

NOVA WORKBENCH

# Nova Snap

Capture · Annotate · Dimension · Cut lists — inside SketchUp



User Guide — version 2.2

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## 1 · What Nova Snap does

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Nova Snap captures your current SketchUp view as a pixel-perfect image and opens it in an annotation window — still inside SketchUp. Because Snap reads the real model geometry behind the image, every dimension you place is a true model measurement, not a guess. It is occlusion-aware: parts hidden behind other parts are never offered for dimensioning.

From the same window you can draw markups, place dimensions and notes, generate a **cut list** or an **order list** from the visible parts, label every component, and save or copy the finished image in one step.

## 2 · Installation

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1. In SketchUp, open **Window** → **Extension Manager**.
2. Click **Install Extension** and select `nova-snap.rbz`.
3. Restart SketchUp. You will find **Nova Snap** in the **Extensions/Plugins** menu and as a toolbar button.

**Requirements:** SketchUp 2023–2026 on Windows 10/11 or macOS 12+.

## 3 · Free trial & licence activation

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Nova Snap starts with a **7-day free trial** on each machine — full functionality, no sign-up. When the trial ends, the plugin asks for a licence.

1. Buy Nova Snap at **novaworkbench.no**. You receive an e-mail with a download link and an **activation token**.
2. Open the plugin once — the licence dialog shows your 12-character **machine ID** (a copy-friendly box pops up too).
3. Go to **novaworkbench.no/activate**, paste the token and your machine ID, and download your licence file (**.lic**).
4. Save the file (keep the file name) and restart SketchUp:  
Windows: `%APPDATA%\Nova Enginera\`  
macOS: `~/Library/Application Support/Nova Enginera/`

The licence is verified offline and is locked to your computer. Licences for several Nova plugins live side by side in the same folder — nothing gets overwritten. Switching machines? You get one free re-activation; beyond that, e-mail **post@nova-enginera.no**.

## 4 · Quick start — your first Snap

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1. Set up the view you want in SketchUp (orbit/zoom as usual).
2. Click the **Nova Snap** toolbar button and choose **Snap (annotated)** — or use **Extensions** → **Nova Snap**.
3. The annotation window opens with your view. Draw, dimension and annotate (chapters 5–8).
4. Click **Save to project** — the image lands in your project folder (chapter 9). Done.

## 5 · Drawing tools

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| Tool           | How it works                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pen            | Drag to draw freehand. <b>Click once, then click again</b> for a perfectly straight line. Hold <code>Ctrl</code> to snap the line to the horizontal/vertical axis. |
| Curved line    | Click the start point, then <b>press-and-hold</b> at the end point and drag sideways — the line bends into a smooth arc through your cursor. Release to commit.    |
| Erase          | Erases your drawn markup only (never the screenshot). The dashed circle previews the eraser size.                                                                  |
| Colors & Width | Six pen colors and a width slider in the toolbar.                                                                                                                  |
| Undo / Clear   | <code>Ctrl+Z</code> undoes any action — drawing, dimensions, notes, hides. <b>Clear</b> wipes the drawing layer.                                                   |

## 6 · Dimensioning tools

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All dimensions are read from the model in millimetres and placed in tidy “lanes” outside the drawing, like an architect’s drawing sheet. Overlapping labels resolve themselves automatically.

| Tool                         | What it dimensions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bbox</b> <span>M</span>   | Click a part → its length, width and height appear as three dimension lines. Click again to remove. <span>Shift</span> +click the button dimensions <i>everything</i> ; <span>Alt</span> +click clears all.                                          |
| <b>Line</b> <span>L</span>   | Click any highlighted edge to dimension exactly that edge. Click a placed dimension to remove it.                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Corner</b> <span>C</span> | Click two model corners to measure the true 3D distance between them. <b>Double-click</b> a corner to start <b>chain mode</b> : every next click adds a continuing measurement (perfect for stud spacing — cc 600). <span>Esc</span> ends the chain. |
| <b>Move</b> <span>F</span>   | Drag any dimension to reposition it manually — both the line offset and the label position.                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Note</b> <span>T</span>   | Click the object (arrow anchor), then click where the text box should sit, type the note. Click an existing note to edit it (empty text deletes it).                                                                                                 |

## 7 · Cut list & order list

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**Cut list** analyses every visible part and builds a saw-ready table: one row per piece with a color-coded label ( T1-01 , T1-02 , ...) drawn on the matching part in the image, length, cross-section, and the **cut angle at each end** (0° = square cut, 45° = mitre — angles are read from the actual end-face geometry).

