

How to Create a Digital Painting Canvas with Krita on Windows

Krita is a free, open-source software for digital painting and image editing. It offers a range of professional grade tools artists can use to create concept art, illustrations, comics, and more. But before you can begin painting, you must learn how to create a digital canvas to draw in. This guide is intended for CS students who are beginners to digital painting, and will cover how to download Krita and create a canvas to paint in.

Requirements:

- A computer with a working internet connection, running Windows 8.1 or later

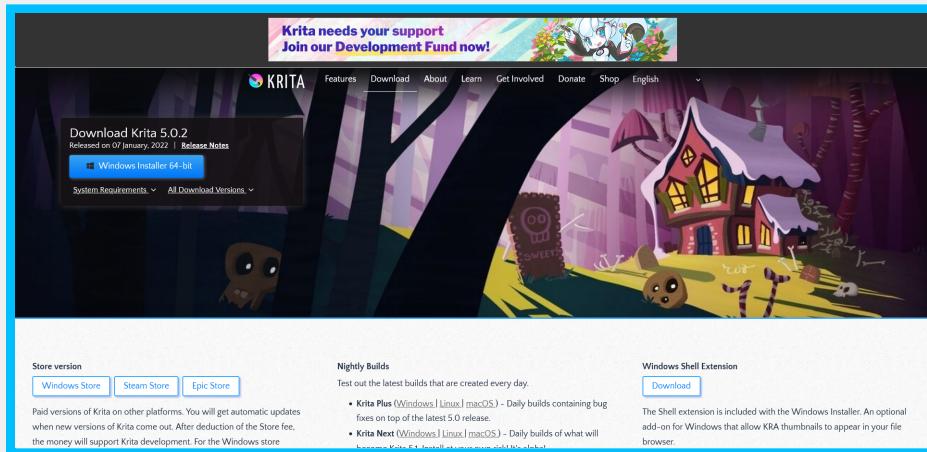
This guide will be specific to the Windows operating system. However, aside from the installation of Krita, the majority of the guide will work for all operating systems.

Step 1: Downloading & Installing Krita

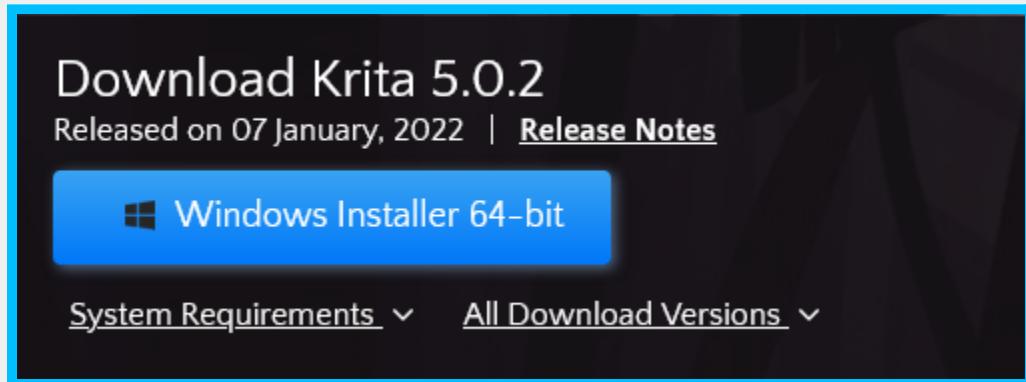
Click the following link to go to the Krita download page. Alternatively, you may copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://krita.org/en/download/krita-desktop/>

Upon loading the website, you will see the following page:



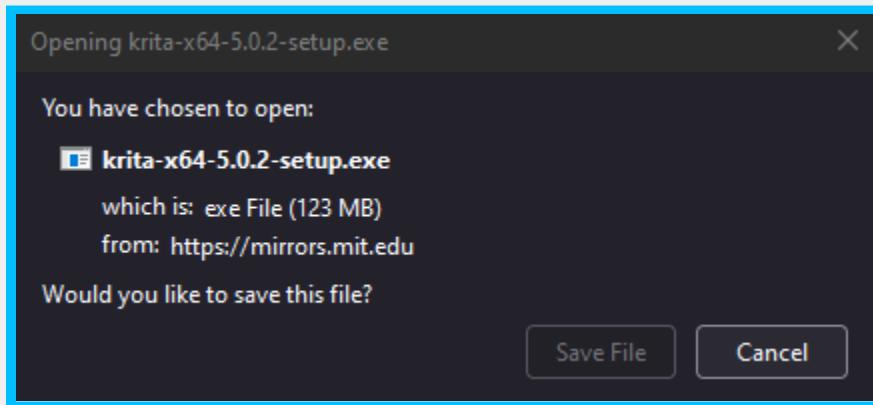
Click the blue button in the center-left of the page to begin downloading Krita



