Using Artboards and Frames

Artboards allow you to have different versions of a design in the one document. For example, you can create one design for viewing on a desktop computer, another for a tablet and a third for a mobile phone all in the one document. This saves the need to have several individual files. It also allows you to experiment with different versions of a design side-by-side in the one document.

Frames allow partitions to be created within the one document and content to be placed within those partitions. You could then create Artboards of that document to create different versions of it.
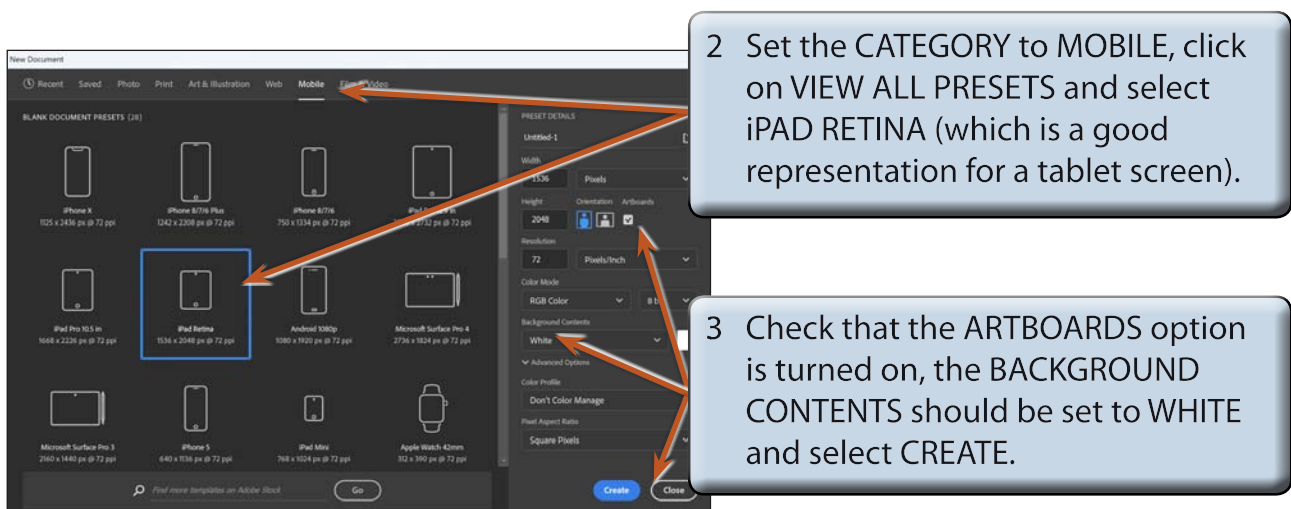
To illustrate the use of Artboards and Frames, advertisements for a hair salon will be created for viewing on different sized screens.

Creating an Artboard File

When Artboards are going to be used you need to indicate this when the file is started. Photoshop provides a range of standard canvas sizes based on the current devices available. In this case, Artboards will be created for tablets and mobile phones.
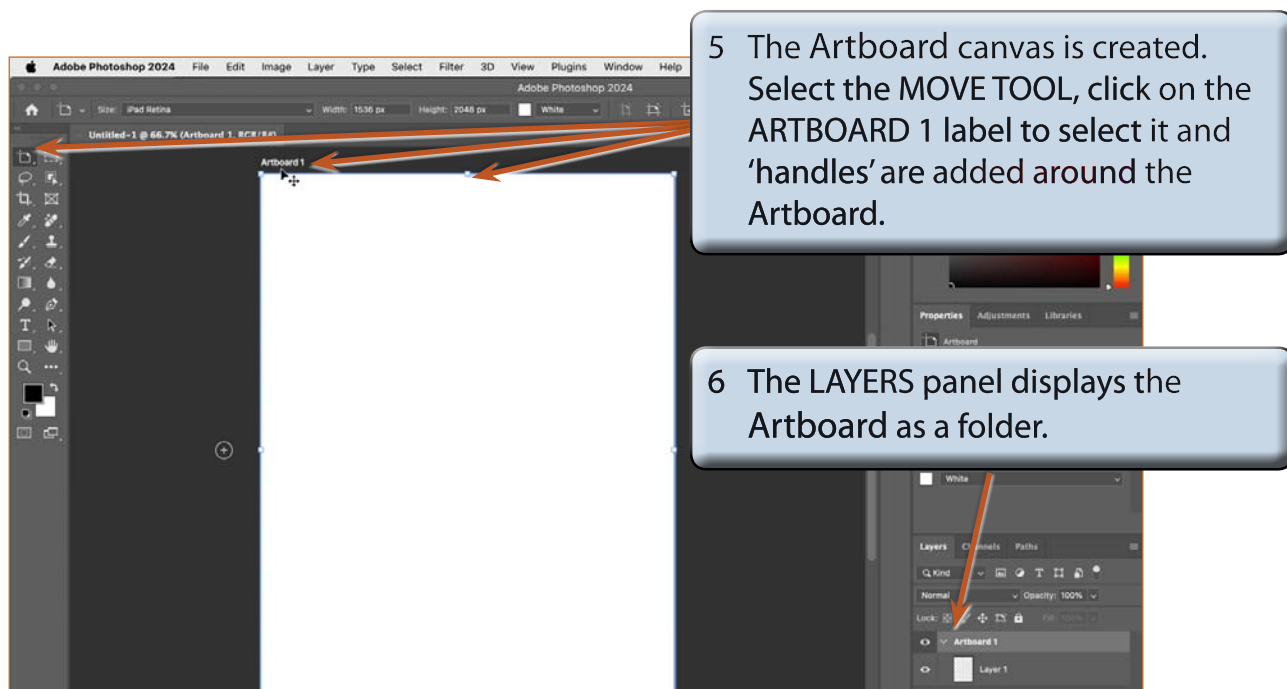
A   Setting the Artboard Size