**Order list** groups identical pieces into one line with a quantity — ready for the timber merchant: “12× 4200 mm 48×198”.

- **Hide parts**: click a part in the image to exclude it from the list (click again to bring it back). The **Show all** button restores everything.
- **Copy list** (in the Detail list panel) copies a tab-separated table that pastes straight into Excel.
- The table is included in the saved/copied image, next to the drawing.

## 8 · Detail list & detail labels

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**Detail list** D opens a side panel with every part (code, name, cross-section, length). Click rows to hide/show parts in the image; hidden rows show struck through.

**Detail labels** R draws leader lines from each part to a name + cross-section label in the margins — an instant labelled assembly drawing. Two sliders adjust **text size** and **margin distance**; click a label to hide that part.

## 9 · Saving and copying

| Button            | Result                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Save to project   | If the model is saved: the image goes to <code>images/snaps/</code> next to your model file (Norwegian SketchUp: <code>bilder/utklipp/</code> ). Unsaved model: <code>Desktop/Nova Snaps</code> . Snap offers to open the folder. |
| Copy to clipboard | The finished image goes to the clipboard — paste into e-mail, Word, Teams with <code>Ctrl+V</code> ( <code>Cmd+V</code> on Mac).                                                                                                  |

Everything you see is included: markups, dimensions, notes, part labels and the table.

## 10 · Multi-view contact sheet

**Multi-view** renders six framed views of your selection (or the whole model) in one sheet: front, back, left, right, isometric and a **vertical section** — each labelled with its real overall dimensions. Your model and camera are untouched afterwards.

- **Save contact sheet** — one composed image of all six views.
- **Copy for AI** — copies the sheet to the clipboard, sized for pasting into an AI chat (ChatGPT, Claude, ...) so the AI sees your design from every side with true measurements in one message.

## 11 · Export part (CAD / AI files)

Select a part (or a few), run **Export part**, and Snap writes a complete hand-over package to a temp folder — the model itself is left untouched:

- `_3d.dwg` / `_3d.dxf` — the isolated part in 3D for CAD.
- `_2d.dxf` — true 2D projections (PLAN / FRONT / SIDE) on separate layers.
- `.json` — every sub-part with name, dimensions and position in millimetres — ideal for AI tools and scripts.

**Size guard:** parts over 8 000 faces or 4 m on one axis get a warning and the AI files are skipped — split the part first for AI-readable output.

## 12 · Keyboard shortcuts

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| Key                  | Action                                                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| M                    | Bbox dimension mode ( <b>Shift+M</b> : dimension everything) |
| L                    | Line (edge) dimension mode                                   |
| C                    | Corner-to-corner mode (double-click a corner = chain)        |
| F                    | Move dimensions                                              |
| T                    | Note tool                                                    |
| D                    | Detail list panel                                            |
| R                    | Detail labels                                                |
| Ctrl+Z / Cmd+Z       | Undo (all action types)                                      |
| Ctrl+S / Cmd+S       | Save to project                                              |
| Ctrl+C / Cmd+C       | Copy image to clipboard                                      |
| Ctrl (while drawing) | Snap pen line to horizontal/vertical                         |
| Esc                  | Cancel current pick / chain / note / line-start              |

## 13 · Languages, tips & troubleshooting

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### Languages

Nova Snap follows your SketchUp language automatically: Norwegian SketchUp gives a Norwegian interface, every other language gets English. No setting needed.

### Tips from the workshop

- Name your groups/components in SketchUp — the names carry into cut lists, order lists and labels.
- Model parts as separate groups per physical piece; Snap dimensions what the model contains.
- Snap only offers parts that are visible in the view — orbit to the angle that shows what you want to dimension *before* you capture.
- For phone-friendly site images, zoom in before capturing — the output matches your screen resolution.

Troubleshooting

| Symptom                               | Fix                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No Nova Snap menu after install       | Restart SketchUp. Check Extension Manager → Nova Snap is enabled.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Licence dialog keeps appearing        | Confirm the <code>.lic</code> file is in <code>%APPDATA%\Nova Enginera\</code> (Windows) / <code>~/Library/Application Support/Nova Enginera/</code> (Mac) and that the machine ID in the dialog matches the one you activated with. |
| A part gets no dimension label        | It is smaller than 50 mm in all directions, almost fully hidden, or tiny on screen — zoom in and re-capture.                                                                                                                         |
| Cut angles show 0° for a mitred piece | Angles are read from the end faces of the part's <i>own</i> geometry, make sure the mitre is modelled in the piece itself.                                                                                                           |