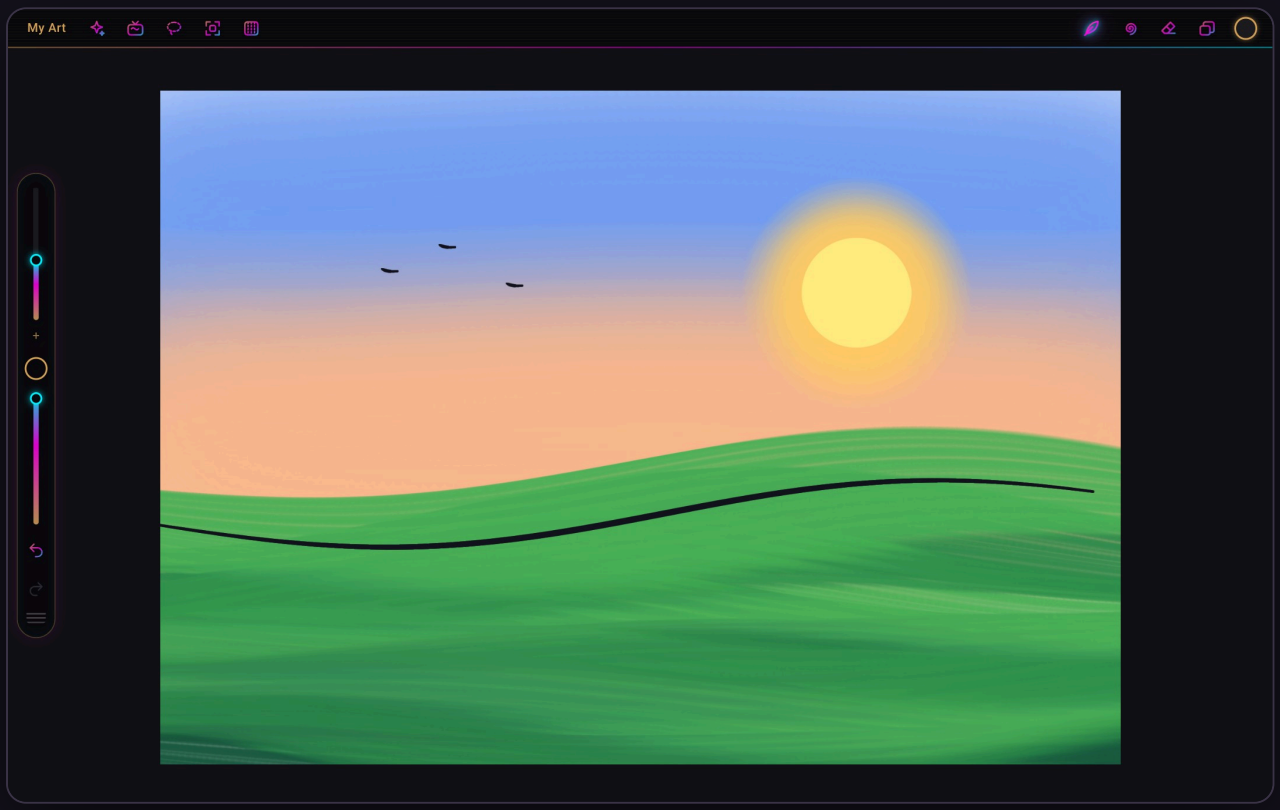
SQ44 DRAW

BY SON OF SATOSHI™

User Manual

Painting, layers, brushes, effects and everything else, with real pictures of the app.



Version 1.0.11 · Linux and Windows · thesonofsatoshi.com

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CHAPTER 1

1 Welcome

SQ44 Draw is a painting and drawing app that runs on your own computer: a big canvas, layers, a library of brushes and a pen that feels right. It is free, needs no account and never goes online.

What you can do with it

Paint and draw with a pressure pen (Wacom, XP-Pen, Huion and other tablets) or a mouse; build pictures from layers with blend modes, masks, clipping and groups; add effects such as blur, bloom, glitch and liquify; select, move and warp parts of a picture; add text and sharp vector shapes; animate frame by frame; and save in all the common formats: PNG, JPEG, PSD with layers, TIFF, PDF, SVG, GIF, video and more.

How to read this manual

Every picture in this manual is the real app. Pink numbers on a picture match the numbered rows in the table under it. Step-by-step boxes like the one below tell you exactly what to tap, in order.

Example: start a new picture

1. Open SQ44 Draw. You see **My Art**.
2. Tap **+** at the top right.
3. Pick a size and tap **Create**.

TIP Undo is always there: two-finger tap, `Ctrl+Z`, or the arrow at the bottom of the side bar.

Your art stays yours

There is no account, no cloud and no tracking. Your drawings are saved on your own computer, a second after you stop drawing. Nothing leaves your computer unless you share or export it yourself.

CHAPTER 2

2 Installing SQ44 Draw

SQ44 Draw runs on Linux and Windows. Download it from **thesonofsatoshi.com** (Downloads → SQ44 Draw). This manual describes version 1.0.11.

Linux

Install on Linux

1. Download the **Linux** zip and unzip it.
2. Right-click *SQ44-Draw-....AppImage* → **Properties** → **Permissions** → tick **Is executable** (KDE) or **Allow executing file as program** (GNOME). In a terminal: `chmod +x SQ44*.AppImage`.
3. Double-click the AppImage to start the app.

Windows

Install on Windows

1. Download the **Windows** zip.
2. Right-click it → **Extract All...** and pick a folder (for example Documents).
3. Open the folder and double-click **SQ44 Draw.exe**.

NOTE Windows may show a blue “Windows protected your PC” box for new apps it does not know yet. Click **More info** → **Run anyway**.

Checking the download (optional)

Each download has a signature file (*.minisig*) and a SHA256SUMS list next to it on the download page, so you can check the file is exactly the one we published.

Updates

Tap **Updates** at the top of My Art to check thesonofsatoshi.com for a newer version. The app only checks when you tap it, and you download and install the new version yourself; your drawings stay where they are.

3 CHAPTER 3 My Art

My Art is the first screen: all your drawings, saved on your computer.

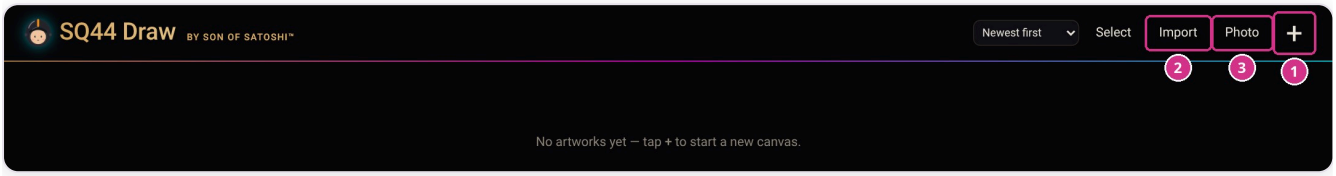


Figure 3.1 My Art, before your first drawing

1. **New canvas (+)** Start a new drawing.
2. **Import** Open a picture or project file: .sq44, PSD, TIFF, PDF, PNG, JPEG, .procreate, brushes and palettes.
3. **Photo** Start a drawing from a photo.
4. **Updates** Check for a newer version.

New canvas

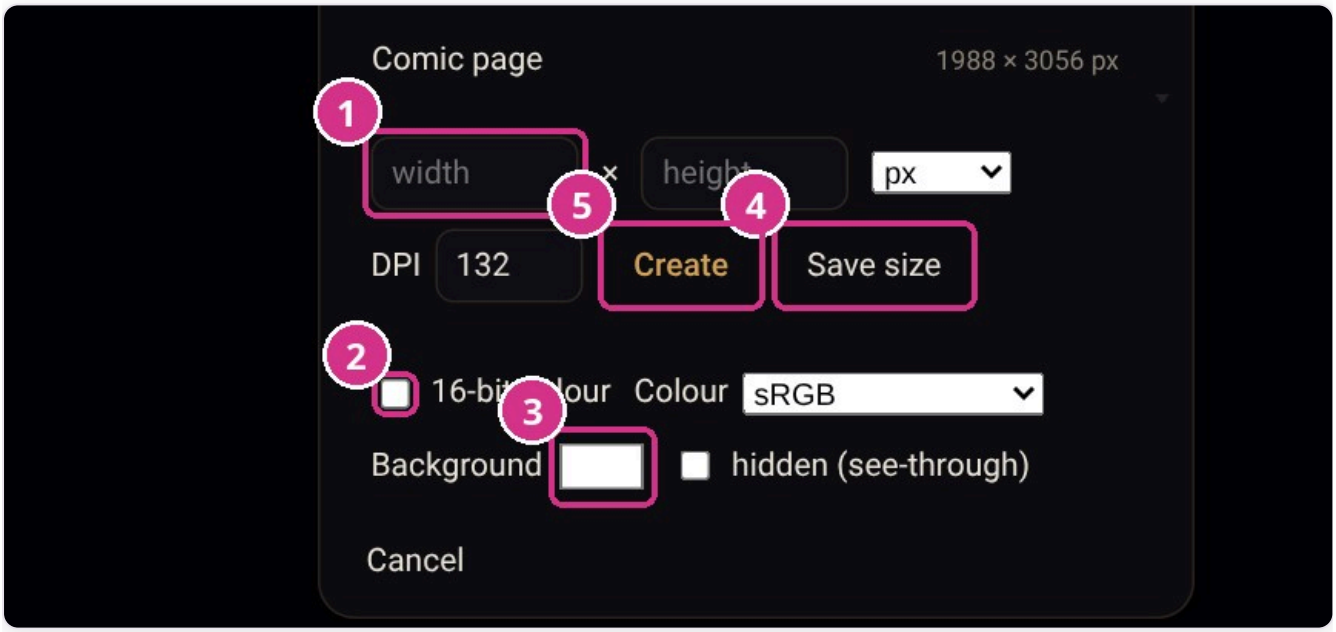


Figure 3.2 The New canvas box

1. **Size** Width × height in px, mm, cm or inches, with the DPI for printing. Ready-made sizes are listed above.
2. **16-bit colour** Smoother gradients and more room for heavy editing. Uses twice the memory.
3. **Background** The paper colour, or hidden for a see-through background.
4. **Save size** Keep this size in the list for next time.
5. **Create** Open the new canvas.

Working with your drawings

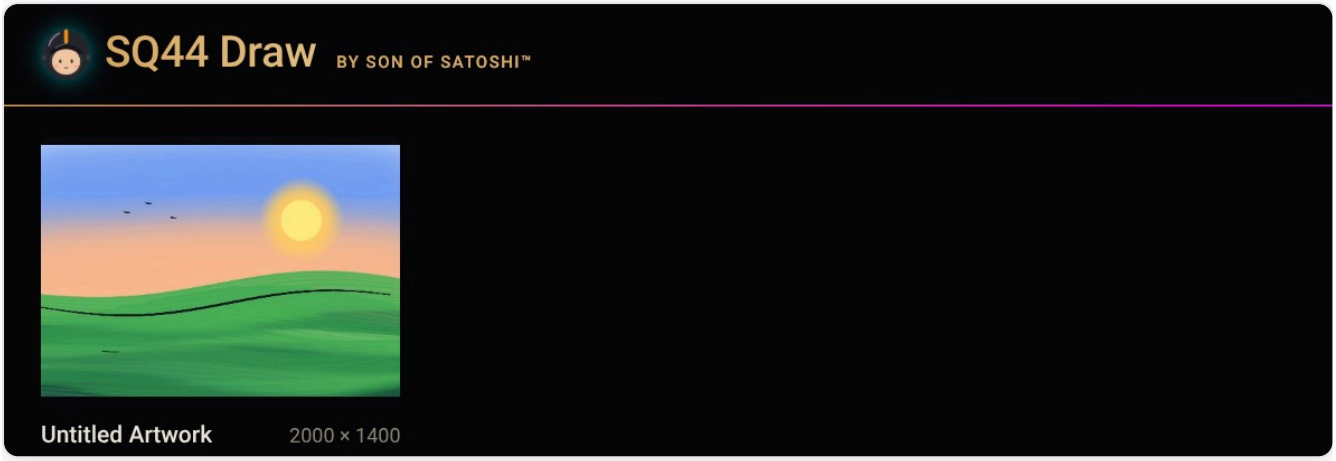


Figure 3.3 My Art with a drawing in it

Tap a drawing to open it. Tap **Select** to pick drawings to preview, share, duplicate, stack together or delete. The sort menu at the top orders them newest first, oldest first, by name, or or My order (drag).

CHAPTER 4

4 The studio screen

Everything you need is on one screen: tools along the top, size, opacity and undo on the side bar, and the canvas in the middle.

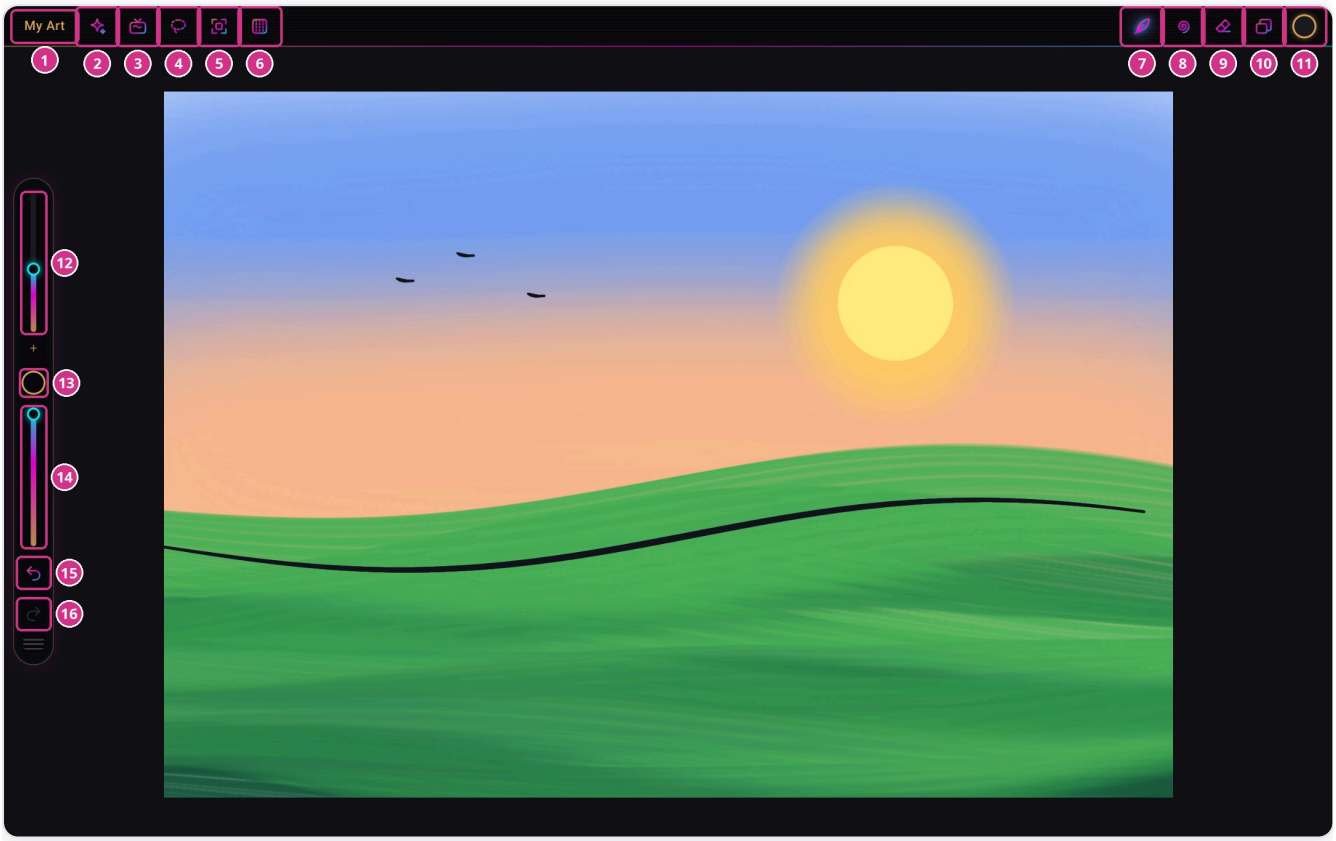


Figure 4.1 The studio screen

1. **My Art** Back to your drawings (your work is saved).
2. **Actions** Add, Canvas, Share, Video and Prefs.
3. **Adjustments** Colour changes, blurs and effects.
4. **Selection** Select part of the picture.
5. **Transform** Move, size, turn and warp.
6. **Gradient** Draw a colour gradient.
7. **Paint** Paint with a brush. Tap again for the brush library.
8. **Smudge** Push and blend paint.
9. **Erase** Erase with any brush.
10. **Layers** The layers panel.
11. **Colours** Pick colours and palettes.
12. **Size** Brush size. Tap + to save up to four sizes.
13. **Modify** Eyedropper: tap it, then tap a colour on the canvas.

