

Figma Tips for UX/UI Designers: Components & Variants

A clear, practical guide to mastering reusable components and variants in Figma - whether you're a beginner learning UX/UI design or a professional streamlining your workflow.



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Introduction

Why Components & Variants Matter

Figma has become the industry standard for UX/UI design because it lets you design efficiently, consistently, and collaboratively. At the heart of efficient design are **components and variant tools** that help you build scalable, reusable, and easy-to-maintain design systems.

These aren't just nice features; they're **essential skills every UX/UI designer must master** to work professionally and avoid repetitive, error-prone work.

This guide breaks down how components and variants work, when and why your designs will benefit, and how you can apply them right away - even if you're new to Figma.

What Are Components in Figma?

Components are reusable elements that serve as the source of truth in your design. Once you create a component, you can reuse it anywhere in your project. Change the original component and all linked instances update automatically, maintaining consistency.

◆ Key Concepts

Main Component: The master version you edit.



Instances

Copies of the main component placed in your frames or layouts.

Why Use Them

Save time, improve consistency, and scale UI patterns confidently across screens.

Practical Tips for Components (For All Levels)





1

Start With Core UI Patterns

Turn repeating elements into components early: buttons, form fields, navbars, cards, icons — anything you'll reuse. This avoids manual edits everywhere.

2

Give Components Meaningful Names

Use structured names (like Button/Primary/Default). Using forward-slash naming not only organizes your assets but makes them easy to find and swap.

3

Keep It Atomic & Modular

Start with small building blocks — text, buttons, icons — then combine them into larger modules (e.g., forms or lists). This atomic approach improves reuse and makes your system easier to maintain.

4

Use Auto Layout & Constraints

Before converting to components, apply Auto Layout so your components adapt responsively to text, icons, or size changes. This keeps components flexible and scalable.

5

Document Component Usage

Don't just create components — explain what they are and when to use them. Add brief descriptions, annotations, or guidelines in your Figma files so teammates or future you won't have to guess.

What Are Variants?

Variants let you group multiple related components under one umbrella called a **Component Set**. Instead of having separate components for each state (e.g., default, hover, active), variants let you control these with simple properties.

- ❏ **Example:** A single button component can have variants for Primary, Secondary, Disabled, Hover, Loading, etc., all defined within a single component set.



Benefits of Using Variants

✓ Simplified Asset Panel

No scattered duplicate components — everything lives under one organized set.

✓ Faster Swapping in Design

Instead of dragging and swapping multiple components, you can change properties (e.g., size, state) from the right sidebar in Figma.

✓ Better Collaboration

Developers and designers see consistent naming and controlled states, reducing guesswork during handoffs.

How to Create & Use Variants – Simple Workflow



Select Related Components

(e.g., all button states)



Combine as Variants

Figma groups them into a "Component Set."



Define Properties

such as Size, State, Color, etc.



Adjust in the Assets Panel

now you can switch between them without separate components.

Smart naming and good property choice are key. For example:

Button/Primary/Large/Active becomes properties such as **Type: Primary**, **Size: Large**, and **State: Active**.

Practical Dos and Don'ts



Do

- ✓ Design components with variants for common UI states
- ✓ Name layers and variants clearly
- ✓ Use variants for scalable UI patterns (buttons, inputs, cards)



Don't

- ✗ Create hundreds of separate components when variants can consolidate them
- ✗ Use variants for every tiny difference — it can become cluttered

Quick Cheatsheet: Components & Variants

Topic	Quick Tip
Naming	Use structured names with slashes to auto-create hierarchy
Auto Layout	Apply before converting to a component to maintain responsiveness
Variants	Use for states like hover, active, disabled — grouped under one set
Instances	Edit the main component to update all instances automatically
Documentation	Leave notes inside files to guide usage

Examples to Practice Today

1

Create a Button Component Set

- Add variants: Primary, Secondary, Disabled, Hover
- Use properties: Type, State

2

Build a Form Input

- Variants: Default, Focused, Error, Success

3

Design a Navigation Bar

- Use nested components for icons + labels
- Add variants for active/inactive states

How This Helps Your UX Career

Whether you're learning UX/UI design for the first time or building a professional portfolio:

- Reusable components = faster prototyping
- Variants = cleaner systems + scalable design
- Better collaboration with developers and teams

Mastering components and variants immediately improves your workflow and design quality — which employers and clients notice.

Next Step — Level Up With UXGen Academy

At UXGen Academy, we teach design systems and Figma workflows with career-focused projects, not just theory. Our curriculum emphasizes real-world application, documenting design decisions, and preparing portfolios that win jobs. If you want to go beyond static screens and learn how to think like a UX professional, this foundational knowledge of components and variants is exactly where we start.

Need Help With Your UX Journey?

