

HOW TO TAKE

# Smart Sketchnotes

WITH OBSIDIAN AND ZETTELKASTEN

v0.10.0 | 02.01.2023 | draft



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# SMART SKETCHNOTES

WITH OBSIDIAN AND ZETTELKASTEN

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Sketchnote Book  
by Edmund Gröpl

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Cover: Sketchnote inspired by Graham Shaw at TEDx, 2015  
[https://lnkd.in/eC\\_7RRjy](https://lnkd.in/eC_7RRjy)

# Foreword

This book is a Sketchnotes and Zettelkasten approach to use visual thinking for creativity and productivity supported by Obsidian<sup>1</sup>, an amazing note-taking and knowledge management app.

This draft version is just a collection of ideas and drawings from the authors personal learning journey and experiences about basic concepts of visual and networked thinking by using Smart Sketchnotes. To ensure you have always the latest version available, please check GitHub<sup>2</sup> for updates.

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<sup>1</sup> „Obsidian“, 2022, <https://obsidian.md/>

<sup>2</sup> „Obsidian-Zettelkasten Starter-Kit - Share & Showcase“, Obsidian Forum, 31. März 2022, <https://forum.obsidian.md/t/obsidian-zettelkasten-starter-kit/51090/1>

London

January 2023

N.N.

# Preface

I'm a data scientist and data storyteller. Networked thinking is part of my job since more than 30 years. Working with sketchnotes is a basic need. But why should I start writing a book about Smart Sketchnotes? The answer is easy.

What I've learned in my digital life:

1. Moments are precious.
2. So, I'm taking photos to remember.
3. Too many photos are overwhelming.
4. So, I love to create Photo Books.

But I needed much longer to understand:

1. Ideas are precious.
2. So, I'm taking sketchnotes to remember.

3. Too many sketchnotes are overwhelming.
4. So, I'm just creating my first Sketchnote Book about Digital Sketchnotes.

Do you already have a photo book? And what about having your own Sketchnote Book collecting **Digital Sketchnotes**?

If you love the idea, here are some more great examples:

- A Simple Guide to Sketchnoting, Alessio Bresciani <sup>3</sup>
- Essentials of Visual Language, Yuri Malishenko<sup>4</sup>
- The xLontrax Theory of Sketchnote, Mauro Toselli<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Alessio Bresciani, *A Simple Guide To Sketchnoting: How To Use Visual Thinking in Daily Life to Improve Communication & Problem Solving*, 2016, <https://www.amazon.de/dp/B01LYP6JWZ/>.

<sup>4</sup> Yuri Malishenko, *Essentials of Visual Language - Workbook* (Leanpub, 2016), <https://leanpub.com/visualthinkingworkbook>.

<sup>5</sup> Mauro Toselli, *The Xlontrax Theory of Sketchnote*, 2016, <https://www.maurotoselli.com/blog/the-xlontrax-theory-of-sketchnote>.



- Sketchnotes aus Australien, Annelies Schippke<sup>6</sup>
- Collection of 98 Digital Sketchnotes, Chris Spalton<sup>7</sup>

But collecting Digital Sketchnotes is only the first step. In this book you will learn how to benefit from networked thinking and visual thinking as well.

Networked thinking and visual thinking are both approaches to organizing and interpreting information that can be used to help you better understand complex ideas and concepts. However, they differ in the way they represent and structure information.

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<sup>6</sup> Annelies Schippke, „Sketchnotes aus Australien“, *meisterbar* (blog), 2022, <http://meisterbar.de/australien/>.

<sup>7</sup> Chris Spalton, „Collected Digital Sketchnotes“, Dropbox, 2022, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cwozl3elf3604pi/Chris%20Spalton%20-%20Collected%20Digital%20Sketchnotes%20.pdf?dl=0>.

**Networked thinking**<sup>8</sup> is an approach to organizing information that involves creating connections and relationships between different pieces of information. It often involves creating a network or map of interconnected ideas and concepts, which can be visualized in the form of a diagram or other visual representation. Networked thinking is often used to identify patterns and connections between different pieces of information, and to explore the relationships between different ideas and concepts.

**Visual thinking**<sup>9</sup>, on the other hand, is an approach to organizing and interpreting information that involves the use of visual elements such as images, diagrams, and graphics to represent and communicate information. Visual thinking can be used to create

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<sup>8</sup> Anne-Laure Le Cunff, „Networked Thinking: A Quiet Cognitive Revolution“, *Ness Labs* (blog), 23. September 2020, <https://nesslabs.com/networked-thinking>.

<sup>9</sup> Willemien Brand und Pieter Koene, *Visual Thinking - Empowering People and Organizations Through Visual Collaboration* (Bis B.V., Uitgeverij (BIS Publishers), 2017), [https://openlibrary.org/books/OL28622690M/Visual\\_Thinking](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL28622690M/Visual_Thinking).

visual summaries of complex ideas, to convey information in a more memorable and engaging way, and to facilitate the process of problem-solving and decision-making.

In summary, networked thinking involves creating connections and relationships between different pieces of information, while visual thinking involves using visual elements to represent and communicate information. Both approaches can be useful tools for organizing and understanding complex ideas and concepts.

We will start taking notes and taking sketchnotes as well. Linked together we can see almost hidden structures. That's the stuff **Smart Sketchnotes** are made of. Start reading to discover your new world of thinking.



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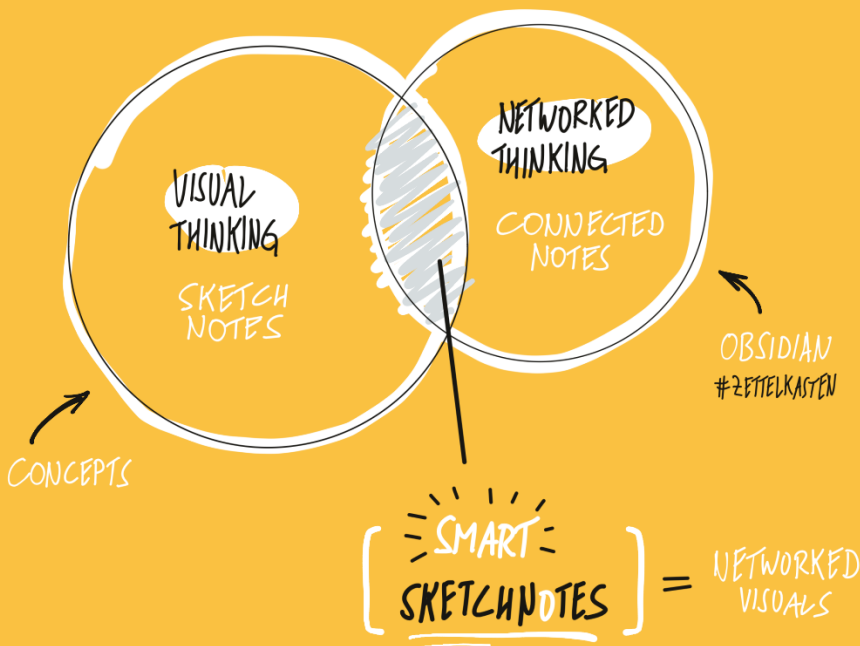




# INTRODUCTION

SMART  
↑ ↑ ↑

# SKETCHNOTES



# Understand The Value of Smart Sketchnotes

Smart Sketchnotes are Networked Visuals<sup>10</sup>:

- Visual Thinking creates Sketchnotes.
- Networked Thinking creates Connected Notes.

