Inkscape Vector graphics editor

START HERE

S
Select tool

Ctrl + G
Group

N
Edit nodes

5
Fit page in window

R
Draw a rectangle

Ctrl + Shift + F
Fill and stroke

T
Add text

Ctrl + Shift + E
Export PNG / PDF

Document one SVG, one or more pages
Layer a named top-level group
Group Ctrl+G, enter with Ctrl+Enter
Object / path has fill, stroke, nodes

CONCEPTS

Every tool has a one-letter key. Press Esc first if you are typing in a text object, or the letter becomes text.

Ctrl+S saves Inkscape SVG; PNG, PDF and plain SVG come from the Export dialog (Ctrl+Shift+E).

Linux/Windows keys shown. On macOS use Cmd for Ctrl and Option for Alt.

Press ? for the command palette: every action by name, with its shortcut. Rebind keys in Preferences > Interface > Keyboard.

TOOLS

S / F1
Select and transform objects

N / F2
Node tool: edit path nodes

R / F4 Rectangle

E / F5 Ellipse, circle, arc

* Star and polygon

B / Shift + F6
Pen (Bezier curves)

P / F6 Pencil (freehand)

T / F8 Text

G / Ctrl + F1 Gradient

D / F7 Dropper: pick a color

X
Shape builder: merge or split by clicking

Shift + E Eraser

M Measure

VIEW AND ZOOM

Plus / Minus Zoom in / out

Ctrl + Scroll Zoom at pointer

3 Zoom to selection

4 Zoom to whole drawing

5 Fit page in window

Space Hold and drag to pan

VIEW AND ZOOM (cont.)

Ctrl + 5
Cycle display mode (outline etc.)

Show or hide grid

F12 Show or hide all dialogs

? Command palette

% Toggle snapping

FILE AND EDIT

Ctrl + N New document

Ctrl + O Open

Ctrl + S
Save as Inkscape SVG

Ctrl + Shift + S Save As

Ctrl + I
Import an image or SVG

Ctrl + Shift + E
Export dialog: PNG, PDF, SVG

Ctrl + Z Undo

Ctrl + Shift + Z / Ctrl + Y
Redo

Ctrl + C / Ctrl + V
Copy / paste

Ctrl + Alt + V Paste in place

Ctrl + Shift + V
Paste style only

Ctrl + D Duplicate in place

Alt + D Clone (linked copy)

Ctrl + Shift + R
Resize page to selection

Ctrl + Shift + D
Document properties

SELECT

Ctrl + A
Select all in current layer

Esc Deselect

Shift + Click
Add to or remove from selection

Ctrl + Click
Select inside a group

Alt + Click
Select the object below

Ctrl + Enter
Enter the selected group

ARRANGE AND ALIGN

Ctrl + G Group

Ctrl + Shift + G / Ctrl + U
Ungroup

Home / End
Raise to top / lower to bottom

PageUp / PageDown
Raise / lower one step

H / V
Flip horizontally / vertically

Ctrl + Shift + A
Align and distribute dialog

Ctrl + Alt + 4 / Ctrl + Alt + 6
Align left / right edges
Target is set under Relative to in the Align dialog

Ctrl + Alt + 8 / Ctrl + Alt + 2
Align top / bottom edges

Ctrl + Alt + 5
Center on both axes

Ctrl + M / Alt + M
Set / release clip
The top object becomes the clip shape

TRANSFORM

Arrows Move 2 px

Shift + Arrows Move 20 px

[/] Rotate 15 degrees

Ctrl + [/ Ctrl +]
Rotate 90 degrees

, / . Shrink / grow by 2 px

Ctrl + Drag
Constrain move or keep aspect ratio

Ctrl + Shift + M
Transform dialog (exact values)

Click a selected object again to switch between scale and rotate/skew handles. Step sizes are set in Preferences > Behavior > Steps.

PATHS

Ctrl + Shift + C
Object to path
Needed before node editing shapes or text

Ctrl + Alt + C Stroke to path

Ctrl + Plus Union

PATHS (cont.)

Ctrl + Minus
Difference (bottom minus top)

Ctrl + * Intersection

Ctrl + K
Combine into one path

Ctrl + Shift + K
Break apart into subpaths

Ctrl + L Simplify

NODE TOOL

Shift + C Make nodes cusp

Shift + S Make nodes smooth

Shift + L / Shift + U
Segments to lines / curves

Insert / Shift + I
Insert node in selected segment

Shift + J
Join selected end nodes

Delete removes a node and reshapes the curve to keep its form. Arrows, [ ], < > and H / V act on selected nodes as on objects; Tab steps through nodes.

PEN AND TEXT

Enter Finish the pen path

Ctrl + Shift + T
Text and font dialog

LAYERS AND DIALOGS

Ctrl + Shift + L
Layers and objects dialog

Ctrl + Shift + N New layer

Ctrl + Shift + F Fill and stroke

RECIPES

Cut a shape out of another

```
# cutter on top, select both
Ctrl+Minus    # difference
# text? Ctrl+Shift+C first
```

Center a logo on the page

```
Ctrl+Shift+A  # relative to:
Page
Ctrl+Alt+5    # center both axes
5             # fit page
```

Export PNG from a shell

```
inkscape --export-type=png \
  --export-dpi=300 logo.svg
# writes logo.png
```