Adobe Illustrator CS or CS2
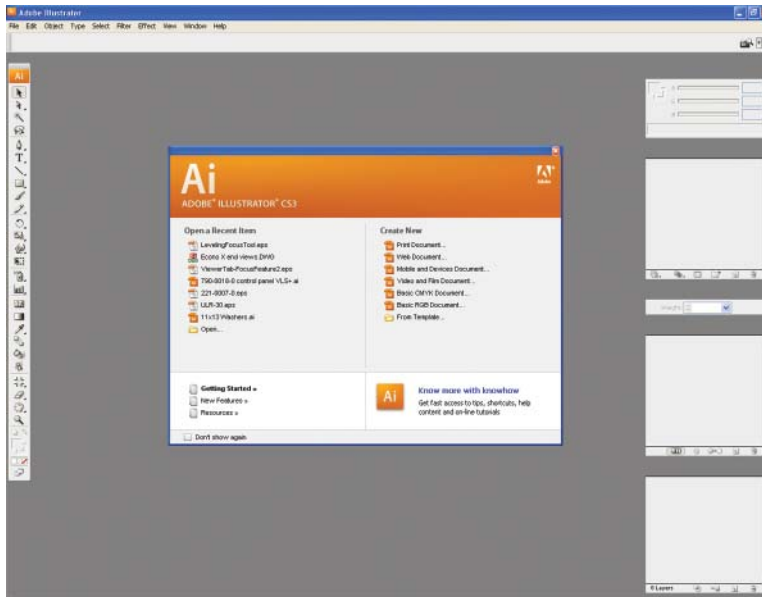
Note: Adobe Illustrator CS or CS2, in combination with the new ULS printer driver version 5.24.38 or later, is now capable of both raster and vector output as well as full-field engraving capability. The following procedure assumes that you are familiar with the use and operation of Windows XP and Adobe Illustrator CS or CS2.

1. Close all Windows programs.

2. Upgrade to Adobe Illustrator CS, but do not launch it yet.

3. Upgrade to ULS printer driver version 5.24.38 or later.

4. Set your Windows default printer to the ULS printer driver.

5. Launch Adobe Illustrator CS and start a new graphic.

6. You will now need to set the Page Setup, in Adobe, to the largest square page that is equal to the width of your laser system's field. For example, if your laser system has a 24 x 12 inch (610 x 305 mm) field, then set the page in Adobe to 24 x 24 inch (610 x 305 mm) Portrait mode (not Landscape). If you laser system has a 32 x 18 inch (813 x 457 mm) inch field, set the page in Adobe to 32 x 32 (813 x 813 mm) Portrait.

7. Now, place your graphics ONLY within the top portion of your page in Adobe. Don't use the bottom portion that extends below the physical size of the engraving area of your laser system. Since your laser system truly doesn't have a usable area as big as the page size you created, the only way to make Adobe work is to trick it into thinking it is outputting to a larger, square-fielded, device.

8. If you would like vector output, set your stroke weight to either 0.001 inches (0.025 mm) or 0.1 points. You will have to type in this setting because it is not available from the dropdown list.
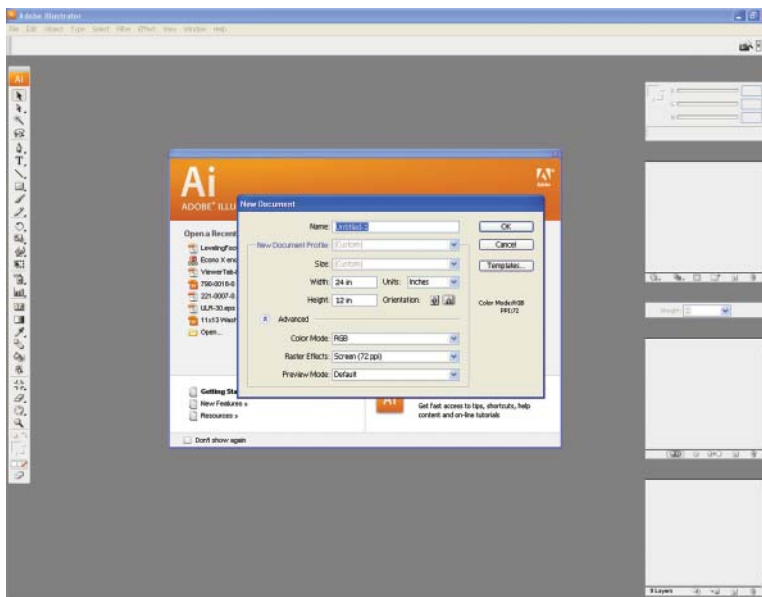
Adobe Illustrator CS3

