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
- **Ctrl** + **5** Cycle display mode (outline etc.)
- **#** Show or hide grid

VIEW AND ZOOM (cont.)

- **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

ARRANGE AND ALIGN (cont.)

- **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
- **Shift** + **Drag** Scale or rotate around the center

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
- **Ctrl** + **Minus** Difference (bottom minus top)

PATHS (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + ***** Intersection
- **Ctrl** + **/** Division (cut bottom by 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
- **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
```