

Flex Layout

Penpot's unique Flex Layout allows you to create flexible designs that can adapt automatically. Resize, fit, and fill content and containers without the need to do it manually.

Flex Layout is based on CSS standards

Penpot's proposal tries to get as close as possible to the final output that we will see on the web. Design and development speak the same language in order to embrace web standards and improve communication between roles. Penpot's Flex Layout is built over Flexbox, a CSS module that provides a more efficient way to lay out, align and distribute space among items in a container. As there are already many comprehensive explanations about Flexbox we are not going to write another one. If you are interested we can recommend you to read the one at [CSS Tricks](#).

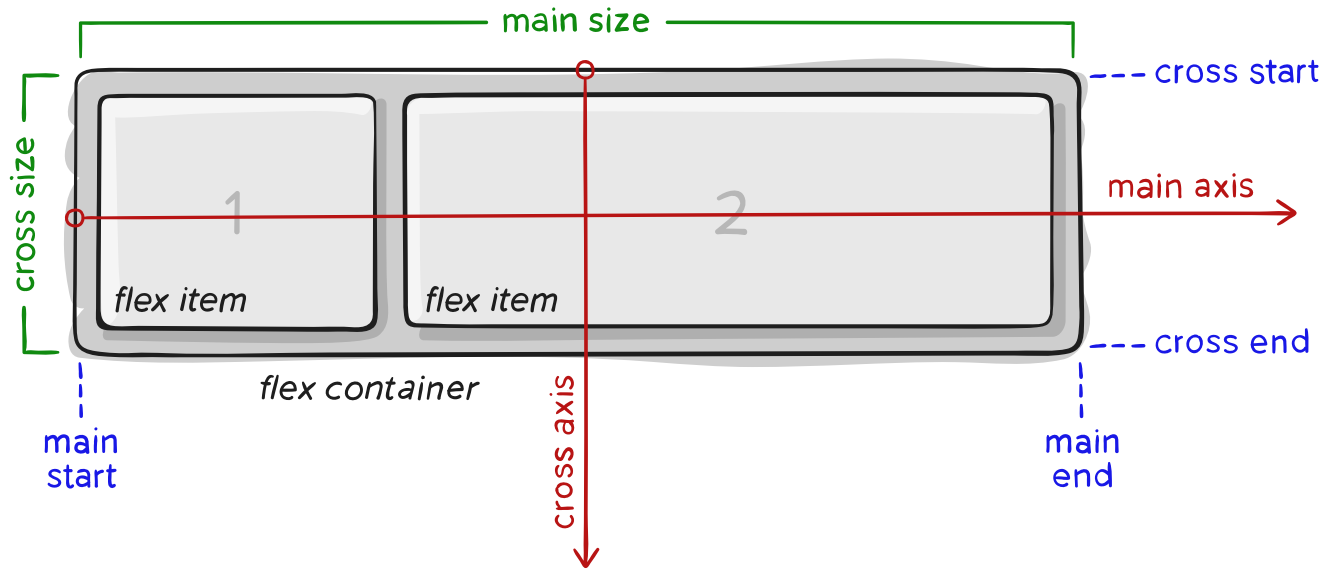


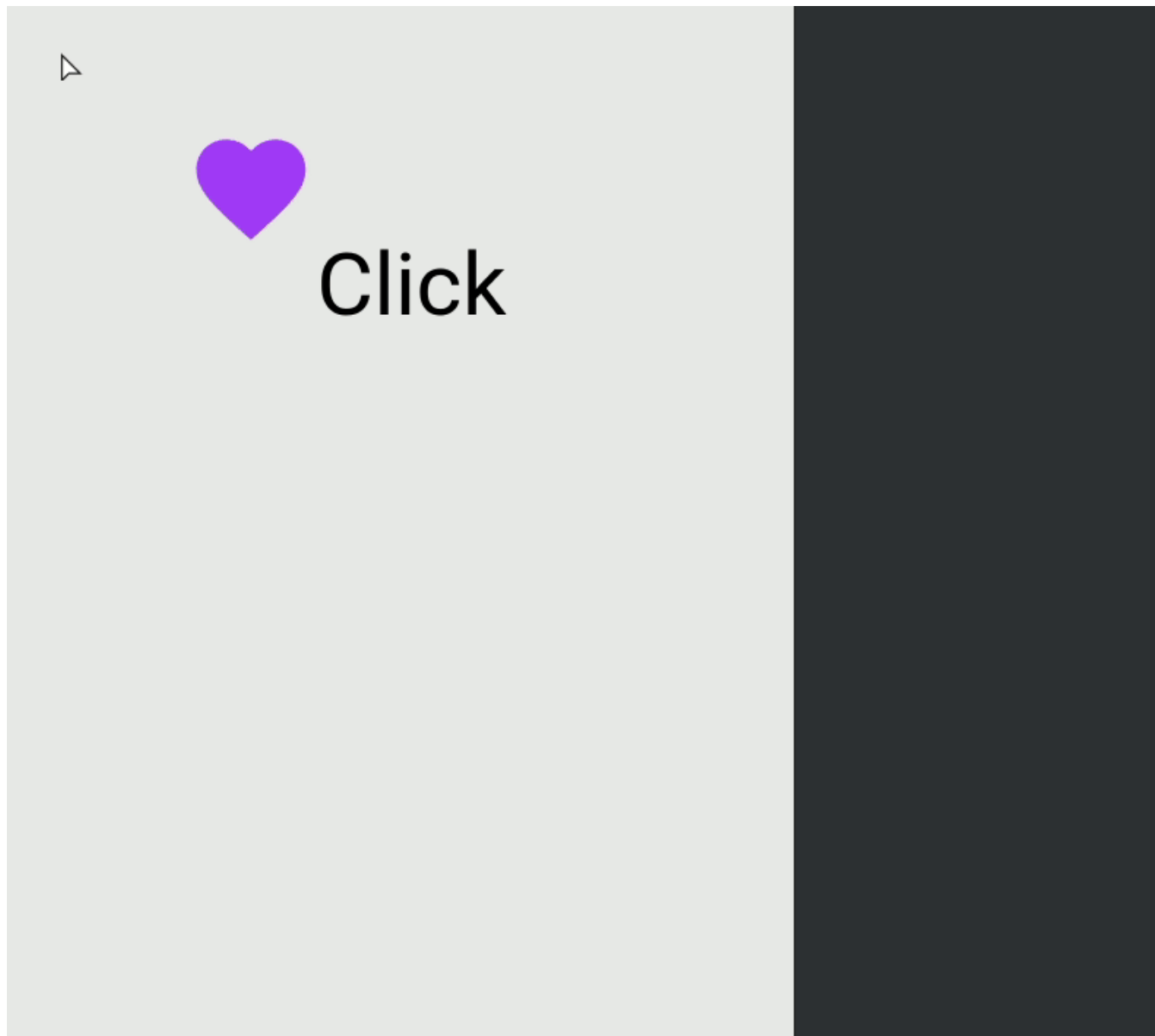
Image from CSS Tricks

Add Flex Layout

You can add Flex Layout to any layer, group, board or a selection including any of these.

Once Flex Layout Flex is added the selected elements will be contained into a board with the Flex Layout properties. You have several ways to do this:

