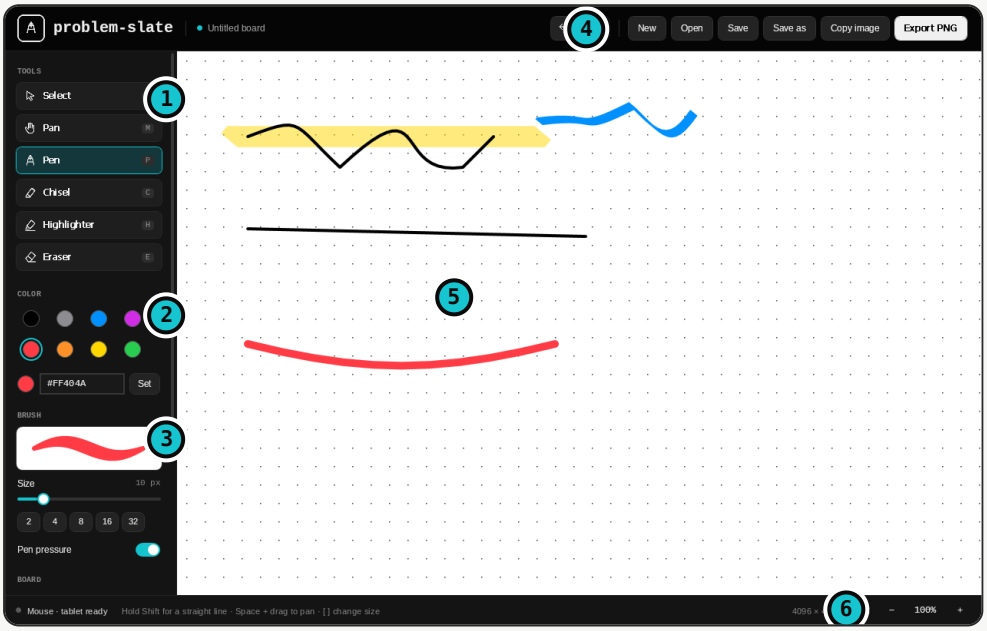
User guide.

Everything you need to work on a problem-slate board: the tools, drawing tips, images, moving around, saving and every keyboard shortcut. Shortcuts are shown for **Mac (⌘)** and **Windows (Ctrl)**.

01 · THE SCREEN



1. **Tools.** Click one or press its letter.
2. **Color.** Eight swatches plus a custom color.
3. **Brush.** Live preview, size, presets, nib angle, pressure.
4. **Undo, redo and files.** New, Open, Save, Copy, Export PNG.
5. **The board.** A dotted page, 4096 × 4096 px by default.
6. **Status bar.** Pen status, tips for the current tool, zoom.

Shown on Windows; the Mac app has the same layout. Scroll the sidebar for the **Board** settings and **Clear board**. A dot next to the board name means unsaved changes.

02 · THE TOOLS

Pen `P`	A round pen. With a pen tablet, pressing harder draws a thicker line. Starts at 4 px.
Chisel `C`	An angled calligraphy nib: thin in one direction, broad in the other. Set the **nib angle** in the Brush section. Starts at 12 px.
Highlighter `H`	A translucent marker: ink and images show through it. Also has a nib angle. Starts at 28 px.
Eraser `E`	Rubs out parts of strokes. It never removes images or the dot grid. Minimum 20 px. A tablet pen's eraser end works too.
Select `V`	Click an image to select it, drag it to move, drag the corner handle to resize it. Delete removes it.
Pan `M`	Drag to move around the board. Tip: hold `Space` to pan with any tool, then let go to keep drawing.

03 · DRAWING

Get the line you want.

Straight lines

Hold `⇧ Shift` while you draw. The stroke becomes a straight line from where you started to where the pen is. Great for underlines, fraction bars and arrows.

On Mac the line follows your pen live; on Windows it snaps straight when you lift the pen.

Brush size

Drag the **Size** slider (1–60 px), tap a preset (**2 · 4 · 8 · 16 · 32**) or press `[` and `]` while drawing.

Each tool **remembers its own size**, so a thick highlighter won't change your pen.

Color

Pick black, gray, blue, purple, red, orange, yellow or green. A ring shows the selected swatch. For any other color, use **Custom color** (Mac) or type a hex code like **#2584FF** and press Enter (Windows).

