



# Java GUI Notes (Swing-Based)



## What is a GUI?

A **GUI (Graphical User Interface)** allows users to interact with programs using graphical elements like **windows, buttons, text fields**, etc., instead of just typing commands.

In Java, GUI development is commonly done using **Swing**, which is part of the javax.swing package.

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## 1. Getting Started with Swing



### Important Swing Components:

Component	Description
JFrame	Main window
JLabel	Displays text/images
JButton	Clickable button
TextField	Single-line input field
JTextArea	Multi-line input field
JCheckBox	Checkbox
JRadioButton	Radio button
JComboBox	Drop-down list
JPanel	Groups multiple components



# First GUI Program

🎯 Goal: Display a simple window with a label

```
import javax.swing.*;

public class HelloGUI {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("My First GUI");
        JLabel label = new JLabel("Hello, World!", SwingConstants.CENTER);

        frame.setSize(300, 200);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        frame.add(label); // add label to frame
        frame.setVisible(true); // show frame
    }
}
```



## Code Explanation:

- **JFrame**: The main application window.
- **JLabel**: Used to show a line of text.
- **setSize()**: Sets width and height of the frame.
- **setDefaultCloseOperation()**: Closes app when "X" is clicked.
- **add()**: Adds the label to the frame.
- **setVisible(true)**: Displays the window on screen.



## 2. Adding Interactivity with JButton

🎯 Goal: Show a message when a button is clicked

```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ButtonExample {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("Button Example");
        JButton button = new JButton("Click Me");

        button.setBounds(100, 100, 120, 40);

        button.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
            public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
                JOptionPane.showMessageDialog(null, "You clicked the button!");
            }
        });

        frame.setSize(300, 300);
        frame.setLayout(null); // absolute positioning
        frame.add(button);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        frame.setVisible(true);
    }
}
```



### Code Explanation:

- **JButton**: Creates a clickable button.
- **addActionListener()**: Handles click events.
- **JOptionPane**: Pops up a message dialog box.
- **setBounds()**: (x, y, width, height) – position and size.



## 3. Layout Managers

### Common Layouts

Layout	Description
FlowLayout	Left-to-right, wraps around
BorderLayout	NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, CENTER
GridLayout	Equal-sized grid layout
BoxLayout	Line up components in a row/column



### Example: BorderLayout

```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ButtonExample {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("Button Example");
        JButton button = new JButton("Click Me");

        button.setBounds(100, 100, 120, 40);

        button.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
            public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
                JOptionPane.showMessageDialog(null, "You clicked the button!");
            }
        });

        frame.setSize(300, 300);
        frame.setLayout(null); // absolute positioning
        frame.add(button);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        frame.setVisible(true);
    }
}
```



## 4. Input Fields (JTextField)

 Goal: Read input from a text field and show it in a dialog.

```
1. import javax.swing.*;
2. import java.awt.event.*;
3.
4. public class TextFieldExample {
5.     public static void main(String[] args) {
6.         JFrame frame = new JFrame("Input Example");
7.         JLabel label = new JLabel("Enter your name:");
8.         JTextField textField = new JTextField();
9.         JButton button = new JButton("Submit");
10.
11.         label.setBounds(50, 50, 120, 30);
12.         textField.setBounds(180, 50, 150, 30);
13.         button.setBounds(130, 100, 100, 30);
14.
15.         button.addActionListener(e -> {
16.             String name = textField.getText();
17.             JOptionPane.showMessageDialog(null, "Hello, " + name + "!");
18.         });
19.
20.         frame.add(label);
21.         frame.add(textField);
22.         frame.add(button);
23.         frame.setLayout(null);
24.         frame.setSize(400, 200);
25.         frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
26.         frame.setVisible(true);
27.     }
28. }
29.
```



