

How to edit photos and design with Nova Studio

Layers, brush, text, shapes, crop and export, step by step. Made for phones, works on any screen.

novaclip.tech · Nova Studio user manual · Updated 9 October 2026

Quick start: your first thumbnail in 6 steps

- 1 Start.** Open a photo, or pick YouTube thumbnail and tap Create canvas.
- 2 Add a picture.** Menu, then Add a photo as a layer.
- 3 Add text.** Choose Text, tap the picture and type.
- 4 Add a shape.** Choose Shapes and drag on the picture.
- 5 Crop.** Choose Crop, pick a ratio and tap Crop.
- 6 Export.** Tap Export, then Make the picture, then Download or Share.

Open [Nova Studio](#) in another tab and follow along.

Before you start

Nova Studio runs in your web browser, so there is nothing to install and nothing to sign up for. It is built for phones first and works the same on tablets and computers.

A modern browser

Chrome or Edge on Android and computers, Safari 16.4 or newer on iPhone and iPad.

Internet, the first time

It is needed to open Nova Studio once. After that it also opens offline.

Space on your device

Designs are saved in the browser. Keep a few hundred MB free if you work with big photos.

No account

You can edit and export without signing in. Photos are never uploaded.

💡 To open it like an app, use your browser menu and choose **Add to Home screen** (or **Install app**).

Start something

When Nova Studio opens you see **Start something**. You can come back to it any time from the menu (⋮) with **New or open....**

Open a photo

Tap **Open a photo** to choose a picture from your gallery, or **Take a photo** to use the camera. The canvas takes the size of your photo. Very large photos are made a little smaller so your device can handle them, and you are told when that happens.

Start from a ready size

Pick a size and tap **Create canvas**:

- **Square post** 1080 × 1080 and **Portrait post** 1080 × 1350 for Instagram and Facebook
- **Story / Reel** 1080 × 1920 for Instagram, WhatsApp status and Shorts
- **Thumbnail** 1280 × 720 for YouTube
- **Cover / banner** 1640 × 624 for Facebook and X
- **Poster** 1654 × 2339, an A4 page at 200 dots per inch
- **Passport photo** 413 × 531, which is 35 × 45 mm at 300 dots per inch
- **Profile picture** 800 × 800

Or type your own width and height (16 to 8192 pixels). Choose a **White**, **Black** or **Clear** (see-through) background. If a size is more than your device can hold, you see the size you will get before you create it.

The screen at a glance

- **Top bar**: the back arrow (to Nova Clip), Undo, Redo, the menu (⋮) and **Export**.
- **Canvas**: your picture. The chip at the top left shows the active layer and opens the Layers sheet. The chip at the top right shows the zoom; tap it to fit the picture to the screen.
- **Options bar**: settings for the tool you chose, such as brush size or crop ratio. Swipe it sideways if it is wider than the screen.

- **Tools:** Move, Transform, Crop, Select, **Retouch**, Brush, Eraser, Fill, Pick, Text, Shapes, Hand, **Adjust** and the Colour button. Swipe the row sideways to see them all.

On a wide screen the tools are in a column on the left, and on a very wide screen the Layers panel stays open on the right.

Touch and mouse

DO THIS	TO GET THIS
Drag with one finger or the mouse	Use the chosen tool (paint, move, draw a shape...)
Pinch with two fingers	Zoom in and out, and move the picture around
Mouse wheel	Zoom in and out
Hold Space and drag, or middle mouse button	Move the picture around (computers)
Hand tool	Drag to move the picture around
Tap the zoom chip	Fit the whole picture on the screen

If you put a second finger down while painting, the stroke is cancelled and you zoom instead. Nothing is left on the picture by mistake.

Layers

A layer is a see-through sheet. Your picture is all the layers stacked together, with the top layer in front. Keeping things on separate layers means you can move, hide or change one without touching the rest.

Tap the layer chip (top left) to open **Layers**. The top layer is first in the list.

- **Tap a layer** to work on it. The tools paint or change the *active* layer.
- **Eye** hides or shows it. **Padlock** locks it so tools cannot change it.
- **Opacity** makes it see-through. **Blend** changes how it mixes with the layers under it: Multiply darkens, Screen lightens, Overlay adds contrast, and 13 more.
- **New** adds an empty layer above the active one. **Photo** adds a picture from your gallery as a layer. **Copy** duplicates the layer.
- **Up** and **Down** change the order. **Merge** joins a layer into the one below it. **Flatten** turns a text or shape layer into plain pixels. **Delete** removes the layer.
- Type in **Name** to rename a layer.