14	**Opacity** How strong the paint is.
15	**Undo** Hold to undo many steps quickly.
16	**Redo** Bring back what you undid.

TIP Four-finger tap, `Tab` or `Ctrl+0` hides all the tools so you see only your picture. Do it again to bring them back.

NOTE The side bar can sit on the left or the right: Actions → Prefs → **Right-hand interface**.

5 Painting

Pick a tool, a brush and a colour, then draw. Pressure makes lines thicker and stronger; tilt shades with the side of the pen on brushes that support it.

Paint, smudge and erase

The three tools at the top right share the brush library: any brush can paint, smudge or erase. Tap a tool once to use it; tap it again to choose its brush.

Size and opacity

Drag the two sliders on the side bar. `[` and `]` make the brush smaller or bigger (hold Shift for faster). Tap **+** next to the size slider to save the size; tap a saved size to go back to it.

Picking a colour from the picture

Press and hold anywhere on the canvas (or tap the Modify button, or press `I`) and a loupe shows the colour under your pen. Let go to pick it. In Prefs you can choose whether it reads the whole picture or only the current layer, and how many pixels it averages.

Perfect lines and shapes (QuickShape)

Draw a line, circle, rectangle or curve and keep the pen down and still at the end: it snaps into a clean shape. Keep holding and move the pen to turn and size it. Tap **Edit shape** to move its points.

Edit any stroke after you drew it

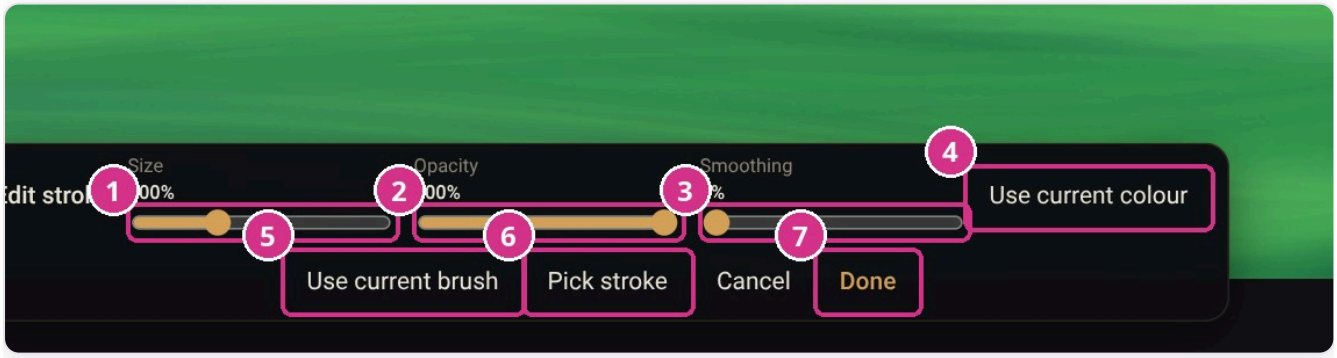


Figure 5.1 Editing the last stroke

1. **Size** Make the stroke thicker or thinner.
2. **Opacity** Make it stronger or fainter.
3. **Smoothing** Smooth out a shaky line.
4. **Use current colour** Repaint it in the colour you picked now.
5. **Use current brush** Redraw the same line with the brush picked now.
6. **Pick stroke** Tap another stroke on this layer to edit that one instead.
7. **Done** Keep the change (Cancel puts it back).

Press `Ctrl+E` (or use “Edit last stroke” in the QuickMenu) to reopen the last stroke you drew. This works for strokes drawn with the paint and eraser tools.

Smooth lines

Actions → Prefs has **Global StreamLine**, **Global stabilization** and **Global motion filtering** for smoother lines on every brush. Each brush also has its own smoothing in Brush Studio.

6 Brushes

CHAPTER 6

The brush library holds inks, pencils, paints, airbrushes, textures, glows and pixel brushes. You can change any brush, or make your own.

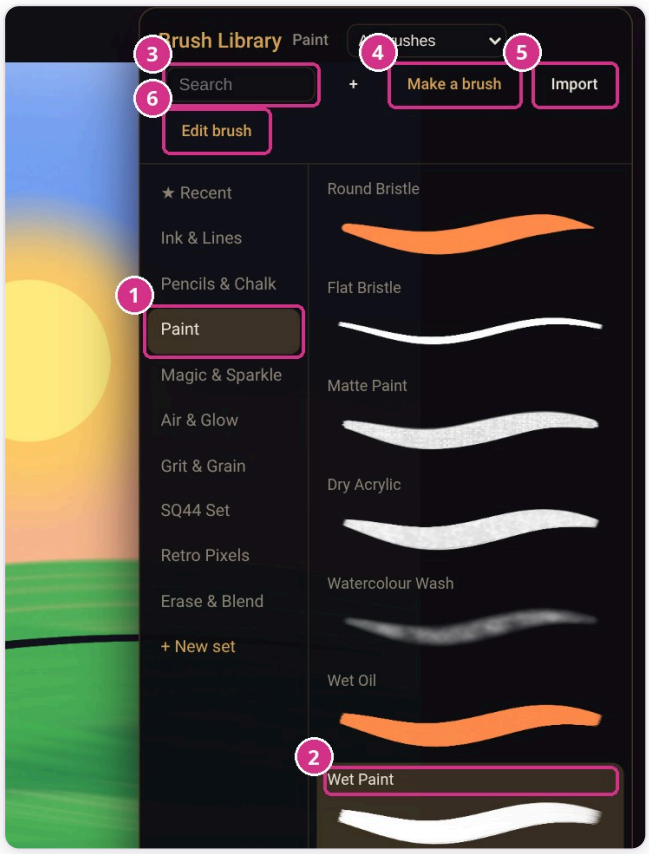


Figure 6.1 The brush library

1. **Sets** Brushes grouped by kind. Tap a set to see its brushes.
2. **A brush** Tap to pick it. The stroke shows how it looks.
3. **Search** Find a brush by name.
4. **Make a brush** Make your own brush the easy way.
5. **Import** Bring in brush files (.sq44brush, .brushset, .brush, .abr).
6. **Edit brush** Open the picked brush in Brush Studio.

Brush Studio

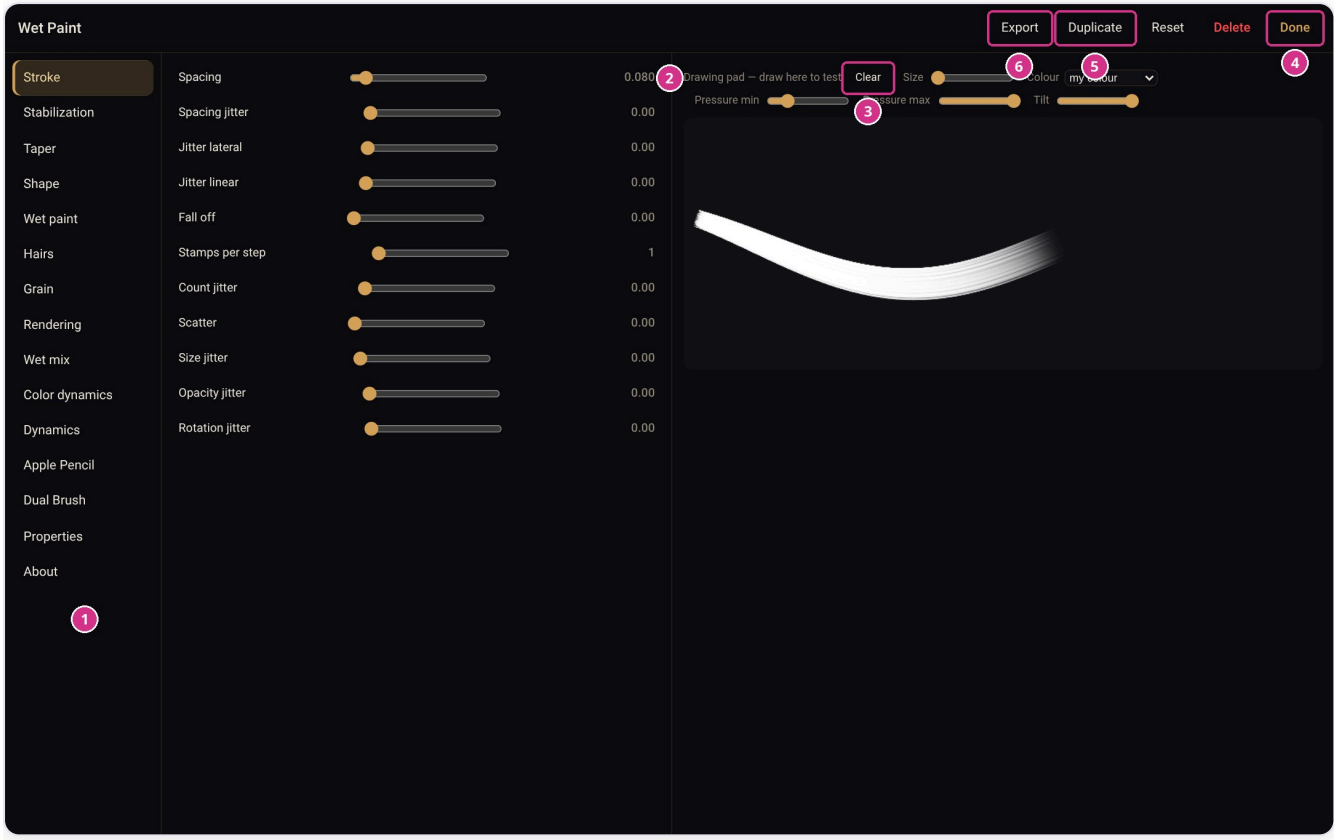


Figure 6.2 Brush Studio

1	**Pages** Stroke, Stabilization, Taper, Shape, Wet paint, Hairs, Grain, Rendering, Wet mix, Color dynamics, Dynamics, Dual Brush, Properties and About.
2	**Settings** Each slider changes one thing about the brush.
3	**Drawing pad** Try the brush here. Clear wipes the pad.
4	**Done** Keep the changes.
5	**Duplicate** Make a copy to experiment on.
6	**Export** Save the brush as a file to share.

Brush Studio pages: **Stroke**, **Stabilization**, **Taper**, **Shape**, **Wet paint**, **Hairs**, **Grain**, **Rendering**, **Wet mix**, **Color dynamics**, **Dynamics**, **Apple Pencil**, **Dual Brush**, **Properties**, **About**. The drawing pad has its own Size, Colour (my colour, white, orange, blue, or black on paper), Pressure min, Pressure max and Tilt, so you can test the brush without touching your picture.

TIP Duplicate a brush before you change it a lot. **Reset** takes a changed brush back to how it came.

Brush Maker: your own brush in four steps

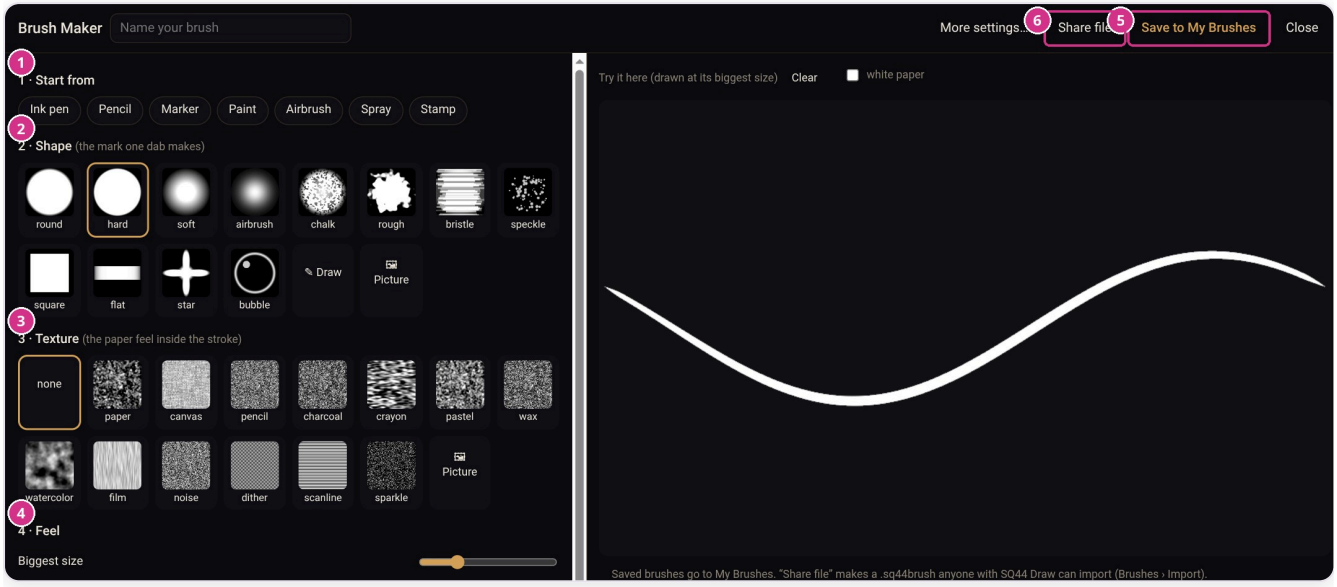


Figure 6.3 Brush Maker

1. **Start from** Pick the kind of brush to start with.
2. **Shape** The tip: round, flat, splatter, hair, or your own picture.
3. **Texture** The grain the paint shows.
4. **Feel** Sliders in plain words: size, softness, wetness, pressure.
5. **Save to My Brushes** It appears in your library.
6. **Share file** Make a .sq44brush file anyone with SQ44 Draw can import.

7 Colour

CHAPTER 7

Tap the colour circle at the top right.

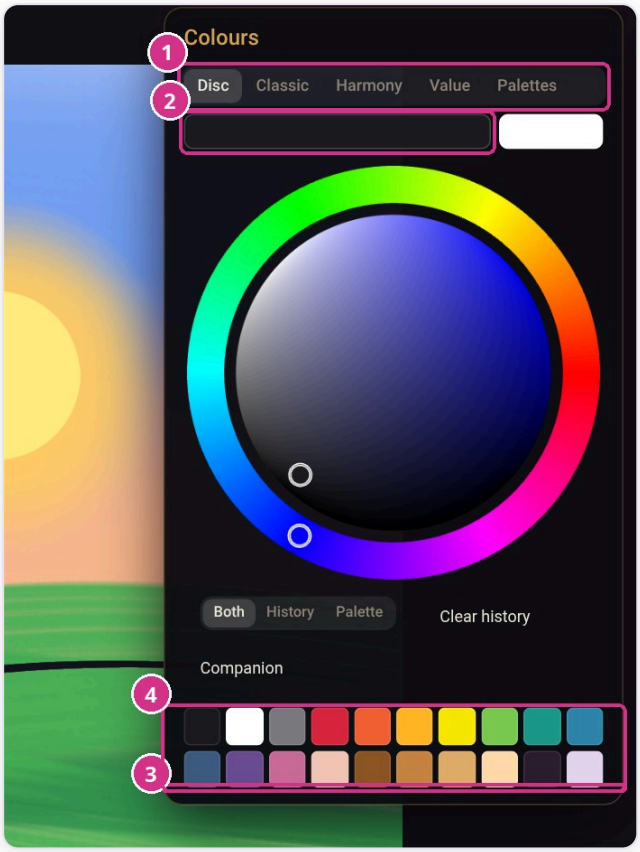


Figure 7.1 The Colours panel

1. **Tabs** Disc, Classic, Harmony, Value (type numbers or hex) and Palettes.
2. **Current colour** The colour you paint with now.
3. **History** Colours you used recently.
4. **Palette** Your saved colours. Tap one to paint with it.

Filling an area (ColorDrop)

Drag the colour circle onto the canvas and let go inside an area: it fills with that colour. Keep the pen down and slide left or right to change how far the fill spreads. ColorDrop closes small gaps in your lines by itself; you can change this in Prefs (**ColorDrop: close gaps**).

Palettes

Colour harmony

The Harmony tab shows colours that go well together: Complementary, Analogous, Triadic, Split complementary or Tetradic. In the Value tab you can type Red, Green and Blue numbers or a Hex code.

History, palette strip and Companion

Under the colour disc you choose what shows: **Both** (recent colours and your palette), **History** or **Palette**. **Clear history** empties the recent colours. **Companion** keeps a small colour panel open on the canvas; drag it wherever you like.

Palettes

In the Palettes tab you can make a new palette, import one (.swatches, .ase, .aco, .gpl, or a photo) or take colours **From camera**. **Cards view** shows palettes as big cards. Hold a swatch for **Use this colour**, **Replace with current colour** or **Delete**. Press X to swap back to the previous colour.

8 CHAPTER 8 Layers

Layers are see-through sheets stacked on top of each other. Paint on one without touching the others. The top layer in the list is the one in front.