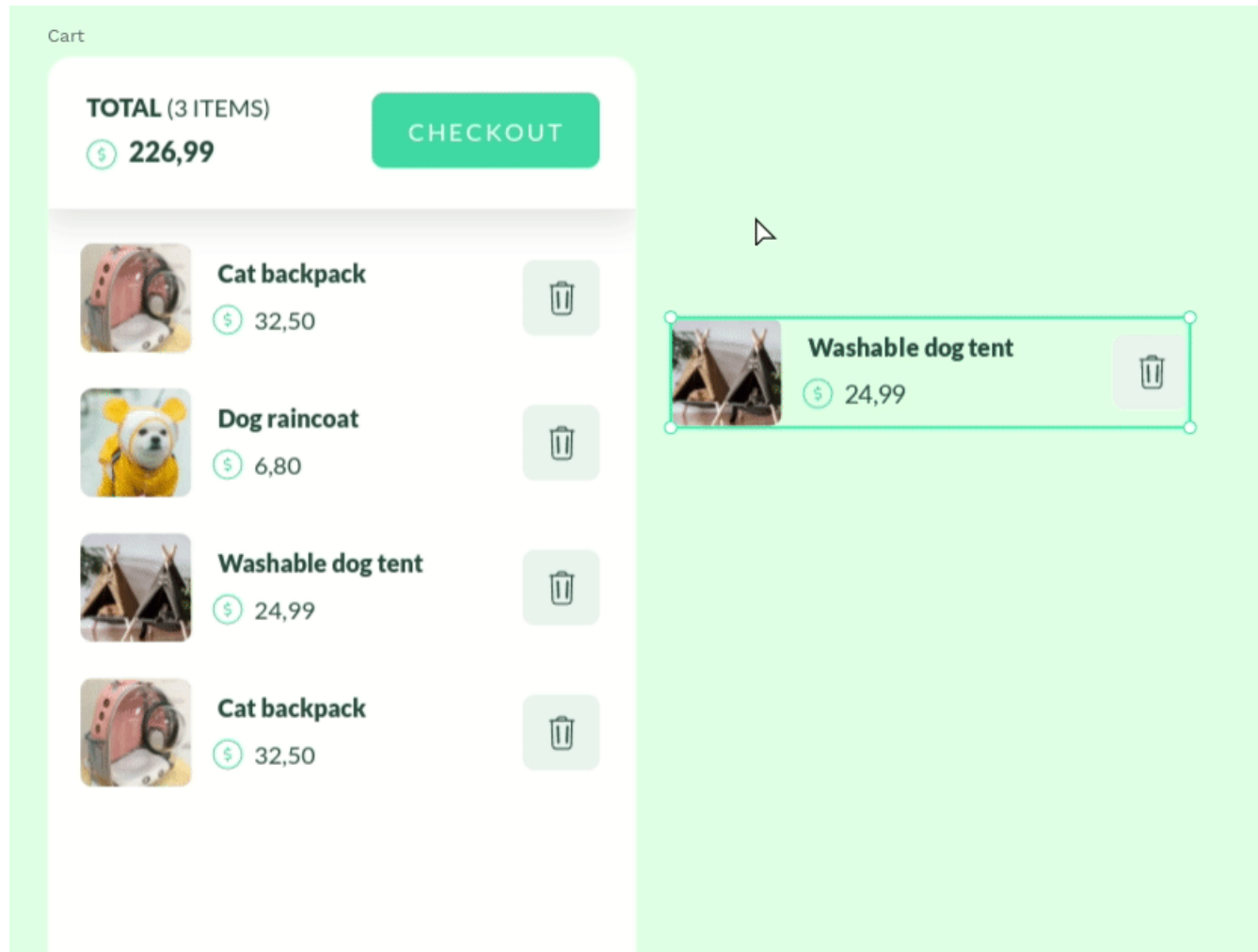
- From the Design panel at the right sidebar.
- From the option at the selection menu (right click button).
- Pressing `Ctrl/⌘` + `A` .



Arrange and reorder objects to a Flex Layout

To add an object to a Flex Layout you can just drag it at the position of your desire. You can also create or paste elements like in any regular board.

To reorder elements you can drag them or use the UP/DOWN keystrokes.



Flex Layout properties

You have properties for direction, align, justify, gap, padding, margin and sizing. Those are the same properties that you can use with CSS Flexbox. You can [read here detailed explanations about Flexbox properties](#).

