ART FLEX SOFTWARE

ArtFlex Quick Dims
User Guide

v2

ArtFlex Quck Dims - User Guide

Content:

Installers and Licensing 3
Plug-in Installation 3
Plug-in Tools 3
Plug-in Panel Location 3
Unlicensed Mode 3
Activation/Deactivation Process 4
General Settings Interface 4
Text Tab Interface 4
Terminators Tab Interface 4
Lines Tab Interface 4
Units Tab Interface 5
Creating Object Bounding Box Dimensions with Horizontal/Vertical Quick Dims Tools 5
- Step 1: Highlighting Object for Previewing Dimensions 5
- Step 2: Activating and Using Dimension Preview 5
- Step 3: Creating horizontal and/or vertical bounding box dimensions 6

Creating Object Segment Dimensions with Orthogonal/Inclined Quick Dims Tools 7
- Step 1: Highlighting object segments for specifying start/end dimension points 7
- Step 2: Specifying start/end dimension points and activating/using dimension preview 7
- Step 3: Creating inclined or orthogonal dimensions 8

Using Snapping 9
Dimensions with Equal Distance to Measured Object 9
Updating Dimension by Dragging 9
Editing Dimensions 9
Dimension <-> Measured Object Connection 10
Resetting Plug-in Settings 10
Using Presets 10

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

Installers and Licensing

You can obtain the plug-in installers and licenses on our artflex.software website.
- Getting a trial license: Register on https://www.artflex.software/en/download,
  We will email you the trial license and instructions. It enables all plug-in functions for 21 days.
- Purchasing a full license: Go to https://artflex.software/en/eshop
  The website will guide you through the easy purchasing procedure.

Plug-in Installation

Run the Installer downloaded from the artflex.software website. It will detect the compatible Illustrator applications and install the plug-in in appropriate folders. The plug-in can be installed on both macOS and Windows systems and is always compatible with the latest and the previous versions of Adobe Illustrator.

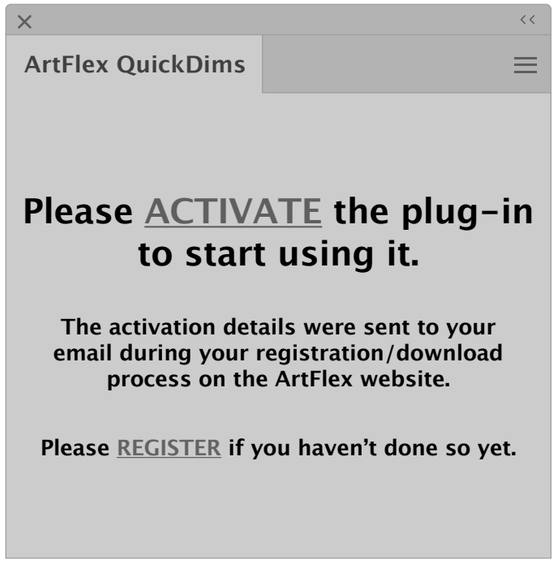
Plug-in Tools

The plug-in adds 5 new tools to the Adobe Illustrator Toolbar: Horizontal+Vertical Quick Dims Tool, Horizontal Quick Dims Tool, Vertical Quick Dims Tool, Orthogonal Segment Quick Dims Tool, Inclined Segment Quick Dims Tool.

Plug-in Panel Location

The plug-in panel is located under Window -> ArtFlex -> ArtFlex QuickDims
You can also double click on one of the plug-in tools in the Illustrator Toolbar.

Unlicensed Mode

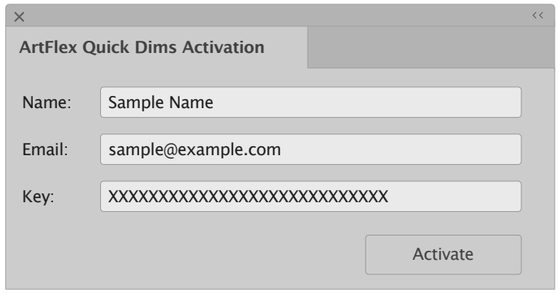


Unlicensed plug-in panel.

The plugin opens in Unlicensed Mode right after the installation. Use your Trial or Full License to unlock all plugin functionalities. Click on the ACTIVATE text to start the activation process.

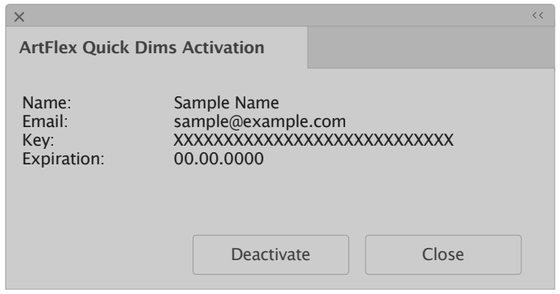
You can activate the plug-in only if you are registered on our website. All registered users will get one free trial license. If you have not registered yet, you can do so by clicking on the REGISTER text.

Activation/Deactivation Process



Activation window.

License activation process:
1) Click on the ACTIVATE text in the Unlicensed plug-in panel to start the activation process. It will open the Activation window.
2) In the Activation window fill out the Name, Email and License Key you have received by email.
3) Press the Activate button and wait until the license is validated.
4) Activation is processed the moment that the License expiration date and Deactivate button appear in the Activation window. Plug-in is licensed.



Activation window of licensed plug-in.

License deactivation process:
1) Press the Deactivate button in the Activation window.
2) The plug-in will start the deactivation process.
3) After successful deactivation the plug-in will switch to Unlicensed mode.

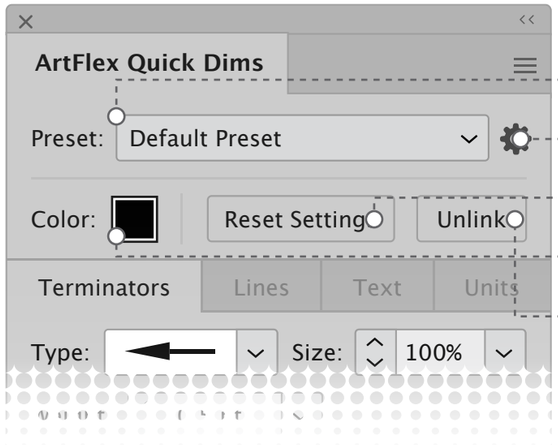
Good to know

- Internet connection is required to activate the plug-in. As the plug-in periodically checks the license validity, we recommend you use a permanent internet connection. The plug-in can also work offline, but it will automatically switch to Unlicensed Mode after a period without an internet connection. If you cannot use your license (e.g. because of a broken workstation) please contact us at https://artflex.software/en/support. We can deactivate the old license and issue a new one.
- Each registered user can use his trial license only once and only on one computer. If you need to activate the plug-in more times, please contact us via our support page. We will arrange it for you.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

General Settings Interface



Preset - Selects and applies a set of saved predefined dimension values.