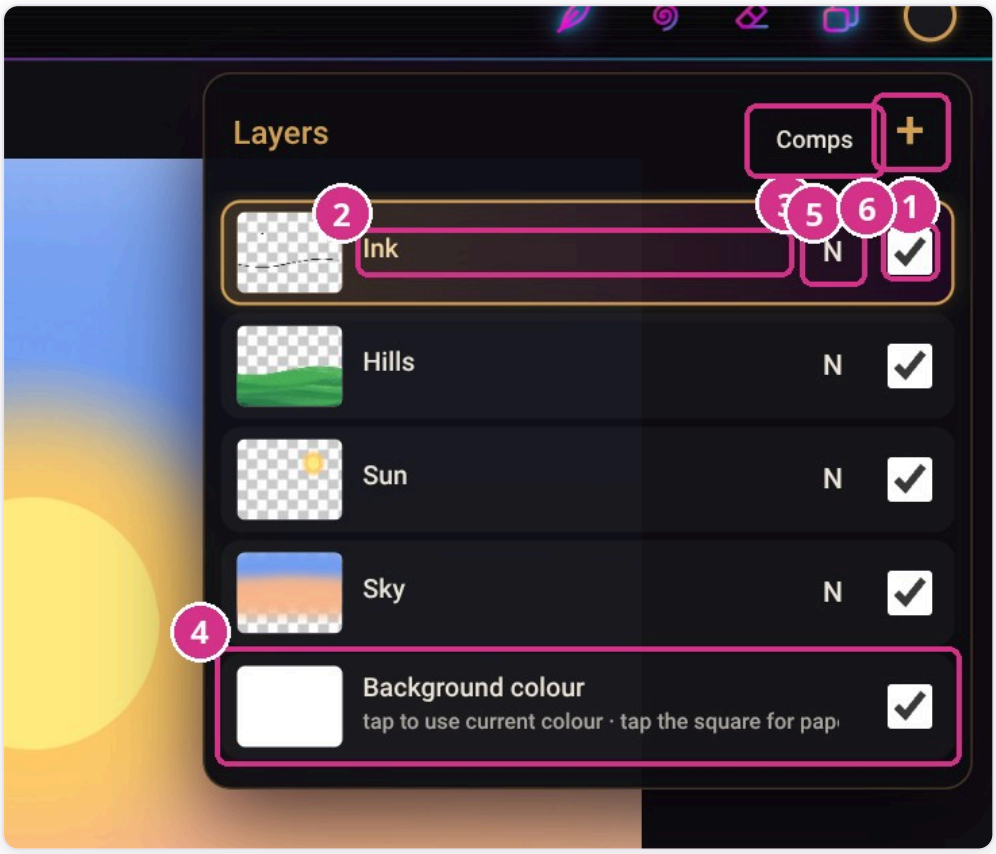


Figure 8.1 The Layers panel

1. **New layer (+)** Adds an empty layer above the one you are on.
2. **A layer** Tap to paint on it. Tap again for its menu. Drag it up or down to move or merge it.
3. **Blend mode** How the layer mixes with the layers under it (N = Normal).
4. **Background** The paper colour. Untick for a see-through background.
5. **Comps** Saved looks of your layers.
6. **Show / hide** The tick box shows or hides that one layer.

The layer menu

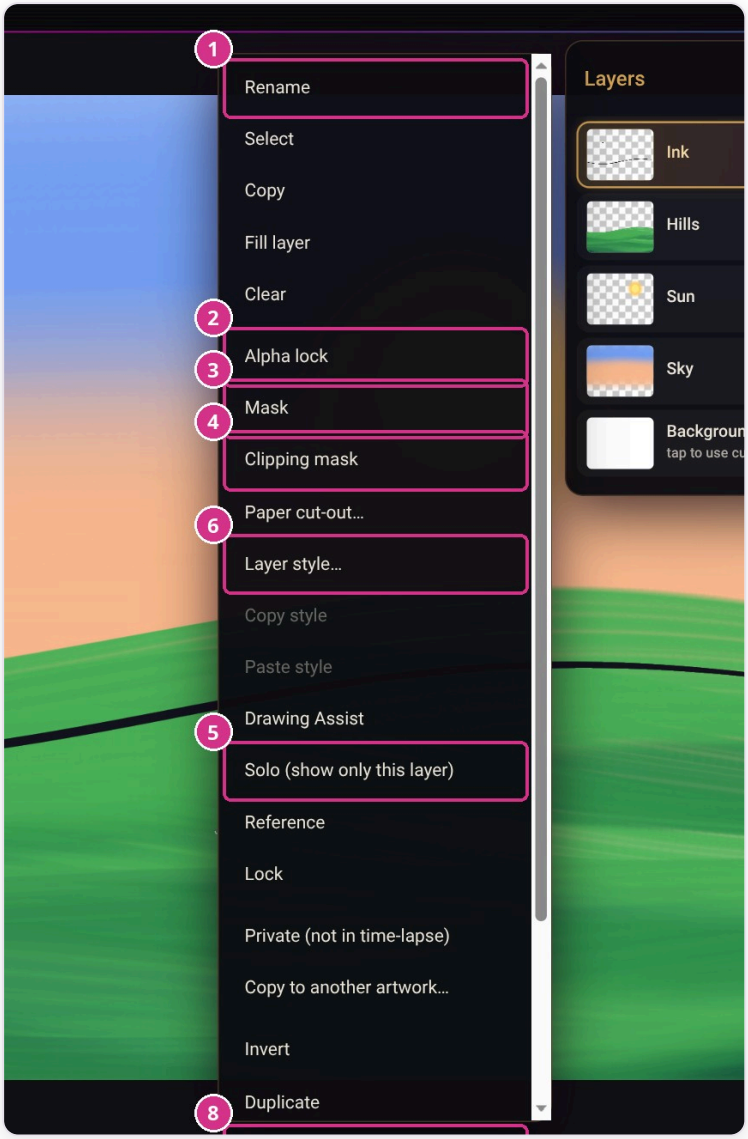


Figure 8.2 The layer menu (tap a layer you are already on)

1	**Rename** Give the layer a name.
2	**Alpha lock** Paint only where the layer already has paint.
3	**Mask** Add a mask: paint black to hide parts, white to show them again. Nothing is erased.
4	**Clipping mask** This layer only shows where the layer under it has paint.
5	**Solo** Show only this layer (see below).
6	**Layer style** Shadow, glow, outline and more (see below).
7	**Merge down** Join this layer with the one under it.
8	**Delete** Remove the layer (Undo brings it back).

The menu also has Select (select what is on the layer), Copy, Fill layer, Clear, Paper cut-out, Copy style / Paste style, Drawing Assist, Reference (ColorDrop fills from this layer's lines), Lock, Private (left out of the time-lapse), Copy to another artwork, Invert, Duplicate, Combine down (into a group) and Flatten.

NOTE Merging never changes how your picture looks. Blend modes, opacity, masks and effects are worked into the merged layer so it looks exactly the same as before.

Masks

Tap a mask (next to its layer) for its menu: **Invert mask**, **Clear (show all)**, **Apply mask** (bake it into the layer), **Delete mask**, and **Back to the layer** to paint on the layer again.

Text, shape, effect and glare layers

Some layers have their own items at the top of the menu: **Edit text** and **Rasterize text** (turn it into normal paint); **Edit shapes (Pen)** and **Rasterize shapes**; **Edit adjustment...** for an adjustment layer; **Edit glare...** to move or change the lights.

Background colour and paper

Tap the Background colour row to use the current colour. Tap its square to choose **Plain colour** or **Paper texture (this colour)**, or a ready paper: **White card paper**, **Cream paper**, **Kraft (brown) paper** or **Black card paper**.

Opacity and blend modes

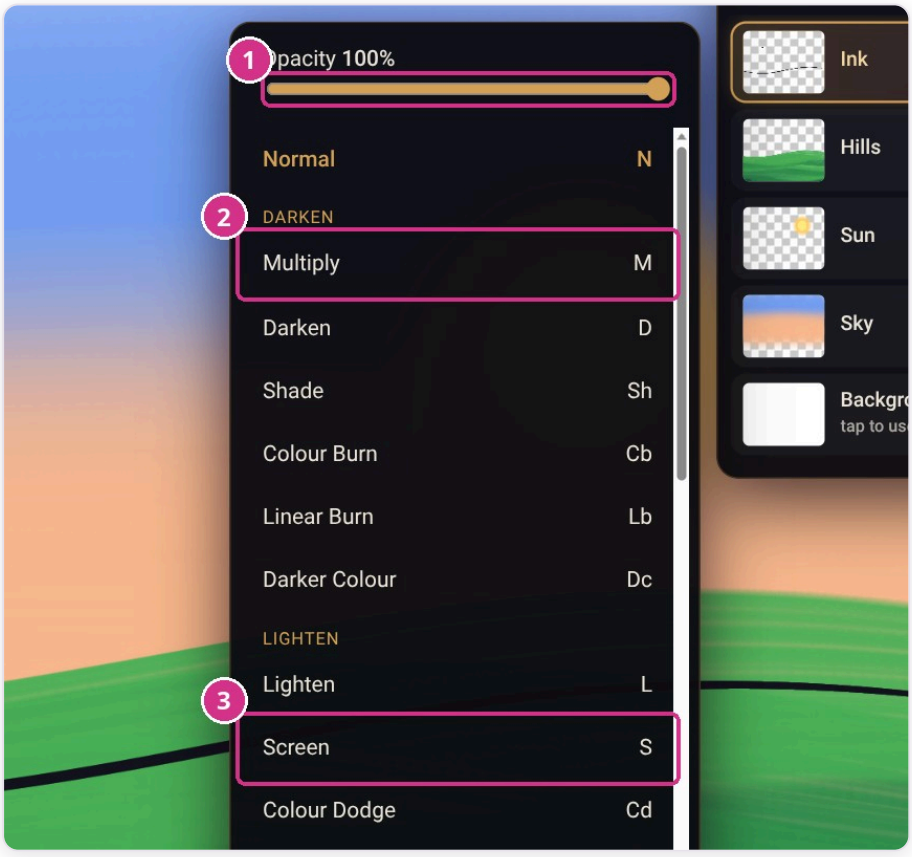


Figure 8.3 Opacity and blend modes

1. **Opacity** How see-through the whole layer is.
2. **Multiply** Darkens: good for shadows.
3. **Screen** Lightens: good for light and glow.

There are 27 blend modes, in groups: darken (Multiply, Color Burn…), lighten (Screen, Add, Color Dodge…), contrast (Overlay, Soft Light, Linear Light…), difference, and colour (Hue, Saturation, Color, Luminosity).

Working with several layers at once

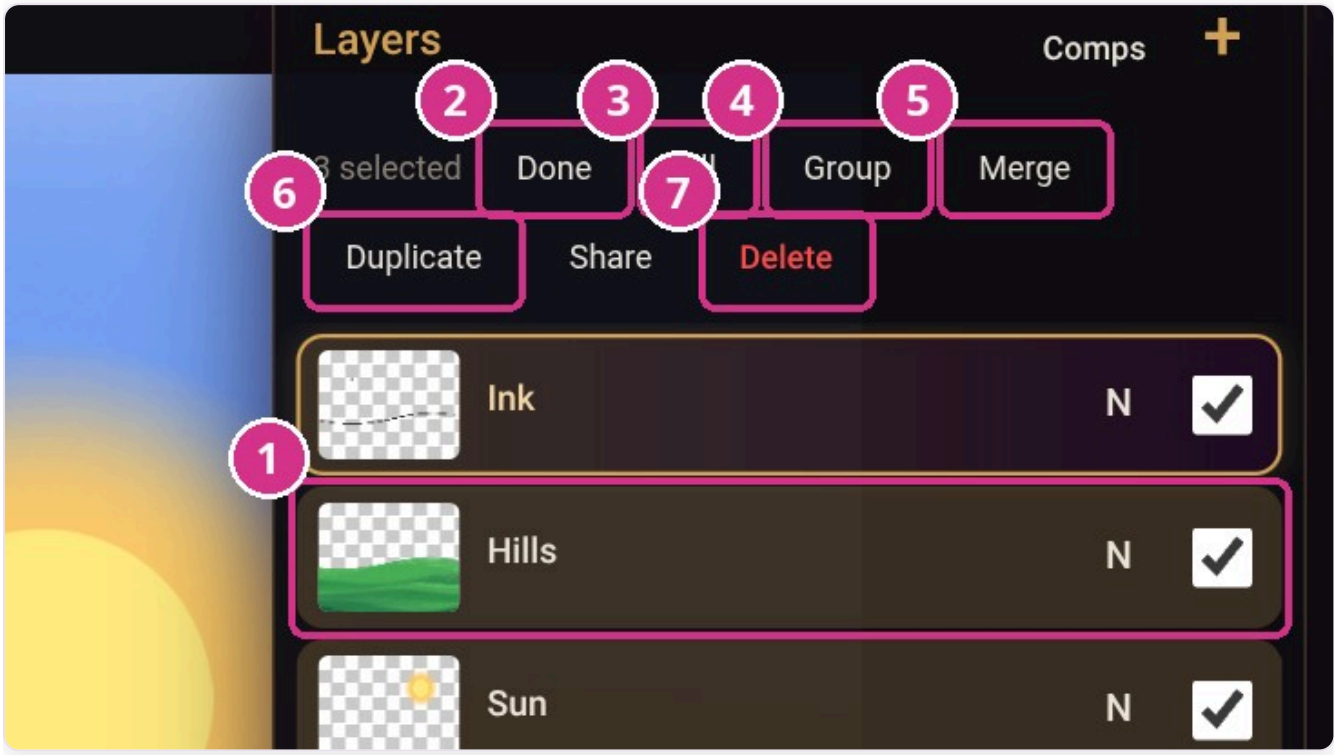


Figure 8.4 Two layers selected

1. **Selected layers** Swipe right on a layer to add it to (or take it out of) the selection.
2. **Done** Leave the selection (or press Esc).
3. **All** Select every layer.
4. **Group** Put the selected layers in a group.
5. **Merge** Merge all selected layers into one.
6. **Duplicate** Copy them.
7. **Delete** Delete them (one Undo brings them all back).

With several layers selected, **Merge down** in the layer menu and Transform work on all of them.

Drag to move, drag to merge

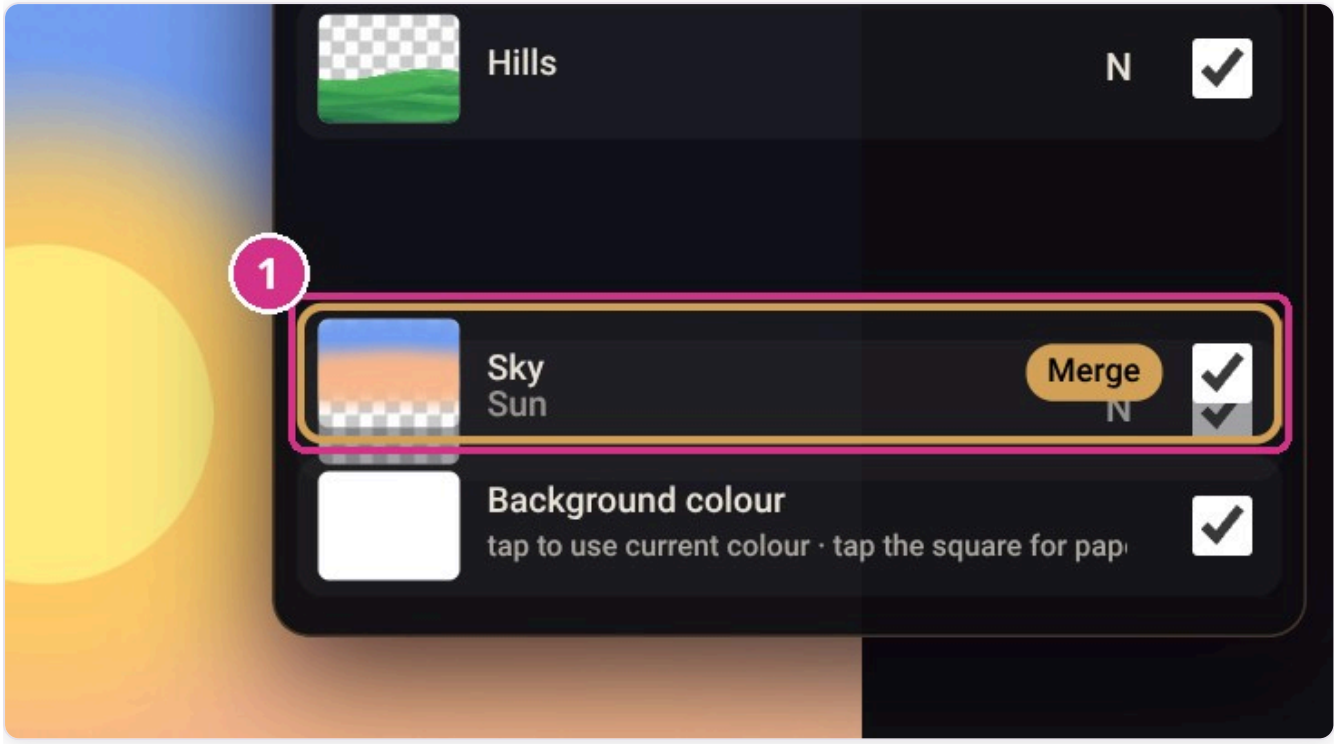


Figure 8.5 Dropping a layer on another one: the row lights up “Merge”

1. **Merge** Let go on the middle of a layer and the two become one layer.

