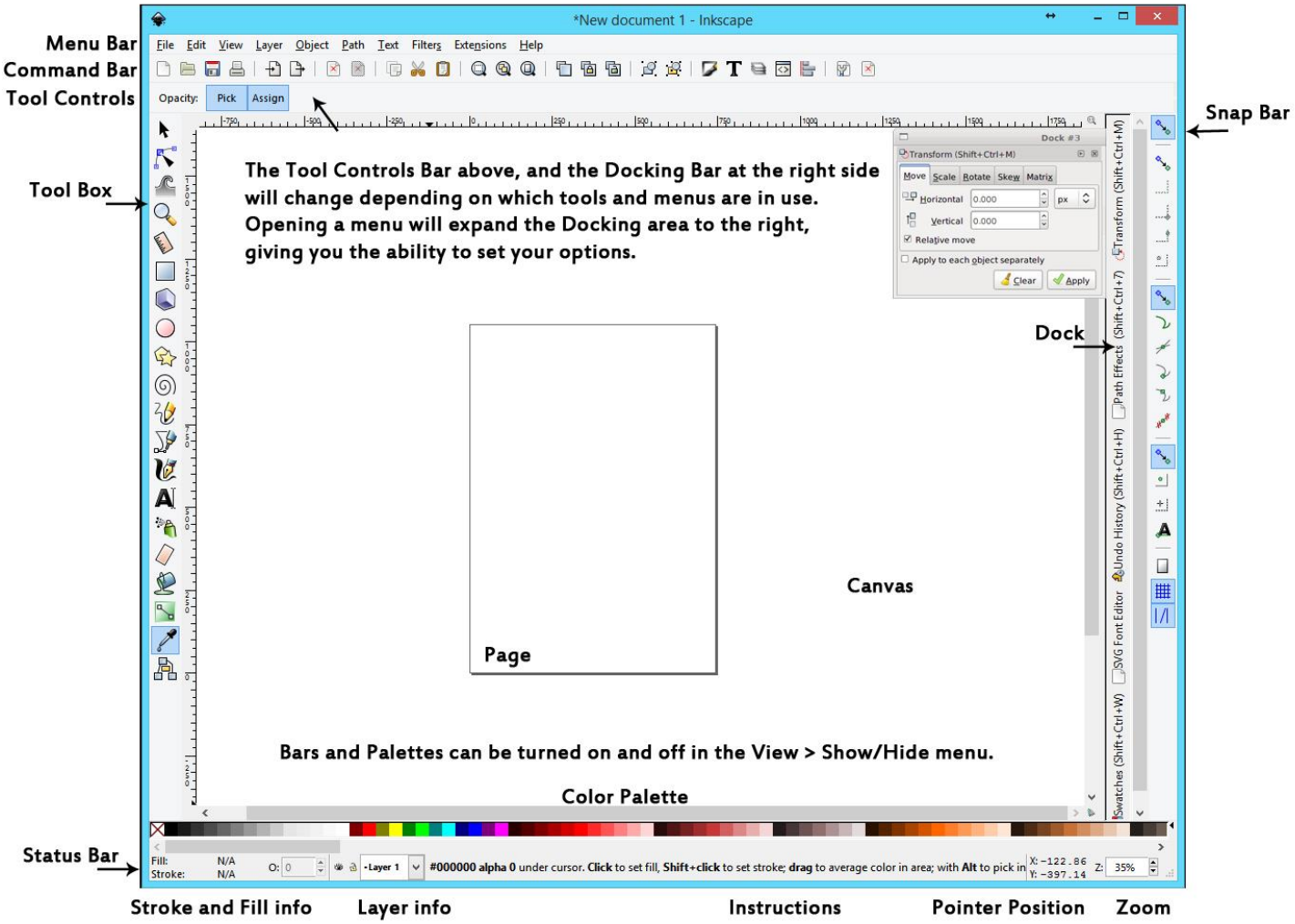
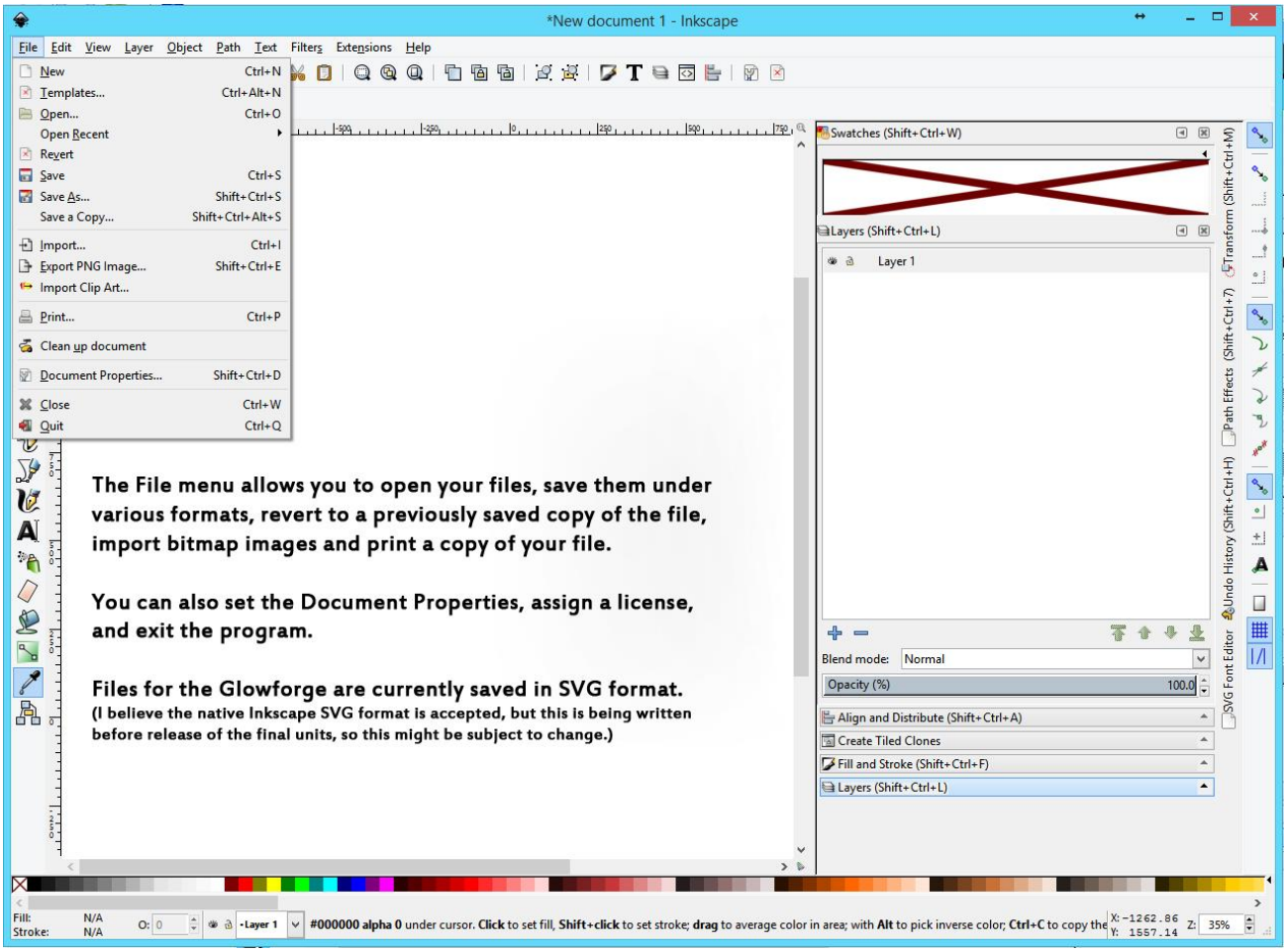
Inkscape – Tools Overview

