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Table

1134 Variants

Create a button component with Figma Variants + Auto Layout

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UX Collective a11y-light ~5 min read · January 9, 2021 (Updated: December 26, 2021) · Free: Yes

Early last year, I posted [an article](#) about create button components using Figma's Auto Layout. Over the past few months, [Figma](#) had dramatically improved their

They also introduce its newest feature — **Variants**, which help you clean up your components.

Today, I'm going to show you how to use these two features to build a robust component that helps you focus on crafting your own product's experience and be more efficient.

1. Define properties

Button is one of the most complex components in a design system. It has so many different variants. *Now with dark mode, you need to double the number of components.* It can quickly go over **100** combinations. To define all the properties and their orders, it is critical, and you should have a clear understanding of how you want to structure it before the next step.

In this example, I have the following properties:

Theme

Light / Dark

Size

Default / Large / Compact

Type

Primary / Secondary / Success / Warning / Error / Link

Shape

Rectangle / Rounded corner / Circle

Style

Text-only (No Icon) / Icon only / Icon before / Icon after

State

Enabled / Disabled / Hover / Focus / Selected / Pressed / Activated

List of properties and variants

When all properties listed, I start thinking about organising this component in Figma, so it is manageable and scalable.

My idea is to break it down to multiple tables:

- One button type per table
- Table rows are different button states and sizes
- Table columns are different shapes and styles

then grouping tables based on different themes. Layout similar to 📌

Why are themes not included in the table?

From my experiences, Some properties are rarely changed for a single component during the design process. Normally those properties were decided at an earlier stage (i.e. at the beginning of the Project), so excluding them from the table can reduce the table's size.

