

1.



## Activity introduction

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This activity will help you understand how to use grids to align and organize the UI components in your portfolio project design. It can be tricky to guess where to place elements within your mockup, but grids will help. There are a few reasons to use grids.

They:

Create clarity and consistency by making it easier to scan the elements on the screen.

Quicken the design process by making it faster to place elements on the screen.

Make it easier to collaborate on designs, since designers will generally know where to place things using the grids in your designs.

After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to a completed exemplar in the following course item.



## Step-by-step instructions

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Step 1: Review the instruction materials on Figma

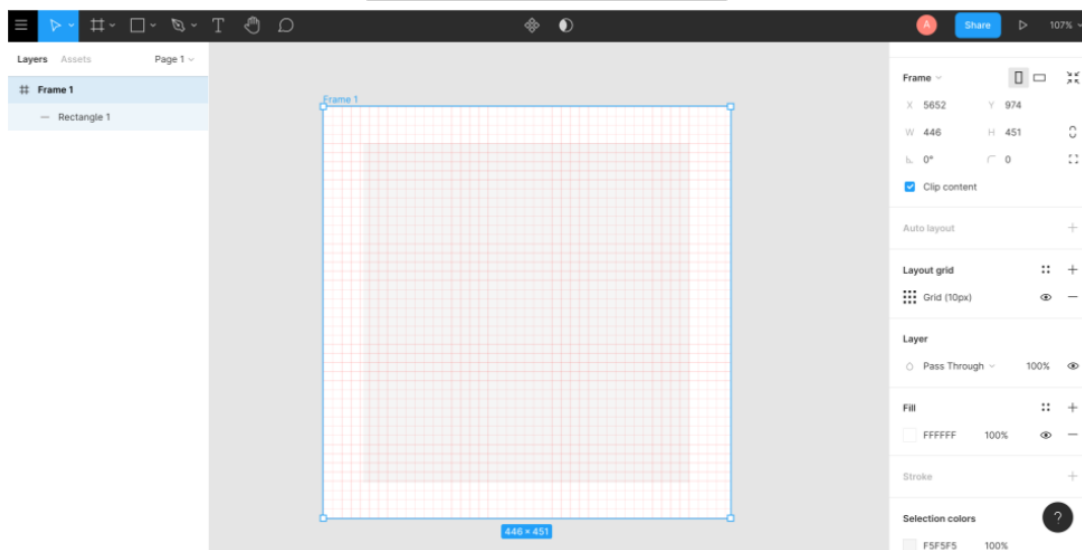
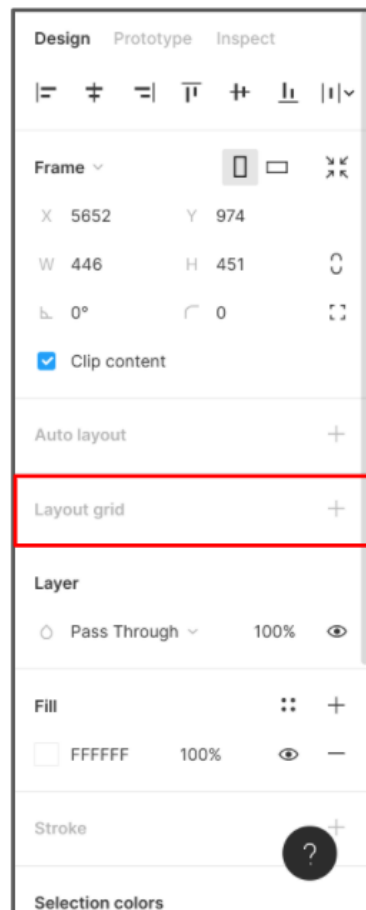
Earlier in this course, you read the resource: [Create grids in your mockups](#).<sup>[↗]</sup> Use this reading for details on the Figma functions needed for this activity.

Refer to the [Figma help forum](#)<sup>[↗]</sup> directly for the most updated information on new features.

