

Geometry

Set the figure’s geometry and position

To view your figure’s geometry properties either click the Geometry button on the inspector bar, or see the Geometry tab in the Inspector shelf.

Bounds

The bounds defines the figure’s size and position in the idea space.

X, Y, Width, Height

Set the figure’s x, y location and the width and height.

Proportional

Set whether the figure is resized proportionally which is enabled by default for images and asset figures displayed as previews.

Natural Size

Clicking Natural Size will restore the figure to its natural, native size. Tip: as a shortcut you can just hit the N key at any time to restore a selected figure to its natural size.

Rotation

Specify the rotation of the figure, or zero the rotation. Tip: use the R and Shift-R keys to rotate a figure in increments either clockwise or counterclockwise. The Z key can be used to zero the rotation.

Auto Layout

The layout control is a method for defining how a figure should *automatically* position and size itself if the idea space changes size.

Springs and Struts

It uses the "springs and struts" method for laying out items. The smaller, inner box represents a figure, which is contained in a larger box which represents the idea space itself. The red and green lines determine whether its position or size is fixed (a strut, represented by a red line) or flexible (a spring, represented by a green arrow).

Examples

For example, give a figure a flexible width and a flexible top margin and you’ve created a footer figure. Place it down at the bottom of your idea space and as the idea space changes size the figure will remain stuck and centered at the bottom of the idea space.

At the top of this page, click on the subheading (“Set the figure’s geometry..”) and look at its layout. It’s set to remain stuck to the right side of the idea space while its width is allowed to change.

Automatic Layout via Idea Space Guidelines

Idea space guidelines provide a helpful margin around an idea space you you can drag and resize items so they snap against the margin or even against the edge of the idea space itself. You can toggle them via the Arrange > Idea Space Guidelines menu.

Start moving or resizing a single figure then hold down the Control key. You'll notice, as you bump against a guideline, the guideline is drawn with red! This indicates that you have set a new strut as a layout constraint and, indeed, if you watch the Geometry inspector as you do this you'll notice springs and struts appearing automatically.

Thanks to this feature you can quickly position and size a figure along with setting appropriate auto layout rules, all without touching the layout control.

Arrange

Drag the slide to bring the selected figures as a group either closer to the top of the figure stack or further back.

If multiple figures are selected then those items are moved independently up and down the figure stack, keeping their same relative stacked distance away from each other. In other words, bringing forward figures placed at 5 and 10 in the figure stack will move them to place 4 and 9, where 0 is at the top of the figure stack.

You can also click on the icons on the far left and right sides of the slider to move the items back or forward in steps.

If the Option key is held down while clicking those back/front icons the selected figures are moved together in figure stack as a group. That means they are grouped together into the same stack placement then moved up and down *en masse*.

Flip

Click the flip buttons to flip an image figure vertically or horizontally.

Align & Distribute