💡 You can have up to 40 layers. Every layer uses memory, so if your device runs low you are told, and you can merge or delete layers to make room.

Every one of these steps can be undone.

Selections

A selection tells Nova Studio which part of the picture to change. Brush, Eraser and Fill only work inside it. Choose **Select** in the tools, then pick a shape in the bar below:

- **Rectangle** and **Ellipse**: drag on the picture.
- **Lasso**: draw round the part you want with your finger. It closes by itself when you lift.
- **Magic wand**: tap a colour and it selects the area of about that colour. **Spread** says how different a colour may be. Choose **Touching area** or **Whole layer**, and **This layer** or **All layers**.

Mode decides what a new selection does: **New** replaces the old one, **Add** joins it, **Subtract** takes the new area away, **Overlap** keeps only what both share. Tap the picture with the selection tool (in New mode) to deselect.

The part that is not selected is dimmed, and the edge is shown with a dashed line. Tap **Actions...** to open the Selection sheet:

- **Select all, Deselect, Invert selection** (swap what is selected).
- **Feather**: pick an amount and tap **Soften the edge** so changes fade in softly instead of stopping at a hard line.
- **Copy** and **Cut** keep the selected pixels. **Paste as a new layer** puts them in the middle of what you see, and picks Move so you can drag them into place.
- **Copy to a new layer** and **Cut out to a new layer** turn the selected pixels into their own layer.
- **Fill with the brush colour** and **Clear** (erase the selected part).

With the **Move** tool, drag *inside* a selection to lift the selected pixels onto their own layer and move them, with the selection. Dragging outside the selection moves the whole layer. Everything can be undone.

💡 To change only the sky in a photo: choose the magic wand, tap the sky, then paint, fill or add a mask. To remove a background: select the thing you want to keep, then **Invert selection** and **Clear**.

Turning, flipping, resizing or cropping the whole picture drops the selection. Undo brings it back. Selections are not kept when you close the page.

Layer masks

A mask hides parts of a layer *without erasing them*. Where the mask is solid you see the layer; where it is clear, you don't. You can change your mind at any time, because the hidden pixels are still there.

- Open **Layers** and tap **Add mask**. With a selection active, the button says **Mask from selection** and only the selected part stays visible.
- While you edit a mask, the layer chip says “· mask”, and the mask thumbnail next to the layer is highlighted. **The brush shows** the picture, **the eraser hides** it. Fill selection and Clear work on the mask too.
- Tap **Edit picture** to paint the layer itself again, or tap the mask thumbnail to go back to the mask.
- **Hide mask** turns it off for a moment. **Invert mask** swaps hidden and shown. **Apply mask** cuts the hidden pixels out for good. **Remove mask** shows the whole layer again.

Masks go with the layer when you copy, move, scale, turn or merge it, and they are saved with your design. Text and shape layers cannot take a mask: tap **Flatten** first.

💡 Use a soft brush on a mask to blend two photos smoothly: put one photo on top of the other, add a mask to the top one, and paint away the part you want to disappear.

Adjust, effects and looks

Tap **Adjust** in the tools to change the light and colour of the active layer. The sheet opens at the bottom (or on the right of a wide screen) and *the picture stays visible above it*, so you watch the change as you move a slider. You can pinch to zoom the picture while the sheet is open. Tap **Apply** to keep the change, or **Cancel** to leave the picture as it was. Apply is one step you can undo.

The small graph at the top is the **histogram**. It shows how much of the picture is dark, middle and bright (grey), and for red, green and blue. A graph bunched in the middle means a dull, flat picture. A graph pushed against the left edge means it is too dark.

Light

- **Brightness** and **Contrast**.
- **Highlights** changes only the bright parts (bring down a burnt-out sky). **Shadows** changes only the dark parts (open up a dark face).
- **Fade** lifts the blacks for a soft, film look.
- **Auto light** stretches the picture so the darkest part is black and the lightest is white. **Auto colour** does it for red, green and blue on their own, which also removes a colour cast.

