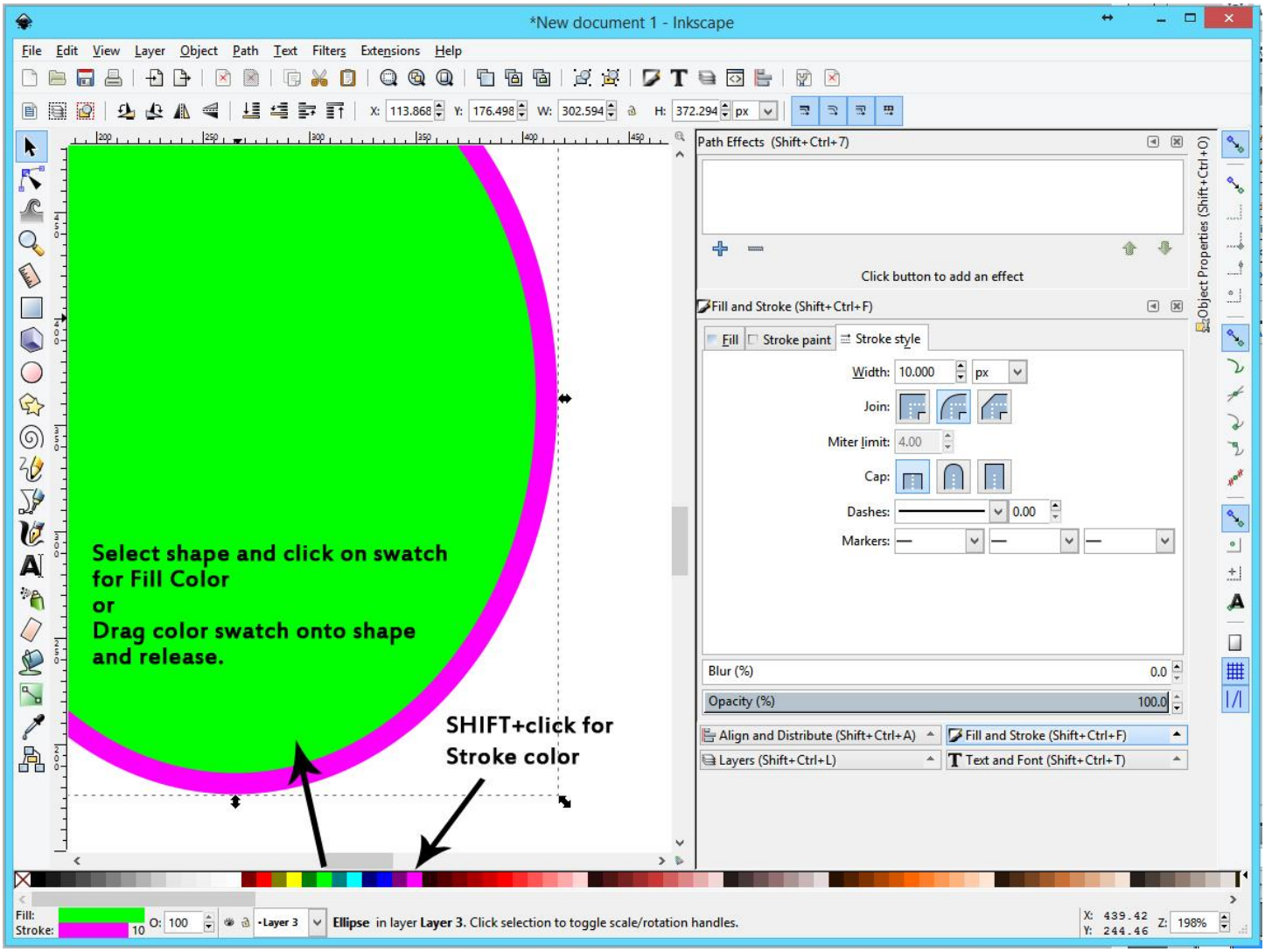
Setting Stroke and Fill Color in Inkscape

Click on a path or shape in Inkscape to select it, and you can set the **Stroke Color**, **Stroke Thickness (Weight)** and **Fill Color** if it is a closed shape.