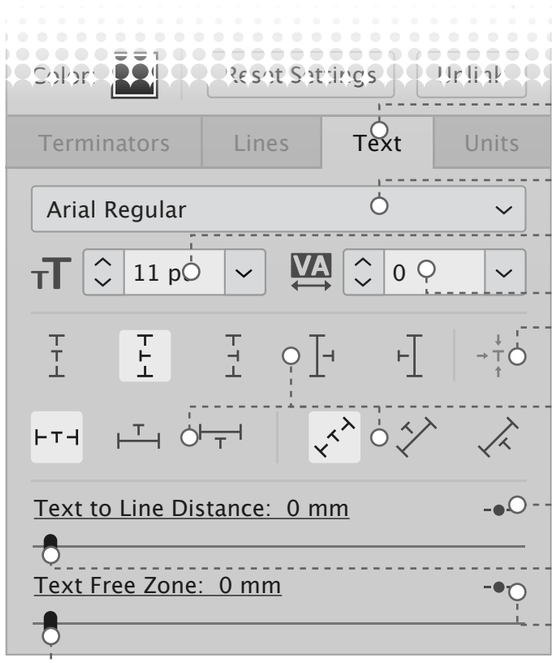
Presets Settings - Opens the Presets panel where presets can be saved or deleted, imported or exported.

Reset Settings - Fills in plug-in fields with default values. See Quick Dims Default Values on page 10.

Color - Opens color palette where dimension color is specified. The color is applied to the entire dimension.

Unlink Dimensions - Detaches dimension(s) from the measured object for further graphic processing.

Text Tab Interface



Text Tab - Activates the UI tab with all settings applicable to the dimension text part.

Font Selector - Opens a dropdown menu with names of all available fonts that can be used in a dimension.

Text Size - Specifies the text size used in a dimension.

Text Tracking - Specifies the distance between characters in the text part.

Text Position Reset - Places the text to the default position.

Vertical/Horizontal/Inclined Dimension Text Alignment - Options to align the text of vertical, horizontal or inclined dimensions.

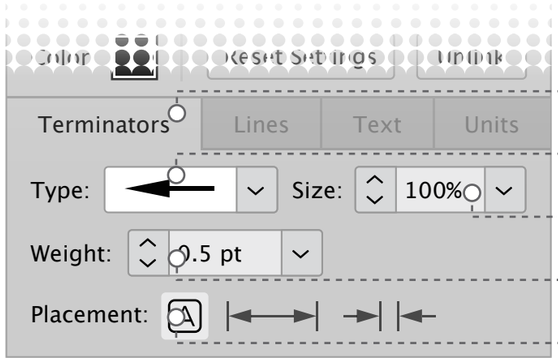
Text to Line Distance - Slide Settings - Sets up the range of values for the text to line distance slide.

Text to Line Distance Slide - Specifies the distance between dimension line and dimension text.

Text-Free Zone - Slide Settings - Sets up the range of values for the text-free zone slide.

Text-Free Zone Slide - Specifies free space size around the dimension text.

Terminators Tab Interface



Terminators Tab - Activates the UI tab with all settings applicable to terminators.

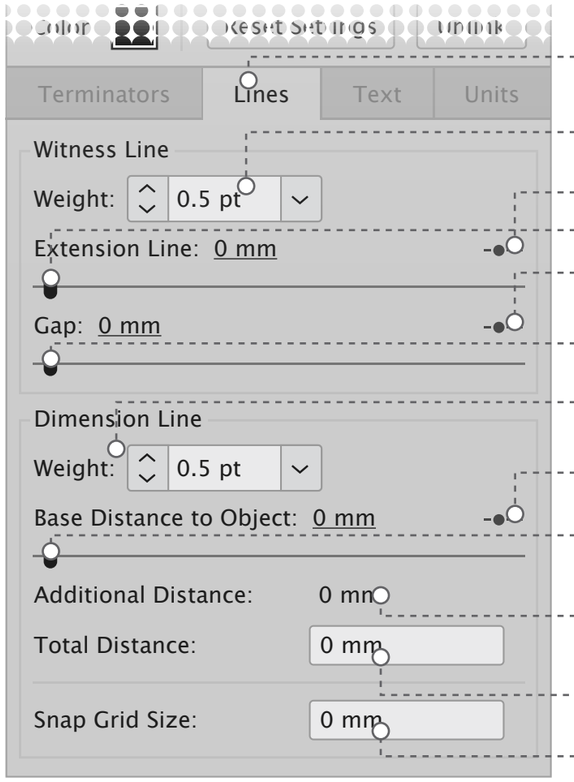
Type - Opens dropdown menu where terminator style can be chosen. 7 different terminator types are available.

Size - Changes the terminator size percentage. Changes are applied to both dimension terminators at a time.

Weight - Changes the thickness of the terminator outline. Useful for terminators which consist of only one stroke.

Placement - Positions the terminators inside or outside witness lines or chooses automatic placement.

Lines Tab Interface



Lines Tab - Activates the UI tab with all settings applicable to witness and dimension lines.

Witness Line Weight - Changes the thickness of the wit. line. Changes are always applied to both witness lines.

Extension Line - Slide Settings - Sets up the range of values for the extension line slide.

Extension Line Slide - Changes the length of ext. lines.

Gap - Slide Settings - Range of values for the gap slide.

Gap Slide - Changes the size of the gap between the measured object and the beginning of the witness lines.

Dimension Line Weight - Changes the thickness of the dimension line.

Base Distance to Object - Slide Settings - Sets up the range of values for the base distance to object slide.

Base Distance to Object Slide - Changes the base distance between the measured object and the dimension lines.

Additional Distance - Shows distance between dimension and measured object made by manually dragging a dimension line.