It is like connecting Mike Rohde and Niklas Luhmann. The only tools you need are Concepts app and Obsidian with Luhmann's Zettelkasten. Try it your own: Start reading the next chapter.

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<sup>10</sup> Edmund Gröpl, „Smart Sketchnotes are Networked Visuals - LinkedIn“, 2022,  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6909149379492769794/>.



IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO  
THINK  
SYSTEMATICALLY  
WITHOUT WRITING  
(LUHMANN 1992, 53).



SKETCHNOTING

**Sönke Ahrens**

*How to Take Smart Notes: One Simple Technique to Boost Writing, Learning and Thinking*

#kindlequotes



#EPMIND 2022

# Take Notes



**WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE WRITTEN DOWN?**

**CERTAINLY, AT FIRST WE WILL PRODUCE MOSTLY GARBAGE.**

**BUT WE HAVE BEEN EDUCATED TO EXPECT SOMETHING USEFUL FROM OUR  
ACTIVITIES AND SOON LOSE CONFIDENCE IF NOTHING USEFUL SEEMS TO  
RESULT.**

**WE SHOULD THEREFORE REFLECT ON WHETHER AND HOW WE ARRANGE  
OUR NOTES SO THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR LATER ACCESS.**

**– NIKLAS LUHMANN<sup>11</sup>**

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<sup>11</sup> Manfred Kuehn, „Learning How to Read by Niklas Luhmann“,  
zugegriffen 2. Januar 2023, <https://luhmann.surge.sh/learning-how-to-read>.

For me reading books is not enough. To find new insights note-taking is essential. Here is one of my personal insights I found when working with my Zettelkasten:

**IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO THINK SYSTEMATICALLY WITHOUT SKETCHNOTING.<sup>12</sup>**

My connected notes for finding this insight:

- The Sketchnote Handbook - Mike Rohde<sup>13</sup>
- How to take Smart Notes - Dr. Sönke Ahrens<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Edmund Gröpl, „It is not possible to think“, 2022, [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/groepl\\_procreate-lernos-lernossketchnoting-activity-7002979335590576128-\\_ocZ/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/groepl_procreate-lernos-lernossketchnoting-activity-7002979335590576128-_ocZ/).

<sup>13</sup> Mike Rohde, *Sketchnote Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Visual Note Taking* (Milwaukee: Peachpit Press, 2012).

<sup>14</sup> Sönke Ahrens, *How to Take Smart Notes: One Simple Technique to Boost Writing, Learning and Thinking*, 2022.

As I have learned there are several benefits to taking notes:

**Improved understanding and retention of information:** Taking notes helps you process and understand the material you are learning and makes it easier to review and recall later.

**Increased focus and concentration:** Taking notes can help you stay engaged and focused during a lecture or meeting, as it requires you to actively listen and pay attention to what is being said.

**Better organization and clarity:** Notes can help you organize your thoughts and ideas and can serve as a helpful reference when you need to review the material later.

**Enhanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills:** Note-taking can help you analyse and evaluate information, as you must decide what is most important and relevant to include in your notes.

**Preparation for future use:** Notes can be a useful resource when preparing for exams, projects, or presentations. They can also serve



as a valuable reference when you need to revisit the material in the future.

#1

Ideas,  
not  
Art

- MIKE ROHDE



#EDMUND'2021

# Take Sketchnotes



**SKETCHNOTES ARE RICH VISUAL NOTES CREATED FROM A MIX OF HANDWRITING, DRAWINGS, HAND-DRAWN TYPOGRAPHY, SHAPES, AND VISUAL ELEMENTS LIKE ARROWS, BOXES, AND LINES.**

**– MIKE RHODE (THE SKETCHNOTE HANDBOOK)**

Sketchnoting, also known as visual note-taking, is a way of creating visual summaries of information. It involves combining drawings, text, and symbols to capture the essence of a meeting, lecture, or presentation in a way that is more engaging and memorable than traditional note-taking methods.

There are several benefits to sketchnoting:

**Improved retention:** Studies have shown that people tend to remember information better when it is presented visually. Sketchnoting allows you to create a visual representation of the information, which can help you remember it more effectively.

**Increased engagement:** Sketchnoting requires you to actively process and synthesize information as you create your visual summary. This can help you stay more engaged with the material and better understand the key points.

**Enhanced communication:** Sketchnotes can be shared with others, making them a powerful tool for communication and collaboration. They can be used to summarize meetings, lectures, or presentations, or to explain complex concepts to others in a more accessible way.

**Greater creativity:** Sketchnoting encourages creativity and allows you to express your understanding of the material in your own unique way. This can make the learning process more enjoyable and rewarding.

Overall, sketchnoting is a powerful tool for learning, retention, engagement, communication, and creativity.

To learn more about sketchnoting I can recommend several books from my reading list that can help you start with:

**"The Sketchnote Handbook" by Mike Rohde:** This book is a comprehensive guide to visual note-taking, with tips and techniques for creating effective sketchnotes.

...

Another source of value are the many talented and influential sketchnoters who use social media to share their work and connect with their audiences. Some of the most well-known and influential sketchnoters on social media include I know are:

**MIKE ROHDE**<sup>15</sup>: A designer, illustrator, and author who is known for his work on sketchnotes.

**SUNNI BROWN**: A designer, author, and speaker who is known for her work on visual thinking and communication.

**EVA-LOTTA LAMM**<sup>16</sup>: A designer, illustrator, and speaker who is known for her work on visual thinking and communication.

...

