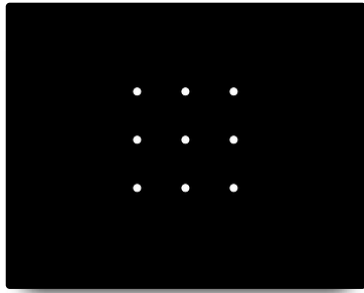# Dotgrid

Introduction

Dotgrid is a distractionless vector tool with line styles, corner controls, colours, grid-based tools, PNG and SVG export. Dotgrid supports the full SVG specs, and includes additional effects such as mirroring and radial drawing.

The application is **free & Open Source**, and available online to be used within your browser, on your Raspberry Pi, or on your mobile device.

Download

Dotgrid ⊞🐱🍎

by **Rekka & Devine**

A simple vector line tool.

$0.00 USD or more

**Download Now**

Trailer

Dotgrid Release

▶

Tutorial

Upon opening the application, you are presented with a dotted grid, which can be made bigger, or smaller, by resizing the window. A list of tools, represented as icons, sits on the bottom of the window.

Clicking anywhere on the grid will add a white dot to the grid, and by adding additional dots to the grid, notice how the available tool

icons become lighter, that means you have enough points to use them, their icon will darken again when you don't.

Line(A)

Add two points on the grid. Selecting **Line**(the diagonal line icon) will link the two points together with a straight white line.
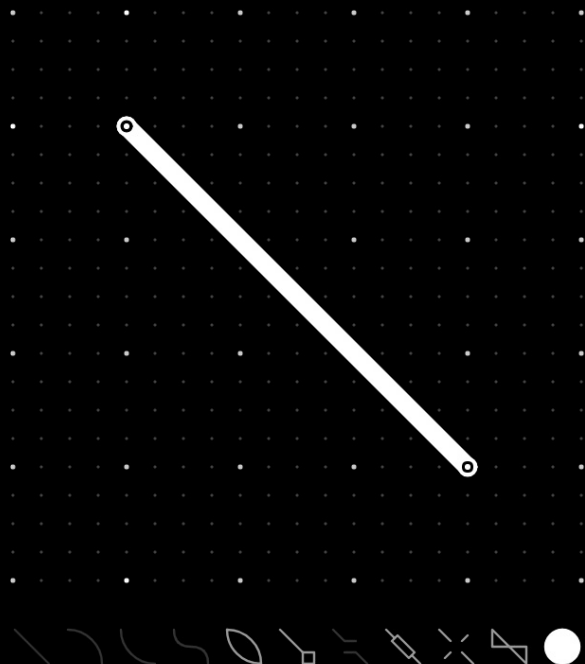
Arc(S) & Reverse-Arc(D)

Press backspace to clear your last segment, and draw another two sets of points, but this time, click on **Arc**. This, will connect your two points with a curve.

If you undo your last move with ⌘ **z**, connect your two points again by pressing **Arc Reverse**(the inverse curve icon). This creates an inverted curve.
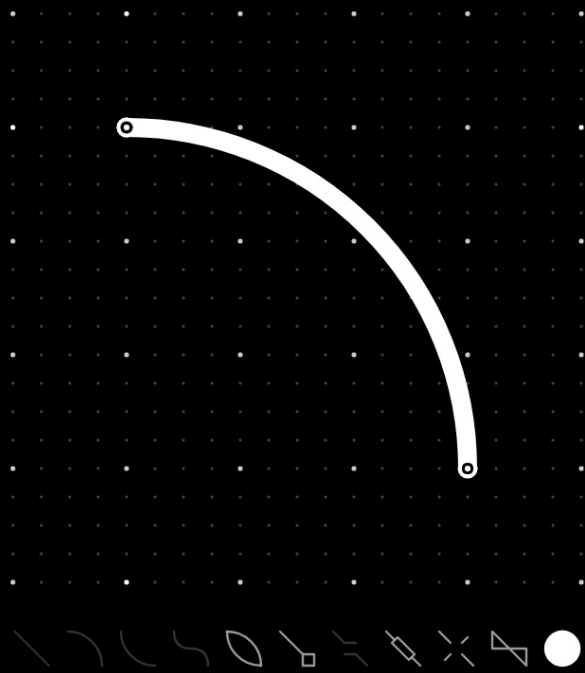
Bezier(F)

