GIMP Image editor shortcuts

START HERE

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

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
- 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

PAINT TOOLS (cont.)

- 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
- 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
- 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
```