

EDU[**CAD**]TION **STUDY GUIDE**

How to Use the CAD Toolbar and Timeline for Faster Design

Chapter 1, Lesson 4

SendCutSend

What is the toolbar / ribbon?

- The **Toolbar (or Ribbon)** is located in the top-left corner of Fusion and houses all the tools you will use to build parts.
- Tabs organize the tools into categories such as Solid, Surface, Mesh, and Sheet Metal. Each category contains menus like Create, Modify, and Assemble. For example, under Solid → Create, you'll find '**Create Sketch.**' (see figure 1.1)

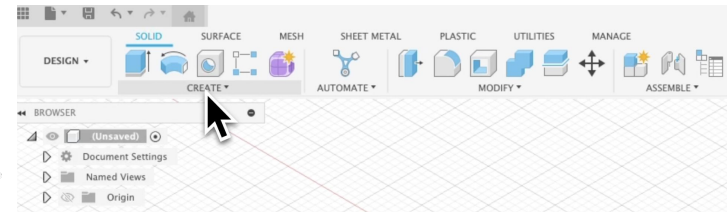


Figure 1.1

Pinning your tools and shortcuts

- Frequently used tools, like '**Create Sketch**', can be pinned to the toolbar for quick access. Right-click a tool or use the three-dot menu to select '**Pin to Toolbar**'. (see figure 1.2)
- You'll also see the '**Pin to Shortcuts**' button, which lets you create custom keyboard shortcuts. Using these can speed up your workflow and make common actions more efficient.

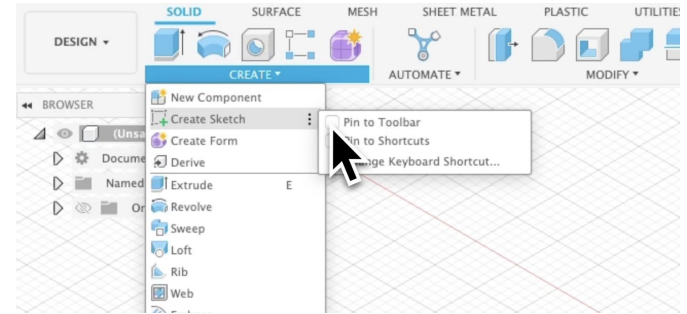


Figure 1.2

Context-Sensitive Tools

- Not all tools are visible at all times. For example, sketch tools such as lines, circles, and constraints only appear after you begin a sketch and select a plane first. (see Figure 1.3)
- Once a plane is selected, the **'Sketch'** tab will appear, displaying all the tools that were previously hidden (see Figure 1.4).
- Additionally, you will see the **'Sketch Palette'** appear on the right side of your sketch. (see Figure 1.5)
- When you select **'Finish Sketch'**, either from the **'Sketch Palette'** (Figure 1.5) or the **'Toolbar'** (Figure 1.6), the sketch tools will disappear. They will only re-appear when you edit the sketch.

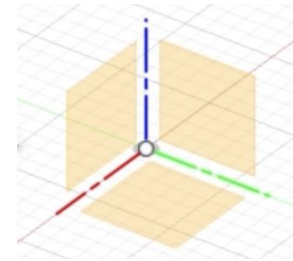


Figure 1.3

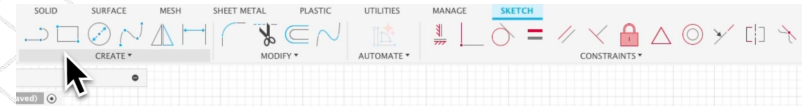


Figure 1.4

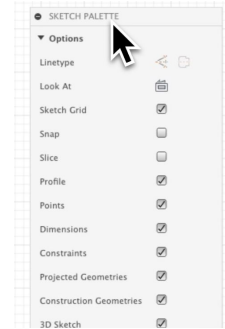


Figure 1.5

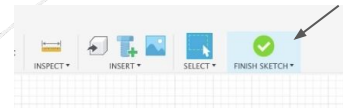


Figure 1.6

Edit Sketch

- There are two ways you can select **'Edit Sketch'**, you can go to the **'Browser'** on your left side, and click the down arrow on **'Sketch'**, then you can right-click on your sketch and select **'Edit Sketch'**. (see Figure 1.7)
- Another way, will be **'The Timeline'**, located at the bottom of the left corner, records your design history. It shows every step (sketches, features, modifications) in sequence. You will see a play, rewind, and fast forward button as well as the sketch. (see Figure 1.8)
- Just like in the **'Browser'**, you can edit past sketches by right-clicking on them and selecting **'Edit Sketch'**. (see Figure 1.9)

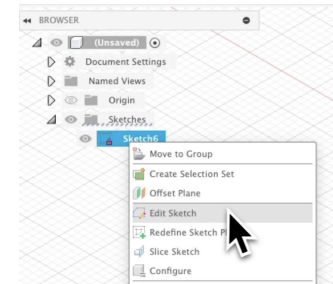


Figure 1.7

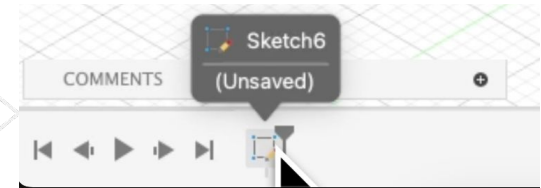


Figure 1.8

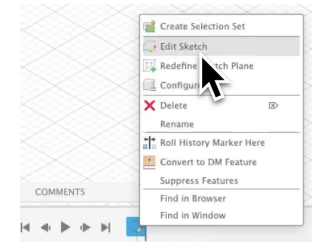


Figure 1.9

Timeline (Roadmap)

- The Timeline is a complete history of every step you've taken to create your part. It allows you to rewind to the beginning, jump to a point midway, or move forward as needed.
- In the **Timeline**, you'll find navigation buttons; **Move to Beginning**, **Previous Step**, **Next Step**, and **Move to End**; These let you quickly jump to the step you need. (see Figure 1.10)
- You can also hover over a sketch in the '**Timeline**' to reveal a marker, which you can click and drag to different steps. (see Figure 1.11)
- If your sketch breaks or you didn't create something correctly, the '**Timeline**' lets you return to the exact step you need to fix, without starting over.
- As you build features and sketches in later lessons, the usefulness of the '**Timeline**' will become even more apparent.



Figure 1.10

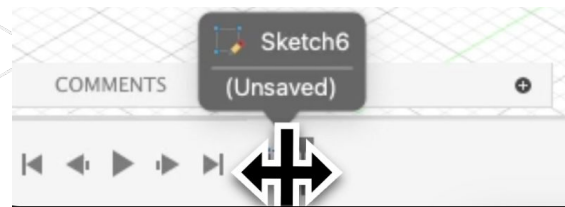


Figure 1.11

Summary

Understanding the toolbar and timeline prevents confusion and speeds up your workflow. Beginners often think tools have 'disappeared,' but in reality, tools are context-based. The timeline ensures you can revisit and fix mistakes without starting from scratch, making it one of the most powerful CAD features.

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