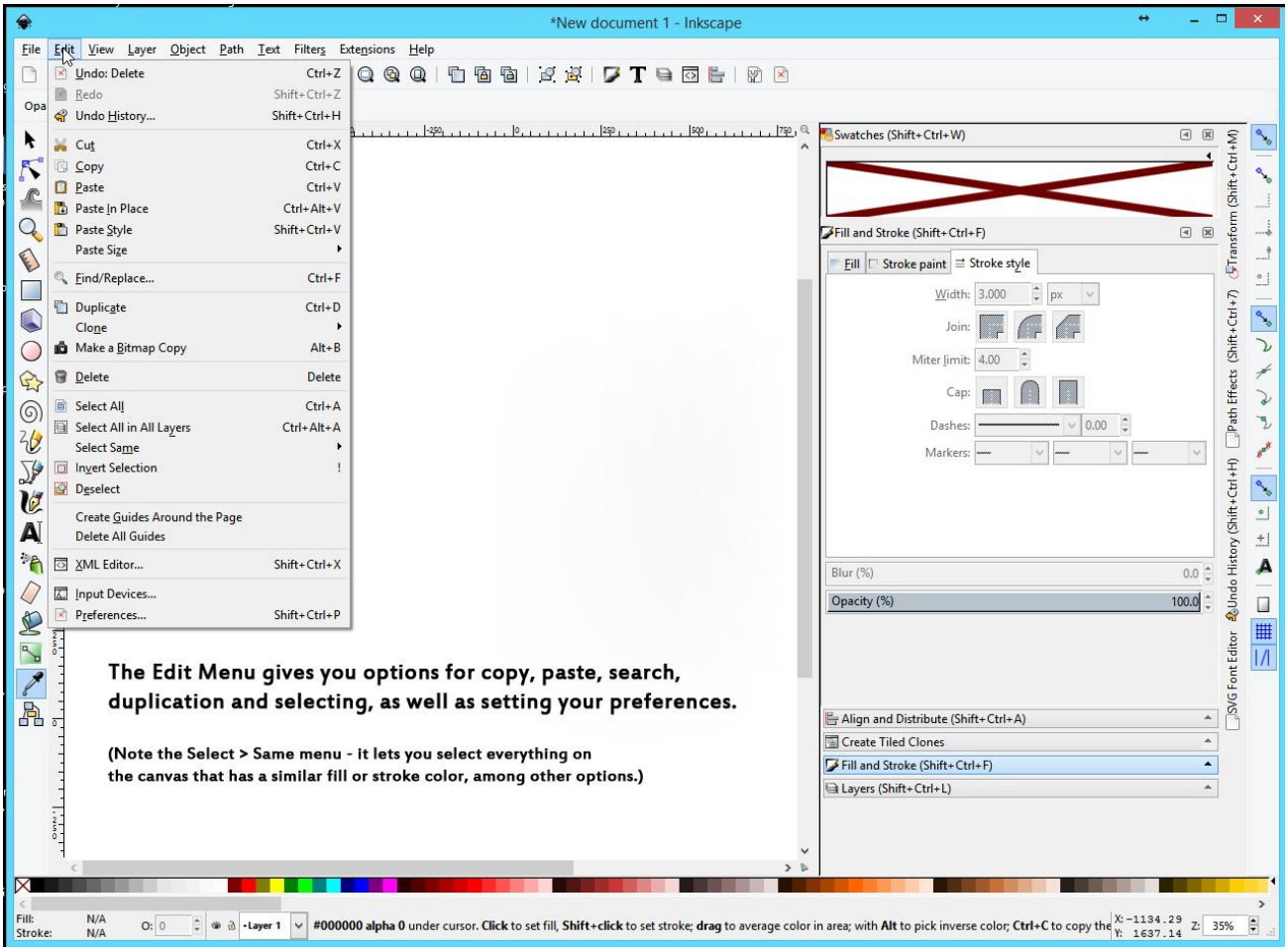
Inkscape has multiple menus to make the tools you need to use easy to access. It has a lot of options, is fairly intuitive, and one of the easier drawing programs to learn to use. The program has many extensions available to add functionality. Feel free to poke around and see what things do….. **CTRL+Z** will undo whatever you just did if you don't like it.

