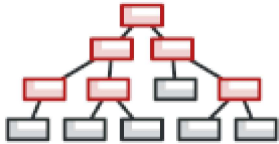




WINTER SALE IS ON!

[Home](#) / [Design Patterns](#) / [Composite](#) / [Java](#)

Composite in Java

Composite is a structural design pattern that lets you compose objects into tree structures and then work with these structures as if they were individual objects.

Composite became a pretty popular solution for the most problems that require building a tree structure. Composite's great feature is the ability to run methods recursively over the whole tree structure and sum up the results.

[📖 Learn more about Composite →](#)

Navigation

[📖 Intro](#)[📖 Simple and compound graphical shapes](#)[📁 shapes](#)[📄 Shape](#)[📄 BaseShape](#)[📄 Dot](#)[📄 Circle](#)[📄 Rectangle](#)[📄 CompoundShape](#)[📁 editor](#)[📄 ImageEditor](#)[📄 Demo](#)

**WINTER SALE IS ON!****Complexity:** ★★☆☆**Popularity:** ★★☆☆

Usage examples: The Composite pattern is pretty common in Java code. It's often used to represent hierarchies of user interface components or the code that works with graphs.

Here are some composite examples from standard Java libraries:

- `java.awt.Container#add(Component)` (practically all over Swing components)
- `javax.faces.component.UIComponent#getChildren()` (practically all over JSF UI components)

Identification: If you have an object tree, and each object of a tree is a part of the same class hierarchy, this is most likely a composite. If methods of these classes delegate the work to child objects of the tree and do it via the base class/interface of the hierarchy, this is definitely a composite.

Simple and compound graphical shapes

This example shows how to create complex graphical shapes, composed of simpler shapes and treat both of them uniformly.

shapes

shapes/Shape.java: Common shape interface

```
package refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes;

import java.awt.*;

public interface Shape {
    int getX();
    int getY();
    int getWidth();
    int getHeight();
    void move(int x, int y);
}
```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```
void unSelect();  
boolean isSelected();  
void paint(Graphics graphics);  
}
```

shapes/BaseShape.java: Abstract shape with basic functionality

```
package refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes;  
  
import java.awt.*;  
  
abstract class BaseShape implements Shape {  
    public int x;  
    public int y;  
    public Color color;  
    private boolean selected = false;  
  
    BaseShape(int x, int y, Color color) {  
        this.x = x;  
        this.y = y;  
        this.color = color;  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public int getX() {  
        return x;  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public int getY() {  
        return y;  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public int getWidth() {  
        return 0;  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public int getHeight() {  
        return 0;  
    }  
}
```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```

    this.x += x;
    this.y += y;
}

@Override
public boolean isInsideBounds(int x, int y) {
    return x > getX() && x < (getX() + getWidth()) &&
           y > getY() && y < (getY() + getHeight());
}

@Override
public void select() {
    selected = true;
}

@Override
public void unSelect() {
    selected = false;
}

@Override
public boolean isSelected() {
    return selected;
}

void enableSelectionMode(Graphics graphics) {
    graphics.setColor(Color.LIGHT_GRAY);

    Graphics2D g2 = (Graphics2D) graphics;
    float[] dash1 = {2.0f};
    g2.setStroke(new BasicStroke(1.0f,
        BasicStroke.CAP_BUTT,
        BasicStroke.JOIN_MITER,
        2.0f, dash1, 0.0f));
}

void disableSelectionMode(Graphics graphics) {
    graphics.setColor(color);
    Graphics2D g2 = (Graphics2D) graphics;
    g2.setStroke(new BasicStroke());
}

@Override
public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
    if (isSelected()) {
        enableSelectionMode(graphics);
    }
}

```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```

        disableSelectionStyle(graphics);
    }

    // ...
}

```

shapes/Dot.java: A dot

```

package refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes;

import java.awt.*;

public class Dot extends BaseShape {
    private final int DOT_SIZE = 3;

    public Dot(int x, int y, Color color) {
        super(x, y, color);
    }

    @Override
    public int getWidth() {
        return DOT_SIZE;
    }

    @Override
    public int getHeight() {
        return DOT_SIZE;
    }

    @Override
    public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
        super.paint(graphics);
        graphics.fillRect(x - 1, y - 1, getWidth(), getHeight());
    }
}

```

shapes/Circle.java: A circle



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```
import java.awt.*;

public class Circle extends BaseShape {
    public int radius;

    public Circle(int x, int y, int radius, Color color) {
        super(x, y, color);
        this.radius = radius;
    }

    @Override
    public int getWidth() {
        return radius * 2;
    }

    @Override
    public int getHeight() {
        return radius * 2;
    }

    public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
        super.paint(graphics);
        graphics.drawOval(x, y, getWidth() - 1, getHeight() - 1);
    }
}
```

shapes/Rectangle.java: A rectangle

```
package refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes;

import java.awt.*;

public class Rectangle extends BaseShape {
    public int width;
    public int height;

    public Rectangle(int x, int y, int width, int height, Color color) {
        super(x, y, color);
        this.width = width;
        this.height = height;
    }

    @Override
```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```