Move or merge a layer by dragging

1. Put the pen on a layer and drag it up or down.
2. To **move** it, let go in the gap between two layers.
3. To **merge** it, let go on the middle of another layer when that row says **Merge**.
4. Need a layer that is out of view? Hold near the top or bottom edge of the panel and the list scrolls.

Solo: show only one layer

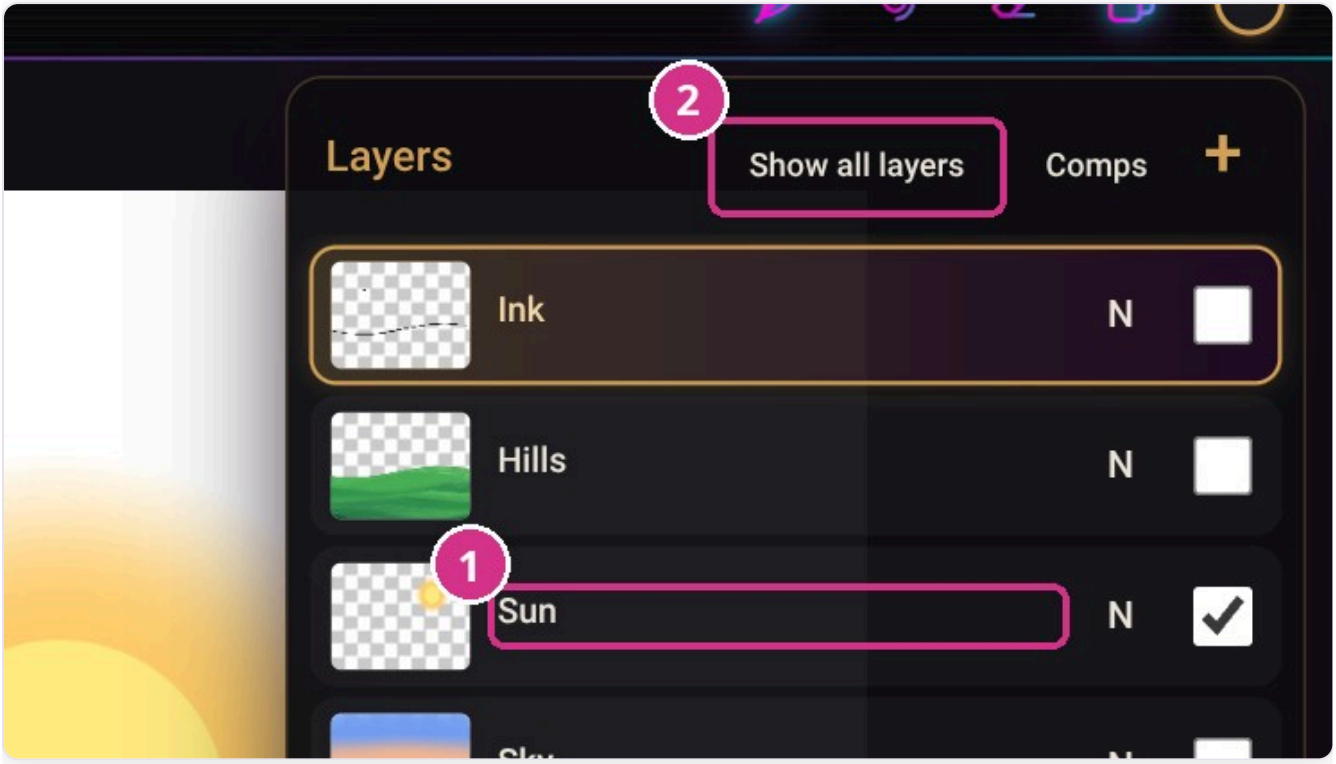


Figure 8.6 Solo on the Sun layer: only it shows

1. **The solo layer** The only layer that is showing.
2. **Show all layers** Appears while Solo is on. Tap it to show the other layers again.

Use Solo

1. Tap the layer you are on to open its menu.
2. Tap **Solo (show only this layer)**. All the other layers hide.
3. When you are done, tap **Show all layers** at the top of the Layers panel (or Solo again in the menu). Every layer comes back exactly as it was.

Groups

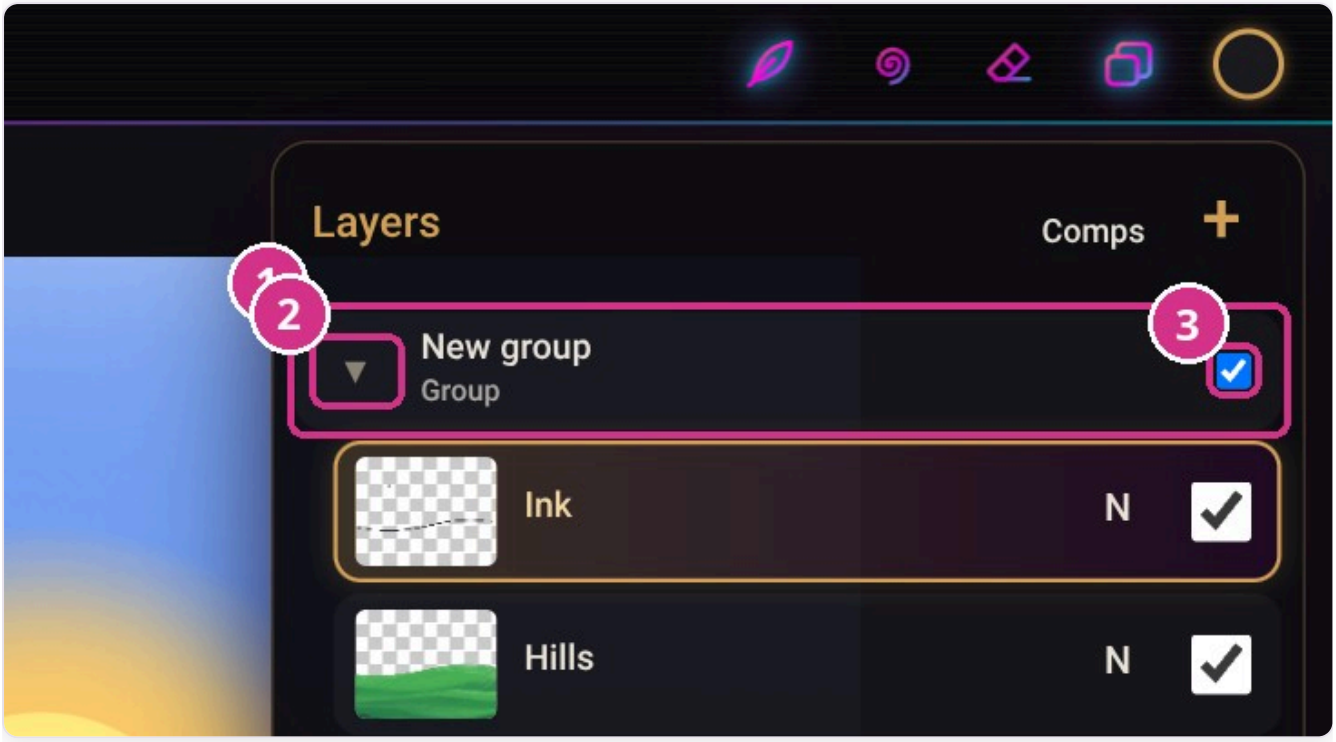


Figure 8.7 A group in the Layers panel

1. **Group** Tap the group row to name it, change its opacity or blend mode, merge it or ungroup it.
2. **Fold** Open or close the group.
3. **Show / hide** Show or hide the whole group.

The group menu has Rename, Opacity..., **Put in a new group**, **Ungroup**, **Merge group** (one layer that looks the same) and **Delete group** (one Undo brings it all back).

Make a group by selecting layers and tapping **Group**. Drag a layer onto the group row to put it in the group. Groups can be inside groups.

Layer styles

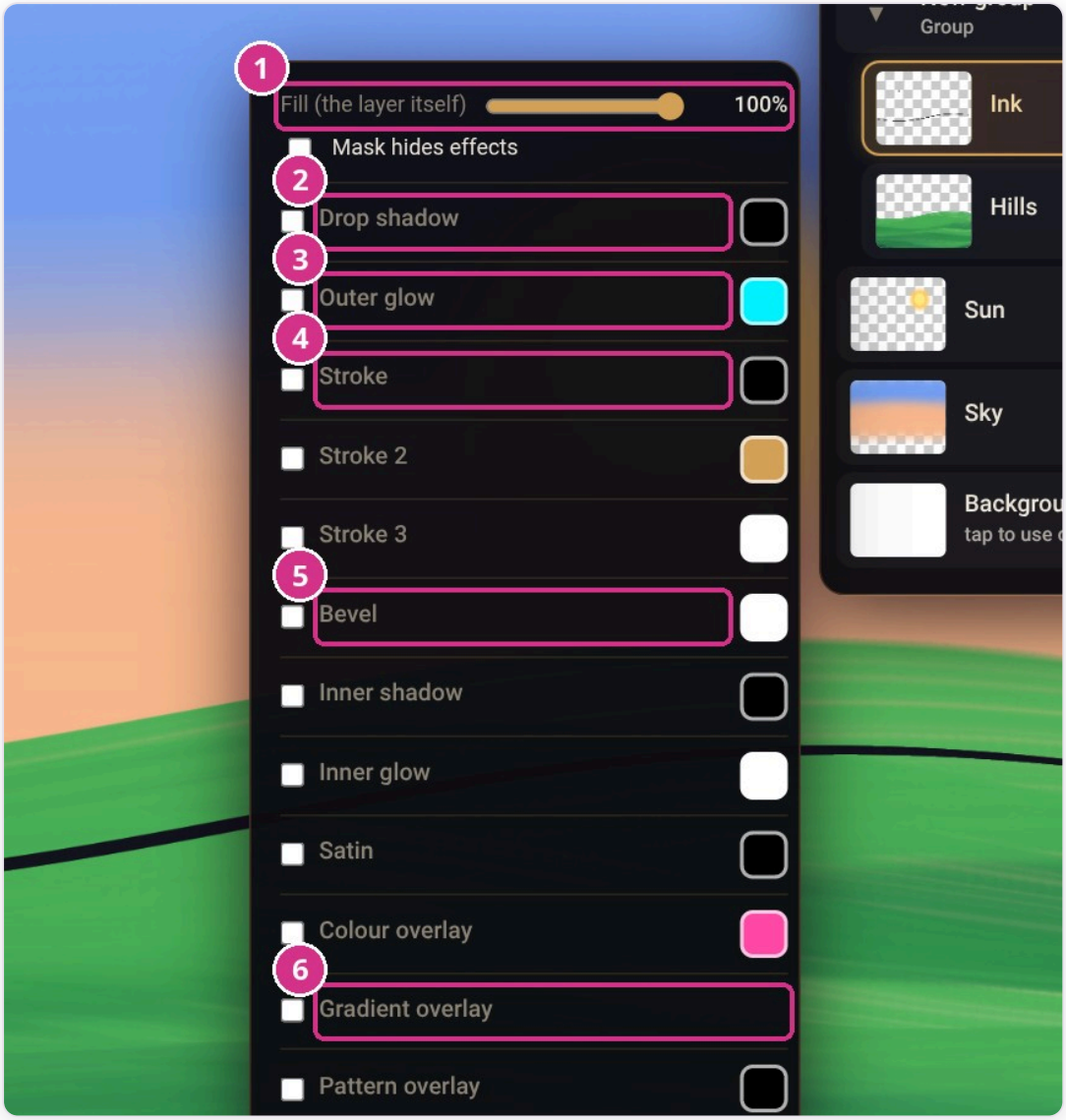


Figure 8.8 Layer style

1. **Fill** How much of the layer's own paint shows (the effects stay).
2. **Drop shadow** A shadow under the layer.
3. **Outer glow** A glow around it.
4. **Stroke** An outline (up to three).
5. **Bevel** A raised, lit edge.
6. **Gradient overlay** A gradient over the layer.

Styles stay live: paint more on the layer and the shadow, glow and outline follow. Gradient overlay colours can be Colour → Colour 2, a ready-made gradient, or Custom (your own). Use **Copy style** and **Paste style** in the layer menu to give other layers the same look.

Paper cut-out

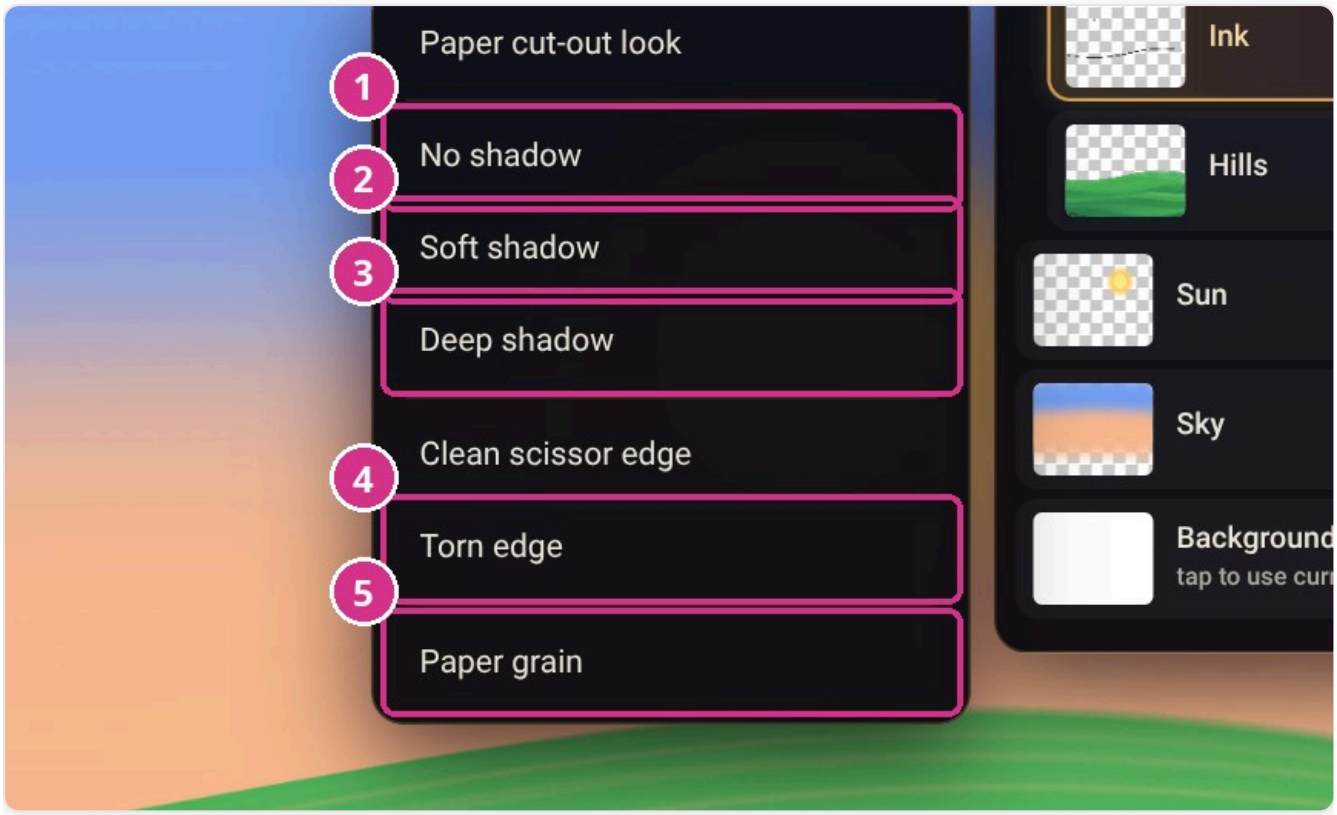


Figure 8.9 Paper cut-out (layer menu → Paper cut-out…)

1. **No shadow** Flat paper.
2. **Soft shadow** A soft shadow under the piece.
3. **Deep shadow** A stronger, raised shadow.
4. **Torn edge** Torn paper edges (Clean scissor edge = cut straight).
5. **Paper grain** The texture of real paper.

Makes a layer look like cut paper, with a real shadow, torn edges and paper grain. Tap the Background colour square to pick a paper (white card, cream, kraft, black). In Selection, ✂ **Paper cut** turns every shape you draw into a new paper piece.

