

Advice and Free Tools for Drawing Circuit Schematics

Compiled by Jon Erickson, 06 Jan 2018

General Advice

Making nice circuit diagrams is a bit of an art form. These [very helpful guidelines](#) come by way of the legendary Horowitz and Hill.

(<http://opencircuitdesign.com/xcircuit/goodschem/goodschem.html>)

Drawing Tools

[SchemeIt](http://www.digikey.com/us/en/mkt/scheme-it.html): (<http://www.digikey.com/us/en/mkt/scheme-it.html>)

- html based, very easy to use

- sign-in to digikey account (free) in order to save/export schematics

[Autodesk/Eagle](https://www.autodesk.com/products/eagle/overview) (<https://www.autodesk.com/products/eagle/overview>)

- schematic design

- pcb layout

- professional level design software for fabricating boards

[CircuitLab](https://www.circuitlab.com): (<https://www.circuitlab.com>)

- html based schematics

- includes circuit simulator

- sign-up for free (?) account to save/download drawings

[Schematics.com](http://www.schematics.com) (www.schematics.com)

- web-based interface, easy to use

- can save and share designs, and export good quality .png

- have to sign up/sign in with google/fb/etc.

CircuitTikz

General info and examples: <http://www.ctan.org/pkg/circuitikz>

TeX Package download: <http://www.texample.net/tikz/examples/circuitikz/>

This is sort of an 'expert mode' package used with TeX (an incredibly powerful typesetting program, especially geared for technical writing that includes lots of equations and and figures).CircuitTikz is a package used with TeX. Drawings produced are professional quality, but you must code your circuit in text programming, then compile it to actually produce the drawing.