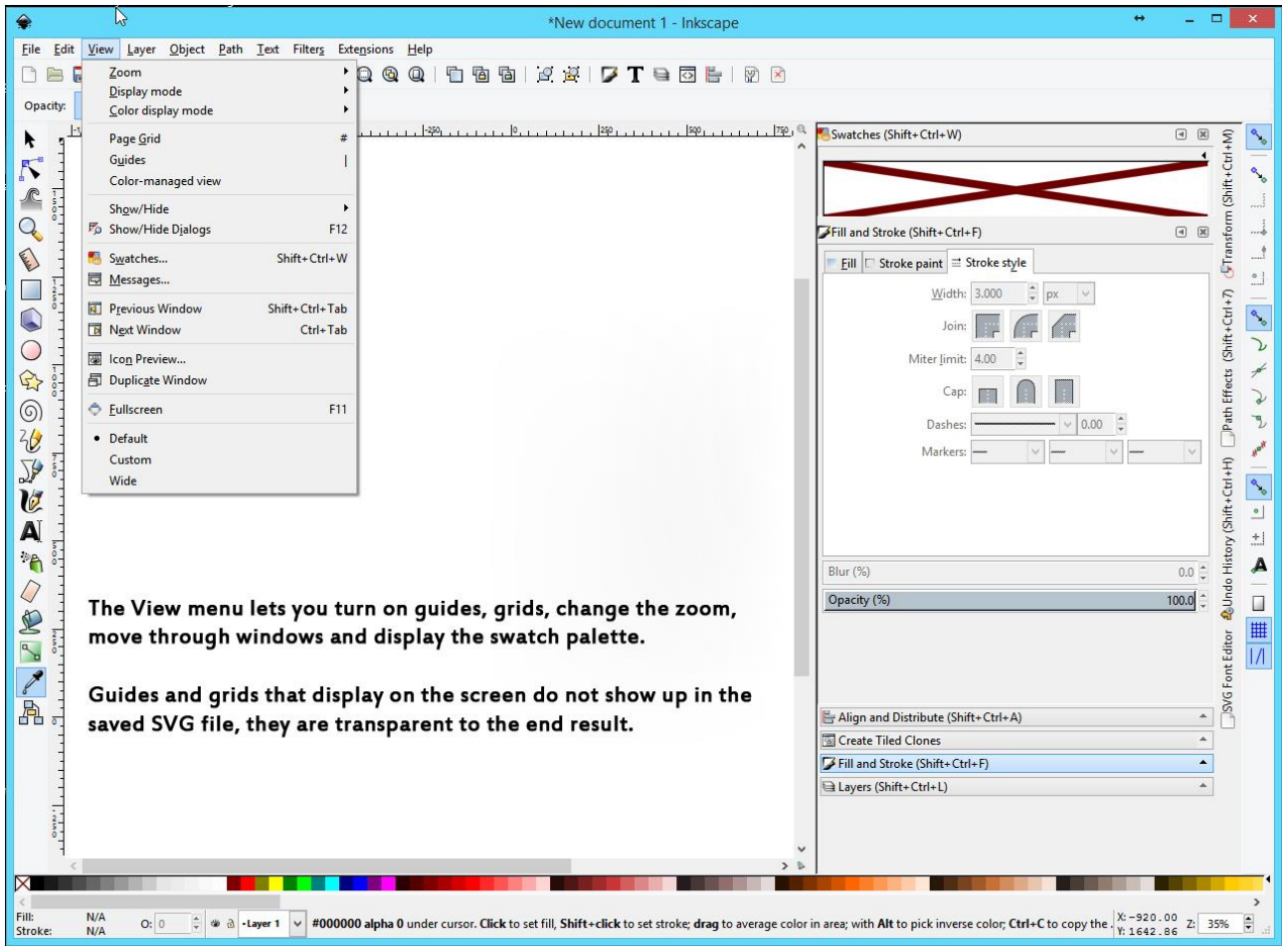


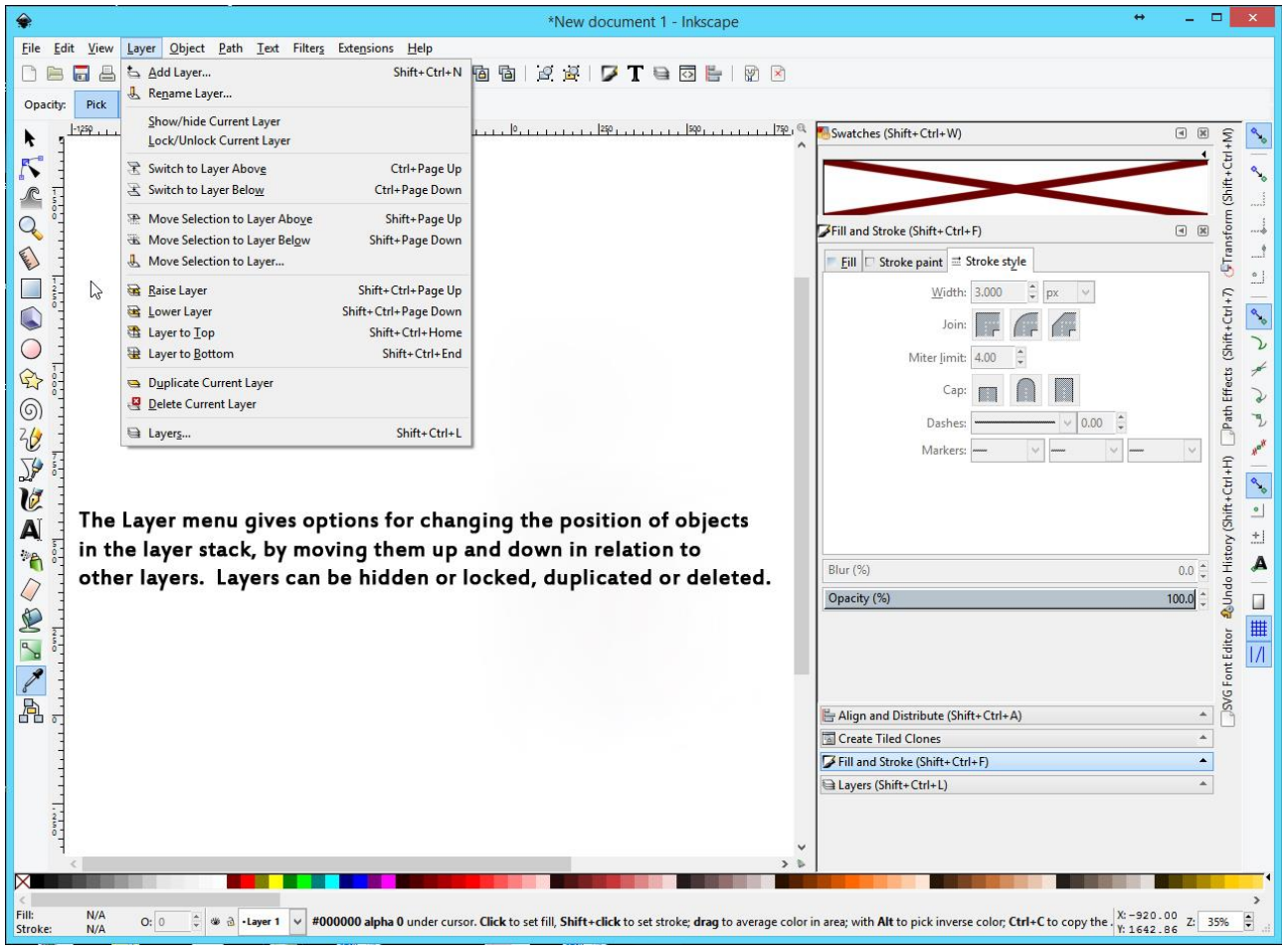
Make note of the Instructions area at the bottom of the screen…it lists tips for keyboard shortcuts while you are working that can speed up your work flow.

