Microsoft® Expression® Design

on Demand

- Creating Graphics
- Drawing Shapes and Paths
- Creating Compound Paths
- Applying Fills, Strokes, and Effects
- Working with Brushes
- Applying Image Fills
- Working with Bitmap Images
- Creating and Editing Gradients
- Applying Blend Modes
- Adjusting Opacity
- Converting Bitmap Images to Paths
- Creating Image Objects
- Formatting Text Objects
- Adding Text to Paths
- Scaling, Rotating, and Skewing Objects
- Transforming Image Fills
- Warping Objects
- Applying Path Operations
- Defining Crop Marks
- Using Pixel Preview
- Exporting as XAML
- Viewing in Wireframe Mode
- Working with Multiple Views
- Working with Grids, Guides, and Points
- Making Selections
- Arranging Objects
- Working with Layers
- Locking Objects
- Editing Paths
- Aligning, Distributing, and Stacking

IN FULL COLOR

que®

Ted LoCascio

Microsoft® Expression® Design on Demand

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Introduction

Welcome to *Microsoft Expression Design on Demand*, a visual quick reference book that shows you how to work efficiently with Expression Design. This book provides complete coverage of basic to advanced Expression Design skills.

How This Book Works

You don't have to read this book in any particular order. We've designed the book so that you can jump in, get the information you need, and jump out. However, the book does follow a logical progression from simple tasks to more complex ones. Each task is presented on no more than two facing pages, which lets you focus on a single task without having to turn the page. To find the information that you need, just look up the task in the table of contents or index and turn to the page listed. Read the task introduction, follow the step-by-step instructions in the left column along with the screen illustrations in the right column, and you're done.

How You'll Learn

How This Book Works

Step-by-Step Instructions

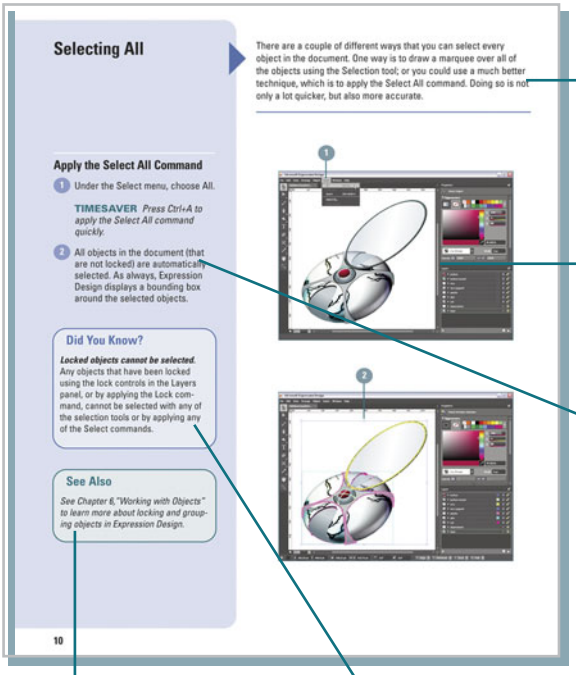
Sample Files

Get Updates

Expression Studio

Step-by-Step Instructions

This book provides concise step-by-step instructions that show you how to accomplish a task. Each set of instructions includes illustrations that directly correspond to the easy-to-read steps. Also included in the text are time-savers, tables, and sidebars to help you work more efficiently or to teach you more in-depth information. A "Did You Know?" provides tips and techniques to help you work smarter, whereas a "See Also" leads you to other parts of the book containing related information about the task.



Easy-to-follow introductions focus on a single concept.

Illustrations match the numbered steps.

Numbered steps guide you through each task.

See Also points you to related information in the book.

Did You Know? alerts you to tips, techniques, and related information.

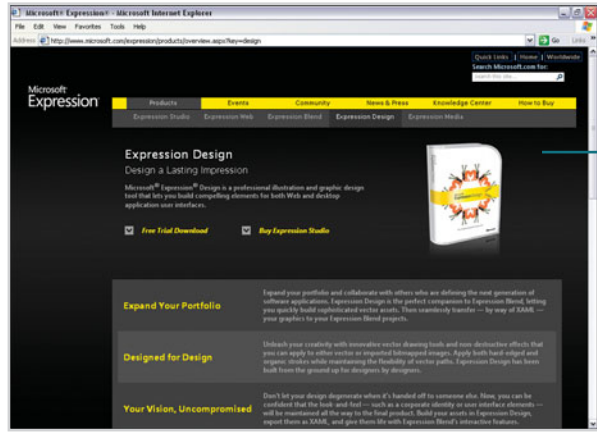
Sample Files

This book uses the sample files that are installed with Expression Design to give you a context in which to use each task. You can locate these files by navigating on your system to the Program Files\Microsoft Expression\Design\Samples folder. By following along with the sample files, you won't waste time looking for or creating your own assets. Note that not every task requires a sample file, such as "Drawing with the Pen Tool." In these instances, you will perform the task from scratch.

Sample files help you apply what you've learned to other tasks.

Get Updates

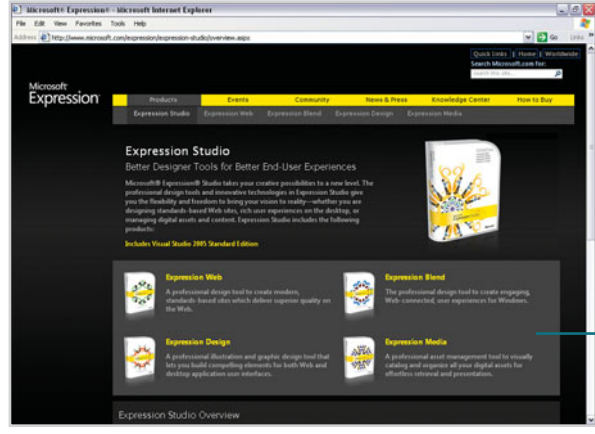
Like any software, Expression Design continues to change and get better with updates and patches, so it's important to regularly check the Microsoft Expression Design site at *www.microsoft.com/products/expression/*.