Layout

Direction



Align



Justify



Gap



0



0



0



0



Flex board

Sizing



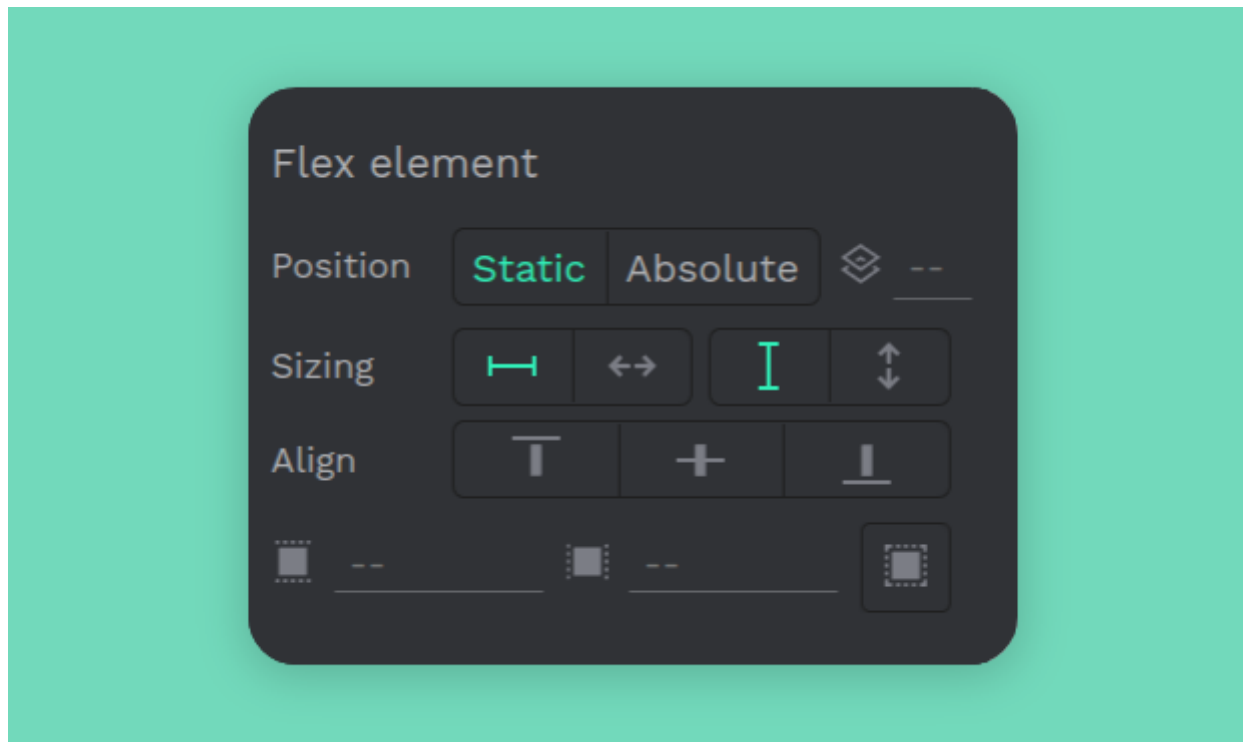
Flex Layout properties:

- **Direction:** Row, reverse row, column, reverse column.
- **Wrap (Direction):** Align content start / center / end / space-around / space-between.
- **Align items:** Start, center, end.
- **Justify content:** start, center, end, space-between, space-around, space-evenly.
- **Gap:** Row, column.
- **Padding:** Top, right, bottom, left.
- **Sizing:** Fix/fit width, Fix/fit height.

Positioning Flex elements

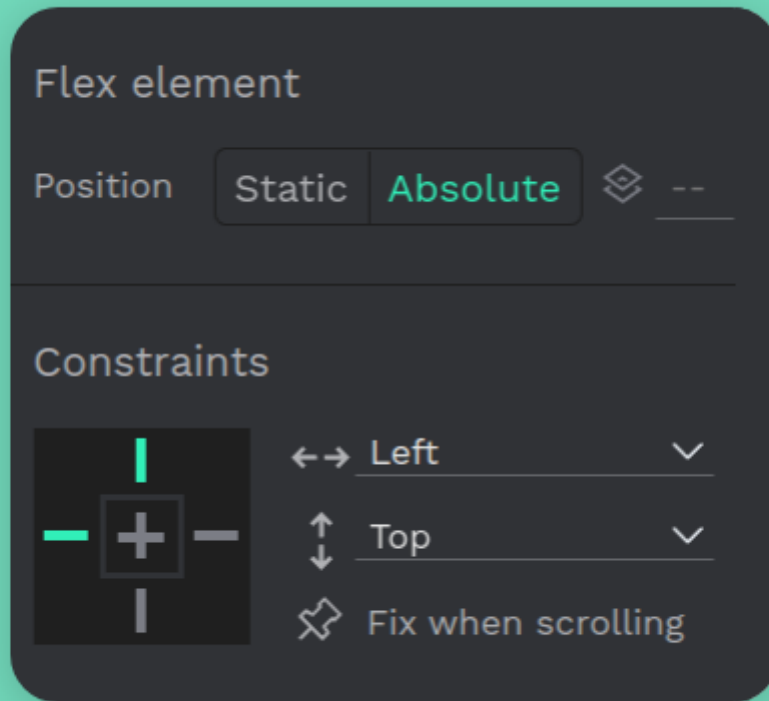
Position static:

Static position is the default option for flex elements, meaning that they will be included in the flex flow, using flex properties.