Layer comps

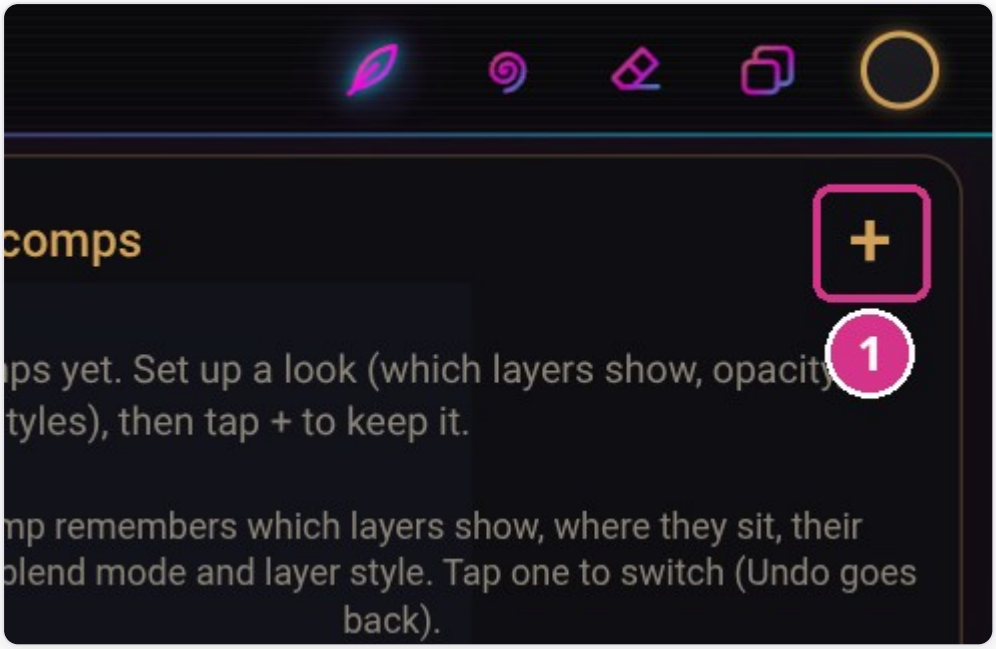


Figure 8.10 Layer comps

1. **Add (+)** Keep the look you have now as a comp.
2. **Previous** Go to the previous comp.
3. **Next** Go to the next comp.
4. **Export all** One PNG per comp, in a zip.

A comp remembers which layers show, their opacity, blend modes and styles. Use comps to try different versions of a picture and switch between them in one tap.

CHAPTER 9

9 Adjustments and effects

The magic-wand button changes the layer you are on (or only the selected part). Effects go on the layer you are using.

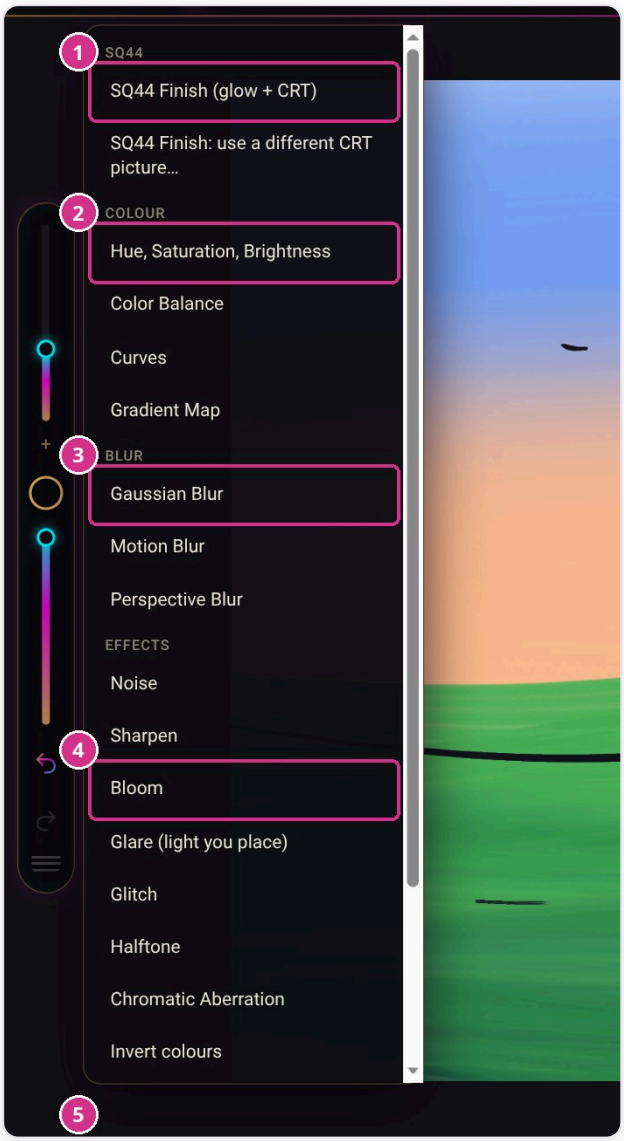


Figure 9.1 The Adjustments menu

1. **SQ44 Finish** Our signature glow + CRT screen look in one tap.
2. **Colour** Hue, Saturation, Brightness; Color Balance; Curves; Gradient Map.
3. **Blur** Gaussian, Motion and Perspective blur.
4. **Effects** Noise, Sharpen, Bloom, Glare, Glitch, Halftone, Chromatic Aberration, Invert, Recolor.
5. **Paint** Liquify and Clone.

Using an adjustment

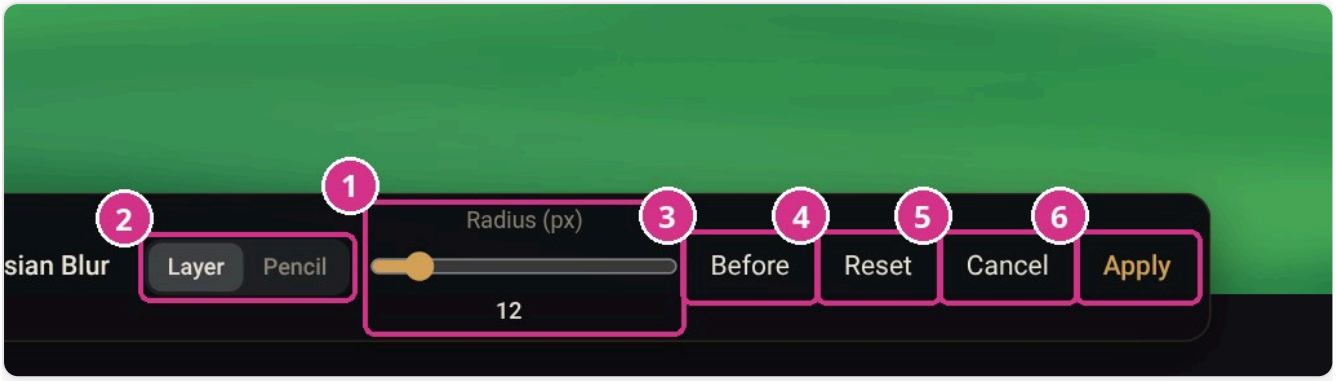


Figure 9.2 Gaussian Blur open

1. **Amount** Slide to change it. You can also slide left or right on the canvas.
2. **Layer / Pencil** Layer = the whole layer. Pencil = paint the effect only where you want it.
3. **Before** Hold to see the layer without the effect.
4. **Reset** Start the settings again.
5. **Cancel** Leave without changing anything.
6. **Apply** Keep the effect.

NOTE If you open an effect while a layer is in the middle of something else (a Transform, for example), tapping a layer or adding one finishes it first, like pressing Done.

All adjustments

Adjustment	What it does
SQ44 Finish	Adds a glow from the bright parts and a CRT screen picture on top, as two normal layers you can change or hide.
Hue, Saturation, Brightness	Change the colours, how strong they are and how light.
Color Balance	Push shadows, midtones and highlights toward a colour.
Curves	Fine control of light and dark, per channel.
Gradient Map	Recolour the picture by brightness with a gradient.
Gaussian Blur, Motion Blur, Perspective Blur	Soft blur, blur in one direction, or blur away from a point.
Noise	Add film grain.
Sharpen	Make edges crisper.
Bloom	A soft glow from the bright parts.
Glare	A light you place: tap where it shines. Up to four lights.
Glitch	Digital glitch: shifted blocks and colour splits.
Halftone	Print-style dots.

Chromatic Aberration	Colour fringes like a lens.
Invert colours	Turn colours into their opposites.
Recolor	Drag the dot onto a colour to swap it for the current colour.

Liquify

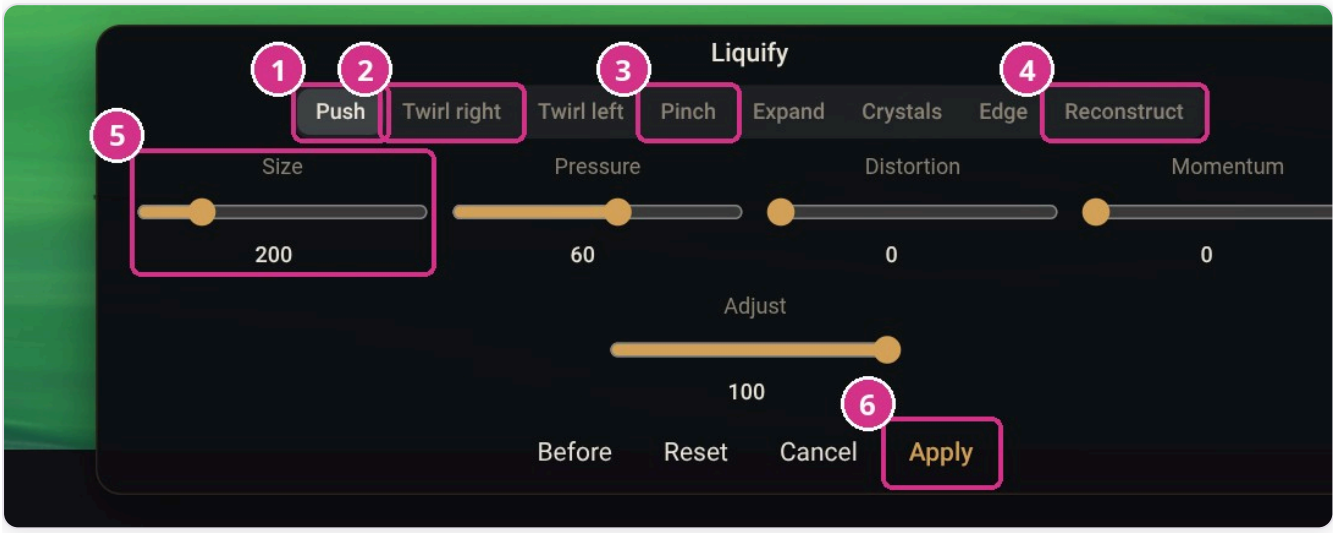


Figure 9.3 Liquify

1. **Push** Push the paint along with the pen.
2. **Twirl** Swirl it right or left.
3. **Pinch** Pull toward the pen (Expand pushes away).
4. **Reconstruct** Paint back toward how it was.
5. **Size** Size, pressure, distortion and momentum of the tool.
6. **Apply** Keep it.

Clone

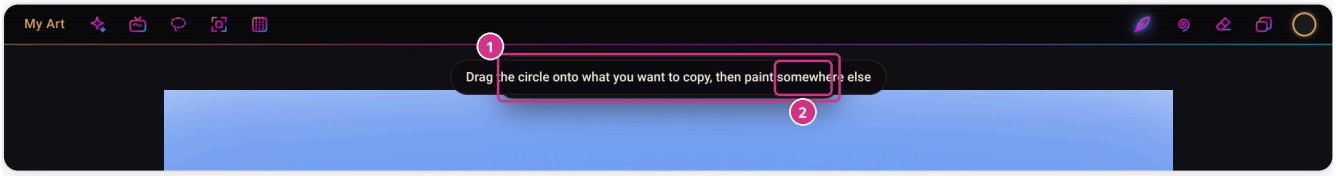


Figure 9.4 Clone

1. **Clone bar** Drag the circle onto the part you want to copy, then paint somewhere else.
2. **Done** Finish.

10 Selection

CHAPTER 10

Select part of the picture, then paint inside it, move it, copy it or change it.

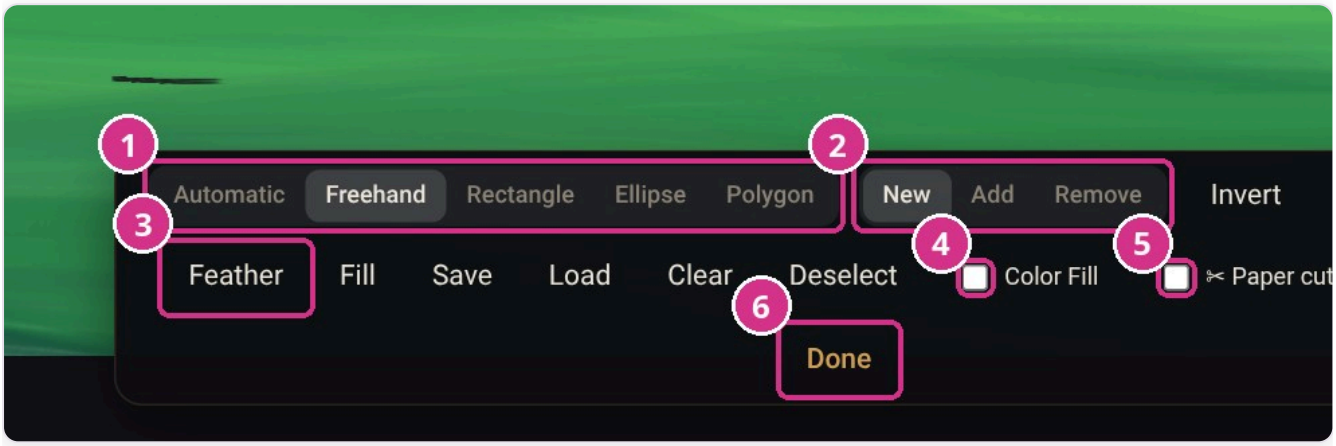


Figure 10.1 The Selection bar

1. **Modes** Automatic (tap a colour area), Freehand, Rectangle, Ellipse, Polygon.
2. **New / Add / Remove** Start again, grow the selection or cut a part out of it.
3. **Feather** Soften the edge.
4. **Color Fill** Fill each shape you draw with the current colour.
5. ✂ **Paper cut** Every shape you draw becomes a new paper piece layer (Torn for torn edges).
6. **Done** Finish.

The bar also has Invert, Copy & Paste, Fill, Save and Load (keep a selection for later), Clear and Deselect (`Ctrl+D`).

11 CHAPTER 11 Transform

Move, size, turn, flip and warp a layer, several layers or a selection.

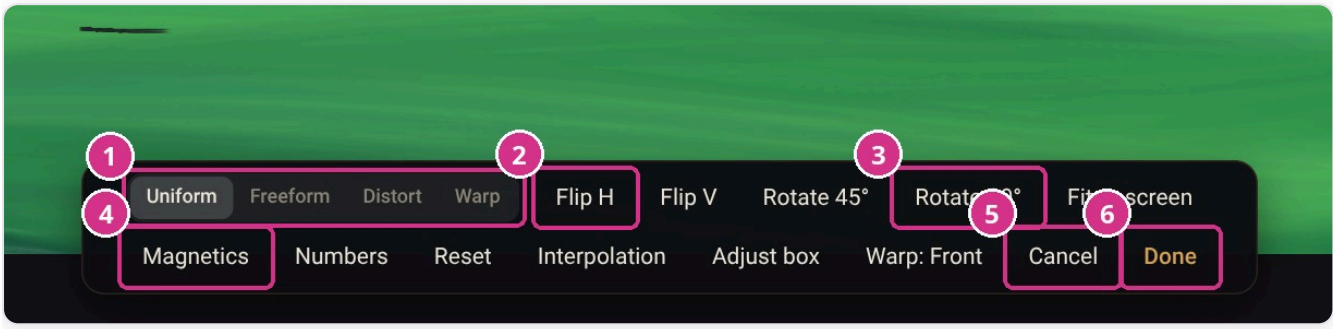


Figure 11.1 Transform

1. **Modes** Uniform (keeps its shape), Freeform (stretch), Distort (move corners), Warp (bend like cloth).
2. **Flip** Mirror left/right or up/down.
3. **Rotate** Turn 45° or 90°, or drag the round handle on top.
4. **Magnetics** Snap to straight angles and sizes.
5. **Cancel** Put it back as it was.
6. **Done** Keep it.

Flip H and **Flip V** mirror it, **Rotate 45°** and **Rotate 90°** turn it in steps. In Warp, **Warp: Front** / **Warp: Back** picks which side shows where the picture folds over itself. Also on the bar: Fit to screen, Numbers (type exact values), Reset, Interpolation (smooth or sharp pixels), Adjust box, and Advanced Mesh for detailed warps. Text and vector layers stay sharp when you transform them.

