



ArtFlex Quick Dims User Guide

ArtFlex Quck Dims - User Guide



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Installers and Licensing

You can obtain the plug-in installers and licenses on our [artflex.software](https://www.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>

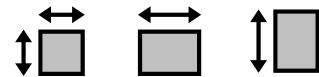
The website will guide you through the easy purchasing procedure.

Plug-in Installation

Run the Installer downloaded from the [artflex.software](https://www.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

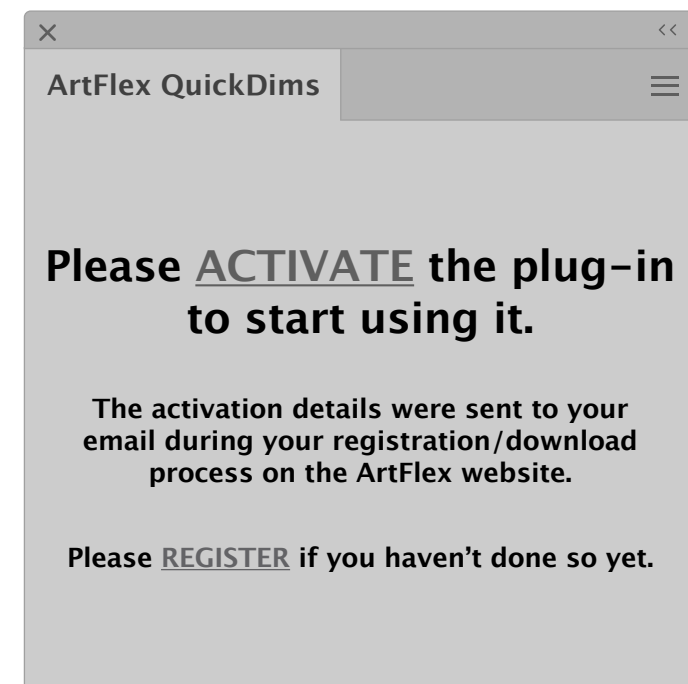
The plug-in adds 3 new tools to the Adobe Illustrator Toolbar: Bidirectional Quick Dims Tool, Monodirectional Quick Dims Horizontal Tool and Monodirectional Quick Dims Vertical Tool.



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

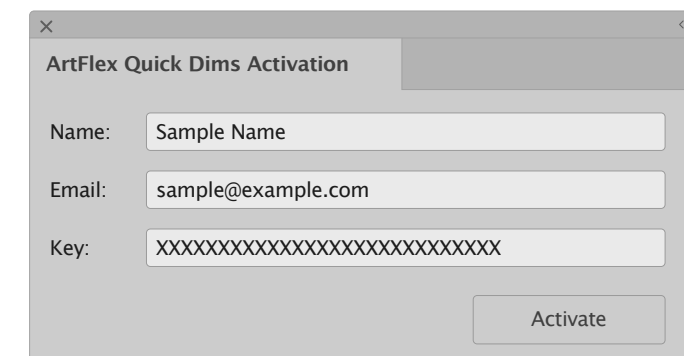


Unlicensed plug-in panel

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.

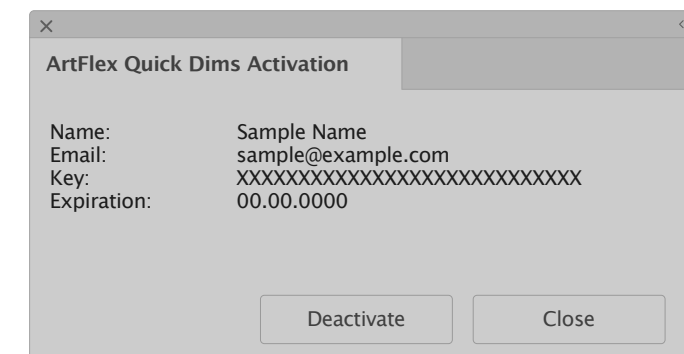
Activation/Deactivation Process



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

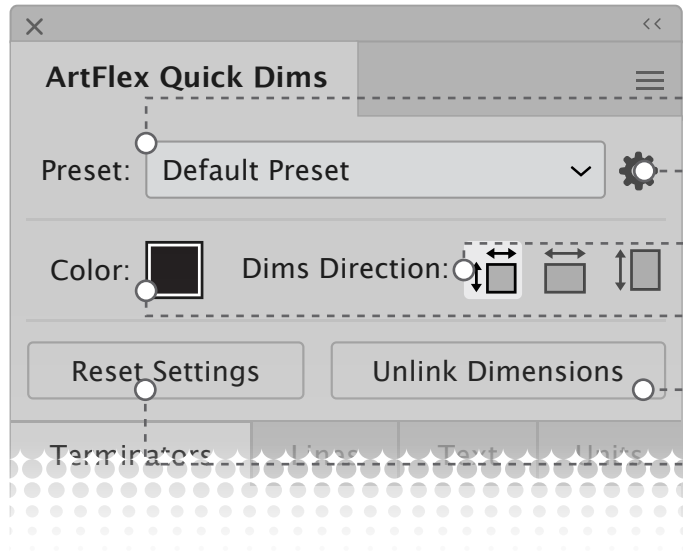
- 1) Press the Deactivate button in the Activation window.
- 2) The plug-in will start the deactivation process.
- 3) After successful deactivation the plug-in will switch to Unlicensed mode.