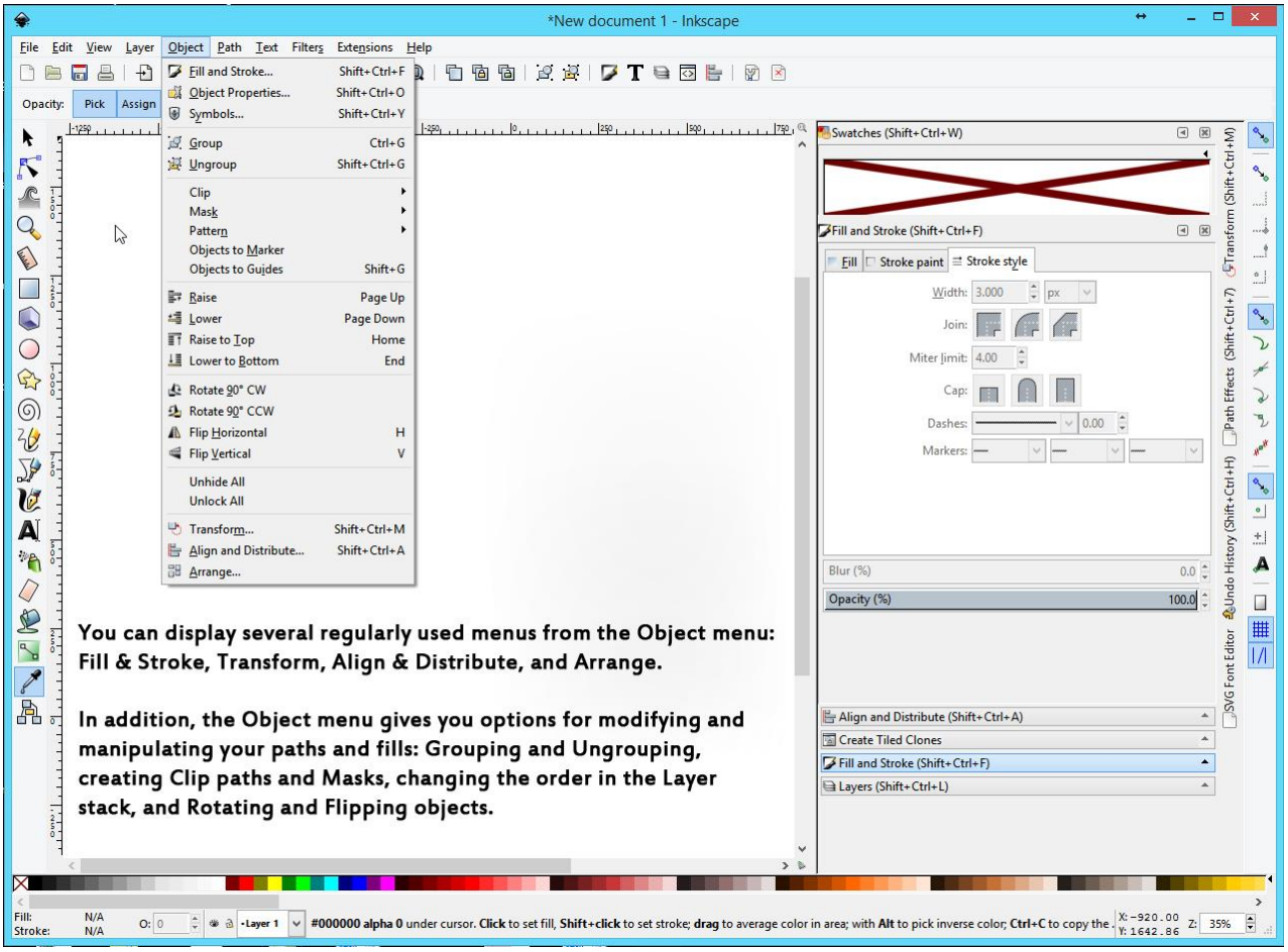
Let's start with the **Menus** in the **Menu Bar** (top row) – those are operational and apply to everything you do in Inkscape.


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
New Ctrl+N
Templates... Ctrl+Alt+N
Open... Ctrl+O
Open Recent
Revert
Save Ctrl+S
Save As... Shift+Ctrl+S
Save a Copy... Shift+Ctrl+Alt+S
Import... Ctrl+I
Export PNG Image... Shift+Ctrl+E
Import Clip Art...
Print... Ctrl+P
Clean up document
Document Properties... Shift+Ctrl+D
Close Ctrl+W
Quit Ctrl+Q
The File menu allows you to open your files, save them under various formats, revert to a previously saved copy of the file, import bitmap images and print a copy of your file.
You can also set the Document Properties, assign a license, and exit the program.
Files for the Glowforge are currently saved in SVG format.
(I believe the native Inkscape SVG format is accepted, but this is being written before release of the final units, so this might be subject to change.)
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Layer 1
Blend mode: Normal
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the
X: -1262.86
Y: 1557.14
Z: 35%


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Undo: Delete Ctrl+Z
Redo Shift+Ctrl+Z
Undo History... Shift+Ctrl+H
Cut Ctrl+X
Copy Ctrl+C
Paste Ctrl+V
Paste In Place Ctrl+Alt+V
Paste Style Shift+Ctrl+V
Paste Size
Find/Replace... Ctrl+F
Duplicate Ctrl+D
Clone
Make a Bitmap Copy Alt+B
Delete Delete
Select All Ctrl+A
Select All in All Layers Ctrl+Alt+A
Select Same
Invert Selection !
Deselect
Create Guides Around the Page
Delete All Guides
XML Editor... Shift+Ctrl+X
Input Devices...
Preferences... Shift+Ctrl+P
The Edit Menu gives you options for copy, paste, search, duplication and selecting, as well as setting your preferences.
(Note the Select > Same menu - it lets you select everything on the canvas that has a similar fill or stroke color, among other options.)
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Fill
Stroke paint
Stroke style
Width: 3.000 px
Join:
Miter limit: 4.00
Cap:
Dashes: 0.00
Markers:
Blur (%) 0.0
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the
X: -1134.29
Y: 1637.14
Z: 35%

