# MkDocs Docs from Markdown

## CONCEPTS

Docs are plain Markdown files in docs/, wired together by mkdocs.yml. Run commands from the folder holding mkdocs.yml.

**docs/*.md** your pages
↓ mkdocs.yml
**Config + theme** nav, plugins
↓ mkdocs build
**site/** static HTML
↓ gh-deploy
**gh-pages** hosted site

site/ is generated output: keep it out of git (add it to .gitignore).

Plugins and themes such as Material are separate pip packages; get-deps lists what your config needs.

## PROJECT

**mkdocs new** *<dir>*
Create mkdocs.yml and docs/index.md

**mkdocs new .**
Scaffold in the current folder

**pip install mkdocs**
Install MkDocs

**pip install mkdocs-material**
Install the Material theme

**mkdocs --version**
Show installed version

**mkdocs get-deps**
Print packages the config needs

**pip install $(mkdocs get-deps)**
Install those packages

## PREVIEW

**mkdocs serve**
Serve at localhost:8000 with live reload

**mkdocs serve -a** *<host:port>*
Pick address and port

**mkdocs serve -a 0.0.0.0:8000**
Reachable from other machines

**mkdocs serve --dirty**
Rebuild only changed pages

## PREVIEW (cont.)

**mkdocs serve -w** *<path>*
Also watch another dir or file

**mkdocs serve --watch-theme**
Reload on theme changes

**mkdocs serve --no-livereload**
Disable auto reload

**mkdocs serve -f** *<file>*
Use another config file

## BUILD AND DEPLOY

**mkdocs build**
Write the site to site/

**mkdocs build --strict**
Abort on any warning

**mkdocs build -d** *<dir>*
Choose the output folder

**mkdocs build -f** *<file>*
Use another config file

**mkdocs build --clean**
Remove stale files first (default)

**mkdocs build --no-directory-urls**
Use page.html style URLs

**mkdocs build -t readthedocs**
Override the built-in theme

**mkdocs gh-deploy**
Build and push to gh-pages

**mkdocs gh-deploy -m "***<msg>***"**
Set the deploy commit message

**mkdocs gh-deploy -b** *<branch>*
Deploy to another branch

**mkdocs gh-deploy -r** *<remote>*
Deploy to another remote

**mkdocs gh-deploy --force**
Force-push the branch

## MKDOCS.YML

**site_name:** *<title>*
Required site title

**site_url:** *<url>*
Canonical URL of the site

**nav:**
Page order and titles

**theme:**
  **name:** *<theme>*
Choose theme (mkdocs, readthedocs, ...)

## MKDOCS.YML (cont.)

**plugins: [search]**
Enable plugins (replaces defaults)

**markdown_extensions:**
Add Python-Markdown extensions

**docs_dir:** *<dir>*
Source folder (default docs)

**site_dir:** *<dir>*
Output folder (default site)

**strict: true**
Warnings fail the build

**repo_url:** *<url>*
Link to source repo

## NAVIGATION

**- Home: index.md**
Title plus file path

**- index.md**
File only, title taken from page

**- Guide:**
  **- Intro: guide/intro.md**
Nested section

**- Issues: https://***<url>*
External link, title required

Without nav, MkDocs lists all pages alphabetically. Paths are relative to docs_dir.

### Where things live

| Path | Purpose |
|---|---|
| mkdocs.yml | configuration |
| docs/index.md | home page |
| docs/img/ | images, linked relatively |
| site/ | build output |

## RECIPES

### New project, preview

```
pip install mkdocs
mkdocs new mysite
cd mysite
mkdocs serve
```

### Material theme with search

```
pip install mkdocs-material
# mkdocs.yml
theme:
  name: material
plugins:
  - search
```

### CI check, then publish

```
mkdocs build --strict
mkdocs gh-deploy --force
```