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.

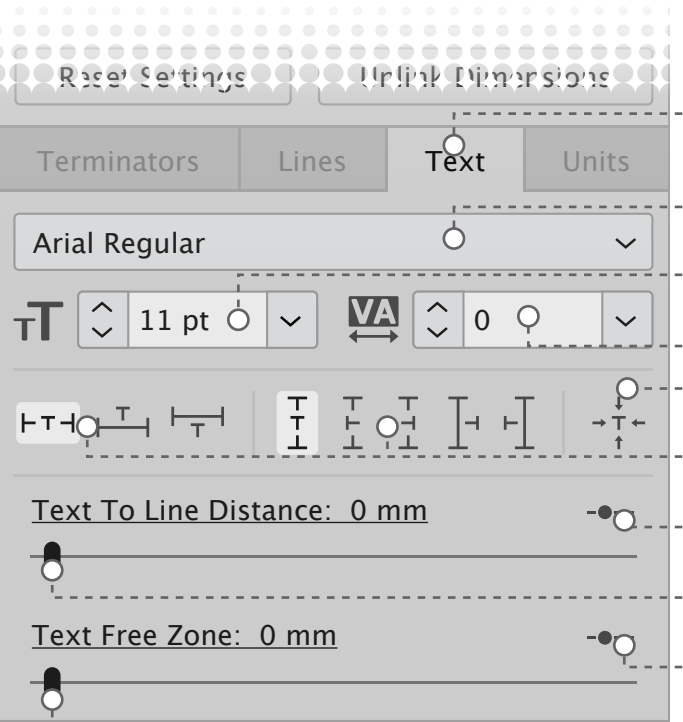
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General Settings Interface



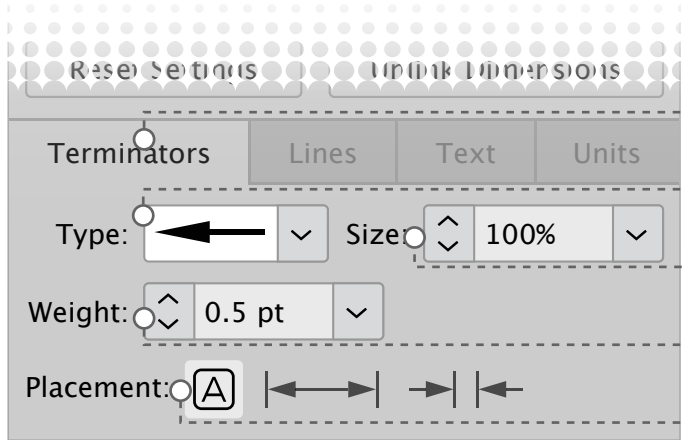
- Preset** - Selects and applies set of saved predefined dimension values.
- Presets Settings** - Opens the Presets panel where presets can be saved or deleted, imported or exported.
- Dims Direction** - Selects position of dimension. It can be horizontal, vertical and both horizontal and vertical.
- 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.
- Reset Settings** - Fills in plug-in fields with default values. See Quick Dims Default Values on page 8.

