

# Zettelkasten workflow in Obsidian according to DeepSeek

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2025-02-22

What is the simplest way to use the Obsidian software to implement the Zettelkasten note taking system? I would like to control the use of tags explicitly. One idea is to drop tags with hashtags and instead make a tag-note in a special folder called “Tags”. So instead of using #tag I will use [[tag]] - a link. In this way I can manage the tags in a simple way. Is this a good idea?

Absolutely! Let me walk you through a **complete workflow** for using **tags as links** in Obsidian, step by step. This system replaces traditional #hashtags with [[tag]] links and organizes tags in a dedicated folder for better control and flexibility.

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## Step 1: Set Up Your Vault Structure

### 1. Create a “Tags” Folder:

- In your Obsidian vault, create a folder named Tags. This will store all your tag notes.

- Example structure:

```
My Vault/  
├── Tags/  
├── Notes/  
└── Templates/
```

### 2. Optional: Create a Templates Folder:

- If you want to use templates for consistency, create a Templates folder and enable the **Templates plugin** in Obsidian.
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## Step 2: Create Tag Notes

### 1. Create a New Tag Note:

- For each tag, create a new note in the Tags folder.
- Example: If you want a tag for “Productivity,” create a note named Productivity.md in the Tags folder.

### 2. Add Metadata to Tag Notes:

- Use YAML front matter or plain text to add context to your tag notes. For example:

```
---  
description: Notes related to productivity techniques, tools, and strategies.  
related: [[Time Management]], [[GTD]]  
---
```

### 3. Optional: Use a Template for Tag Notes:

- Create a template for tag notes to save time. For example, in the Templates folder, create a file called Tag-Template.md:

```
---
description:
related:
---
## Notes tagged with [[{{title}}]]
```

- When creating a new tag note, apply this template using the **Templates plugin**.
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## Step 3: Link to Tags in Your Notes

### 1. Use `[[tag]]` Links:

- Instead of using #Productivity, link to your tag note using `[[Productivity]]`.
- Example: In a note about time blocking, you might write:  
Time blocking is a powerful `[[Productivity]]` technique that helps you manage your time.

### 2. Create Bidirectional Links:

- When you use `[[tag]]`, Obsidian automatically creates a bidirectional link. This means:
    - You can click on `[[Productivity]]` in your note to navigate to the Productivity.md tag note.
    - The Productivity.md tag note will show a backlink to the note where it was referenced.
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## Step 4: Build Indexes in Tag Notes

### 1. List Notes Linked to the Tag:

- In your tag notes, manually or automatically list all notes that reference the tag.
- Example: In Productivity.md, you might write:  
`## Notes tagged with [[Productivity]]`
  - `[[20231015-Time-Blocking]]`
  - `[[20231014-GTD-Overview]]`

### 2. Use Backlinks for Automation:

- Obsidian's **Backlinks** feature automatically shows all notes that link to a tag note. You can use this to avoid manually updating the list.
  - Example: In Productivity.md, scroll to the bottom to see all notes that link to it.
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## Step 5: Organize and Explore Your Tags

### 1. Use the Graph View:

- Open Obsidian's **Graph View** to visualize the relationships between your notes and tags.
- Tags will appear as nodes, and you can see how they connect to other notes.

### 2. Create a Master Tag Index:

- Create a note called Tag-Index.md in your Tags folder to list all your tags.

- Example:

```
# Tag Index
- [[Productivity]]
- [[Time Management]]
- [[GTD]]
```
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## Step 6: Maintain and Refine Your System

1. **Regularly Review Tag Notes:**
    - Periodically review your tag notes to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant.
    - Merge or split tags as needed.
  2. **Rename Tags Easily:**
    - If you need to rename a tag, simply rename the corresponding tag note. All links to the tag will automatically update.
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## Example Workflow in Action

1. **Create a Tag Note:**
    - Create Tags/Productivity.md with the following content:

```
---
description: Notes related to productivity techniques, tools, and strategies.
related: [[Time Management]], [[GTD]]
---
## Notes tagged with [[Productivity]]
```
  2. **Link to the Tag in a Note:**
    - In a note about time blocking, write:  
Time blocking is a powerful `[[Productivity]]` technique that helps you manage your time.
  3. **Update the Tag Note:**
    - In Tags/Productivity.md, add a link to the time blocking note:

```
## Notes tagged with [[Productivity]]
- [[20231015-Time-Blocking]]
```
  4. **Explore with Backlinks:**
    - Open Tags/Productivity.md and check the **Backlinks** section to see all notes that reference it.
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## Benefits of This Workflow

- **Centralized Tag Management:** All tags are stored in one place, making them easy to manage.
  - **Rich Context:** Tag notes can include descriptions, related tags, and links to other notes.
  - **Flexibility:** You can easily rename or merge tags without breaking links.
  - **Scalability:** This system scales well as your vault grows.
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By following this workflow, you'll have a powerful and flexible tagging system that enhances your note-taking and knowledge management in Obsidian. Let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification!

## **Comment**

This workflow is somewhat similar to the one suggested by Odysseas in his popular YouTube video in the references.

## **References**

- *Obsidian: The King of Learning Tools (FULL GUIDE + SETUP)* Video by Odysseas