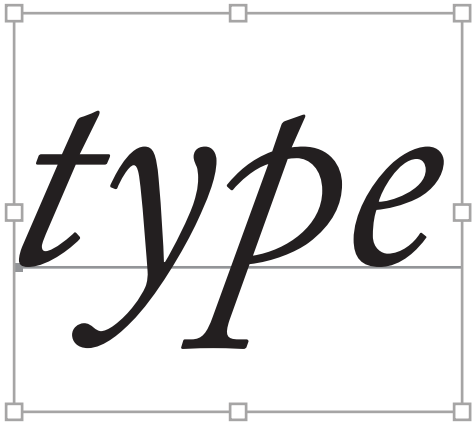
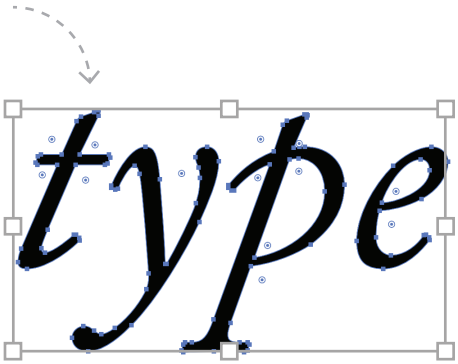
MODIFYING letter forms IN ILLUSTRATOR

TYPE > CREATE OUTLINES command shift O

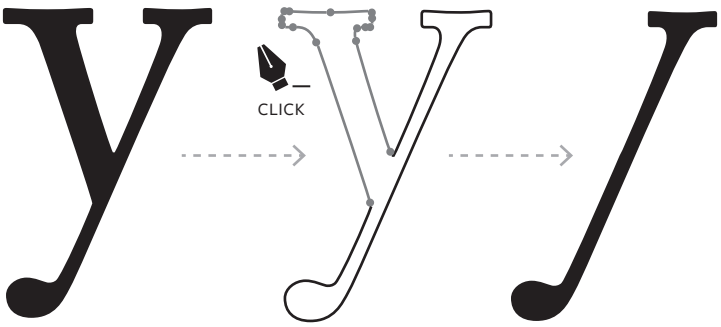


Still able to type, and work with the Character and Paragraph options. Illustrator is getting the shapes of these letters from the font file (.otf, .ttf)

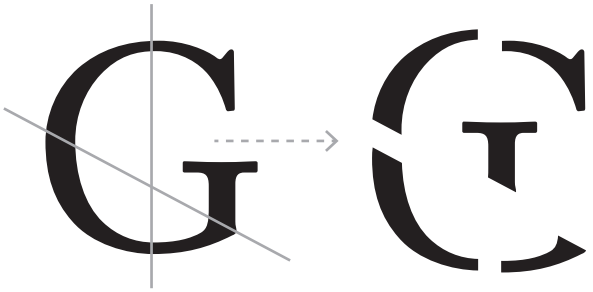


These are now vector shapes, and you can edit the individual anchor points. Illustrator is not referencing the original font file anymore.

REMOVE ANCHOR POINTS
minus sign (hyphen)



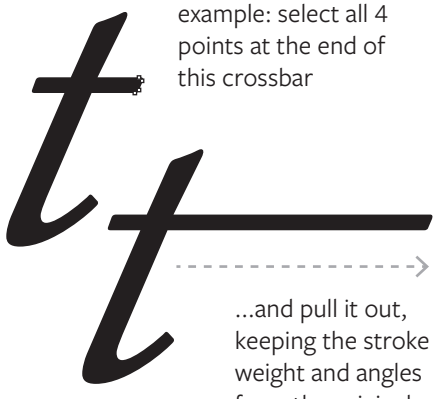
PATHFINDER > DIVIDE
window > pathfinder,
first icon on bottom row



Set up overlapping lines or shapes, divide, ungroup

These are now separate moveable pieces

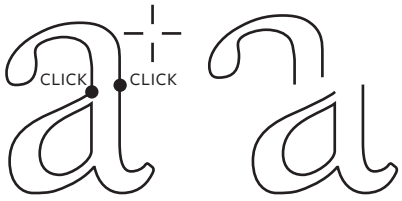
DIRECT SELECTION
move individual points



example: select all 4 points at the end of this crossbar

...and pull it out, keeping the stroke weight and angles from the original font consistent

SCISSORS TOOL
split a shape or line at certain points



1. object > compound path > release
2. object > ungroup
3. Click on line or anchor points to cut

KNIFE TOOL
Slice across shapes.