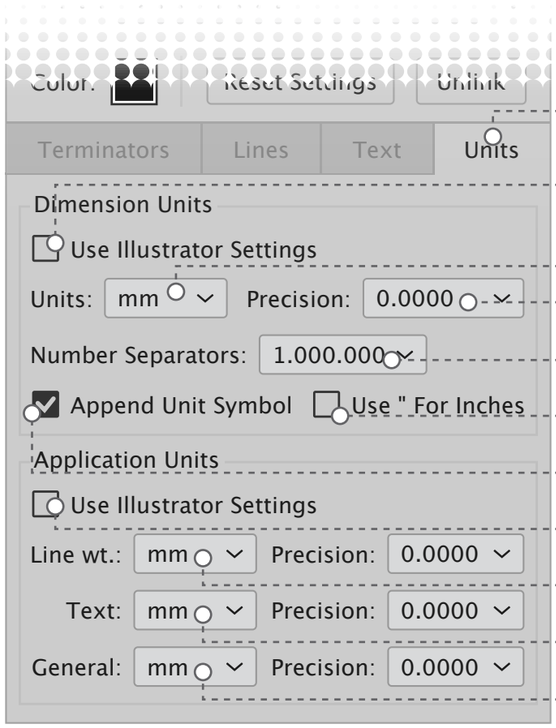
Total Distance - Shows the entire distance between dimension and measured object as a sum of base and additional distances.

Snap to Grid Size - Specifies dimension line snapping distance. Helps place the line to the required distance.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

Units Tab Interface



Units Tab - Activates the UI tab with all settings applicable to the dimension and application units.

Use Illustrator Units - Uses the units from Illustrator preferences as dimension units.

Units - Opens a dropdown menu where dimension units can be selected.

Precision - Specifies the number of dim. decimal digits.

Number Separators - Selects comma or point or their combination as full/decimal number separator.

Use " for Inches - Replaces the shortcut for inches by inches symbol ".

Append Unit Symbol - Adds unit shortcut to the measured value in the dimension. This option is on by default.

Use Illustrator Units - Uses the units from Illustrator preferences as application (plug-in) units.

Line Weight - Opens a dropdown menu with unit selection available for specifying line weights.

Text - Opens a dropdown menu with unit selection available for specifying text size.

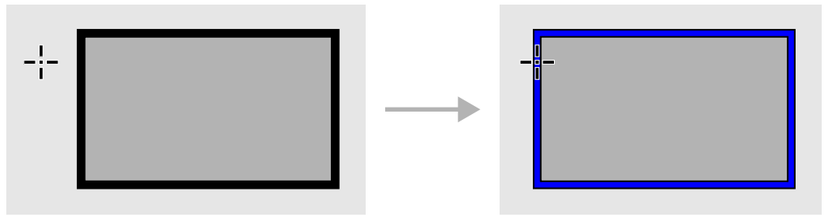
General - Opens a dropdown menu with unit selection available for all settings except line weight and text size.

Creating Object Bounding Box Dimensions with Horizontal/Vertical Quick Dims Tools

Step 1: Highlighting an object for previewing dimension

1a) In the Illustrator Toolbar choose one of the following ArtFlex Quick Dims bounding box tools: Bidirectional Horizontal+Vertical Tool , Monodirectional Horizontal Tool , Monodirectional Vertical Tool .

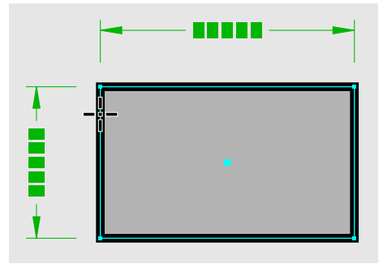
1b) Move the cursor over the object you wish to measure. The object path will be highlighted in blue.



Move the cursor on an object to highlight it.

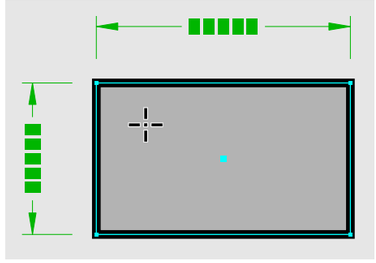
Step 2: Activating/using dimension preview

2a) Click on the highlighted object to activate dimension preview. The preview appearance depends on values specified in the plug-in panel.

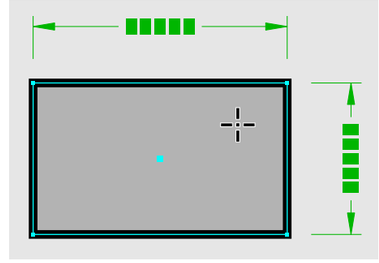


Activated dimension preview by using the Horizontal+Vertical Tool.

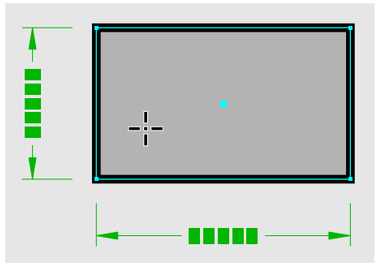
2b) Moving the cursor around center of the measured object bounding box switches the previewed dimension(s).



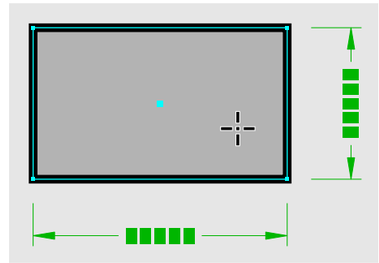
Move the cursor to left upper quarter of the measured object to preview the left and upper dimensions.



Move the cursor to right upper quarter of the measured object to preview the right and upper dimensions.



Move the cursor to left bottom quarter of the measured object to preview the left and bottom dimensions.

