

Setting the Document Properties and Preferences in Inkscape

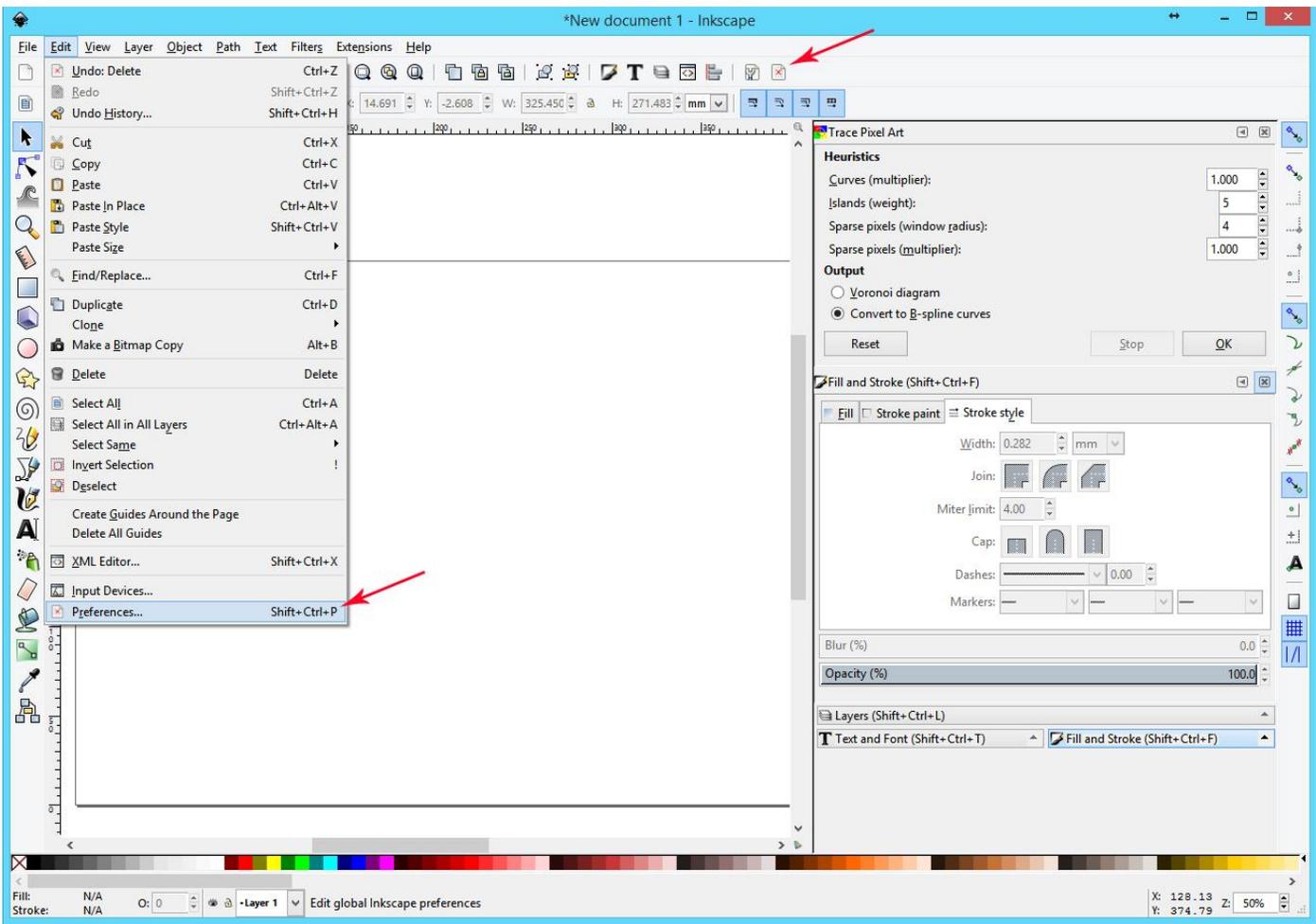
The first thing you will want to do when you start using **Inkscape** is set up the **Document Properties** and **Global Inkscape Preferences** to suit your design style, since the defaults (SVG pixels) are not a unit that most people are familiar with.

There are some Global Preferences that you can change and have Inkscape apply them to all of your documents, and other things (*Document Properties*) that you will need to set up each time you create a new file.

