

Stracian Guide

A few things you need to know

This is a beta version, and it may crash, losing your work. Save your work regularly to files with different names, and make sure you can load the saved files into another (reliable) program, since there may be bugs in Stracian's file-saving code too. Do not load your only copy of a precious file into Stracian.

Three important keys you should know about before trying Stracian are:

- * The escape key (**Esc**) minimises the main window.
- * The **Tab** key shows or hides the main menu (containing File, Edit, etc).
- * **Q** shows a dialog with general information about the image and current settings.

General hints

Stracian makes a lot of use of the keyboard. Print out the keyboard layout, or display it on another monitor, before using Stracian seriously. Study the keyboard layout - there is a lot of information there.

Don't go looking for a colour palette or colour picker, because there is none. Look at the brush and use the keys, or pick up a colour from the picture. Note that the step size for adjusting colours using keys can be set in the general information dialog accessed via the Q key.

If you are using a stylus, you can lift it away from the tablet to temporarily remove the preview brush.

Some brushes have sub-varieties which may be accessed via a right click to pop up a menu. A right click when using the texture brush opens a dialog for designing textures.

For the Blur brush, the 'hardness' controls the hardness of the edge of the blurred area. The power controls the amount of blurring.

You can change a brush's characteristics (but not colour) while doing a stroke.

Hints about layers

The bottom layer is a special layer. It is always completely opaque, and is never invisible, and cannot be swapped with other layers.

In the Layer dialog, the controls on the right affect the selected layers, which are shown by the ticked boxes. (The active layer is indicated on the left, by a 'depressed' number button but it is the selection that matters for the controls.)

To copy a layer, choose it plus one empty layer, and press Copy. If you want to overwrite one layer with another, clear the target layer first.

The opacity control only works when one layer (not the bottom layer) is selected. The arrow keys can be used for fine adjustment.

You cannot make the active layer invisible.