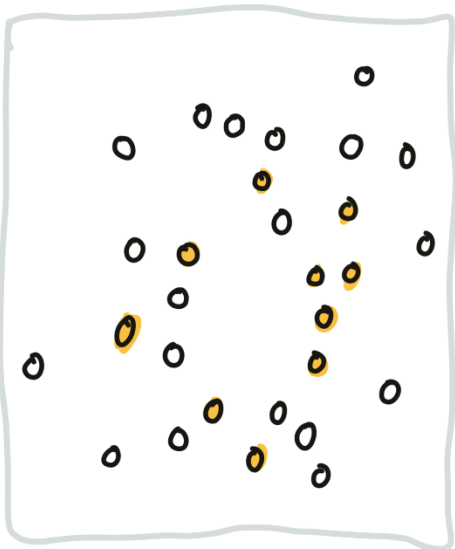
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<sup>15</sup> *Mike Rohde - YouTube*, 2015,  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/MikeRohde>.

<sup>16</sup> *Eva-Lotta Lamm: 5 Steps to Change Your Note-Taking*, 2018,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ql-GNmxw71E>.

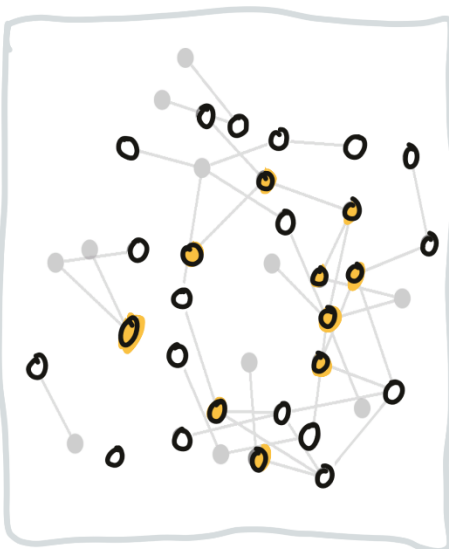


## SKETCHNOTES



IDEAS

## SMART SKETCHNOTES



NETWORKED IDEAS



# Create Smart Sketchnotes



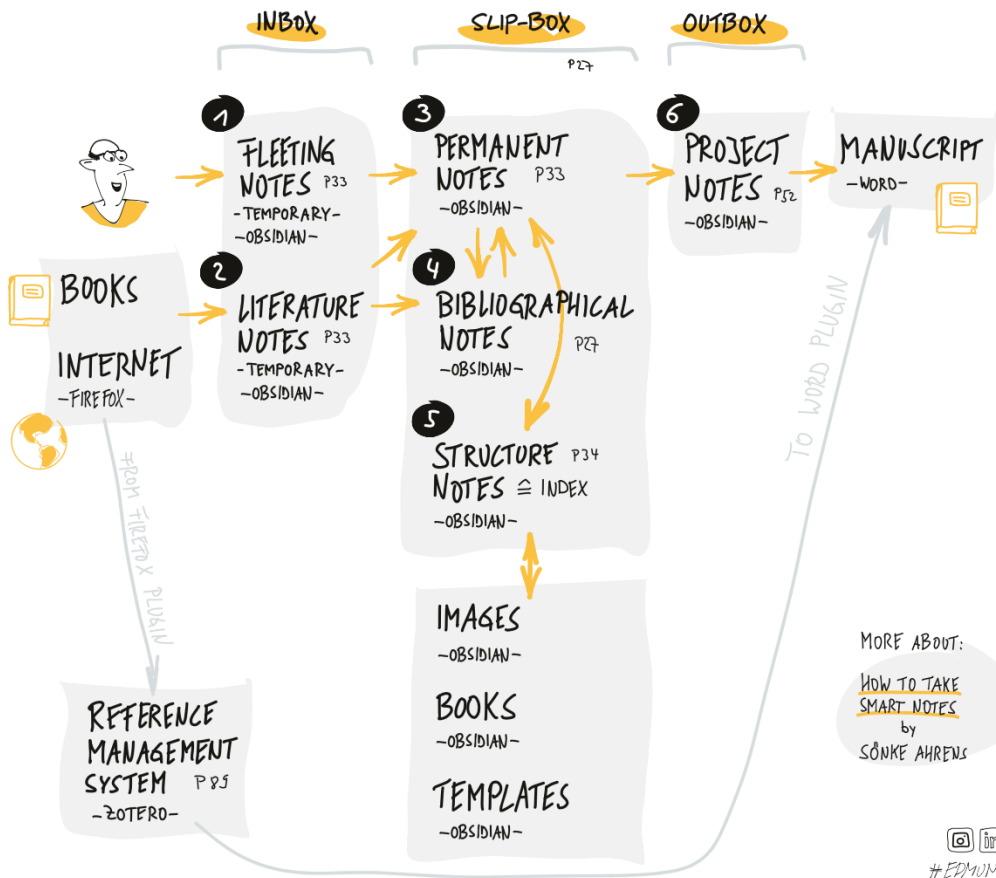
**NO PICTURE PUZZLES – MARTINA GRIGOLEIT**

What is the difference between a sketchnote and a smart sketchnote? It is the same as between ideas and networked idea. Such easy.

START FROM  
PROVEN  
CONCEPTS

HOW  
TO  
USE

# ZETTELKASTEN IN OBSIDIAN



# Use Zettelkasten Method

Just finished reading the amazing book “How to take Smart Notes” from Sönke Ahrens<sup>17</sup>. As a visual thinker and sketchnoter my first idea was to use this method to combine visual thinking with networked thinking. Taking smart notes is great but taking smart sketchnotes would be even greater.

To summarize the content of a book like this within one sketchnote is not that easy. So, I started to summarize one main aspect which is important for a reader of Ahrens’ book to work with

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<sup>17</sup> Ahrens, *How to Take Smart Notes*.

the Zettelkasten method<sup>18</sup>. It is the major workflow starting with filling the inbox till using the content of the growing slip-box to produce an output of higher value. Added the tools I'm using in this process and also the page numbers from the book as a reference for further reading and understanding the underlying method.

You see, there are several types of notes that are relevant for a Zettelkasten system. This are the types of notes that you might use in your Zettelkasten:

**Fleeting Notes** are brief notes that we can use to capture ideas or information that may not be relevant in the long term but need to be recorded quickly. They can be thought of as temporary placeholder notes that can be reviewed and either incorporated into the Zettelkasten or discarded later.

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<sup>18</sup> „How to Use Zettelkasten in Obsidian - Knowledge Management“, Obsidian Forum, 31. März 2022, <https://forum.obsidian.md/t/how-to-use-zettelkasten-in-obsidian/35008>.