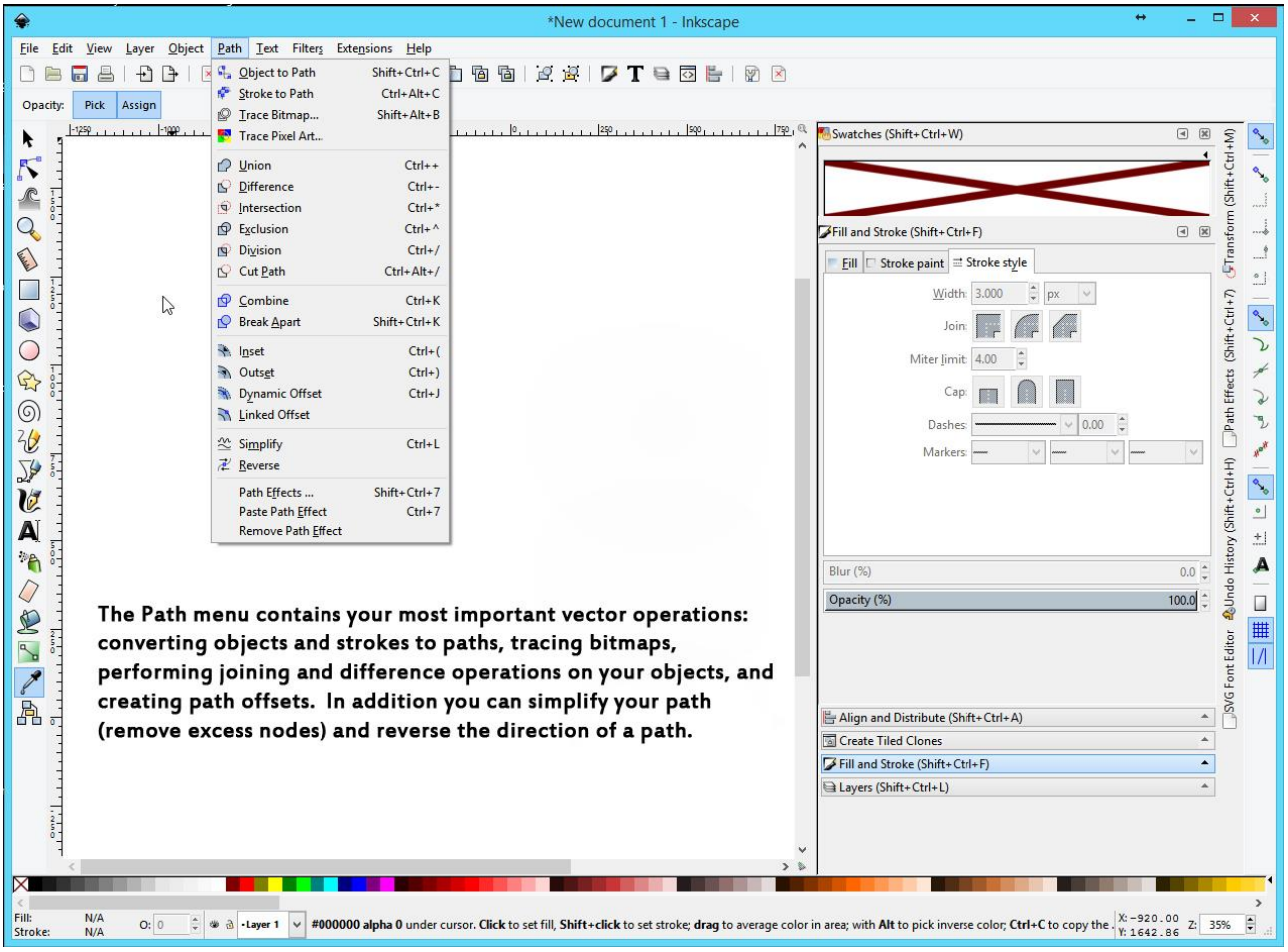

*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Zoom
Display mode
Color display mode
Page Grid #
Guides |
Color-managed view
Show/Hide
Show/Hide Dialogs F12
Swatches... Shift+Ctrl+W
Messages...
Previous Window Shift+Ctrl+Tab
Next Window Ctrl+Tab
Icon Preview...
Duplicate Window
Fullscreen F11
Default
Custom
Wide
The View menu lets you turn on guides, grids, change the zoom, move through windows and display the swatch palette.
Guides and grids that display on the screen do not show up in the saved SVG file, they are transparent to the end result.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Fill Stroke paint Stroke style
Width: 3.000 px
Join:
Miter limit: 4.00
Cap:
Dashes: 0.00
Markers:
Blur (%) 0.0
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
O: 0
Layer 1
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the .
X: -920.00
Y: 1642.86
Z: 35%


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Opacity: Pick
Add Layer... Shift+Ctrl+N
Rename Layer...
Show/hide Current Layer
Lock/Unlock Current Layer
Switch to Layer Above Ctrl+Page Up
Switch to Layer Below Ctrl+Page Down
Move Selection to Layer Above Shift+Page Up
Move Selection to Layer Below Shift+Page Down
Move Selection to Layer...
Raise Layer Shift+Ctrl+Page Up
Lower Layer Shift+Ctrl+Page Down
Layer to Top Shift+Ctrl+Home
Layer to Bottom Shift+Ctrl+End
Duplicate Current Layer
Delete Current Layer
Layers... Shift+Ctrl+L
The Layer menu gives options for changing the position of objects in the layer stack, by moving them up and down in relation to other layers. Layers can be hidden or locked, duplicated or deleted.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Fill Stroke paint Stroke style
Width: 3.000 px
Join:
Miter limit: 4.00
Cap:
Dashes: 0.00
Markers:
Blur (%) 0.0
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
O: 0
Layer 1
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the .
X: -920.00
Y: 1642.86
Z: 35%

