Inkscape Vector graphics editor

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.

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

TOOLS

S / F1
Select and transform objects

N / F2
Node tool: edit path nodes

R / F4 Rectangle

E / F5 Ellipse, circle, arc

B / Shift + F6
Pen (Bezier curves)

T / F8 Text

D / F7 Dropper: pick a color

VIEW AND ZOOM

Plus / Minus Zoom in / out

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

Ctrl + Shift + Z / Ctrl + Y
Redo

Ctrl + C / Ctrl + V
Copy / paste

Ctrl + Alt + V Paste in place

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

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

TRANSFORM (cont.)

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

Ctrl + Alt + C Stroke to path

Ctrl + Plus Union

Ctrl + Minus
Difference (bottom minus top)

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

LAYERS AND DIALOGS

Ctrl + Shift + L
Layers and objects dialog

Ctrl + Shift + F Fill and stroke