TIP Forgot to press Done? Tapping a layer or adding a new one presses Done for you.

12 Gradient

CHAPTER 12

Draw a smooth blend of colours across a layer.

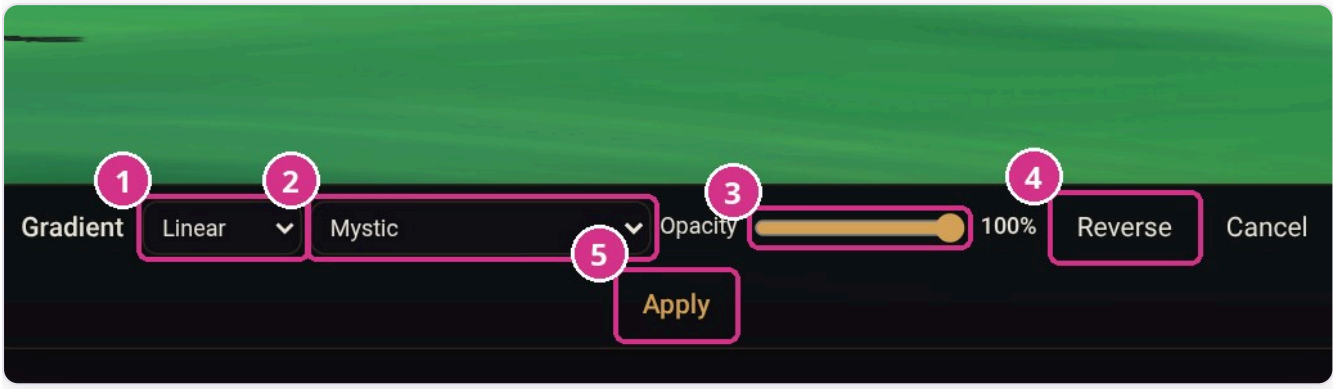


Figure 12.1 Drawing a gradient

1. **Shape** Linear, Radial or Reflected.
2. **Colours** Current colour to clear, your two colours, a ready-made gradient, or your own (Custom).
3. **Opacity** How strong it is.
4. **Reverse** Swap the two ends.
5. **Apply** Keep it.

Draw a gradient

1. Pick the layer it should go on.
2. Tap the Gradient button (or press `G`).
3. **Drag across the picture**: where the pen goes down is where the gradient starts, where you lift is where it ends. Drag the two dots to change it.
4. Tap **Apply** (or `Enter`). Hold Shift for a straight line.

With **Custom** colours, tap the bar to add the current colour as a stop; tap a stop to pick it (then set its **Stop** opacity), slide it to move it, drag it off the bar to remove it.

NOTE If a selection is active, the gradient fills only the selection. With Alpha lock on, it colours only the paint already on the layer.

13 CHAPTER 13 Text

Actions → Add → Add text. Text stays editable until you rasterize it.

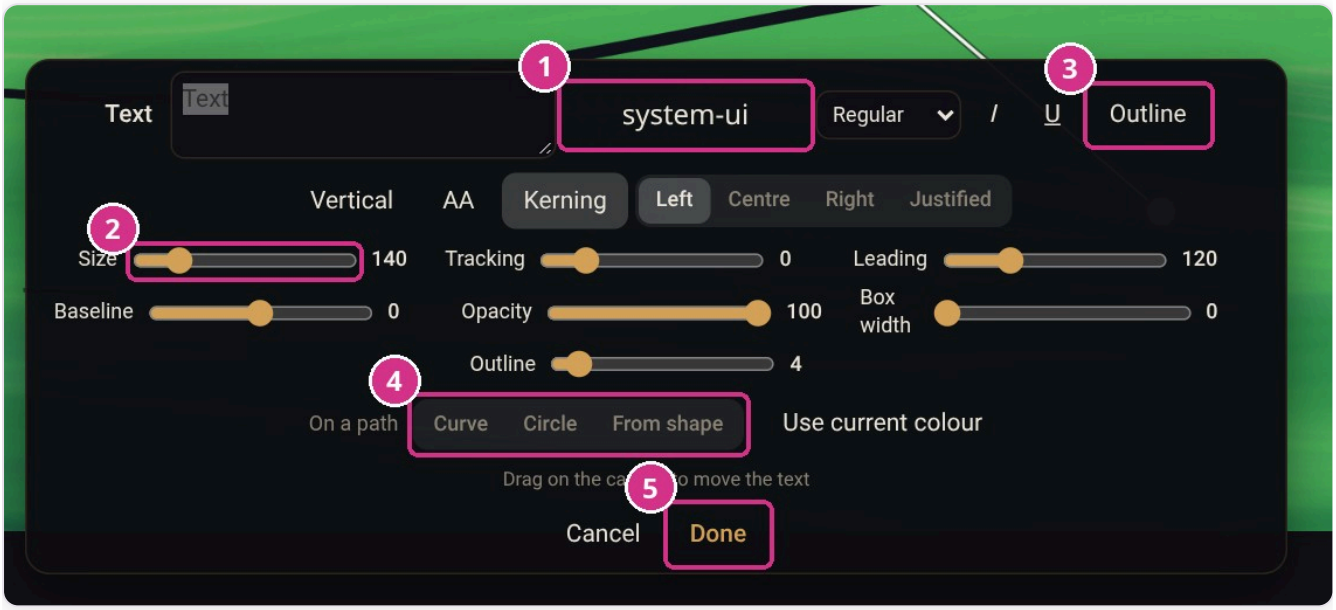


Figure 13.1 The Text bar

1. **Font** Pick a font, or load your own font file.
2. **Size** Size, tracking (letter spacing), leading (line spacing), baseline and opacity.
3. **Outline** An outline round the letters.
4. **On a path** Set the text on a curve, a circle, or a shape you drew.
5. **Done** Finish.

Text options: font weight (Thin, Regular, Semibold, Bold), **Kerning**, tracking, leading, baseline, alignment including **Justified**, and **Box width** for text that wraps. **On a path** sets the text on a **Curve**, a **Circle** or **From shape** (a vector shape you drew); **Flip side** puts it on the other side of the line, **Along path** slides it along, and **Straight** puts it back.

Drag the text on the canvas to move it. Tap the text layer again (layer menu → **Edit text**) to change it later. Transform keeps text sharp and editable.

14 Vector shapes

CHAPTER 14

Actions → Add → Add vector layer. Vector shapes stay sharp at any size and can be changed point by point.

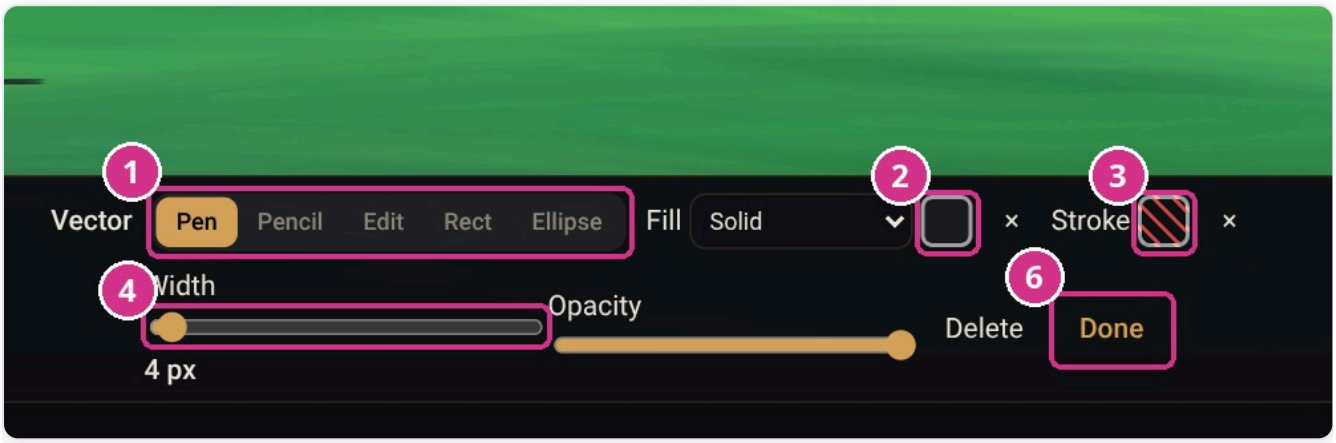


Figure 14.1 The vector bar

1. **Tools** Pen (P), Pencil (N), Edit (A), Rect (R), Ellipse (O).
2. **Fill** Give the shape the current colour (× = no fill): Solid, Linear gradient or Radial gradient.
3. **Outline** Give the outline the current colour (× = none).
4. **Width** Outline thickness.
5. **Outline stroke** Turn the outline into a filled shape.
6. **Done** Finish (or Enter / Esc).

Unite, Subtract, Intersect and Exclude combine picked shapes. The arrows bring a shape forward or back. With the Pen on a picked shape, tap a line to add a point and tap a point to remove it. Shift keeps 45° angles and squares.

NOTE Painting on a vector layer turns it into pixels. Undo brings the shapes back.

15 CHAPTER 15
Guides, symmetry and rulers

Guides help you draw in perspective, on a grid, or mirrored.

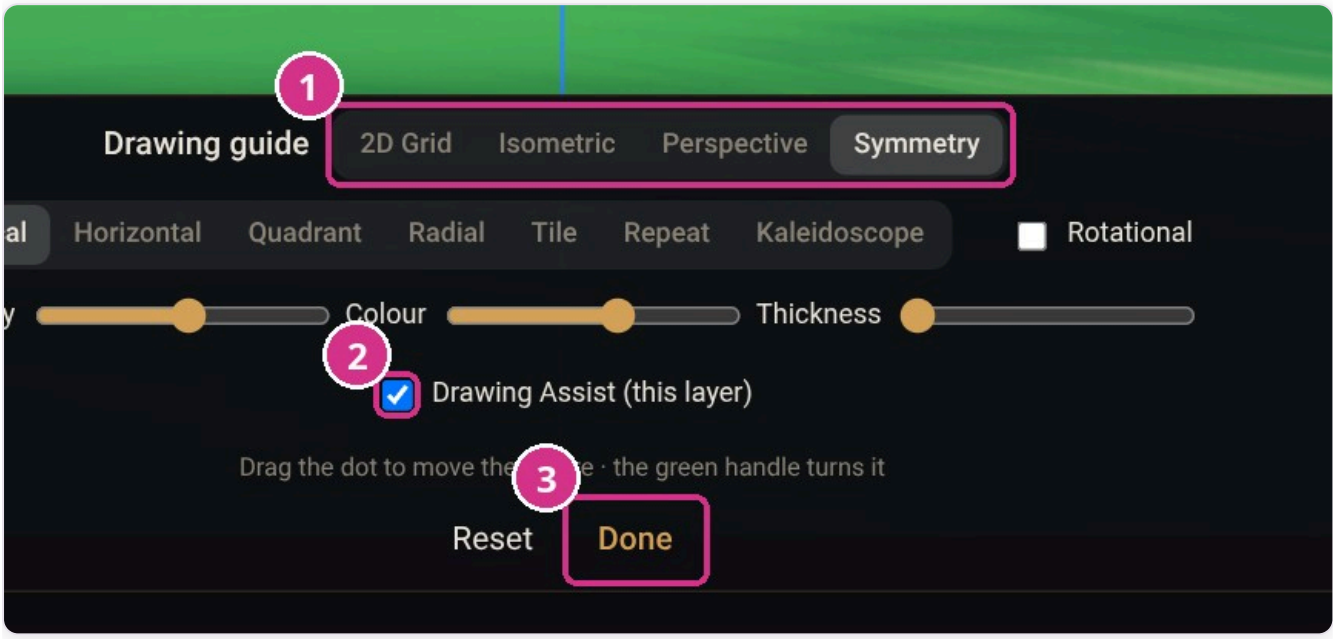


Figure 15.1 Editing the drawing guide

1. **Guide type** 2D Grid, Isometric, Perspective or Symmetry.
2. **Drawing Assist** Tick it and your strokes snap to the guide or get mirrored, on this layer.
3. **Done** Back to drawing.

Open it from Actions → Canvas → **Edit drawing guide…**; the **Drawing guide** switch turns it on and off (`Ctrl+;`). 2D Grid has a **Grid size**. Symmetry can be Vertical, Horizontal, Quadrant, Radial (2–32 **Slices**; **Rotational** turns copies instead of mirroring), **Tile** (seamless patterns, with a **Cell size**), **Repeat** (rows and grids of copies, with **Gap across** and **Gap down**) or Kaleidoscope (square or **Hex**). Drag the dot to move the centre; the green handle turns it.

Rulers and guide lines

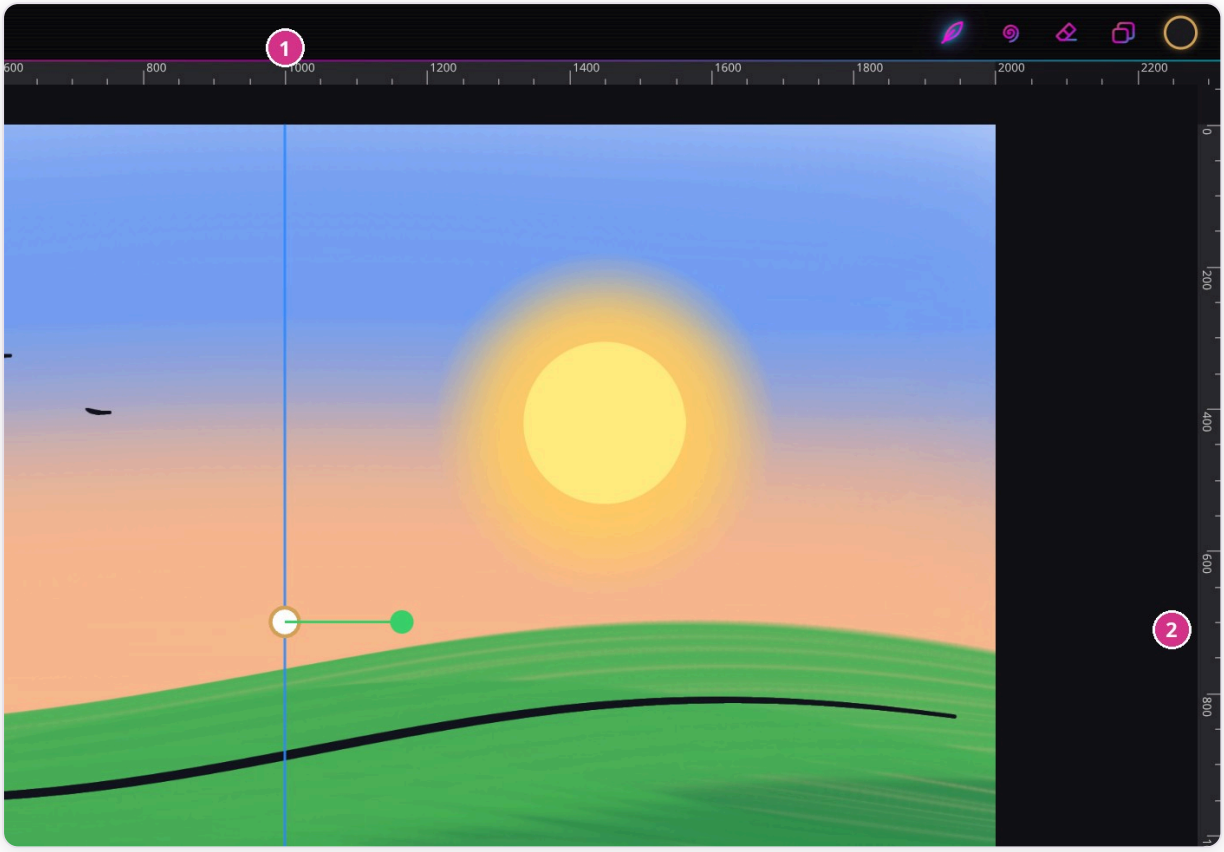


Figure 15.2 Rulers along the top and side

1. **Top ruler** Drag down from it to place a guide line.
2. **Side ruler** On the side of the canvas next to the side bar. Drag across from it to place a guide line.

Turn rulers on in Actions → Canvas → **Rulers & guides** (`Ctrl+R`). Drag a guide back onto its ruler to remove it. **Draw along guides** keeps a stroke on a guide line when you start on it; **Lock guides** stops them moving by accident.

16 CHAPTER 16 Canvas

Actions → Canvas: the size and shape of the canvas, flipping, and colour settings.

