

1.



## Activity introduction

---

This activity will help you apply containment elements to your portfolio project mockups through the creation and application of dividers or border UI elements.

Dividers and borders are forms of containment. Containment uses visual barriers to keep designs neat and organized. Barriers, like lines or colors, help limit content to a specific section of a design. Another note about color: As you add these elements to your project, it is advisable to choose colors within the palette that you developed in the previous lesson to keep your design cohesive.

There are four methods of containment:

Dividers: Lines that separate sections

Borders: Continuous lines that break up sections of a page and often form shapes, like squares or rectangles

Fill: A color feature within borders and shapes

Shadow: An effect that creates dimension, often used in combination with borders or fill

You'll apply dividers and borders to your project mockups by following the directions below. After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to a completed exemplar.

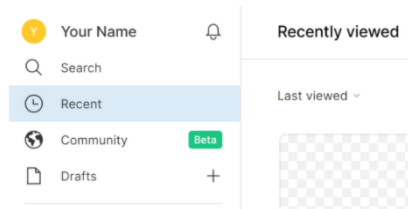


## Step-by-step instructions

---

Step 1: Open your project in Figma

After opening the Figma website or starting the Figma desktop app, your project will be listed under "Recent." Click on the project to open it.

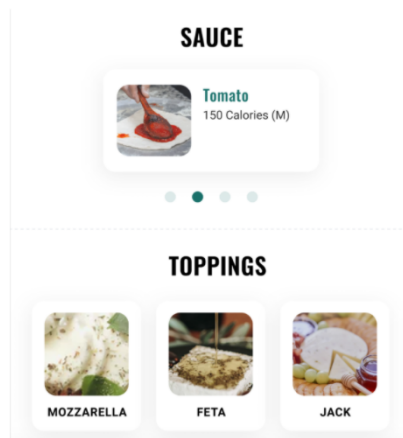


Step 2: Evaluate your project and identify where dividers might improve your app's prototype

Dividers are lines that separate sections. They are simple, yet effective, tools for quickly breaking up content that doesn't belong together.

Learn how to add dividers in these Figma tutorials: [Apply and adjust stroke properties](#)<sup>↗</sup> and [Using shape tools](#)<sup>↗</sup>.

Look for areas where it might be helpful to separate sections or where content and elements run together. Remember that you can use a divider to separate entire sections:



Or, use dividers to differentiate multiple, similar elements like entries in a list.

Add dividers to one screen in your main user flow.

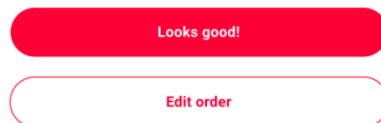
Step 3: Identify where to add borders in your project mock and apply them to one screen  
 Borders use lines to break up sections of a page. Borders are continuous lines that often form shapes like squares or rectangles.

Learn how to add borders and use stroke in this Figma tutorial,

[Apply and adjust stroke properties](#).

You can add stroke to any shape in Figma — it can get overwhelming! Set some basic ground rules early and stick to them. For instance, pick a certain line weight for your borders and use that every time you add stroke to a shape.

Buttons are an excellent place to start adding borders in your project mockups. A lack of borders on buttons can make it difficult for users to identify them as buttons. Notice how the example below from the Zia's Pizza app uses a border to clearly identify the component as a button.



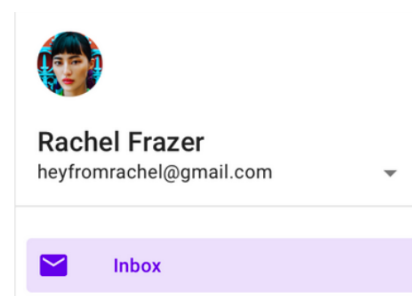
You should identify a button on one screen of your Sharpen design prompt app that requires a border, and add it.

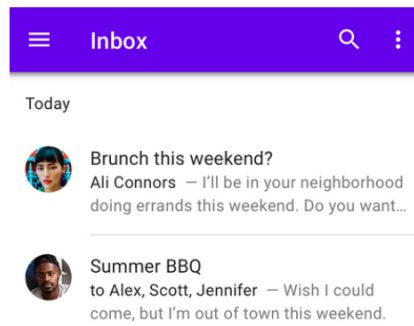
Step 4: Expand dividers to the other screens in your app

Now that you know how and where to add dividers to one screen of your Sharpen app, you should add dividers throughout all the other screens of your app too.

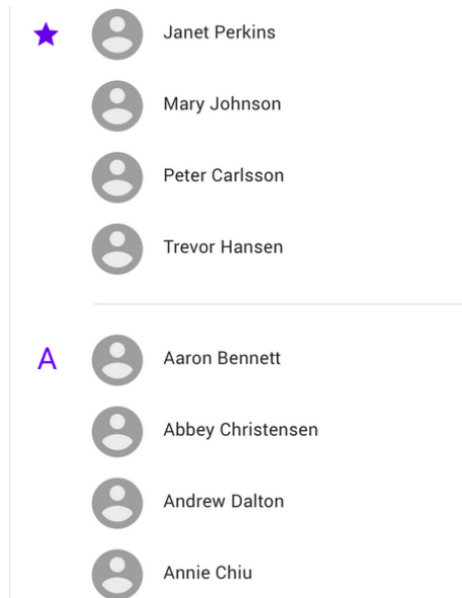
You can use dividers to:

Separate distinct content from other items (like About sections from product descriptions) or distinct content elements (like different emails in a list).





Separate related content into groups, like alphabetical order or interest group.

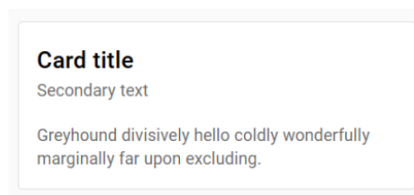


Step 5: Expand borders to the other screens in your app

Now that you know how and where to add borders to one screen of your app, you should add borders throughout all the other screens of your app too.

You can use borders to:

Separate content into logical sections.



Identify buttons and other important objects.



Step 6: Reflect on the completion of this activity

Take out a piece of paper and a writing utensil, or open a digital document to answer the questions below:

Why did you choose to add dividers where you did? Write down at least two reasons.

Why did you choose to add borders where you did? Write down at least two reasons.

Remember that you can adjust and refine your design choices (color, icons, etc.) as you continue to work on your mocks. Is there anything you'd like to change? Make at least 1-2 notes of things you'd like to refine as you move forward.

Step 7: Save your work

As you complete these activities, remember to:

- . Take screenshots of the progress you made on your mockup after you apply dividers or borders as directed in this activity.
- . Save all of your work to your computer, a hard drive, or a Google Drive folder to make sure you have all the resources you'll need later in the course for your portfolio.