We're Here to Support You

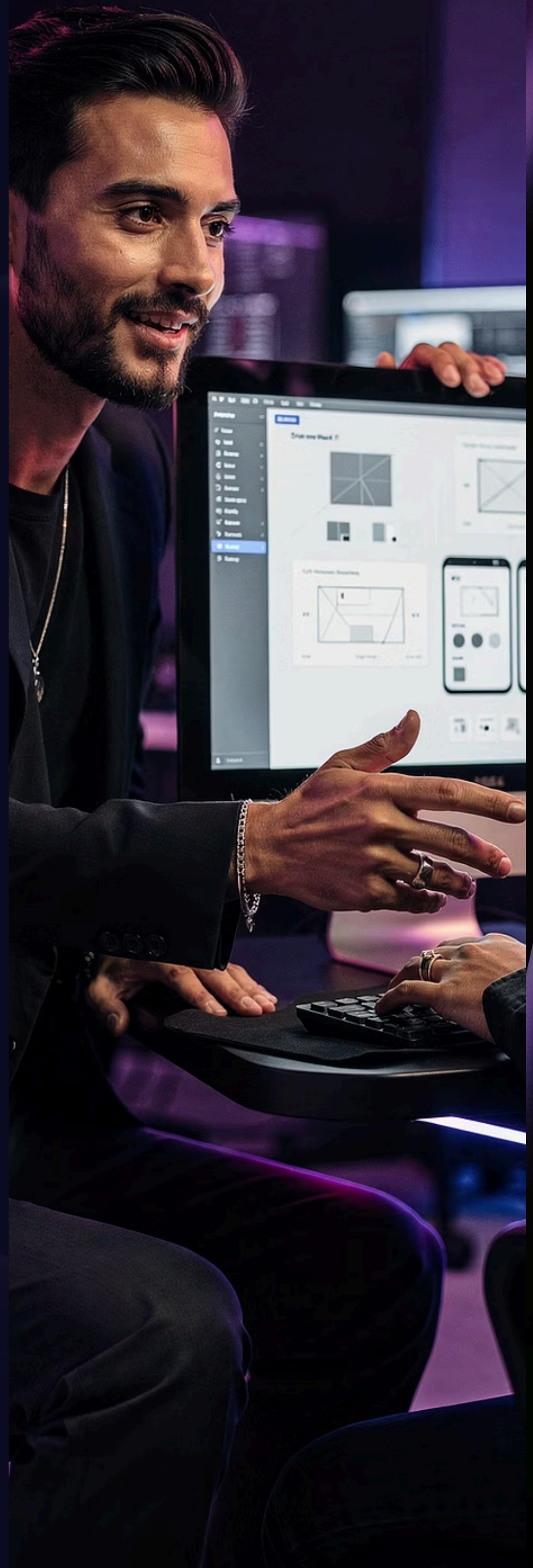
Learning UX research is a powerful first step. But real confidence and career progress often come from guided practice, real feedback, and expert mentorship. At UXGen Academy, we help learners like you transform theory into real skills — whether you're a beginner, switching careers, or upskilling for growth.

What We Offer

Our programs are designed to be practical, hands-on, and career-oriented, led by experienced UX professionals who've worked with global brands:

- **Industry-Focused UX & UI Courses** — Learn research, design, prototyping, usability testing, and more with real projects.
- **Live Mentor Support & Portfolio Guidance** — Improve your work with direct feedback from experienced UX practitioners.
- **Weekend & Flexible Learning Options** — Study without quitting your job or disrupting your routine.
- **Career & Career-Switch Support** — Build a portfolio, prepare for interviews, and gain the confidence to succeed.

Whether you're just starting out or preparing to level up your UX career, we're here to make that transition smoother and more effective.



How UXGen Partners With You.

Academy + Studio Experience

At UXGen, learning isn't just theoretical — it's practical, connected to real industry practice. Here's how we support **your growth as a UX learner and practitioner** at every stage:

Strategic UX Learning & Skill Building (Foundation + Real Practice)

- Structured UX research training
- Hands-on usability testing & interview practice
- Understanding Churn and retention from a UX lens

UX Audit to Action

- Prioritised UX actions
- Roadmaps aligned to product goals
- Design system & UI improvements

Implementation Support. From Classroom to Real Projects

- Guided UX design and prototyping
- Collaborate like a pro with product & engineering teams
- Ongoing measurement & optimisation mindset

Why UXGen Academy?

At UXGen Academy, we don't just teach UX theory — we prepare you to think and act like a real UX professional. You'll learn how to solve product problems with **clarity, data, and human insight** so you transition from student → confident practitioner.

Here's what you gain from learning with us:



Business-aligned UX Thinking



Actionable priorities that move KPIs



Faster impact with structured UX frameworks



Hands-on collaboration with product teams

Quality & Job Oriented UX Mentorship & Portfolio Review Session

As a part of your learning journey with **UXGen Academy**, we're offering a **complimentary 30-minute 1-to-1 UX guidance session** - designed to help you move from *confusion to clarity* in your UX path.

This is not a sales call. This is a **mentor-led support session**

Book your FREE session now

Let's Build Better Experiences - Together

UX isn't just a skill - it's a way of thinking. If you ever feel stuck, curious, or ready to accelerate your career, we'd love to hear from you.

UXGen Academy

Where learners become confident UX professionals.



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Ready to Take the Next Step?

If this guide helped you, imagine what structured mentorship and real-world practice can do.

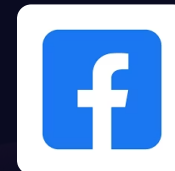
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