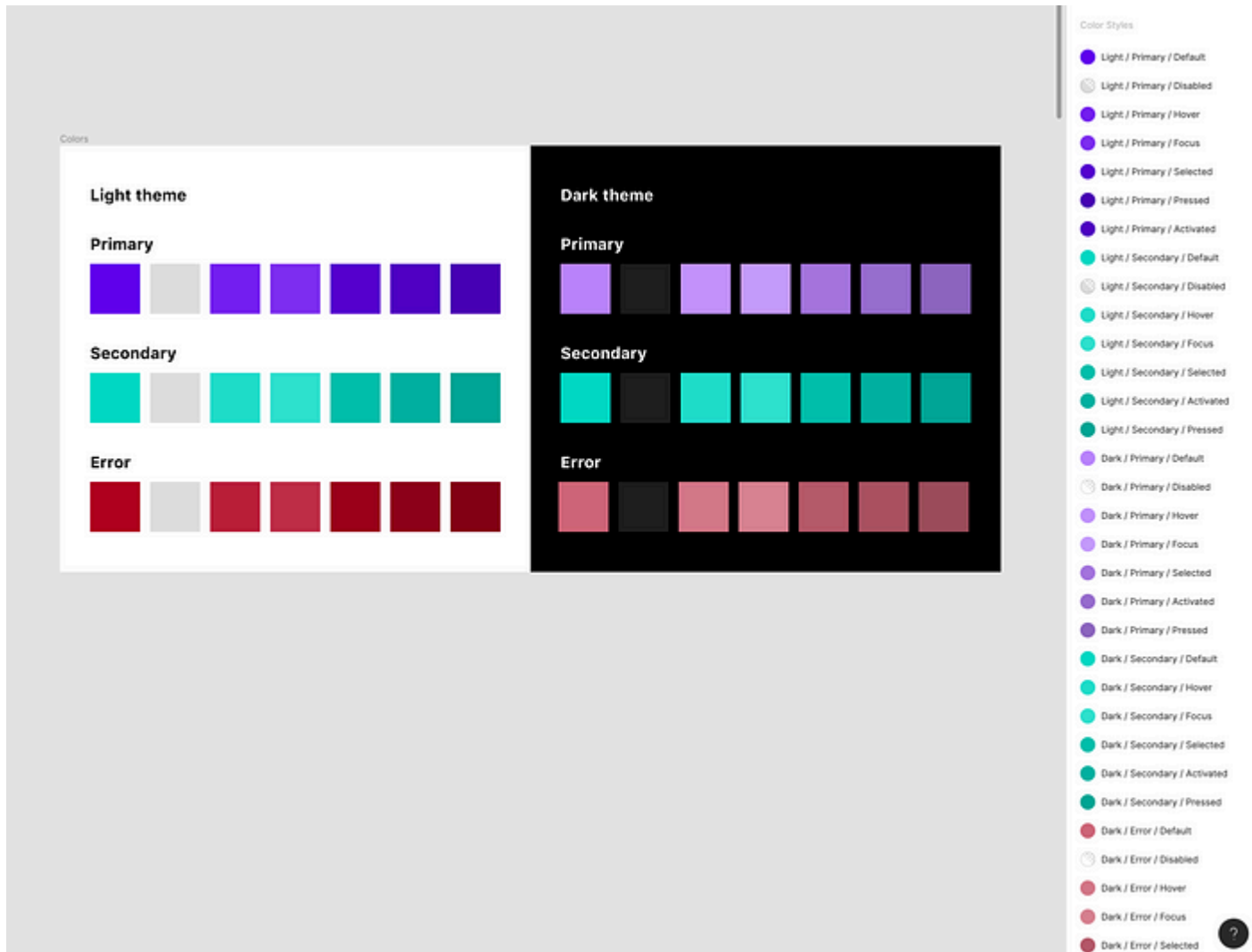
2. Setup the table

After all the properties defined, then start with a new frame, build the tables, and fill all properties to the table row and column headers.

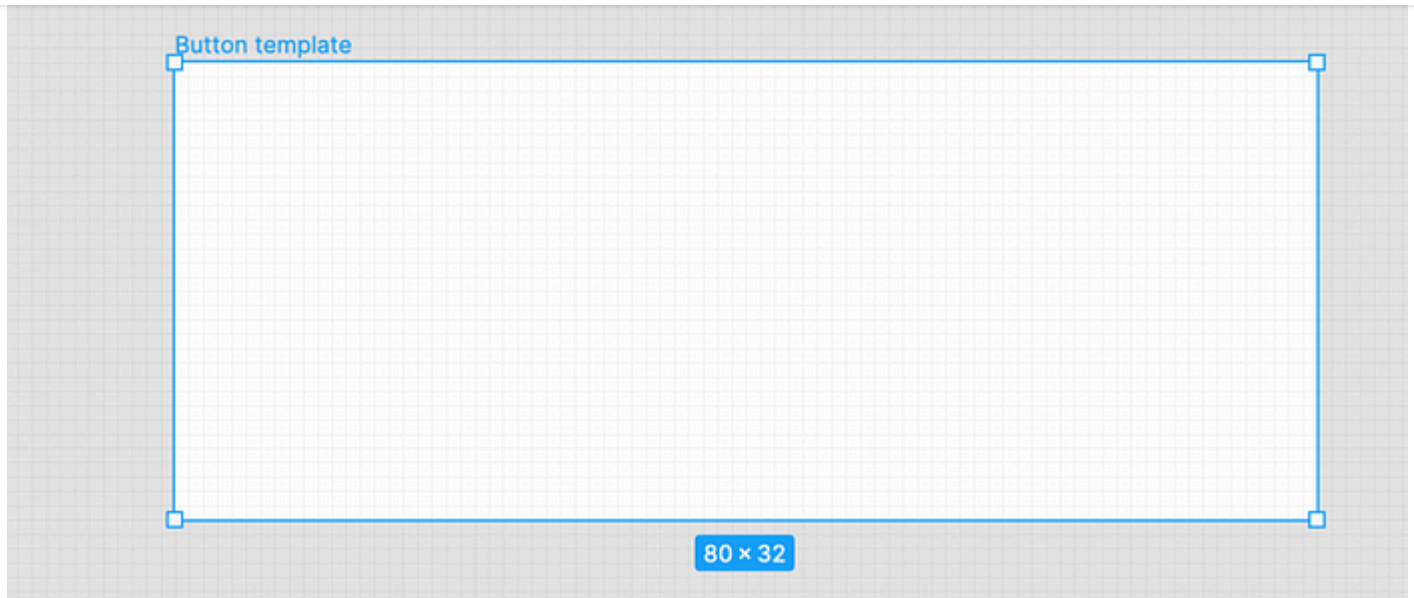
3. Create the component, finally!

Finally, we can start filling the empty cells with the variants 😊.

