

Advice and Free Tools for Drawing Circuit Schematics

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General Advice

Making nice circuit diagrams is a bit of an art form. These [very helpful guidelines](#) comes by way of the legendary Horowitz and Hill. Also, see this wonderful list (engineering rant?) on [stackexchange](#) about how to make good schematics

Schematic Editor Tools—some with PCB layout

[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 drawings as pdfs
- universal favorite of circuits alumni

[EagleCAD](https://www.autodesk.com/products/eagle/free-download) (<https://www.autodesk.com/products/eagle/free-download>)

- professional level schematics and PCB layout (used in the 'real world')
- massive library of parts
- a learning curve to climb, fairly easy to learn (great tutorial from Sparkfun [here](#))

[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.

[KiCAD](http://kicad.org): (kicad.org) new open-source kid on the block. Schematic editor and PCB layout both available. Becoming more popular and common as bugs are ironed out.