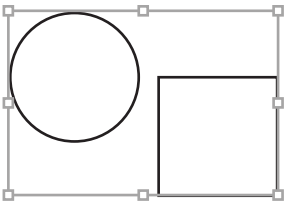
ERASER
Draw freehand to erase.
Brush size shortcuts: [ ]



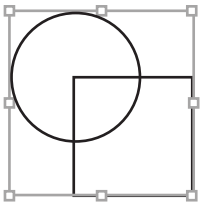
SHAPE BUILDER

add and subtract shapes by clicking and dragging

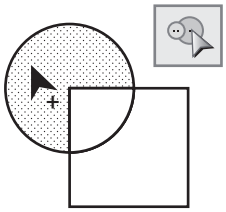
ADDING



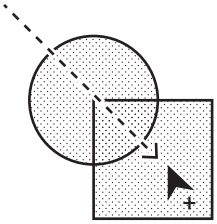
Two or more shapes



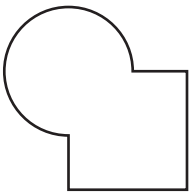
Position and select them together



Choose Shape Builder tool, and hover over to highlight sections

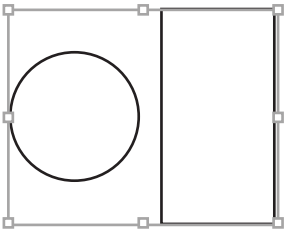


Drag across to join

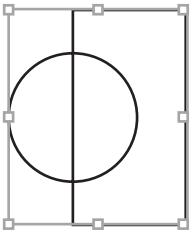


Joined as one shape

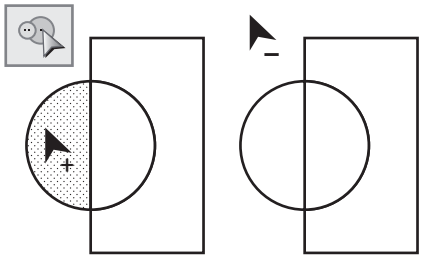
SUBTRACTING



Two or more shapes



Position and select them together

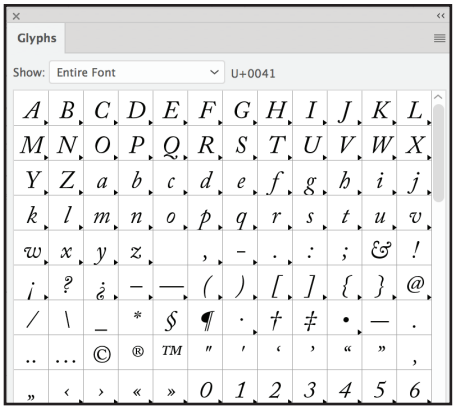


Choose Shape Builder tool, and hover over to highlight sections

Hold down OPTION (or ALT) to turn the plus on the cursor into a minus

While holding OPTION, drag across or click on the parts you want to subtract

TYPE > GLYPHS



This panel shows every character in the font.

There might be surprises, and more shapes to work with than you expect in fonts that include multiple language alphabets, alternate letters, or an extended set of symbols + punctuation

& § ¶ † ‡ ¢ € £ ¥ ƒ Æ æ ß ſ ſh ſt Q Ë N P Ş ℓ Ω ∂ π

Each of these fonts has its own version of these same characters:

Ж § π Ω ¶

Ж § ∏ Ω ¶

Ж § π Ω ¶

Ж § ⊓ Ω ¶