Illustrator to Inkscape

Inkscape (inkscape.org) is a free vector design application. The following set of tasks in Inkscape roughly mirrors the Illustrator 10 Steps Design Guide and can be used to orient a new user to the software.

1. OPEN A NEW DOCUMENT

File → **New** will open a document.

File → **Document Properties** opens a window to set size, units and orientation.

2. CREATE A SHAPE

Rectangle

Create a new shape by dragging. Holding the **Control** key will snap to an integer aspect ratio (1:1, 2:1, 3:1).

Ellipse

Create a new shape by dragging. Holding the **Control** key will snap to an integer aspect ratio (1:1, 2:1, 3:1).

Star

Create a new shape by dragging. The **Control** key acts as a radial control and will snap in 15 degree increments.

   Corners

   Key in a number for corners.

   Handles

   The star has two handles. Anchor points have an inside radius and an outside radius. These can move independent of each other to create interesting shapes.

Polygon

Create a new shape by dragging.

   Corners

   Key in a number for corners.

   Handle

   The star has one handle for creating concave and convex sides.

3. CHANGE COLOR AND OUTLINE OF SHAPE

Object → **Fill** sets inside color. **Stroke** sets outside line color. **Stroke style** sets stroke weight.

Choose your color system and opacity.

4. SELECT AND DELETE

Top button on the toolbar on the left shows the selection arrow. Click on a shape to select and delete.

5. CHANGE SHAPE OF SHAPE

After selection you can scale the object by moving any of the handles. Holding down **Control** key will preserve the aspect ratio.

6. COMBINE SHAPES

Path → **Path Operations**

Union	Ctrl++
Difference	Ctrl+−
Intersection	Ctrl+*
Exclusion	Ctrl+^
Division	Ctrl+/
Cut Path	Ctrl+Alt+/
Combine	Ctrl+K
Break Apart	Shift+Ctrl+K

7. DELETE A PATH IN A SHAPE

Create your shape.

Path → **Object to Path**

This will convert your shape to a series of paths and editable nodes. Click on Nodes. You will see each path is connected with a node.

Multi-select (hold **Shift** key) the nodes on each side of the path you are deleting. Break path at selected nodes. Select path and delete. You will now have a side with the path removed.

8. RECLOSE A SHAPE AND DRAW WITH BEZIER CURVES

Click on **Draw Bezier curves**. Hover on open node and click on node to join the open shape. Click on the other open node to close the shape. Continue to engage your mouse/track pad to pull a curve.
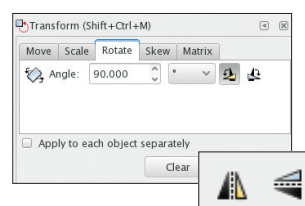
9. TURN TEXT INTO OUTLINES

Click on **Text Tool**. Type your text. Select your font and size. **Path** → **Object to Path**. This will convert your text to a series of paths and editable nodes.

10. ROTATE AND REFLECT

After selection, click a second time. The handles change to allow for rotation. The **Control** key acts as a radial control and will snap in 15 degree increments. In the **Object** → **Transform** menu you cannot key in a specific degree of rotation. Flip objects horizontally (H) and vertically (V) using reflection icons located on the main toolbar.