raiding their swatch stash for so many years. Adobe snapped, packing Pantones libraries in a sad cardboard box and tossing them to the curb. Now, were left to pick up the pieces.Im sure you reminisce about the good old days when you could head over to the swatch panel, click the trust hamburger menu, and open up the Pantone Solid Coated library. You probably even knew the trick with the recolor artwork panel that allowed you to convert CMYK to Pantone in a flash. None of that works anymore, and our jobs depend on it, so what are we logo designers to do? If youre loaded and have a weird fetish for monthly subscriptions, you could always use Pantones extension for Illustrator, Pantone Connect. My sense of justice wont let me pony up for the service. Instead, I say we reclaim what was stolen from us and get our Pantone swatches back!Since Pantone and Adobe broke up, its become so much more difficult to get Pantone information for colors. Swatch automatically converts your colors to the best Pantone match. Pantone is BACK in Illustrator, without monthly fees!Here are the three best ways to do that:Copy Color BooksAdobe used to provide the Pantone color libraries in their older versions and they still do! All you have to do is install Adobe Illustrator V27.0 or older, and you can still use the color books. Ill show you how to install an older version in just a second, but I can already hear you saying, But then I dont get all the exciting features from new releases! Alright, I hear you, but the beautiful thing about installing the old versions is that it gives you the actual Pantone color library files. If you move those files to the correct location in new versions, you will still have access to Pantone libraries in your fancy new versions of Illustrator!Ok, so heres how to install an old version:1. Open the Adobe Creative Cloud App2. Click the Apps tab at the top of the window3. Find Illustrator in your list of apps and then click the 3 dots icon on the right.4. Click Other Versions5. Choose V27.0 or olderNow, you can either continue to use the old Illustrator version for your Pantone color needs, or you can steal the libraries from the old version and add them to the new version!Heres how to add Pantone libraries to newer versions of Illustrator1. Go to your applications folder and find the old version of Illustrator. It will be Adobe Illustrator 2022 or older.2. Go to the Illustrator application folder > Presets > en_US (this colder could be different depending on your language settings) > Swatches > Color Books.3. Copy PANTONE+ Solid Coated.acb and PANTONE+ Solid Uncoated.acb4. Go to the newer version of Illustrator in your applications folder and paste the color libraries into the same folder as the old version.5. Open up the swatch panel in Illustrator and go to Open Swatch Library > Color Books > PANTONE+ Solid Coated or PANTONE+ Solid Uncoated.I recommend keeping a copy of these Pantone color libraries in an easy-to-access location so that you dont have to go digging every time you update Illustrator.Note: The default color libraries included in older versions of Illustrator do not include all the newest Pantone colors. Using these libraries will limit your options to an older, smaller set of Pantone colors.BenefitsThe benefits of using this first method for getting Pantone colors into newer versions of Illustrator are basically just putting things back to how they were. Youll access colors through the swatch panel like youre used to. Since the color books are restored, you can even use the recolor panel to automatically convert RGB or CMYK to Pantone.A Sneaky ResourceYou didnt hear it from me, but some people have shared the newer color libraries online. You can find them here: the same steps from earlier, and youll have a much newer set of Pantone swatches to choose from than the old Illustrator defaults.Make ASE FilesThis workaround also requires that you download an older version of Illustrator, so go ahead and do that following the steps above. This method is going to make use of .ase files. ASE means Adobe Swatch Exchange, and its a format that can be read by all the Adobe programs. Typically, a designer will want to save a library of the brand colors for a specific client or project. They will save their current swatches as an ASE file to be loaded into any project for that brand. Its pretty handy. We will hack the ASE a little to make our own Pantone library.Follow these steps 1. Open a blank document in an old version of Illustrator that still has the Pantone color libraries.2. Go to the swatches panel and click the menu. Choose Select all Unused Colors and then click the trash can to delete all of the swatches in the blank document. If any remain, highlight them and click the trash icon (you cannot delete the no-fill swatch or the registration swatch).3. Open up the swatch panel in Illustrator, click the menu icon in the upper right corner of the window, and go to Open Swatch Library > Color Books > PANTONE+ Solid Coated or PANTONE+ Solid Uncoated.4. Shift-click