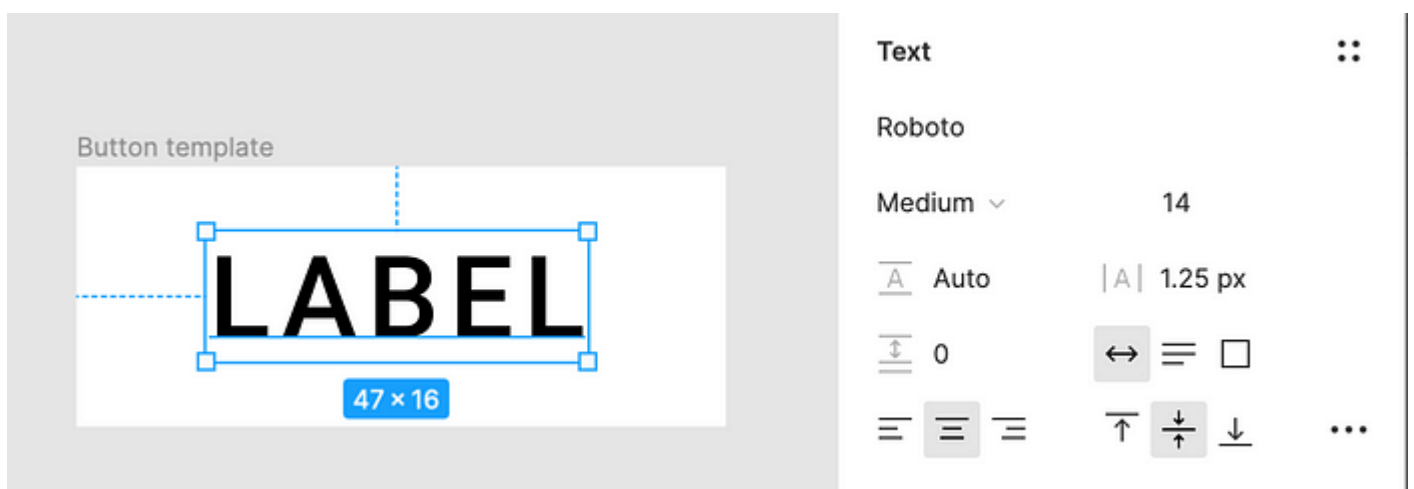
But first, make sure we have all the colours ready.



Then, start with an empty frame, let's name it "Button template".

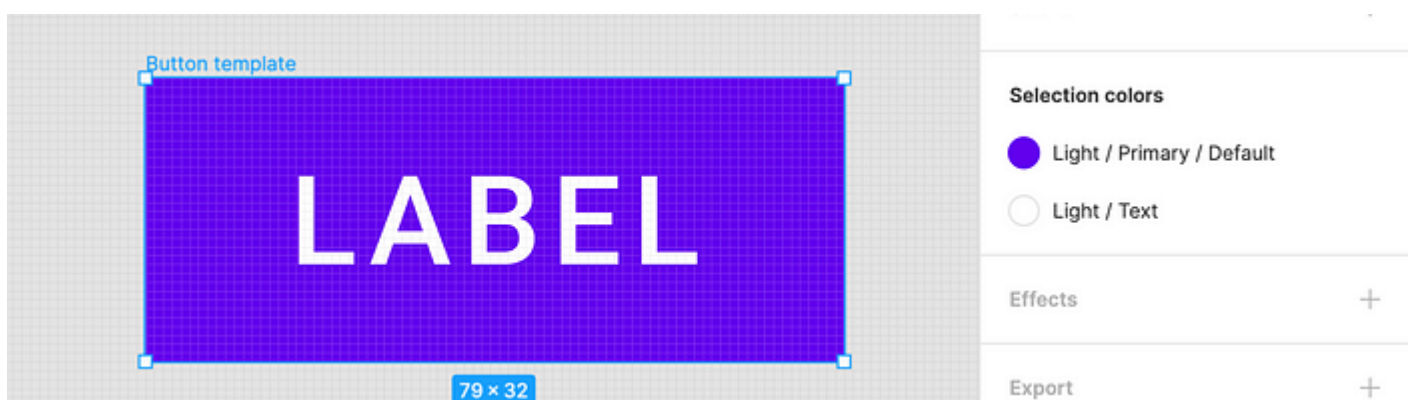


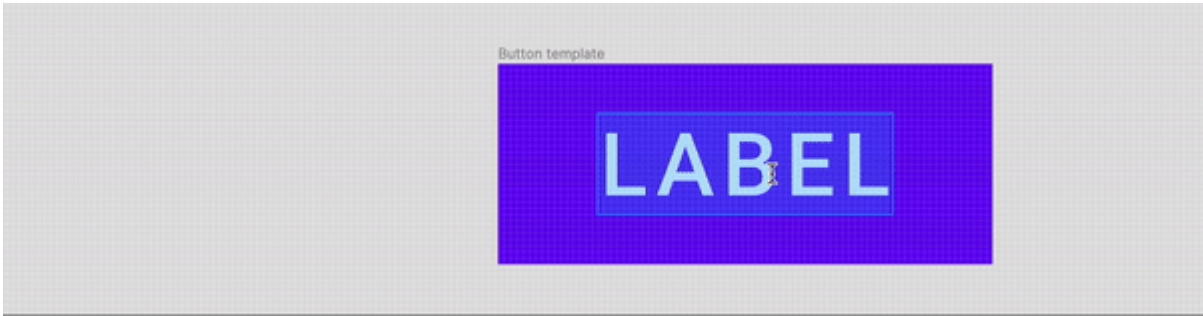
Next, add the placeholder label, and use Figma's auto-layout to maintain the button's padding.