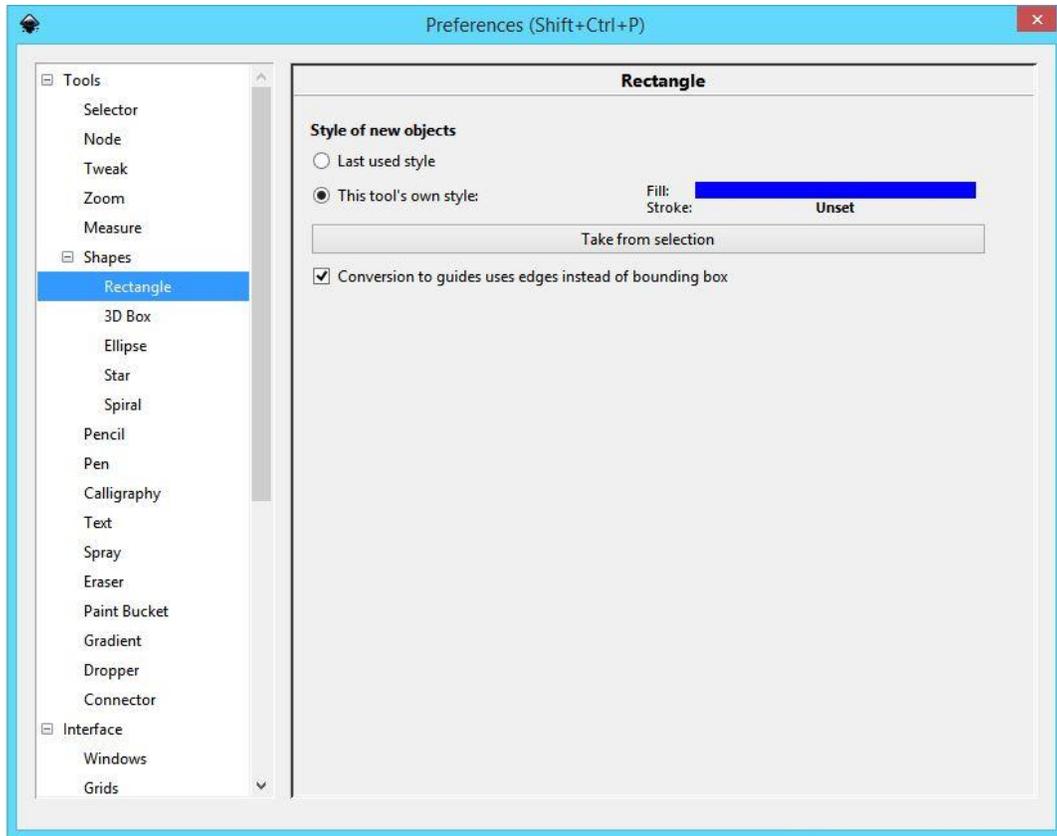
If you are not designing for a specific size, most of the defaults will be fine. *(And you do have the opportunity to set your units of measurement at various places throughout the design process....there are units of measurement option boxes all over the place.)*

Global Preferences:

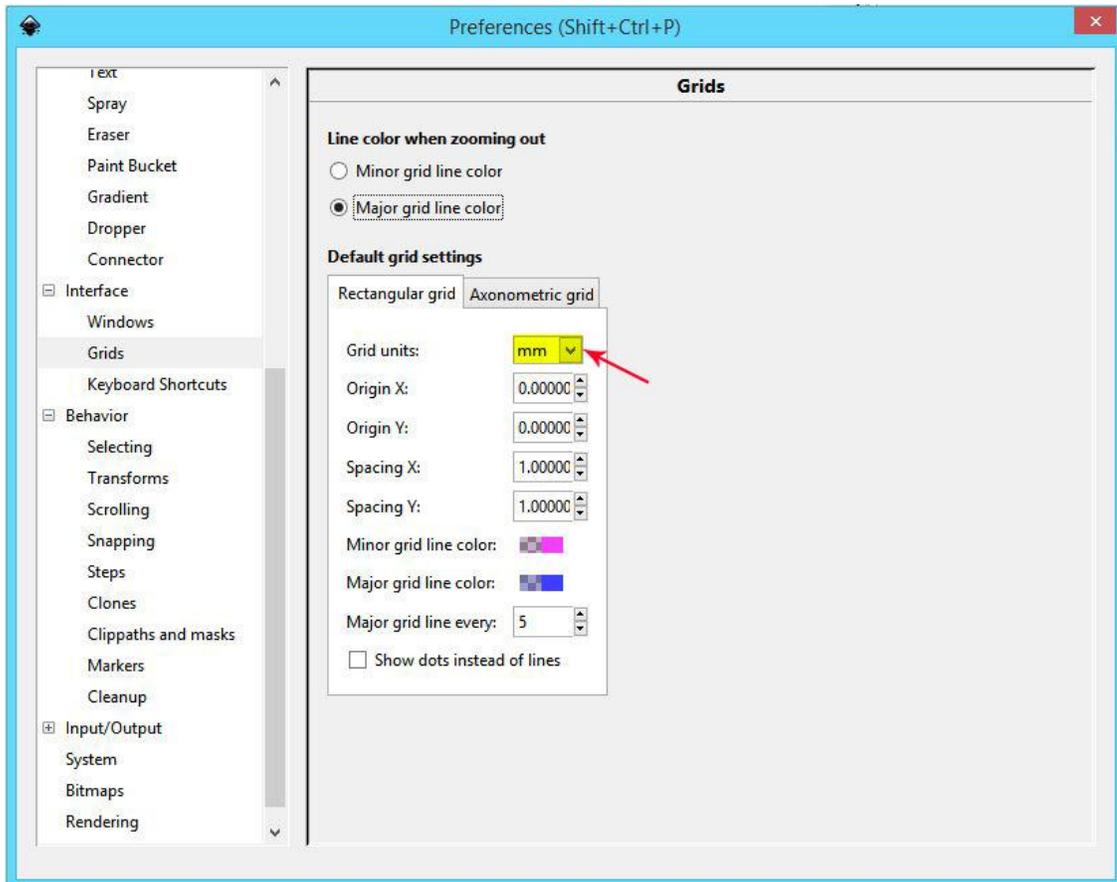
You can access the Preferences menu by either clicking **Edit > Preferences**, or click the last icon in the second row.



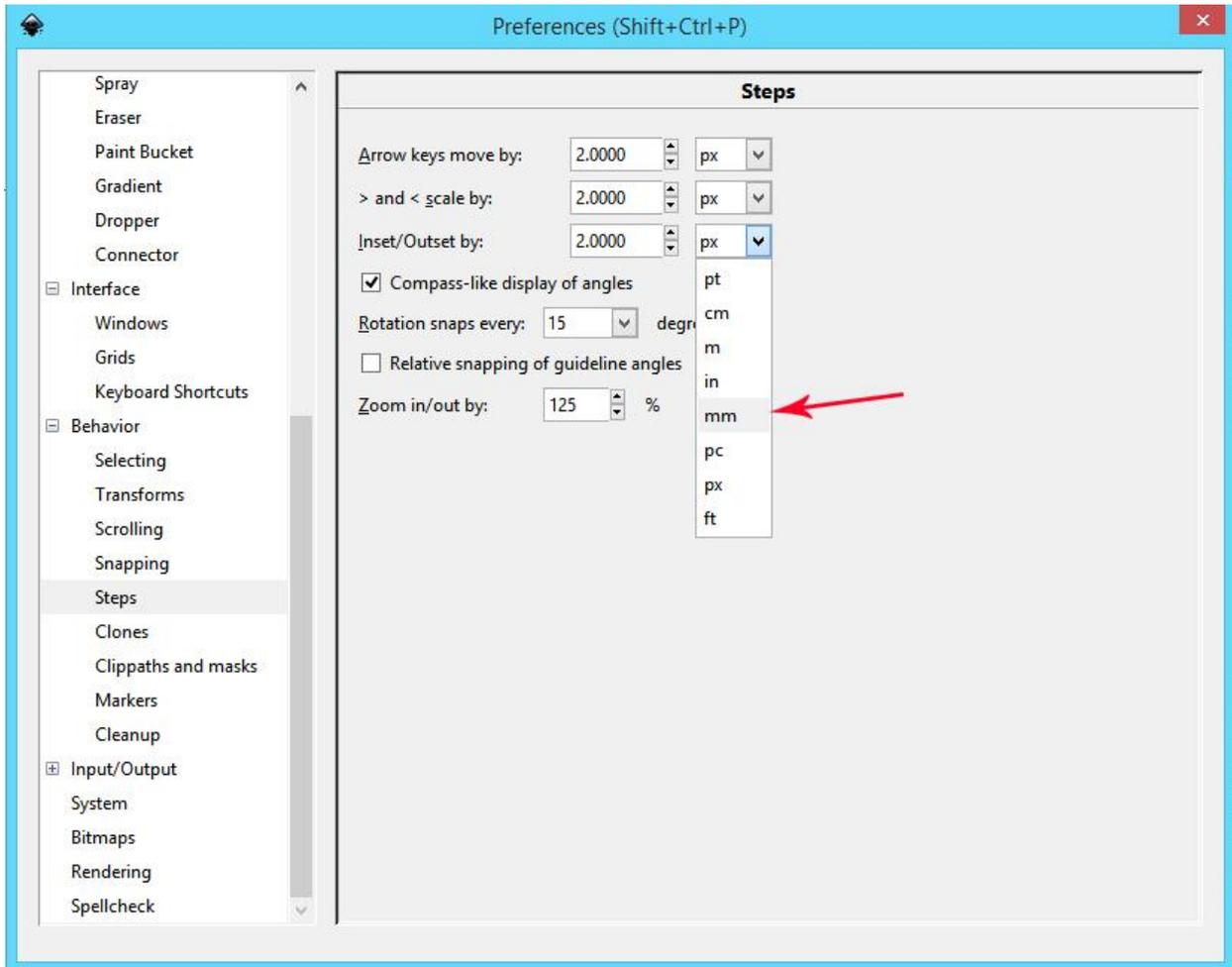
If you prefer to have your shapes (like rectangles and ellipses) have a specific style of their own, you can set that in the **Shapes** options here. Otherwise, the next time you use the tool it will pick up whatever settings you last used.