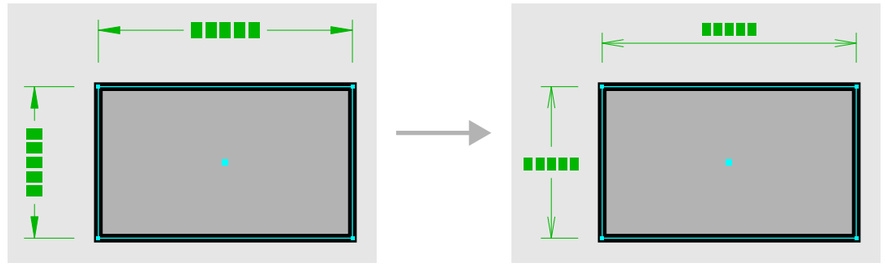


Move the cursor to right bottom quarter of the measured object to preview the right and bottom dimensions.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

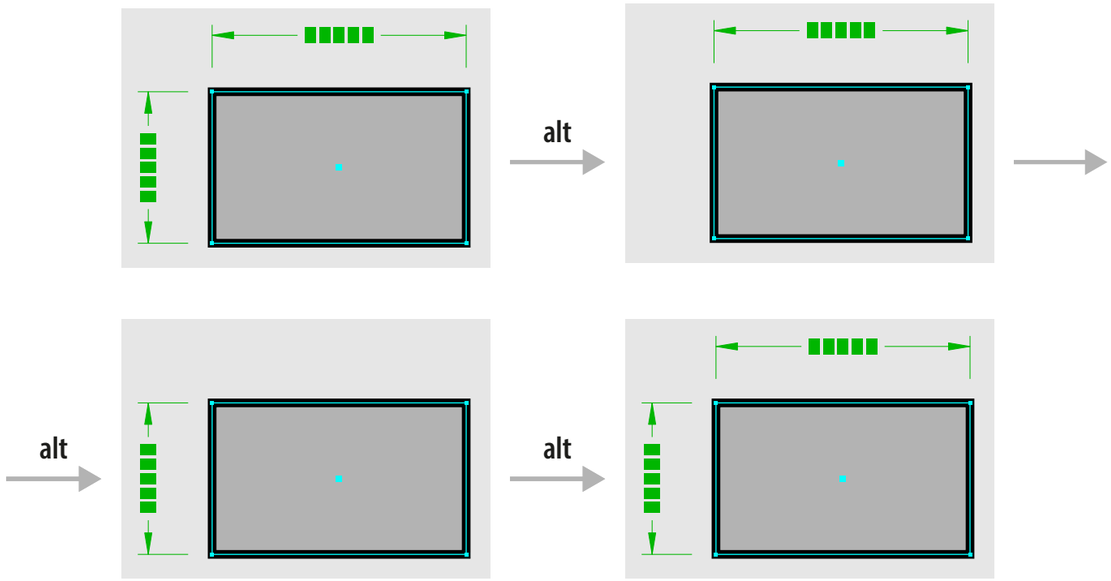
2c) Dimension preview can be easily updated by changing any attribute in the Quick Dims plug-in panel.



Dimension preview before update.

Updated text size, text position, terminator and distance between dimension line and measured object.

2d) If necessary, switch between bidirectional and monodirectional dimensions preview by pressing the alt key.



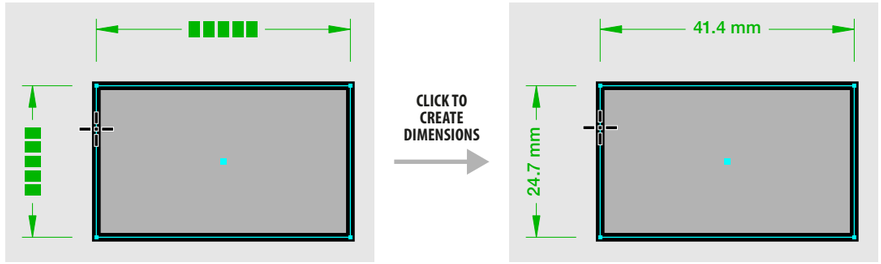
Good to know

- In addition to the single object dimension preview, you can preview the dimensions of any group of selected objects.
- Due to specific Illustrator limitations the preview text part has to be represented by small rectangles. However, the rectangles do represent correct text size and text area width.
- The preview mode can be canceled by pressing the space button.

ART FLEX SOFTWARE

Step 3: Creating horizontal and/or vertical bounding box dimensions

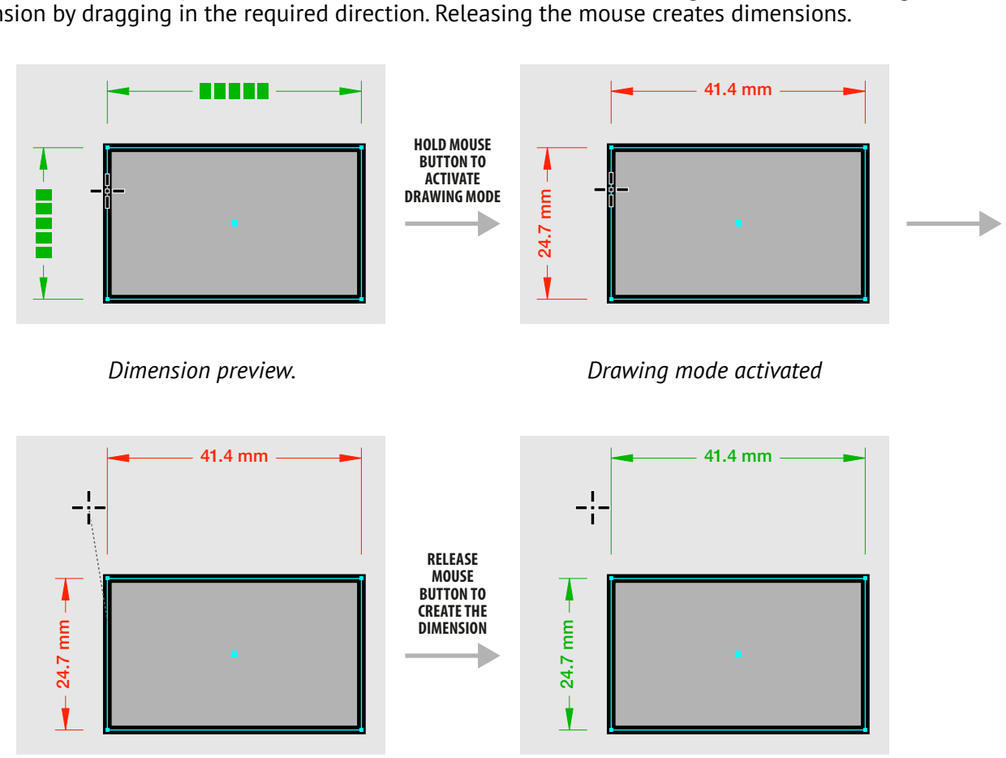
3a) Creation of horizontal and/or vertical bounding box dimensions by a single click:
Activate dimension preview and do a single click. It will transform the dimension preview to dimensions.



Dimension preview.

Default dimensions created by a single click.