## 5. Checkboxes and Radio Buttons

```
1. import javax.swing.*;
2.
3. public class CheckRadioExample {
4.     public static void main(String[] args) {
5.         JFrame frame = new JFrame("Options Example");
6.
7.         JCheckBox checkBox = new JCheckBox("Subscribe to newsletter");
8.         checkBox.setBounds(50, 50, 200, 30);
9.
10.        JRadioButton male = new JRadioButton("Male");
11.        JRadioButton female = new JRadioButton("Female");
12.        male.setBounds(50, 90, 100, 30);
13.        female.setBounds(150, 90, 100, 30);
14.
15.        ButtonGroup genderGroup = new ButtonGroup();
16.        genderGroup.add(male);
17.        genderGroup.add(female);
18.
19.        frame.add(checkBox);
20.        frame.add(male);
21.        frame.add(female);
22.        frame.setLayout(null);
23.        frame.setSize(300, 200);
24.        frame.setVisible(true);
25.        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
26.    }
27. }
```

## Explanation:

- **JCheckBox**: Allows selecting multiple options.
- **JRadioButton** + **ButtonGroup**: Allows selecting only one option at a time.

## 6. JComboBox (Drop-down list)

```
1. import javax.swing.*;
2.
3. public class JComboBoxExample {
4.     public static void main(String[] args) {
5.         JFrame frame = new JFrame("ComboBox Example");
6.
7.         String[] countries = {"India", "Canada", "USA", "Germany"};
8.         JComboBox<String> comboBox = new JComboBox<>(countries);
9.
10.        comboBox.setBounds(100, 50, 150, 30);
11.        frame.add(comboBox);
12.
13.        frame.setSize(300, 200);
14.        frame.setLayout(null);
15.        frame.setVisible(true);
16.        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
17.    }
18. }
19.
```

## 7. Events and Listeners

### Common Listeners:

- **ActionListener** – Used with buttons
- **ItemListener** – For checkboxes/comboboxes
- **MouseListener** – Mouse clicks, enter/exit
- **KeyListener** – Keyboard input

Listeners let you **react to user actions**.



## 8. Custom Drawing with JPanel

```
1. import javax.swing.*;
2. import java.awt.*;
3.
4. class MyPanel extends JPanel {
5.     public void paintComponent(Graphics g) {
6.         super.paintComponent(g);
7.         g.drawString("This is custom drawing!", 50, 50);
8.     }
9. }
10.
11. public class CustomDrawing {
12.     public static void main(String[] args) {
13.         JFrame frame = new JFrame("Custom Drawing");
14.         MyPanel panel = new MyPanel();
15.
16.         frame.add(panel);
17.         frame.setSize(300, 200);
18.         frame.setVisible(true);
19.         frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
20.     }
21. }
22.
```



## 9. Advanced GUI: Multi-Window GUI

```
1. import javax.swing.*;
2. import java.awt.event.*;
3.
4. public class MultiWindow {
5.     public static void main(String[] args) {
6.         JFrame mainFrame = new JFrame("Main Window");
7.         JButton openButton = new JButton("Open New Window");
8.
9.         openButton.setBounds(100, 100, 200, 40);
10.
11.         openButton.addActionListener(e -> {
12.             JFrame newWindow = new JFrame("Second Window");
13.             JLabel label = new JLabel("Hello from second window");
14.             label.setBounds(50, 50, 200, 30);
15.             newWindow.add(label);
16.             newWindow.setSize(300, 200);
17.             newWindow.setLayout(null);
18.             newWindow.setVisible(true);
19.         });
20.
21.         mainFrame.add(openButton);
22.         mainFrame.setSize(400, 300);
23.         mainFrame.setLayout(null);
24.         mainFrame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
25.         mainFrame.setVisible(true);
26.     }
27. }
28.
```



## 10. Good Practices for GUI in Java

- Use Layout Managers instead of null layout for dynamic resizing.
- Group related components using JPanel.
- Always run GUI using:

```
1. SwingUtilities.invokeLater(() -> {  
2.     // your code here  
3. });  
4.
```