GIMP Image editor shortcuts

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.

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

SELECTION TOOLS

R Rectangle select

E Ellipse select

F Free select (lasso)

U Fuzzy select (magic wand)

Shift + O Select by color

Shift + Ctrl + A Select none

Ctrl + A Select all

Ctrl + I Invert selection

Shift + Q Toggle quick mask

Shift + Ctrl + L
Float selection

PAINT TOOLS

P Paintbrush

N Pencil

Shift + E Eraser

A Airbrush

Shift + B Bucket fill

G Gradient

C Clone

PAINT TOOLS (cont.)

H Heal

O Color picker

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

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 + Z Undo

Ctrl + Y Redo

Ctrl + C Copy

Ctrl + X Cut

Ctrl + V Paste

FILE AND EDIT (cont.)

Shift + Ctrl + V
Paste as new image

VIEW AND WINDOW

Plus / Minus Zoom in / out

Shift + Ctrl + J
Fit image in window

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

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
```