3b) Creation of horizontal and/or vertical bounding box dimensions by dragging:
Activate the dimension preview hold mouse button to activate the drawing mode. Start drawing dimension by dragging in the required direction. Releasing the mouse creates dimensions.



Dimension preview.

Drawing mode activated

The drawing (dragging) is shown instantly in the dragging mode preview.

Ready dimension created by dragging.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

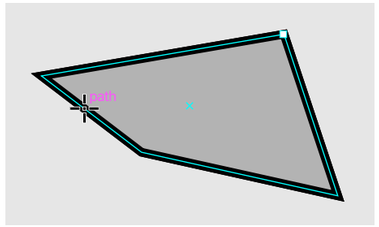
Creating Object Segment Dimensions with Orthogonal/Inclined Quick Dims Tools

Step 1: Highlighting object segments for specifying start/end dimension points

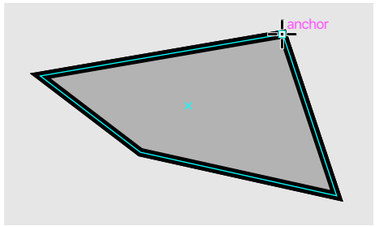
1a) Switch on the Illustrator Smart Guides (Win: ctrl U, macOS: cmd U). They allow you to highlight objects and object components.

1b) Choose one of the two ArtFlex Quick Dims segment tools in the Illustrator Toolbar: Orthogonal Segment Quick Dims Tool , Inclined Segment Quick Dims Tool .

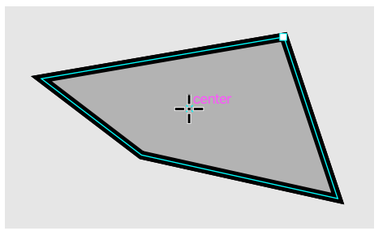
1c) Start moving the cursor over an object. The tool will highlight the following components:



If the sign path appears, the adjacent path can be selected as the start or end point of a dimension.



If the sign anchor appears, the adjacent anchor point can be selected as the start or end point of a dimension.



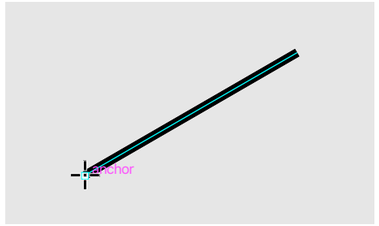
If the sign center appears, the adjacent object center point can be selected as the start or end point of a dimension.

Good to know

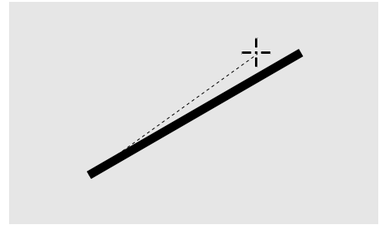
- You can create dimensions even without the help of Illustrator Smart Guides but you will not be able to highlight some object components.
- If you do not see the center points of some objects you can always make them visible in the Illustrator Attributes panel by pressing the Show Center button.

Step 2: Specifying start/end dimension points and activating/using dimension preview

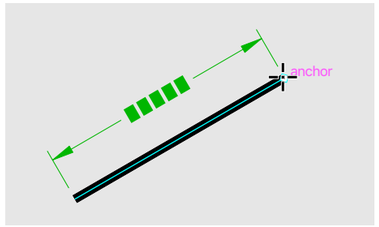
2a) The following steps describe how to define start and/or end dimension points and how to select the dimension preview position using the Inclined Segment Quick Dims Tool .



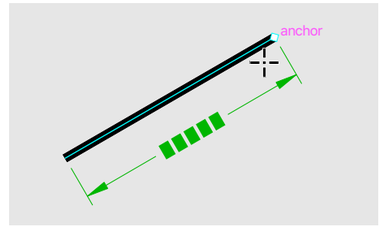
Highlight an object component as described in the Step 1. Click on the component to specify the dimension start point.



Move cursor in the intended direction. The dotted line connects the start point with the current cursor position.

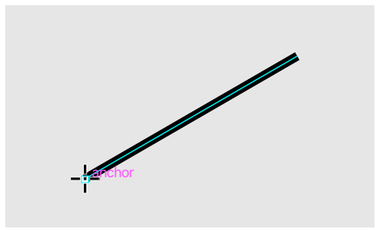


Highlight an object component and click on it to specify the dimension end point. The dimension preview appears instantly.

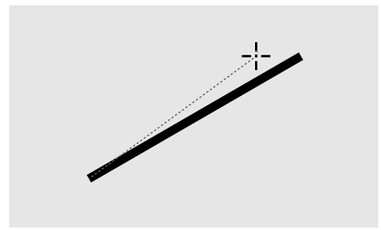


The dimension preview can be shown on both sides of the measured object. Move the cursor around the dimension end point to switch between the previews.

2b) The following steps describe how to define start and/or end dimension points and how to select the dimension preview position using the Orthogonal Segment Quick Dims Tool .



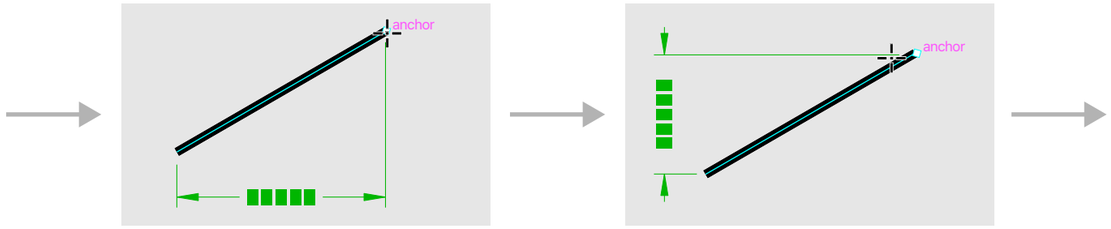
Highlight an object component as described in the Step 1. Click on the component to specify the dimension start point.



Move cursor in the intended direction. The dotted line connects the start point with the current cursor position.

