GIMP Image editor shortcuts

START HERE

- Ctrl + N — New image
- X — Swap colors
- Ctrl + Shift + E — Export As
- Tab — Hide panels
- Ctrl + Z — Undo
- Ctrl + Shift + N — New layer
- R — Rectangle select
- P — Paintbrush

Image one .xcf project
Layer stacked pixels, own mask
Selection limits what tools change

CONCEPTS

Most tools have a single-key shortcut; hold Shift for the second tool of a family (E is Ellipse, Shift+E is Eraser).

Export As writes PNG/JPEG/etc. Save writes the .xcf project; only .xcf keeps layers.

Shortcuts are the Linux/Windows defaults. On macOS read Ctrl as Cmd and Alt as Option.

Any shortcut can be changed or added in Edit > Keyboard Shortcuts, including tools without one.

SELECTION TOOLS

- R Rectangle select
- E Ellipse select
- F Free select (lasso)
- U Fuzzy select (magic wand)
- Shift + O Select by color
- I Scissors select
- Shift + Ctrl + A Select none

SELECTION TOOLS (cont.)

- Ctrl + A Select all
- Ctrl + I Invert selection
- Shift + Q Toggle quick mask
- Shift + V Path to selection
- Shift + Ctrl + L Float selection

PAINT TOOLS

- P Paintbrush
- N Pencil
- Shift + E Eraser
- A Airbrush
- Shift + B Bucket fill
- G Gradient
- C Clone
- H Heal
- S Smudge
- Shift + U Blur / sharpen
- Shift + D Dodge / burn
- O Color picker

PAINT TOOLS (cont.)

- D Default colors (black / white)
- X Swap foreground and background
- Ctrl + , Fill with foreground color
- Ctrl + . Fill with background color
- Delete Clear selection

TRANSFORM AND OTHER TOOLS

- M Move
- Shift + C Crop
- Shift + R Rotate
- Shift + S Scale
- Shift + T Unified transform
- Shift + F Flip
- W Warp transform
- Q Align and distribute
- T Text
- B Paths

FILE AND EDIT

- Ctrl + N New image
- Ctrl + O Open image
- Ctrl + Alt + O Open as layers
- Ctrl + S Save as .xcf
- Shift + Ctrl + S Save As
- Shift + Ctrl + E Export As
- Ctrl + W Close view
- Ctrl + Q Quit
- Ctrl + Z Undo
- Ctrl + Y Redo
- Ctrl + C Copy
- Ctrl + X Cut
- Ctrl + V Paste
- Shift + Ctrl + V Paste as new image

VIEW AND WINDOW

- Plus / Minus Zoom in / out
- Shift + Ctrl + J Fit image in window

VIEW AND WINDOW (cont.)

- F11 Toggle fullscreen
- Tab Hide or show panels
- Ctrl + PageUp / Ctrl + PageDown Previous / next open image
- Alt + 1-9 Go to image tab by number
- F1 Help for item under pointer

LAYERS, IMAGE, FILTERS

- Shift + Ctrl + N New layer
- Shift + Ctrl + D Duplicate layer
- Ctrl + H Anchor floating layer
- Ctrl + D Duplicate image
- Ctrl + M Merge visible layers
- Ctrl + F Repeat last filter
- Ctrl + Shift + F Re-show last filter dialog

RECIPES

Cut out a subject to a new layer

```
# U (fuzzy) or F (lasso) to select
Ctrl+C
Shift+Ctrl+V   # paste as new image
Shift+Ctrl+E     # export as PNG
```

Undo then tweak a filter

```
Ctrl+F           # repeat last filter
Ctrl+Z           # not right? undo
Ctrl+Shift+F     # re-open its dialog, adjust
```

Fix a blemish

```
H                # heal tool
Ctrl+click       # pick clean source area
click            # paint over blemish
```

Quick fill a selection

```
R                # drag a rectangle
X                # swap to the color you want
Ctrl+,           # fill with foreground
Shift+Ctrl+A     # select none
```