Warning:

The Krita website automatically determines the operating system (OS) you are currently running, and will provide an installer for that system. If the listed OS is incorrect, you may manually change the installation you would like to download by clicking on the "[All Download Versions](#)" dropdown text

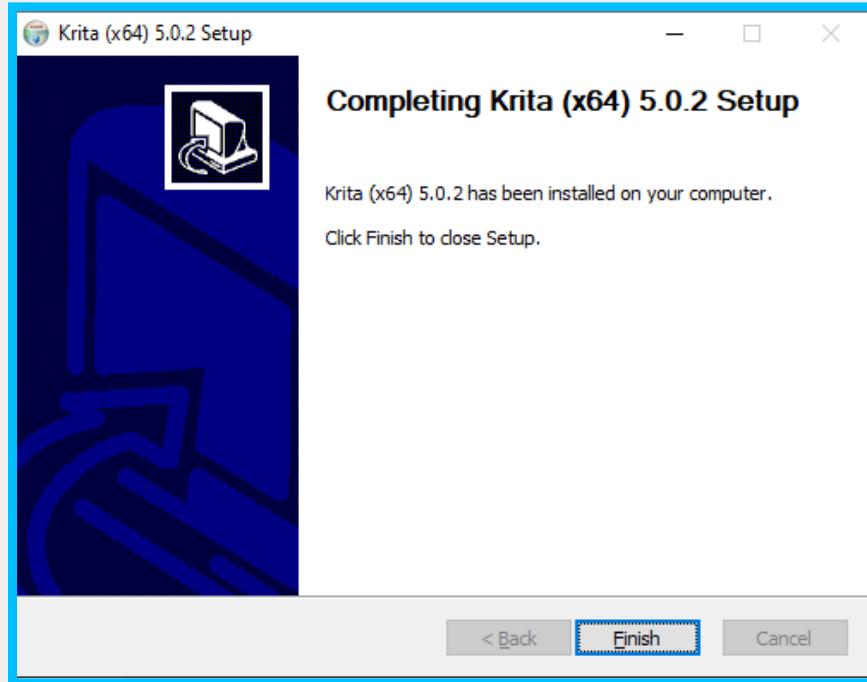
Clicking the download button will result in a popup like the one shown below, asking you to confirm the download.



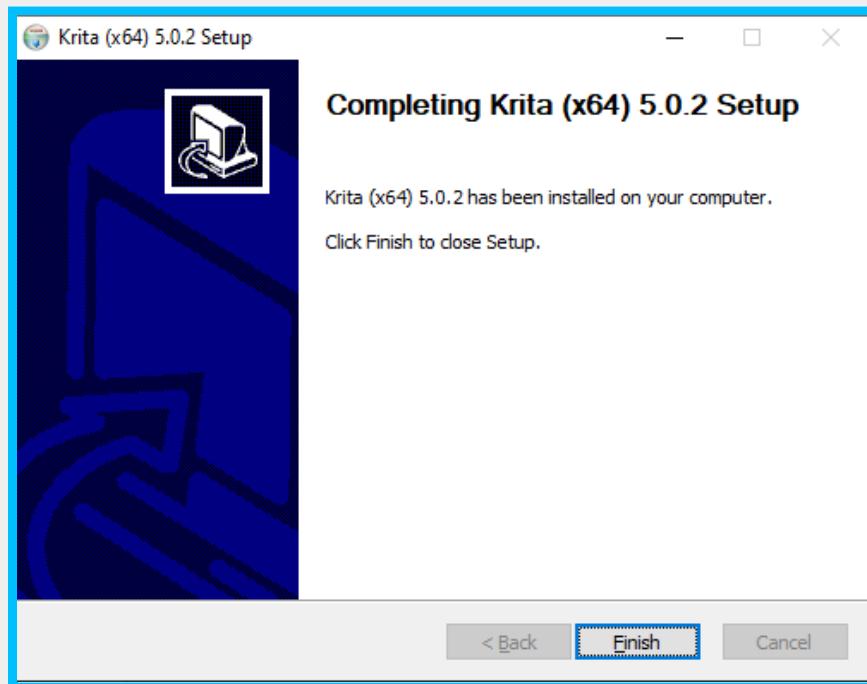
Click "Save File" to save the file to your default Downloads folder. If prompted, you may have to select a download folder from your filesystem.