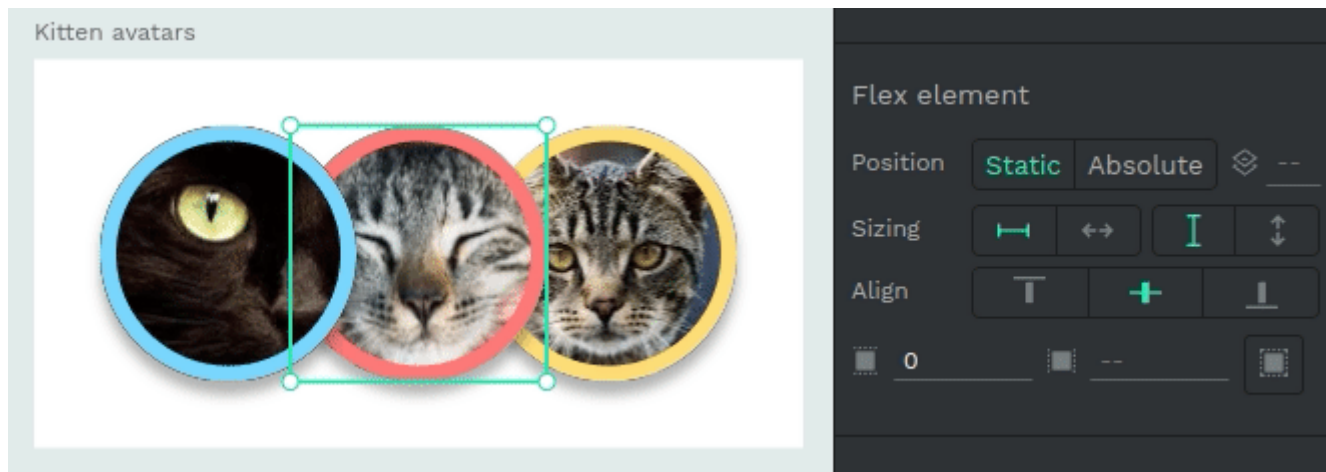
Position absolute:

Selecting absolute position will exclude the element from the Flex layout flow allowing you to freely position an element in a specific place regardless of the size of the layout where it belongs.



Z-index:

With the new z-index option you can decide the order of overlapping elements while maintaining the layers order.



Managing flex spacing

When creating Flex layouts, the spacing is predicted, helping you to maintain your design composition.

