

## Chapter 6 Getting Started with Draw

### What Is Draw?

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Draw is a vector graphics drawing program, although it can also perform some operations on raster graphics (pixels). Using Draw, you can quickly create a wide variety of graphical images.

Vector graphics store and display an image as simple geometric elements such as lines, circles, and polygons rather than a collection of pixels (points on the screen). Vector graphics allow for easier storage and scaling of the image.

Draw is fully integrated into the Apache OpenOffice suite, and this simplifies exchanging graphics with all components of the suite. For example, if you create an image in Draw, reusing it in a Writer document is as simple as copying and pasting the image. You can also work with drawings directly from within Writer or Impress, using a subset of the functions and tools from Draw.

Draw's functionality is extensive; even though it was not designed to rival high-end graphics applications, it possesses more functions than most drawing tools that are integrated with office productivity suites.

A few examples of drawing functions are:

- Layer management
- Magnetic grid point system
- Dimensions and measurement display
- Connectors for making organization charts
- 3D functions that enable small three-dimensional drawings to be created (with texture and lighting effects)
- Drawing and page style integration
- Bézier curves



### Status Bar

The Status bar is located at the bottom of the screen (in all Apache OpenOffice components); it includes several Draw-specific fields.

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### Toolbars

To display or hide the various Draw toolbars, choose **View > Toolbars**. On the menu that appears, select which toolbars you want to display. For more about working with toolbars, see Chapter 1 (Introducing Apache OpenOffice).

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Is there any reason why some  
"Draw" employ the **DejaVu Sans**  
font?

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"é" in "Bézier" — the **Times New Roman** font

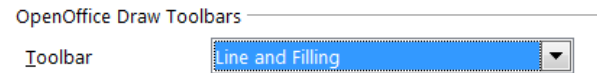
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Just like on the page 158:  
why the font **DejaVu Sans**  
is used?

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The toolbar name is "Line and Filling"

Many of the functions of the Line & Filling, the Text Formatting, and the Drawing toolbars are available in the Properties deck of the Sidebar once an object is selected



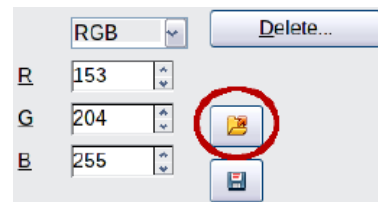
page 162

"circled"...

Might be worth adding a reference i.e.

"circled in the Figure 140"?

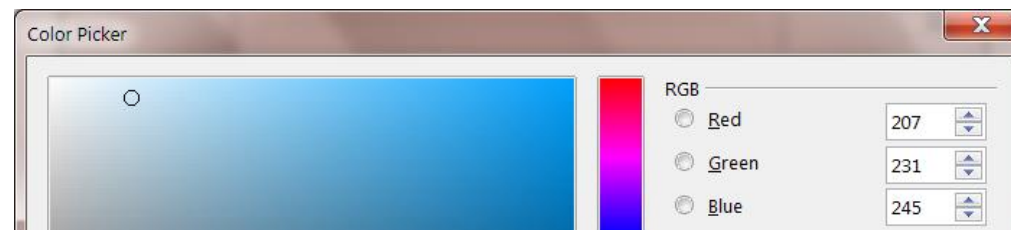
To load another palette, click on the **Load Color List** button (circled). The file selector dialog asks you to choose one of the standard Apache OpenOffice palettes (files with the file extension \*.soc). For example, web.soc is a color palette that is particularly adapted to creating drawings that are going to appear in Web pages. The colors will correctly display on workstations with screens displaying at least 256 colors.



Click on the **Edit** button to open the Color dialog, where you can set individual colors. See "Color options" in Chapter 11 (Setting Up and Customizing Apache OpenOffice) in this book. Many more input possibilities are available in this dialog.

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Title of the dialog: "Color Picker"



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The 1st sentence suggest that color of the grid points can be individually chosen for each axis.  
That's not true.

Configuring the Grid

The color, spacing, and resolution of the grid points can be individually chosen for each axis. The spacing between the lines is defined in the Grid options dialog (**Tools > Options > OpenOffice Draw > Grid**).

In the *Drawing / Presentation* section, you can change the color of the grid points. On the *Color Settings* pull-down menu, select a more suitable/visible color, for example black.

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Figure 143 shows the Spreadsheet part. It should show the relevant part.