Text Tab Interface



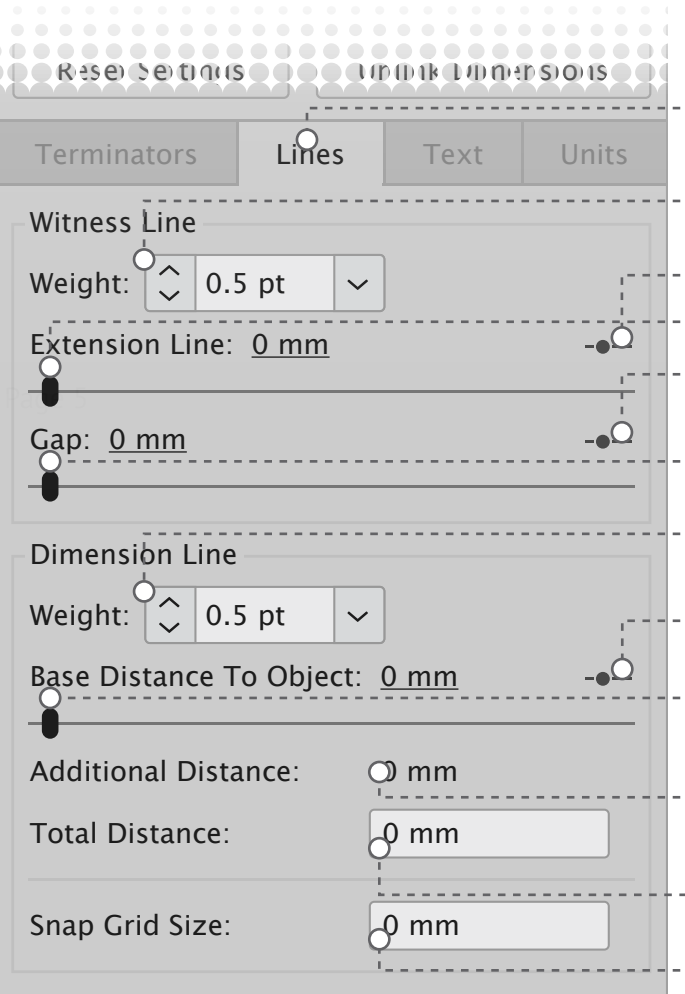
- Text Tab** - Activates the UI tab with all settings applicable to the dimension text part.
- Font Selector** - Opens a dropdown menu with names of all available fonts that can be used in a dimension.
- Text Size** - Specifies the text size used in a dimension.
- Text Tracking** - Specifies the distance between characters in the text part.
- Text Position Reset** - Places the text to the default position.
- Vertical/Horizontal Dimension Text Alignment** - Options to align the text of vertical or horizontal 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 wit. 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.

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Units Tab Interface

Reset Settings

Unlink Dimensions

Terminators

Lines

Text

Units

Dimension Units

☐ Use Illustrator Settings

Units: Precision:

Number Separators:

☒ Append Unit Symbol ☐ Use " For Inches

Application Units

☐ Use Illustrator Settings

Line wt.: Precision:

Text: Precision:

General: Precision:

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.

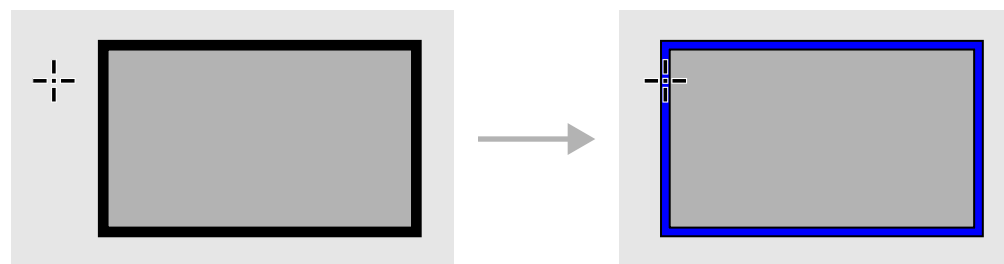
General - Opens a dropdown menu with unit selection available for all settings except line weight and text size.

Highlighting Object for Previewing Dimension

1) In the Illustrator Toolbar or the plug-in panel choose one of the three ArtFlex Quick Dims tools:

Bidirectional tool 
 Monodirectional horizontal tool 
 Monodirectional vertical tool 

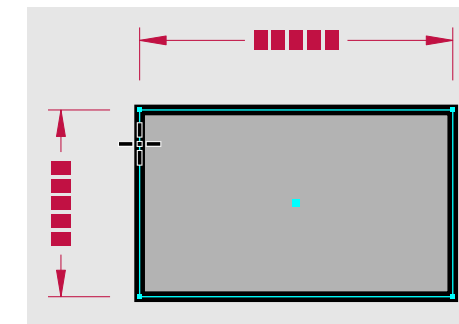
2) Move the cursor over the object you wish to measure. The object path is highlighted in blue.




