

Free Digital Drawing and Painting Software

Autodesk Sketchbook <https://sketchbook.com/> This program combines a full range of features with an intuitive interface. Requires registering for an Autodesk ID.

FireAlpaca <https://firealpaca.com/> Great for beginners. Simple and easy. Available for both Windows and Mac.

GIMP <https://www.gimp.org/> is actually an image editor like Photoshop, but is also good for digital drawing and painting. This is a good option if you prefer to use a single program for both editing photos and drawing/painting.

Inkspace <https://inkscape.org/> is a professional vector graphics editor. Instead of hand drawing, Inkscape's features use geometric descriptions of shapes, lines, curves and colors. Like other vector graphics programs, its strength is mathematical precision. Vector images can be scaled to any size without losing any quality. Vector graphics programs are best suited for creating line art, and images with flat colors, such as logos.

Krita <https://krita.org/en/> is a professional-level digital drawing and painting program. Krita can handle professional tasks like concept art, texture and matte painting, illustration and comics. Krita's website has extensive tutorials, including how to transition to Krita from various other programs.

MediBang Paint <https://medibangpaint.com/en/pc/> is very similar to FireAlpaca but includes more features, tutorials, a cloud service and community. Beautiful interface. It is particularly good for creating comics.

MyPaint <http://mypaint.org/about/> Aims to emulate painting with traditional materials. It has a full screen, uncluttered interface. It is simple to use and lots of tools. It does not have line stabilization.

Paint (Microsoft) This app is built-in to all Windows computers. Click or tap on: Start Menu > Windows Accessories > Paint. It does not support layers, line stabilization, or geometric tools. Its strength is its simplicity and that it is always available in your Windows computer.

Paint.net <https://www.dotpdn.com/downloads/pdn.html> Simple interface. There is a community of Paint.net users at <https://forums.getpaint.net/>

Pixlr <https://pixlr.com/> is web-based so don't have to download or install anything.

SketchUp <https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing/sketchup-free> is a 3D modeling program. Sketchup is useful for drawing in 3 dimensions to look at the subject from any angle, as you would a sculpture. SketchUp is a good choice for drawing your architectural ideas.

Further Learning

Alpaca School

<http://firealpaca.com/en/topics/>

Concept Art Empire

<https://conceptartempire.com/firealpaca-tutorials/>

Improve Your Drawings

<https://improveyourdrawings.com/2019/02/20-free-firealpaca-video-tutorials-you-cant-miss/>

Feedback and Communities

Forums

Artist Forum <https://www.artistforum.com/digital-art/> Members post on a wide variety of digital art topics.

Deviant Art <https://forum.deviantart.com/art/digital/> Another online community discussing all aspects of digital art

Social Media

Facebook – There are many Facebook groups where you can upload your drawings and get feedback on them.

Twitter – You can follow hashtags like: #digitalart #digitalpainting #drawing. *Let's get drawing!* Gives daily challenges to draw particular subjects: "Draw a whale", "Draw a billboard", etc.