to select every Pantone swatch in the library and drag them into the Swatches panel.5. Click the Swatch panel menu and choose Save Swatch Library as ASE6. You can name the library whatever you want, but I recommend calling it something like Pantone Coated.Now that the ASE is saved, you can open it in any version of Illustrator or in other Adobe tools like InDesign or Photoshop. Simply go to the swatch panel menu in a newer version of Illustrator and click Open Swatch Library > Other Library. Navigate to where you save the ASE and open it. As I noted in the last method, you should definitely save these ASE files to a memorable and easy-to-access location.BenefitsThe benefits of this method are that ASE files are just a little bit easier to load than moving color library files from one obscure system folder to another. They can also be opened in InDesign and Photoshop, so youre increasing your access to the Pantone colors across the whole Adobe suite using this method. Additionally, you can customize whats in an ASE file to only include specific subsets of swatches if thats what youre into.Open Source AlternativeAs I mentioned in the intro to this post, designers were outraged when Adobe and Pantone split. Not many people were more vocal than the renowned British artist Stuart Semple from Culture Hustle. He got so steamed about the whole thing that he made an open-source version of Pantone-ish colors and gave them away for free on his website. Here is how to use the Freetone colors from Culture Hustle.You may be wondering how you can use a Pantone knockoff in actual projects. Well, its pretty simple. These colors are just clones of Pantone libraries with the Freetone name slapped onto the beginning the numbers are the same as Patnone. If you use one of these swatches in a project, all you need to do is change the swatch name to PANTONE at the beginning before you export, and your printer will not know the difference. They will choose the correct Pantone ink for your print jobs.BenefitsHonestly, I think Stuart simply made an ASE and changed the color names. If you like sticking it to the man and want to show solidarity with Stuart and Culture Hustle, you can grab this free, open-source alternative. The only other benefit is that hes included spot colors for his unique ink products in there as well.Consolation PrizeLastly, suppose you dont feel that any of this is ethical, and youre worried about the Pantone legal hammer dropping on your head. In that case, you can always use these online Pantone converters and specify the Pantone color you want for your client or printer. //www.easycalculation.com/colorconverter/hex-to-pantone.php? //www.ginifab.com/feeds/pms/cmyk_to_pantone.php Anshul Saini Be kind and respectful, give credit to the original source of content, and search for duplicates before posting. Learn more To find a specific Pantone Color in Illustrator: Go to Window>Swatch Libraries> Color Books.If you dont find your color, try the other swatch color books from step 1. How To Find and Add Pantone Colors in Photoshop To apply a Pantone color to an object in Illustrator: Select the shape using the selection tool (V)In the toolbar, activate the Fill or Stroke box depending on where you want to apply the color.Select the desired Pantone color from the swatches panel or color book. Your shape should now have the fill or outline in that color. To apply a Pantone Color as a gradient in Illustrator: Select the shape using the Selection tool (v).Open up the gradient panel by going to Window>Gradient.Drag a second swatch the same way. Delete unwanted swatches in the slider by selecting them and using the trash icon (Delete Stop) on the right.You can save your gradient to your swatches by clicking the drop-down arrow in the top left next to the square gradient preview and clicking the add to swatches icon. To convert CMYK swatches to Pantone in Adobe Illustrator: Select the shape or object with the CMYK fill or stroke color you want to convert.Go to Window>Swatches to open up the color swatches panel.Now go to Edit>Edit colors> Recolor ArtworkClick the Color Reduction Options Icon.Select Limit to Library. In the drop-down, choose Color books and the Pantone Library you want.Click Ok, and Ok again in the Recolor Artwork window.Your CMYK color is now converted to Pantone and the swatch should appear on the Swatches Panel. Converting RGB to Pantone is similar to the CMYK to Pantone process above. To convert RGB to Pantone color in Adobe Illustrator: Select the shape or object with the RGB fill or stroke color you want to convert.Go to Window>Swatches to open up the color swatches panel.Now go to Edit>Edit colors> Recolor ArtworkClick the Color Reduction Options Icon.Select Limit to Library. In the drop-down, choose Color books and the Pantone Library you want.Click Ok, and Ok again in the Recolor Artwork window.Your RGB color is now converted to Pantone and the swatch should appear on the Swatches Panel. Adobe Illustrator contains 10 Pantone color books from The Pantone