

Inkscape Quick Reference

The Tools You Need To Know

Select Tool:

While using this tool, click once on a shape to select it. Once a shape is selected, you can change the shape's fill or stroke using the **Fill and Stroke Dialog**, delete the shape by pressing **delete**, or stretch the shape by grabbing it at the edges. Try holding down **shift** or **control** while stretching a shape.

If you click on a selected shape a second time, the stretch handles around the edges change into rotation handles.

If you click and drag a shape using this tool, you can move that shape.

Text Tool:

Using this tool, click on the canvas to create a new text box.

Gradient Tool:

Using this tool, drag across a shape to fill that shape with a gradient (blending from one color to another).



Edit Path Tool:

Use this tool to change paths that you've created with the pen tool. You can click on individual points on the path and either move them, delete them, or change the way lines curve through them.

Zoom Tool:

Using this tool, click on a spot on screen to magnify, shift-click to de-magnify, or click and drag to fill the screen with a specific area.

Pen Tool:

This tool can create shapes and complex lines. Click on the canvas to start creating a shape, and then click once again for each point you want to add to the shape. To close the shape, click back on the starting point.

Each time you create a point, you can either:

- click and let go to make a straight point or
- click and drag to make a curved point.

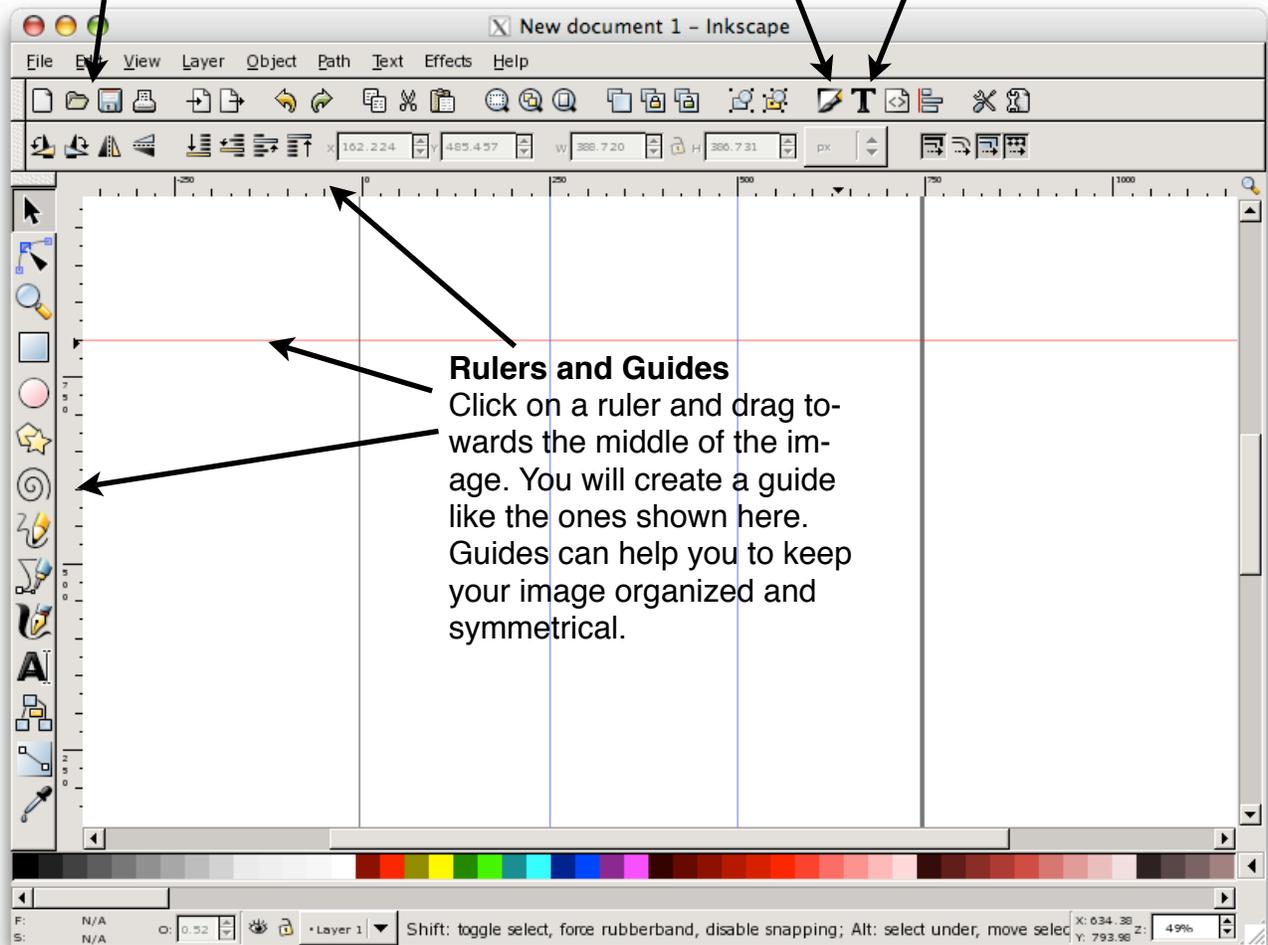
Eyedropper tool:

While one shape is selected, click this tool on another shape to copy that shape's color and stroke to the selected shape.

Quick Open and Save

Fill and Stroke Dialog:
This button opens a window to control the fill and stroke of the selected shape.

Font Dialog:
This button will let you control the font of the selected text.



Rulers and Guides
Click on a ruler and drag towards the middle of the image. You will create a guide like the ones shown here. Guides can help you to keep your image organized and symmetrical.

Layer visibility
Click the open eye to hide the shapes on the current layer. Click again (now on a closed eye) to show them.

Current Layer
This pulldown shows you the current layer--the layer on which you are drawing. You can change your current layer by clicking here, but it will also change as you select different shapes in your image (if they are on different layers).