

A LAPTOP IN A SMALL DESIGN STUDIO SHOWS A VECTOR EDITING APP WHERE…

INKSCAPE VS ILLUSTRATOR FOR A LOGO

Price, .ai Files, CMYK

THE SHORT ANSWER.

Inkscape vs Illustrator, for a logo, comes down to price and the file you must deliver. Pick Inkscape (free) to edit a logo and save it as SVG, PDF, EPS or DXF; pick Illustrator (subscription) if your printer wants an .ai file or a CMYK PDF without extra software.

HOW MUCH DO INKSCAPE AND ILLUSTRATOR COST?

Inkscape costs nothing: it's free, open-source software released under the GNU GPL, and its manual says you can install it as many times as you like without a fee or a subscription.

WHAT COMPUTER DO INKSCAPE AND ILLUSTRATOR NEED?

Inkscape 1.4.4, the current version released on May 6, 2026, is offered for Windows, macOS and GNU/Linux on its download page. Adobe lists Illustrator for Windows, macOS and iPad.

WHICH FILE FORMATS DO INKSCAPE AND ILLUSTRATOR OPEN AND SAVE?

Inkscape and Illustrator both save a logo as a vector file, one that records shapes where a photo records tiny colored squares, in SVG, PDF and EPS, and both can write a DXF for cutting machines.

CAN INKSCAPE AND ILLUSTRATOR PREPARE A CMYK OR PANTONE FILE?

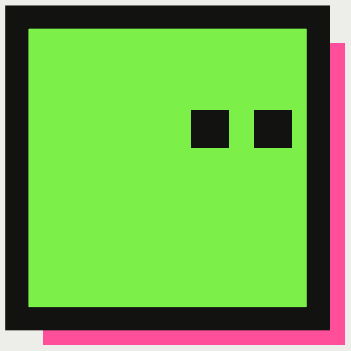
Illustrator prepares a CMYK file on its own: File > Document Color Mode > CMYK Color sets the whole document up for CMYK, the four inks of print. Inkscape 1.4 works in RGB, the color system of screens.

HOW DO TRACE BITMAP AND IMAGE TRACE COMPARE FOR A LOGO?

Inkscape's Trace Bitmap and Illustrator's Image Trace both vectorize a JPG or PNG, turning it into shapes automatically, and both offer settings to adjust before a logo comes out clean.

REMEMBER.

Inkscape is free, Illustrator US$22.99 a month. Inkscape opens .ai files but can't save them and needs Scribus for CMYK. Five cases to help you pick.



The full article:

depixelise.com/or/inkscape-vs-illustrator
