

How to create a new document

There's three easy ways you can create a new document in Illustrator: select one of the many blank document presets with predefined dimensions and settings; download from a wide variety of templates, including choices from Adobe Stock; or create one from scratch using your own exact and custom set of specifications.

In this guide, you'll review these three quick and easy ways to create new Illustrator documents.

Creating a new document using presets

The Start workspace gives you quick access to your recent files, libraries, and presets. When you click the New button, the New Document dialog box opens and displays options for various blank document presets (Figure 1).

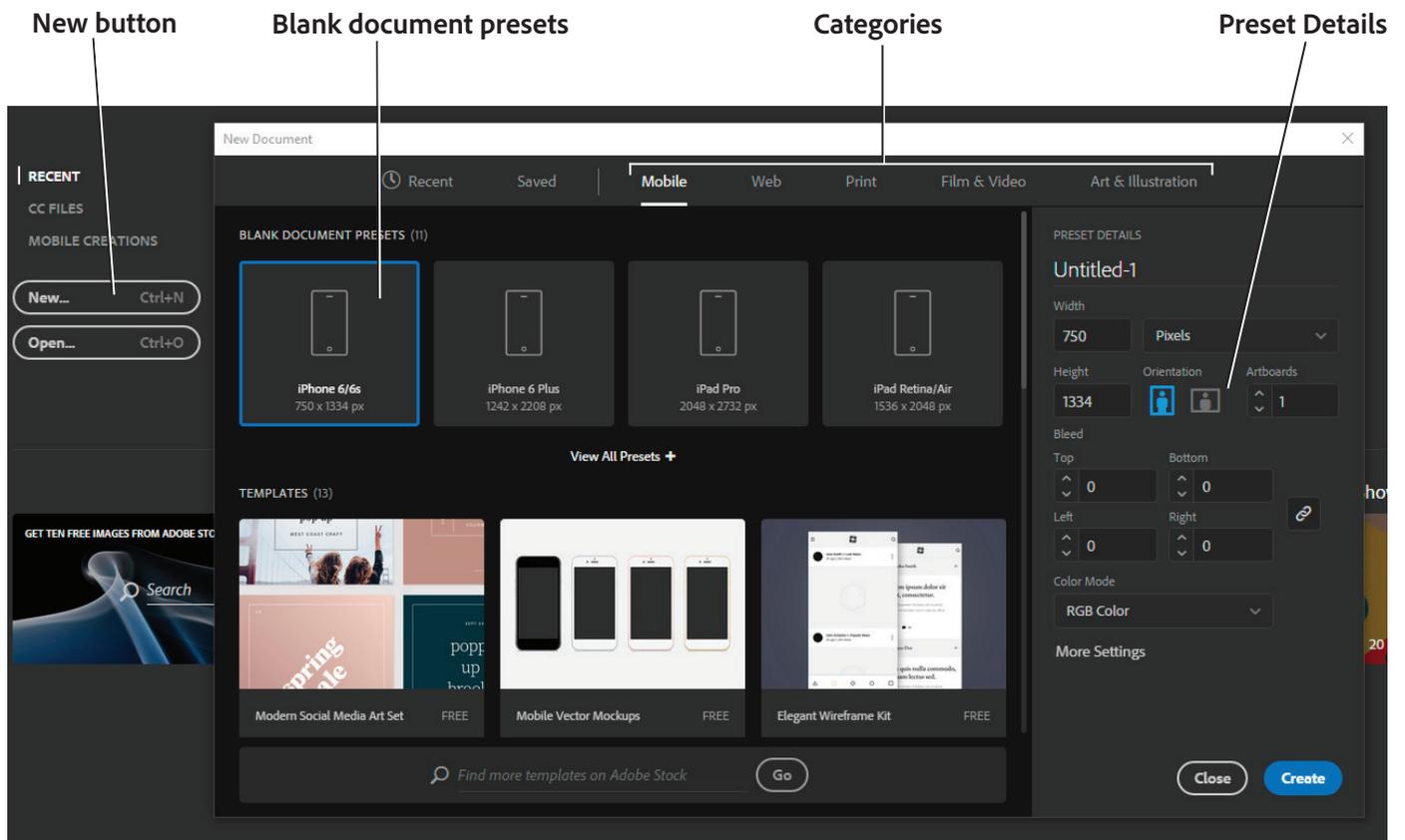


Figure 1 The Start workspace, with New Document dialog box

You can select a category preset for creating new documents. These are optimized for their intended uses including:

- *Mobile*: Provides for different device form factors such as iOS, Android, Surface phones and tablets
- *Web*: A list of common desktop browser window sizes at web-optimized resolution
- *Print*: Provides familiar print formats like letter, legal, tabloid, A4 and others in high-resolution
- *Film & Video*: Select from HDTV, HDV, DCI, NTSC and other video formats
- *Art & Illustration*: Layouts for poster, postcard, square, and video formats in high-resolution

Before opening the presets, you can modify their settings using the Preset Details pane.