Get Updates for Expression Design online.

Expression Studio

Expression Design is part of the Microsoft Expression Studio, which also includes Expression Web, Blend, and Media. Expression Web is a professional design tool used to create websites that conform to modern standards-based sites on the web. Expression Blend is a professional design tool used to create engaging, web-connected user experiences for Windows. Expression Media is a professional asset management tool used to visually catalog and organize all your digital assets for effortless retrieval and presentation.



Expression Studio combines tools to create an expanded development environment.

Getting Started with Expression Design

1

Introduction

Microsoft Expression Design is a powerful illustration tool that allows you to create both vector and bitmap graphics for use in projects created with the other applications in the Studio suite, including Expression Web and Expression Blend. It is only available for purchase as part of Expression Studio and not as a standalone application.

As a tightly integrated member of the Studio suite, Expression Design allows you to design custom web graphics and export them as GIFs or JPEGs for use in sites created with Expression Web. You can also use Expression Design to create custom user interface controls and export them in the native XAML format for use in interfaces created with Expression Blend.

In this chapter, you will learn the necessary steps for installing Expression Design on PCs running either the Windows XP or Windows Vista operating systems. (Expression Studio is currently not available for Mac OS X.) You will also learn to identify the basic items of the Expression Design interface, as well as how to open pre-existing documents and create new ones from scratch. Most importantly, you'll learn all about document page structure and how to control the size of your artboard and document.

Once you've mastered these basic fundamentals, you can move on to familiarizing yourself with the available panels and tools in Expression Design.

What You'll Do

Prepare to Install Expression Design

Install Expression Design

Launch Expression Design

Identify Expression Design Interface Items

Open a Document

Open Multiple Documents at Once

View Active Files

Create a New Document

Save a Document

Set Ruler Units

Set Ruler Origin

Change Document Size

Change the Artboard Size

View Artwork in Wireframe Mode

Preparing to Install Expression Design

System Requirements

Before you can install Expression Design, you must make sure that your computer meets the following system requirements:

Operating System:

- Microsoft Windows XP with Service Pack 2 (SP2)
- Windows Vista

Minimum System:

- Intel Pentium or AMD processor, 1 GHz with MMX or equivalent
- 512MB of RAM
- 150 MB available hard disk space
- 1024 x 768 monitor resolution with 24-bit color
- Graphics processor that is DirectX 9–capable

Recommended System:

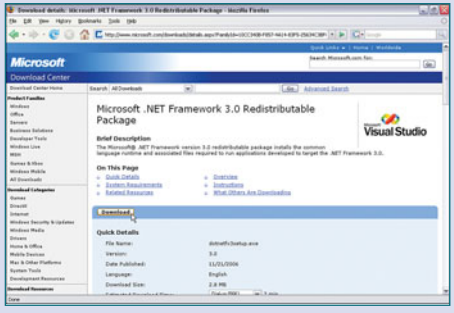
- Intel Pentium or AMD processor, 2 GHz with MMX or equivalent
- 1 GB of RAM
- 600 MB available hard disk space
- Microsoft DirectX 9.0–capable video card with 256 MB or more of memory—for example, ATI Radeon X300 or NVIDIA GeForce 5600 class equivalent or better.

If you are not sure that your computer meets the minimum system requirements, you can find out by referring to the Windows XP or Vista System Information accessory. To do so, click the Start menu button in the taskbar, go to All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, System Information.

Install Microsoft .NET Framework First

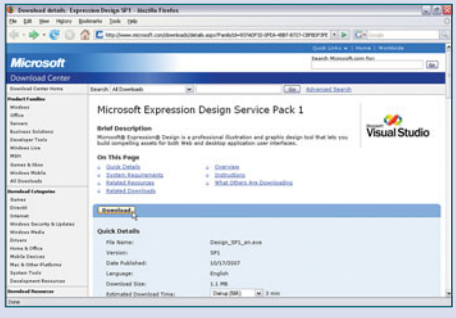
If you are using Windows XP rather than Vista, you must install .NET Framework 3.0 *before* installing Expression Design. You can download the software for free at www.microsoft.com/downloads, or click the .Net Framework 3.0 link available in the Expression Studio CD set-up guide.

To install the software, double-click the installer icon and follow the instructions in the Setup Wizard.



Install Expression Design Service Pack 1

After you've installed Expression Design, you must update it by downloading and installing Expression Design Service Pack 1.



Installing Expression Design

Expression Design can only be purchased as part of the Expression Studio suite, which includes Expression Blend, Expression Web, and Expression Media. When you insert the Expression Studio installer CD, a setup guide automatically displays in your default web browser. You can use this guide to access the individual Expression Studio product installers. Use the following steps to install Expression Design onto your computer.

Install Expression Design

1. Insert the Microsoft Expression Studio CD into your drive.

   The installer CD displays a set-up page in your default web browser. Click **Windows Vista** or **Windows XP,** depending on which operating system you are using.

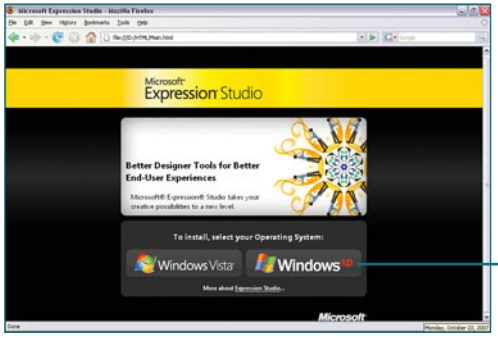
   - If the set-up page does not automatically appear in your browser, choose **My Computer** from the **Start** menu and double-click the **Microsoft Expression Studio** disc icon.

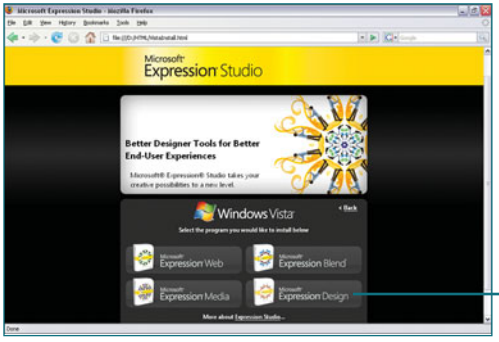
2. If you are using Windows XP, install .NET Framework 3.0.