    }

    @Override
    public int getHeight() {
        return height;
    }

    @Override
    public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
        super.paint(graphics);
        graphics.drawRect(x, y, getWidth() - 1, getHeight() - 1);
    }
}

```

shapes/CompoundShape.java: Compound shape, which consists of other shape objects

```

package refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes;

import java.awt.*;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Arrays;
import java.util.List;

public class CompoundShape extends BaseShape {
    protected List<Shape> children = new ArrayList<>();

    public CompoundShape(Shape... components) {
        super(0, 0, Color.BLACK);
        add(components);
    }

    public void add(Shape component) {
        children.add(component);
    }

    public void add(Shape... components) {
        children.addAll(Arrays.asList(components));
    }

    public void remove(Shape child) {
        children.remove(child);
    }
}

```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```
}
```

```
public void clear() {  
    children.clear();  
}
```

```
@Override
```

```
public int getX() {  
    if (children.size() == 0) {  
        return 0;  
    }  
    int x = children.get(0).getX();  
    for (Shape child : children) {  
        if (child.getX() < x) {  
            x = child.getX();  
        }  
    }  
    return x;  
}
```

```
@Override
```

```
public int getY() {  
    if (children.size() == 0) {  
        return 0;  
    }  
    int y = children.get(0).getY();  
    for (Shape child : children) {  
        if (child.getY() < y) {  
            y = child.getY();  
        }  
    }  
    return y;  
}
```

```
@Override
```

```
public int getWidth() {  
    int maxWidth = 0;  
    int x = getX();  
    for (Shape child : children) {  
        int childsRelativeX = child.getX() - x;  
        int childWidth = childsRelativeX + child.getWidth();  
        if (childWidth > maxWidth) {  
            maxWidth = childWidth;  
        }  
    }  
    return maxWidth;  
}
```




WINTER SALE IS ON!



```

public int getHeight() {
    int maxHeight = 0;
    int y = getY();
    for (Shape child : children) {
        int childsRelativeY = child.getY() - y;
        int childHeight = childsRelativeY + child.getHeight();
        if (childHeight > maxHeight) {
            maxHeight = childHeight;
        }
    }
    return maxHeight;
}

@Override
public void move(int x, int y) {
    for (Shape child : children) {
        child.move(x, y);
    }
}

@Override
public boolean isInsideBounds(int x, int y) {
    for (Shape child : children) {
        if (child.isInsideBounds(x, y)) {
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}

@Override
public void unSelect() {
    super.unSelect();
    for (Shape child : children) {
        child.unSelect();
    }
}

public boolean selectChildAt(int x, int y) {
    for (Shape child : children) {
        if (child.isInsideBounds(x, y)) {
            child.select();
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}

```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```
public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
    if (isSelected()) {
        enableSelectionStyle(graphics);
        graphics.drawRect(getX() - 1, getY() - 1, getWidth() + 1, getHeight() + 1);
        disableSelectionStyle(graphics);
    }

    for (Shape child : children) {
        child.paint(graphics);
    }
}
```

editor

editor/ImageEditor.java: Shape editor

```
package refactoring_guru.composite.example.editor;

import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.CompoundShape;
import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.Shape;

import javax.swing.*;
import javax.swing.border.Border;
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.MouseAdapter;
import java.awt.event.MouseEvent;

public class ImageEditor {
    private EditorCanvas canvas;
    private CompoundShape allShapes = new CompoundShape();

    public ImageEditor() {
        canvas = new EditorCanvas();
    }

    public void loadShapes(Shape... shapes) {
        allShapes.clear();
        allShapes.add(shapes);
        canvas.refresh();
    }

    private class EditorCanvas extends Canvas {
```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



```
private static final int PADDING = 10;
```

```
EditorCanvas() {
    createFrame();
    refresh();
    addMouseListener(new MouseAdapter() {
        @Override
        public void mousePressed(MouseEvent e) {
            allShapes.unSelect();
            allShapes.selectChildAt(e.getX(), e.getY());
            e.getComponent().repaint();
        }
    });
}

void createFrame() {
    frame = new JFrame();
    frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(WindowConstants.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    frame.setLocationRelativeTo(null);