The purpose of Fleeting Notes is to allow you to quickly capture and record ideas or information as they occur to you, without the need to spend a lot of time organizing or categorizing them. This can be especially useful when you are working on a project or engaged in creative thinking, as it allows you to quickly capture and save ideas without interrupting your workflow.

By creating Fleeting Notes, you can ensure that you don't forget important ideas or information, and you can also use them as a starting point for more in-depth analysis or research later. Ultimately, Fleeting Notes are an important tool for helping you to stay organized and focused and can be an integral part of your successful Zettelkasten system.

**Literature notes** are a type of note used in the Zettelkasten method of note-taking and organization. In a Zettelkasten, notes are organized into a network of interconnected ideas, with each note representing a single thought or concept. Literature notes are used to capture information from external sources, such as books,

articles, or lectures, and to integrate it into your own thinking and work.

The purpose of literature notes is to help you to extract and summarize the key points and ideas from external sources, and to relate them to your own thinking and work. By creating literature notes, you can more easily incorporate new information into your Zettelkasten and use it to build upon or challenge your existing ideas. Literature notes can also help you to access and retrieve information from external sources, as they provide a structured way to capture and organize the relevant information more easily.

Using literature notes in a Zettelkasten can be especially helpful for you to keep track of a large volume of information from various sources. It can also be useful to more effectively incorporate new information into your thinking and work.

**Permanent notes**, also known as atomic notes, are the central type of note used in the Zettelkasten. They are organized into a network of interconnected ideas, with each note representing a single

thought or concept. Permanent notes are the central ideas that form the backbone of this network and are used to connect and relate other notes to each other.

The purpose of permanent notes is to provide a stable foundation for the rest of the notes in the Zettelkasten. They are meant to be long-lasting and not subject to frequent change, in contrast to temporary or working notes (Fleeting notes and Literature notes), which are more focused on capturing and organizing information in the short term. Permanent notes are typically used to represent key concepts, ideas, or themes that are central to your thinking and work.

Using permanent notes in a Zettelkasten can help you to better structure and organize your thoughts and ideas, as well as to identify connections and relationships between different pieces of information.

**Bibliographical notes**, also known as reference notes, are a additional type of note used in the Zettelkasten. They are used to capture and store information about external sources, such as



books, articles, or lectures, that are relevant to your thinking and work.

The purpose of bibliographical notes is to provide a central location for storing and organizing information about external sources that you have used or want to use in your work. By creating bibliographical notes, you can more easily keep track of the sources you have consulted and quickly retrieve them when needed. Bibliographical notes can also help you to cite your sources more easily in your own work, as they provide a structured way to capture and store the necessary information.

Using bibliographical notes in a Zettelkasten can be especially helpful for you if you need to keep track of a large volume of information from various sources.

**Structure Notes** are notes that are used to organize and structure the other notes in the system. They are typically used to create relationships between different notes and to establish the overall structure of the Zettelkasten.

There are several different types of Structure Notes that you might use in your Zettelkasten, including:

- **Overview Notes:** These notes provide a high-level overview of a particular topic or idea and can help to give context to the other notes in the system.
- **Summary Notes:** These notes summarize the main points or key takeaways from a particular note or group of notes.
- **Index Notes:** These notes are used to create an index or table of contents for the Zettelkasten and can help you to quickly find and access specific notes.
- **Linking Notes:** These notes are used to create connections between different notes in the Zettelkasten and can help to establish relationships between different ideas or concepts.

By using Structure Notes, you can create a logical and coherent structure for your Zettelkasten and make it easier to find and access the information that you need. This can be especially useful when working on a complex project or when trying to make

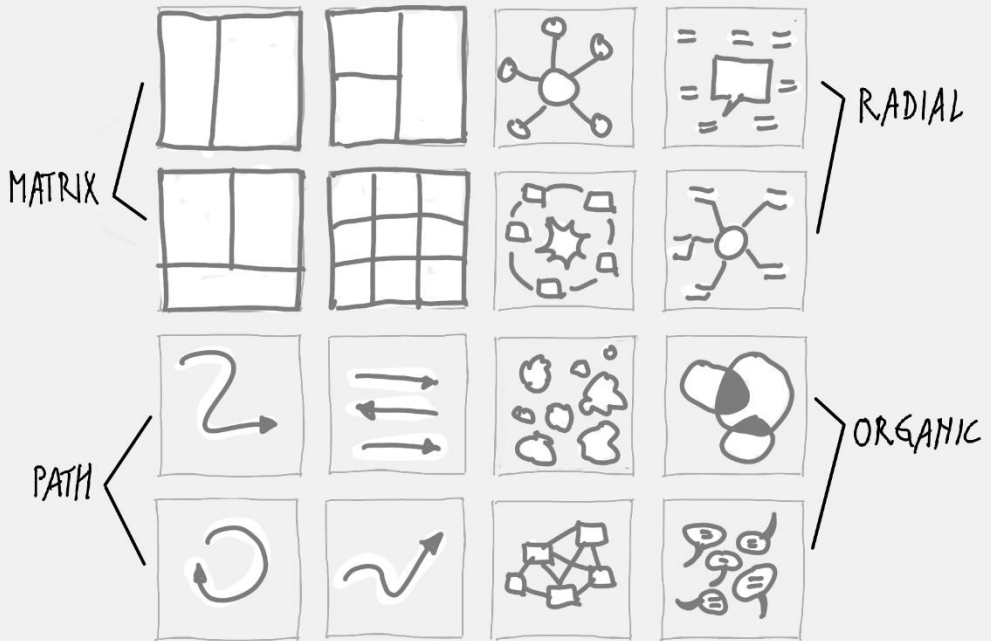
connections between different pieces of information. Ultimately, Structure Notes are an important tool for helping you to stay organized and focused and can be an integral part of your successful Zettelkasten system.

**Project Notes** are notes that are related to a specific project or task. The purpose of Project Notes is to help you stay organized and on track while working on a specific project. By creating Project Notes, you can keep all the relevant information for a particular project in one place, and easily reference it as needed. This can help you to stay focused and avoid becoming overwhelmed by the details of the project.

Overall, Project Notes are a valuable tool for helping you to stay organized and focused.