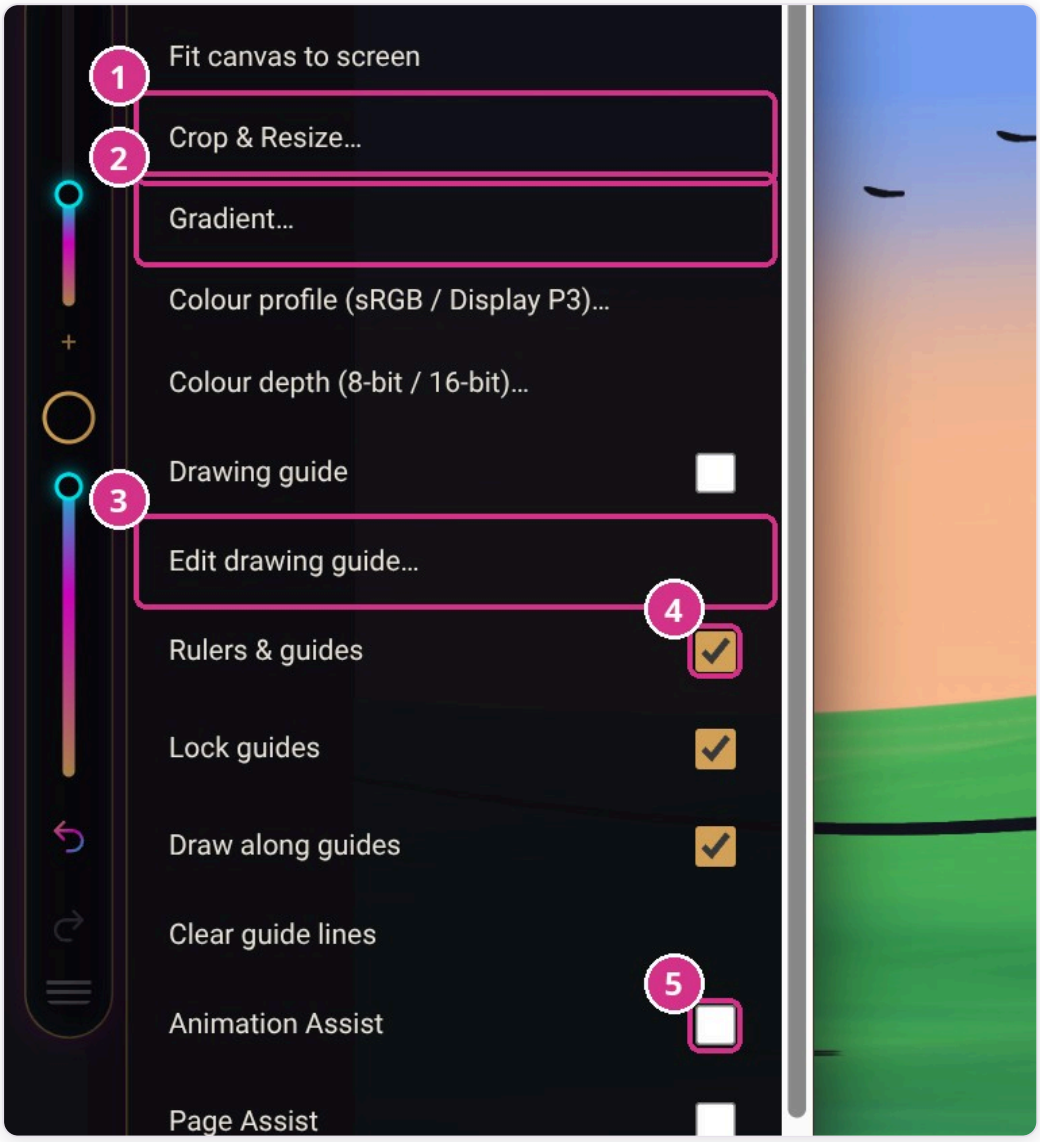


Figure 16.1 Actions → Canvas

1. **Crop & Resize** Change the canvas size or crop it.
2. **Gradient** Open the Gradient tool.
3. **Edit drawing guide** Grids and symmetry.
4. **Rulers & guides** Rulers on the edges.
5. **Animation Assist** Turn the canvas into animation frames.

Adding things: Actions → Add

Item	What it does
Insert a file	Put a picture or another file into your drawing as a new layer.

Insert a photo	Pick a photo from your computer.
Take a photo	Use your camera.
Insert a private photo (not in time-lapse)	The photo is left out of the time-lapse replay.
Insert a video (as animation frames)	Each frame of a short video becomes a layer for animation.
Add text	A text layer (Chapter 13).
Add vector layer (Pen, shapes)	A vector layer (Chapter 14).
Add my signature	Put your signature on the picture.
Cut / Copy / Paste	Cut or copy the layer (or the selected part) and paste it as a new layer.
Copy canvas	Copy the whole picture, all layers as you see it.
Paste private (not in time-lapse)	Paste without it showing in the time-lapse.

Reference window, Page Assist and a second screen

Reference window (R) is a small floating window that shows your **Canvas** (the whole picture while you zoom in) or an **Image** you **Pick...**. **Page Assist** turns each layer into a page you flip through with ‹ ›, for comics and books, and can export the pages as a PDF. **Project canvas (second screen)** opens your picture in its own window: move it to a second screen or projector and double-click for full screen.

Crop and resize

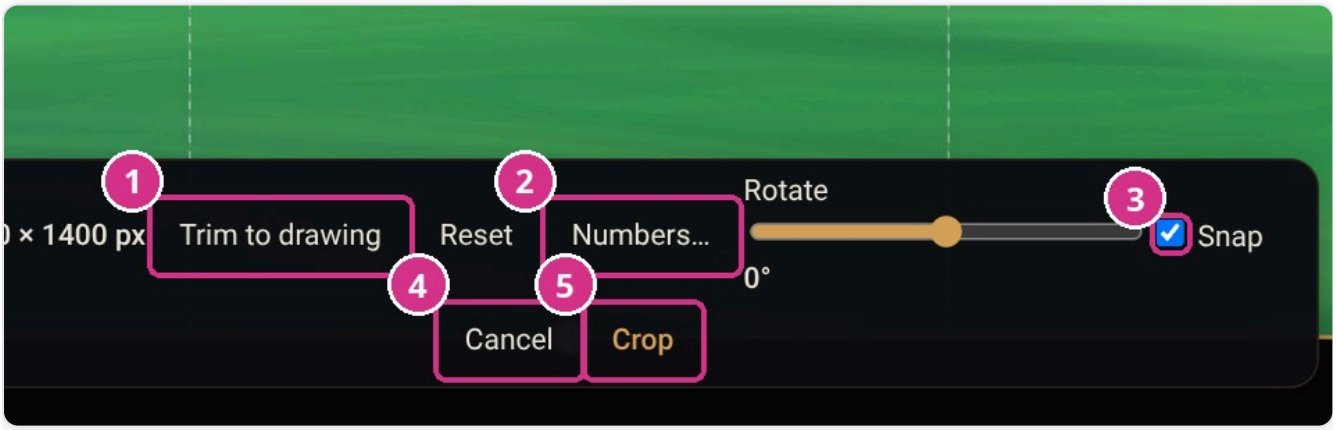


Figure 16.2 Crop & Resize

1. **Trim to drawing** Crop to just what you drew (in New canvas it is Trim to my drawing).
2. **Numbers** Type an exact size, or scale the picture.
3. **Snap** Snap the edges and the angle.
4. **Cancel** Leave it as it was.
5. **Crop** Keep the new size.

Drag the edges to crop; drag inside to move the picture. The canvas can also turn while you crop.

Colour profile and depth

Colour profile switches between sRGB (for the web) and Display P3 (wider colour). **Colour depth** switches between 8-bit and 16-bit colour.

CHAPTER 17

17 Animation and time-lapse

Make frame-by-frame animation, and replay how your drawing was made.

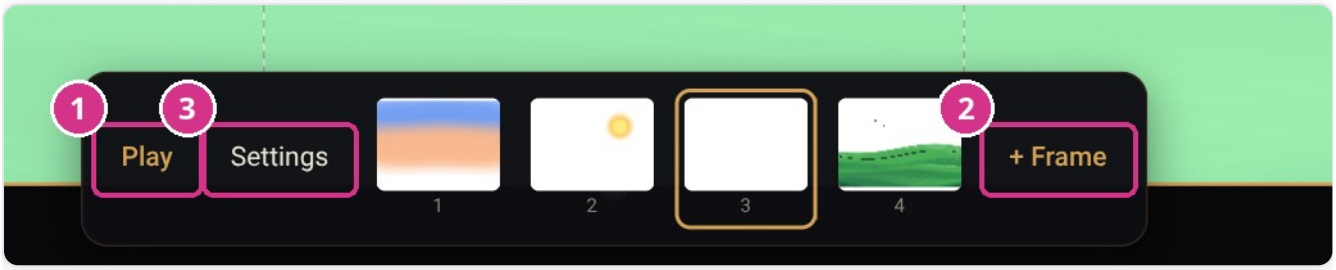


Figure 17.1 Animation Assist

1. **Play** Play the animation (P).
2. **+ Frame** Add a new frame.
3. **Settings** Frames per second, loop, onion skin.

Turn it on in Actions → Canvas → **Animation Assist**. Each layer becomes a frame. Use , and . to step through frames; **Pause** stops the playback. Export as GIF, APNG or MP4 from Share.

Time-lapse

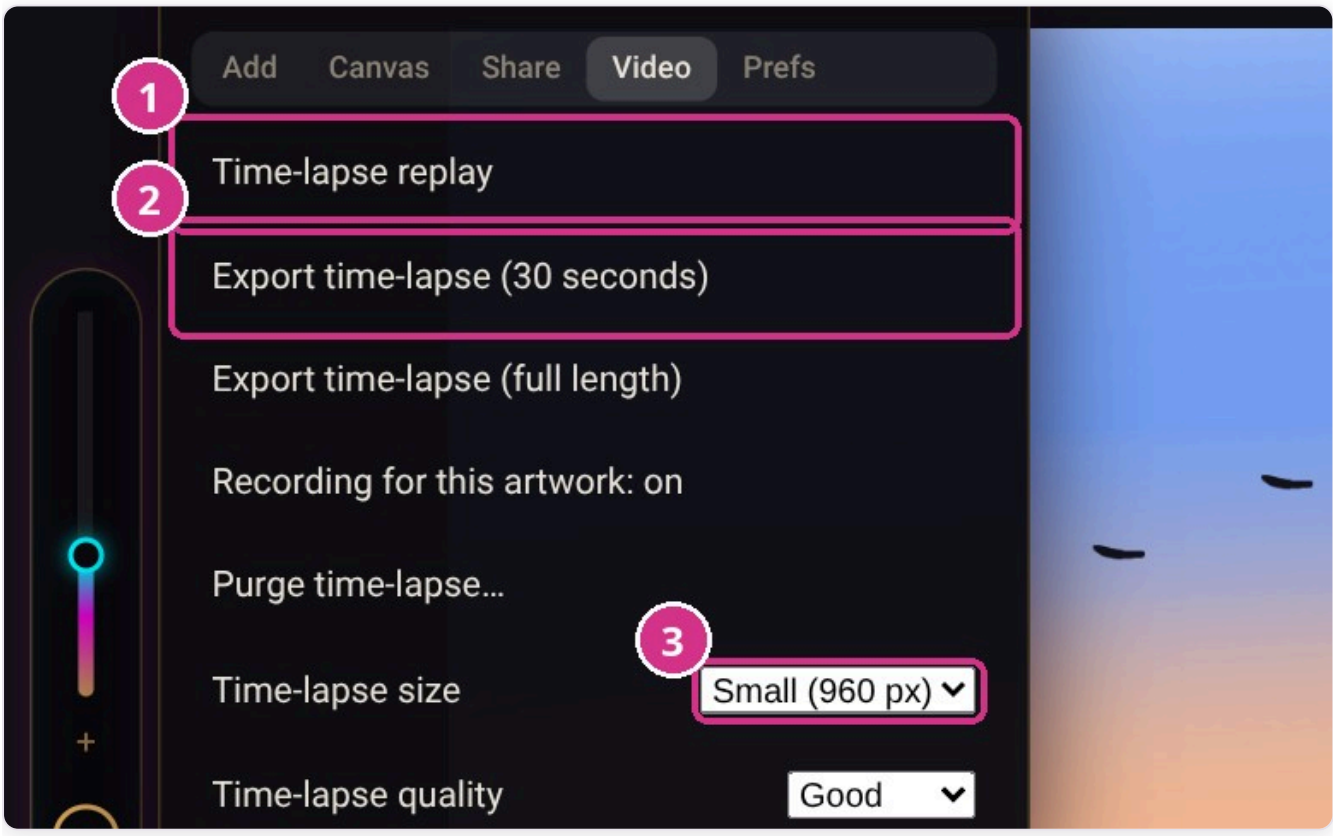


Figure 17.2 Actions → Video

1. **Replay** Watch your drawing being made.
2. **Export** Save a 30-second or full-length time-lapse video.

3 **Size** Small, 1080p, 2K or 4K.

Prefs → **Record time-lapse** records new drawings; the Video tab can turn recording off for one drawing or purge it. Photos and pastes marked “private”, and layers set to Private, are left out.

18 CHAPTER 18 Sharing and exporting

Actions → Share. Save your picture in the format you need. Your drawing in My Art is not changed.

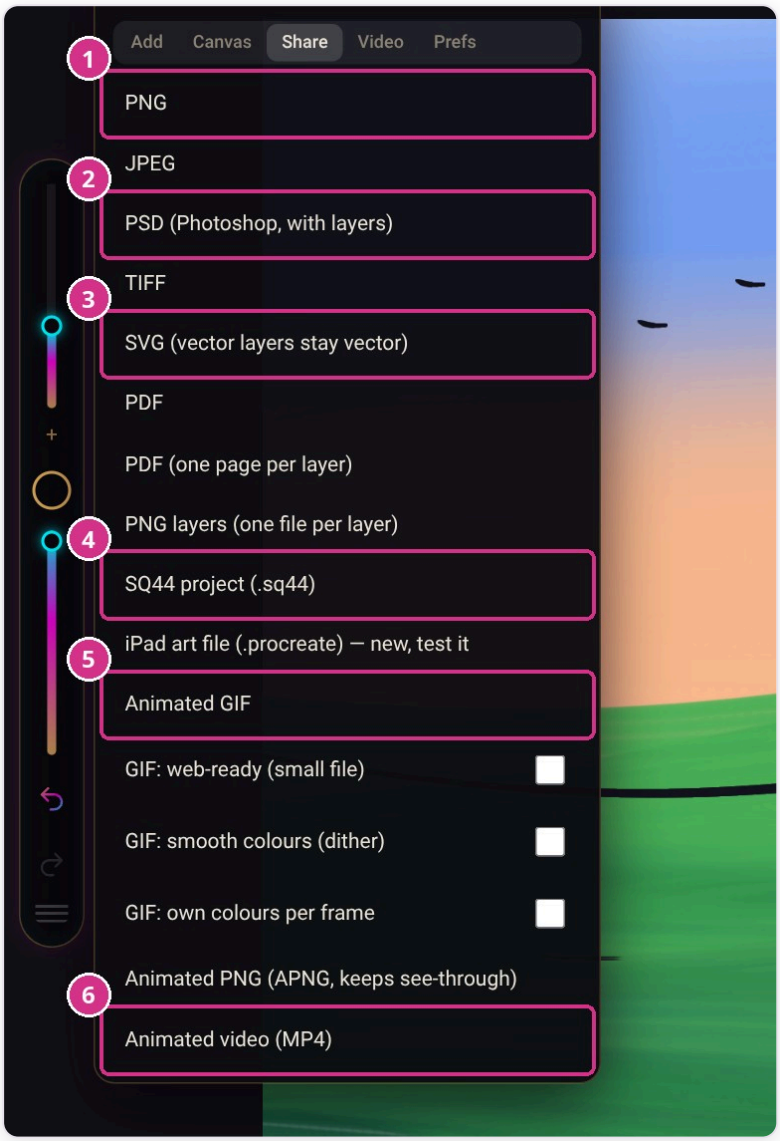


Figure 18.1 Actions → Share

1. **PNG / JPEG** Normal pictures.
2. **PSD** Photoshop file with your layers.
3. **SVG** Vector layers stay vector.
4. **SQ44 project** Everything kept: use this for backups.
5. **Animated GIF** With options for web-ready size and dithering.
6. **Video** MP4 of your animation.

Format	Best for	Keeps layers	See-through

PNG	Posting, sending, printing	No	Yes
JPEG	Small files for the web	No	No
PSD	Photoshop, Krita, GIMP and other apps	Yes (groups, blend modes)	Yes
TIFF	Print shops, archives	No	Yes
SVG	Logos and shapes that must stay sharp	Yes, where SVG can show them	Yes
PDF	Printing, sending a page	No	No
PDF (one page per layer)	Showing each layer on its own page	One page each	No
PNG layers (zip)	Using each layer in another app	One file each	Yes
SQ44 project (.sq44)	Backups, moving to another computer	Everything	Yes
iPad art file (.procreate)	Opening on an iPad (new: test it)	Yes	Yes
Animated GIF / APNG / MP4	Animations	No	GIF / APNG: yes

In the Share list, • **16-bit** means that format keeps 16-bit colour (PNG · 16-bit, PSD · 16-bit, TIFF · 16-bit); • **8-bit only** means it saves 8-bit.