Board

Label
Input text ⓘ

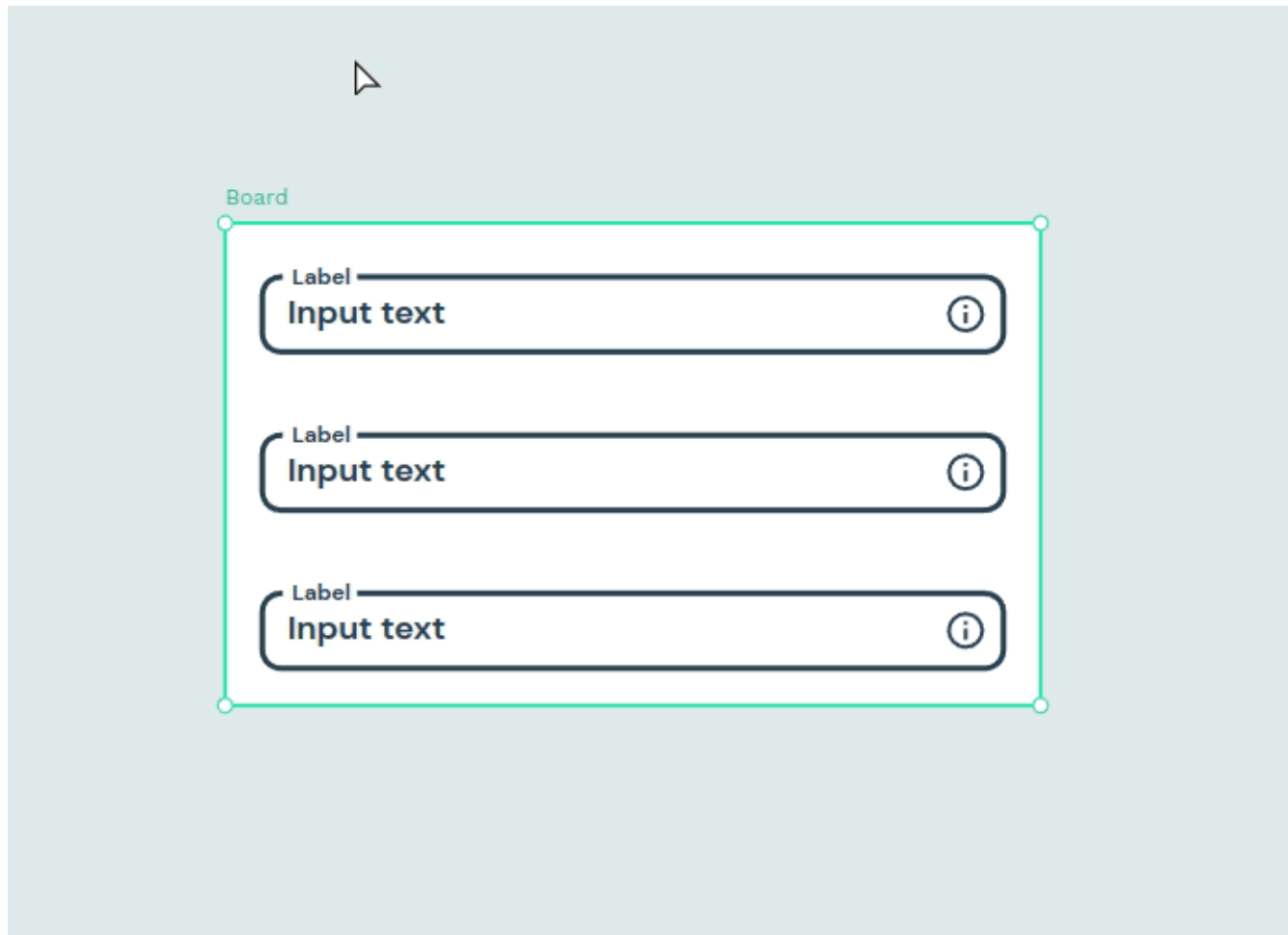
Label
Input text ⓘ

Label
Input text ⓘ

Set paddings, margins and gaps using their respective numeric inputs