1   Load Photoshop or close the current files and select NEW FILE from the WELCOME screen or select NEW from the FILE menu.

2   Set the CATEGORY to MOBILE, click on VIEW ALL PRESETS and select iPAD RETINA (which is a good representation for a tablet screen).

3   Check that the ARTBOARDS option is turned on, the BACKGROUND CONTENTS should be set to WHITE and select CREATE.

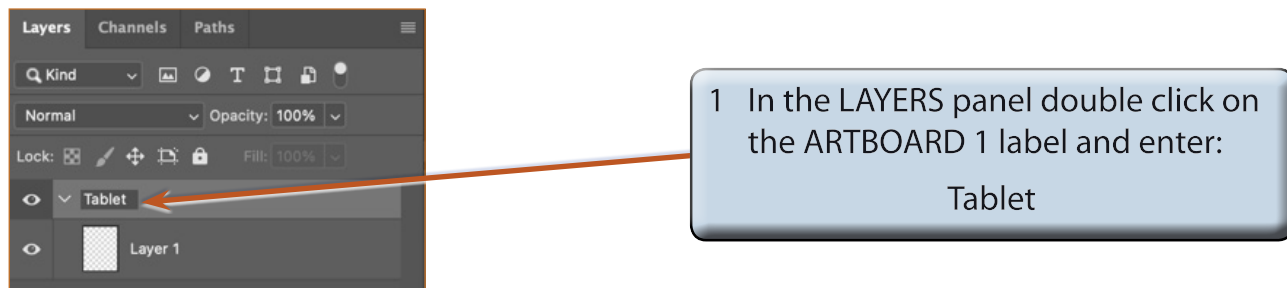4   Check that the screen is set to the ESSENTIALS workpace.

5 The Artboard canvas is created. Select the MOVE TOOL, click on the ARTBOARD 1 label to select it and 'handles' are added around the Artboard.

6 The LAYERS panel displays the Artboard as a folder.

NOTE: i The Layers for each Artboard are displayed within each ARTBOARD folder in the LAYERS panel.

ii The + symbols around the Artboard canvas are used to create new a Artboard or to duplicate a current Artboard.