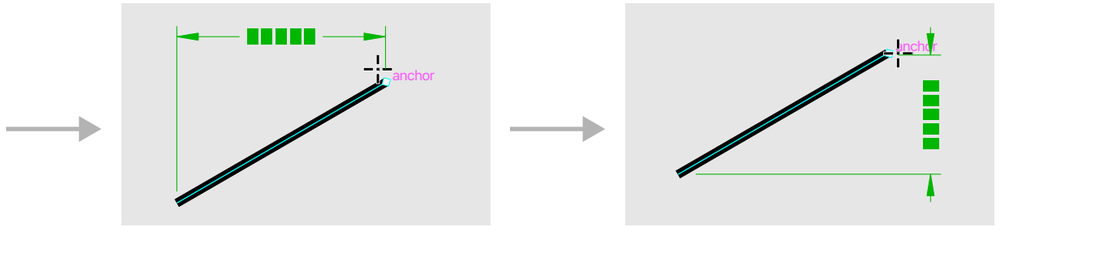
Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide



Highlight an object component and click on it to specify the dimension end point. The dimension preview appears instantly.

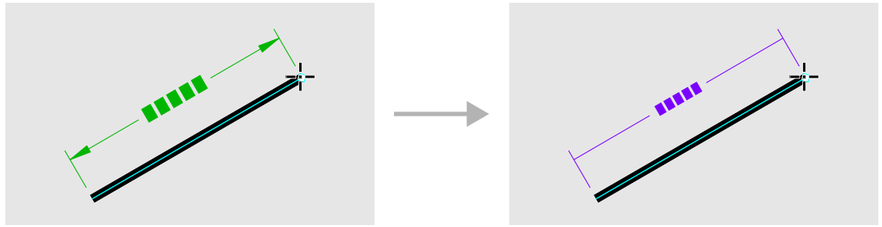
Move the cursor left from the dim. end point to show the dimension preview on the left side.



Move the cursor up from the dim. end point to show the dimension preview on the upper side.

Move the cursor down from the dim. end point to show the dimension preview on the bottom side.

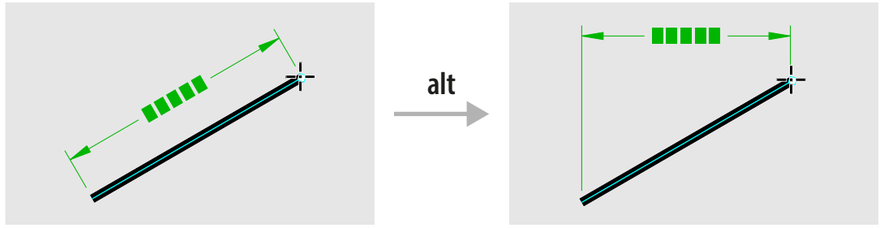
2c) Dimension preview can be easily updated by changing any attribute in the Quick Dims plug-in panel.



Dimension preview before update

Updated text size, color and terminator.

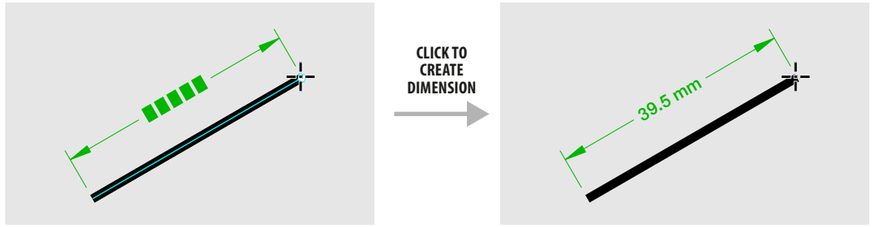
2d) If necessary, switch between inclined and orthogonal dimensions preview by pressing the alt key.



ART FLEX SOFTWARE

Step 3: Creating inclined or orthogonal dimensions

3a) Create an inclined or orthogonal dimension with a single click:
Activate dimension preview and click once. It will transform the dimension preview to dimension.



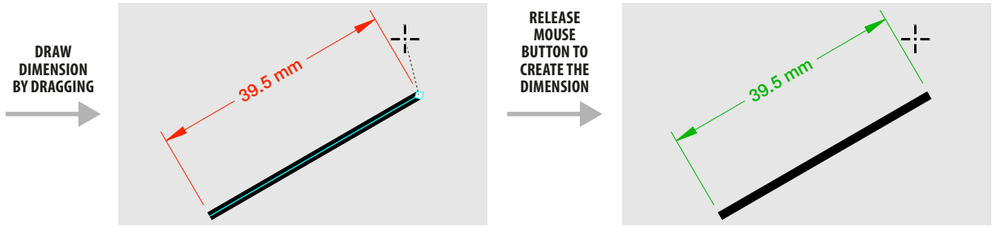
Dimension preview.

Dimensions created by a single click.

3b) Create an inclined or orthogonal dimension by dragging:
Activate the dimension preview and then hold mouse button to activate the drawing mode. Start drawing dimension by dragging in the required direction. Releasing the mouse creates dimension.

Dimension preview.

Drawing mode activated.



Dawing (dragging) is shown instantly in the drawing mode.

Dimension created by dragging.

Good to know

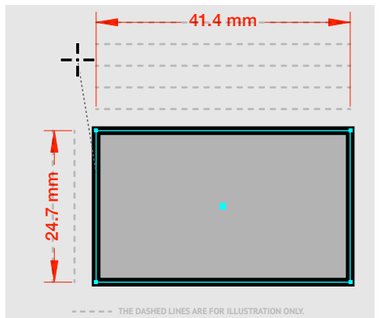
- You can even define an empty space as start or/and end point of an orthogonal or inclined segment dimension. Such a dimension will not be connected to any object.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

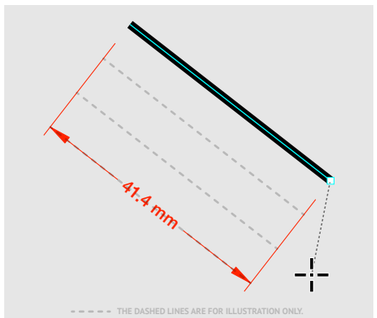
ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

Using Snapping

Dimension dragging can be divided into snapping steps. The length of the steps is specified in the Snap to Grid field in the Lines tab of the plug-in panel. To activate snapping, hold Shift during dimension dragging.



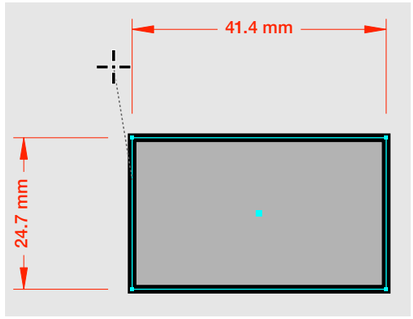
Bidirectional dimensions created by 5 vertical and 2 horizontal snapping steps.