Once downloaded, find the installer in your file system. Then, double click on it to begin installation.

A setup window will appear, similar to the one below.



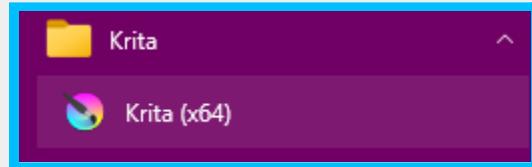
Follow the instructions in the setup window until you reach the following window.



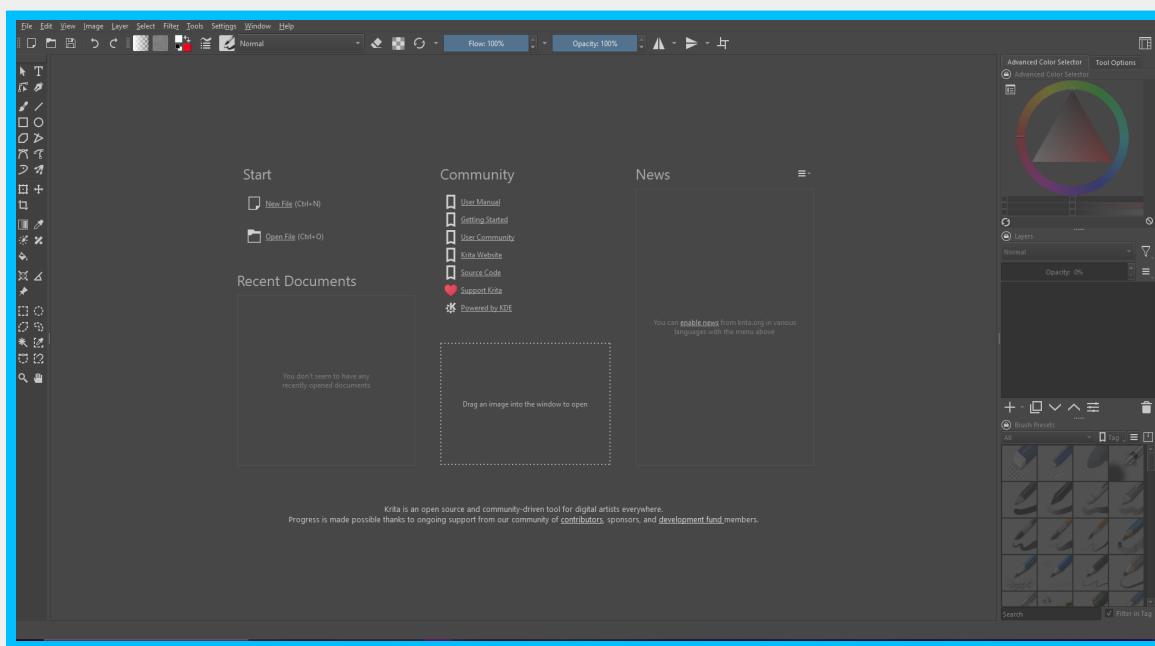
Once you see this window, Krita has been successfully installed.

Step 2: Creating a New File

Once Krita has been installed, launch the program by clicking on the Krita icon in the Start menu

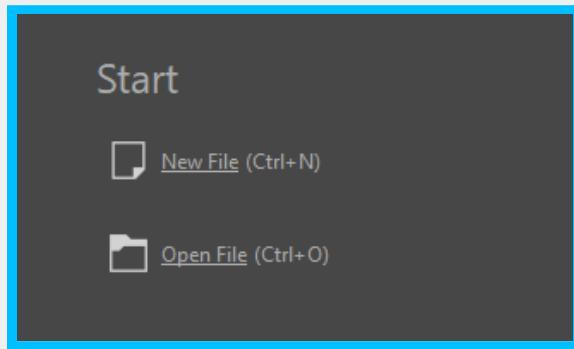


Once Krita has launched, you will see the following window



There is a lot here, but don't get overwhelmed!