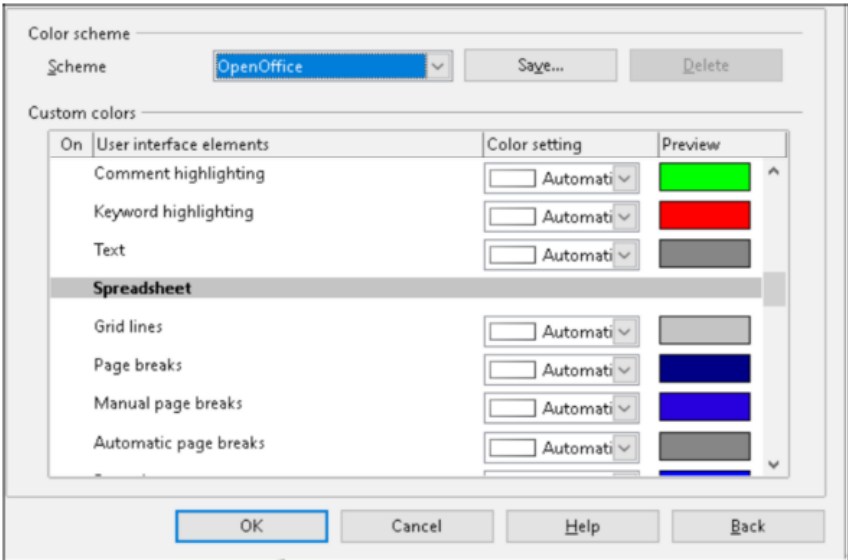
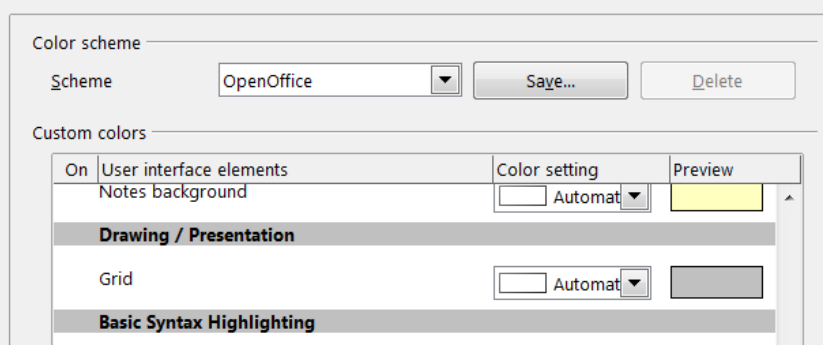


Figure 143: Changing the grid color



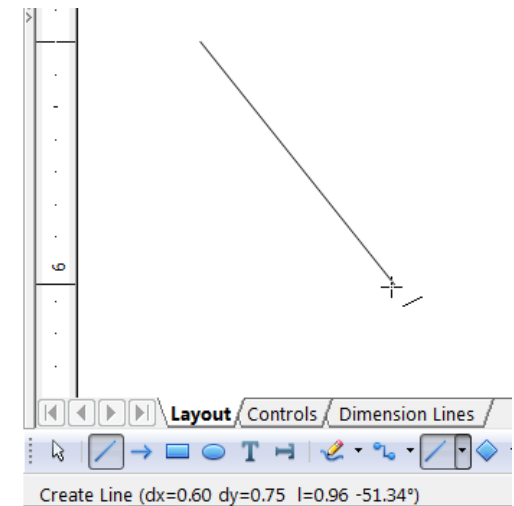
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In case of inserting line,  
the Info field shows:

"Create Line" (name of the  
operation in Undo: "Insert Line")

### Note

When you draw a basic shape or select one for editing, the Info field on the left side in the status bar changes to reflect the present action: Line created, Text frame xxyy selected, and so on.



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"height/length"?

Wouldn't "height/width" be more  
appropriate?

### Note

If you press the *Shift* key while resizing an object, the change in size will be carried out symmetrically with respect to the two axes, so that the aspect (height/length) ratio of the object remains the same.

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"basic shapes can be rotated but not slanted."


The Guide says:

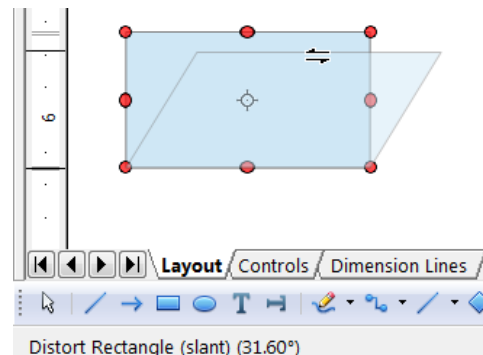
*Basic shapes include: Lines, Arrows, Rectangles and squares,  
Ellipses and circles, Curves and polygons.*

Consider the Info field on the status bar in case of Rectangle:  
"Distort Rectangle (slant)"

That begs the question of whether basic shapes cannot be  
slanted.

## Inclination and Perspective

To slant or shear objects, use the red handles located at the midpoint of an edge of the selected objects. The mouse pointer changes to a  when the pointer hovers over one of these midpoint handles. Not every object can be slanted; basic shapes can be rotated but not slanted.





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The name of toolbar is "Line and Filling"

## Editing Objects

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To change an object's attributes (such as color and border width) you can use the Area and Line panels of the Sidebar, the Line, and Filling toolbar or the context menu.

If the Line and Filling toolbar (Figure 154) is not visible, you can display it using **View > Toolbars > Line and Filling**. From here you can edit the most common object attributes. You can also open the Line dialog by clicking on the Line  icon and the Area dialog by clicking on the Area  icon to see more options.

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"menu"...

in what sense?

## Distorting an Image

There are three tools on the **Effects** menu that let you drag the corners and edges of an object to distort the image.