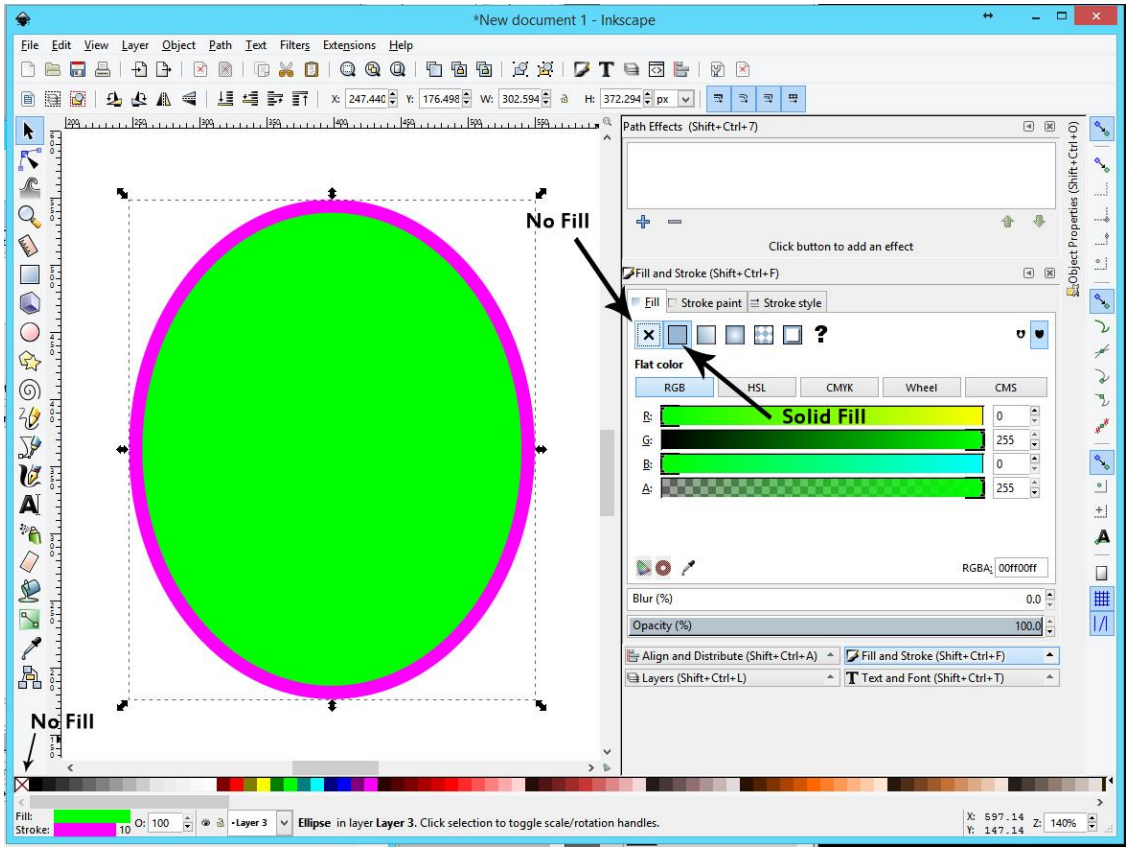
The easiest way to set the Fill and Stroke colors on the fly is to set the **Fill color** by either dragging a swatch from the bottom **Color Palette** onto the shape, or selecting the shape and click on the swatch.

