Sway Wayland tiling compositor

START HERE

Mod + **Enter**
Open a terminal

Mod + **Shift** + **q**
Close the window

Mod + **d**
Launch an app

Mod + **Shift** + **c**
Reload the config

Mod + **Arrows**
Focus a neighbour

Mod + **1-9**
Switch workspace

Mod + **Shift** + **1-9**
Send window to workspace

Mod + **f**
Toggle fullscreen

Output a monitor
Workspace one named desktop
Container split, stacked or tabbed
Window leaf of the tree

CONCEPTS

Mod is Super (Mod4) in the stock /etc/sway/config; copy it to ~/.config/sway/config and edit. h j k l or the arrow keys move; the launcher and terminal are whatever $menu and $term name.

Sway is an i3-compatible Wayland compositor: same tree model and almost the same commands, but X11 tools (xrandr, xdotool) do not apply.

Config: ~/.config/sway/config. Mod+Shift+c reloads it; there is no restart, a crash ends the session.

FOCUS

Mod + **Arrows**
Focus left / down / up / right
Mod+h, j, k, l do the same: left, down, up, right.

Mod + **a**
Focus parent container
Press again to climb further; focus child steps back down.

Mod + **Space**
Toggle focus tiling / floating

Mod + **Shift** + **q**
Kill focused window

FOCUS (cont.)

focus output *<dir>*
Focus another monitor

[app_id="*<name>***"] focus**
Jump to a window by criteria
Use in a bindsym or via swaymsg. Native Wayland apps match app_id; XWayland apps match class.

MOVE WINDOWS

Mod + **Shift** + **Arrows**
Move window left / down / up / right
Mod+Shift+h, j, k, l do the same.

Mod + **Shift** + **1-9**
Move window to workspace

move container to output *<dir>*
Send window to another monitor

swap container with con_id *<id>*
Swap two windows

mark --add *<name>*
Tag the focused window

LAYOUTS AND SPLITS

Mod + **b**
Next window opens beside this one

WORKSPACES

Mod + **1-9**
Switch to workspace N
Mod+0 goes to workspace 10.

workspace back_and_forth
Toggle with previous workspace

workspace next / workspace prev
Cycle through used workspaces

workspace number *<n>*:*<name>*
Switch to a named workspace

move workspace to output *<dir>*
Send workspace to another monitor

LAYOUTS AND SPLITS (cont.)

Mod + **v**
Next window opens below this one

Mod + **f** Toggle fullscreen

Mod + **s** Stacking layout

Mod + **w** Tabbed layout

Mod + **e**
Toggle split layout, h / v

RESIZE

Mod + **r** Enter resize mode

h / **j** / **k** / **l**
Shrink width / grow height / shrink height / grow width
Arrows do the same in the stock config.

Enter / **Esc**
Leave resize mode

FLOATING AND SCRATCHPAD

Mod + **Shift** + **Space**
Toggle floating

Mod + **Left-drag**
Move a floating window

Mod + **Right-drag**
Resize a floating window

Mod + **Shift** + **-**
Send window to scratchpad

Mod + **-**
Show / hide scratchpad window

for_window [app_id="*<name>***"] floating enable**
Always float an app (config)

floating_modifier Mod normal
Mouse modifier for drags (config)

SESSION AND CONFIG

Mod + **Enter** Open terminal

Mod + **d** Open launcher

Mod + **Shift** + **c**
Reload config

Mod + **Shift** + **e**
Exit sway (asks first)

sway -C
Check the config for errors

swaymsg *<command>*
Run any sway command from a shell

swaymsg -t get_tree
Dump the window tree as JSON
Also get_outputs, get_inputs and get_workspaces.

bindsym $mod+*<key>* *<command>*
Bind a key to a command (config)

exec *<command>*
Start once at login (config)

exec_always *<command>*
Also run on every reload (config)

mode "*<name>***" { ... }**
Define a binding mode (config)

SESSION AND CONFIG (cont.)

set $mod Mod4
Use Super as the modifier (config)

output *<name>* **resolution** *<w>*x*<h>* **position** *<x>* *<y>*
Configure a monitor (config)

input type:keyboard xkb_layout *<layout>*
Set keyboard layout (config)

RECIPES

Scratchpad terminal

```
# config
bindsym $mod+Shift+minus move scratchpad
bindsym $mod+minus scratchpad show
for_window [app_id="scratch"] move scratchpad
# foot --app-id scratch &
```

Resize mode

```
mode "resize" {
    bindsym l resize grow width 10px
    bindsym Escape mode "default"
}
bindsym $mod+r mode "resize"
```

Pin apps to workspaces

```
assign [app_id="firefox"] workspace 2
for_window [app_id="pavucontrol"] floating enable
```