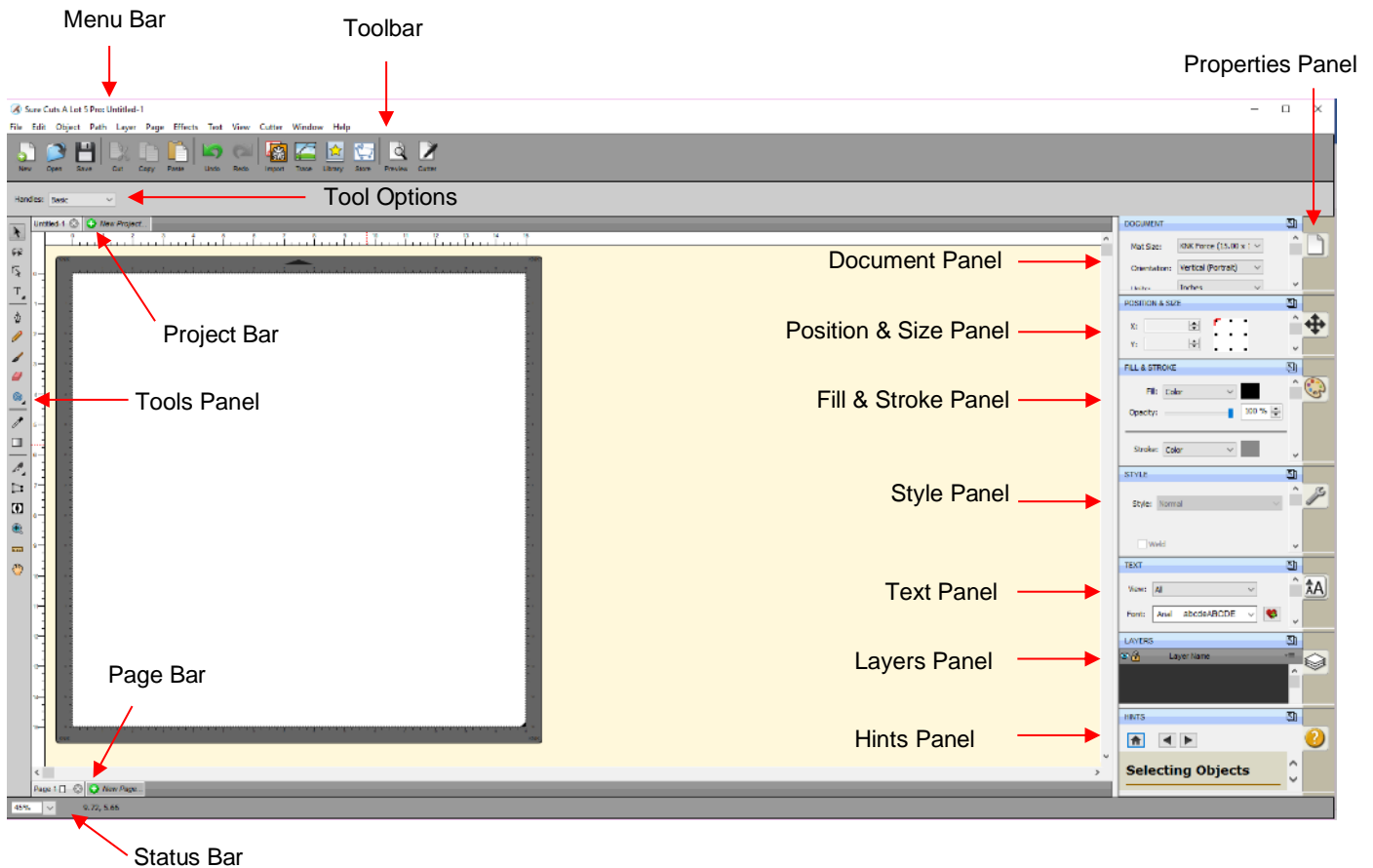


SCAL6 Toolbars, Panels, & Preferences - Expanded Tutorial

- This document presents a map of the various toolbars and panels, with section numbers in the user manual and explanation for the various preferences of interest.