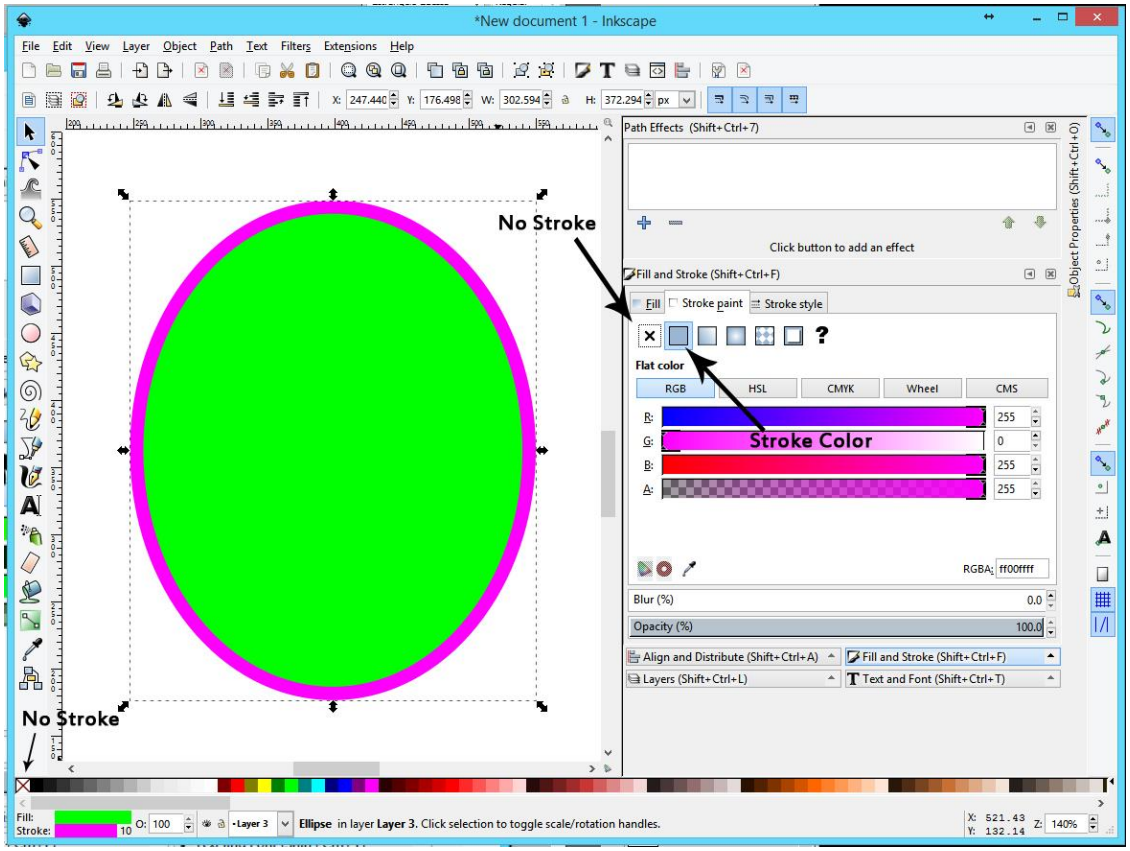
To quickly set the **Stroke color**, hold down the **SHIFT key** and click on a swatch color.

You can also right click on the swatch and an option to set either the Fill or stroke color will pop up.

(Tip: Be sure to keep an eye on the Opacity settings next to the chosen colors on the bottom Status Bar.)