Scroll down to the **Interface** section to set permanent **Grid** measurements. Some people prefer to design in inches, and others like to use mm. This is where you can set a universal grid style if you have a preference.



And last but definitely not least, there is a section under **Behavior > Steps**, where you can set how far the **Keyboard Arrow Keys** will nudge nodes and scale your shapes. The default of 2 pixels is very small. If you prefer, you can set the units as mm or inches and nudge by that amount when clicking the arrow keys.



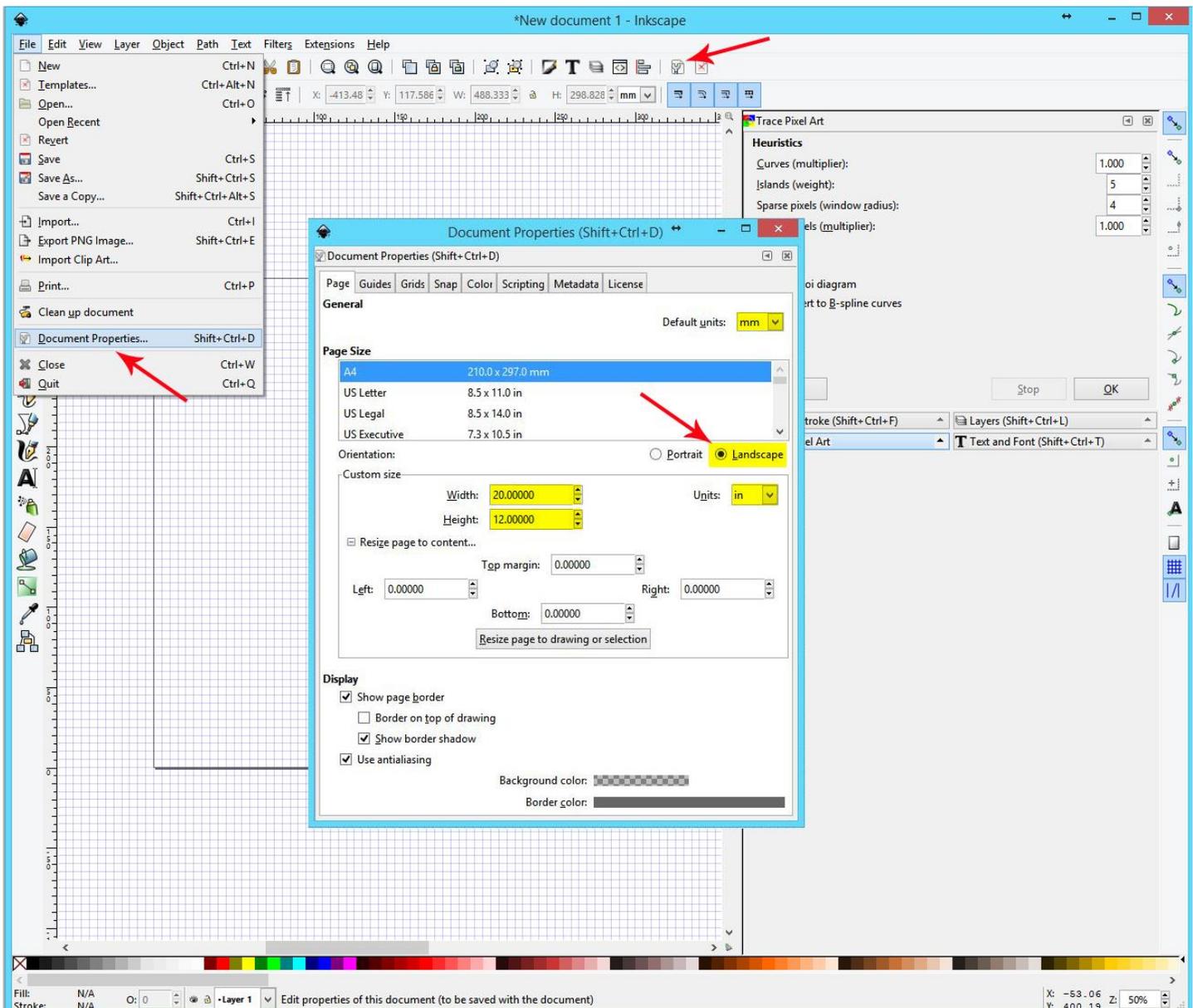
Document Properties:

The Document Properties are saved with each document. (**File > Document Properties.**)

One very important thing to note is that if you wish to recreate the cutting bed of the Glowforge with your page in Inkscape, you will want to set a page size of 20 inches wide by 12 inches high under the Custom page size settings. There is no way to save it as a preset, so that needs to be recreated for each new document that you plan to use.

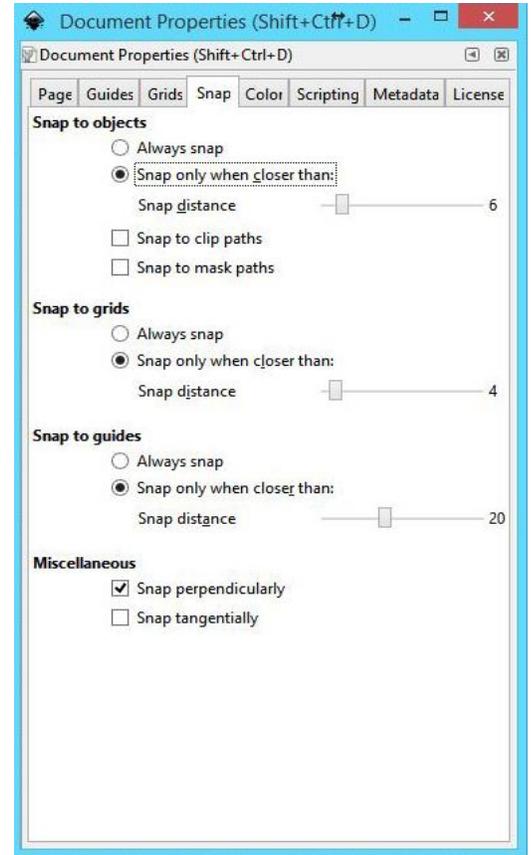
Here you can set the General Default units of measurement for the document (inches, mm, cm), and they don't necessarily need to match your Page size units. (*Inkscape converts everything to your general units.*)

You will also want to choose the **Landscape** orientation for your page.



Another handy setting that you can play with in the Document Properties dialog box is the **Snap** settings.

These might need to be adjusted depending on what you have chosen as your Major Grid values. Or you can choose to always snap to the grid, objects or guides.



And last, Inkscape offers a nice little selection of Licenses that you can apply to your artwork.