Example of the button label's text style

Then we can start applying some colours to it:

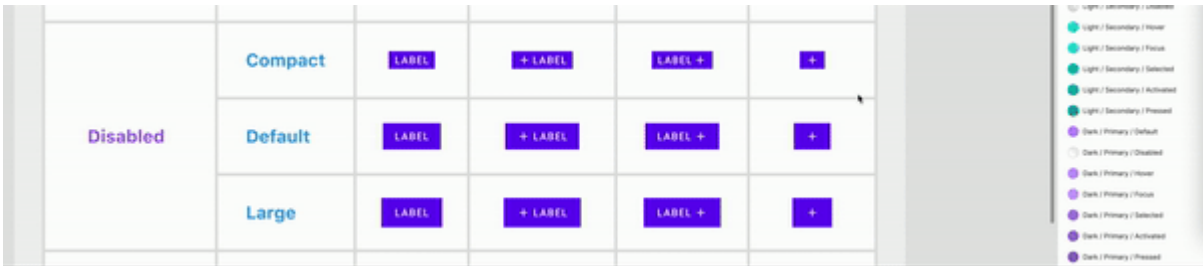




Looks good! Let's duplicate it and make a few more templates for different sizes and button type.



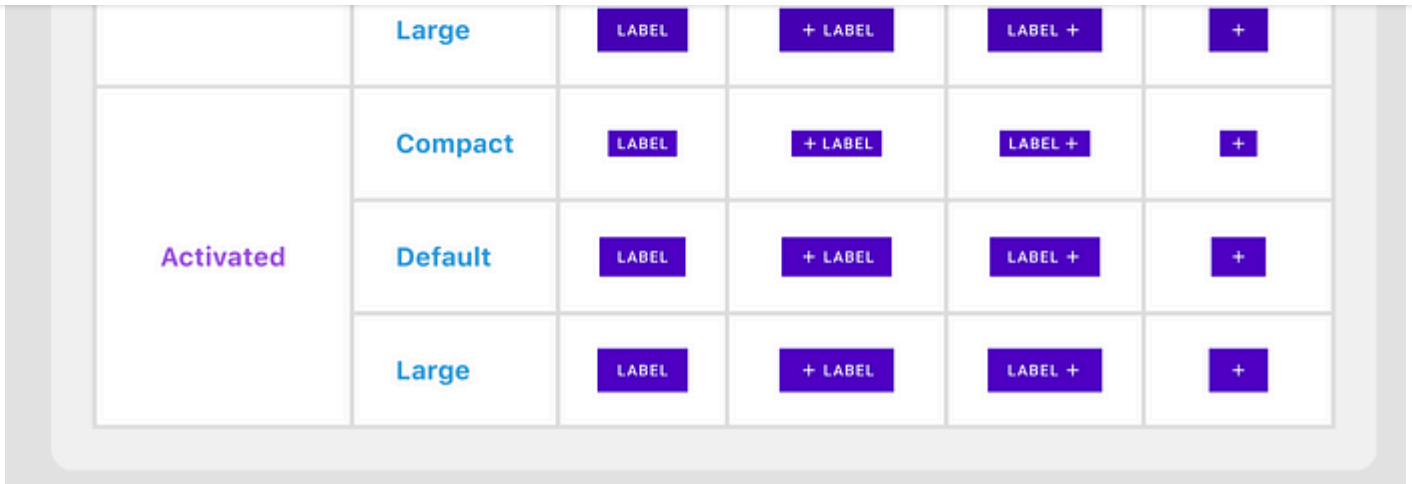
Templates of different button types and sizes