To create a new document using a preset:

1. Start Adobe Illustrator.

The Start workspace opens. If you've previously used Illustrator, your recent files will be shown.

2. Click on the **New** button.

The New Document dialog box opens (**Figure 1**).

3. In the **New Document** dialog box, click the **Mobile** category tab, if not already open.

4. Click the **View All Presets +** button to expand the options (**Figure 2**).

Review the blank document presets for the range of devices including smartphones, tablets, and watches.

5. Select an preset option, perhaps **Android 1080p** option (**Figure 3**).

(Optional) Change the settings for the selected preset in the **Preset Details** pane on the right of the New Document dialog box.

6. Click the **Create** button.

The blank document opens (**Figure 4**).

7. Choose **File > Save** if you wish to continue working with the file, otherwise choose **File > Close**.

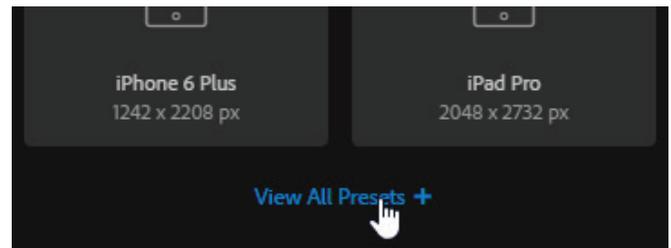


Figure 2 Click button to view more preset options

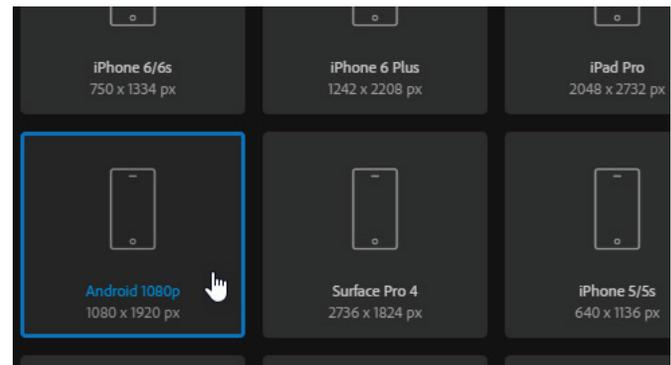


Figure 3 Mobile Document preset

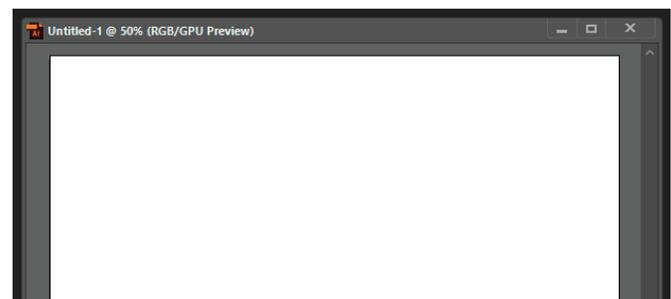


Figure 4 Blank document window

Creating a new document using templates

Depending on your subscription status, you may be able to view and create a new document using various templates from Adobe Stock. If your subscription account type doesn't permit adding Creative Cloud Libraries and syncing Typekit fonts, then skip ahead to the [Create a new custom document](#) section

Templates provide inspiration and reusable elements for your documents. Templates are categorized into the same sets as document presets. You can download templates from Adobe Stock that include quality graphics, illustrations and synced fonts from Adobe Typekit right within Illustrator (**Figure 5**). You can then build on these templates to easily create documents that share common settings and design elements.