Place two dots on your grid, with a third between them but offset, then press **Bezier**(the S icon). A white dot will appear separate from the main line, this is a handle that you can use to create your curve. Move the handle (or third point) to change its shape.
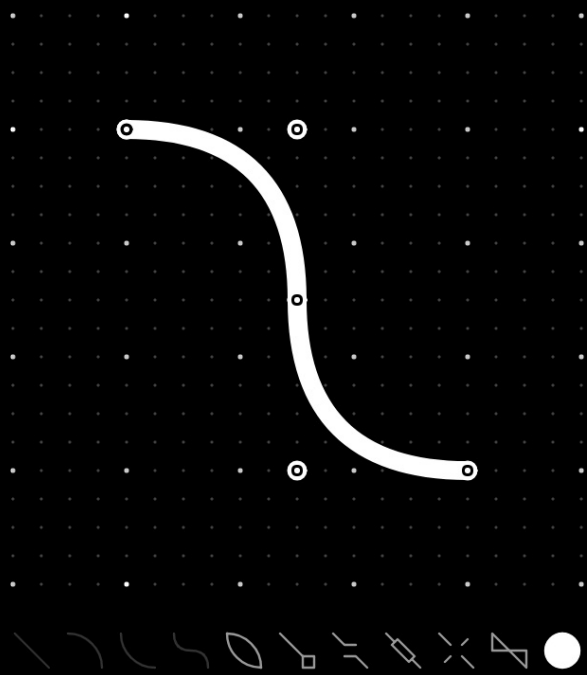
Close(Z)

Create 3 points on the grid, press **Line**, then press **Close** (the flat oval icon), your shape will complete itself. If you don't close a shape, you won't be able to fill it, and it will create problems when using Line cap.
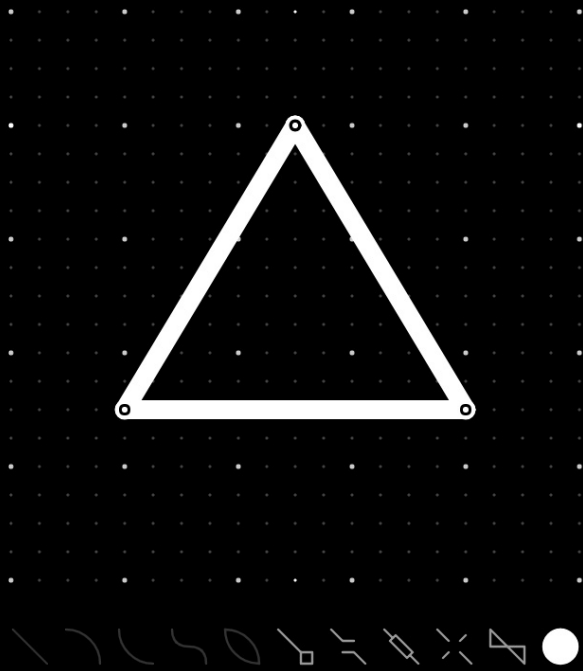
Line Cap(Q)

Make a triangle on the grid using 3 points, select the **Line** to connect them, then, select **Linecap** (line with a diamond shape at the end). By default, you get a 'round' line cap, you can cycle through the different types by pressing the linecap icon again. You have 3 linecap styles to choose from:

> **Round A rounded end cap is added to the end of the line**
> **Butt A flat edge is added to the end of the line**
> **Square A square end is added to the end of the line**

Line Join(W)

Add 3 points to the grid to make a triangle, **Close** the shape and then select **Line Join** (the icon with two 'hockey sticks' meeting each other).

Line Join changes the look of the corners of your closed shapes, like **Line Cap**, you can choose from the 3 styles: Round, butt and square. You can cycle between the 3 by pressing on the icon repeatedly. The shortcut to use it is:

Line Thickness

You can increase or decrease the thickness of your line anytime, using **Line Thickness** (the line with rectangle over it). The shortcuts to alter the line thickness are:

    Thicker }
    Thinner {
   **Thicker +5]**
    Thinner -5 [

Mirror(E)

Drawing a shape, and select **Mirror** (the icon with 4 lines that aren't crossing), will mirror the image horizontally on the canvas. Pressing on it again, will mirror it vertically, doing it again, mirrors it 180 degrees from the center.

You can tell which sort of mirroring you've got, by seeing the changes in the icon on the menu. To remove the effect, click on the icon until it returns to its original state, with the lines not crossing.

Fill(R)

Drawing a closed shape, and selecting **Fill** (icon resembling a twisted rectangle) will fill it with a single colour. Pressing on the

icon again, will remove the fill. Know that if you have other closed shapes on your canvas, this function will fill them all. The shortcut to use it is:
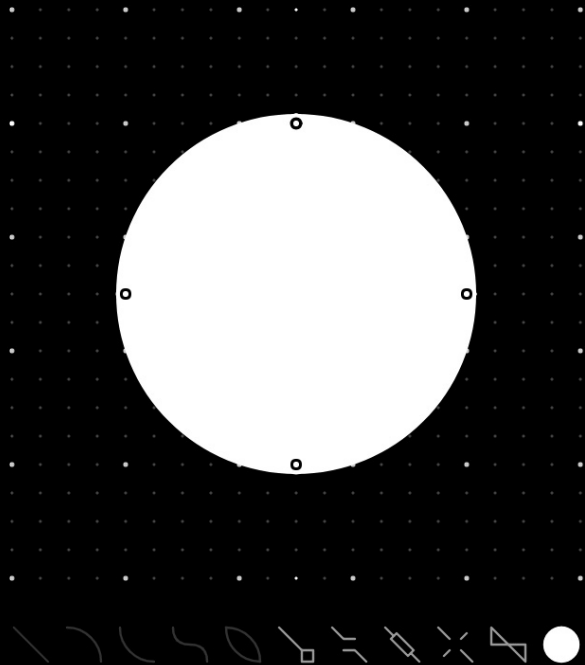
Color