Move the cursor on an object to highlight it

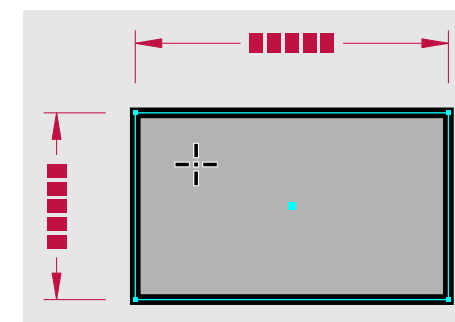
Activating and Using Dimension Preview

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

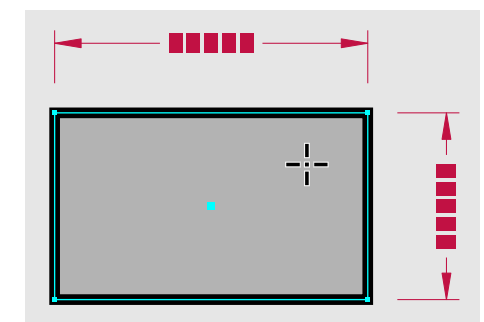


Activated dimension preview by using Bidirectional tool 

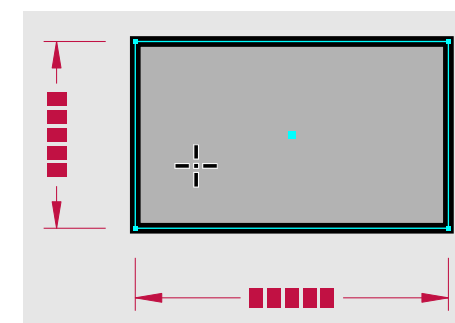
2) Moving the cursor around center of the measured object bounding box switches the previewed dimension(s).



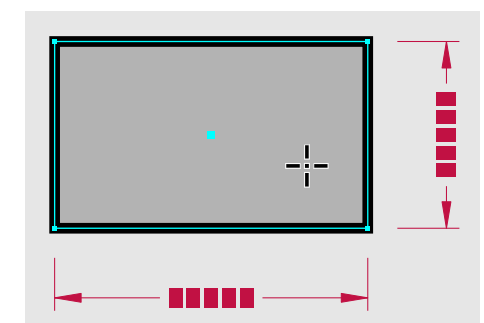
Moving the cursor to left upper quarter of the measured object previews left and upper dimension



Moving the cursor to right upper quarter of the measured object previews right and upper dimension



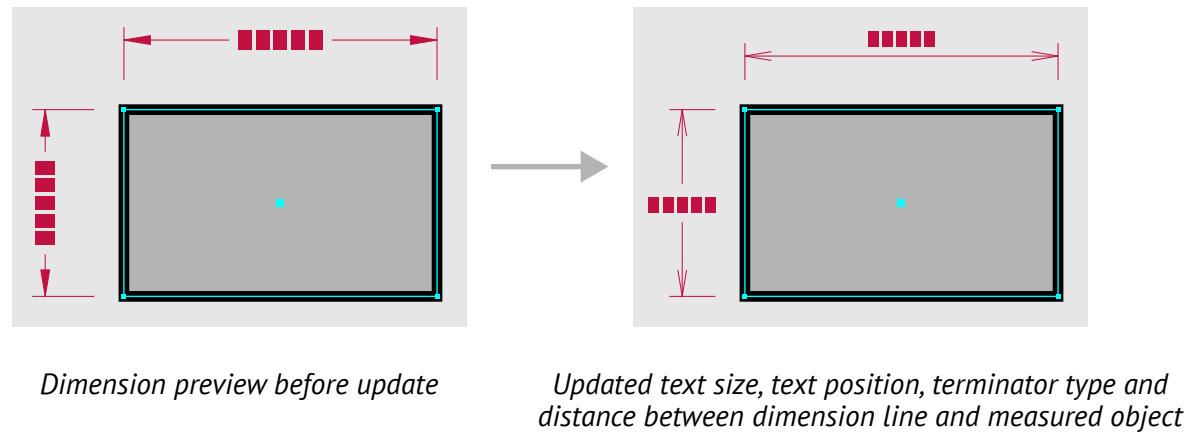
Moving the cursor to left bottom quarter of the measured object previews left and bottom dimension