Inclined dimension created by 6 snapping steps.

Dimensions with Equal Distance to Measured Object

It is easy to create both vertical and horizontal dimensions at the same distance from the measured object. Select the Bidirectional dimension tool and hold alt during dimension dragging.



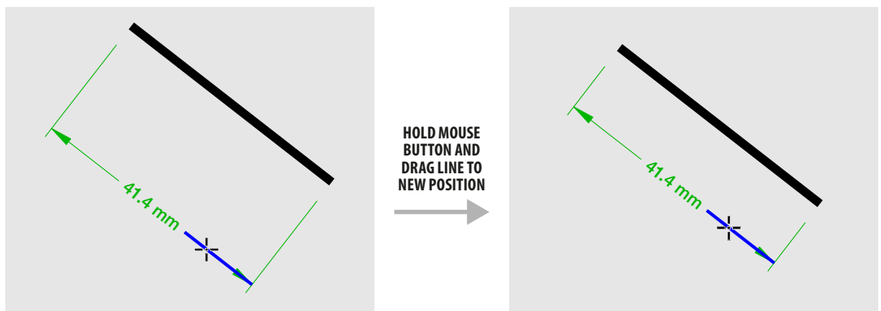
Dimensions created by using the equal distance function

Good to know

- It is easy to create dimensions of any group of selected objects. Simply select the objects and use the same method for creating dimensions described above.
- The snapping function is helpful when you need to drag dimensions to a specified distance from the measured objects.
- You can combine the snapping and equal distance functions by holding alt+shift while dragging.
- You can use the "Use Preview Bounds" option in Illustrator Preferences to include or exclude the object path width (stroke) into the dimension measurement.

Updating Dimension by Dragging

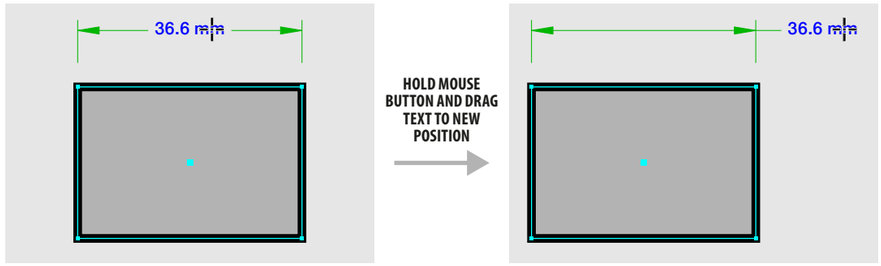
Select one of the Quick Dims tools from the Illustrator Toolbar and hover the cursor over a dimension to highlight parts that can be dragged. You can use dragging in the following cases:
1) Change distance to measured object by dragging dimension/witness line or terminator.



Highlighted dimension line ready to be dragged.

Dimension with updated distance to measured object done by dragging.

2) Move text to a new position by dragging dimension text part.



Highlighted dimension text part ready to be dragged.

Dimension with the position of the updated text part done by dragging.

Editing Dimensions

1) Use Illustrator Selection Tool to select any dimension. 2) Dimension attributes will be loaded to the Quick Dims plug-in panel. 3) Change any attribute value in the panel. 4) The new value will be immediately applied to the selected dimension.

Good to know

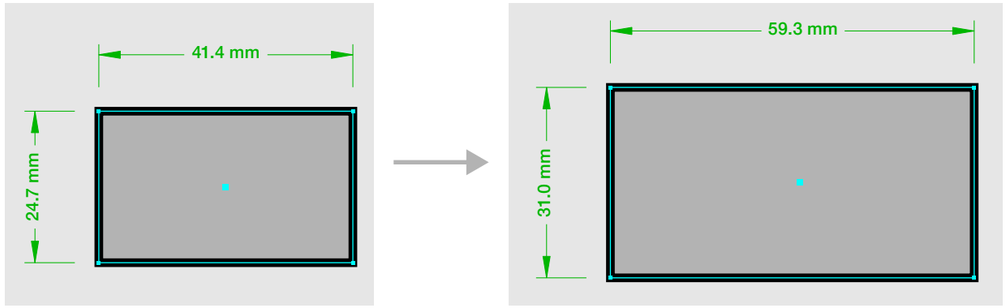
You can apply changes even on multiple selections. If selected dimensions use different values for some attribute(s), the plug-in panel shows N/A (not available) value in the corresponding field(s). Inserting a new value instead of N/A will apply it on all selected dimensions.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide

Dimension <-> Measured Object Connection

Dimensions are bound with their measured objects. When the size of the measured object changes, the measured value of the bound dimension is automatically recalculated. Moving or deleting the measured object moves or deletes the bound dimension as well.



The measured width value is automatically recalculated.

You can break the link between the dimension and measured object: select dimension and click on the Unlink Dimensions button in the General settings part of the plug-in panel. It detaches the selected dimension from the measured object and converts it to a native Illustrator object.

Resetting Plug-in Settings

You can reset the plug-in to default settings by pressing the Reset Setting button in the General settings part of the plug-in panel. It will load default values and will also apply them on all selected dimensions.

Good to know

- It is also possible to unlink any dimension by using the native Illustrator Ungroup function, but unlike the Quick Dims Unlink Dimension button, it will not keep the dimension in one group.

- The plug-in default settings represent the most common values we expect operators to use, however, you can create your default settings and save them as your default preset (see the following pages for more info about presets).

Quick Dims Default Values:

Color: H341 S90 B75
Dimension Direction: Bidirectional

Terminators Type: Arrow with fill
Terminators Size: 100%
Terminators Weight = 0.5pt
Terminators Position: Auto

Witness Lines Weight: 0.5pt
Witness Lines Extension: 2.2mm
Witness Lines Extensions Slide: 0-10mm
Witness Lines Gap: 1.5mm
Witness Lines Gap Slide: 0-10mm