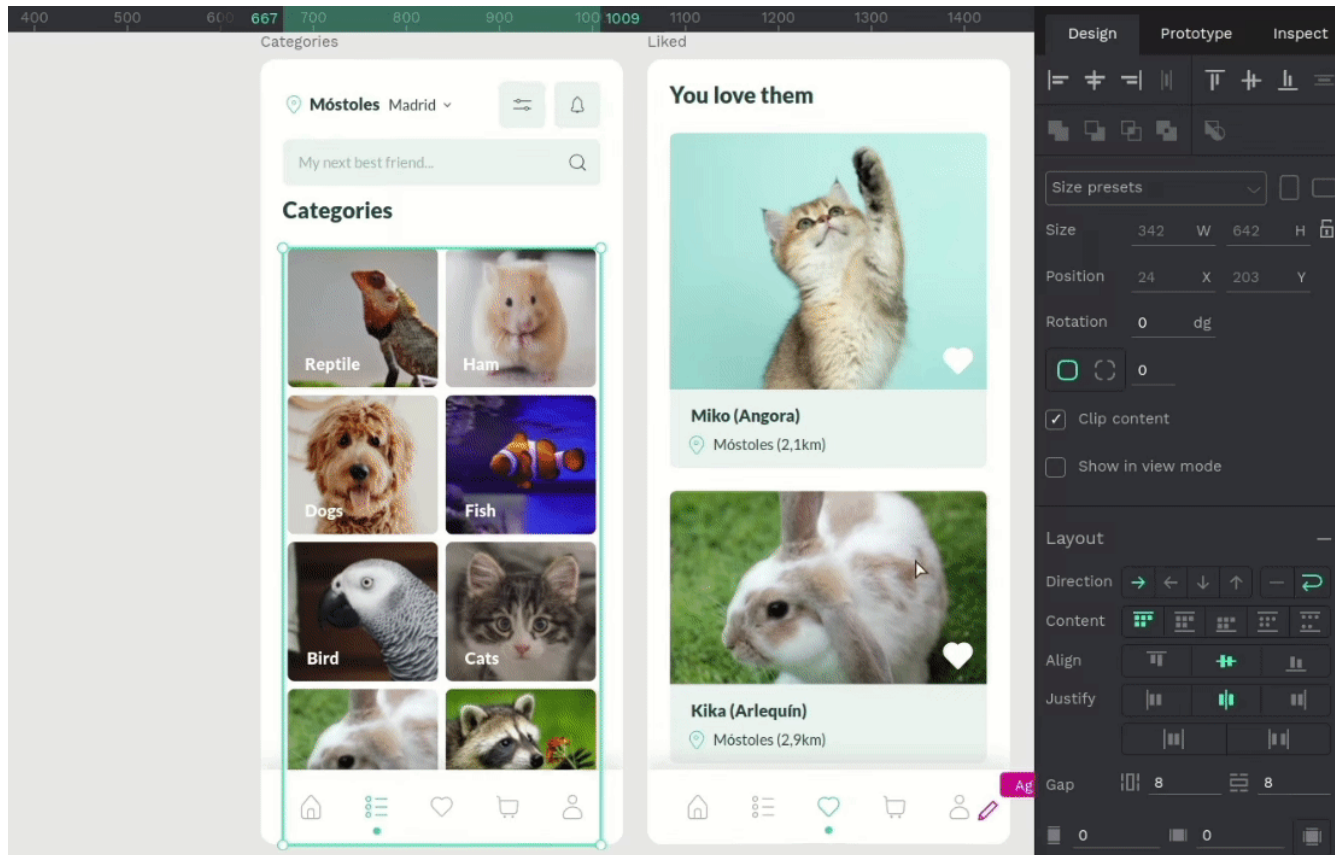
You can also **click and drag** to resize them while visualizing the value that is being edited:

- Hold `Shift/⇧` while dragging to change the value of opposite sides uniformly.
- Hold `Alt/⌘` while dragging to change the value of all sides uniformly.



Get code and specifications

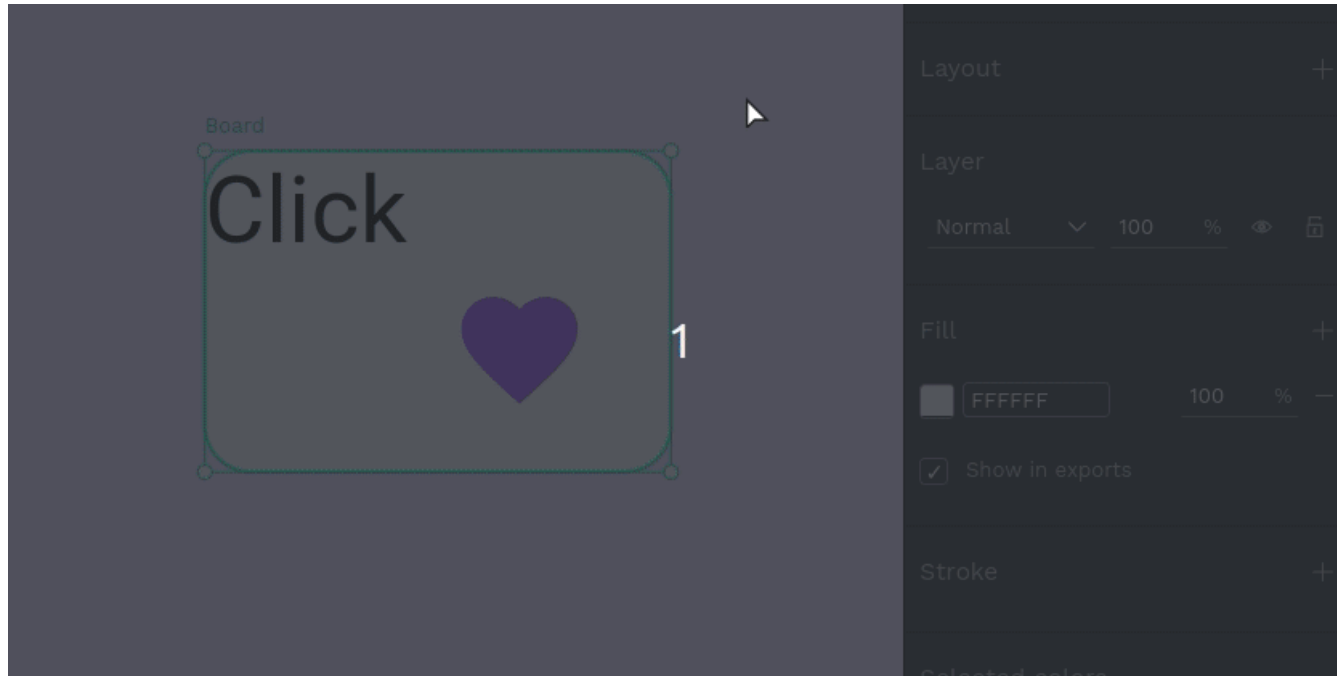
Designing with Flex Layout generates ready for production code. Select the flex board or its inner elements and then open the Inspect tab to obtain its properties detailed info and raw code.