C1 Screenshot of SCAL Screen

Below is a screen shot of the main screen in SCAL identifying ONLY **Bars** and **Panels**.



C2 Bars

- The bars in SCAL have components positioned left to right. The following sections present the five bars and where to find more information for each item on that bar.

C2.1 Menu Bar

- Like most computer applications, the **Menu Bar** is located at the top of the screen and provides access to most of the functions in the software.

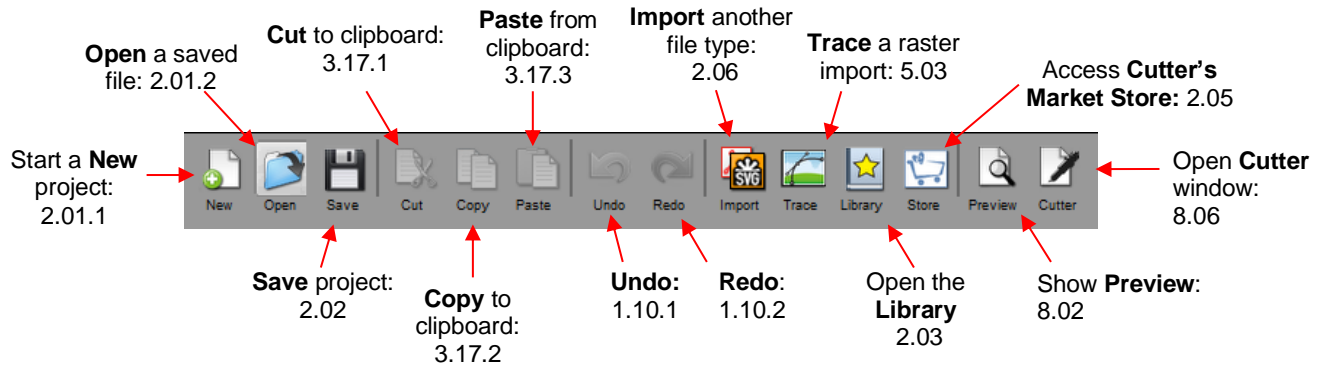
File Edit Object Path Layer Page Effects Text View Cutter Window Help

- Throughout the user manual, a reference such as this: Go to **Path>Simplify** refers to using the **Menu Bar** to access a function. In this case, you would click **Path** on the **Menu Bar** and then click on **Simplify** in the submenu that appears.

- Because there are dozens of submenu options, each one isn't listed with a reference. Instead, it is recommended that you use a search function to locate any given listing within the user manual.

C2.2 Toolbar

- The **Toolbar** is located at the top of the screen, just below the **Menu Bar**.



C2.3 Projects Bar

- The **Projects Bar** is presented in *Section 1.11*.



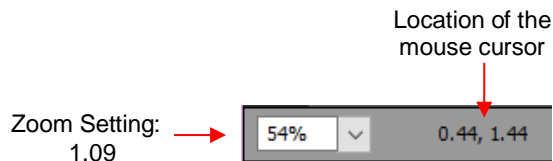
C2.4 Pages Bar

- The **Pages Bar** is presented in *Section 1.11*.



C2.5 Status Bar

- The **Status Bar** is located at the bottom of the screen:



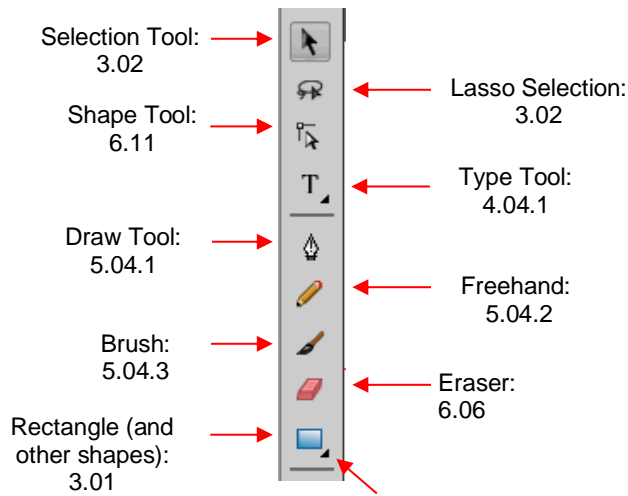
C3 Panels

- The panels in SCAL have components positioned top to bottom. The following sections present the panels and where to find more information for each item on that panel.