Curves

A curve shows *what goes in* (left to right, dark to bright) and *what comes out* (bottom to top). A straight diagonal line changes nothing. **Tap the line** to add a point and **drag** it: up makes that part lighter, down makes it darker. The line is always smooth. Pick **RGB** to change all the colours together, or **Red**, **Green** or **Blue** to change one colour on its own (pull Blue up for a cooler picture, down for a warmer one). The pale shape behind the line is the histogram of your picture.

- **Contrast**, **Lighten**, **Darken** and **Fade** set a ready curve for the chosen colour. **Delete point** removes the point you picked (the two end points stay). **Straighten** makes the line straight again.
- Curves work with the other tabs and with a selection, like everything in Adjust.

Colour

- **Saturation** (at the far left the picture turns black and white) and **Vibrance** (lifts dull colours more than strong ones, so skin does not turn orange).
- **Warmth** makes it warmer (orange) or cooler (blue). **Tint** moves it towards green or pink. **Hue** turns all the colours round the colour wheel. **Sepia** gives an old-photo brown.

Effects

- **Blur**, **Sharpen** and **Pixelate**. Their size follows the size of the picture, so what you see is what you get.
- **Motion blur** smears the picture along a line, as if the camera moved. **Motion angle** turns the line (0 is sideways, 90 is up and down).
- **Clarity** adds punch to the middle tones, so details and edges stand out without making the dark and bright parts harsh.
- **Grain** adds film noise. **Vignette** darkens the corners (or, to the left, lightens them). **Invert colours** makes a negative.

Art

- **Posterize** cuts the colours into a few flat steps. All the way to the right leaves only two steps per colour.
- **Black and white only** turns everything darker than the slider into black and the rest into white, like a photocopy.
- **Outline** draws dark lines where the picture changes quickly, on white, like a pencil drawing.

Looks

Thirteen ready looks, each shown on your own picture: Vivid, Warm, Cool, Bright, Fade, Matte, B&W, Noir, Sepia, Vintage, Dramatic, Cinema and Sunset. Tap one, then use **Strength** to make it gentler or stronger. After choosing a look you can still change any slider on the other tabs. **Reset all** starts again.

💡 To change only part of a picture, make a **selection** first (see Selections), then tap Adjust. Only the selected part changes, and a feathered edge blends the change in softly. To brighten just a face, select it with the Ellipse, feather it, then raise Shadows.

While the Adjust sheet is open the other tools wait. If a text or shape layer is active, it is turned into a picture first, because colour changes work on pixels. For very large pictures the preview is a little softer than the final result. Apply always works on the full-size picture.

Gradient

Choose **Gradient** and **drag across the picture** from where the colour should start to where it should end. It is painted when you lift your finger, as one step you can undo.

- **Straight** blends along the line you drag. **Round** starts in the middle (where you press) and grows out to where you lift.
- Pick a colour set: **Colour to colour** (your brush colour to your background colour), **Colour to clear** (your brush colour fading away), **Black to white**, **Sunset**, **Ocean**, **Rainbow**, **Gold** or **Fire**. **Flip** swaps the ends and **Opacity** makes it see-through.
- With a **selection**, the gradient is painted only inside it.
- When you are **editing a layer mask**, light shows the layer and dark hides it. A **Black to white** drag fades a picture in or out smoothly, which is the best way to blend two pictures together.

💡 For a soft dark bottom on a thumbnail so white text reads well: add a new layer, choose Gradient and **Colour to clear** with black as the brush colour, and drag up from the bottom edge.

Retouch

Choose **Retouch** and pick a mode in the bar. All of them paint with a brush on the picture of the active layer, and one Undo takes back a whole stroke. They respect a selection, so you can retouch only inside it. **Size** and **Soft edge** are the same as for the Brush.

- **Clone**: copies one part of the picture onto another. Tap **Set source**, tap the part to copy from (a green circle marks it), then paint where you want the copy. The source follows your brush at the same distance. On a computer you can hold **Alt** and click to set the source. **Opacity** makes the copy fainter.
- **Heal**: like Clone, but the copied patch is matched to the light and colour around where you paint, so it blends in. Use it to cover a scar or a wire with skin or sky from nearby.
- **Spot heal**: paint (or just tap) a small spot such as a pimple or a dust mark. A clean patch nearby is found for you and blended in. Use a brush a little bigger than the spot.