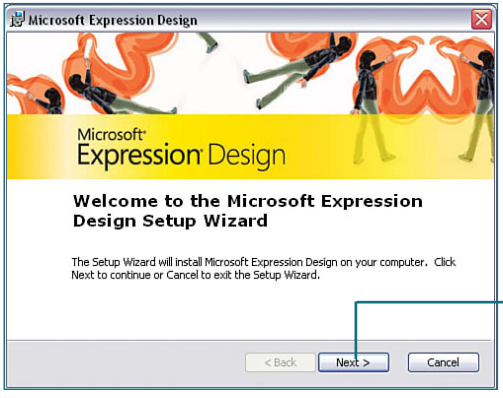
3. Click the **Expression Design** button to access the installer and choose **Save File.** Navigate to the default download location on your system and double-click the installer icon.

4. The Microsoft Expression Design Setup Wizard appears. Click the **Next** button and follow the steps provided.

5. When the installation is complete, click **Finish** to exit the wizard.







Launching Expression Design

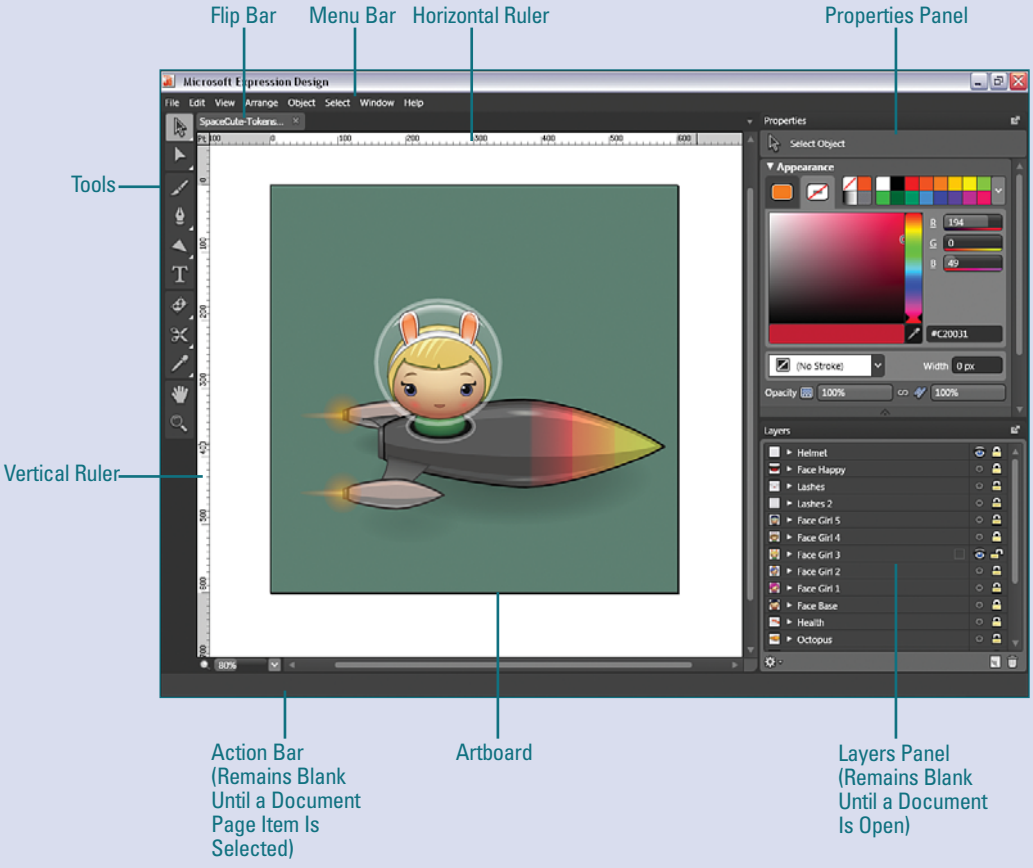
When you first open Expression Design, the default workspace panel arrangement is displayed. This includes the Layers panel and Properties panel (both docked on the right side of the screen) and the Tools (positioned on the left). The Action bar (the gray area at the bottom of the screen) is also open but remains blank until a document is opened and an item is selected. By default, a new document is not automatically opened when launching the application.

Start Expression Design Using the Start Menu

1. Click the **Start** button on the taskbar.
2. Point to **All Programs.**
3. Click **Microsoft Expression**.
4. Click **Microsoft Expression Design.**
5. In the window that appears, enter your product key and click **Continue.**

   The Expression Design interface appears, displaying the default workspace panel arrangement.

Identifying Expression Design Interface Items



Opening a Document

Anytime you want to create artwork in Expression Design, you must do so within the confines of a document page. However, before you begin creating new documents, it helps to understand how to open pre-existing ones. Expression Design actually ships with some documents that are accessible through the Samples folder, which is installed along with the application. To access the Samples folder, navigate to the drive where you installed Expression Design; open the Program Files/Microsoft Expression/Design folder.