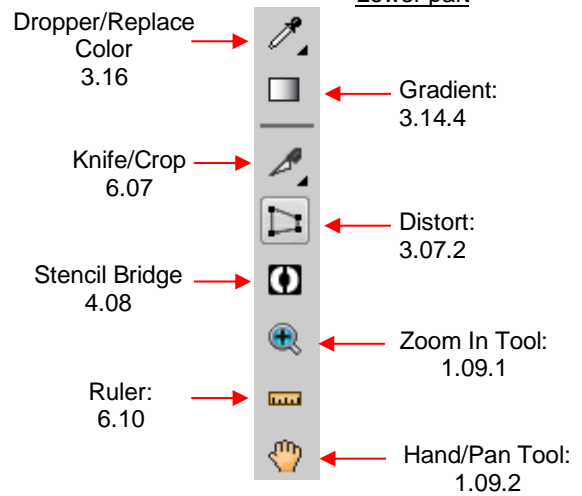
C3.1 Tools Panel

- The **Tools Panel** is located along the left side of the screen:

Upper part



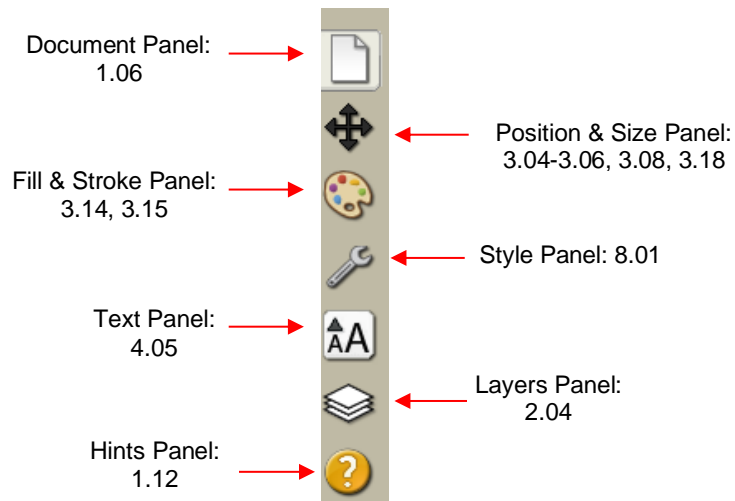
Lower part



Note: Icons with a small black arrow have more options when left mouse button is held down