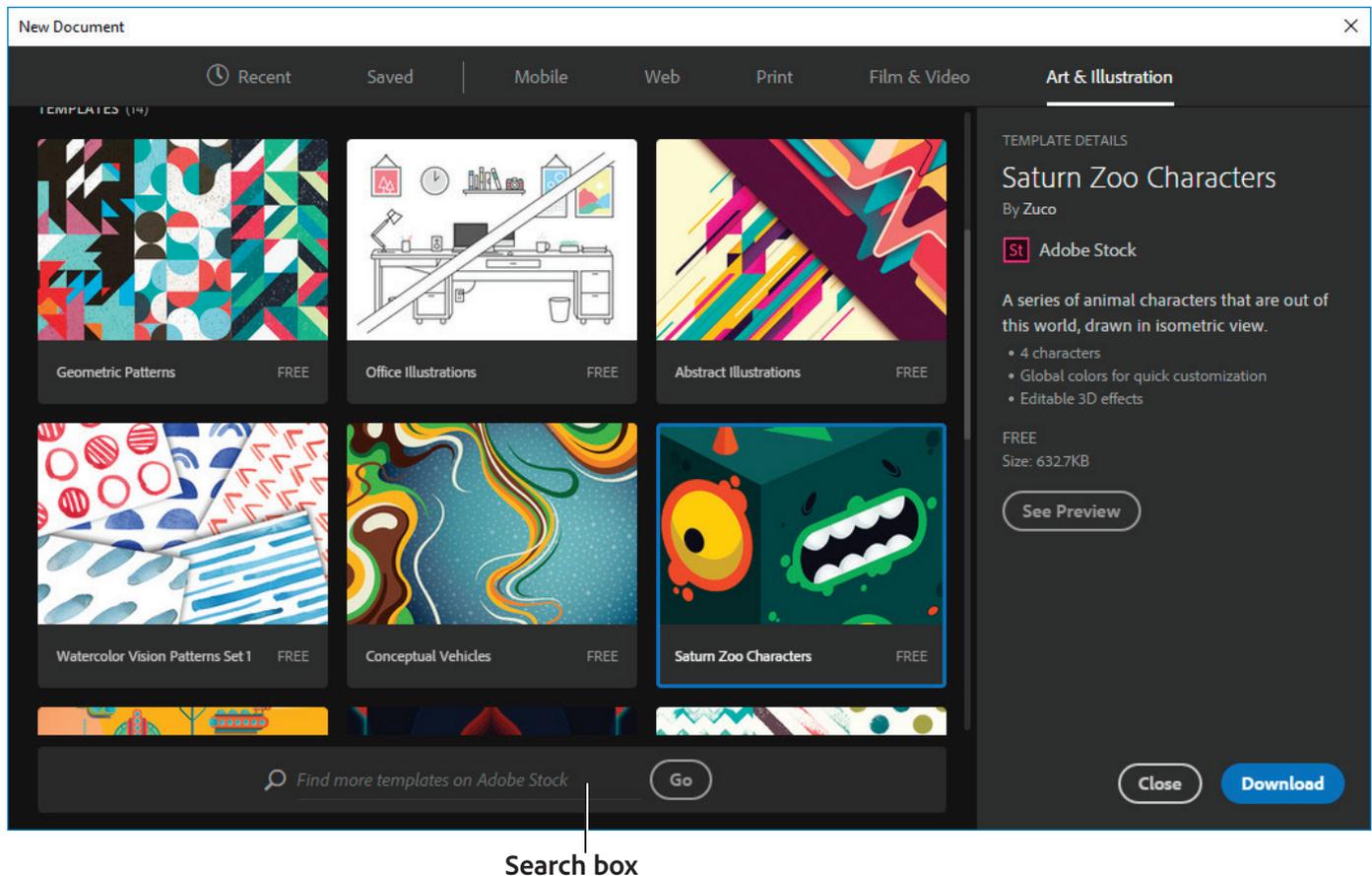


Figure 5 New Document dialog box with Photo Template options

Aside from the preselected templates from Adobe Stock, you can search for and download numerous other such templates directly from within the New Document dialog. While working in the New Document dialog, enter a search string in the Find More Templates On Adobe Stock box. Illustrator opens the Adobe Stock website in a new browser window for you to explore. Search for more templates and download the one that best meets your project's requirements.

To create a document using a template:

1. In the Start workspace, click the **New** button.
2. In the **New Document** dialog, click a category tab: **Mobile**, **Web**, **Print**, **Film & Video**, or **Art & Illustration**.

3. Select a template.
4. Click **See Preview** to view a preview of the template. A preview is an image representation of a template that you can review and decide if you want to license that template (**Figure 6**).