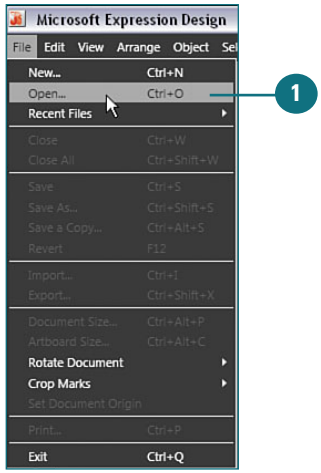
Choose the Open Command

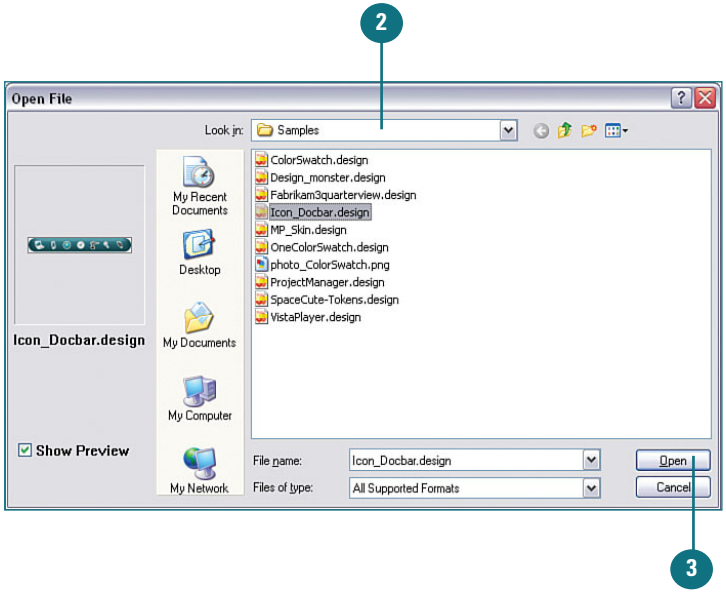
1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Open**.

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+O to apply the Open command quickly.*

2. In the Open File dialog box that appears, navigate to the file you'd like to open.

3. Select the filename and click **Open**. The document automatically appears in the work area of the interface.





Did You Know?

You can preview the document from within the Open File dialog box. To preview the document before you open it in Expression Design, check the Show Preview check box located in the lower left corner of the dialog box.

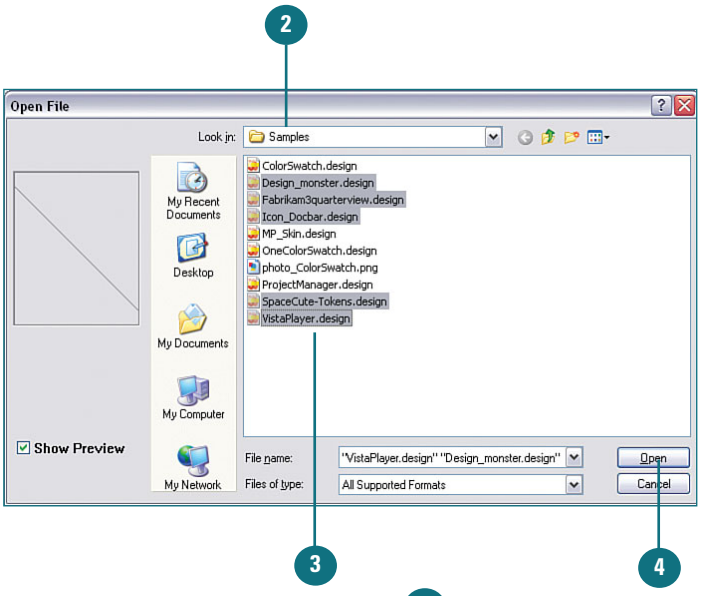
Opening Multiple Documents at Once

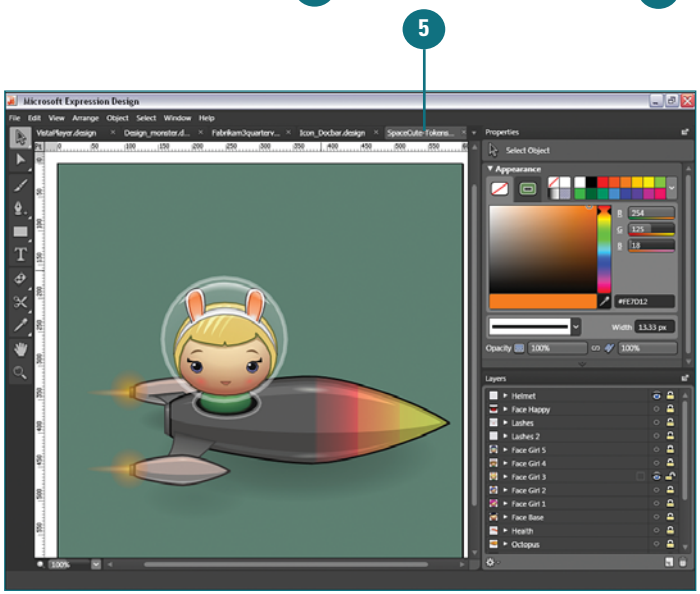
Select Multiple Files

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Open.**
2. In the Open File dialog box that appears, navigate to the folder containing the files you'd like to open.
3. Shift+click to select adjacent filenames, or Ctrl+click to select nonadjacent files.

   IMPORTANT *You cannot preview multiple selected items in the Open File dialog box. When opening multiple files at once, Expression Design only allows you to preview one document at a time.*
4. Click **Open.** The documents automatically appear stacked in the work area of the interface.
5. Each document's name is displayed in a separate tab in the Flip bar. Click a tab to bring the corresponding document to the front.

With Expression Design, you can also open multiple documents at once. This can be useful when working with multiple web graphics or interface items that are intended for use in much larger Expression Web or Expression Blend projects.



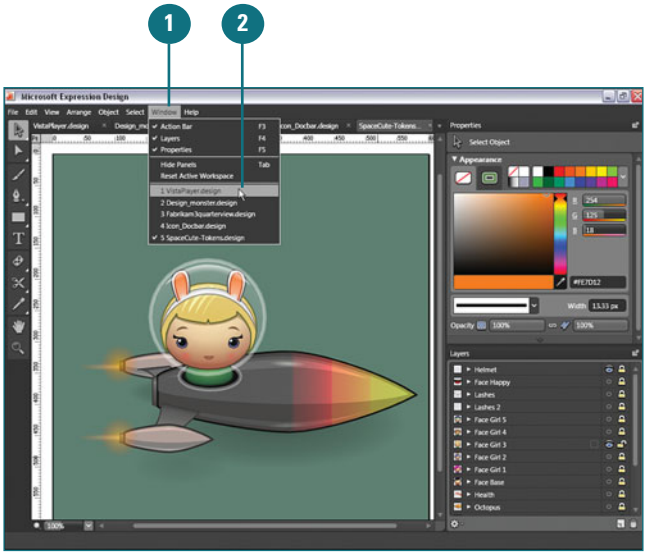


Viewing Active Files

When you have multiple documents open, there are several different ways to control which one is currently being displayed. Expression Design contains a Flip bar at the top of the document window that displays the names of as many open documents as it can fit. By clicking the document name, you can bring it to the front of the stack. All open documents (including those not shown in the Flip bar) can be accessed via the active files list located under the Window menu, or via the Active Files menu to the far right of the Flip bar.