Pen pressure

On by default. With a pen tablet, light touches draw thin and firm ones draw thick. Turn **Pen pressure** off for an even width. The highlighter always draws evenly.

04 · THE BOARD

- **Black background** turns the board black. Black ink shows as white, then turns back to black when you switch back. Other colors stay as they are.
- **Dot grid** shows or hides the guide dots. They also appear in exported images.
- **Board size:** click the size button (Mac) or type a width and height and click Apply (Windows). Anything from 512 to 8192 px per side.
- **Clear board** wipes everything in one step, and **Undo brings it all back**.

05 · IMAGES

- **Add an image:** copy a picture or an image file and press `⌘V` / `Ctrl+V`, or drag image files straight onto the board.
- **Move and resize** with the Select tool. The corner handle keeps the proportions.
- **Fine-tune** with the arrow keys: 1 px per press, or 10 px with `⇧`.
- Your ink always sits **on top of** images, so you can write over a worksheet or screenshot. The eraser never touches the image.
- Limits: 25 MB and 32 megapixels per image; 100 images and 100 MB per board. Windows reads PNG, JPEG, BMP, GIF and TIFF; the Mac also reads HEIC.

06 · MOVING AROUND

- **Pan:** hold `Space` and drag, use the Pan tool, drag with the middle mouse button, or scroll.
- **Zoom** from 10% to 400%: pinch on a Mac trackpad, or hold `⌘` / `Ctrl` and scroll. It zooms toward the pointer.
- **Fit** (`⌘9` / `Ctrl+9`) shows the whole board. Click the **%** in the status bar, or press `⌘0` / `Ctrl+0`, to return to 100%.
- The board sits on a gray (or dark) surround, so you can always see its edges.

07 · SAVING YOUR WORK

- **Autosave:** your latest board is saved automatically and reopens when you start the app, even after a crash. It's one recovery slot, not a history: New or Open replaces it.
- **Save** keeps editable boards: **.slate** on Mac, **.wslate** on Windows.
- **Export PNG** saves the whole board as an image at full size. **Copy** puts it on the clipboard to paste into chat, email or notes.
- Mac and Windows board files aren't interchangeable. To share between them, export or copy a PNG.

08 · KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Keep your hands on the pen.

ACTION	MAC	WINDOWS
TOOLS AND DRAWING		
Pen · Chisel · Highlighter · Eraser	`P` `C` `H` `E` (same on both)	
Select · Pan	`V` `M`	
Straight line	Hold `⇧ Shift` while drawing	
Smaller · larger brush	`[` `]`	
Pan temporarily	Hold `Space` and drag	
IMAGES		
Paste an image	`⌘V`	`Ctrl+V`
Delete selected image · deselect	`Delete` or `Backspace` · `Esc`	
Nudge selected image	`←` `→` `↑` `↓` add `⇧` for 10 px	
VIEW		
Zoom in · zoom out	`⌘=` `⌘–`	`Ctrl+=` `Ctrl+–`
Actual size (100%) · fit board	`⌘0` `⌘9`	`Ctrl+0` `Ctrl+9`
Zoom at the pointer	`⌘` + scroll, or pinch	`Ctrl` + scroll
EDIT AND FILES		
Undo · redo	`⌘Z` `⇧⌘Z`	`Ctrl+Z` `Ctrl+Y`
New board · open	`⌘N` `⌘O`	`Ctrl+N` `Ctrl+O`
Save · save as	`⌘S` `⇧⌘S`	`Ctrl+S` `Ctrl+Shift+S`
Copy whole board as an image	`⇧⌘C`	`Ctrl+Shift+C`
Export PNG	`⇧⌘E`	`Ctrl+Shift+E`
Clear board	`⇧⌘K`	`Ctrl+Shift+K`

09 · PEN TABLETS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

Setting up a tablet	Install your tablet maker's driver. On Windows, also turn on its **Windows Ink** option. When the pen is detected, the status bar dot turns green.
No pressure, even width	Check that **Pen pressure** is on and that the driver sends real pen input; tablets that only act as a mouse can't send pressure.
Nothing draws	The Select or Pan tool is probably active. Press `P` for the pen.
Lost the board	Press `⌘9` / `Ctrl+9` to fit the whole board on screen.
An image won't paste	Copy the picture itself or its file, and check the size limits on page 2.