Step 2: Create a grid in your high-fidelity Figma mockup

Navigate to your mockup in Figma. Apply a grid using the following steps:

- . Select a Frame in the Layers Panel on the left or click the panel in the Canvas.
- . Click the Plus (+) icon next to Layout Grids in the Design Panel on the right. By default, a Uniform Grid will be applied to the Frame.



### Step 3: Edit your grid

Grids can be customized to meet your design needs. You can update a grid's properties by clicking on the Grid icon in the Design Panel on the right to open the Layout Grid settings.

Since you're working on a mobile app, use the steps below to apply the recommended grid settings:

- Click the Grid icon to open the Layout Grid settings.
- Click the Grid dropdown menu and select Columns.
- Make any changes needed to match the following grid settings:

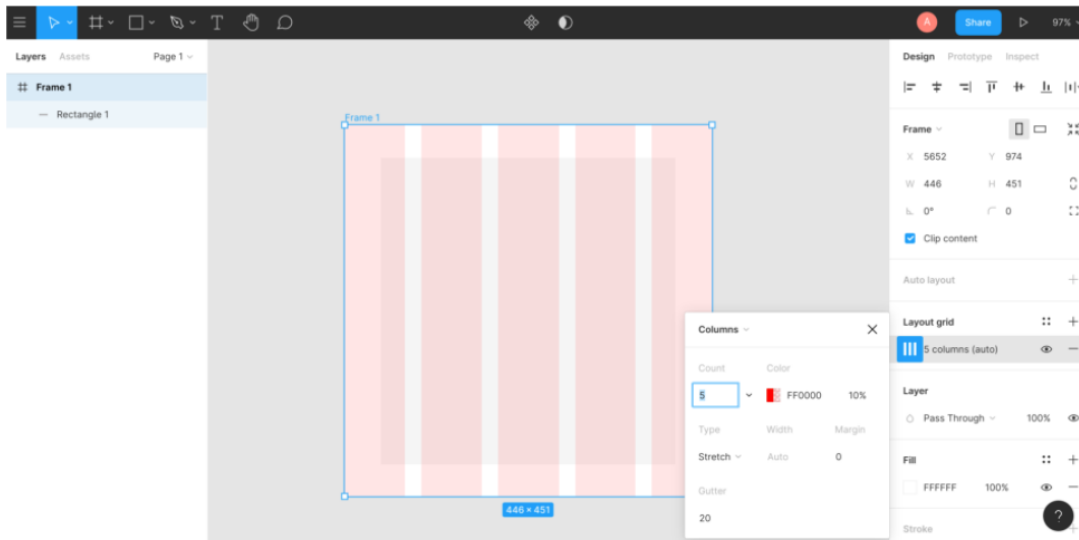
Count: 5

Color: FF0000 10%

Type: Stretch

Width: Auto

Margin: 0



This grid provides structure to help you arrange the elements in your design to fit within the boundaries of a smartphone screen without cluttering the frame.

#### Step 4: Align UI components with the grid

Now that your mockup has a grid, you can move your app's UI components to align with the grid's structure. You can align the edges of your components along the edges of the grid columns, align components to fit within the center of the grid columns, or use a mix of these two alignment methods. How you use the grid is up to you. The grid is there to add structure you can use for experimenting with the placement of your design elements. Click and drag each UI component in the canvas to adjust its position.

Then, use Figma's Align features to adjust the alignment of a component or multiple components at once. Review [Figma's help article and video on aligning objects](#) to learn more about these features.

You might also find the Auto Layout feature helpful. Auto Layout allows you to resize or redistribute UI components to automatically fit the frame they're in. There's a lot you can do with this feature, and [Figma's help article on Auto Layout](#) will guide you through each function.

As you design with grids in the future, feel free to edit your grid settings to best meet your design needs and preferences. Selecting a frame and clicking the Grid icon will reopen the grid settings for that frame. Check out this [article from Figma about grid basics](#), and this [article from Figma about the types of grids](#) that includes examples of each type to see how you might edit your grids in the future to best meet your needs.