Choose the Document Name from the Window Menu

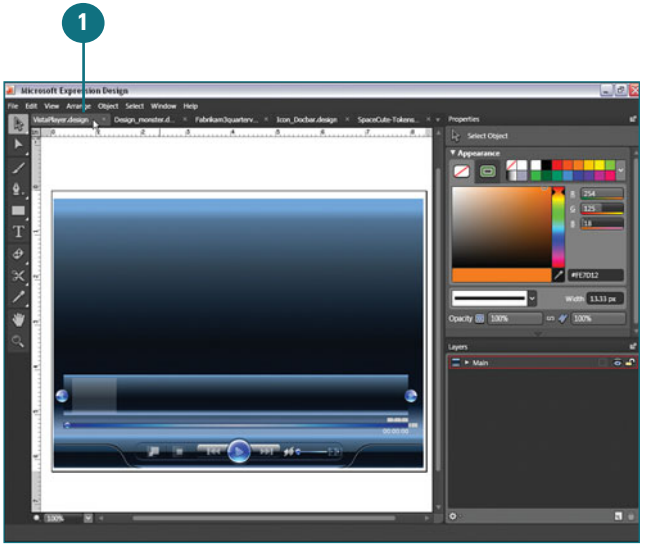
1. You can view a numbered list of open documents under the **Window** menu. The current document has a check mark displayed next to its name.
2. Select the name of the document you'd like to view.



Click the Document Name in the Flip Bar

1. Each document's name is displayed in a separate tab in the Flip bar. Click a tab to bring the corresponding document to the front of the stack.

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+Tab to view the next open document displayed in the Flip bar. Press Ctrl+Shift+Tab to view the previous document.*

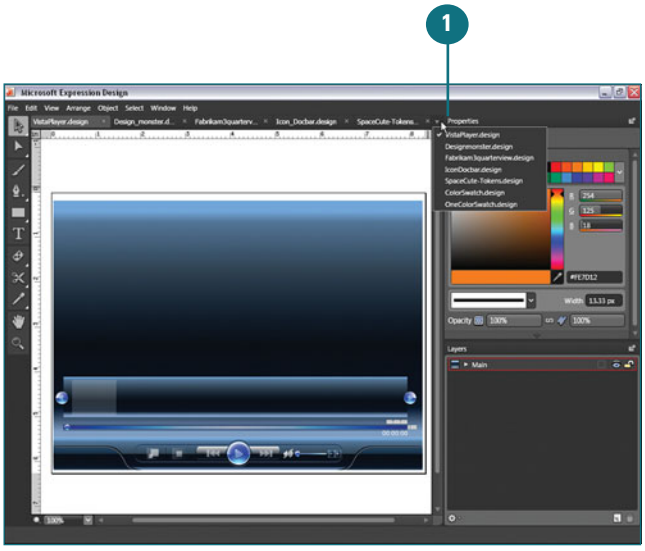


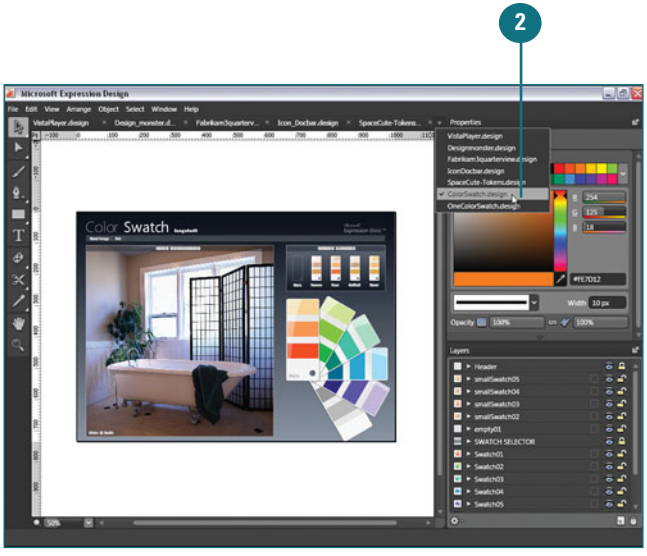
Choose from the Flip Bar Active Files Menu

1. The Flip bar can only display a limited number of document tabs. If you know a document is open but do not see its name listed in the Flip bar, you can access it from the **Active Files** menu.

   To access the menu, click the down arrow in the upper right of the document window, on the far right of the Flip bar. The current document has a check mark displayed next to its name.

2. Select the name of the document you'd like to view.





Did You Know?

You can only display one document at a time. Unfortunately, Expression Design does not contain a Tile feature that allows you to view multiple documents side-by-side.

Hovering over a document name in the Flip bar reveals the current file location. When you hover over any document tab in the Flip bar, a tooltip appears to display where the file is currently stored on your system.

Creating a New Document

To create graphics in Expression Design, you must first create a document. Every document contains a frame, also referred to as the "artboard," which determines the visible output area for your artwork. You can control the size of the document frame by entering specific width and height dimensions in the New Document dialog box. After the document is created, a black outline is displayed to indicate the position of the artboard. All the artwork that you intend to export or print should be placed within this area.