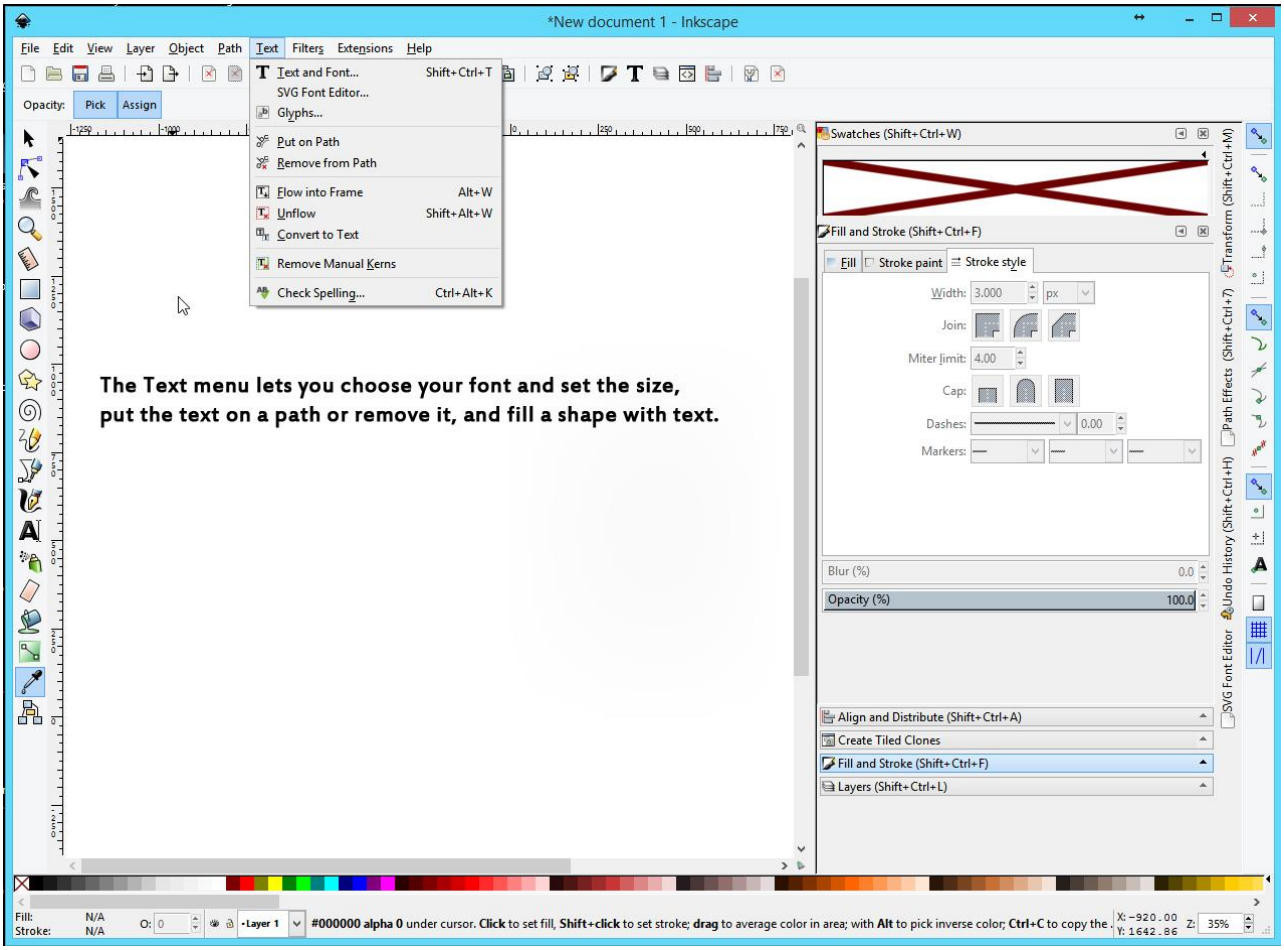


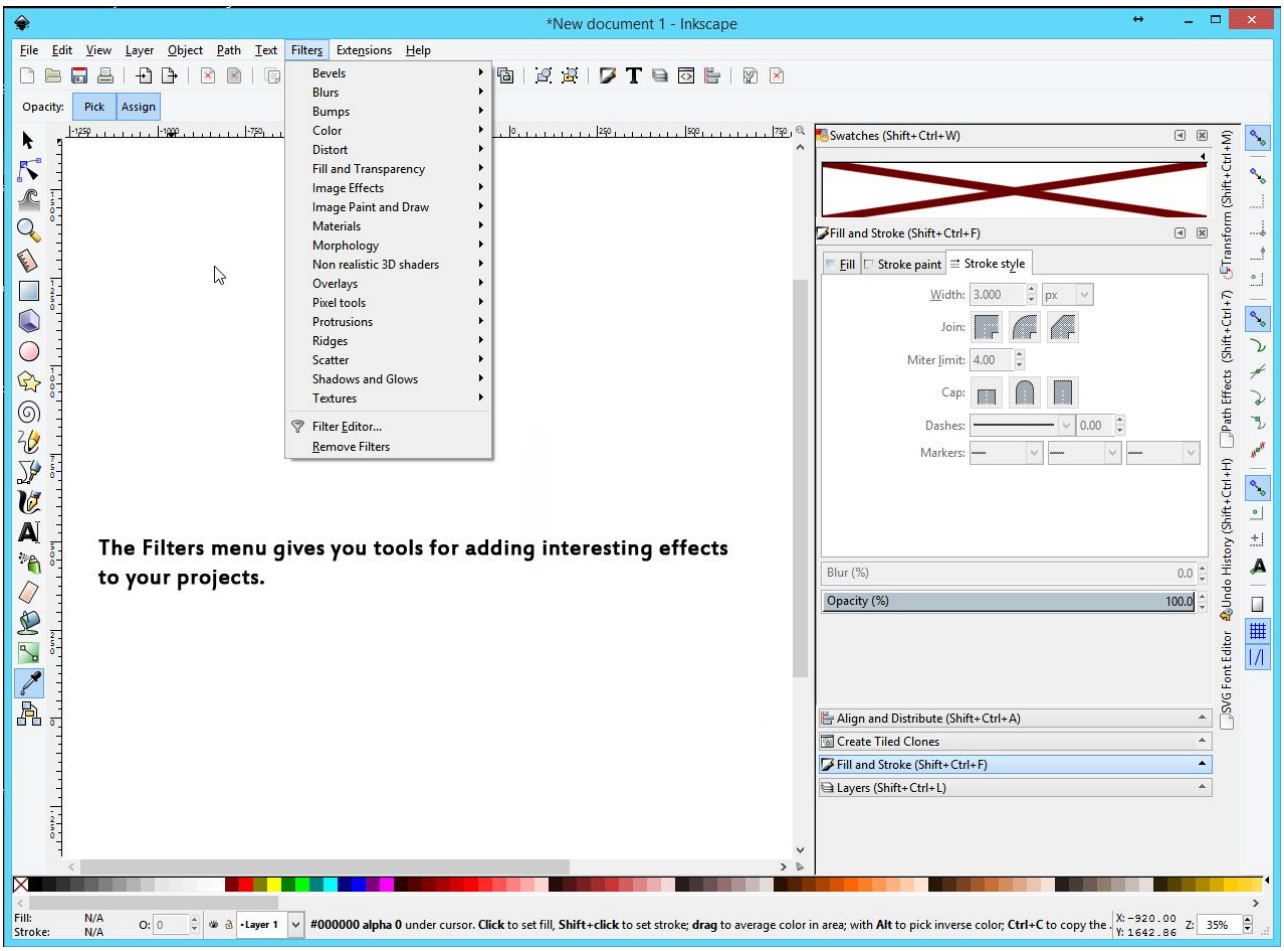
You can display several regularly used menus from the Object menu: Fill & Stroke, Transform, Align & Distribute, and Arrange.

