

1.



Activity introduction

This activity will help you apply additional mockup skills. In this activity, you will create a color palette for the Sharpen project. At this point, you should have mockups in Figma. These mockups are from an earlier course activity, [Add typography to your mockups](#)^[1], where you defined fonts for the text in your Sharpen project. Now you'll add some color to your designs!

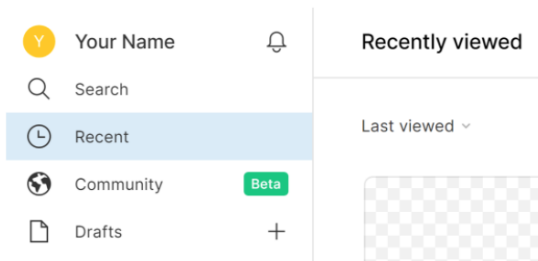
After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to a completed exemplar in the following course item.



Step-by-step instructions

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: Create a color palette in Figma

Create a set of shapes in your Figma canvas and use the color picker tool to define a set of colors you can use for your Sharpen project mockups. You will apply these colors to representative elements in your design, like buttons, borders, menus, backgrounds, and other fill.

Begin by defining at least three distinct colors that you want to use in your design. When choosing colors, keep these important considerations in mind:

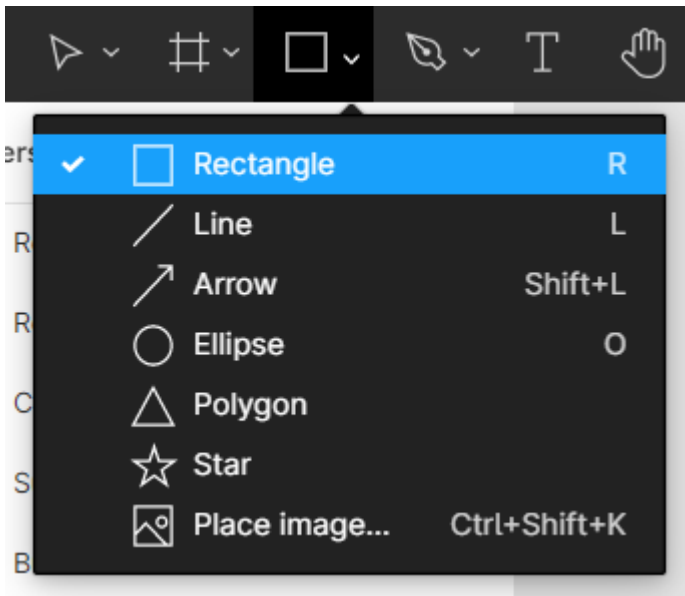
Your color choices should help users better navigate your design.

Think about the messages that certain colors communicate, how people understand color, and how colors mix, match, or contrast with one another.

Be aware of how color choice can impact the accessibility of designs. Your design should always align with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ([WCAG](#)^[1]).

To add variety to your designs, try expanding your color palette to include shades, hues, or complementary colors based on your original three color choices.

