Understanding Figma Components & Variants

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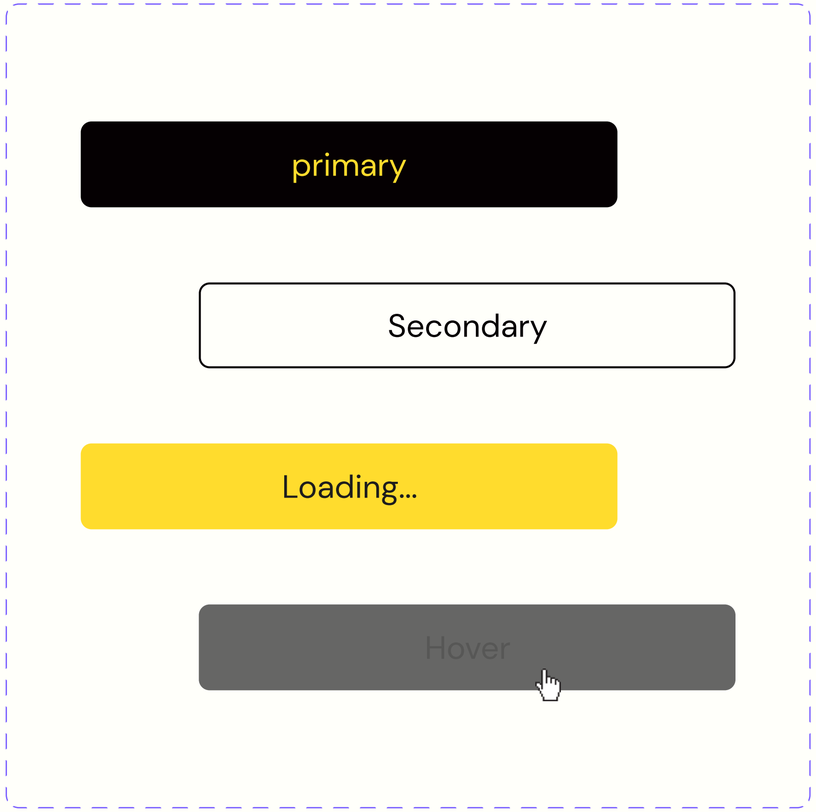


Overview

- What are Components & Variants?
- Application of Components & Variants
- Best Practices

Components...

Components are **established** reusable UI elements in a design file.

Established here because copying and pasting items seems great until its time to make an update and it becomes really tedious.

Using components helps to elevate your workflow. It makes it 100% easier to make changes across different files and projects.

Components...

A component can literally be anything. It can be a button, icon, input field, text group or a price chart.

Parts of a Component:

