# 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
- 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
```