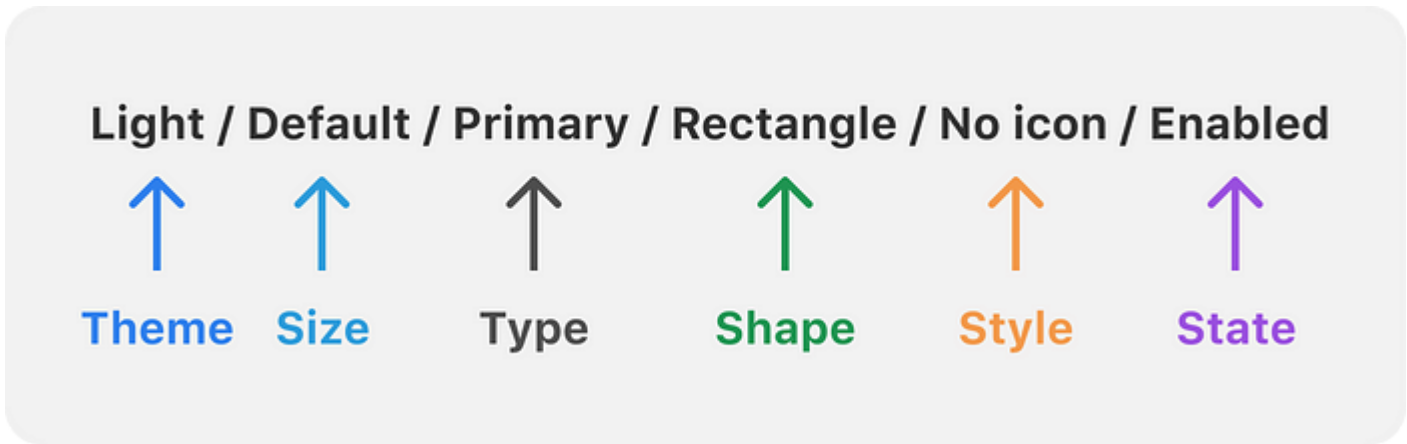
After copy and fill all variants into the table, we can then change the variants' colours to match the state.

After a few times, all variants for the different states of the Rectangle style is now finished.

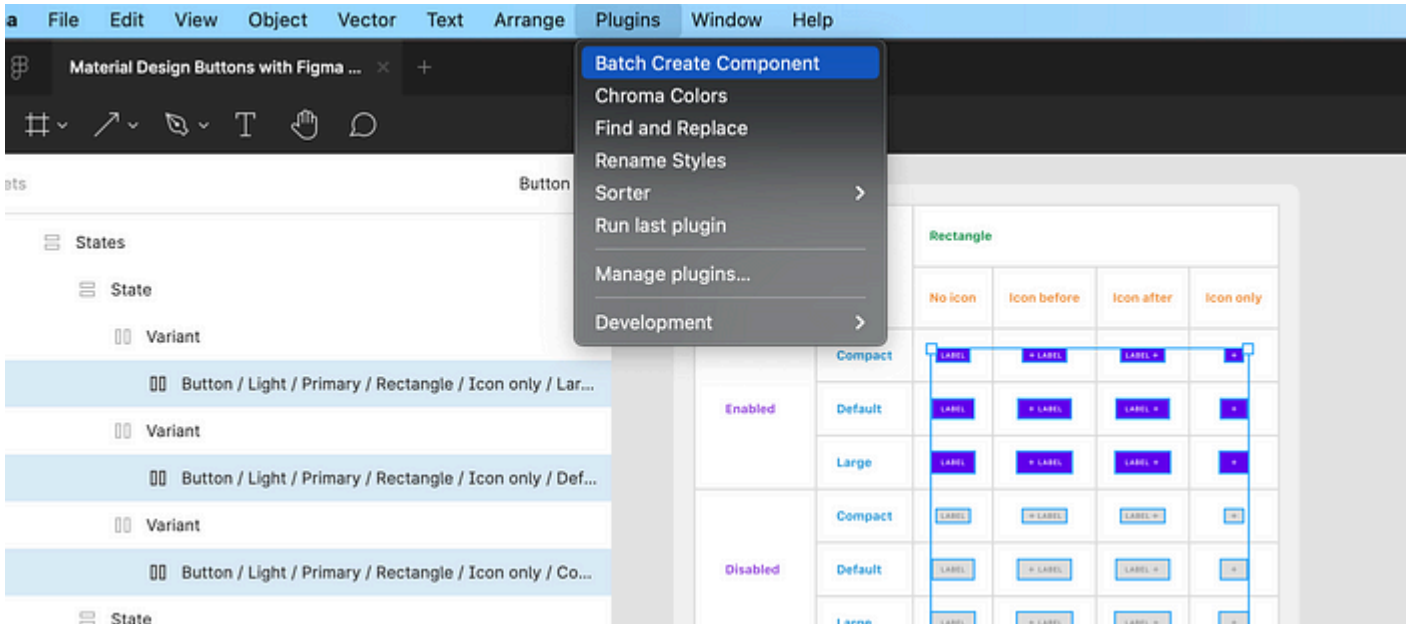
Primary		Rectangle			
		No icon	Icon before	Icon after	Icon only
Enabled	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Default	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Large	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
Disabled	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Default	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Large	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
Hover	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Default	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Large	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
Focus	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Default	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Large	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
Selected	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Default	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Large	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>
	Compact	<div>LABEL</div>	<div>+ LABEL</div>	<div>LABEL +</div>	<div>+</div>



