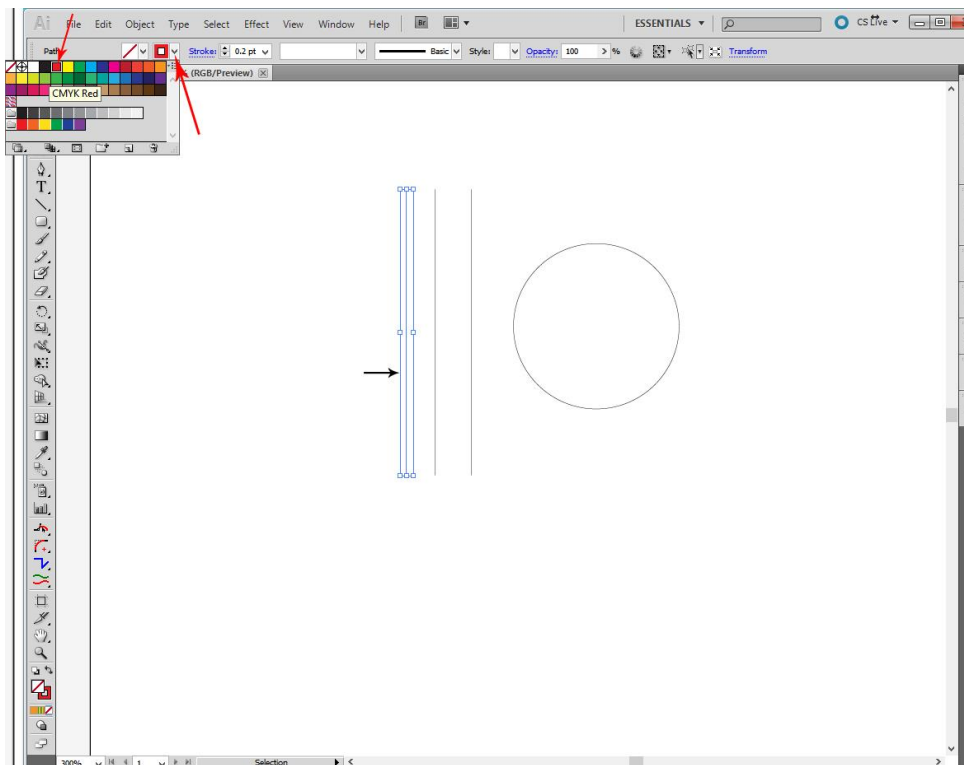
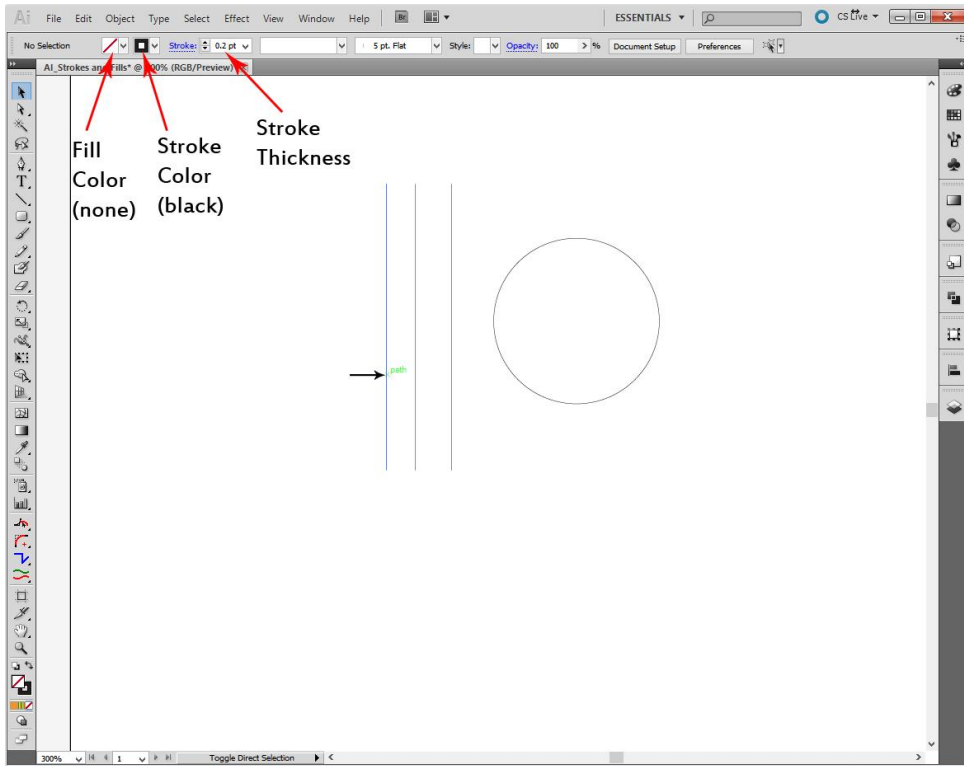