# lernos<sup>co</sup> SKETCHNOTES

KATA 13 - WEEK 5



BASIC

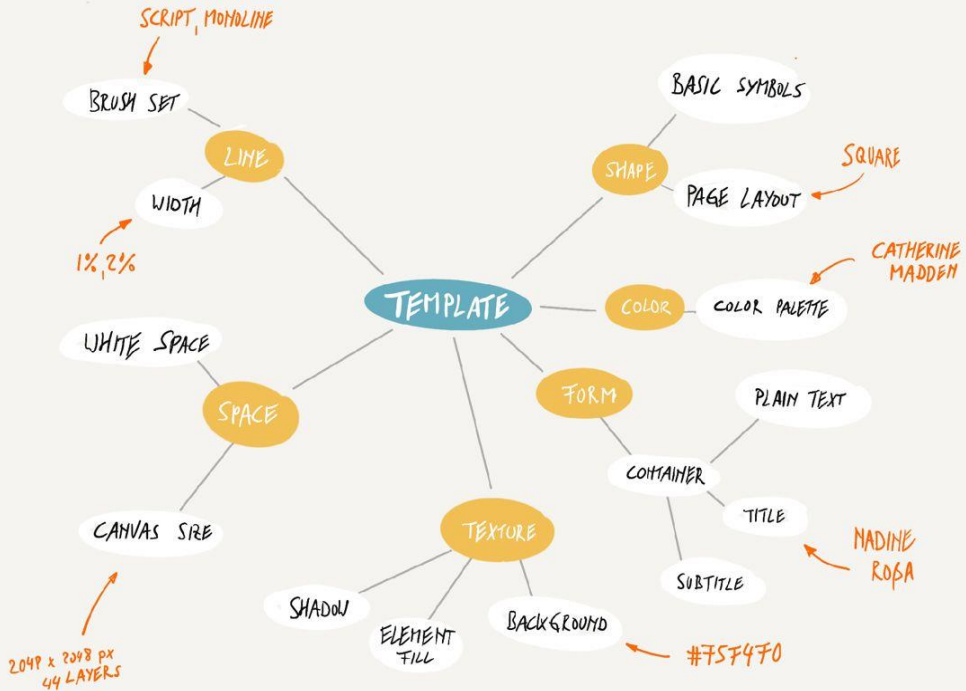
LAYOUT

STRUCTURES

Use Sketchnotes

# lernos<sup>®</sup> SKETCHNOTES

KATA 13 - WEEK 5



MINDMAP

LAYOUT

CLASSIC

# Layout & Structure

What do I know about layouts? - For me it is the main question lernOS sketchnoting produces in week 5. Which layouts do I know? Which are the basic rules working with layouts? Which layouts I am already using? Which layout do I always wanted use? ...

It is like watching an iceberg. Only 10 to 15% are visible. I have just started to learn more about layouts to explore more of the hidden principles. But it is a long journey. ;-)

# Use Mind Maps

**FOCUS ON SOMETHING YOU WANT TO LEARN AND FOCUS ON IT - MARC GUTMAN**

**KEEP A BAD DRAWING UNTIL BY STUDY YOU HAVE FOUND OUT WHY IT IS BAD - ROBERT HENRI**

**WE LEARN BY COPYING. WE ADVANCE THROUGH INTEGRATION. WE MASTER BY TAPPING INTO OUR OWN SOURCE. - KELVY BIRD<sup>19</sup>**

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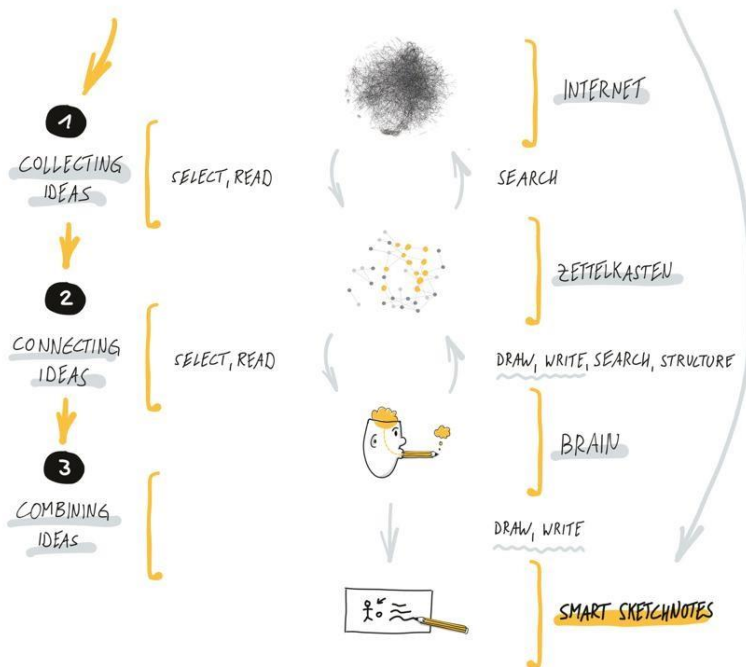
<sup>19</sup> [1]



Use Concept Maps

BUILD UP YOUR  
WORKFLOW

# WORKFLOW for SMART SKETCHNOTES



# Start with Three Steps



**YOU CANNOT THINK WITHOUT SKETCHNOTING.**

To create Smart Sketchnotes you will need three steps for:

1. collecting ideas,
2. connecting ideas and
3. combining ideas.

Compared with the well know process of sketchnoting there is one element in between: It is the “magic” Zettelkasten, something like a second brain, where you can store and most important connect your selected ideas of value.

# Focus on Creating Output

Here are my personal strategies for you to focus on creating output:

**Set specific goals<sup>20</sup>:** Identify what you want to accomplish and create specific, measurable goals to help guide your efforts. This will help you stay focused and motivated.

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<sup>20</sup> Doerr John, *Measure What Matters : OKRs - The Simple Idea that Drives 10x Growth* (Portfolio Penguin, 2018), [https://openlibrary.org/books/OL27371716M/Measure\\_What\\_Matters\\_OKRs](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL27371716M/Measure_What_Matters_OKRs).

**Eliminate distractions:** Remove any unnecessary distractions from your work environment. This could include turning off notifications on your phone or computer or finding a quiet place to work.

**Use time-blocking:** Schedule specific times for working on specific tasks or projects. This can help you stay on track and avoid getting side-tracked.

**Take breaks:** It is important to take breaks to rest and recharge. Set aside time for breaks and use them to refocus your energy and get back to work with renewed focus.

**Use tools to help you stay on track:** There are many tools and techniques that can help you stay focused and on track. For example, you might use a timer to break your work into manageable chunks, or you might use a productivity app to help you prioritize tasks and stay organized.

**Get feedback:** Seek feedback from others on your work to help you stay motivated and focused. This can help you identify areas where you can improve and stay engaged in your work.

Overall, the key to focusing on creating output is to set clear goals, eliminate distractions, use time-blocking and other productivity techniques, and seek feedback from others to stay motivated and on track.