You can change the colour of any shape, by clicking on the white circle on the lower right-hand side and entering a colour code(a hex, like FF0000).
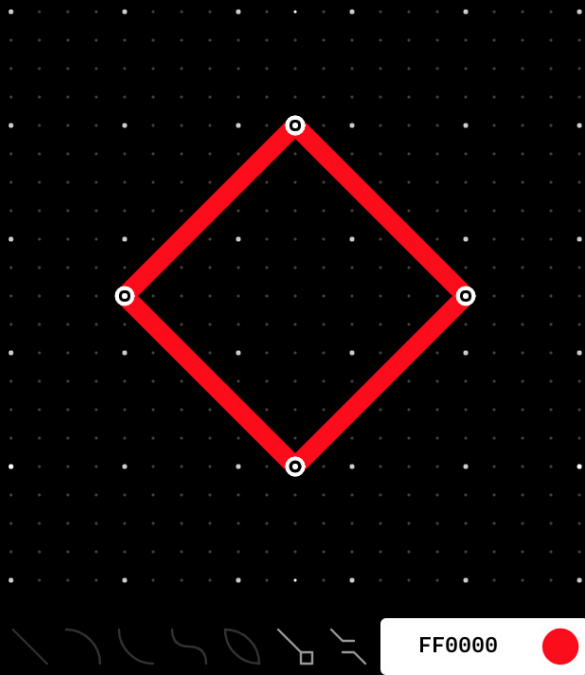
Other Functions

Move points - You can move any point, any time, by selecting it with your cursor and moving it around. If you choose to move a point that is part of an existing shape, it will warp the shape.

Grid on/off - You can toggle the grid, on and off, to better view a design using the shortcut **H**.

Layers - You can toggle between each layer by using the shortcuts:

⌘ **1 for Layer 1**
⌘ **2 for Layer 2**
⌘ **3 for Layer 3**

Dots will appear over the shapes of the layer that is selected. Having multple layers, enables you to have designs of varying colour and complexity.

Drawing Complex Shapes

To create a circle, draw 5 points on the grid, with the 5th returning to the starting point, then press **Arc**. You will now have a circle. Select **Close** to close the shape. The roundness of your circle will depend on where you placed your points. You can always adjust, by selecting the points individually and moving them around.

When making complex shapes, mind how you build your shapes and how the lines will connect, the order will affect your design.

Visual

You can change the look and colour of Dotgrid. To do this, download themes from our itch.io page. You can view the colour palettes of each theme in the preview, once you find something

you like, **drag the file** (.svg file) onto Dotgrid. The colours will change instantly.

These themes are part of the **Ecosystem Theme**, which means that you can apply a theme to any supported app (Left, Donsol, Pico and Marabu).

You can also <u>create</u> your own themes.

Shortcut Quick List

Stroke types

> **Line A**
> **Arc S**
> **Arc Rev D**
> **Bezier F**
> **Close Z**

Stroke effects

> **Line cap Q**
> **Line join W**
> **Mirror E**
> **Fill R**
> **Thicker }**
> **Thinner {**
> **Thicker +5]**
> **Thinner -5 [**

Dotgrid can be operated with the keyboard

> **Add point enter key**
> **Move up up arrow key**
> **Move down down arrow key**

Move right right arrow ley
Move left left arrow key
Remove point backspace
Remove segment backspace

Toggling between layers

Foreground ⌘ 1
Middle ⌘ 2
Background ⌘ 3

Other

Color picker G
Toggle grid on/off H
Save ⌘ s
Export ⌘ e
Render ⌘ r

This application supports the <u>Ecosystem Theme</u>. See the <u>License</u> file for license rights and limitations (MIT). <u>Pull Requests</u> are welcome!

Home
About us
Library
Mission

Pino
Videos
Cooking
Support
Press

Blog

Hello fujisan
Goji no chaimu
The promise of pancakes
Doldrumming
Leleuvia
Where is the turtle farm?
Pino, projects and pain
An island to oneself
Captain, what is this?
The rock of polynesia
Internet in paradise
Rainy with a chance of mosquitoes

Knowledge

Off the grid
Buying a sailboat
Liveaboard
Sailing
Used goods
Resources

Tools

Left
Dotgrid
Orca

Games

Markl
Oquonie
Donsol
Paradise
Hiversaires
Verreciel

Books

Thousand rooms

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Raspberry pi
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