

Variations of the Pen Tool in Illustrator



The Asterisk next to the Pen Tool indicates a new path will be created.



The Circle next to the Pen Tool indicates that path will be closed. This appears when you hover over the first point of the path.



The Forward Slash next to the Pen Tool indicates the pen will reconnect to an open path. This appears when hovering over an anchor of an open path. It is not possible to connect to an anchor unless it is at the open end of a path.



The Anchor next to the Pen Tool indicates joining the current path to an open path. This appears when drawing a path and hovering over an anchor of an open path.



The Flying Vee next to the Pen Tool indicates the ability to add or remove curve from the active anchor. This appears when hovering over the last anchor created during the process of drawing a path. Clicking the anchor removes any curve while clicking and dragging will add a curve.



The Plus next to the Pen Tool indicates the ability to add new anchors to an actively selected path.



The Minus next to the Pen Tool indicates the ability to remove an anchor from an actively selected path.