LESSON 4: MORE TYPE

Learn more about working with type in Inkscape!

QUICK REVIEW & LEARNING MORE

Let's do a quick recap of everything you've learned so far:

- Panning and zooming on the canvas
- Selecting objects, and moving them (hold down Shift to move faster, Alt to move slower)
- Copy (Ctrl+C), Paste (Ctrl+V), Duplicate (Ctrl+D), Delete (Ctrl+X or Delete key)
- Resizing, rotating, and flipping objects (H for horizontal flip, V for vertical flip)
- Grouping (Ctrl+G) and Ungrouping (Ctrl+Shift+G) selected objects
- Arranging objects in front and behind each other (PgUp to move an object to the front, PgDn to move it to the back)
- Working with shapes: Squares, Circles, Spirals, Stars, Pentagons, Triangles, Rosettes
- Converting shapes and text to paths
- Path manipulations: Union, Intersection, Exclusion, Difference, Division
- Using the pen tool to draw straight paths and curved paths
- Working with path nodes
- Simplifying paths (Ctrl+L)
- Using the pencil tool, tweak tool, fill tool, and type tools to create paths

Wow, we've gone over a lot so far! Is there anything here you're not sure about or want to learn more about? You can always ask in class, but if you're on your own or working on Inkscape at home, there's a few ways you can learn more about this functionality and even more:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INKSCAPE MANUAL</th>
<th>If you select Help &gt; Inkscape Manual in the Inkscape menus, your browser will open up to the full Inkscape software manual. It gives a good overview of all of Inkscape's features and how they work.</th>
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<tr>
<td>INKSCAPE TUTORIALS</td>
<td>If you select Help &gt; Tutorials in the Inkscape menus, you'll find a handful of tutorials that will open right in Inkscape and go over some of the techniques we've covered in class so far – and some we haven't!</td>
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WORKING WITH TYPE: TEXT VS. PATHS

You may remember from last week that there are two main types of type in Inkscape:

- **Text Object:**
  You can change the font and the text in a text object, and do all of the cool things we're going to go over today – changing line spacing, letter spacing, and putting text on paths, for example. However, unless the person you are sending your file to has the same fonts that you do, they won't be able to see your type the same way!
• **Path Object:**
  
  If your type has been converted to paths, anyone who opens your file can see the type exactly as you designed it to look. However, you can't easily change its appearance – you can't change the font you are using and you can't change the letters in it.

Working with type that has been converted to paths is fine if you are sure about the name of your band! If you think you might change your mind, however, consider keeping your type as a text object until you are sure.

How can you tell if your type is text or path? Click on it using the text tool (A):

Clicking and dragging on a text object using the text tool will highlight the letters and let you type over them to edit.

Clicking and dragging on a path object using the text tool will do nothing. If you click enough times, it may create a new blank text object!

**LINE SPACING**

One feature of text objects in Inkscape that is not available in the text toolbar is line spacing control. You can tell Inkscape to put more or less space between lines of text. To control line spacing, select the text you’d like to change using the selection arrow and go to the Text > Text and Font menu in Inkscape:

Changing the line spacing of text can change its personality a lot:

- **125% line spacing.** Pretty normal.
- **80% line spacing – crowded and busy!**
- **200% line spacing – wide and airy.**
**LETTER SPACING**
You can control how much space is in between letters as well as in between lines in text objects. Select the text you’d like to adjust the letter spacing for by clicking and dragging over it using the text tool ( ). Then hold down the 'Alt' key on the keyboard and press the '<' key to tighten the text or '>' to loosen it!

**POTATO** P O T A T O **POTATO**

Normal letter spacing, normal potato.  
Loose letter spacing, lots of room for the potato to breathe!  
Tight letter spacing, and this potato is gasping for more air!

**KERNING**
Kerning means controlling how individual letters are positioned with respect to each other:

- To kern horizontally, select the letters or letters you’d like to kern by clicking and dragging over them using the text tool ( ). Then hold down the 'Alt' key on the keyboard and press the left or right arrows multiple times. You can hold down Shift + Alt + the arrow keys to kern faster. It will squish or loosen the letters from each other. Check out the example below:

  **POTA TO**

  Some letters are getting close while others are running away!

- To kern horizontally, select the letters or letters you'd like to kern by clicking and dragging over them using the text tool ( ). Then hold down the 'Alt' key on the keyboard and press the up or down arrows multiple times. This will pull the letters up or down. This effect works much better if you choose only certain letters in your type, otherwise you'll move the entire word up or down which isn't very exciting!

  **POTATO**

  “A” is up, “O” is down!

- You can also rotate individual letters! Select the letters or letters you'd like to kern by clicking and dragging over them using the text tool ( ). Then hold down the 'Alt' key on the keyboard and press the '[' or ']' keys.

  **POTATO**

  Dancing potato?

- Of course you can combine all of these effects at the same time!
PUTTING TYPE ON PATHS

One last thing you'll want to know about text objects in Inkscape: you can align them to paths! This will let you align your text to circles, curves, or any types of shapes you can dream up!

To accomplish this, first create a path (if you use a shape object, convert it to paths.) Then create some text. Select both the text and path you'd like to use (Hold down shift and use the select arrow, or lasso both the text and path), then select the Text > Put on Path menu item.

If you put “Potato” on a circle as on the left above, it will run along the outside of the circle. If you would like the “Potato” to run along the inside of the circle, select the circle and select Path > Reverse before you put the text on the path.