GIMP Image editor shortcuts

START HERE

Ctrl + N
New image

Ctrl + Shift + E
Export As

Ctrl + Z
Undo

Ctrl + Shift + N
New layer

R
Rectangle select

P
Paintbrush

X
Swap colors

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
```