pipx Python app installer

CONCEPTS

pipx is for applications (black, httpie), not libraries: each gets its own venv, only its commands land on PATH.

pipx manager
- **One venv per app** ~/.local/share/pipx/venvs
  - **App + its deps** isolated
    - **Command link** ~/.local/bin

Use pip or uv to add libraries to a project; use pipx for command-line tools you run everywhere.

INSTALL

pipx install *<package>*
Install an app in its own venv

pipx install *<package>* **--python** *<python>*
Pick the Python version

pipx install "*<package>*[*<extra>*]"
Install with an extra

pipx install git+*<url>*
Install from a git repository

pipx install ./*<path>*
Install a local project

pipx install --editable ./*<path>*
Editable local install

pipx install --include-deps *<package>*
Also expose dependency commands

pipx install --suffix @*<tag>* *<package>*
Install a second copy side by side

pipx install --force *<package>*
Overwrite an existing install

pipx install --pip-args="--pre" *<package>*
Pass options to pip

pipx install --global *<package>*
Install for all users

RUN WITHOUT INSTALLING

pipx run *<package>*
Run an app in a temporary venv

pipx run *<package>* *<args>*
Pass arguments to the app

pipx run --spec "*<package>*==*<version>*" *<command>*
Run a specific version

pipx run --python *<python>* *<package>*
Run on a chosen Python

pipx run *<script>*.py
Run a script with its inline dependencies

pipx run git+*<url>*
Run straight from git

MANAGE

pipx list
Show installed apps and versions

pipx list --short
One line per app

pipx upgrade *<package>*
Upgrade one app

pipx upgrade-all
Upgrade every app

pipx uninstall *<package>*
Remove an app and its venv

pipx uninstall-all
Remove every app

pipx reinstall *<package>*
Rebuild the venv

pipx reinstall-all
Rebuild every venv

pipx upgrade --include-injected *<package>*
Upgrade injected libraries too

INJECT AND PIN

pipx inject *<package>* *<dep>*
Add a library to an app's venv

pipx inject *<package>* **-r** *<file>*
Inject from a requirements file

pipx uninject *<package>* *<dep>*
Remove an injected library

INJECT AND PIN (cont.)

pipx runpip *<package>* *<pip-args>*
Run pip inside an app's venv

pipx pin *<package>*
Block upgrades of an app

pipx unpin *<package>*
Allow upgrades again

SETUP AND ENVIRONMENT

pipx ensurepath
Put the app directory on PATH

python3 -m pip install --user pipx
Install pipx itself

pipx upgrade pipx
Update a self-installed pipx

pipx environment
Show paths and settings

pipx environment --value *<name>*
Print one value

pipx list --output json > *<file>*
Export installed apps

Environment variables

Variable	Default
PIPX_HOME	~/.local/share/pipx
PIPX_BIN_DIR	~/.local/bin
PIPX_DEFAULT_PYTHON	Python running pipx
PIPX_GLOBAL_HOME	/opt/pipx

On Debian/Ubuntu 23.04+ and Fedora, pip install --user is blocked; install pipx from the system package manager.

RECIPES

First setup on Ubuntu

```
sudo apt install pipx
pipx ensurepath
# open a new terminal
pipx install black
```

Ansible with extra modules

```
pipx install --include-deps ansible
pipx inject ansible <extra-package>
```

Move tools to a new Python

```
pipx reinstall-all --python python3.13
```