C3.2 Properties Panel

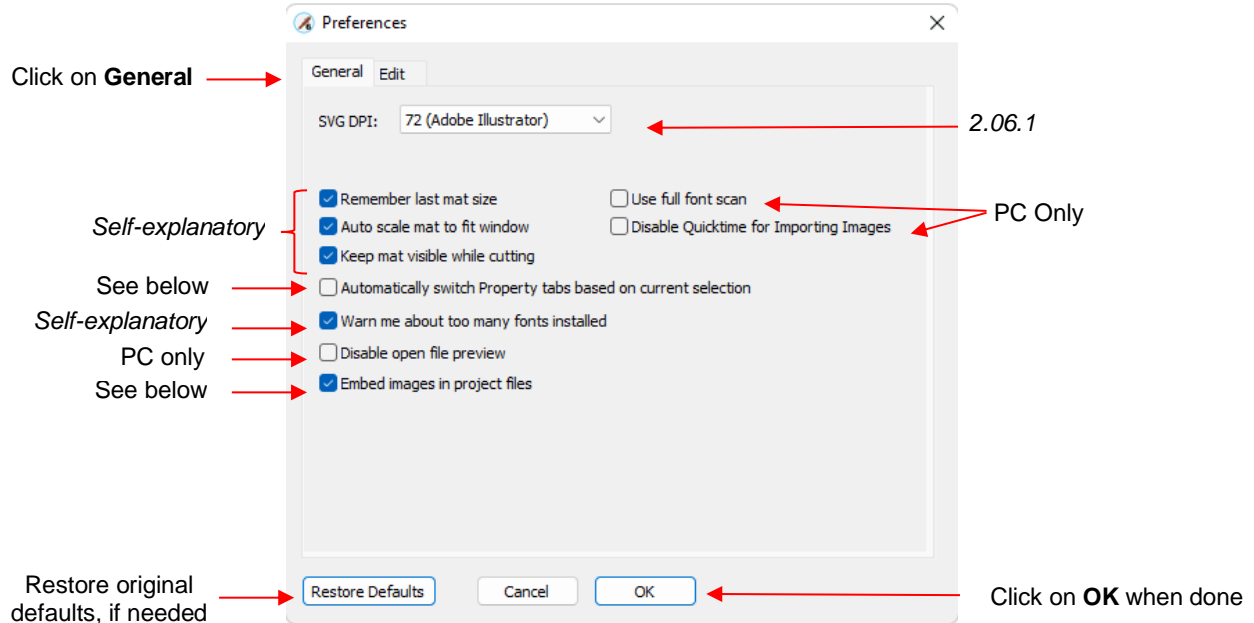
- The **Properties Panel** is located on the right side of the screen and contains 7 subpanels:



C4 Preferences

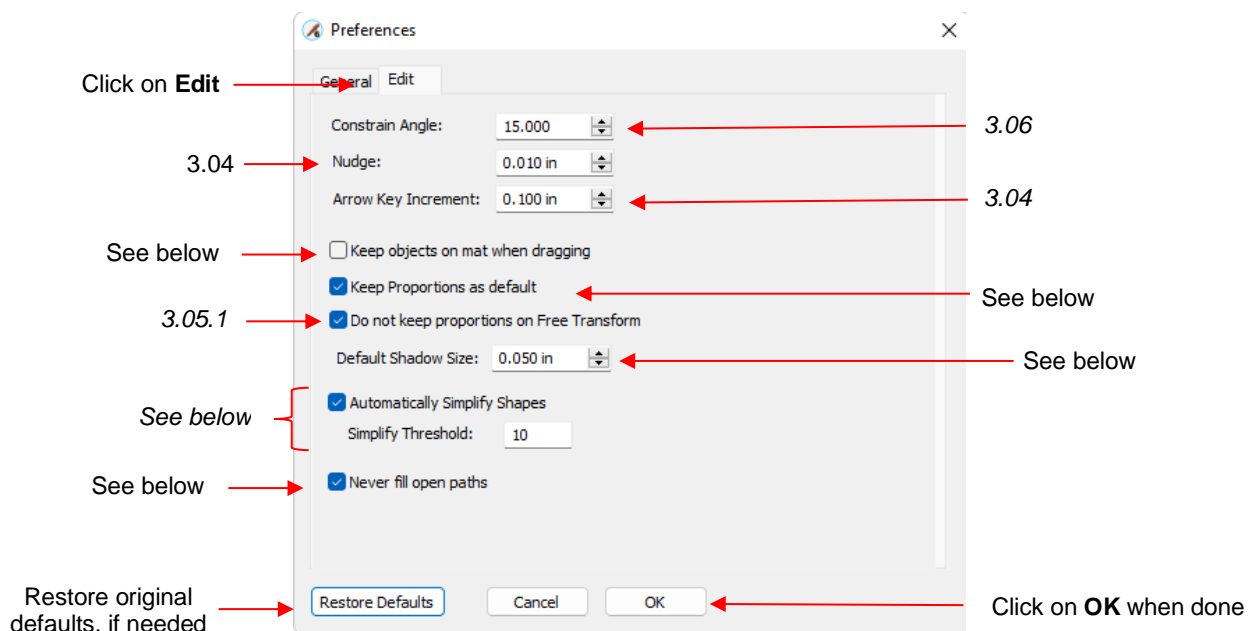
- The following preferences can be found under **Edit>Preferences** (or, on a Mac, press **Command + ,**). If the preference was already presented in other sections, it is noted in the screen shots. For those not previously mentioned, details are presented if they are considered important.

