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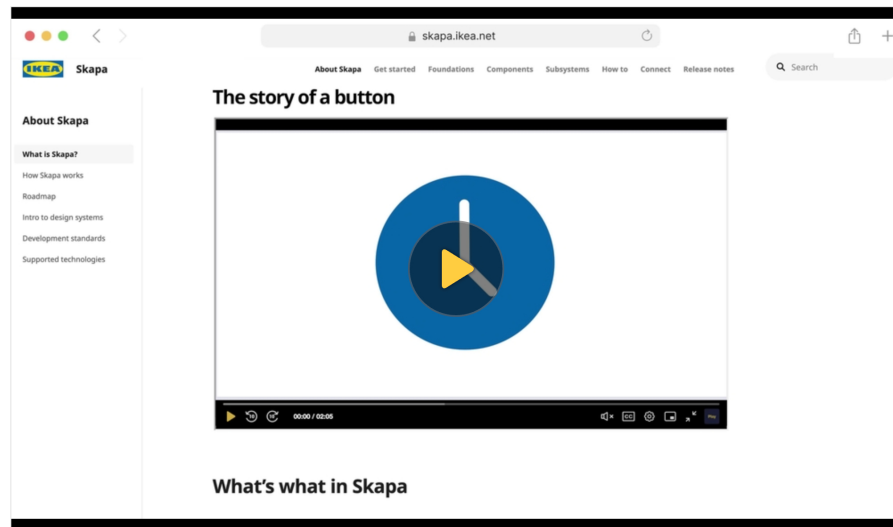
# Design tokens

Design tokens store design properties like colours, typography, and spacing in a structured, reusable way. They ensure consistency across platforms and bridge the gap between design and code for scalable UI development.

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## Intro to design tokens



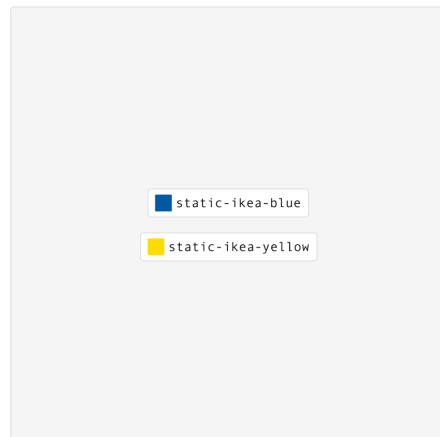
## Benefits of design tokens

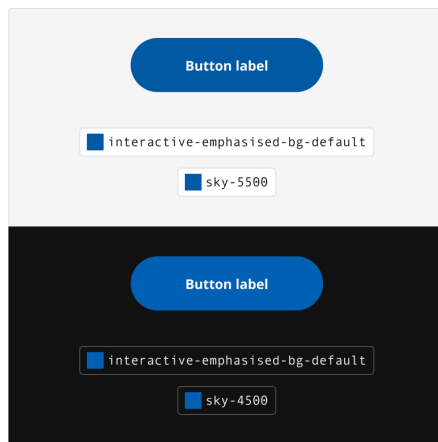
Using a system with design tokens gives us a lot of benefits:

- Consistency:** One source for all values reduces visual inconsistencies.
- Scalability:** Tokens can be reused across platforms ensuring cross-platform consistency.
- Theming:** Tokens make it easy to introduce themes like light/dark modes.
- Developer-Handoff:** A shared language that bridges the gap between design tool and codebase.

### Connecting design and code

The benefit of design tokens is the common language they provide. Instead of discussing pixel values and hex values, we always refer to a token name like **static-ikea-yellow** and **space-25**. If we need to update these values at any point, we can make the change in one place, rather than altering individual values in code and design across multiple locations. All Skapa components are connected to design tokens, and these tokens are also available to designers and developers on all platforms. Using tokens instead of hardcoded values will make both the design and implementation future-proof.



