**Delivering design work in Figma, Sketch, or Adobe XD**

**Figma Handoff Screenshots & Flow**

**Typical Screenshots for Handoff:**

1. **Main Page with Dev Mode Enabled**  
   → Shows all frames/artboards with spacing, specs, and asset download options.
2. **Inspect Panel**  
   → Shows code snippets (CSS, iOS, Android), typography, spacing, and color values.
3. **Assets Panel + Export Options**  
   → Preview of what can be downloaded (SVG, PNG, etc.).
4. **Component Library**  
   → Screenshot showing reusable components and design system consistency.
5. **Prototype Mode**  
   → Connections between pages/screens for interactions.

**Strengths:**

* **Cloud-based:** Real-time collaboration.
* **Dev Mode**: Dedicated inspect + specs view.
* **Commenting**: Contextual and live.
* **Design tokens & variables**: Reusable across files.

**Sketch Handoff Screenshots & Flow (with Zeplin/Abstract/Avocode)**

Sketch alone doesn't include a dev handoff workflow – plugins like Zeplin are common.

**Screenshots:**

1. **Exported to Zeplin**  
   → Shows spacing, style guides, code snippets (Zeplin view).
2. **Sketch Symbols Page**  
   → Components and symbols defined in the library.
3. **Artboards with Notes/Comments**  
   → Manual annotations or using plugins.

**Strengths:**

* Strong design system support.
* Works well if you're committed to Apple ecosystem.
* Familiar UI for macOS users.

**Weaknesses:**

* Requires third-party tools for effective handoff.
* No built-in real-time collaboration.

**Adobe XD Handoff Screenshots & Flow**

**Screenshots:**

1. **Share for Development View**  
   → Inspect panel with spacing, assets, and code (CSS, Swift, XML)
2. **Assets Panel**  
   → Shows downloadable design assets.
3. **Prototype Links + Interactions**  
   → Click targets and transitions.

**Strengths:**

* Built-in Share for Development mode.
* Part of Adobe Creative Cloud (integrates with Photoshop/Illustrator).
* Clean dev specs panel without plugins.

**Weaknesses:**

* Limited plugin ecosystem compared to Figma.
* Less popular among engineering teams.

**Quick Comparison Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Figma** | **Sketch + Zeplin** | **Adobe XD** |
| Dev Specs (Inspect) | ✅ Built-in (Dev Mode) | 🚫 Needs Zeplin/Avocode | ✅ Built-in |
| Real-time Collaboration | ✅ Yes | 🚫 No | ⚠️ Limited (coediting) |
| Component Libraries | ✅ Yes | ✅ Symbols | ✅ Components |
| Browser Access | ✅ Fully online | 🚫 Mac App Only | ✅ Web preview available |
| Asset Export | ✅ Multi-format | ✅ Via plugins | ✅ Multi-format |
| Code Snippets | ✅ CSS, iOS, Android | ✅ Via Zeplin | ✅ CSS, Swift, XML |
| Platform | Web, macOS, Windows | macOS only | macOS, Windows |

**Design Handoff Tool Comparison**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature / Need** | **Figma 🟢 Best Overall** | **Sketch + Zeplin 🟡 Traditional** | **Adobe XD 🔵 Integrated** |
| **Platform Support** | Web, macOS, Windows | macOS only | macOS, Windows |
| **Cloud Collaboration** | ✅ Real-time, multi-user | 🚫 No (unless using Abstract) | ⚠️ Limited coediting |
| **Developer Handoff** | ✅ Built-in Dev Mode | 🚫 Needs Zeplin/Avocode | ✅ Share for Development |
| **Inspect Code / Styles** | ✅ CSS, iOS, Android | ✅ via Zeplin | ✅ CSS, Swift, XML |
| **Asset Export** | ✅ PNG, SVG, PDF, WebP | ✅ via plugin | ✅ PNG, SVG, PDF |
| **Component System** | ✅ Design tokens, variables | ✅ Symbols | ✅ Components |
| **Commenting** | ✅ Live, inline | ⚠️ Only in Zeplin or Abstract | ✅ Built-in |
| **Prototyping** | ✅ Advanced interactions | ⚠️ Very limited | ✅ Good transitions/interactions |
| **Version Control** | ✅ Version history per frame | 🚫 Manual, or via Abstract | ⚠️ Some versioning |
| **Design Documentation** | ✅ Notation, file-wide comments | ⚠️ Plugin-dependent | ✅ Shared link supports comments |
| **Grid/Spacing Display** | ✅ Shows on hover in Dev Mode | ✅ via Zeplin | ✅ in Dev Specs |
| **Plugins / Extensibility** | ✅ Large ecosystem | ✅ Large (Sketch-only) | ⚠️ Smaller plugin library |
| **Cost** | Free tier, paid plans from $12 | $99/year (Sketch) + Zeplin fees | Free w/ Creative Cloud, or ~$10/mo |
| **Learning Curve** | ✅ Beginner-friendly | ⚠️ Slightly steeper | ✅ Intuitive if used to Adobe |
| **Dev Handoff Tools Supported** | ✅ Storybook, GitHub, Jira, REST | ✅ Zeplin, Avocode, Abstract | ✅ Slack, Jira, Dev tools via CC |