Many of the templates are free and some are available for purchase. Once you select the template you want to use you will be prompted to license it and/or pay for it through Illustrator or other CC desktop apps.

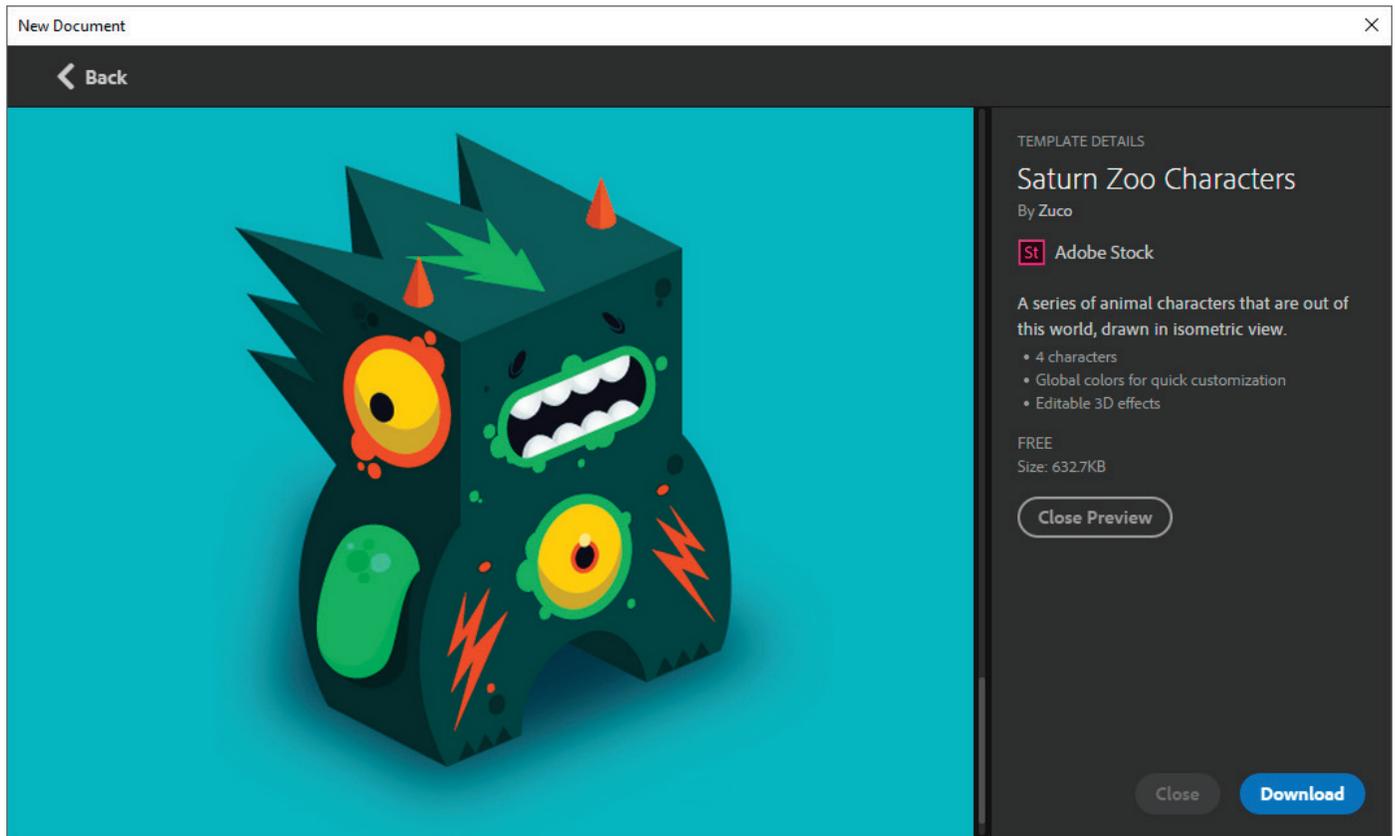


Figure 6 Preview of the template

5. Click the **Download** button.

Illustrator prompts you to license the template from Adobe Stock and process the file (**Figure 7**). After the template has been licensed using asset entitlements or credits in your account, you can open it as a Illustrator document for you to work on.