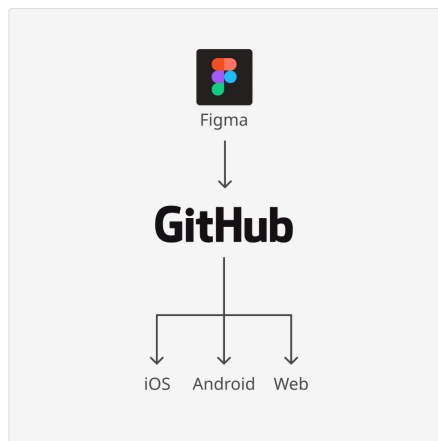


## One single source of truth

Applying alias tokens to components gives us the ability to introduce theming like light/dark mode. In this example, the Primary Emphasised button uses the same alias token in both modes – the only difference being the underlying global token. [Read more about light and dark mode](#)

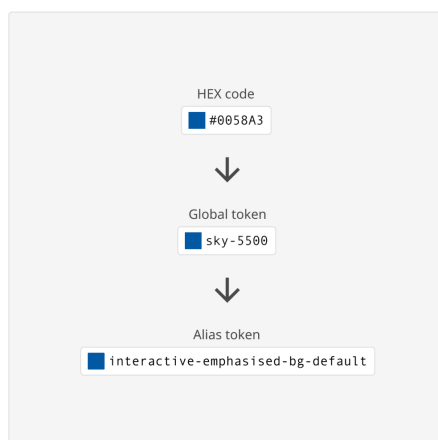
## Understanding design tokens

Design tokens are the values that represent design decisions in a format that can be used across platforms and tools. They serve as the single source of truth for a design system's visual style – things like colours, spacing, border radius, and more. Instead of hardcoding values in codebases or design tools, we define them as tokens, making our system more consistent, scalable, and easier to maintain.



## One single source of truth

Our design tokens are defined in Figma and propagated to Github where we distribute the design tokens to all the various platforms that we support.



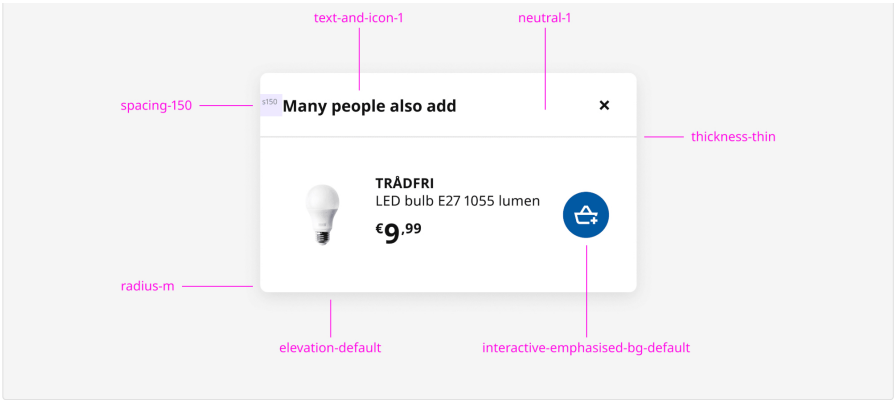
## Global vs. Alias tokens

Global tokens are the first layer of the system – they hold the actual values, like HEX codes for colours. Alias tokens don't use those values directly. Instead, they point to the global tokens. This makes it easier to update designs: if you want to change a component's colour, you can just update the alias token it uses to point to a different global token and there is no need to change the component itself.

## Prioritise alias tokens over global tokens

When working with colours, we recommend using alias tokens when building your product with design tokens. Think of aliases as a helpful guide – they add meaning and context to the tokens, making it easier to understand how and where to use them within Skapa. Only the colour tokens are set up using a Global/Alias system in Skapa.

Using aliases is a smart way to keep your product in sync with Skapa as it grows and changes. It also helps reduce the amount of work needed to maintain or update your design in the future.



Using all tokenised values will keep the design aligned with Skapa and easy to maintain.

Up next

## Colour



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