- **Dodge** lightens and **Burn** darkens where you paint. Choose **Shadows**, **Midtones** or **Highlights** to say which part is changed, and **Exposure** for how strongly. Painting over the same place again makes it stronger.
- **Smudge** drags the colours along with your finger, like wet paint. **Strength** says how far the colour is carried.
- **Blur** softens where you paint (smooth skin, a distracting background). **Sharpen** adds crispness where you paint (eyes, hair, text on a sign). **Strength** says how much.

Magic erase: remove something from a photo

(*PRO tag, free for now.*) Choose **Magic erase** in the Retouch bar, **paint over what you want to remove** (a red marker shows what you are painting), then **lift your finger**. After a few seconds the spot is filled in from the picture around it. A single tap removes a small speck. **Size** sets the brush.

- It works on your device. Nothing is uploaded and no AI service is used. It looks at the picture around the spot and copies matching patches into the gap, so plain skies, walls and grass, and patterns such as stripes, tiles or a checkerboard, carry on through the gap.
- **Where it works best:** a small or medium thing on a plain or repeating background: a wire across the sky, a sign on a wall, a bin on the grass, a mark on a table, a person far away on a beach.
- **Where it will not look perfect:** a big thing in front of a busy, detailed scene (a crowd, a face, a building with windows). It can only copy what is already in the picture, so it cannot invent what was hidden behind. Paint a little at a time, and use Undo if you do not like it.
- With a **selection**, only the selected part is changed. If the area is too big for your phone, you are told to remove it in smaller parts. It needs a layer without see-through parts, so for a cut-out, put it on a background and merge first (Layers, Merge).
- One Undo takes the whole stroke back.

Liquify: push, bloat and pinch

These three move the picture itself, like soft clay. They need a soft edge, so a harder brush is softened a little.

- **Push** drags the picture along with your finger. Start next to the part you want to move and drag. Good for straightening a strand of hair or nudging a jawline. A tap on its own does nothing.
- **Bloat** makes the spot under the brush bigger, and **Pinch** makes it smaller. **Hold your finger still** and the effect keeps growing; lift when it looks right. Use Bloat for eyes or lips and Pinch for a nose or waist, a little at a time.
- **Strength** sets how fast it moves. Keep it low and go slowly for natural results. Everything can be undone in one step, and a selection limits what moves.



Retouch on a copy of your photo layer (Layers, then Copy), so you can hide it and compare, or lower its opacity to make the effect gentler.

If the active layer is text or a shape it is turned into a picture first. Retouching works on the picture, not on a layer mask.

Layer styles

Open **Layers**, choose a layer and tap **Style**. The sheet leaves the picture visible above it, and the layer changes as you move a slider. **Done** keeps it (one step you can undo). **Cancel** puts the layer back as it was.

- **Drop shadow:** a soft shadow behind the layer. Set its colour, **Opacity**, **Blur**, **Distance** and **Angle** (which way it falls).
- **Outline:** a coloured edge round the shape of the layer (round the letters of a text, or round a cut-out). Great for thumbnails.
- **Glow:** a soft light round the layer.

Styles are not painted into the layer. Text and shapes stay editable, you can change the style again later, and layer opacity fades the style with the layer. When you **Merge** a layer down, the style is baked into the picture. Styles are saved with your design and exported with it.

Templates

✂ **Thumbnail in one go:** the free [YouTube thumbnail maker](#) opens the YouTube designs, or starts a 1280 × 720 thumbnail from your own photo with a title on top.

The **Start something** sheet (menu, then **New or open...**) has twelve ready designs: three YouTube thumbnails (Big & bold, Reaction, Tutorial), Instagram posts (Quote, Sale, Festival), Instagram portrait posts (Birthday, Minimal), two Stories (Big news, Ask me) and two A4 posters (Event, Mega sale).

Tap one and it opens at the right size. Everything is made of normal layers, so it is yours to change: tap a text with the Text tool to change the words, font or colour, drag things with Move, change colours of shapes in the Shapes options, add your own photo with **Add a photo as a layer**, or use Adjust and Retouch on it. The preview shows how the template looks now.

💡 Your photo goes in a layer. Use Layers, Up and Down to put it behind the text, and Transform, Fill to make it cover the whole picture.