Setting Stroke and Fill Color in Adobe Illustrator

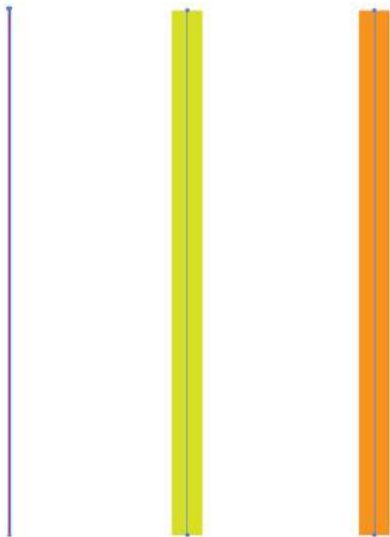
Click on a path or shape in Illustrator to select it, and the current information on **Stroke Color**, **Stroke Thickness (Weight)** and **Fill Color (if applicable)** are displayed in the top Tools bar. If you want to make a change, click the little drop-down and choose a different color for the stroke



The Stroke Weight can change the appearance of where you think a line is going to cut.

The **Stroke** in AI is like a marker pen stroke applied over a pencil sketch underneath. The **vector path** (pencil line) is always the same size and **the default location** is located down the center of whatever **Stroke** (pen) width you choose to use.

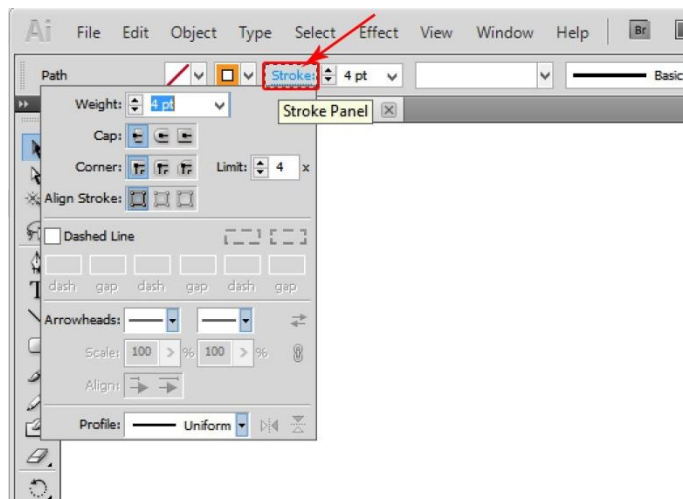
Many people use the term Stroke to mean the vector path, but they mean different things when you are designing for a laser or cutter. **The laser is going to follow the vector path when it cuts.** If you design with a wide Stroke on the vector path, you might think that the machine is going to cut out around the outside of the stroke, but it will actually follow that vector path, and might cut the stroke in half, or cut it completely off.

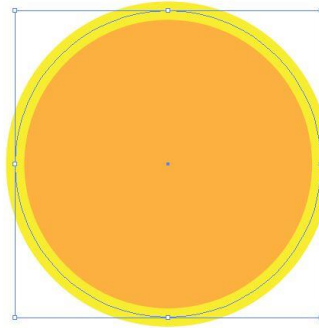
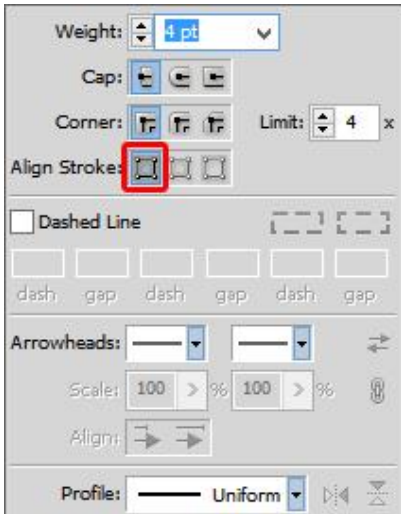


You can see the vector path running down the center of a **Stroke** when you select it.