- Main Component
- Instance

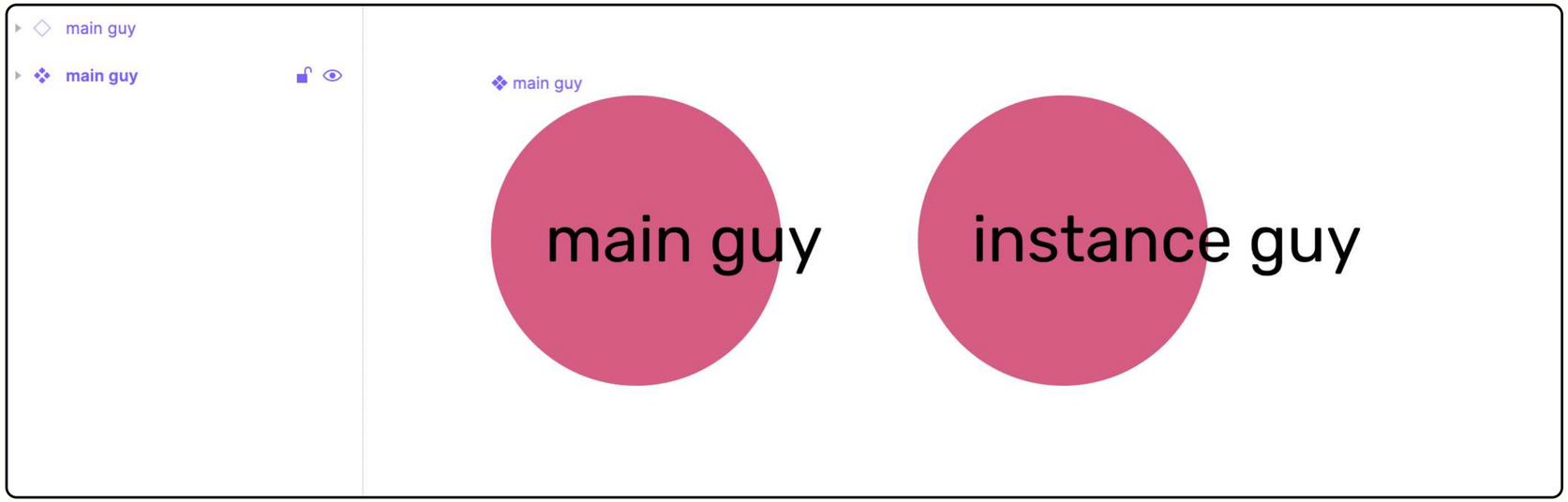
Parts of a Component

Main Component: This is the main guy. First of its kind. Oba. The first element you turn into a component and it defines the properties of the components and in turn the instances.

The Instance: This is a copy of the Main component you can reuse in your designs. Instances are linked to the main Component and receive any updates made to the main guy.

Main Vs Instance

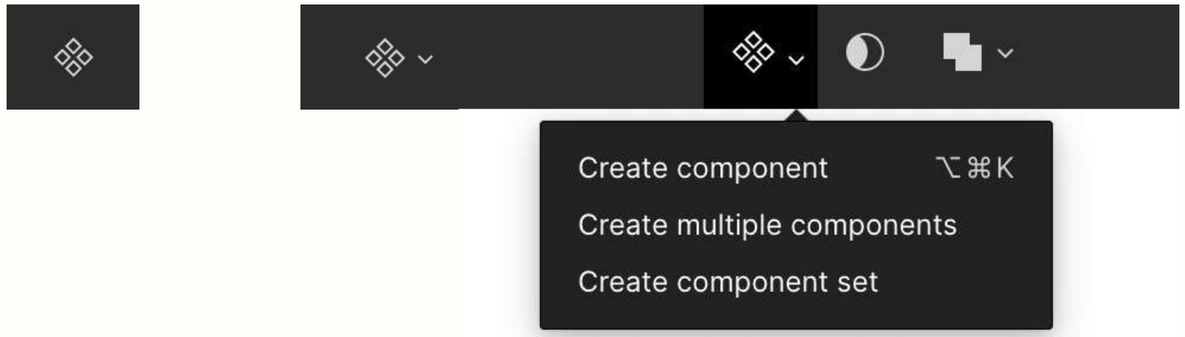
You can easily identify which elements are master components and which are instances by the icon in the layers panel. Master components use a 4 diamond icon and instances use a single diamond icon.



Creating components

There are different ways to go about this.

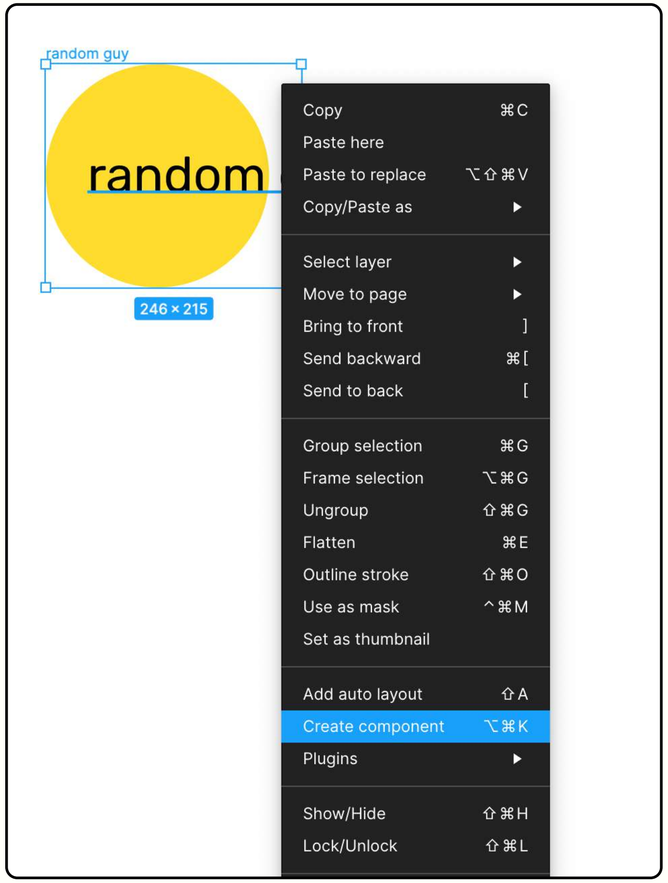
1. Using the “Create Component” Button at the top.