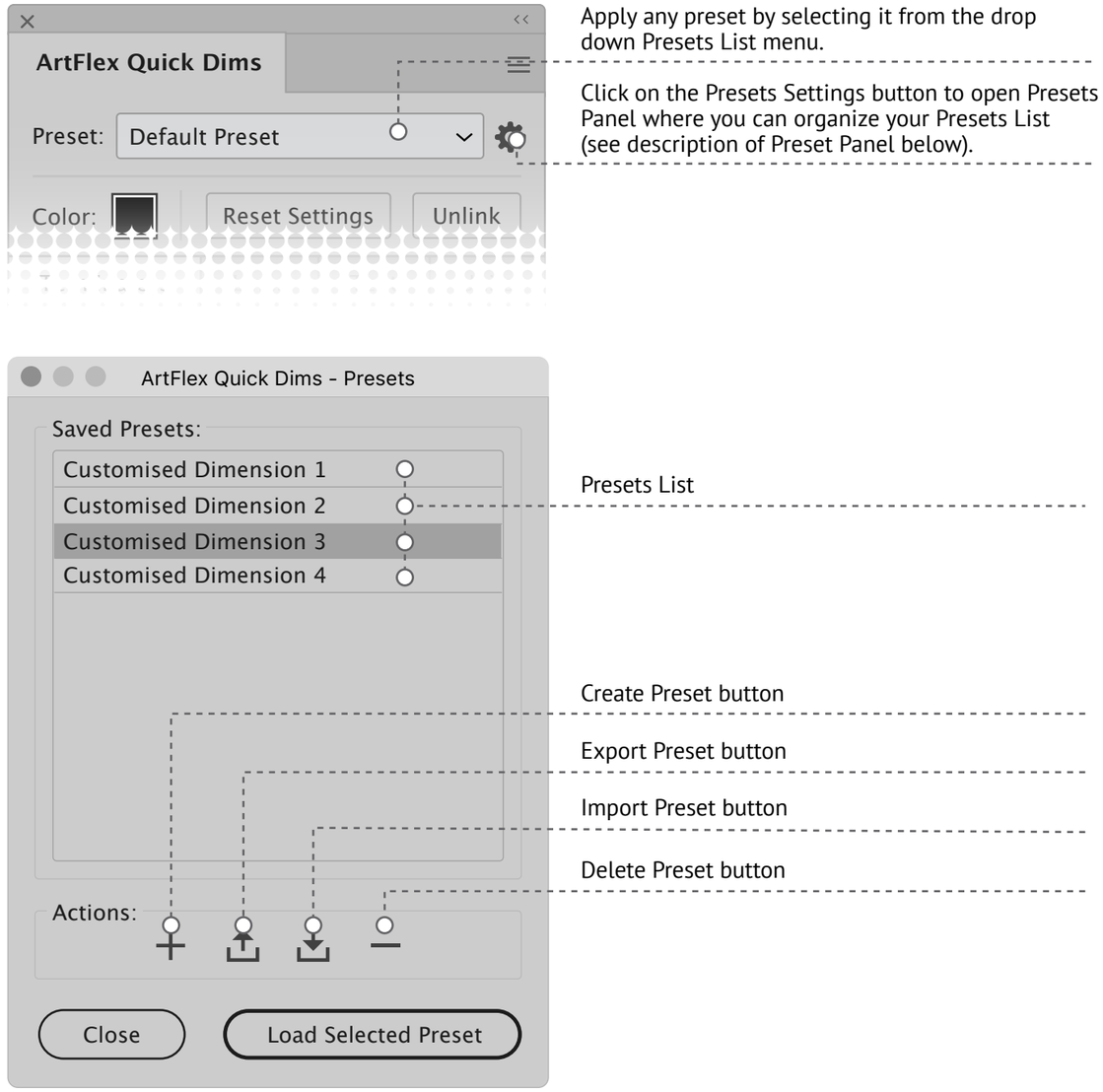
Dimension Lines Weight: 0.5pt
Base Distance To Object: 15mm
Base Distance To Object Slide: 15-50mm
Snap Grid Size: 5mm

Text Font: Arial
Text Character Size: 8pt
Text Character Tracking: 0
Horizontal Text Position: onLine
Vertical Text Position: onLine 90°CCW
Vertical Text Position: onLine
Text to Line Distance: 1.5mm
Text to Line Distance Slide: 1-10mm
Text Free Zone: 1.5mm
Text Free Zone Slide: 0-10mm

Use Illustrator Settings (Dim. Units): Off
Dimension Unit: mm
Dimension Unit precision: 0.000
Number Separator: 1,000.000
Append Unit Symbol: On
Use Symbol for Inches: Off
Use Illustrator Settings (App. Units): Off
Line Weight Unit: pt
Line Weight Precision: 0.000
Text Unit: pt
Text Precision: 0.000
General Unit: mm
General Precision: 0.000

Using Presets

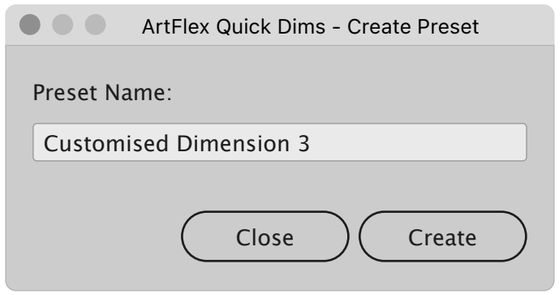
Presets contain values specified in the main ArtFlex QuickDims plug-in panel. If you use any dimension designs frequently, save their values as presets. Using presets can significantly speed up your work while maintaining consistency.



Presets panel.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH

ArtFlex Quick Dims - User Guide



Create Preset window.

Creating a Preset:
1) Press the Create Preset button in the Presets Panel. It opens the Create Preset window.
2) Type the name of the preset.
4) Press the Create button.
5) The new preset name will appear in the Presets List in the Presets Panel.

Exporting a preset (preset group):
1) Select a preset in the Presets Panel (preset group can be selected by holding the cmd key in macOS or the ctrl key in Windows).
2) Press the Export Presets button. It will open the export dialog window.
3) Type the name of the preset (preset group).
4) Select a folder where you want to save the preset (preset group) and click on the Save button.
5) The preset (preset group) file is saved in the selected folder.

Importing a preset (preset group):
1) Press the Import Preset button. It will open the import dialog window.
2) Select a preset or preset group you wish to import and click on the Open button.
3) The new preset(s) name(s) appears in your list of presets in the Presets Panel.

Loading a preset to the plug-in panel:
1) In the Preset List select the preset you wish to use and click on the Load Selected Preset button or simply double click on the preset name.
2) The plug-in reads the preset content and displays the new settings immediately in the main plug-in panel. If any dimension object is selected, the loaded preset values are directly applied to it.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH



ArtFlex Software GmbH
Kronacher Strasse 9, 96365 Nordhalben, Germany
info@artflex.software

Copyright © All Rights Reserved. ArtFlex Software GmbH