

When sketch-up first opens, you have the option to select a template. You can use any template you like, but for this class, I am going to use the woodworking/feet and inches template.

Next, you will need to set up the camera views. For simple 2 dimensional drawings, set your camera view as "top". To set your camera view to top, go to the camera menu, select standard views, then select "top". You will draw only in the top view for most of this course. The last step in setting up your document is to go to the camera menu again, and select parallel projection. When working with sketch up as a 2 dimensional drawing tool, it is best to draw in parallel projection.

There are five basic tools covered in this lesson. They are the pan, zoom tool, line, rectangle, and circle tool.

The pan tool will allow you to move around your work space. It is similar to placing your hand on a sheet of paper on a table and pushing the sheet around. Simply select the pan tool, then click, hold and drag to move the screen around.

The zoom tool will zoom in and out on a selected area of the screen. To zoom in click and drag up, to zoom out click and drag down.

If you have a mouse with a center wheel/button, you can zoom in and out by rolling the center wheel. Where you place the mouse will determine the center of your zoom. If you only have a two button mouse you will have to click and drag to zoom as previously described.

Next, we will look at the line, rectangle, and circle tools. You can draw a simple freehand line, circle, or rectangle. However, if you want to draw a shape a certain dimension, you need to enter the length of such shapes.

We will start with the line tool. Start by clicking a point on the screen. This will be the starting point of your line. Click and release the mouse button, do not click and hold. Next, drag the mouse in the direction that you wish to draw your line. Then, let go of your mouse and type the distance you want this line using your keyboard. For example, if I want a 3 inch line I would type "3". The default in this template is inches. If I want my line 3 feet I would have to type 3' (apostrophe), otherwise my lines will be drawn in inches. I can continue to draw more lines, or to get out of the drawing tool, simply hit the escape key on your keyboard.

The rectangle tool works in a similar manner to the line tool. You start the same way as you did with the line tool by clicking a starting point, then dragging the mouse in the direction you want the rectangle to be drawn. The difference with the rectangle tool however, is that you must enter an X and Y distance. For example, if you want a 3" x 4" rectangle you would type 3,4 then hit enter.

Finally, the circle tool. To draw a circle, simply click your center point, drag the mouse, then type in the radius you want your circle. Remember, a radius is half the diameter, so if you want a 1" circle you will need to type .5" for the radius.