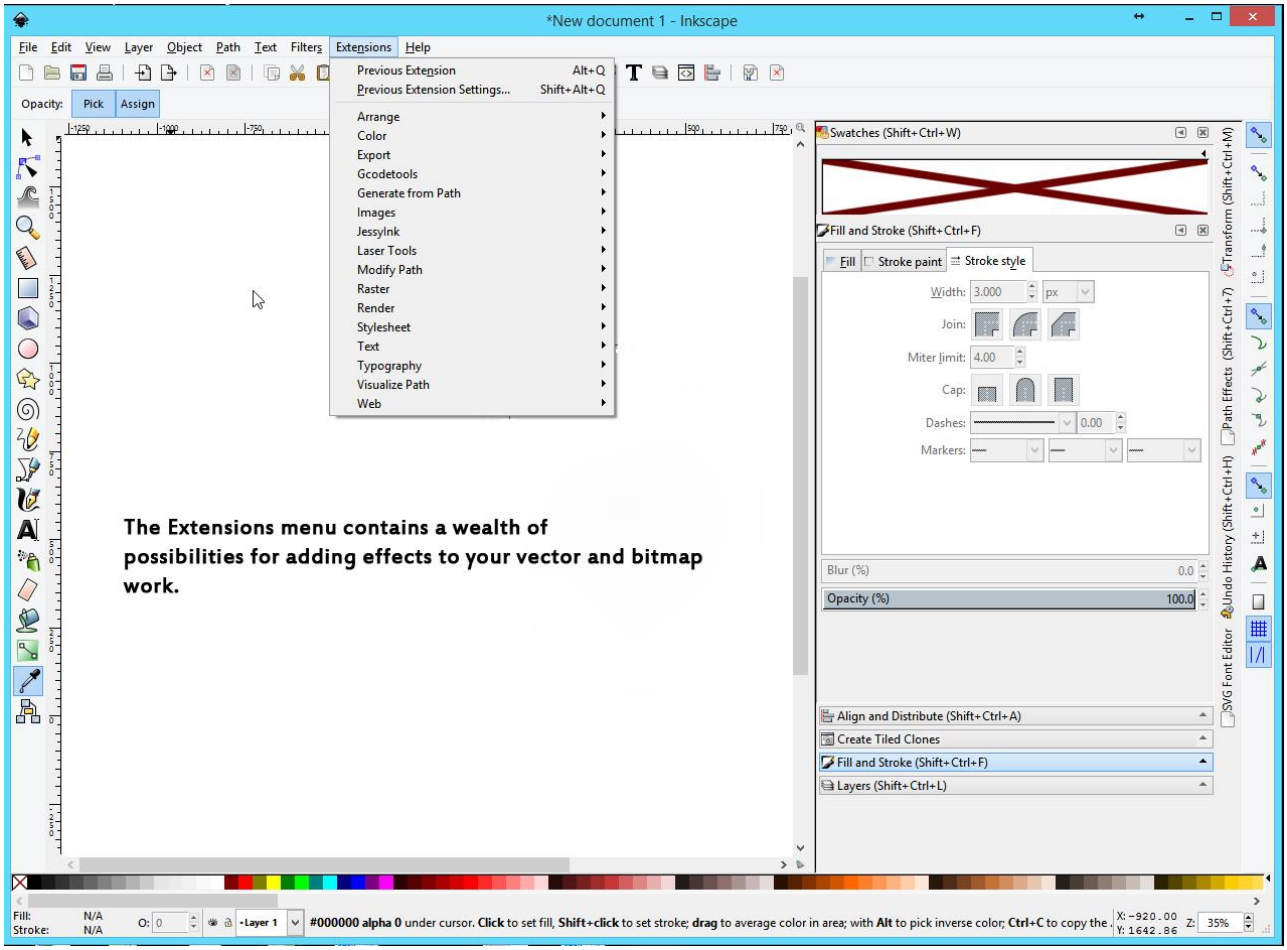
In addition, the Object menu gives you options for modifying and manipulating your paths and fills: Grouping and Ungrouping, creating Clip paths and Masks, changing the order in the Layer stack, and Rotating and Flipping objects.

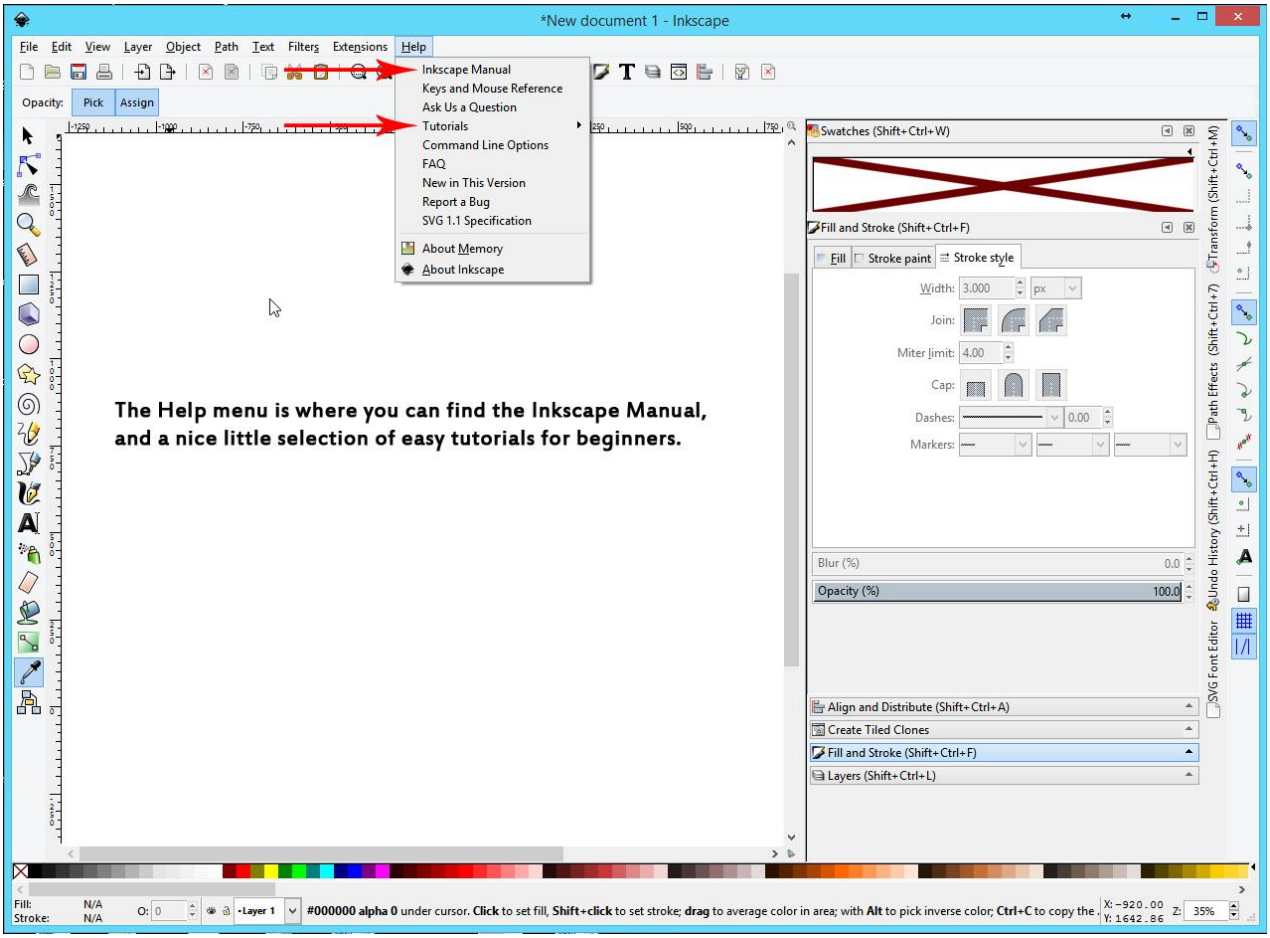


The Path menu contains your most important vector operations: converting objects and strokes to paths, tracing bitmaps, performing joining and difference operations on your objects, and creating path offsets. In addition you can simplify your path (remove excess nodes) and reverse the direction of a path.