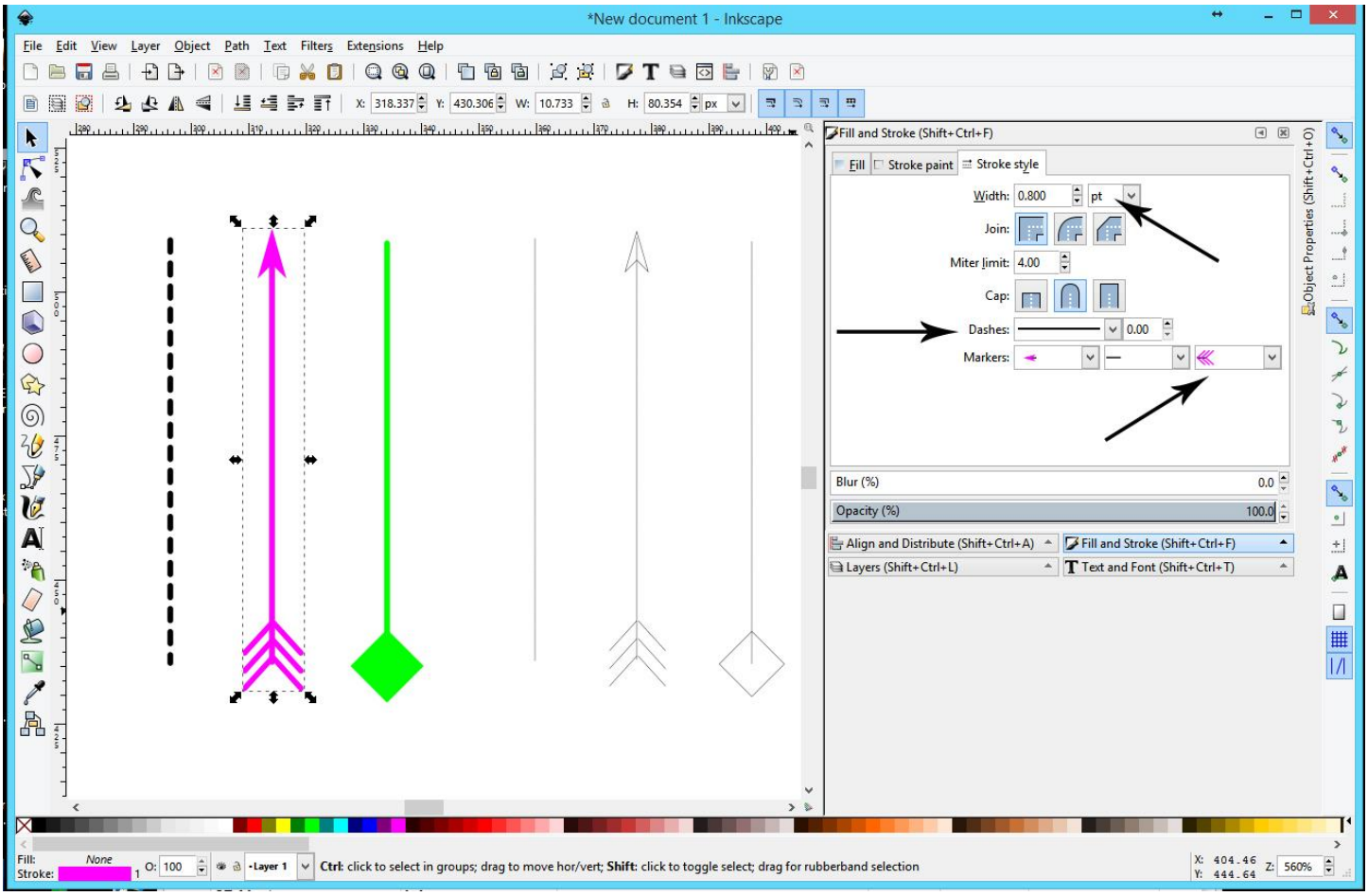
An alternative is to open the **Fill and Stroke Dialog**. There are tabs for setting the Fill and Stroke paint colors, and choosing the **Stroke Style** properties.





The **Stroke Style** tab is where you can set the thickness of the stroke, apply various decorative markers to it (arrowheads, diamonds, etc.) or make it **appear** to be a dashed line on the screen.

*It should be noted that while a dashed line **looks** dashed, it is not actually going to cut that way. The vector path underneath the stroke **is still a solid line** unless you make modifications to it.*