B Renaming the Artboard

Artboards are given default names, Artboard 1, Artboard 2, etc, but it is usually better to rename them so that you know what each contains.
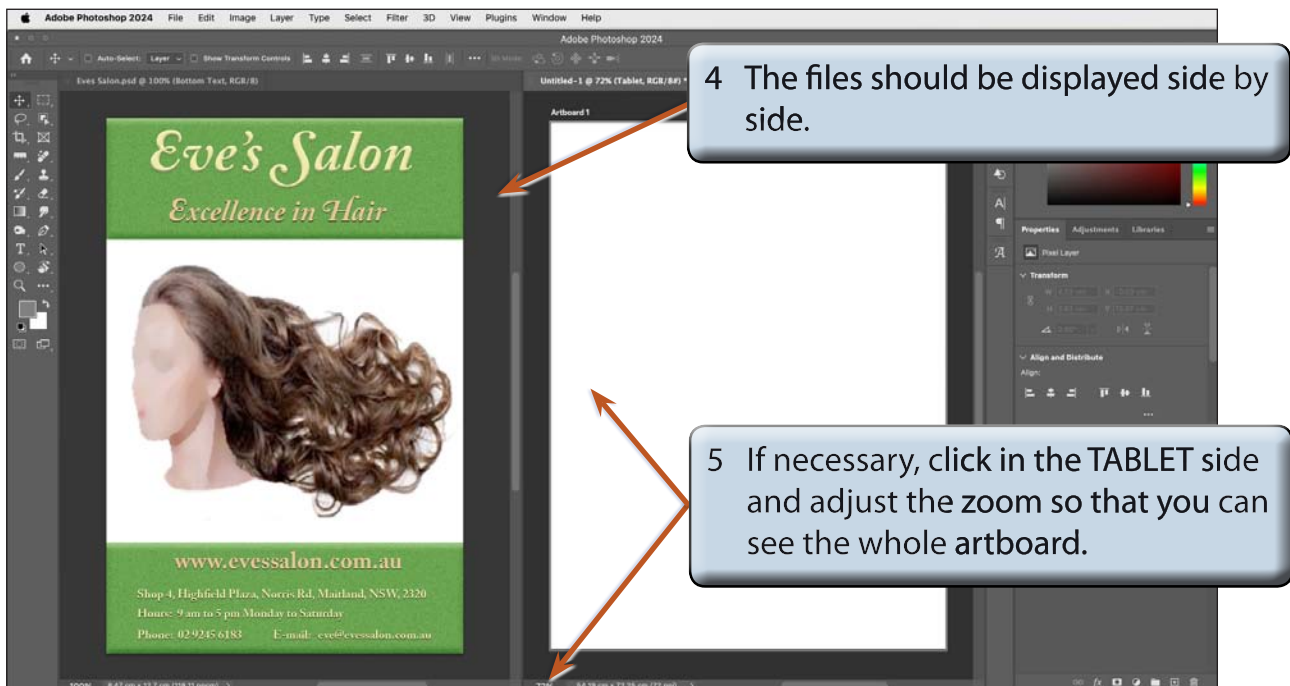

1 In the LAYERS panel double click on the ARTBOARD 1 label and enter:

Tablet

2 Press <enter> or <return> to set the label.

Adding Content to Artboards

Content can be added to Artboards in the same way that you add content to any Photoshop canvas, but to save time, a sample advert has been prepared for you. Its content will be added to the first Artboard before the other Artboards are created.
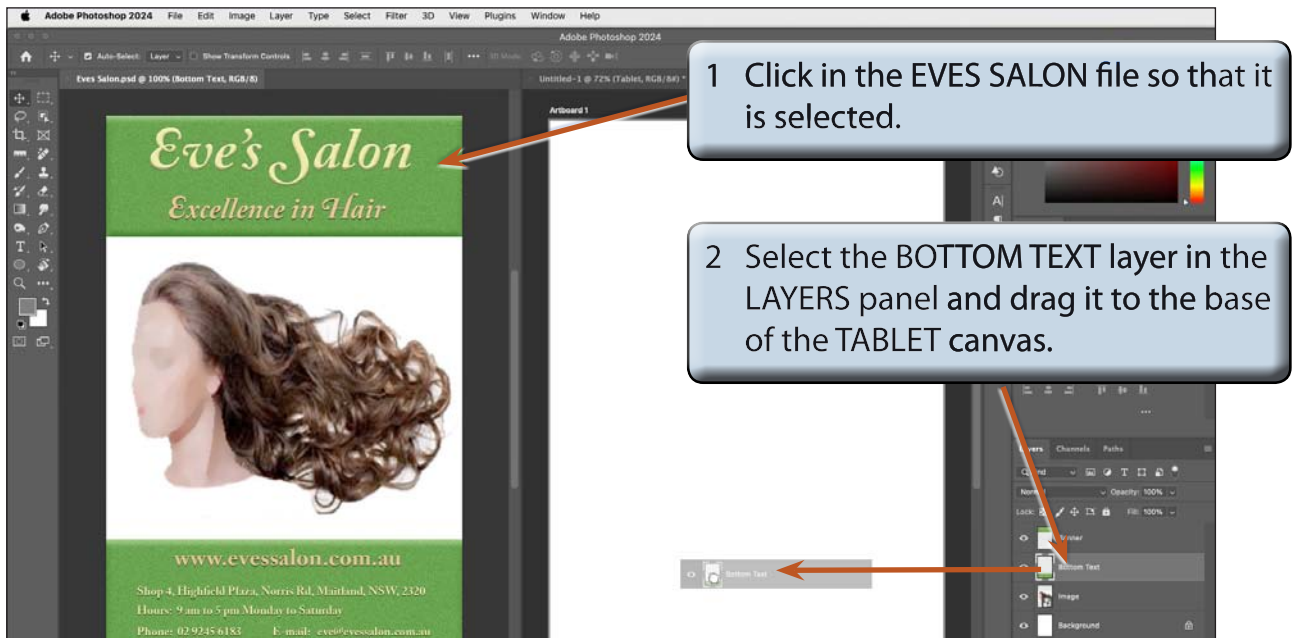
A   Opening the Sample File