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Text and Font... Shift+Ctrl+T
SVG Font Editor...
Glyphs...
Put on Path
Remove from Path
Flow into Frame Alt+W
Unflow Shift+Alt+W
Convert to Text
Remove Manual Kerns
Check Spelling... Ctrl+Alt+K
The Text menu lets you choose your font and set the size,
put the text on a path or remove it, and fill a shape with text.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Fill Stroke paint Stroke style
Width: 3.000 px
Join:
Miter limit: 4.00
Cap:
Dashes: 0.00
Markers:
Blur (%) 0.0
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
O: 0
Layer 1
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the
X: -920.00
Y: 1642.86
Z: 35%

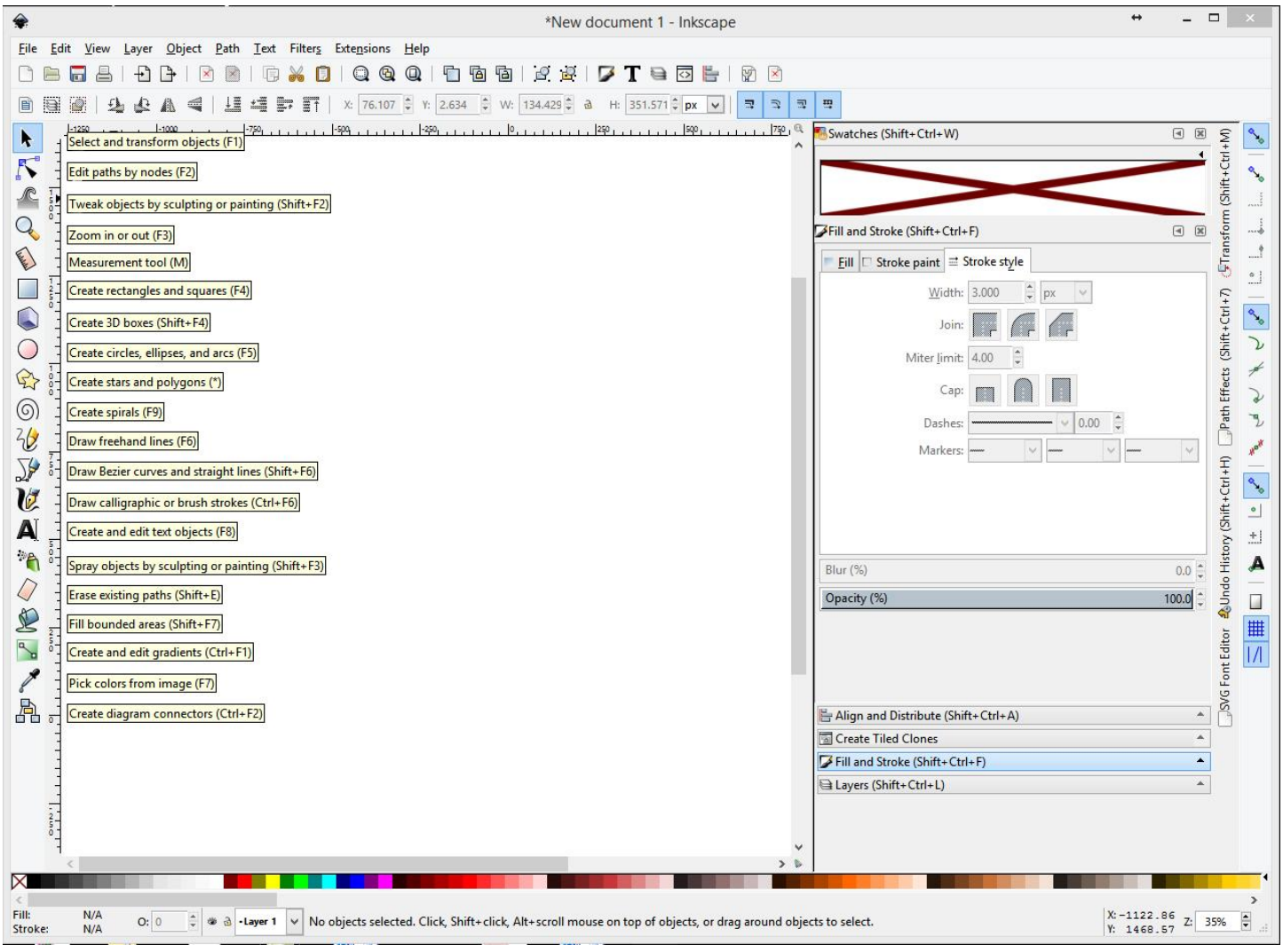

*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Bevels
Blurs
Bumps
Color
Distort
Fill and Transparency
Image Effects
Image Paint and Draw
Materials
Morphology
Non realistic 3D shaders
Overlays
Pixel tools
Protrusions
Ridges
Scatter
Shadows and Glows
Textures
Filter Editor...
Remove Filters
The Filters menu gives you tools for adding interesting effects
to your projects.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Fill Stroke paint Stroke style
Width: 3.000 px
Join:
Miter limit: 4.00
Cap:
Dashes: 0.00
Markers:
Blur (%) 0.0
Opacity (%) 100.0
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)
Transform (Shift+Ctrl+M)
Path Effects (Shift+Ctrl+7)
Undo History (Shift+Ctrl+H)
SVG Font Editor
Fill: N/A
Stroke: N/A
O: 0
Layer 1
#000000 alpha 0 under cursor. Click to set fill, Shift+click to set stroke; drag to average color in area; with Alt to pick inverse color; Ctrl+C to copy the
X: -920.00
Y: 1642.86
Z: 35%


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Previous Extension Alt+Q
Previous Extension Settings... Shift+Alt+Q
Arrange
Color
Export
Gcodetools
Generate from Path
Images
JessyInk
Laser Tools
Modify Path
Raster
Render
Stylesheet
Text
Typography
Visualize Path
Web
The Extensions menu contains a wealth of possibilities for adding effects to your vector and bitmap work.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)


*New document 1 - Inkscape
File Edit View Layer Object Path Text Filters Extensions Help
Inkscape Manual
Keys and Mouse Reference
Ask Us a Question
Tutorials
Command Line Options
FAQ
New in This Version
Report a Bug
SVG 1.1 Specification
About Memory
About Inkscape
The Help menu is where you can find the Inkscape Manual, and a nice little selection of easy tutorials for beginners.
Swatches (Shift+Ctrl+W)
Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctrl+F)
Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)
Create Tiled Clones
Layers (Shift+Ctrl+L)

Icons that represent many of the various functions in the **Menu bar** menus will appear in the **Command** bar in the second row for ease of access while designing.

And a brief description of what each of the tools in the **Toolbox** does is available when you hover the mouse over the icon.



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