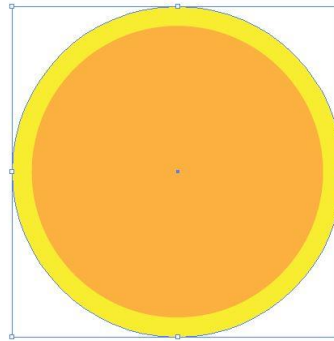
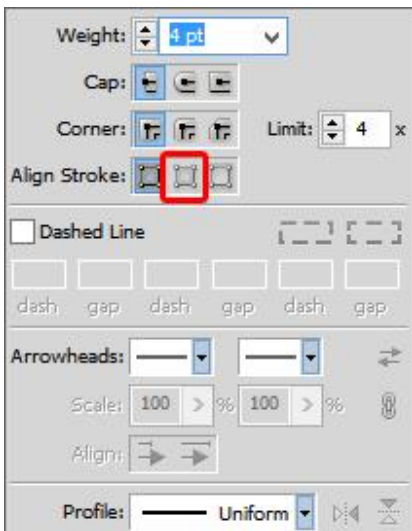
.2 pt 4 pt 4 pt

You can change where the stroke appears to fall on a closed shape. Click on the word **Stroke** next to the Stroke Weight blank.

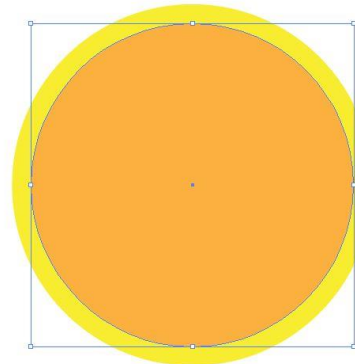
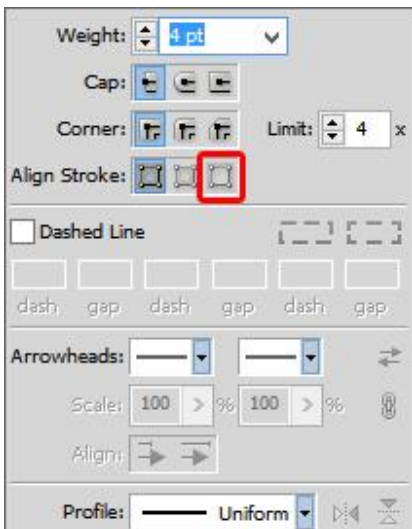




Yellow Stroke
Centered Path
(4 pts thick)
Orange Fill



Yellow Stroke
Inside of Path
(4 pts thick)
Orange Fill

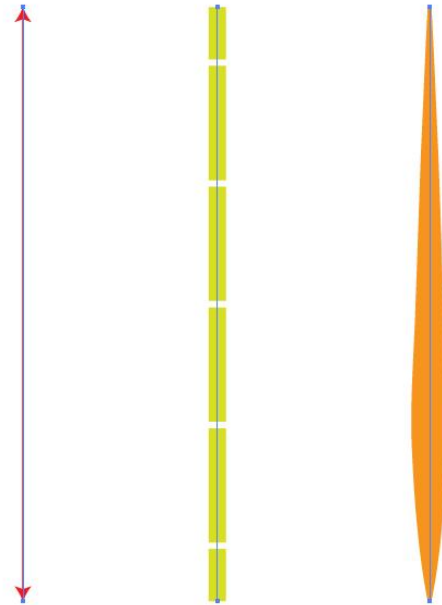
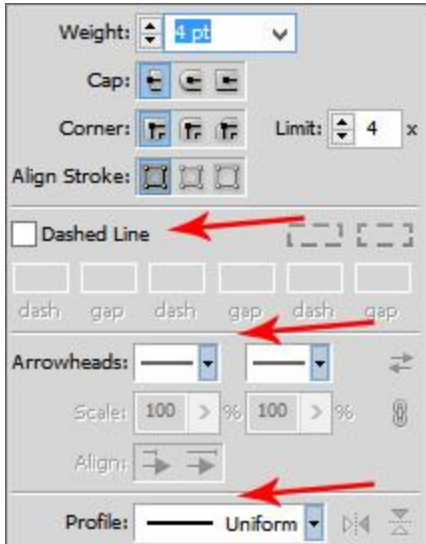


Yellow Stroke
Outside of Path
(4 pts thick)
Orange Fill

An interesting thing to note is that the vector path on each of the circles shown above is **exactly** the same size – 24mm. The only thing that changes is where the stroke displays in relation to the path. If you are creating a vector to cut out around a raster image, watch where the stroke falls in relation to the path, or create vectors with very thin lines. (aka: Hairlines)

In the **Stroke** palette, you can also set **Arrowheads** on your line, make your line appear to be **Dashed**, or apply a **Variable Width Profile** to the stroke.

Please remember that at this stage, this is only **how it appears on the artboard**, not necessarily what the laser is going to see. There is still a single solid vector path down the center of the stroke, and if you plan to use it for cutting, the line will be solid, not dashed. (There is a way to convert it...it's called **Expanding the Appearance**, and it's covered in a separate tutorial.)



It is often helpful to check the view in **Outline mode**, to make sure that vector lines appear as you wish before saving a file as an SVG.