1   Display the FILE menu and select OPEN.

2   Access the PS SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 27 folder and open the file:

<div align="center">Eves Salon</div>

3   Display the WINDOW menu, highlight ARRANGE and select 2-UP VERTICAL.

4   The files should be displayed side by side.

5   If necessary, click in the TABLET side and adjust the zoom so that you can see the whole artboard.
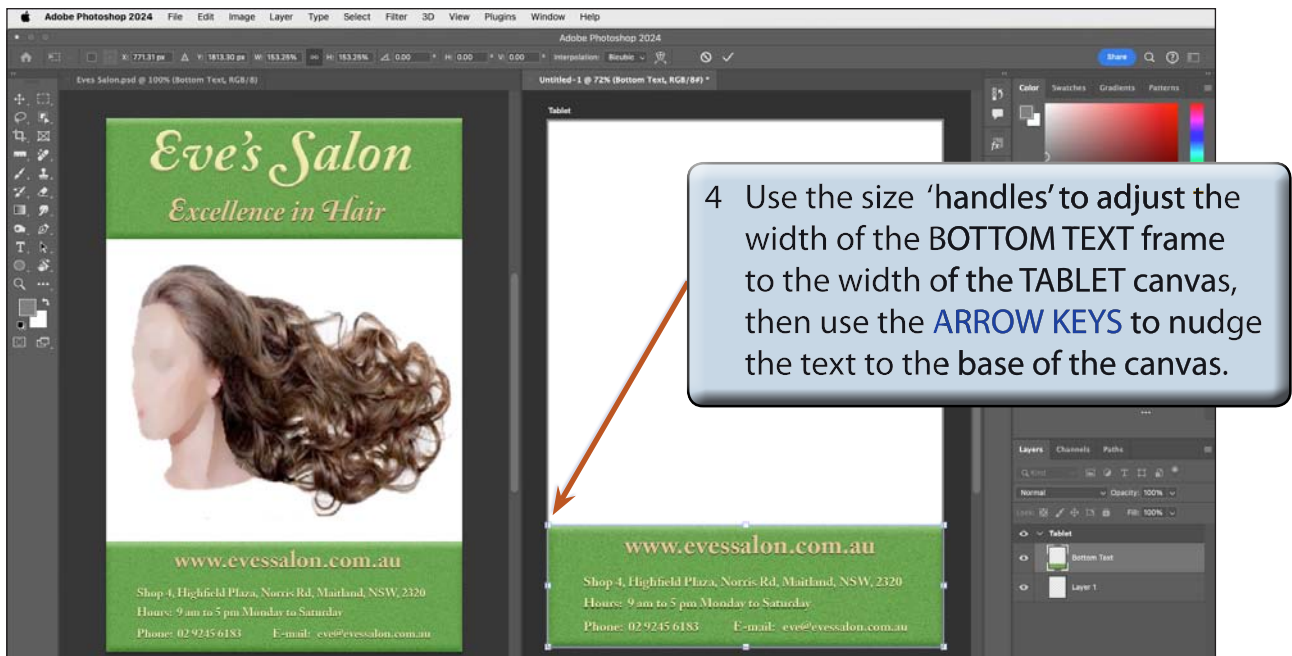
> **NOTE: There are three layers in the EVES SALON file that will be placed in the TABLET Artboard: a BANNER, some BOTTOM TEXT and an IMAGE.**

B   Inserting the Content into the Artboard

1   Click in the EVES SALON file so that it is selected.

2   Select the BOTTOM TEXT layer in the LAYERS panel and drag it to the base of the TABLET canvas.

3   Press CTRL+T or COMMAND+T to display the FREE TRANSFORM frame around the BOTTOM TEXT frame.

4   Use the size 'handles' to adjust the width of the BOTTOM TEXT frame to the width of the TABLET canvas, then use the ARROW KEYS to nudge the text to the base of the canvas.

5   Press <enter> or <return> to complete the transformation.