NOTE Effects that other apps do not have (such as adjustment layers or Linear Light in SVG) are worked into the picture, so every file looks exactly like your canvas.

19 CHAPTER 19 Preferences

Actions → Prefs: how the app looks and how your pen feels.

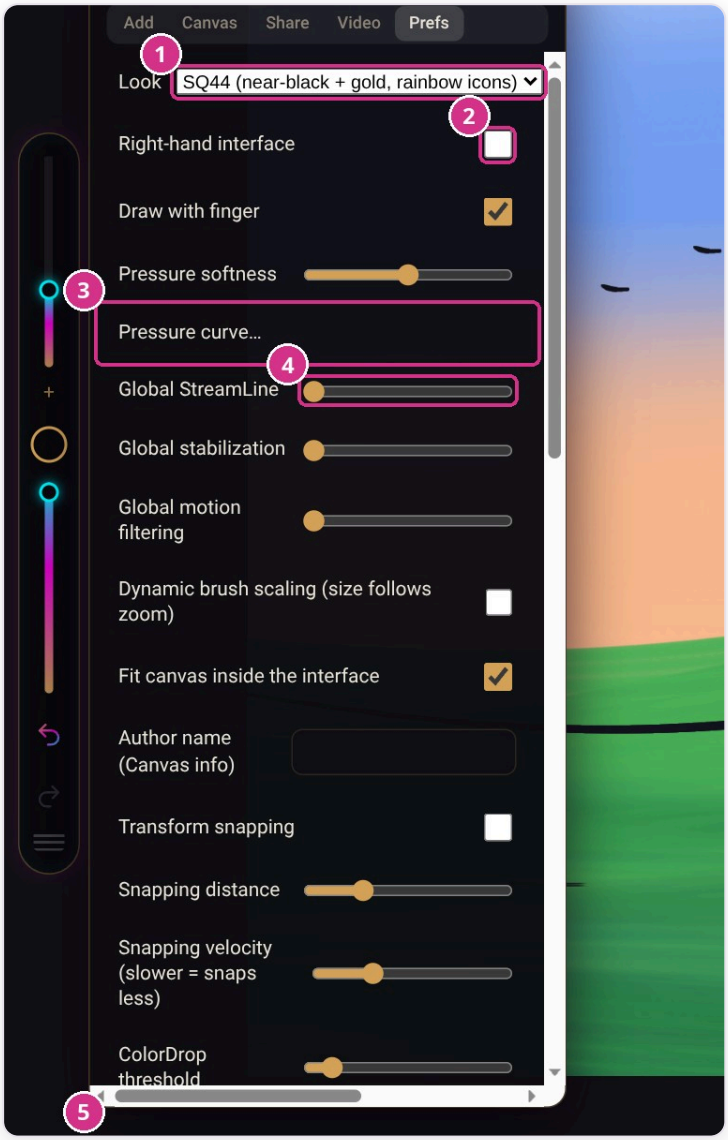


Figure 19.1 Actions → Prefs

1. **Look** SQ44 (near-black + gold), SQ44 cyan, or a light interface.
2. **Right-hand interface** Puts the side bar on the right.
3. **Pressure curve** How hard you must press (see below).
4. **Global StreamLine** Extra smoothing for every brush.
5. **Pen test** Check pressure, tilt and the eraser end of your pen.

Pressure curve



Figure 19.2 Pressure curve

1. **Soft** Light touch makes strong lines.
2. **Straight** Back to normal.
3. **Firm** You must press harder.
4. **Save** Keep it.

Drag the points on the curve for full control. Try it with the pen test until it feels right.

Pen test

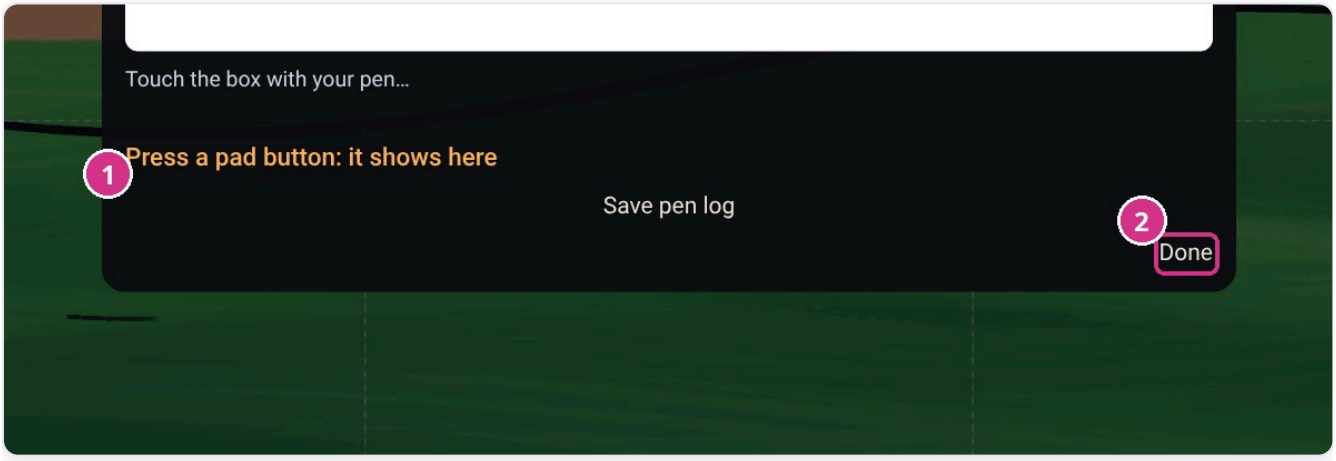


Figure 19.3 Pen test

1. **Save pen log** Saves what the pen sent lately, to help find pen problems.
2. **Done** Close.

My signature

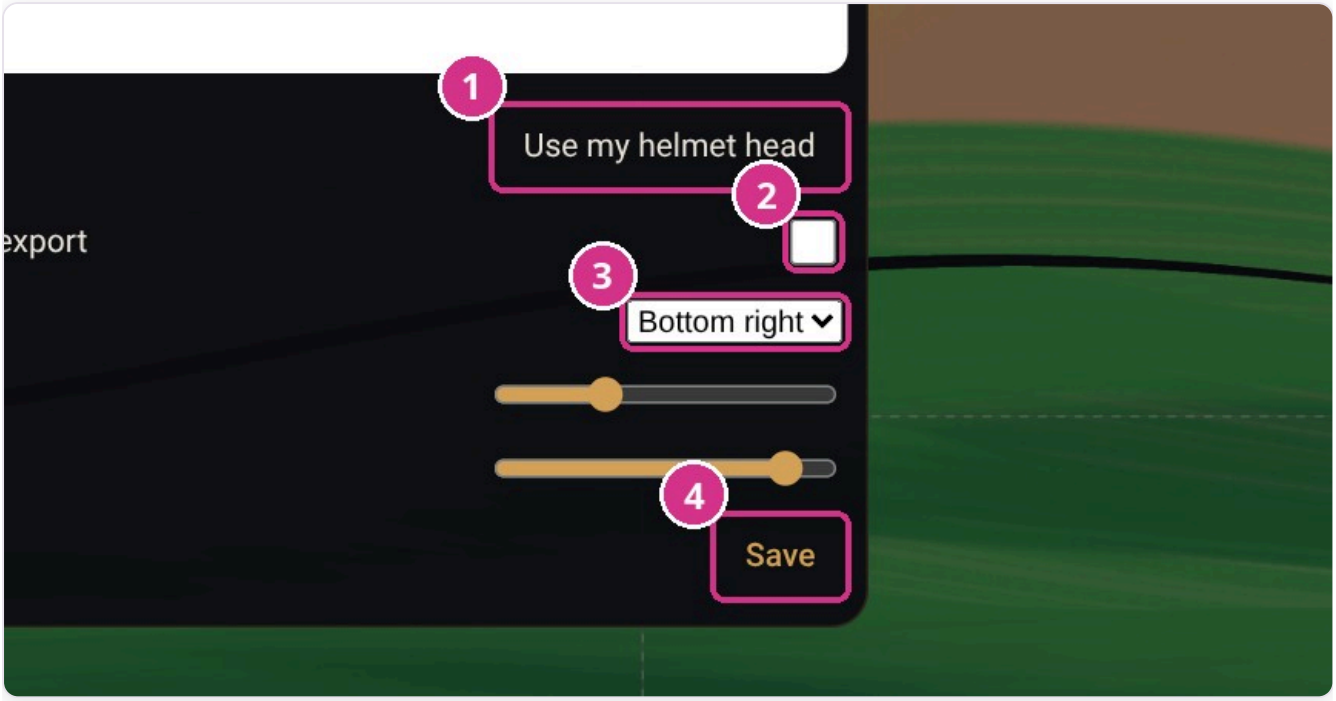


Figure 19.4 My signature

1. **Helmet head** Use the SQ44 helmet head as your mark.
2. **Add to every export** Put the signature on every PNG/JPEG you export.
3. **Corner** Top left, Top right, Bottom left or Bottom right.
4. **Save** Keep it.

All preferences

Setting	What it does
Draw with finger	Let a finger paint on a touch screen.
Pressure softness	How soft pressure feels overall.
Global stabilization / motion filtering	Smoother lines on every brush.
Dynamic brush scaling	Brush size follows the zoom.
Fit canvas inside the interface	Keep the canvas clear of the side bar and top bar.
Transform snapping	Snapping distance and speed for Transform.
ColorDrop threshold / close gaps	How far a fill spreads and how it closes gaps in lines.
Eyedropper reads / size	Whole picture or current layer; 1 px, 3 × 3 average, 5 × 5 average or 11 × 11 average.
Brush cursor	Show the brush outline under the pen.
Author name (Canvas info)	Your name, saved in the drawing's info.
Snapping velocity	Slower = snaps less.

Time-lapse quality	Low, Good, Studio or Lossless.
ColorDrop: close gaps	Smart (finds the gap), Auto (tiny), Off, Small, Medium, Large or Huge.
Pen lower / upper button	Eyedropper, move canvas, undo, QuickMenu or nothing.
Tablet pad / Touch Ring	Use your tablet's buttons and dial.
Rapid undo delay	How fast holding Undo undoes.
Hide size & opacity sliders	More room for the canvas.
Record time-lapse	Record new drawings.
Say the colour name	Hear the name of a colour you pick.
Feedback sounds	Small sounds for actions.
Two-finger hold	Rapid undo, QuickMenu or Layer Select.
Keyboard shortcuts / Gesture controls	See the full lists.

CHAPTER 20

20 Gestures and the QuickMenu

Fingers and pen shortcuts for working fast.

Gesture	What it does
Two-finger tap	Undo
Three-finger tap	Redo
Four-finger tap	Hide or show the interface
Pinch	Zoom and turn the canvas; a fast pinch in = fit to screen
Press and hold	Eyedropper
Hold the pen still at the end of a line	QuickShape: a perfect line, circle or shape
Three fingers swipe down	Copy & paste menu
Two fingers held still (or Space)	QuickMenu

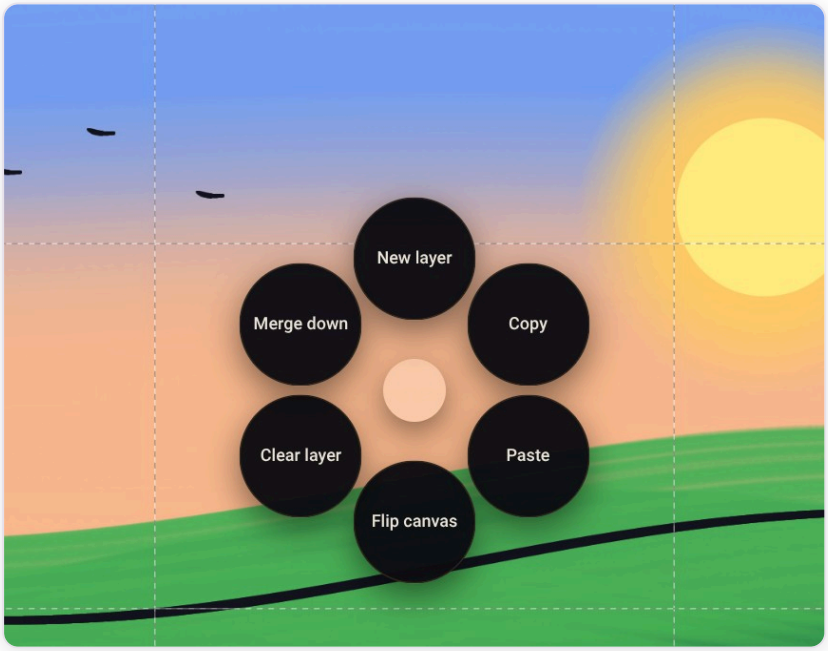


Figure 20.1 The QuickMenu

Actions you can put on the six buttons: New layer, Clear layer, Copy, Duplicate, Flip canvas, Select layer, Invert selection, Fit screen, Drawing guide, Previous colour, Copy canvas, Layer visibility, Layer opacity, Paint, Eyedropper, Adjustments, Selection, Recolor, Animation Assist, —, Clipping mask, Symmetry, Crop & resize, Share PNG, Time-lapse replay, Invert colours, Noise, Motion blur, Signature, Undo.

The QuickMenu is a ring of six handy actions round the pen. Press `Space` or `Q` to open it. Choose what each of the six buttons does in Actions → Prefs.

21 CHAPTER 21 Keyboard shortcuts

Press `?` or hold `Ctrl` in the app to see this list at any time.

TOOLS	
`B`	Brush (again = brush library)
`E`	Eraser
`M`	Smudge
`S`	Selection
`V`	Transform
`I`	Eyedropper (next touch)
`G`	Gradient (Enter = apply, Esc = cancel, Shift = straight)
`Alt (hold)`	Modify button
`[ ]`	Brush smaller / bigger (Shift = faster)
`Ctrl+[ ]`	Brush size in small steps
`X`	Swap to the previous colour
PANELS	
`L`	Layers
`C`	Colours
`Ctrl+K`	Actions
`Ctrl+U`	Hue, Saturation, Brightness
`Ctrl+B`	Colour Balance
`Ctrl+;`	Drawing guide on / off
`Ctrl+R`	Rulers and guide lines on / off
`Esc`	Close panels
EDIT	
`Ctrl+Z / Ctrl+Shift+Z`	Undo / Redo
`Ctrl+Y`	Redo
`Ctrl+S / Ctrl+Shift+S`	Save in My Art / Save as a PNG picture
`Ctrl+X / C / V`	Cut / Copy / Paste
`Ctrl+A`	Copy All
`Ctrl+J`	Duplicate

`Ctrl+E`	Edit a stroke: the last one (size, opacity, smoothing, colour, brush), or tap Pick stroke for any other
`Ctrl+Shift+E`	Edit a stroke: tap it
`Ctrl+D`	Deselect
`Ctrl+Delete`	Clear layer
`Ctrl+S`	Save now
VIEW	
`Space (tap)`	QuickMenu
`Space (hold)`	Move the canvas
`= -`	Zoom in / out (where the pen is)
`Alt+= Alt+-`	Turn the canvas 15°
`0`	Fit canvas to screen
`Tab / Ctrl+0`	Hide / show the interface
`R`	Reference window
ANIMATION	
`P`	Play / stop
`, .`	Previous / next frame or page
HELP	
`? or hold Ctrl`	This sheet

CHAPTER 22

22 Troubleshooting and questions

Most problems have a quick fix.

Problem	What to do
The AppImage does not start (Linux)	Make it executable (Chapter 2). If nothing happens, start it from a terminal to see the message.
Windows says “Windows protected your PC”	Click More info → Run anyway. It shows this for new apps it does not know yet.
Pressure does nothing	Check the pen in Prefs → Pen test. If the pen test shows pressure, check Pressure curve and the brush’s own pressure settings in Brush Studio.
Lines have little breaks	Update to the newest version; it fixes false pen lifts some tablet drivers send.
A layer looks empty	Check its tick box, its opacity, whether Solo is on (“Show all layers” at the top of the Layers panel), and whether a hidden group holds it.
I painted but nothing appeared	You may be on a hidden layer, a mask, a locked layer, or outside a selection (Ctrl+D deselects).
An effect or gradient seems to do nothing	Effects change the layer you are on: pick the layer with the paint. For the gradient, drag across the picture.
I lost my work	Your drawings save by themselves; open My Art. Use Undo for recent changes. Keep .sq44 backups of important work.
The app feels slow on a huge canvas	Fewer layers, a smaller canvas, or 8-bit colour make it faster.

Backups

Actions → Share → **SQ44 project (.sq44)** keeps everything: layers, effects, styles, time-lapse. Copy those files to another drive now and then. Import them in My Art to open them again.

SQ44 DRAW

BY SON OF SATOSHI™

Free. No account. Never online.

thesonofsatoshi.com