Part 1: Setting the Default Workspace

1. Start Illustrator CS3 from your Windows XP/Vista compatible PC.
    *   Illustrator CS3 Preferences box will open.

2. Select FILE CREATE NEW BASIC RGB DOCUMENT.
    *   The new document options box will open. Make the following settings:
    a. Set Units to inches.
    b. Set the Height and Width to match the size of your laser system's work table.
    c. Set the Color Mode to RGB.
    d. Click "OK".

Part 2: Setting the Stroke

1. Next, change the weight of your Stroke to 0.001" (0.025 mm). This is essential for vector cutting and scoring.

Part 3: Editing the Swatch Palette

1. Open your Swatch Palette as follows:
   - Main Menu ⟶ Window ⟶ Swatches ⟶ Left Click "OK"
   - Delete all swatches that are not basic RGB or gray scale by left clicking to select them and then clicking the "Delete Swatch" garbage can icon is the lower right-hand corner of the swatch box. Keep RGB BLACK, RED, GREEN, BLUE, YELLOW, MAGENTA, CYAN.
   - If you wish to use the color ORANGE for full palette cutting and engraving operations, you can create a swatch for it using the following settings:
     R = 255
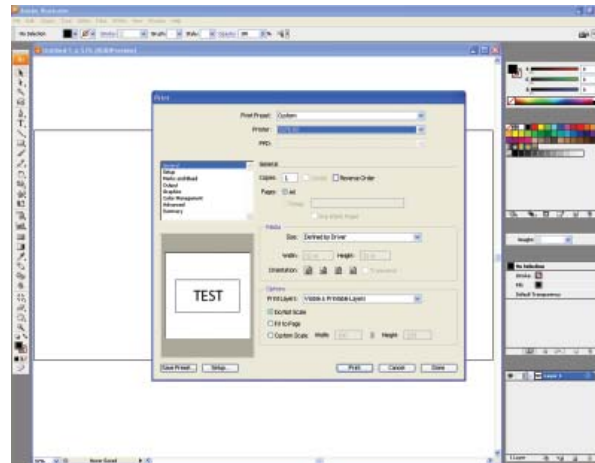   G = 102
     B = 0

Part 4: Saving the Template

1. Illustrator CS3 is now correctly configured to work with your Universal Laser System. Be sure to save the document as a template for future documents as follows:
   - FILE ⟶ SAVE AS TEMPLATE ⟶ (ENTER FILE NAME) ⟶ CLICK "OK"
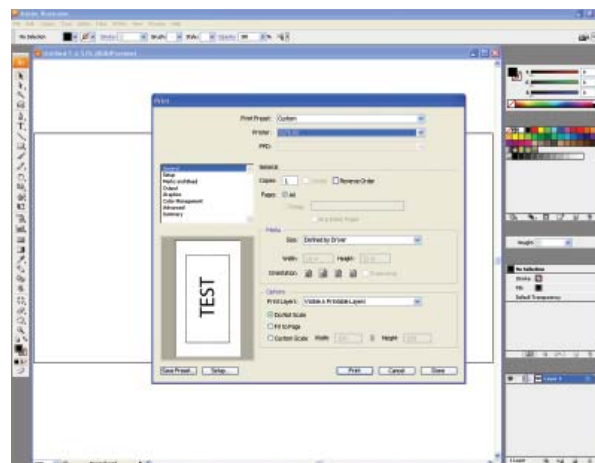
Part 5: Some notes about printing

1. When you are ready to print to your laser system, disregard the print preview dialog box and select the following from the Main Menu:
   - FILE ⟶ PRINT ⟶ SETUP ⟶ PREFERENCES

2. Prepare the file for printing using the Universal Laser System print driver.

3. When your settings are complete, choose print. The image in the print preview box will appear sideways, but the placement of your images will be correct.

4. Print as usual from the Universal Laser System Universal Control Panel.