Now we can finally create components for our button. Before converting the frame to a component, make sure the layer's name has all the variants separated by "/".



Next, use the Batch Create Component plug in to create all components at once.



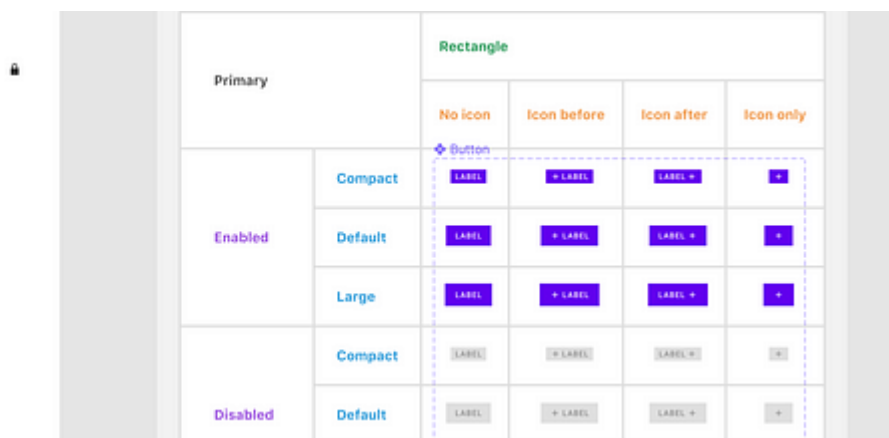


Wait. What?! 🤯

Once we combined as variants, Figma moves all components to a new frame, which break our table.

My work around is carefully overlaying the variant on top of the table. Remember, lock the table frame when you do that. Otherwise, the variants will go into the table's frame!

✦ Button
📄 Table



4. Name the variant's properties and values

Before we create more variants for different styles, let's make sure the properties and values are correct.

From this:

act

alt

act

alt

act

alt

act

LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+
LABEL	+ LABEL	LABEL +	+

Light

Property 2

Primary

Property 3

Rectangle

Property 4

Icon after

Icon before

Icon only

No icon

Property 5

Compact

Default

Large

Property 6

Activated

Disabled

Enabled

Focus

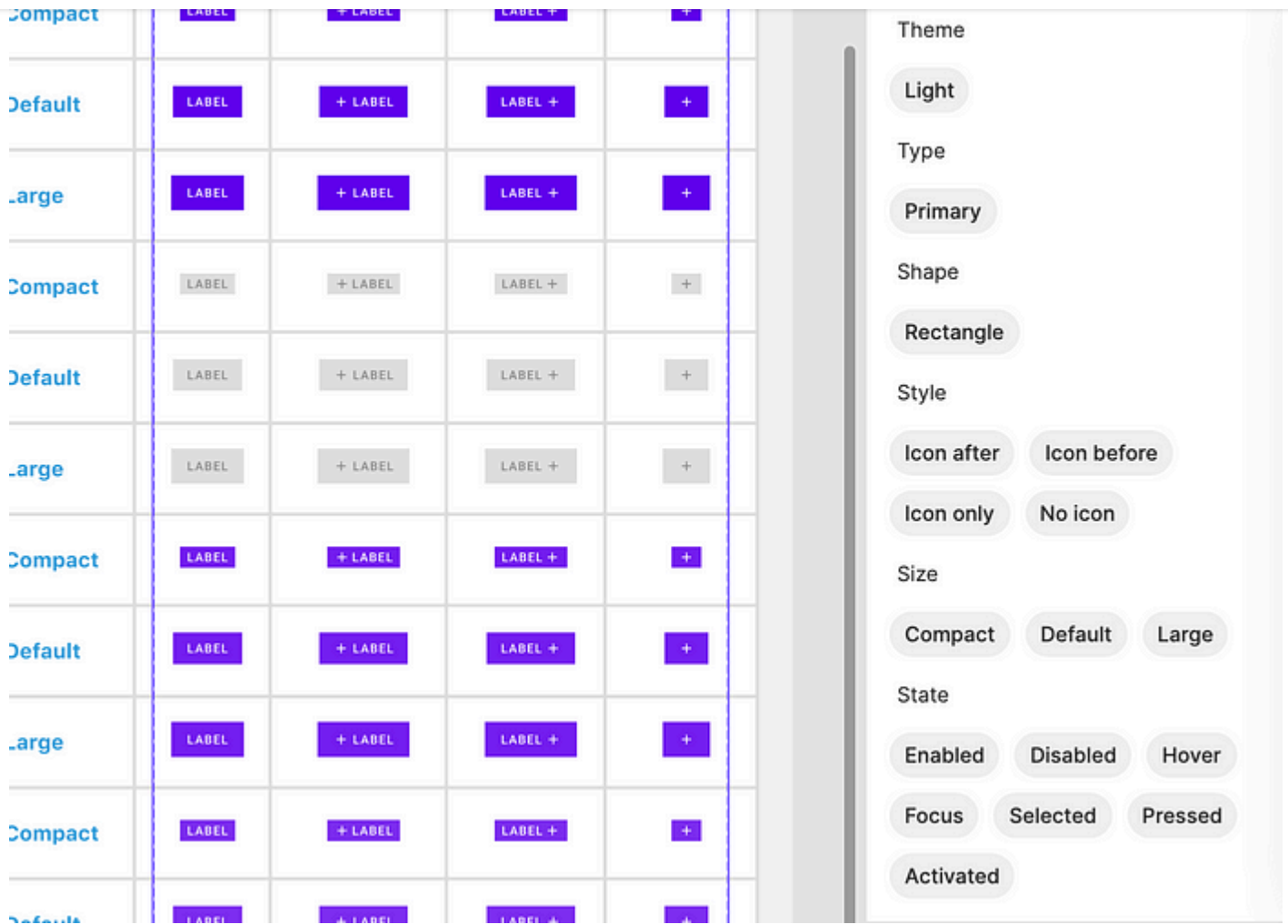
Hover

Pressed

Selected

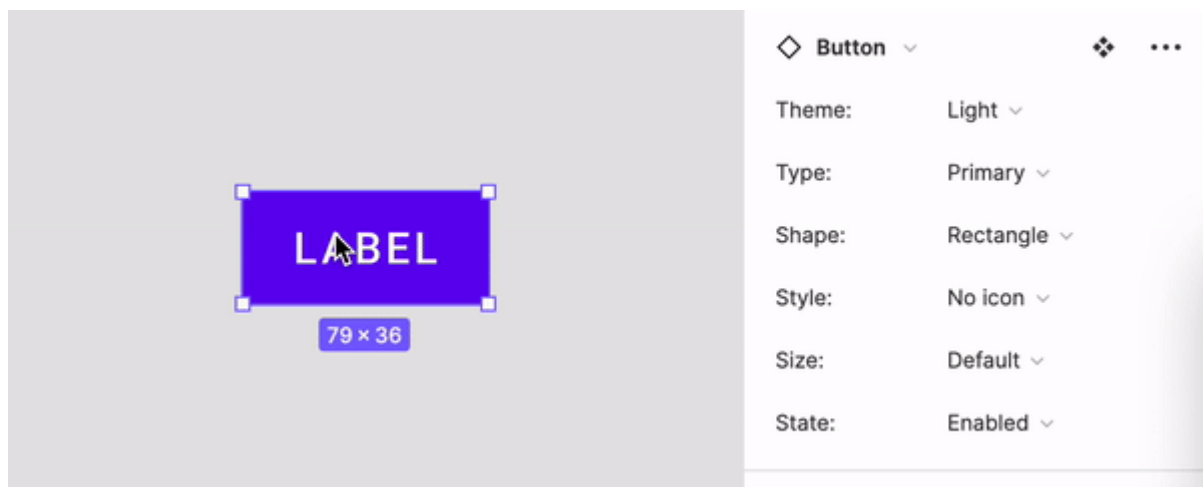
Before rename

To this:

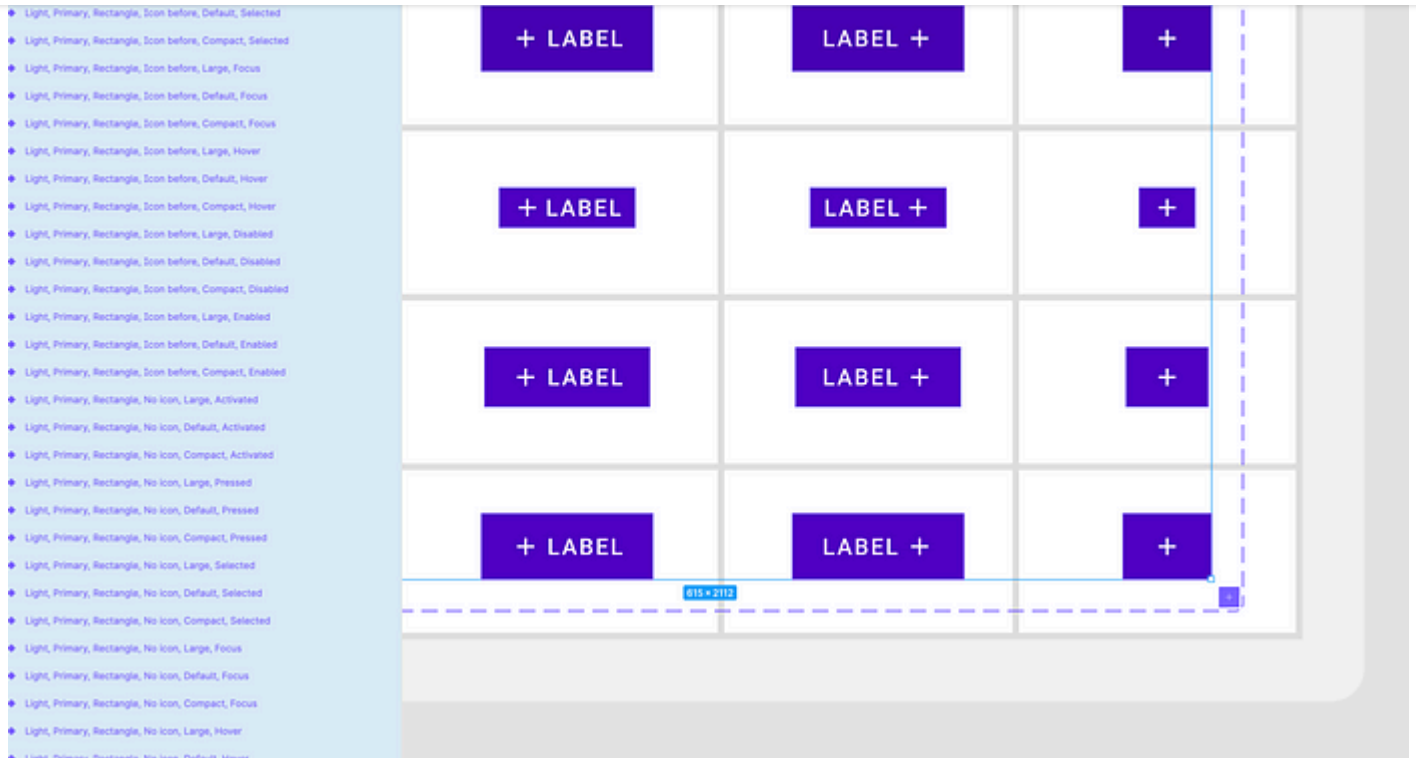


After rename

Let's test it out, looks great!



Next is to create more components for different shapes and types. Select all components and click the "+" on the right button corner. Figma then duplicates all selected components and what we need to do is rename the value of the property.



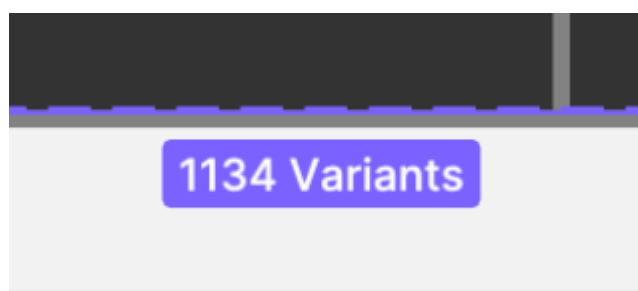
Very quickly we should be able to get the full set of variants for the "Primary" type.

Primary										
		No icon	Icon before	Icon after	Icon only	No icon	Icon before	Icon after	Icon only	Icon only
Enabled	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Disabled	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Hover	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Focus	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Selected	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Pressed	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									
Activated	Compact									
	Default									
	Large									

After a few more copy & paste, we should be able to get all variants done!



And yep we just created a component with 1134 variants in total. 🤖



Feel free to grab my [Figma file](#) and try it out.

Thanks for reading!



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#figma

#variant

#ux

#prototyping

#ui