Choose the New Document Command

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **New.**

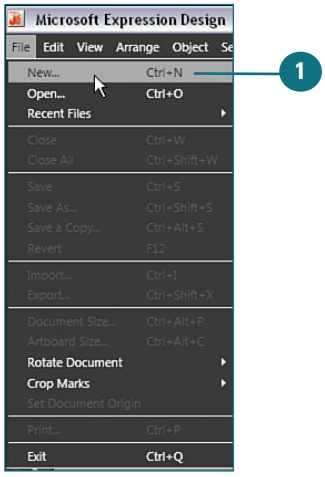
   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+N to apply the New Document command quickly.*

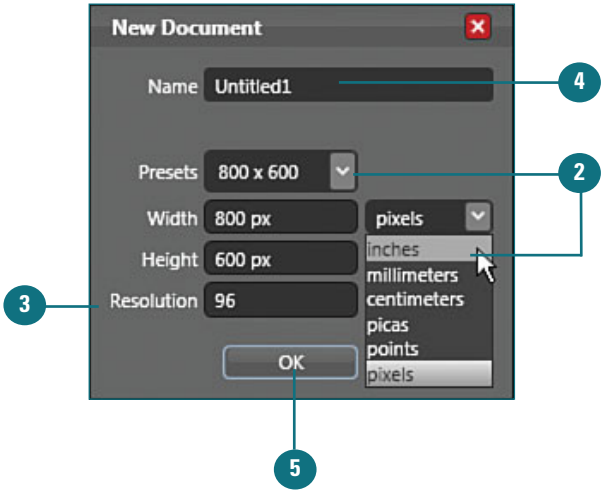
2. In the New Document dialog box that appears, choose a preset document size from the **Presets** list, or enter specific width and height values in the fields provided. Choose the preferred measurement units from the list provided. This also determines what units will appear in the document rulers.

3. If necesssary, change the resolution value from the default setting (96 ppi, which is the standard for onscreen display). Web graphics are generally saved at 72 ppi, and print graphics at a minimum of 220 ppi.

4. It is not necessary to name the file when setting it up in the New Document dialog box, but the option is there if you'd like to. You can always name the file later when saving it.

5. Click **OK** to create the new document.





Saving a Document

As you work in Expression Design, you should periodically save your documents. Doing so allows you to preserve the work you've done and return to it later, even after you've closed the file. There's nothing worse than losing hours of hard work due to a power surge or unexpected system shutdown. Therefore, in addition to saving, you might also want to consider investing in a battery backup for your workstation.

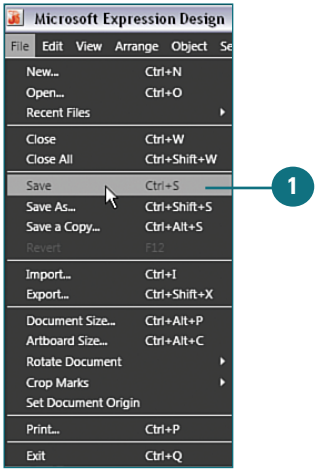
Choose the Save Command

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Save.**

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+S to apply the Save command quickly.*

   The **Save** command is only available when updating pre-existing documents—not when saving for the first time, which requires the use of **Save As**.

   You should also use **Save As** to avoid overwriting an original document that you've applied changes to. Doing so creates a copy of the document and allows you to change its name and system location.



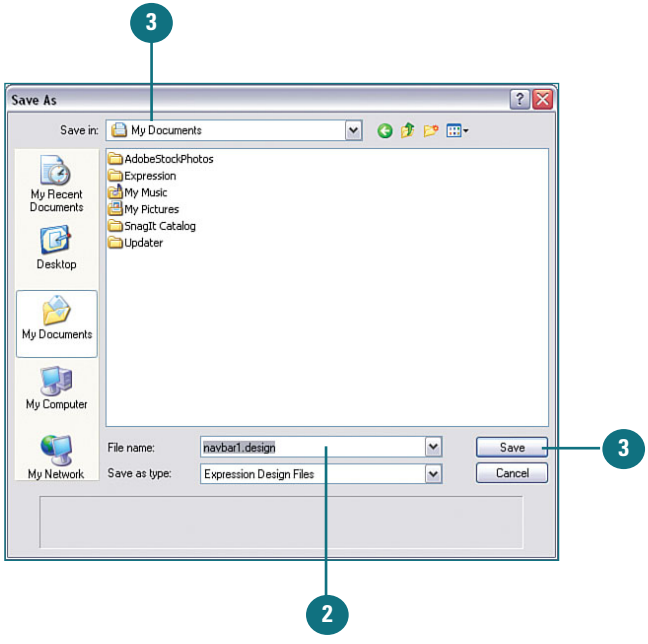
Choose the Save As Command

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Save As.**

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+Shift+S to apply the Save As command.*

2. Enter a name for the document in the **File Name** field of the Save As dialog box.

3. Choose a system location and click **Save.**



Setting Ruler Units

In addition to the artboard, every document also contains a set of rulers: one horizontal (top) and one vertical (left). Expression Design lets you decide which set of measurement units you'd like to display in the rulers. The Units and Grids Options include points, inches, millimeters, centimeters, picas, and pixels. Note that both rulers are always visible (there is no option to hide them), and that they both display the same measurement units.

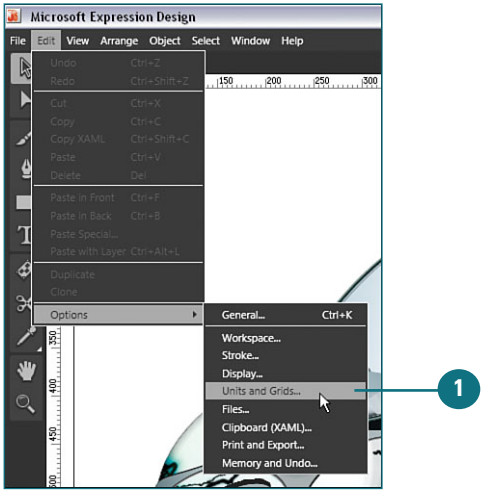
Changing Document Ruler Unit Options

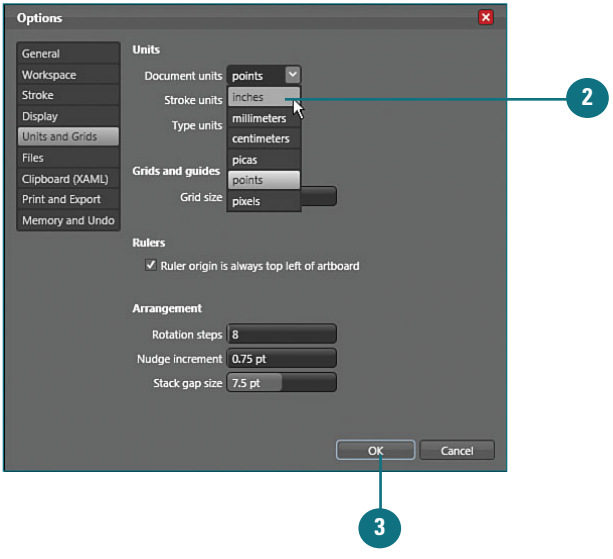
1. Under the **Edit** menu, point to **Options** and choose **Units and Grids** from the fly-out menu.