    JPanel contentPanel = new JPanel();
    Border padding = BorderFactory.createEmptyBorder(PADDING, PADDING, PADDING, PADD
    contentPanel.setBorder(padding);
    frame.setContentPane(contentPanel);

    frame.add(this);
    frame.setVisible(true);
    frame.getContentPane().setBackground(Color.LIGHT_GRAY);
}

public int getWidth() {
    return allShapes.getX() + allShapes.getWidth() + PADDING;
}

public int getHeight() {
    return allShapes.getY() + allShapes.getHeight() + PADDING;
}

void refresh() {
    this.setSize(getWidth(), getHeight());
    frame.pack();
}

public void paint(Graphics graphics) {
    allShapes.paint(graphics);
}
```



WINTER SALE IS ON!



Demo.java: Client code

```
package refactoring_guru.composite.example;

import refactoring_guru.composite.example.editor.ImageEditor;
import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.Circle;
import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.CompoundShape;
import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.Dot;
import refactoring_guru.composite.example.shapes.Rectangle;

import java.awt.*;

public class Demo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        ImageEditor editor = new ImageEditor();

        editor.loadShapes(
            new Circle(10, 10, 10, Color.BLUE),

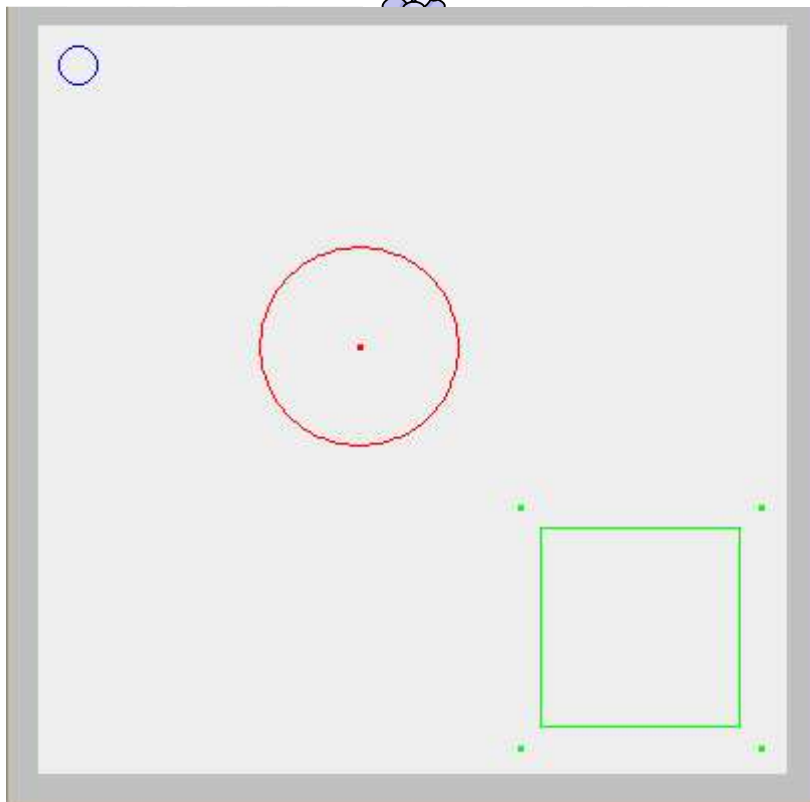
            new CompoundShape(
                new Circle(110, 110, 50, Color.RED),
                new Dot(160, 160, Color.RED)
            ),

            new CompoundShape(
                new Rectangle(250, 250, 100, 100, Color.GREEN),
                new Dot(240, 240, Color.GREEN),
                new Dot(240, 360, Color.GREEN),
                new Dot(360, 360, Color.GREEN),
                new Dot(360, 240, Color.GREEN)
            )
        );
    }
}
```

OutputDemo.png: Execution result



WINTER SALE IS ON!

[RETURN](#)[READ NEXT](#)[← Bridge in Java](#)[Decorator in Java →](#)

◀ ◻ ◻ ◻ ◻ ▶

[Home](#) [Refactoring](#) [Design Patterns](#) [Premium Content](#)
[Forum](#) [Contact us](#)



© 2014-2025 Refactoring.Guru. All rights reserved.

🖼️ Illustrations by Dmitry Zhart

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

[Content Usage Policy](#) [About us](#)

Ukrainian office:

🏢 FOP Olga Skobeleva

📍 Abolmasova 7

Kyiv, Ukraine, 02002

✉ Email:

support@refactoring.guru

Spanish office:

🏢 Oleksandr Shvets

📍 Avda Pamplona 64

Pamplona, Spain, 31009

✉ Email:

support@refactoring.guru