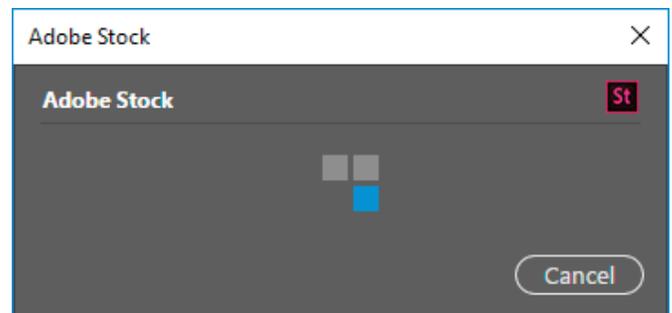


Figure 7 Template licensing in progress

- After the template has downloaded, click **Open**. While opening the template, if you're prompted to sync some fonts from Typekit, click **OK**.

You can now work with the open document in Illustrator just as you would work with any other .ai document.

Note: Downloaded templates are added to a Creative Cloud library called **Stock Templates**. You can access this library in the **Libraries** panel (**Figure 8**).

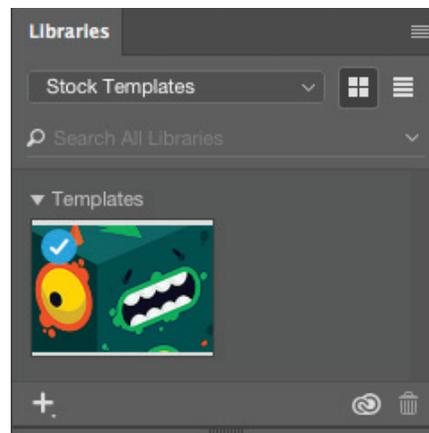


Figure 8 Libraries panel showing Stock Templates assets

Creating a new custom document

Sometimes you need to create a new custom document in Illustrator but need to specify a unique set of options not readily available through the New Document dialog box. In this case, you can start with a Blank Document preset and change the specifications such as width, height, orientation, bleed, color mode, or others. Your choices depend on the type of image you're creating and its intended purpose.

To create a new custom document:

- From the Illustrator menu, choose **File > New**.

The **New** dialog box opens to the default **Recent** files tab (**Figure 9**).

- In the **Preset Details** pane, give the document a name, such as "Monsters" (**Figure 10**)
- Set a **Width** and **Height** for the images.

You can change the measurement units to pixels, inches, cm or other units by clicking the menu to the right of the Width text box.

- Choose an **Orientation** for the image, and add the number of **Artboards** you want to use.
- Specify a **Bleed** for the layout.

Bleed is the amount of artwork that falls outside of the printing bounding box or outside the crop area and trim marks. You can include bleed in your artwork as a margin of error—to ensure that the ink is still printed to the edge of the page after the page is trimmed. To use different values for different sides, delink the dimensions by clicking the button with the chain icon.

You will learn more about bleeds in the Illustrator guide *How to use layout tools*.

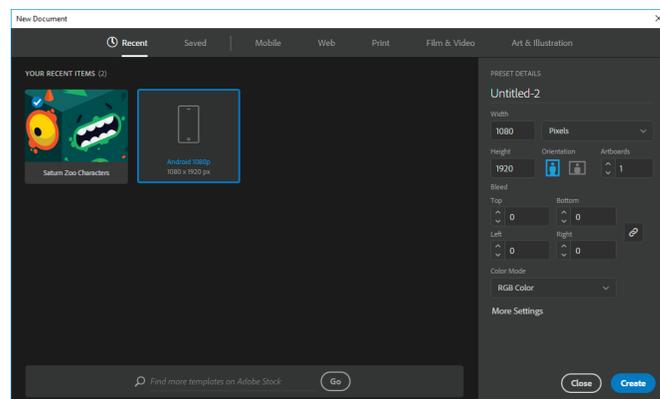


Figure 9 New Document dialog box

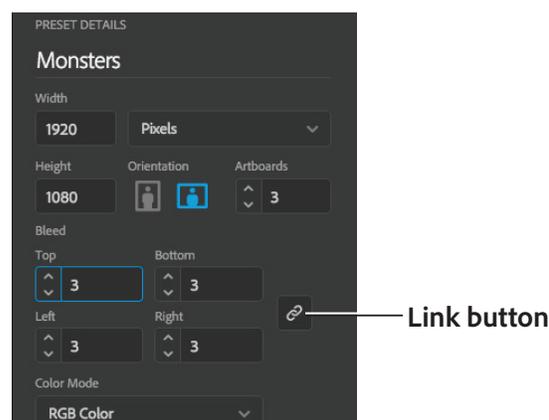


Figure 10 Preset Details of New Document dialog box

6. If not already done, set **Color Mode** to **RGB Color**.

You can also work in **CMYK Color**.