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+K to quickly access the Options dialog box. Select Units and Grids from the menu on the left.*

2. In the Options dialog box that appears, choose the preferred measurement units from the **Document Units** list.

3. Click **OK** to update the document rulers.





Did You Know?

You can specify measurement unit options when creating a new document. The New Document dialog box contains a Units list that allows you to determine what measurement units will be displayed in the document rulers.

You can easily identify what measurement units are currently applied. Expression Design displays a two-letter abbreviation for the currently selected unit option in the upper left corner of the document window (where the horizontal and vertical rulers meet).

Setting Ruler Origin

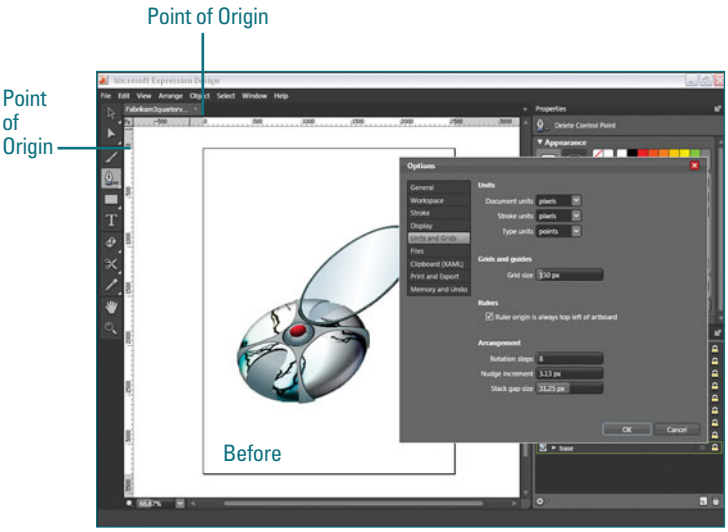
The ruler point of origin, also referred to as the "zero point," is the location along the edge of the artboard where zero is positioned in the rulers. In Expression Design, you can choose to place the zero point for both rulers in the upper left corner of the artboard or place it in the upper left for the horizontal ruler and in the bottom left for the vertical ruler.

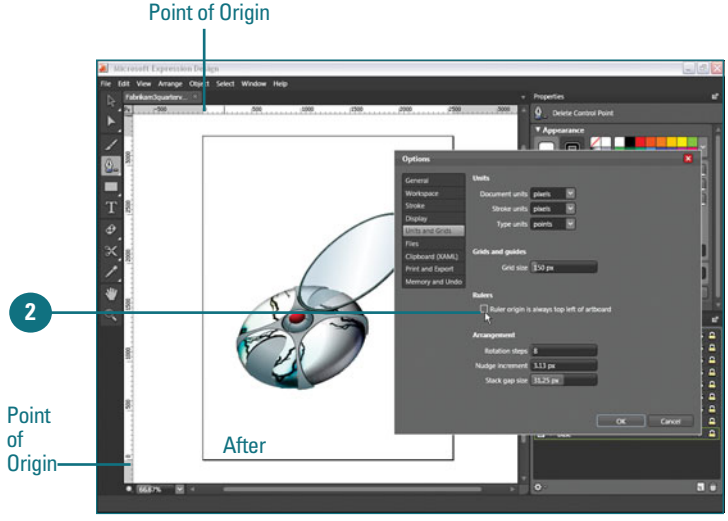
Changing the Ruler Origin Option

1. Under the **Edit** menu, point to **Options** and choose **Units and Grids.**

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+K to quickly access the Options dialog box. Select Units and Grids from the menu on the left.*

2. In the Options dialog box that appears, uncheck **Ruler Origin Is Always Top Left of Artboard.** This changes the ruler origin for the vertical ruler from the upper left to the bottom left.





Did You Know?

The ruler origin follows your movements as you scroll. The gray area in both rulers indicates all values below zero. As you scroll through or zoom in and out of the document, the gray areas update themselves.

Did You Know?

You can also create a custom zero point. To create a custom zero point, choose Set Document Origin from the File menu and click and drag anywhere in the document. When you release the moue button, Expression Design resets the rulers.

Changing Document Size

Anytime you need to change the overall size and/or resolution value of your artwork (for example, to resize a print graphic for use on the web), you can do so by using the controls available in the Document Size dialog box. Remember that any adjustments made using this method affect everything in the document, including the artboard and all your artwork.

Use the Document Size Dialog Box

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Document Size.**

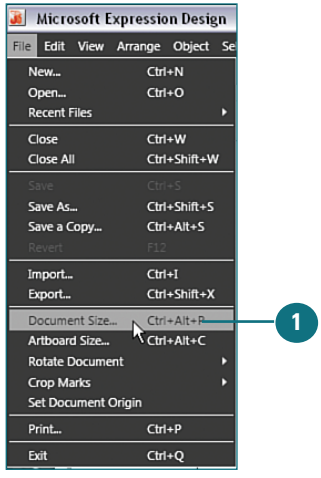
   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+Alt+P to quickly access the Document Size dialog box.*

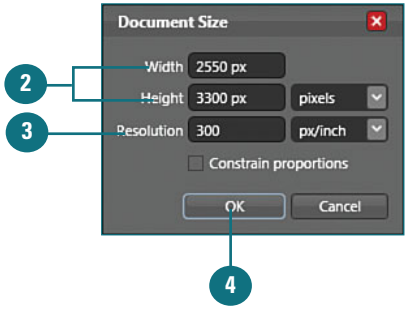
2. Enter new width and height values in the fields provided. Check **Constrain Proportions** to resize the document proportionally. If necessary, you can select a different measurement unit from the list provided. Doing so also changes the units that are displayed in the rulers after the dialog box is closed.