Browse all templates

(*PRO tag, free for now.*) Under the twelve starters, tap **Browse all templates** (or open the menu and tap **Templates...**). About 700 designs open in a list:

- **Search** with a word such as *diwali*, *sale*, *gaming* or *salon*. Two words work together, for example *thumbnail gaming*.
- **Type chips** narrow the list to YouTube, Story, Instagram post, Instagram portrait, Poster, Festival or Business. Then **topic chips** appear, such as Diwali, Holi, Eid, Christmas, Birthday, Gym or Restaurant.
- Tap a design to open it at the right size (1280 × 720, 1080 × 1080, 1080 × 1350, 1080 × 1920 or A4). Tap any text to change it. Words that are longer than the space are made smaller to fit.
- Twelve starters are free. The others have a PRO tag, which is free for now.

Passport photos

✂ **Faster way:** open the [free passport photo maker](#). Pick a size (35 × 45 mm, 2 × 2 inch, 50 × 70 mm, 33 × 48 mm or 25 × 35 mm) and your photo, and it opens already cut to size, with the face guide on and the transform handles ready. Then just tap Export.

In **Start something** choose **Passport photo** (413 × 531 px, which is 35 × 45 mm at 300 dots per inch, used in India, the UK, the EU and many other places) or **US passport** (600 × 600 px, 2 × 2 inch). A dotted **guide** is drawn over the picture: an oval for the head, a line for the eyes and a centre line. It is only a guide and is never exported. Use the menu to hide or show it.

1. Add your photo with **Add a photo as a layer** (a straight, well-lit photo with a plain wall behind you works best).
2. Use **Transform** to move and scale it until your face fits the oval and your eyes are near the horizontal line.
3. Fill the background with the colour your office asks for (usually white): select it with the Magic wand, then **Fill with the brush colour**, or use Fill.
4. Tap **Export**. For a small picture there is a **Layout** choice: **Print sheet 4 × 6 in** fits 6 copies of the passport size on one photo-paper sheet, and **Print sheet A4** fits 30. Make the picture, download it, and print it at **actual size (100%)**, with no “fit to page”. Thin grey lines show where to cut.

Rules differ from country to country (the size of the head, the background, no glasses...). Always check the rules for your document before you print many copies.

Remove the background

✂ **Faster way:** the free [background remover](#) opens your photo, removes the background and opens Export set to PNG, in one go.

Open a photo of a person, then open the **menu** and tap **Remove the background** (you can also find it in the **Selection** sheet). A small model finds the person on your device. The first time it downloads once (about 1 MB), so you need the internet for that one time. Your photo is never uploaded.

- The result is a **layer mask**, so nothing is lost. Tap the layer chip and choose **Edit mask**: the brush paints the background back, the eraser hides more.
- **Select the person** (in the Selection sheet) makes a selection of the person instead, so you can copy them to a new layer or change only them.
- It works best on clear photos of people. It does not find animals or objects, and it tells you when it finds nobody.
- Undo brings the background back in one step.

 Remove the background, Select the person, Magic erase, Brand kit, Batch edit, the extra templates, PSD files and Save all designs all carry a **PRO** tag. They are free today. The tag only shows which tools may become paid later.

Brand kit

Save the look of your channel, shop or page once, and use it in every design with one tap. Open the **menu** and tap **Brand kit**. It is saved on your device only (it is not uploaded, and it stays when you close the app).

- **Colours:** up to ten. Tap **Add the brush colour**, or **Pick a colour....** Tap a colour to make it your brush colour. Tap the little ✕ to remove one. Your brand colours also appear as a **Brand colours** row in every colour picker (for text, shapes, fills and the canvas), so you never have to type a code again.
- **Fonts:** choose a **Heading font** and a **Text font**. **Add a heading** and **Add text** put a new text on your design in those fonts, in your first and second brand colours, ready to type.
- **Logo:** tap **Choose logo...** and pick a picture (a PNG with a see-through background is best). It is kept at up to 1024 pixels. Choose a corner (or the centre) and a size, then tap **Place logo**. The logo becomes its own layer with a small margin from the edge, so you can still move or resize it. **Remove** (tap twice) deletes the saved logo.

💡 For a channel: save your two or three colours, pick your fonts, add your logo once, and then every new thumbnail starts with Add a heading and Place logo. Clearing your browser's site data removes the kit, so keep your logo file somewhere safe.

