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
```