3. If necesssary, change the resolution value from its current setting. Web graphics are generally saved at 72 ppi, and print graphics at a minimum of 220 ppi.

   IMPORTANT *The resolution value does not automatically update when adjusting document dimensions. Therefore—because the controls do not do the math for you—it is difficult to interpolate (resample) a bitmap graphic using the Document Size dialog box. Upsizing a low-resolution graphic might result in unwanted pixelation during output.*

4. Click **OK** to change the document size.





Changing the Artboard Size

Use the Artboard Size Dialog Box

1. Under the **File** menu, choose **Artboard Size.**

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+Alt+C to quickly access the Artboard Size dialog box.*

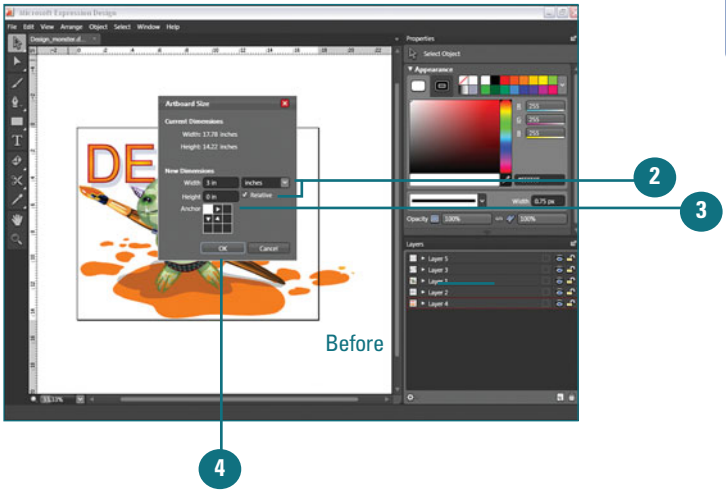
2. Enter new width and height values in the fields provided. If necessary, you can select a different measurement unit from the list provided. Doing so also changes the units displayed in the document rulers after the dialog box is closed.

   If you prefer, check the **Relative** option and enter the exact amount you would like to add to (or subtract from) the width and height of the artboard. Use negative values to subtract.

3. Click any of the arrows in the **Anchor** grid to control which sides of the artboard will be added to or subtracted from. To add or subtract evenly from the center, leave the anchor point at its default setting.

4. Click **OK** to change the artboard size.

If you'd like to resize the artboard *without* resizing your artwork, you can do so using the controls available in the Artboard Size dialog box. This allows you to extend your canvas and increase the output area or reduce it to crop away portions of your art.



Viewing Artwork in Wireframe Mode

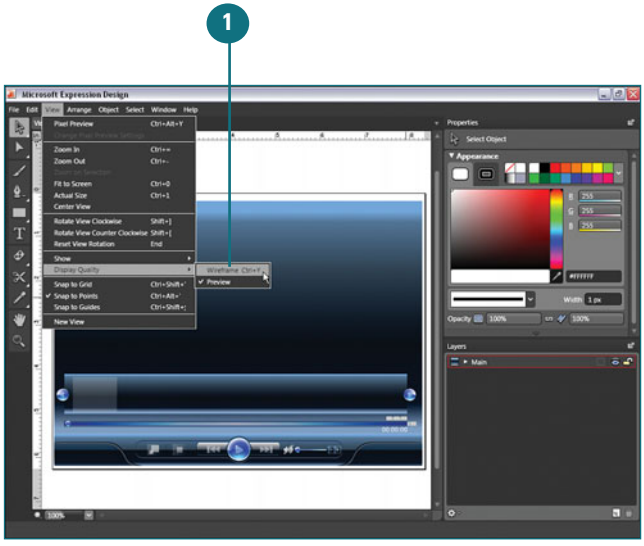
By default, Expression Design displays all documents in Preview mode, which reveals all applied attributes, such as fill colors, stroke colors, and effects. However, if you'd like to view the paths that make up the artwork without any attributes applied, you can do so by switching the Display Quality setting to Wireframe mode. This is a great way to take a look at what's going on "under the hood" of your artwork. Switching to Wireframe mode can also make it easier to locate specific paths that you'd like to select and edit, especially when working with detailed pieces of art.

Change the Display Quality Setting

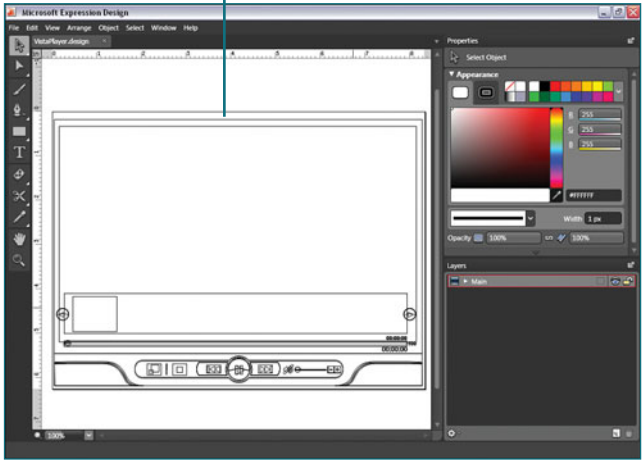
1. Under the **View** menu, choose **Wireframe** from the **Display Quality** submenu.

   TIMESAVER *Press Ctrl+Y to toggle between Preview and Wireframe modes.*

   Expression Design displays the paths that make up the artwork without showing any applied fill and stroke colors or effects.



Wireframe



Did You Know?

Natural media brushstrokes remain visible in Wireframe mode. Natural media brushstrokes appear just as they do in Preview mode. The only difference is that the underlying path is revealed.

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