App Bars

[Design System Image]

App bars, sometimes called toolbars, are often one of the first elements you see in an application. They are primarily used to provide context for where a user is in the hierarchy of the application.

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

[TOC Component - Interactive React component]

Basic App Bar

[Design System Image]

The basic app bar provides information about the current screen. Typically, this is a short title that indicates which screen the user is on (e.g., "Settings"). However, the app bar can also contain a navigation icon, subtitle, and/or various global action buttons for the screen. When placing actions in the app bar, limit yourself to no more than three. If you have more actions than this, consider grouping them into a menu.

Dropdown Toolbar

[Design System Image]

A special case of the basic app bar is the dropdown toolbar. This version transforms the simple text subtitle of the app bar into a dropdown menu that can be used to configure the page. For example, you may have a dropdown that allows users to switch between different physical locations on an overview screen.

[DemoCard Component - Interactive React component]

Safe Area

[Design System Image]

Collapsible App Bar

In some situations, you may want to present more than just a title and subtitle in an app bar, such as a large graphic, buttons, or multiple lines of text. Collapsible app bars — sometimes referred to as expandable app bars, extended app bars, or prominent app bars — are ideal for this situation. The app bar starts out tall but will shrink as the user scrolls down the page until it becomes a basic app bar.

[Design System Image]

[DemoCard Component - Interactive React component]

Collapsible app bars put a greater emphasis on the app bar content on page load and provide an opportunity to show images pertinent to the page topic. This allows you the flexibility to present an eye-catching banner without permanently reducing the amount of usable space on the page. This pattern is most commonly used for mobile applications, but could also be used for web.

[Design System Image]

The collapsible appbar should transition smoothly between the expanded and collapsed states — this means you will need to account for how the app bar will look throughout the transition. Because elements will disappear as the app bar shrinks, you'll need to use various transition techniques to do this smoothly, depending on your content.

[Design System Image]

Search

[Design System Image]

A very common pattern seen in many types of applications is the ability to search for data.

[DemoCard Component - Interactive React component]

[DemoCard Component - Interactive React component]

Search Bar

The search bar is used primarily when your search is a global search of all application content or when search is the primary interaction on a particular screen. This mode of search is achieved by placing a search icon/button in the primary app bar. When this button is clicked, a white search bar slides in from the right to cover the default app bar. As the user enters text into the search field, the data is filtered in real-time. A back icon will close the Search Bar and clear the search results.

[Design System Image]

Auto-complete

For more advanced searching, you may wish to include an auto-complete feature. You can implement autocomplete by including a contextual menu below the search bar with suggested search items. Alternatively, you can use type-ahead to automatically update the recommended search query in the search field as the user types (Google search does this).

[Design System Image]

Design Specifications

Mobile

[Design System Image]

The App Bar subtitle typography style is subject to change based on its content or your design preference. You can read more in our Custom Typography documentation.

Desktop and Tablet

If certain dimensions are not specified, refer to the dimensions suggested in the mobile section above.

[Design System Image]

[MaterialDesignDescription Component - Interactive React component]

Developers

Use the following components to implement this pattern:

Angular:

- Angular Material - @angular/material/toolbar

- @brightlayer-ui/angular-components - App Bar

React:

- MUI - AppBar - Toolbar

- @brightlayer-ui/react-components - App Bar

React Native:

- @brightlayer-ui/react-native-components - Collapsible Header Layout - Header