Batch edit

✂ Only need to make photos smaller? The free [image resizer](#) opens this same sheet without the look, light and logo parts. Batch edit also has a **480 px** size, and tells you how big the photos were before and are now.

(*PRO tag, free for now.*) Give up to **10 photos** the same edit in one go, and save them all in one ZIP. Open the **menu** and tap **Batch edit**. Your photos stay on your device.

- **Choose photos...** and pick up to ten. Tap the little ✕ on a thumbnail to take one out, or **Clear** to start again.
- The **first photo** is shown at the top, edited, and it stays there while you scroll the settings. Hold **Hold to see the original** to compare.
- **Look** picks one of the 13 looks (and **Strength** says how much). **Light and colour** adds Brightness, Contrast, Saturation and Warmth on top. **Auto-enhance each photo** stretches every photo's own light, so a dull photo and a bright one both come out balanced.
- **Size** makes the longest side 2048, 1080 or 720 pixels (good for Instagram, WhatsApp and the web), or keeps the original size. A photo is never made bigger than it was.
- **Logo:** if you saved a logo in the [Brand kit](#), switch on **Add my logo**, pick a corner and a size. It goes on every photo.
- **Save as** JPG, PNG or WebP (with a Quality slider for JPG and WebP). Then tap **Edit all photos** and, when it is ready, the **Download** button. Photos come back as **name-nova.jpg**, in one ZIP (one photo is saved as a single picture).

💡 A photo that cannot be opened is skipped and you are told. Your open design is not changed. A very big photo is made a little smaller if your phone cannot hold it.

Brush and eraser

Choose **Brush** and drag on the picture. In the bar below:

- **Size** from 1 to 400 pixels. The slider gives you more control at small sizes.
- **Soft edge** makes the stroke fade at its edges, like an airbrush. At 0 it is a hard, crisp line.

- **Opacity** makes the stroke see-through. The whole stroke has the same opacity, so crossing over yourself does not make darker spots.
- **Smooth** steadies a wobbly line.

With a stylus, pressing harder makes a bigger stroke. The **Eraser** works the same way and makes the layer see-through instead of painting. Each stroke is one undo step.

If you paint on a text or shape layer, it is turned into a picture first so you can paint on it. Undo brings the text back.

Fill and eyedropper

Fill

Choose **Fill** and tap an area of the active layer. It fills the area that is about the same colour. **Spread** says how different a colour can be and still be filled. Choose **Whole layer** to fill every matching pixel, not just the touching area.

Pick

Choose **Pick**, then tap or drag on the picture. The brush colour becomes the colour under your finger. It picks what you can see, from all the layers together.

Colour

Tap the **Colour** button in the tools. Pick one of 16 colours, one of your 8 recent colours, or any colour with the colour picker. You can also type a hex code such as `#ff8800` (or the short form, `f80`). Tap **Swap** to swap the brush colour and the background colour.

Text, shapes and the canvas background open the same sheet. Where it makes sense there is a button for **No colour**, for example to take away a shape's fill or an outline.

Text

Choose **Text** and tap the picture. A sheet opens where you type your words. They appear on the picture as you type.

- **Font:** Sans, Heavy, Rounded, Serif, Comic, Script, Typewriter and Narrow. These use fonts that are already on your device, so they look a little different on different devices.
- **B** and **I** for bold and italic. **Left**, **Centre**, **Right** for lines of text.
- **Size**, **Line gap**, **Letter gap** with sliders.
- **Bend** curves the words along a circle. To the right they arch up and over (like a rainbow), to the left they curve like a smile, and all the way is half a circle. Several lines bend together. The middle of the slider is straight text. A text stays bent and editable after you save and come back.

- **Colour, Outline** (a coloured edge, great for thumbnails), **Shadow** and **Box** (a coloured box behind the words).

Tap **Done** when you are finished. To change a text later, tap it with the Text tool. Drag it with the Text tool to move it. Text stays editable until you paint on it or flip the whole canvas. If you empty a text, its layer is removed.

💡 For a round badge or logo, add an arched text on top and a smile-bent text below it, then put a Ring shape around them.

💡 A new text starts in a colour that is easy to read on whatever is under it. After you pick a colour yourself, new texts use your colour.