C4.1 Preferences: General Tab on a PC

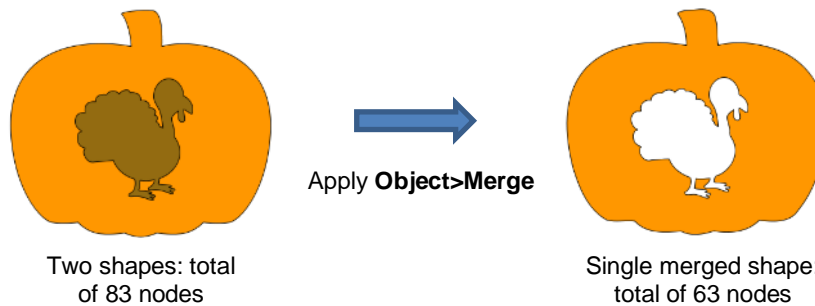


- **Automatically switch Property tabs based on current selection:** with this option turned on, the **Properties Subpanel** related to the task at hand will open. For example, when you select a shape, the **Position & Size Panel** will open. When you click on the **Type Tool**, the **Text Panel** will open.
- **Embed images in project files:** With this option marked, any imported raster images (PNG, BMP, JPG, and GIF) will be retained in the file when the file is saved. Unmarking this option will cause imported raster images to not be saved, thus not present when you reopen a saved file. Thus, when doing print and cut applications, you're most likely going to want that original image saved, so it is highly recommend that this option remain checked.

C4.2 Preferences: Edit Tab

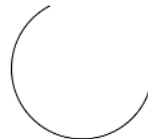


- **Keep objects on mat when dragging:** With this option checked, you cannot drag shapes beyond the outside borders of the **Cutting Mat**. You can, however, move them beyond the **Cutting Mat** by entering the desired **X, Y** location on the **Position & Size Panel**.
- **Keep Proportions as default:** With this option checked, the **Keep Proportions** setting on the **Position & Size Panel** will automatically be checked when you launch SCAL and will remain checked until you uncheck it. If you choose to uncheck this option, you will need to relaunch SCAL and the **Keep Proportions** setting will be unchecked.
- **Default Shadow Size:** This affects the initial **Size** shown under **Effects>Shadow Layer**.
- **Automatically Simplify Shapes:** With this option checked, nodes will be reduced after certain functions are applied. For example, the following two shapes (pumpkin and turkey) have a total of 83 nodes. If you select them and apply **Object>Merge** so that the inside turkey will cut before the outside pumpkin, the total number of nodes is reduced to 63 because of the **Automatically Simplify Shapes** option being checked.

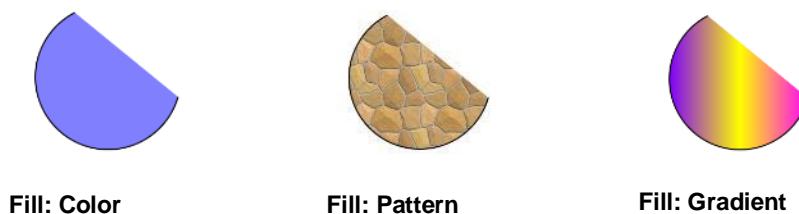


- **Never fill open paths:** Unlike most other vector programs, SCAL offers the ability to fill open shapes by applying an invisible straight line to close the shape. By unchecking this option and selecting a **Fill Color**, **Pattern**, or **Gradient**, the open shapes on your **Cutting Mat** will contain that **Fill**.

◇ For example, here is a circle with a section cut off. The option to **Never fill open paths** is still checked:



◇ The **Never fill open paths** is now unchecked and various **Fills** options applied:



◇ Note that even though the shape appears to be closed, it is not. If you were to cut this shape, it would still be attached to the outside material.

