

Introduction to Course 5

Begin to create a mockup

Use typography in mockups

Use color in mockups

Use iconography in mockups

Understand page layouts - grids and containment

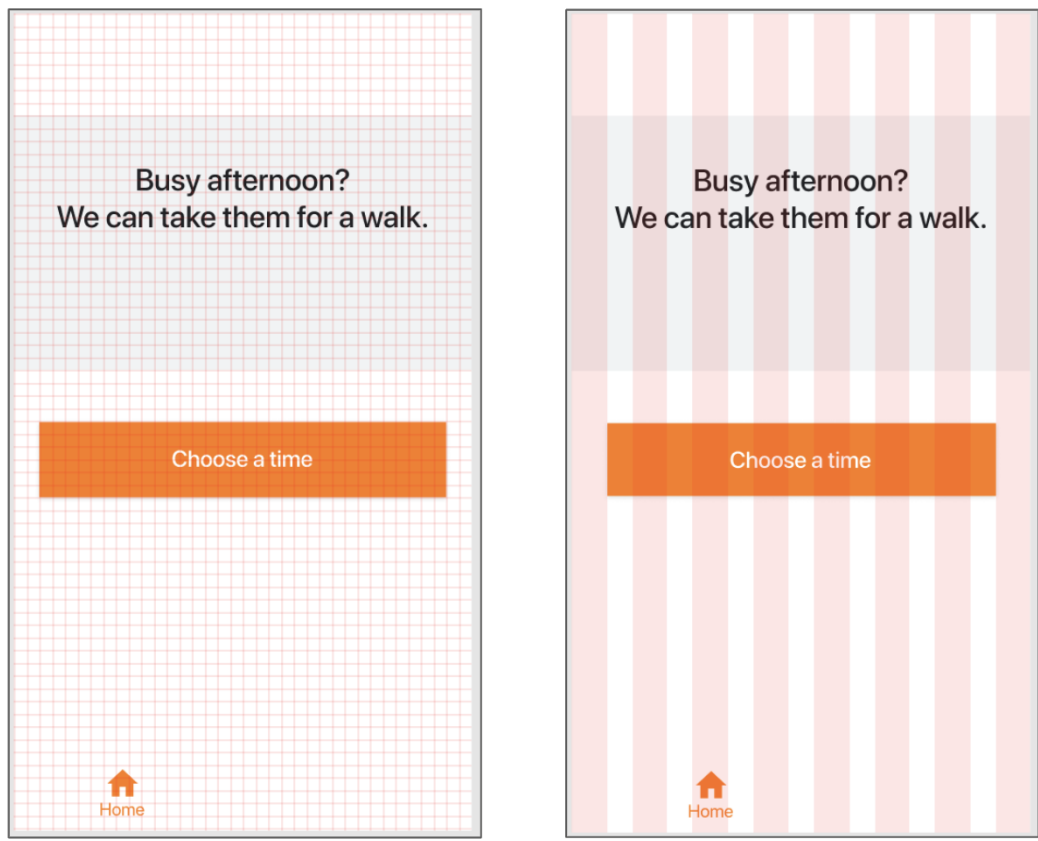
- ▶ **Video:** Introduction to layouts
1 min
- ▶ **Video:** Use grids to guide layouts
3 min
- 📖 **Reading:** Create grids in mockups
20 min
- 📖 **Practice Quiz:** Activity: Create grids in your portfolio project mockups
1 question
- 📖 **Reading:** Activity Exemplar: Create grids in your portfolio project mockups
10 min
- ▶ **Video:** Use containment in layouts
2 min
- 📖 **Reading:** Create containment in mockups
20 min
- 📖 **Practice Quiz:** Activity: Create containment in your portfolio project mockups
1 question
- 📖 **Reading:** Activity Exemplar: Create containment in your portfolio project mockups
10 min

Understand page layouts - negative space

Week 1 review

Create grids in mockups

Grids are a helpful and practical tool to use as you create designs. Grids give consistency and structure to your design, and they help ensure that your designs fit within the screen boundaries.



Remember, a **basic grid** has intersecting lines that divide pages into small squares that allow you to easily lay out elements in a design. If you used grid paper to draw your wireframes, a basic grid will look familiar! A basic grid is on the left in the image above.

Basic grids are useful to help you design consistently, but UX designers more commonly use layout grids. A **layout grid** is a series of columns and alleys that allow you to organize elements in a design. Columns are the colored blocks, and alleys are the uncolored spaces between the columns. A layout grid is shown on the right in the image above.

You can also apply more than one grid to a frame and edit them separately. So let's explore how to use grids in Figma!

Create and apply grids

To apply a layout grid to your designs in Figma:

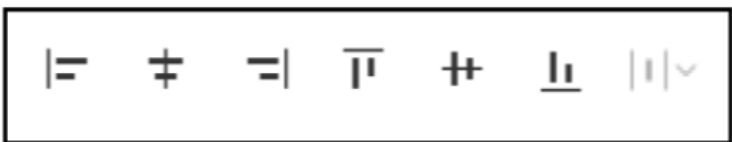
1. Select the **Frame** in the **Layers** panel or on the canvas. If you're working on a file you've already started designing, be sure that you're selecting the Frame and not another element's layer by accident.
2. On the right side of the screen is the **Properties** panel. In the **Layout grid** section, click the **+** icon.
3. By default, a basic grid, which Figma calls a **Uniform Grid**, will be applied to the Frame. Uniform grid gets its name because all of the squares in the grid are a uniform size.
4. You can update the properties by clicking on the icon with nine squares, in the shape of a square, to the left of **Grid** to open the **Layout grid** settings.

Check out Figma's Help Center to learn some [tips for using grids](#) and to explore [types of grids \(uniform, column, row\)](#), including a visual with an example of each type of grid.

Align the elements to a grid

A **control** is a feature that helps you align design elements. In Figma, controls are located at the top of the Properties panel. Aligning the elements on your Frame to a grid will help your layout appear even, organized, and "tidy," as Figma describes it.

Here are the controls in Figma, in the order listed below:



- Align left
- Align horizontal centers
- Align right
- Align top
- Align vertical centers
- Distribute horizontally
- Distribute vertically
- Tidy up

Learn more about [aligning objects](#) in this article from Figma's Help Center.

Auto Layout

Another feature in Figma that you might want to use when creating mockups is Auto Layout. With **Auto Layout**, your designs can shrink or grow in response to a change. For example, you can create buttons that grow or shrink as you edit their text label.

There are a few ways you can add Auto Layout, such as:

1. Select a frame, then click the **plus (+) icon** next to Auto Layout in the right sidebar.
2. Right-click the frame or object, then select **Add Auto Layout**.
3. Use the keyboard shortcut **Shift + A**.

Learn more about [Auto Layout](#) in the Figma Help Center.

Stay inside the lines

Using grids can help improve the consistency and visual appeal of your mockups, so be sure to use them! To learn more, check out this video tutorial from Figma on [alignment and distribution](#) will take you through the steps to perform these actions directly in Figma. Or, read this article from Figma's blog that explains layout grids [everything you need to know about layout grids](#).

For a different perspective, you can also learn how to [build better designs with layout grids](#) in this article from Smashing Magazine.

Mark as completed

