

Drawing & Text



ImageJ Skill

Drawing tools

ImageJ includes four drawing tools that work the same as similar tools found in most graphic applications.

-  The **Pencil tool** draws in the foreground color. The line width can be set by double-clicking the pencil tool button.
-  The **Paintbrush tool** draws in the foreground color. The brush diameter is set by double-clicking the paintbrush tool button.
-  The **Eraser tool** “erases” to the background color. The eraser diameter is set by double-clicking the eraser tool button.
-  The **Flood fill tool** fills groups of adjacent pixels that have the same value with the foreground color.

In addition to the drawing tools, you can use any selection as a paintbrush. Create an area or line selection, and drag it slowly while holding down the **F** (fill) key to paint in the foreground color, or the **Backspace** key to paint with the background color.

Drawing lines and shapes

Use one or more selection tools to make a selection on the image. (See the **Selecting ImageJ Skill Sheet** for more information on making selections.) To draw the selection boundary, choose **Edit > Draw** or press the **D** key. Choose **Edit > Fill** or press the **F** key to fill the shape with the foreground color. Choose **Edit > Clear** or press the **Backspace** key to fill the selection with the background color.

To set the width of the outline, choose **Edit > Options > Line Width...** or double-click any of the line selection tools.

Adding text to images

To add text to an image:

- Choose **Edit > Options > Fonts...** or double-click the text tool  to set the font, size, and style of text.
- Click on the image using the text tool , and enter the desired text (backspace to delete and edit the text).
- Drag the text frame to reposition the text, if necessary.
- Press **Ctrl-D** (Win) or **Cmd-D** (Mac) to draw the text in the foreground color. (To delete text, choose **Edit > Undo** or press **Ctrl-Z** immediately.)

Antialiased Text ON

Antialiased Text OFF

If you want your text to look less jagged, choose **Edit > Options > Misc...** and turn on the **Antialiased Text** option. For crisper (but jaggier) text, turn the antialiased text option off.

Image types and drawing colors

If the image type is 8-, 16-, or 32-bit, lines and fills will be made in shades of gray rather than the selected foreground color.

To draw on a grayscale image in color, convert the image to RGB color (**Image > Type / RGB Color**).

Foreground and background colors?

The foreground and background colors appear in the Color Picker tool on the ImageJ tool bar.

Foreground Color



Background Color

To set the foreground color, click on a pixel in an image or in the Color Picker window using the Color Picker tool , **Alt-click** (Win), or click the Color Picker's toggle button (Mac) to set the background color. Double-click the Color Picker tool to open the Color Picker window.



Precision color

Double-click anywhere in the Color Picker window to open a window with sliders for adjusting the red, green, and blue components of the foreground color.

