Inkscape Basics: Vector Drawing

Free vector graphics editor from inkscape.org

Vector vs. pixels

Vector shapes are made from math, so they stay sharp at any size. Photos are pixels and blur when enlarged.

Tools

The toolbox on the left holds the selector, node, rectangle, ellipse, pen and text tools.

Shapes

Draw a rectangle or ellipse. Drag the handles to resize it, and click a color in the palette to fill it.

Fill and Stroke

Press Ctrl + Shift + F. Fill is the inside color. Stroke is the outline color and width.

Nodes and paths

Use the node tool to edit points on a path. Choose Path, then Object to Path to turn a shape or text into editable curves.

Align and group

Use Ctrl + Shift + A to align objects. Press Ctrl + G to group them so they move together.

Save and export

Save as Inkscape SVG to keep editing. Use Ctrl + Shift + E to export a PNG to share.

Tip: Start with simple shapes. Most logos are shapes combined and edited.

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