First one is the default and it shows if you select a singular or grouped item while second one appears when multiple items are selected

Creating components

2. Using this menu



Make sure the item is selected first and then tap on the item to bring up the menu

Variants

Variants are basically ***components on steriods***

Literally, its like adding a whole new level to your components.

Variants are a set of components, usually sharing the same attributes or property but the values of these defined properties are combined differently.

Variants...

With components, you can change the text, colour and effects on an instance. They’re called overrides and they can be difficult to maintain but variants makes all of that easy.

Variants saves us the stress of going through lots of components many times. Now we only have to properly define them once and then switch to whatever component variant we need after. Variants can expand the scope of a component

Understanding Variants

Before creating variants, its best to actually think about possible ways or forms a design element can take. Variants are defined by its '***Properties***' and '***Values***'.

Properties are the different changing parts of the components that makes it different from the other component styles while **Values** are the the options or possibilities available for each property

Understanding Variants

For example Properties could be the Name, Type, Size, State or if it includes another element. The Values are unique to the defined properties for example, the value of a size property could be ‘small, medium or large’

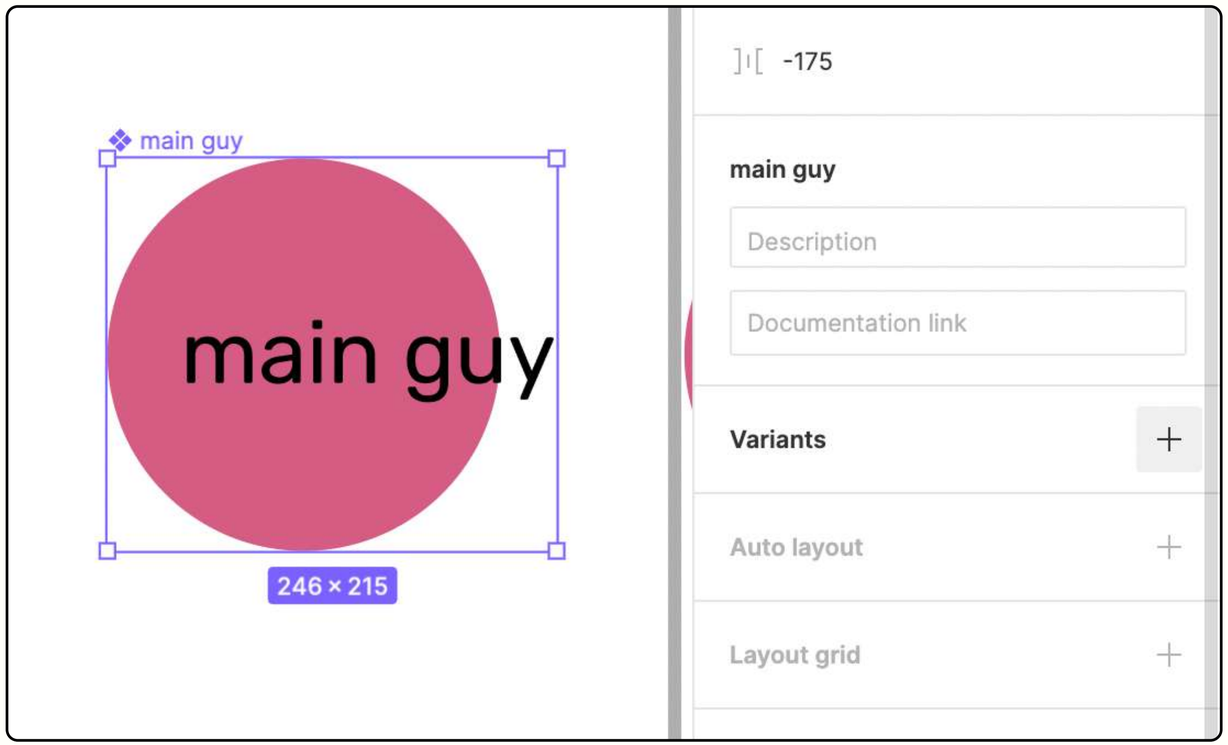
Always use adjectives here

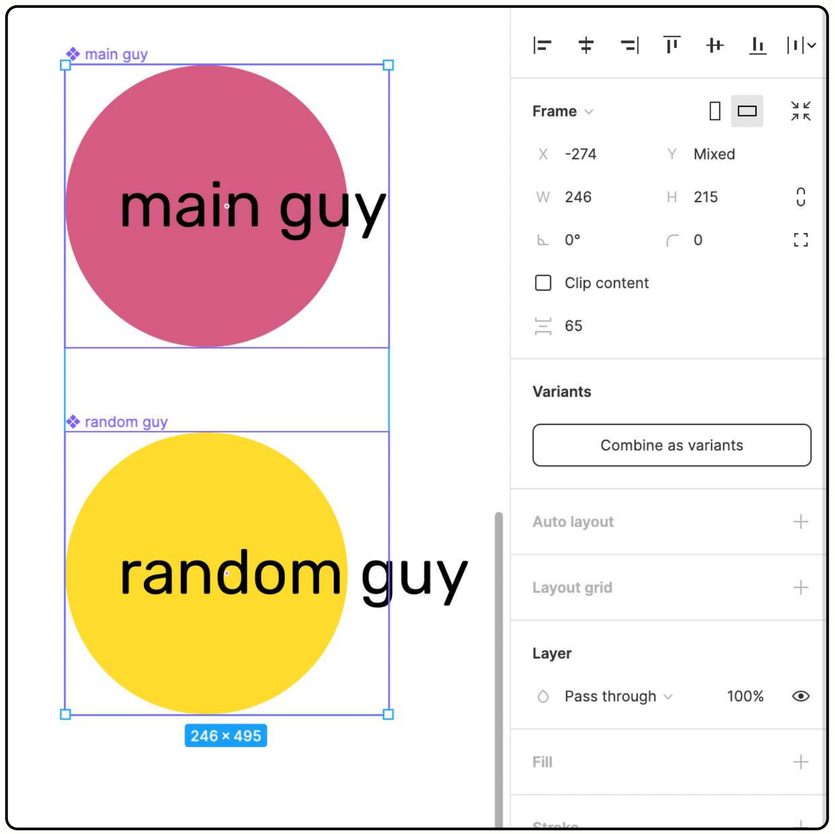
Creating Variants

An easy way is to select the different components created and combine them as variants. Then you also have to properly define the properties and values after.

You can also select the variant and then, in the right sidebar, click on ‘Variants +’ option. You can then edit the properties of the new component created

Creating Variants





Application

Components and Variants can be very useful in regular day to day design projects because certain elements must be repeated but it can also be used to maintain *law and order* in a design system.

A Design system, according to NN/g is “a set of standards to manage design at scale by reducing redundancy while creating a shared language and visual consistency across different pages and channels”

Application

Most companies are beginning to see the importance of design systems so having this knowledge can be really helpful. You might be tasked with maintaining or creating the design system or the component library

Best Practices

- Document your components
- A failure to plan is a planure to fail
- Keep it functional
- Variant Property should be clear and descriptive

Lab Time!

Any Questions?

Thanks Everyone!