Make it a Habit



USE DIGITAL  
TOOLS TO  
SUPPORT YOUR  
WORKFLOW



**GET A NEW PEN - MARC GUTMAN**

**THE PAINTER DRAWS WITH HIS EYES, NOT WITH HIS HANDS - MAURICE GROSSER**

**YOU ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT TOOL - MARTINA GRIGOLEIT**

I started digital sketchnoting with Paper53®, Adobe Sketch® and Procreate®. But now I surprisingly prefer vector-based tools like PowerPoint®, OneNote®, Miro® and Concepts®. It's also great fun to use a mind mapping tool like SimpleMind®<sup>21</sup> to create structured mind maps like this one.

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<sup>21</sup> [11]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i79VqhShVww>

Collect Ideas

# Obsidian

Obsidian<sup>22</sup> is a notetaking and knowledge management app on top of a local folder of plain text markdown files. It lets you turn a collection of plain text files into a rich network of linked thought.

## Pros

- Incredible graph view. Not only is it super-fast, but you can apply filters, create groups, and even change the look and functionality of the graph itself.
- Cross-platform app available for iOS (iPhone, iPad), MacOS, Windows, Linux
- No account or sign up required.
- Community support
- No need for an active internet connection.

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<sup>22</sup> „Obsidian“.

- Obsidian is a fast-growing platform with new tools added regularly.
- Pricing: 100% free for personal use

### **Cons**

- iOS version works only with iCloud

Excel

Visualize Ideas

## Ebenen



## Präzision

● Gitter Punktraster

○ Einrasten Optionen

○ Messen 1:1 mm

○ Hilfslinie Bogen

MISTER MAIKEL

# SKETCHNOTE

WORKSHOP

STRICHSTÄRKE

0,2mm | 0,3mm | 0,5mm | 0,6mm

SONNE



EINFAMILIENHAUS



LASTWAGEN



APFEL

SMARTPHONE



DIAMANT



GLÜHBIRNE



KAFFEE

HOCHHAUS

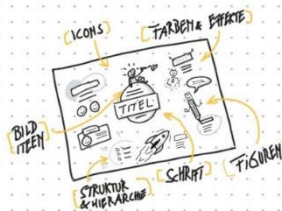


KAFFEE



ODER TEE

WASSER



PERSÖNLICHE HIGHLIGHTS ERSTE WOCHE





# Concepts

Why not starting from scratch? Also, you have some experience in sketchnoting there is always the chance to learn and improve. Idea is to restart with the new book<sup>23</sup> from Michael Geiß-Hein (a.k.a. as Mister Maikel) and with the drawing tool Concepts app . As Maikel proposes: It will need no longer than 6 weeks. So, let us start.

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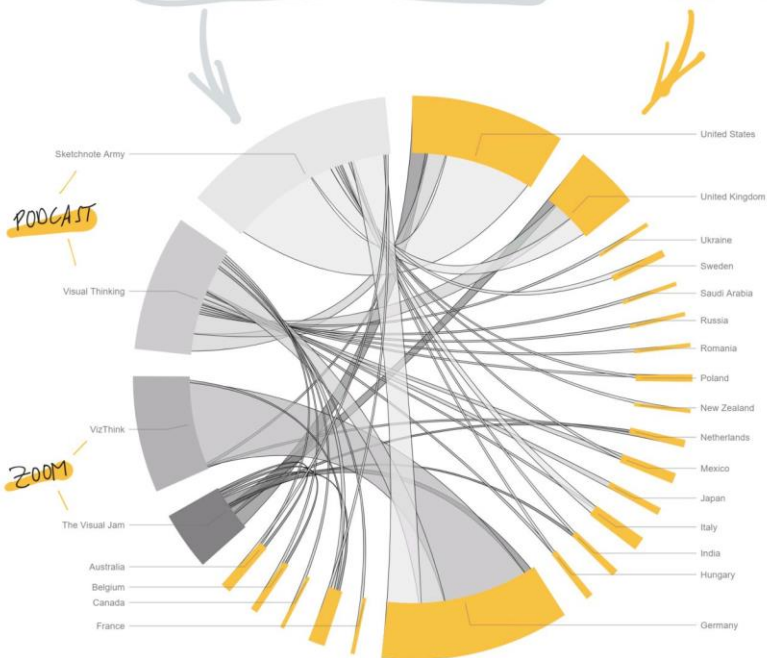
<sup>23</sup> Michael Geiß-Hein, *Sketchnotes - Dein Workshop mit Mister Maikel - In 6 Wochen Sketchnotes lernen*, 2021,  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Sketchnotes\\_Dein\\_Workshop\\_mit\\_Mister\\_Mai.html?hl=&id=VQluzgEACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Sketchnotes_Dein_Workshop_mit_Mister_Mai.html?hl=&id=VQluzgEACAAJ).



## 4 PLACES TO MEET

GREAT VISUAL THINKERS

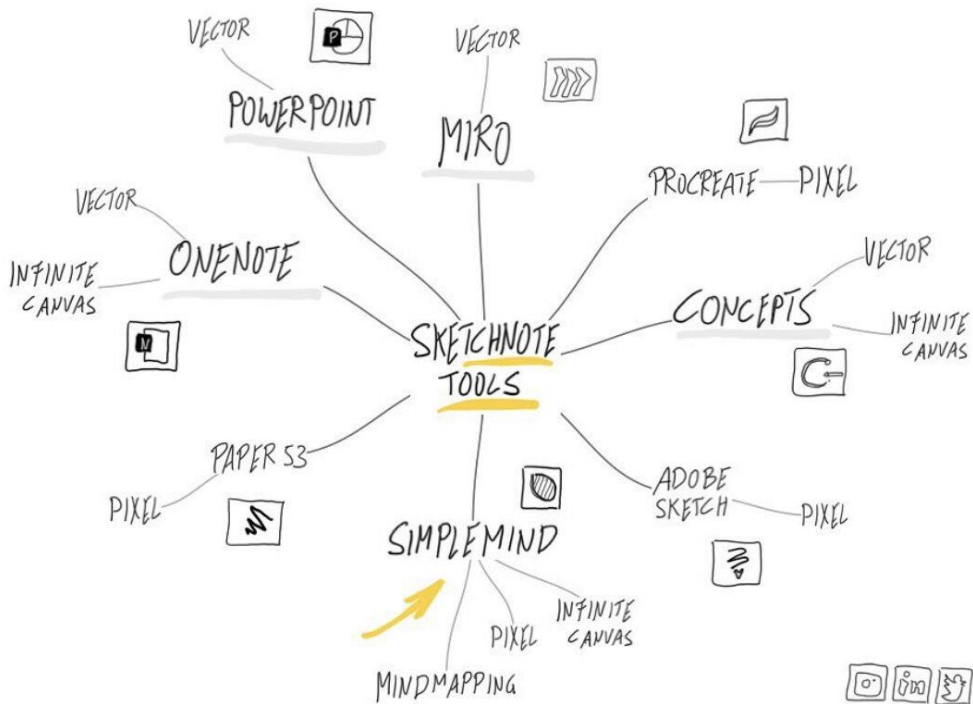
FROM MORE THAN  
25 COUNTRIES



#ECONVID 2022

PowerBI

# Network Ideas



  
#EDMUND2021

# SimpleMind

SimpleMind is a cross-platform Mind Mapping tool with more than ten million users worldwide. It is my preferred tool to create structure notes for my Zettelkasten.