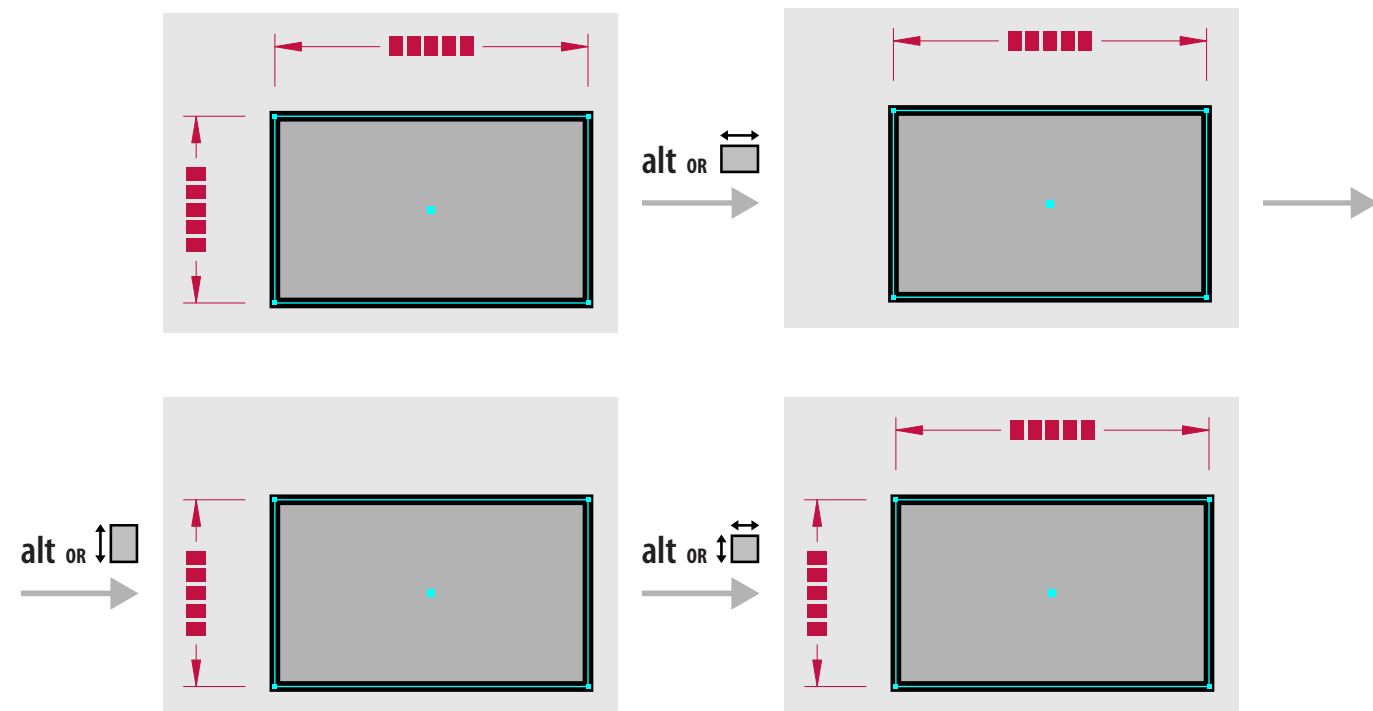
Moving the cursor to right bottom quarter of the measured object previews right and bottom dimension

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3) Preview can be updated by changing any attribute in the plug-in panel.



4) If necessary, switch between bidirectional and monodirectional preview by pressing the alt key or by selecting the appropriate ArtFlex Quick Dims tool icon in the plug-in panel or in Illustrator Toolbar.



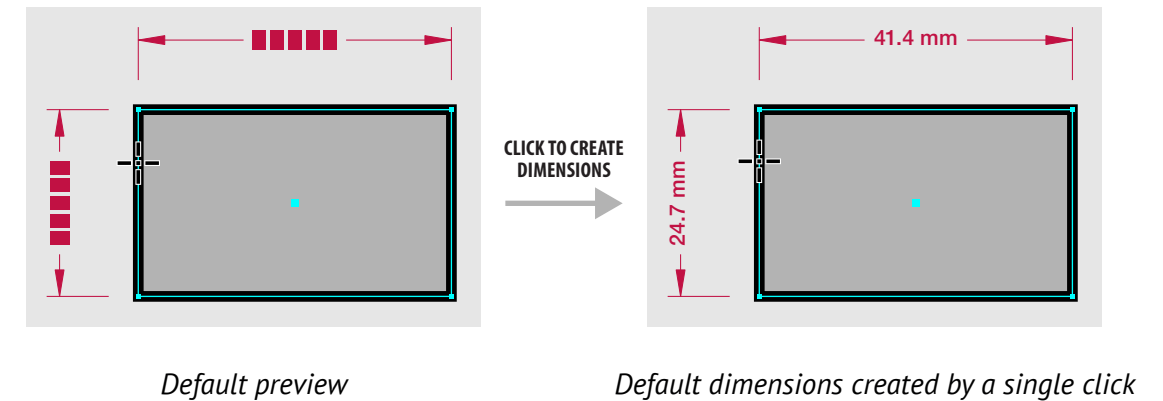
i Good to know

- In addition to the single object dimension preview, you can preview 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.

