



Interface Basics & Navigation

Core Interface Elements

Toolbar	Located at the top, provides quick access to essential tools like shapes, text, and boolean operations.
Layers List	Found on the left sidebar, displays all layers and groups in your document, allowing for easy selection and organization.
Inspector	On the right sidebar, provides detailed settings for selected layers, including appearance, text styles, and constraints.
Canvas	The main work area where you create and manipulate design elements.

Canvas Navigation

Zoom In/Out	<code>Cmd + Plus</code> / <code>Cmd + Minus</code> or <code>Cmd + Mouse Wheel</code>
Hand Tool (Pan)	<code>Spacebar + Drag</code>
Zoom to Selection	<code>Cmd + 2</code>
Zoom to Fit	<code>Cmd + 1</code>

Artboards

Artboards represent screens or pages in your design.

- **Insert Artboard:** `A` key
- **Choose Preset Size:** Select from the right sidebar (Inspector).
- **Custom Size:** Drag to define the artboard size manually.

Essential Tools & Shortcuts

Shape Tools

Rectangle	<code>R</code>
Oval	<code>O</code>
Line	<code>L</code>
Vector (Pen Tool)	<code>V</code>
Rounded Rectangle	Insert Rectangle, then adjust Corner Radius in Inspector

Text Tool

Insert Text	<code>T</code>
Edit Text	Double-click the text layer
Adjust Text Properties	Use the Inspector (font, size, color, alignment, etc.)

Boolean Operations

Combine shapes to create complex forms.

- **Union:** Merge selected shapes.
- **Subtract:** Remove the front shape from the back shape.
- **Intersect:** Keep only the overlapping area.
- **Difference:** Remove the overlapping area.

Basic Operations

Select	<code>Cmd + Click</code> (through groups)
Move	Arrow keys (nudge)
Duplicate	<code>Cmd + D</code>
Group	<code>Cmd + G</code>
Ungroup	<code>Cmd + Shift + G</code>

Styles & Assets

Shared Styles

Create reusable styles for text and layers to maintain consistency.

- **Create Style:** Select a layer, define its appearance in the Inspector, and click 'Create' in the Shared Styles section.
- **Apply Style:** Select a layer and choose a style from the Shared Styles dropdown.

Symbols

Create reusable components that can be easily updated across your design.

- **Create Symbol:** Select a layer or group and click 'Create Symbol' in the toolbar.
- **Edit Symbol:** Double-click a Symbol instance to edit the master Symbol. Changes will propagate to all instances.
- **Detach from Symbol:** Right-click a Symbol instance and select 'Detach from Symbol'.

Libraries

Share Styles and Symbols across multiple Sketch documents.

- **Create Library:** Save a Sketch document containing Shared Styles and Symbols.
- **Add Library:** In Sketch Preferences, add the saved document as a Library.
- **Use Library:** Access Shared Styles and Symbols from the Libraries section in the Inspector.

Advanced Techniques & Plugins

Masking

Use a shape as a mask to reveal or hide portions of another layer.

- **Create Mask:** Place the mask shape above the layer to be masked, select both, and click 'Mask' in the toolbar.

Prototyping

Create interactive prototypes to test user flows and interactions.

- **Link Artboards:** Select a layer, click the 'Prototype' tab in the Inspector, and drag the arrow to the target artboard.
- **Define Transition:** Choose a transition effect (e.g., Push, Fade) and animation direction.

Plugins

Extend Sketch's functionality with plugins.

- **Install Plugins:** Use Sketch's Plugin Manager or download plugins manually and place them in the Plugins folder.
- **Popular Plugins:**
 - **Craft:** For data population and prototyping.
 - **Abstract:** For version control.
 - **Zeplin:** For design handoff.