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
```