Changing the color mode converts the default contents (swatches, brushes, symbols, graphic styles) of the selected new document profile to a new color mode, resulting in a color change.

Generally speaking, RGB Color is ideal for screens of all kinds. You should select CMYK Color only if you know you are using an offset print vendor for your project. Even if you choose RGB at this stage, you can convert the image to CMYK later before sending the image to the print vendor.

7. Click **Create**.

The new file opens in the document window, ready to use (**Figure 11**). Be sure to save your file as you work in it.

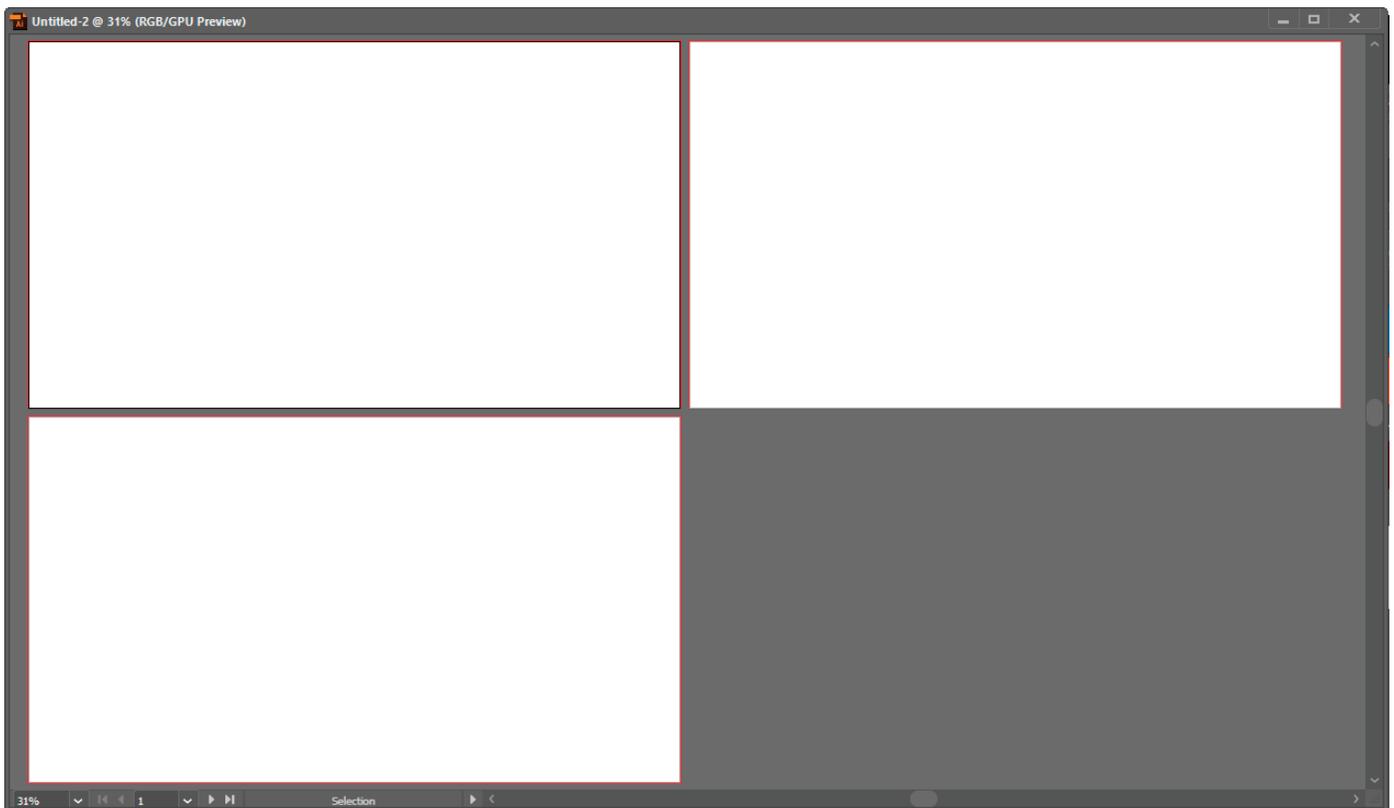


Figure 11 New, blank custom document

For more information

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