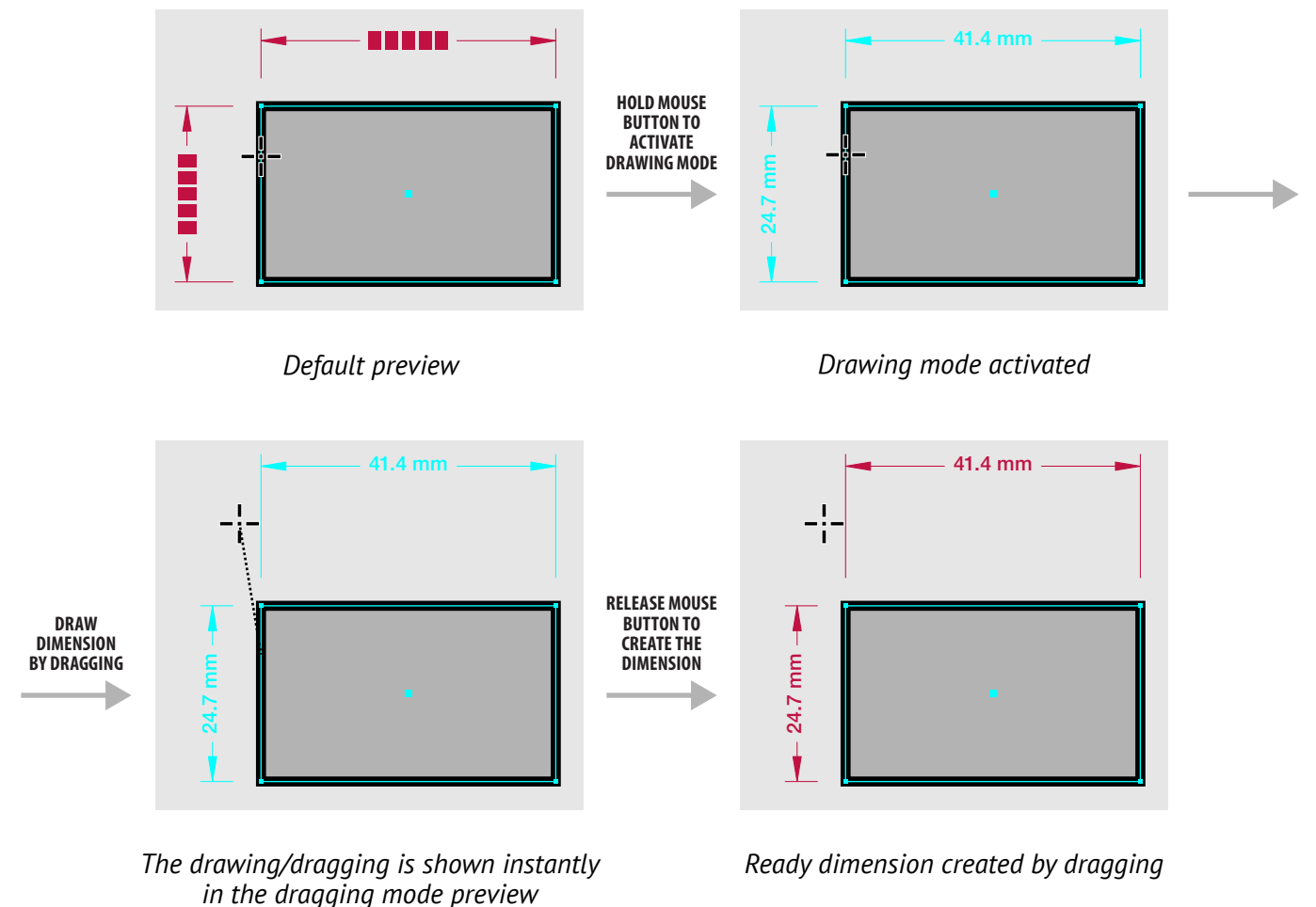
Creating Dimensions

There are two ways how to create dimensions:

1) **Create dimension by a single click.** In the dimension preview make a single click on the measured object. It will transform default dimension preview to default dimensions.



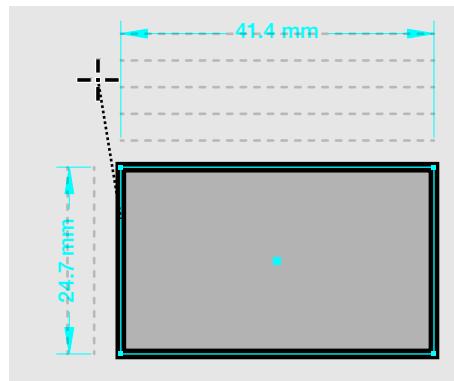
2) **Create dimension by dragging.** In the dimension preview hold mouse button to activate the drawing mode. Start drawing dimension by dragging in the required direction. Releasing the mouse creates the dimension.



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Using Snapping

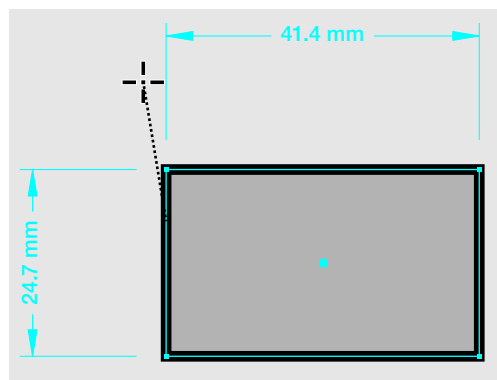
Dimension dragging can be divided into snapping steps. The length of the steps is specified in the Snap to Grid field in the Lines tab of the plug-in panel. To active snapping, hold Shift during dimension dragging.