It now offers an integrated drawing editor. Combining mind mapping and sketchnoting is a great idea for brainstorming.

Learn more about this feature by watching SimpleMind <sup>24</sup> on YouTube.

Here are my pros and cons from this use case.

## Pros

- HTML export as an input for structure notes in Zettelkasten

---

<sup>24</sup> „Add Apple Pencil Drawings on iPad“, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i79VqhShVww>.

- PNG export
- Cross-platform app available for iOS (iPhone, iPad), MacOS, Windows, Android
- Infinite canvas
- Use of Apple pencil to add drawings as images

### **Cons**

- Drawings with pencil are pixel based, no vector drawing

Obsidian



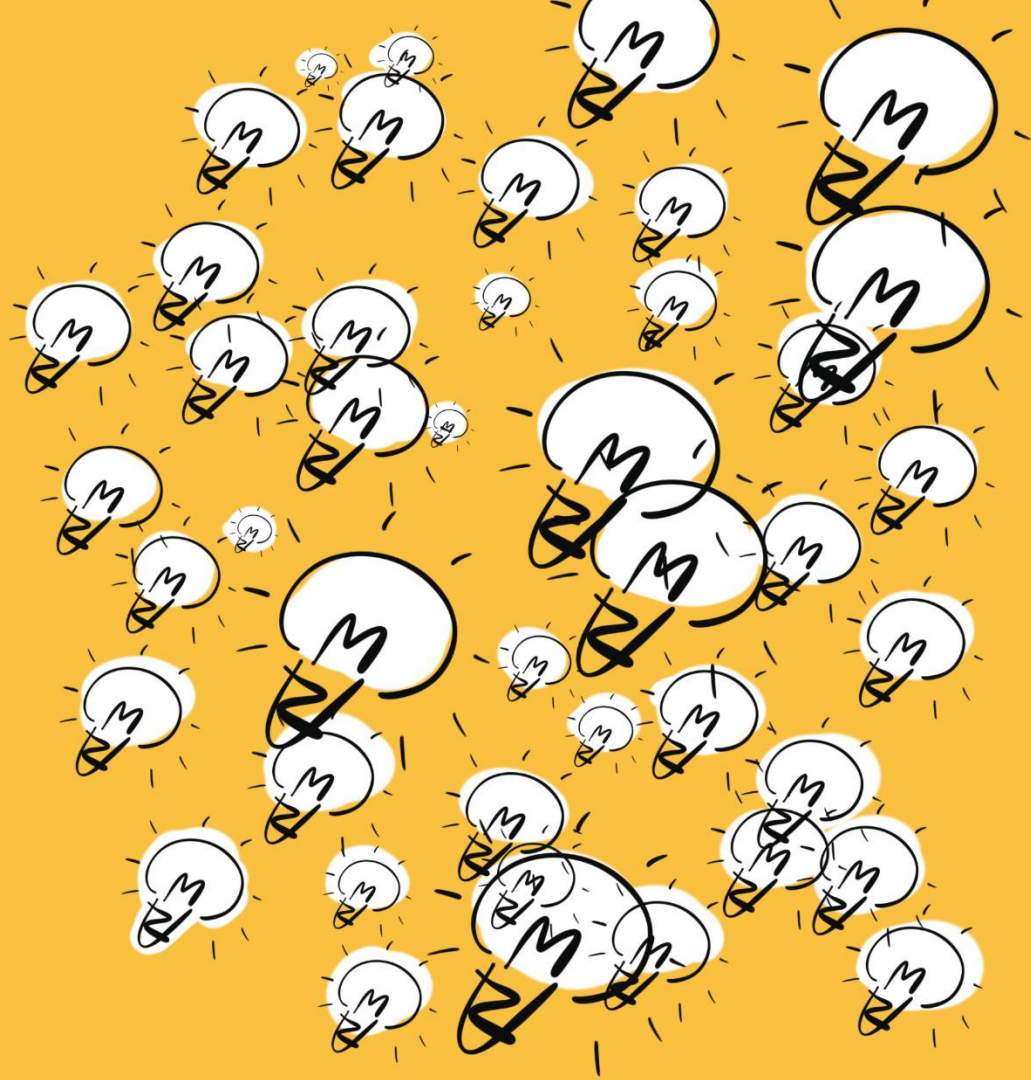
*Communicate Ideas*

Miro

PowerPoint

Publish Ideas

Word ©



Procreate ©

# Hidden Concepts of Data Storytelling



Flatten the Curve  
COVID-19 Story



Three  
Basic Elements



5 Steps

Visual Excellence



Chart Types



Visual Variables



Design Principles



Avoid Pitfalls



Attention



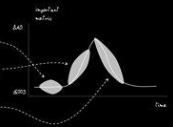
The 22 Rules

Three Act  
Structure

SETUP

CONFRONTATION

RESOLUTION



Business Storylines

Storytelling Canvas

Why not telling



your own

Data Story

2



# PowerPoint ©

Did you ever use PowerPoint for sketchnoting? Here my first example using sketchnotes first. My old way to design a presentation was quite easy: collecting ideas, giving them a structure, and finally building up my PowerPoint slides.

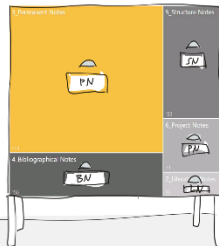
Why not starting with a sketchnote first? It shows all major ideas and the overall structure on one page, just from the beginning.



BENEFIT FROM  
BEST  
PRACTICES

xxx

# 5 MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN STARTING YOUR ZETTELKASTEN



USING OBSIDIAN WITHOUT

- TEMPLATES
- RULES FOR TAGGING
- FRONTMATTER
- TIMESTAMPS IN MD
- DATAVIEW FOR GARDENING

# Avoid Pitfalls

When I started to write my first notes with Obsidian, I followed the rule “Start early and learn by experiment.”

