How to Use the Inkscape Baytop Papercraft Extension

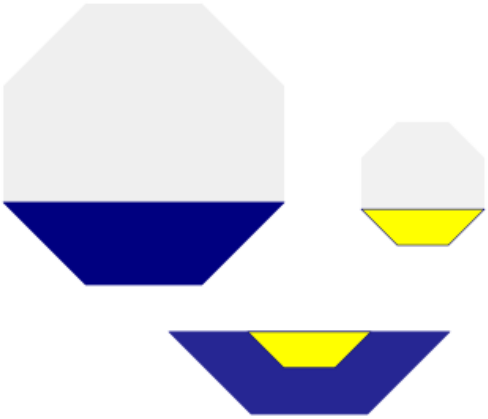
What it is

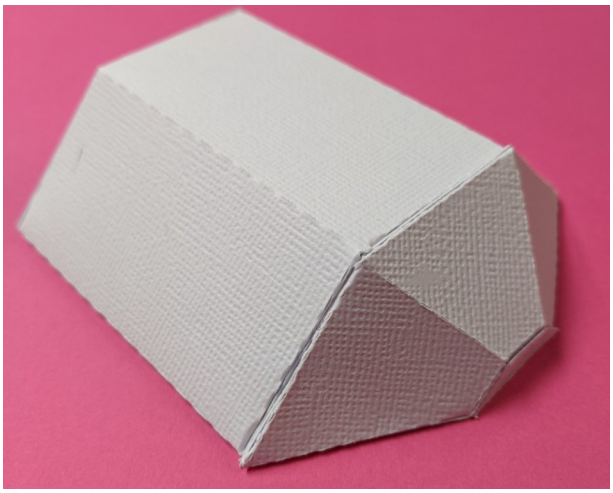
The baytop extension is used to build a 3d papercraft model of shape similar to a bay window roof.

It is modeled on a polygon of N sides, one smaller than the other, and truncated to a smaller number of sides.

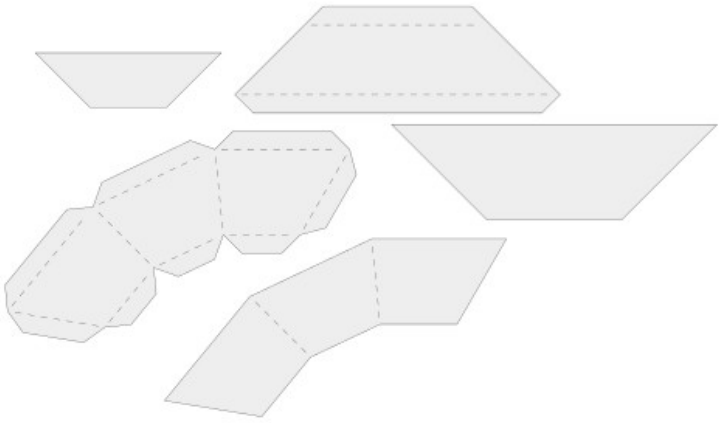
For example an octagon might be used like this, with the gray section removed, which would be extruded using the papercraft extruder extension, to form a bay window. If we wanted a roof that fit directly on it, we would use the baytop extension to build a top that would taper upward (3D) from the navy to the yellow when built, with the back being a flat surface.

When built, it will look like the top on this piece:





The options panel allows you to specify what type of polygon you want, and how many sides (including the back) that it will have, as well as how large you want it. The result will provide the necessary pieces to craft the baytop in paper.



Where to get the extension

You can download the extension from this url: https://github.com/obzerving/ obzerving/Baytop

Click the green  button to download the zip file. Unzip that file.

Copy the files named Baytop.inx and Baytop.py into your Inkscape user extensions directory. Where is that? Open Inkscape and go to the System section of the Preferences menu (Edit --> Preferences --> System). You will find a User extensions item containing the path to your user extensions directory.

You may want to put it in a folder names Papercraft under the extensions folder to make updates easier.

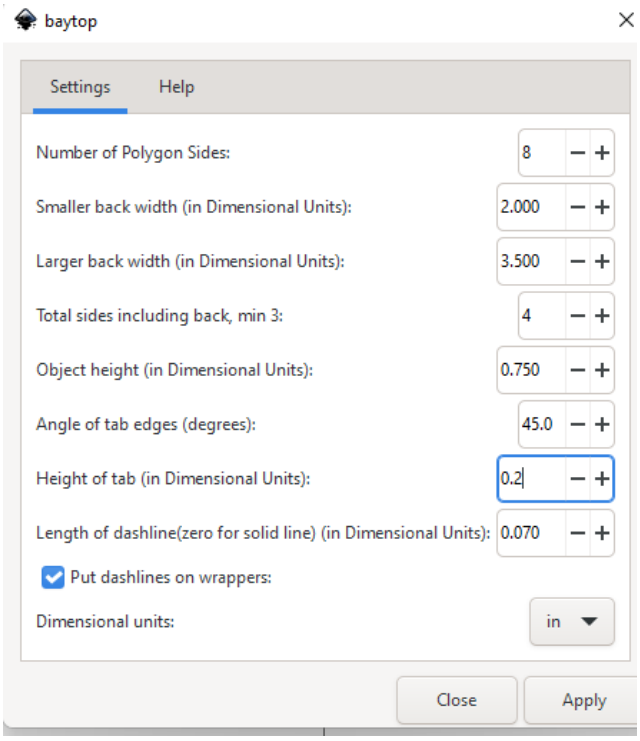
Then restart Inkscape.

How to use the Baytop

After you have restarted Inkscape you should see the extension under the menu

Extensions->Papercraft

The Options Panel



Most of the options are self-explanatory. The smaller back width is the width you want the piece to be at the top back. The larger back width is the width you want your piece to be at the bottom back.

The total sides (including back) are how many sides will be created when built. In the example there are 3 “bay windows” and one back for a total of four.

The object height is how tall you want your baytop to be when built.

There are a few options on how the tabs and scorelines will look. Note that if you have a very small “smaller back width”, you should make your tab height less than half that measure. Otherwise you may end up needing to trim them.

A separate (decorative) wrapper piece is provided that has no tabs, in case you want to have a cover over your structure of decorative or embossed design, for example. If you want to have scorelines on that wrapper (generally, you do) then check this box. Finally specify what dimensional units you are using for your options input.