*Dimensions created by 5 vertical and 2 horizontal snapping steps
(the dashed line is not visible during dimension dragging)*

Dimensions with Equal Distance to Measured Object

It is easy to create both vertical and horizontal dimension 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

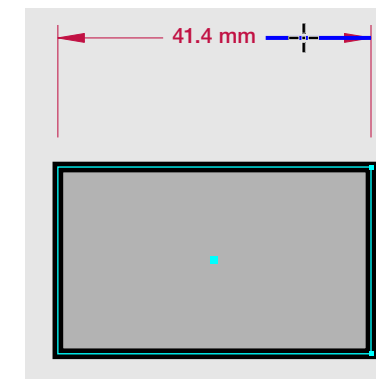
i Good to know

- It is s 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 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 the Illustrator Preferences to include or exclude the object path width into the dimension measurement.

Updating Dimension by Dragging

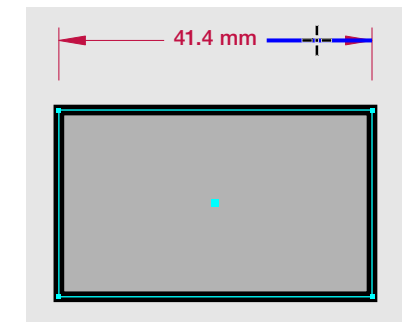
Select one of the Quick Dims tools from the Illustrator Toolbar and hover the cursor over a dimension to highlight parts that can be dragged. You can use dragging in the following cases:

- 1) Change distance to measured object by dragging dimension/witness line or terminator.



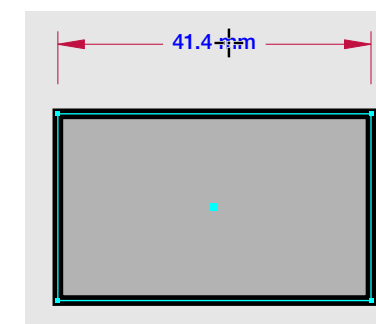
Highlighted dimension line ready to be dragged

HOLD MOUSE
BUTTON AND
DRAG DOWN TO
NEW POSITION



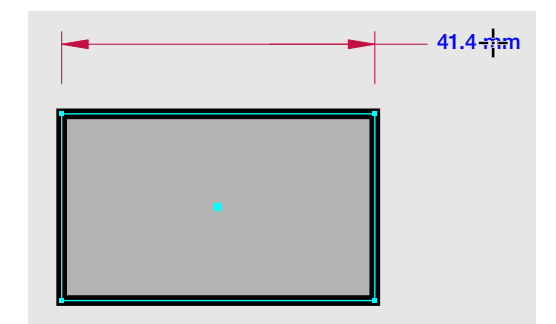
*Dimension with updated distance to
measured object done by dragging*

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



Highlighted dimension text part ready to be dragged

HOLD MOUSE
BUTTON AND DRAG
TO RIGHT TO NEW
POSITION



*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 panel. 3) Change any attribute value in the panel. 4) The new value will be immediately applied to the selected dimension.

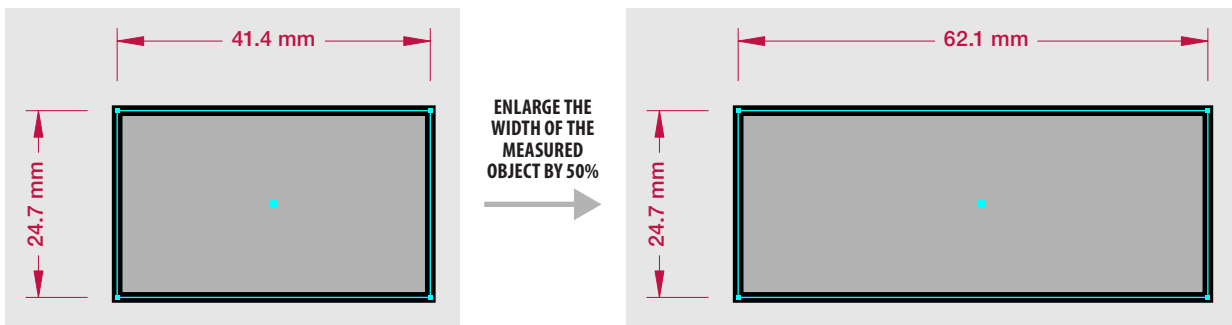
i Good to know

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.