Flex Layout basic examples

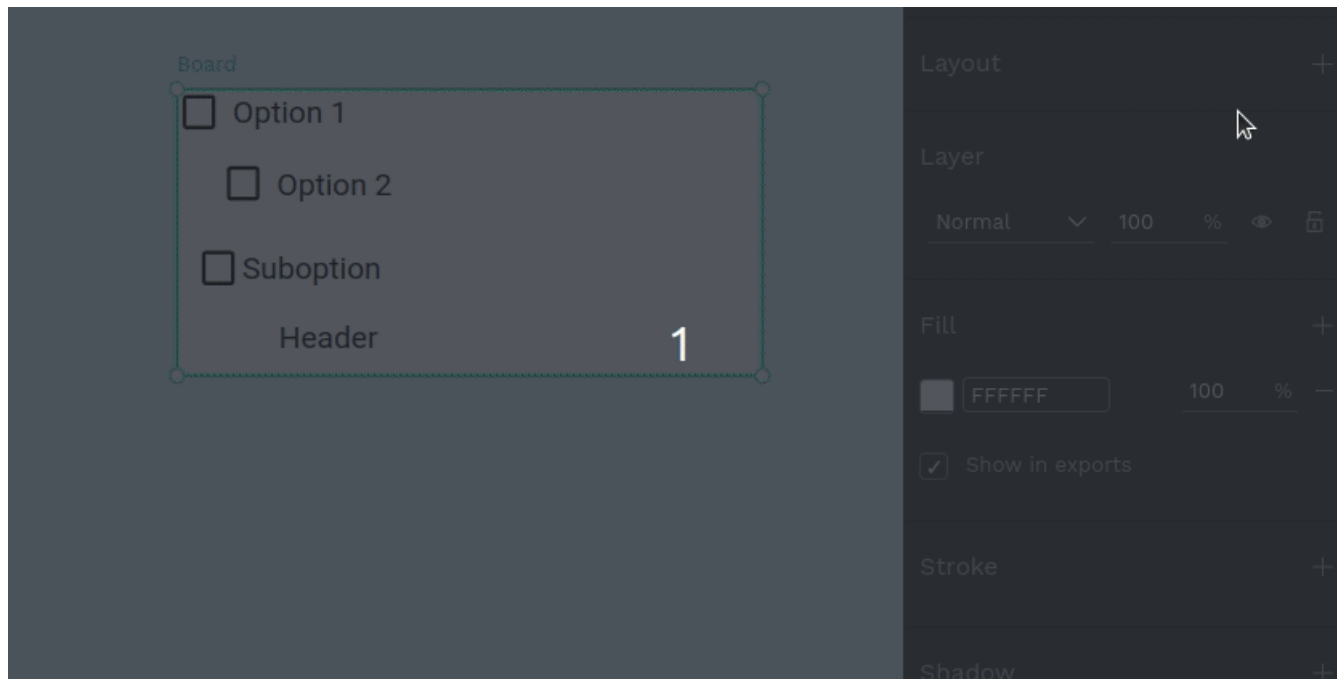
How to create a button

A classic example that will help you create flexible buttons that grow depending on its content.



How to create a list

Extremely useful for ordering list items. Remember to set **fit height** to the container so it can adapt to the number of items.



How to create a grid

Use the **wrap** property along with **row** direction to get the elements positioned in multiple lines.

Board



Layout



Layer



Normal



100

%



Fill



ffffff

100

%



☒ Show in exports

Stroke



Selected colors