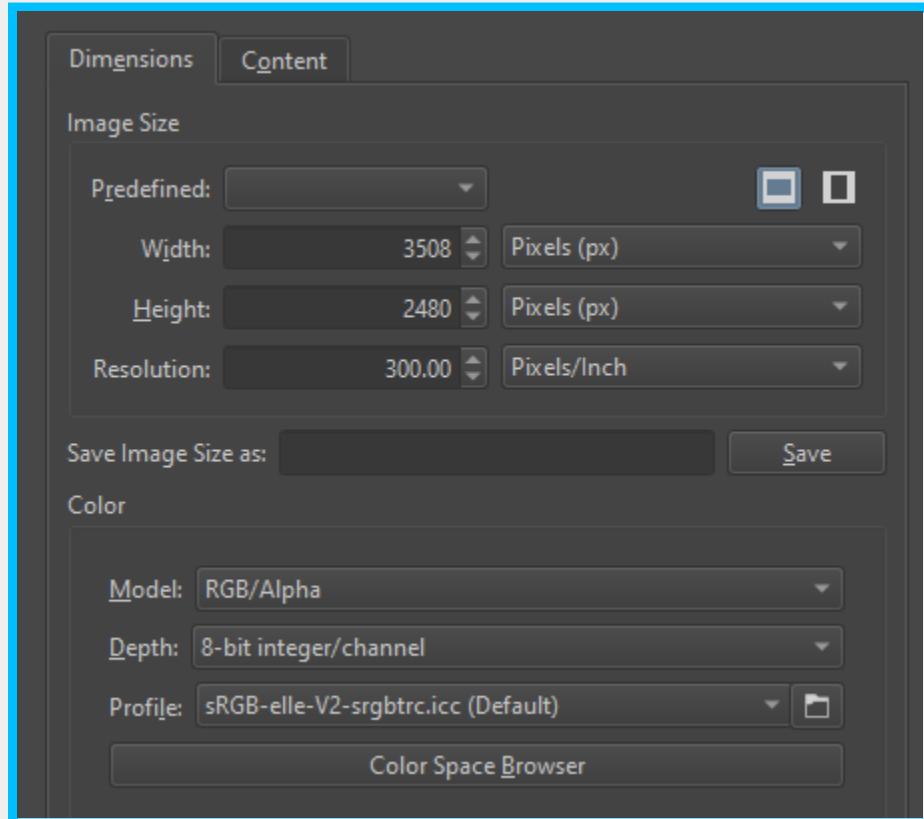
To create a new file, find the menu in the middle of the screen labeled “Start.” Then click “New File”



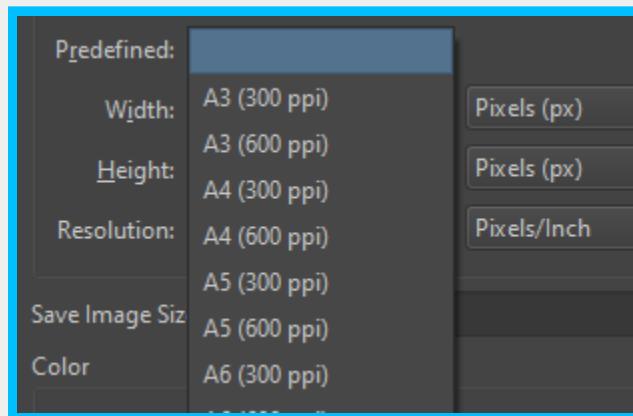
You may also create a new file through the shortcut “Ctrl+N”

Step 3: Setting the Canvas Dimensions

Upon creating a new file, you will be faced with a menu that enables you to choose the dimensions of the canvas you are going to create, as shown below.