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Dimension <-> Measured Object Connection

Dimensions are bound with their measured objects. When the size of 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: H344 S100 B80
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

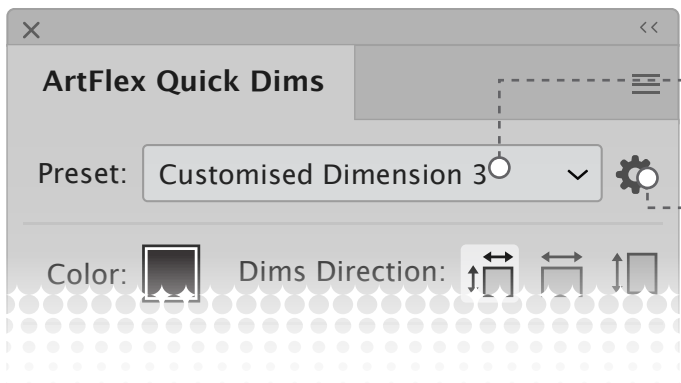
Witness Lines Gap Slide: 0-10mm
Dimension Lines Weight: 0.5pt
Base Distance To Object: 15mm
Base Distance To Object Slide: 15-50mm
Snap Grid Size: 5mm

Text Font: Arial
Text Character Size: 8pt
Text Character Tracking: 0
Horizontal Text Position: onLine
Vertical Text Position: onLineDownUp
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): False
Dimension Unit: mm
Dimension Unit precision: 0.000
Number Separator: 1,000.000
Append Unit Symbol: True
Use Symbol for Inches: False
Use Illustrator Settings (App. Units): False
Line Weight Unit: pt
Line Weight Precision: 0.000
Text Unit: pt
Text Precision: 0.000
General Unit: mm
General Precision: 0.000

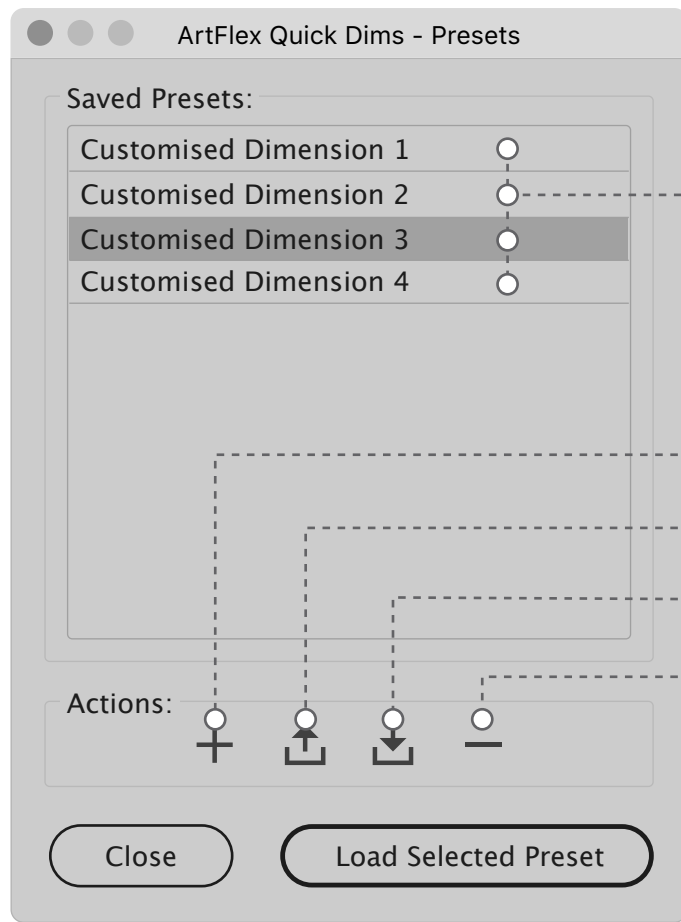
Using Presets

Preset contains 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.



Apply any preset by selecting it from the drop down Presets List menu.

Click on the Presets Settings button to open Presets Panel where you can organize your Presets List (see description of Preset Panel below).



Presets List

Create Preset button

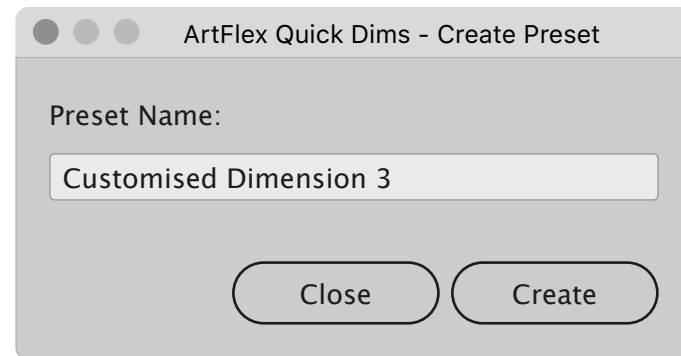
Export Preset button

Import Preset button

Delete Preset button

Presets Panel

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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.



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