Shapes

Choose **Shapes** and drag on the picture. The shape fits the box you drag. A single tap adds a shape of a standard size. There are twenty-two: Rectangle, Rounded, Ellipse, Triangle, Diamond, Star, Hexagon, Heart, Speech, Arrow, Line, Plus, Pentagon, Octagon, Slant, Trapezoid, Burst, Cloud, Moon, Bolt, Ring and Big arrow.

In the bar below, choose the shape (tap its name to see all of them), its **Fill** colour, its **Outline** colour and width, and for Rounded the **Corners**. When a shape layer is selected, these settings change that shape. Everything can be undone, and shapes stay editable.

Move and transform

Move

Choose **Move** and drag. With **Pick layer by tapping** on, touching something selects the layer under your finger and moves it. Turn it off to always move the active layer.

Transform

Choose **Transform**. A frame with handles appears around the active layer. Drag a corner to make it bigger or smaller, drag the green circle above it to turn it (it clicks into place at 0°, 45°, 90°...), and drag anywhere else to move it. In the bar:

- **Keep shape / Free shape:** corners keep the proportions, or stretch each side on its own.
- **Fit** puts the whole layer inside the canvas. **Fill** covers the whole canvas.
- **Turn left / right** by 90°. **Flip** left-right or up-down. **Reset** goes back to the start.
- **Apply** finishes. Changing tool or layer also applies it.

Text and shapes are redrawn sharp at the new size, so they never go blurry. Photos are resampled once, when you apply.

Crop

Choose **Crop**. A box with a grid appears. Drag a corner or a side to change it, or drag inside to move it. Pick a ratio (**Free**, **1:1**, **4:5**, **3:4**, **16:9**, **9:16**, **3:2**) to keep the shape. The box shows its size in pixels. Tap **Crop** to cut. Everything outside the box is removed from the canvas (the layers keep their pixels, so Undo brings it all back).

Canvas and image size

Open the menu (⋮):

- **Image size** scales everything to a new width and height. Keep the ratio on to avoid stretching.
- **Canvas size** makes the canvas bigger or smaller without stretching anything. Pick an **anchor** to say which part stays put. Use it to add space around a picture.
- **Rotate canvas left / right** turns the whole picture by 90°.
- **Flip canvas** mirrors the whole picture. Text and shapes become pictures when mirrored, so the words are not backwards.
- **Canvas background colour** changes the colour behind your layers, or makes it see-through.

Export and share

Tap **Export**. Choose:

- **JPG** for photos and the smallest file. Empty areas become white. **Quality** sets the balance of size and detail.
- **PNG** keeps see-through areas and every detail. Files are bigger.
- **WebP** is small like JPG and can keep see-through areas. Not every app opens it.
- **PSD** (*PRO tag, free for now*) is a Photoshop file that keeps every layer apart, with its name, opacity, blend mode and whether it is hidden. Masks and layer styles are baked into each layer. Text and shapes become pictures. Open it in Photoshop, Photopea, Affinity or Krita.
- **Size** 25%, 50%, 100% or 200% of the canvas. A size that is too big for your device is blocked, and you are told.

Tap **Make the picture**. You see the result and its size. Tap **Download** to save it, or **Share** to send it to WhatsApp, Instagram or any app. If your browser cannot open the share menu for files, download it and send it from your gallery or Files app.

For a picture (JPG, PNG or WebP) you also see **Use in Nova Animate**. It opens Nova Animate with your picture as the background of a new cartoon, ready for you to draw on. From Animate you can open the finished video in Nova Clip.

Open a PSD

Use **New or open...** and choose a `.psd` file (or drag it onto the canvas on a computer). Each Photoshop layer becomes a layer, with its name, opacity, blend mode and place. Text, groups and effects from Photoshop become plain pictures. Only 8-bit RGB files can be opened. If a PSD is too big, you are told.

Saving and My designs

Your work is saved automatically on your device a moment after you change something. Nothing is uploaded. When you come back, you land in the design you were working on, with all its layers still editable.

Open **My designs** from the menu to see your designs. For each one you can **open** it, **copy** it, **delete** it (tap the bin twice), or tap its name to rename it. Nova Studio keeps up to 30 designs.

Save all designs (*PRO tag, free for now*): at the bottom of My designs, tap **All as JPG (ZIP)** or **All as PNG (ZIP)**. Nova Studio makes a picture of each design and puts them in one ZIP file, then shows a **Download** button.

 Designs live in your browser. If you clear the browser's site data, use a private window, or remove the app, they are gone. Export anything you want to keep for good.

