FigmaMCP cheat sheet

Let Claude Code or Codex read and edit the file open in Figma desktop. Free, runs on your Mac, no call quota.
figmamcp.dev

Set up (about 3 minutes)

1. Download FigmaMCP for Mac: **figmamcp.dev/download** (macOS 14+).
2. Open the app and follow its checklist. It finds Figma, Claude Code and Codex, adds the plugin and connects your agent.
3. Restart Claude Code or Codex if it was running.
4. In Figma desktop open your file, then **Plugins › Development › FigmaMCP**.
5. Ask your agent for an edit.

How it connects

Claude Code / Codex → local MCP server → relay on localhost → FigmaMCP plugin → your open file. Nothing goes through a cloud service; no Figma token, no Dev Mode seat.

Prompts that work

> "Read the selected frame and list every text layer with its font and size."

> "Rename every layer called Frame 12 to match its heading."

> "Make the Pricing card auto layout: vertical, 16 gap, 24 padding."

> "Bind all #0D74CE fills on this page to the color/primary variable."

> "Duplicate the Login screen and translate its text to German."

> "Audit this page: list detached instances and off-grid spacing."

Good habits

- Start with a read: ask the agent to describe the page before it edits.
- Name the frame or select it; the plugin edits only pages you allowed.
- Use Figma's undo (⌘Z) for any change you do not want.
- Duplicate the file first for large batch edits.

What the agent can do

Area	Tools
Read	`page_info` `node_info` `node_export_visual`
Create	`create_frame` `create_text` `create_shape` `create_svg`
Edit	`node_transform` `node_rename` `node_clone` `node_delete` `node_group`
Style	`node_set_fill` `node_set_stroke` `node_set_effects` `node_set_corner_radius`
Text	`text_set_content` `text_set_style`
Layout	`node_set_auto_layout`
Design system	`variable_manage` `node_bind_variable` `style_manage`
Components	`create_component` `create_instance` `instance_set_overrides`
Prototype	`reaction_list` `reaction_update`
Notes	`annotation_set` `annotation_list`

Safety built in

- Scope lock: edits stay on the pages you allowed.
- Name check: the agent must pass the exact layer name it read.
- Batch check: a batch is validated before any change runs.

If something is off

You see	Do this
Agent has no figmamcp tools	Restart Claude Code or Codex.
"No open plugin"	In Figma: Plugins › Development › FigmaMCP.
Several files open	Close the plugin in the files you are not editing.
Plugin not in the menu	Open the FigmaMCP app and click Add to Figma.
Still stuck	figmamcp.dev/troubleshooting/not-working

Compared with Figma's own MCP

Figma's official server is the supported route for reading designs into code, and its limits depend on your plan and seat. FigmaMCP edits the file you have open and has no call quota. See figmamcp.dev/compare.

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