🔎 **Key Recommendations Based on Use Case**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Use Case** | **Recommended Tool** | **Why** |
| **You work with devs daily** | ✅ Figma | Dev Mode, real-time inspect, version history |
| **Your team is all Mac + legacy files** | 🟡 Sketch + Zeplin | Best if you're already invested in Sketch-based design systems |
| **You use Adobe tools regularly** | 🔵 Adobe XD | Seamless with Photoshop, Illustrator, and Adobe Cloud |
| **Remote team / live feedback needed** | ✅ Figma | Nothing beats real-time multi-user editing and commenting |
| **Lightweight portfolio or mockups** |  |  |

Many design teams use Notion as part of their design handoff process, especially in combination with tools like Figma, Sketch, or Adobe XD. Here’s how Notion fits into the workflow:

**Example Handoff Flow Using Figma + Notion:**

1. **Notion page** titled “Handoff – Onboarding Flow”
2. Includes:
   * Goals
   * Figma file embed
   * Screenshots of states (error, hover, loading)
   * Dev-ready specs
   * Interactions written out (e.g., “Submit button: triggers POST /api/signup”)
   * Link to Jira ticket(s)

**Why Use Notion**

* **Central source of truth**: Combines docs, tasks, embeds, and discussions
* **Cross-functional clarity**: PMs, designers, and engineers can all contribute
* **Better than PDFs**: Dynamic, living docs beat static handoff files

**TOOLS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tool** | **Primary Purpose** | **Used By** | **Role in Handoff** |
| **Figma** | UI design, prototyping, developer handoff | Designers, Developers, PMs | All-in-one: design, inspect, comment, export assets |
| **Sketch** | UI design (macOS only) | Designers | Requires plugin (e.g., Zeplin) for full dev handoff |
| **Adobe XD** | UI/UX design and prototyping | Designers, Adobe users | Shareable links with dev specs, part of Adobe ecosystem |
| **Zeplin** | Developer handoff for Sketch/XD/Figma | Developers, Designers | Extracts specs, styles, and assets from design files |
| **Notion** | Docs, wikis, notes, task management | Everyone | Tracks handoff, requirements, embeds files, provides context |
| **Jira / Trello / Asana** | Project management | PMs, Devs, Designers | Tracks implementation of handed-off designs |
| **Storybook** | Front-end component library with live examples | Developers | Ensures handed-off designs are implemented as reusable components |
| **Loom / FigJam** | Loom: video walk-throughs; FigJam: whiteboarding | Designers, Stakeholders | Explain UX flows and logic to devs asynchronously |

**What Happens in a Real Handoff Flow**

Here’s how these tools are typically used together:

1. **Design in Figma / Sketch / XD**
   * Create high-fidelity mockups
   * Add interactions/prototypes
   * Set up components and styles
2. **Comment & Collaborate**
   * Stakeholders give feedback in Figma or Adobe XD
   * Design updates happen live
3. **Document in Notion**
   * Create a page: “Login Flow Handoff”
   * Embed Figma link + write dev instructions (e.g. API calls, edge cases)
   * Note any non-obvious interactions or animations
4. **Send to Devs**
   * Devs inspect designs in Figma/Zeplin/XD to grab code, spacing, assets
   * Use Storybook to match components or request new ones
5. **Track Implementation**
   * Link handoff docs in Jira/Trello tasks
   * Comment in Notion or GitHub during implementation

**Role**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **What They Use** |
| Designer | Figma (or Sketch/XD) + Notion |
| Developer | Figma (Inspect), Zeplin, Storybook, Jira |
| PM | Notion + Jira/Trello for tracking progress |
| Stakeholder | Notion + Figma preview or Loom videos |