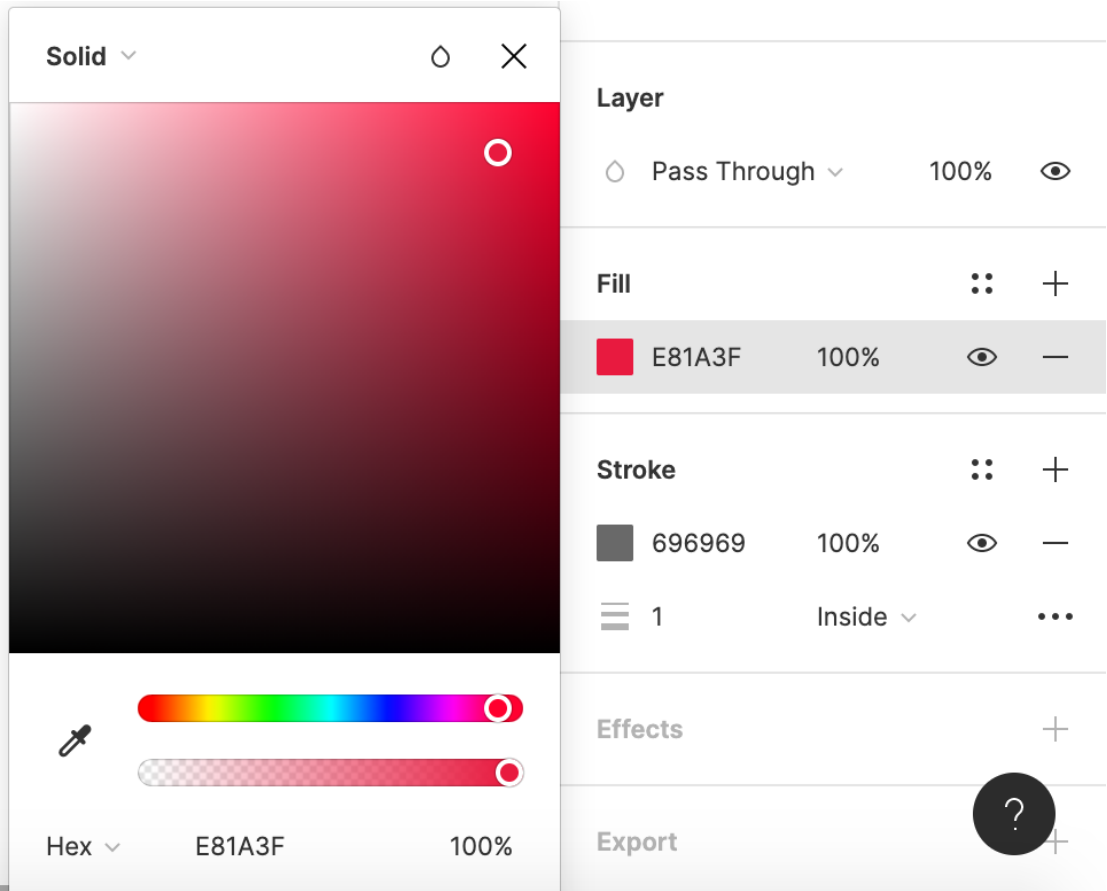
To build the actual color palette element in Figma, start with a basic shape, like a rectangle:



Place as many shapes as there are colors in your palette. For this example, we'll use four colors:



Once placed, change the Fill colors in the design panel on the right:



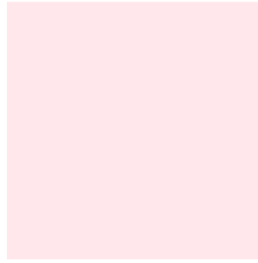
With colors added to the shapes, label the shapes beneath with the hex code of the chosen color:



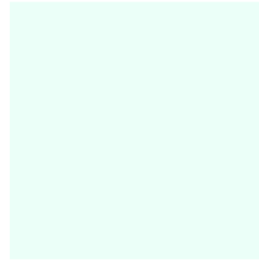
Hex code: E81A3F



Hex code: 18706A



Hex code: FFE7EB



Hex code: EBFFF8

Step 3: Save your color palette for future use

In Figma, you can save your color palettes so that you don't have to go through the steps to recreate a color palette each time work on your designs. To do this:

- . Select a color in your canvas that you want to create a color style for.
- . Click the Styles icon (four dots) in the Fill section of the Design Panel.
- . To create a new style, click the Plus icon in the Color Styles menu.
- . Name the Style and click Create Style.
- . Create a color style based on each of the colors you defined in Step 1, above.

To apply your saved color styles to a new object:

- . Select a layer that you want to apply the color style to.
- . Click the Style icon (four dots) in the Fill section.
- . Choose the color style you want to apply.

Step 4: Determine how you want to apply colors

Now that you have defined a color palette for your design, apply your saved color styles to a screen in your mockups for your portfolio project. Determine how best to apply your colors to representative items in your UI. Decide which colors work best for text, buttons, borders, menus, backgrounds, and other fill.

Step 5: Fill your app with color

Next, extend these color palette selections to the other screens in your app. Remember, this is only a starting point. We're providing these instructions as a guideline; however, you can always adjust and change your selections as you continue to work on your designs. While layering in your color selections, pay attention to your prior decisions and, if needed, feel free to go back and revise. Remember too that these colors are not locked in — you'll have opportunities to update and change them as you get outside feedback.

Step 6: Reflect on the completion of this activity

Be sure you've addressed the following questions in your completed deliverable.

Does your color palette provide enough variety to your design?

Do your color choices help users better navigate your design?

Do your color choices align with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ([WCAG](#))?

Did you save your color palette as a collection of color styles?

Do you apply your colors consistently throughout your design?

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 color as directed in this activity.
- . Save all of your work to your computer, a hard drive, or a cloud drive like a Google Drive folder to make sure you have all the resources you'll need later in the course for your portfolio.