Ideas to try

- **A YouTube thumbnail:** start with Thumbnail, add a photo as a layer, use Fill to cover the canvas, add big Heavy text with a thick outline and a shadow, and add an arrow shape.
- **A greeting for a festival:** a Square post with a dark background, a few bright Star shapes, and Script text with a shadow.
- **A profile picture:** open a selfie, crop 1:1, and add a coloured circle on a layer under it.
- **A passport photo:** start with Passport photo, add your photo, use Transform to fit your face, fill the background with the colour you need, and export as JPG.
- **A poster:** start with Poster, use shapes for blocks of colour, and put your title and details in text layers.

Keyboard shortcuts

On a computer:

KEY	DOES
V R C M	Move, Transform, Crop, Select
B E G I S	Brush, Eraser, Fill, Pick, Retouch
T U H L	Text, Shapes, Hand, Gradient
[]	Smaller or bigger brush
X / D	Swap brush and background colour / reset to black and white
Space + drag	Move the picture around
Ctrl + 0	Fit the picture on the screen
Ctrl + Z (Cmd + Z)	Undo
Ctrl + Y or Ctrl + Shift + Z	Redo
Ctrl + J	Duplicate the layer, or copy the selection to a new layer (Shift cuts it out)
Ctrl + A / D / Shift + I	Select all / deselect / invert the selection
Ctrl + C / X	Copy / cut the selection
Ctrl + S	Export
Enter / Esc	Apply / cancel a transform or crop
Delete	Clear the selected part, or delete the layer when nothing is selected
Ctrl + V	Paste what you copied (or a picture from the clipboard) as a new layer

You can also drag a picture file from your computer onto the canvas to add it as a layer.

Common problems

My design is gone

Designs are saved in your browser. In a private or incognito window, or after clearing site data, they are not kept. Open the menu and check **My designs**. Export anything important.

“This device is out of memory for another picture”

Every layer uses memory, a big photo most of all. Delete or merge layers you do not need, or use a smaller photo. Closing other tabs also helps.

Clone or Heal says to set a source

Tap **Set source** in the bar, then tap the part of the picture you want to copy from. Then paint where you want the copy. If you tap a new source, the next stroke starts a new copy.

Spot heal cannot find a clean patch

Use a smaller brush, or use Heal and choose the source yourself. Spot heal needs room around the spot.

The layer style looks cut off or does nothing

Open Layers, choose the layer, tap Style and make sure the effect is ticked. Very large pictures cannot carry a style on small devices. Make the layer smaller or merge it first.

The Adjust sheet says the layer is hidden or locked

Adjust works on the active layer. Open Layers, show or unlock that layer, then tap Adjust again.

Applying an adjustment says there is not enough memory

Blur and sharpen need a lot of memory on very large pictures. Close other tabs, merge or delete layers you do not need, or make the picture smaller with Image size, then try again.

Brush or Fill does nothing

If something is selected, they only work inside the selection. Tap **Deselect**, or choose Select and tap the picture. Also check that you are not editing a mask (the layer chip says “mask”).

A tool says the layer is hidden or locked

Open Layers and tap the eye or the padlock of that layer.

My photo opened smaller than it was

Phones cannot edit pictures with tens of millions of pixels, so very big photos are made a little smaller when they open. You are told when this happens.

The picture I downloaded is a different format

Some browsers cannot make WebP. They save a PNG instead and tell you. Choose JPG or PNG if you need a specific format.

Remove the background says it could not load the model

The cut-out model downloads the first time you use it, so you need the internet once. Connect, try again, and after that it works.

Remove the background could not find a person

It is made for photos of people. Use a photo where the person is clear and not very small. For other things, use the Magic wand and a mask.

My PSD will not open

Only 8-bit RGB PSD files are supported (not CMYK, 16-bit or the large PSB format). In Photoshop, use Image, Mode, RGB Color and 8 Bits/Channel, tick Maximize Compatibility when saving, and try again.

The share button is missing

Your browser cannot open the share menu for files. Tap **Download**, then send the file from your gallery or Files app.

The bottom of the screen is hidden behind the phone's buttons

Refresh the page. Nova Studio fits itself to the visible area, including when the address bar hides.

Still stuck? Visit the [Help Center](#), or write to team@novaclip.tech with your phone model and browser.