But I also learned: Experiments took a lot of my precious time. Here are my top mistakes to avoid<sup>25</sup>. when starting your first Zettelkasten:

**Starting without templates** - so that it was hard to build up a consistent note structure I needed later for effective searching.

**Using tags without rules for tagging** - so that building clusters for searching was not highly effective.

---

<sup>25</sup> Edmund Gröpl, „5 Mistakes to Avoid When Starting Your First Zettelkasten“, zugegriffen 2. Januar 2023, [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/groepl\\_procreate-lernos-lernossketchnoting-activity-7008062279384465408-85vF/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/groepl_procreate-lernos-lernossketchnoting-activity-7008062279384465408-85vF/).

**No use of frontmatter** - so that meta data and content of notes became inconsistent and confusing.

**No use of time stamps like “created” and “modified” within frontmatter** - so that using backups and changing cloud spaces caused a loss of time information connected with my notes.

**No use of DataView plugin as a tool for gardening** - so that inconsistencies in my Zettelkasten were growing and growing.

All these mistakes lead to intensive re-work of my notes later.

CONNECT WITH  
LEARNING  
COMMUNITIES





BE OPEN FOR  
EXPERIMENTS



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# Version History

**v0.10.0 | 02.01.2023**

What 's New:

- Updated "Foreword"
- Draft text for chapter "Understand the Value of Smart Sketchnotes"
- Draft text for chapter "Take Notes"
- Draft text for chapter "Take Sketchnotes"
- Draft text for chapter "Use Zettelkasten Method"

Bug Fixes:

- Spell checking

**v0.9.0 | 29.12.2022**



- Improved citation with active links in footnotes
- Fresh table of content
- Reworked chapter “Preface”
- Draft text for chapter “Focus on Creating Output”
- Draft text for chapter “SimpleMind”

## **v0.8.0 | 25.04.2022**

- First published at LinkedIn: LinkedIn - Smart Sketchnotes v008

To ensure you have the latest version available, please check GitHub<sup>26</sup> for updates.

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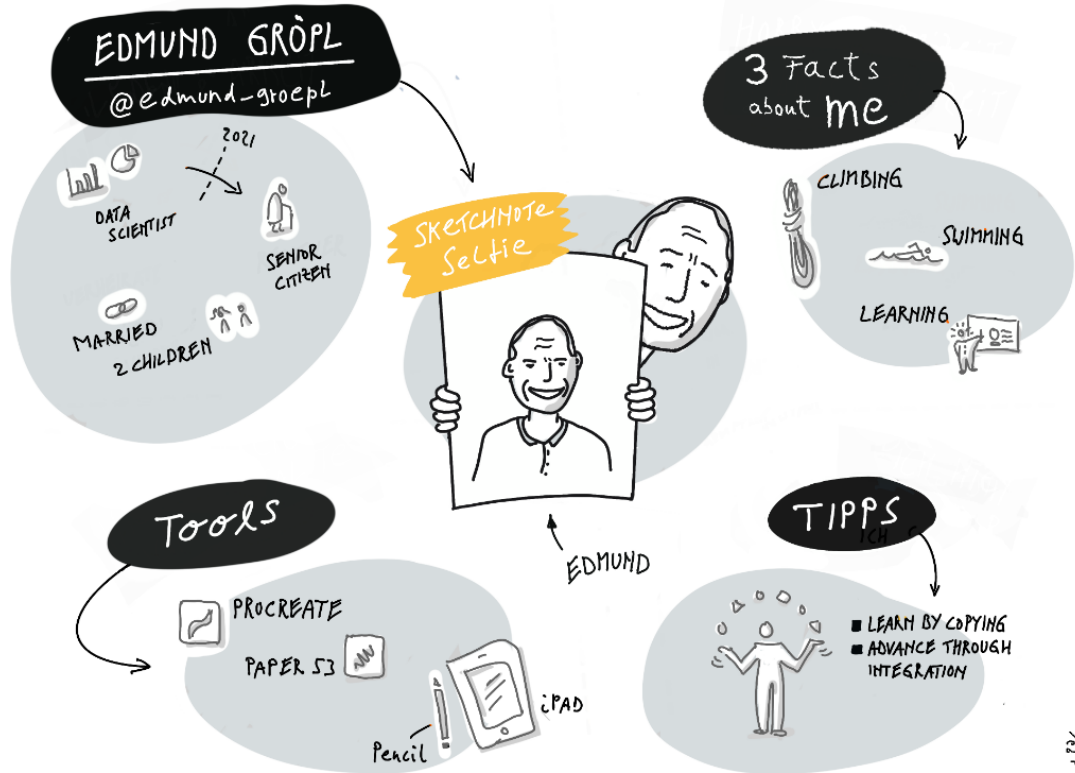
<sup>26</sup> Edmund Gröpl, „Obsidian-Zettelkasten-Starter-Kit“, 28. Dezember 2022, <https://github.com/groepl/Obsidian-Zettelkasten-Starter-Kit>.





# lernos® SKETCHNOTES

WEEK 6 - KATA 15: SKETCHNOTE-SELFIE



# The Author

First things first I am a huge fan of data analysis and data discover. It is more than an interest for me to make relations between numbers and produce meaningful results. I have a passion for helping teams to become more data-driven and embracing the power of data storytelling.

I have experience more than 7 years on data analysis, reporting, dashboards and more than 20 years on software development, project management and corporate strategy on biggest companies including research, automation and telecommunications industries in Germany.

In my free time you can find me at the climbing gym, swimming long distances and spending quality time with my wife and my family.

So now I combine these experiences with my math and engineering background in here and I am looking forward to sharing my passion and knowledge with you.

Finally, I love Visual Thinking and Digital Sketchnoting<sup>27</sup>!

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<sup>27</sup> Edmund Gröpl, „Rework of my Sketchnote Selfie“, 2021,  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/hashtag/?keywords=lernos&highlightedUpdateUrns=urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A6826153340188016640>.



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## ABOUT THE BOOK

*How to take SMART SKETCHNOTES* is a book full of insights for sketchnoters of all proficiency levels. It covers a large scale of concepts useful for sketchnoting on digital devices.

We are learning from great visual thinkers and practitioners about their almost hidden secrets. Understanding the overall context helps to navigate in this field of learning. Going in detail will be the next step. The book provides numerous links to valuable resources you need to keep growing.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



EDMUND GRÖPL is an enthusiast of digital sketchnoting. He is an engineer working as a data scientist and storyteller. Visual thinking is part of his job. Working with sketchnotes and learning from experts is an intense pleasure for him.