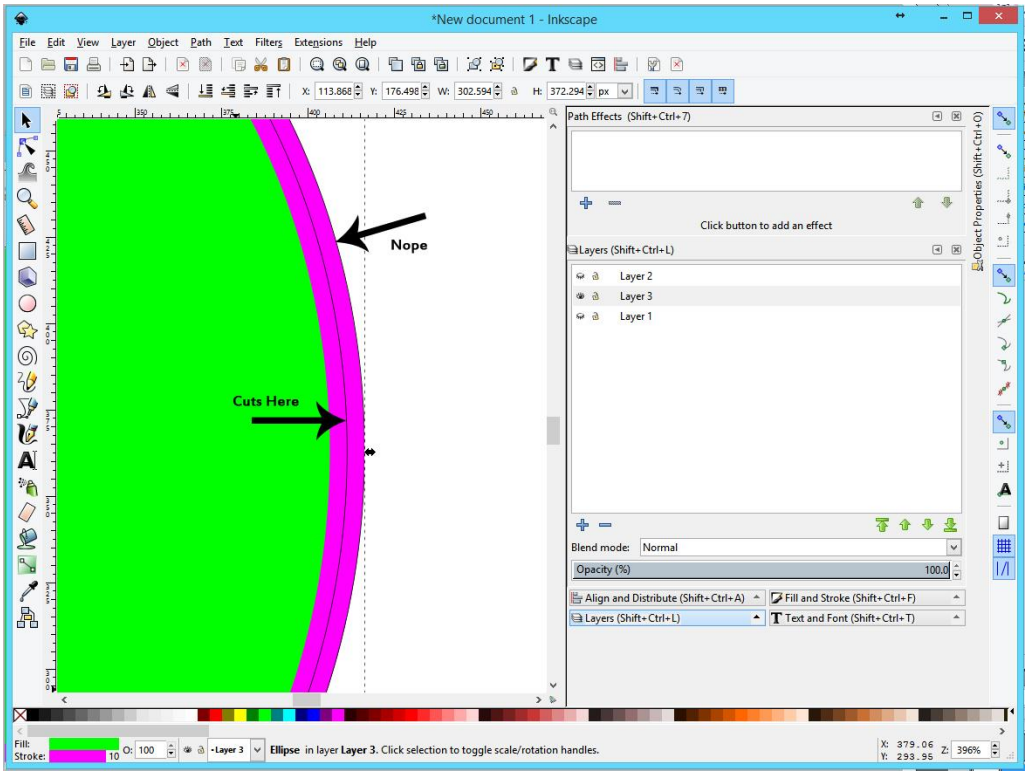


The gray lines to the right are what the actual paths look like for each of the Strokes shown.

You can specify the units (pts, pixels, inches, mm) and the width that you want a stroke to be. If you want to make a line appear to be **Dashed**, there are several options in the pull down menu. The **Markers** can be applied to the first point, any center nodes, and the end point separately.

The Stroke in Inkscape is like a marker pen stroke applied over a pencil sketch underneath. The vector path (pencil line) is always the same size and it is located in the center of whatever Stroke width you choose.

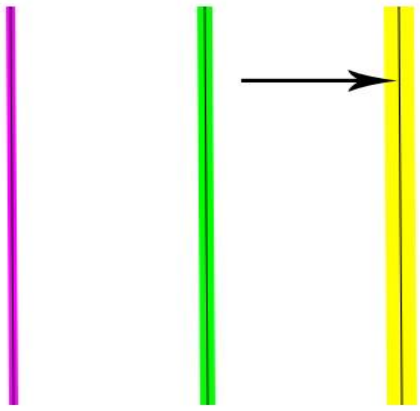
The laser is going to follow the vector path when it cuts. If you design with a wide Stroke on the vector path, you might think that the machine is going to cut out around the outside of the stroke, but it will actually follow that vector path, and might cut the stroke in half, or cut it completely off.



The laser will cut down the center of a wide stroke. Any measurements shown on the screen apply to the actual vector path though, not the appearance.

If your tolerances need to be exact, you will need to use the snapping tools and the measurement tools to make sure that the line cuts where you want it to.

Or design with a very small stroke size…(aka: hairline).



The vector path runs down the center of the Stroke, no matter how wide the stroke is. The only way to see exactly how the laser is going to cut a line, is to turn on the **Outline** View mode.

View > Display Mode > Outline.

Inkscape does not allow you to specify that the stroke falls to the inside or the outside of a vector path.

Please see the tutorial on using **Path Menu – Object to Path, Stroke to Path** for more information on how to convert the path inside a centered stroke into a path that surrounds the stroke.