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Layout & Grids

Grids determine how we proportion, divide and align a layout screen sizes.

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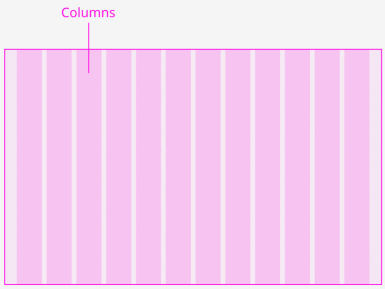
Index

Terminology

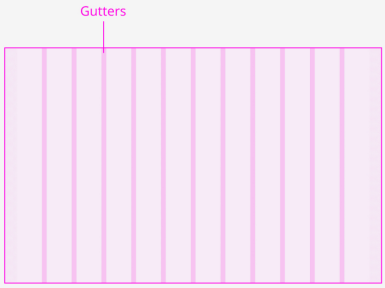
A grid layout is constructed from Columns, Gutters and Margins.



Columns

Columns determine the layout of the content on the page. The number of columns used in a layout generally depends on the size of the screen or device. We suggest the following:

Media	Columns
Web	12
Tablet	6
Mobile	4



Gutters

Gutters are the gaps between the columns. Gutter widths are fixed values that determine the spacing in a layout. Smaller gutters used for a denser layout are more suitable for a data-heavy product. When creating custom grids, one of our spacing tokens should be applied to the gutters, depending on the need for dense or sparse spacing.

Margins

Margins are the outer edge of the layout grid. They can be the same width as the gutters, or bigger. Margins adapt to the screen size. For larger screens, wide margins create more white space around the content. This creates better proportions to match the larger canvas. On smaller screens where there is less space for content, the margins are thinner.

Breakpoints

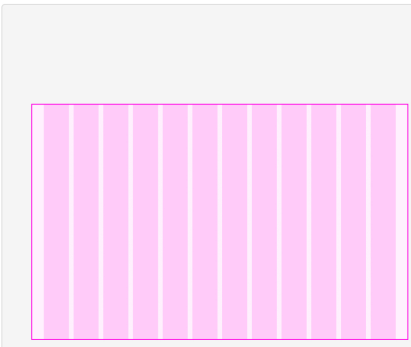
Breakpoints are defined screen widths where a user interface adapts to different devices or viewport-sizes. Our pre-defined values like Layout grids, Spacing and Typography can change upon crossing the breakpoint values, helping to create flexible systems that respond to the context in which they're viewed. The following table gives a general starting point for creating a responsive system with breakpoints:

Breakpoint	Range	# Columns	Gutter size
S	0 - 599px	4	12px
M	600 - 899px	6	16px
L	900 - 1199px	12	24px
XL	1200 - 1599px	12	24px
XXL	1600px +	12	24px

Templates

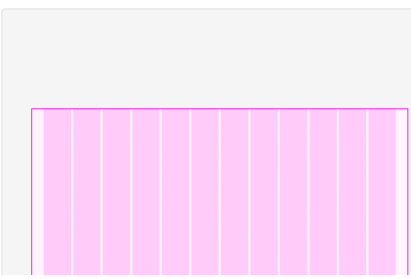
Skapa offers a range of predefined layout grids that can be used for digital interfaces. We provide these in the Skapa Foundations library. Those examples offer a starting point, but might not cover all the varying use-cases that you might need. While using a pre-defined grid it is easier to align to the entire Skapa offering, since both make use of the same underlying spacing- and sizing- tokens. When exploring your own custom grid layouts, always make sure that any values align with the Skapa spacing tokens.

The pre-defined Skapa layout grids are divided into options for Small (Mobile), Medium (Tablet), Large & Extra-large screens. These options are further divided into grids for Dense (like data-heavy co-worker tools) and Sparse layouts for commercial products.



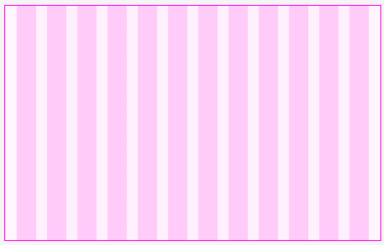
Comfortable (default)

This example is for Extra-large screens.
Comfortable layout for for a default amount of white space between the columns. This layout can be used for a wide variety of products, for example customer facing that do contain a fair amount of information, like a Product information page.



Dense

This example is for Extra-large screens.
A dense layout can be used for an interface that holds a lot of information or data. Like a co-worker tool that contains a lot of Tables.

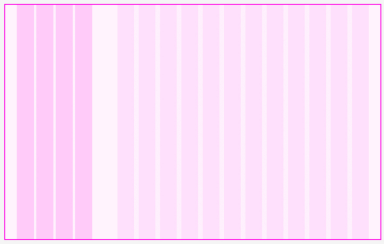


Sparse

This example is for Extra-large screens.
A sparse layout can be used for products that require more room to breathe. This can be used for a more commercial page, or a landing page that contains larger text and images, and not so much dense information.

Regions

More complicated layout-grids can be divided into regions. Typically, regions are used on very large screens, where there is enough room for a complete 12-column full-size layout, and there is for example room left for a permanent side-menu. Another option where regions are used is with overlays, like a Sheet component. The underlying page retains its own grid, while the area inside the Sheet could use another grid.



Portioned

On very large screens, the screen's real estate can be portioned to create distinct independent regions, each with its own grid system.

Overlays

Independent regions can slide on-screen and operate using the same grid values as the page itself. The content and grid underneath are unaffected.

Up next

Up next

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