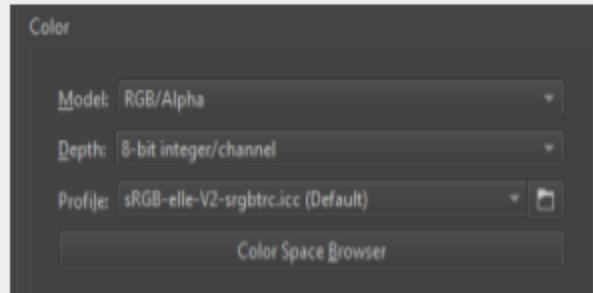
Each canvas has a resolution in pixels per inch, and a width and height in pixels. You may set your own values for the resolution and dimensions, or you may choose from a predefined canvas setup by clicking on the dropdown menu, as shown below.



For most paintings, a canvas size of A4 (printing paper size) with a resolution of 300 ppi will be sufficient.

Caution:

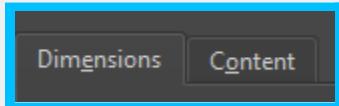
The menu also contains various options to change the color model used to render colors on the canvas.



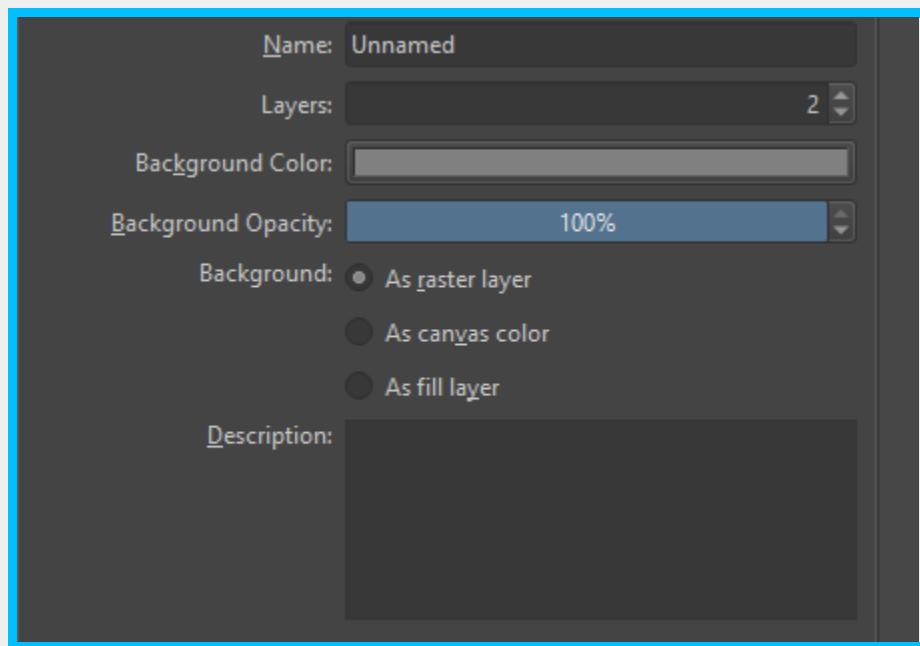
Changing these settings off of their default values may have an unintended effect on the way color is rendered on your canvas, and how colors will appear in the final painting. It is highly recommended you leave these color options on the default.

Step 4: Setting the Canvas Content

Now, swap to the “Content” tab of the New File menu.



You will be presented with another menu, similar to the canvas dimensions menu



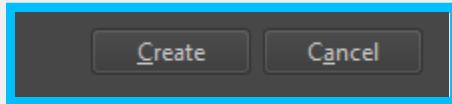
Here you can give a name to the painting, and change the background color of the canvas

Warning:

The “Layers” option controls how many separate “pages” there are in the canvas. However, each new layer will take up a portion of your computer’s RAM. Creating a file with too many layers could slow down, or even crash your computer.

Step 5: Create the Canvas!

Once you have set the file's dimensions and content, simply press the “Create” button on the bottom of the menu to create the canvas.



Upon clicking “Create”, you will be brought to your newly created canvas!

Conclusion:

Congratulations on successfully installing Krita and creating your first digital canvas! You can now begin creating your first digital painting in Krita! There is a lot to learn when it comes to digital painting don't be afraid to make mistakes. After reading this manual you can rest assured that you know how to create a fresh, new canvas if you need to start over!