Inkscape Vector graphics editor

START HERE

- S — Select tool
- Ctrl + Shift + F — Fill and stroke
- N — Edit nodes
- Ctrl + Shift + E — Export PNG / PDF
- R — Draw a rectangle
- T — Add text
- Ctrl + G — Group
- 5 — Fit page in window

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)

TOOLS (cont.)

- P / F6 — Pencil (freehand)
- T / F8 — Text
- D / F7 — Dropper: pick a color

VIEW AND ZOOM

- Plus / Minus — Zoom in / out
- Ctrl + Scroll — Zoom at pointer
- 3 — Zoom to selection
- 5 — Fit page in window
- Space — Hold and drag to pan
- ? — Command palette
- % — Toggle snapping

FILE AND EDIT

- Ctrl + N — New document
- Ctrl + O — Open
- Ctrl + S — Save as Inkscape SVG
- Ctrl + I — Import an image or SVG
- Ctrl + Shift + E — Export dialog: PNG, PDF, SVG
- Ctrl + Z — Undo

FILE AND EDIT (cont.)

- 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

SELECT

- Ctrl + A — Select all in current layer
- Esc — Deselect
- Shift + Click — Add to or remove from selection
- Ctrl + Click — Select inside a group

ARRANGE AND ALIGN

- Ctrl + G — Group
- Ctrl + Shift + G / Ctrl + U — Ungroup
- Home / End — Raise to top / lower to bottom

ARRANGE AND ALIGN (cont.)

- PageUp / PageDown — Raise / lower one step
- H / V — Flip horizontally / vertically
- Ctrl + Shift + A — Align and distribute dialog

TRANSFORM

- Arrows — Move 2 px
- [/] — Rotate 15 degrees
- Ctrl + [/ Ctrl +] — Rotate 90 degrees
- Ctrl + Drag — Constrain move or keep aspect ratio

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

PATHS (cont.)

- Ctrl + Plus — Union
- 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
```