



12.1.1 Editors - Geometry Nodes Editor - Header - Tools and Options

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Introduction

This chapter here is about the tools, modes and options elements in the header of the geometry nodes editor.

The text menus are covered in an individual chapter each. They vary too much, dependent of mode and object type.

Header Tabs

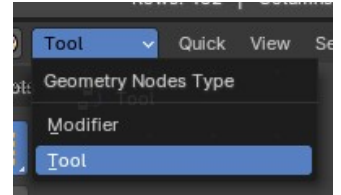
The tabs at the very left allows you to switch between the most important node editor types by one click. Compositor Editor, Geometry Nodes Editor and Shader Editor.



Geometry Nodes Type

This drop down is to change the Geometry Nodes Type, which are contextual modes that you can choose to create a node-group-defined tool that will later show in the interface as act once operators or as procedural modifiers.

Any geometry node group can then be stored as assets, linked and/or appended to other files.



Example: You can create a node tree in the Tools mode of the Geometry Nodes editor that randomly extrudes then deletes faces, then use that as an Act Once operator on your meshes to model destructively.



Modifier

The context mode to create procedural modifier stack tool.

Tool

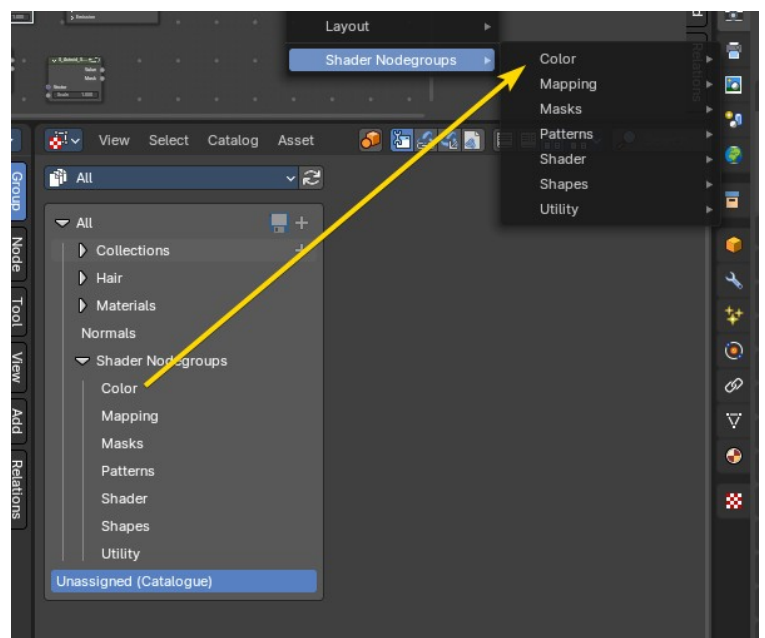
The context mode to create act once operator tools. In this mode some exclusive nodes are displayed in the Add header menu and Add sidebar.

Use

Creating a Tool

Switch the Geometry Nodes Type to Tool, then create a new Node Group Tool. Create your operation using Geometry Nodes.

When ready, define the Mode and Data-Type, Asset status, and Catalog assigned to this Node Group Tool, then the Node Group will now become an act-once operator accessible from in the interface.



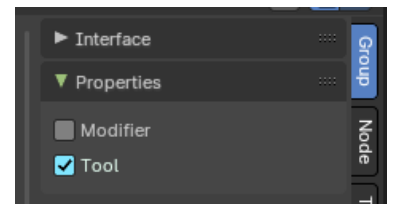
Note: *New node groups created in the tool context will be enabled as Tool in the sidebar by default, though to share them in other files you may need to link, append or mark as asset with the Asset Browser for later use.*

Defining as an Asset

To share a node group as a tool, you need to store the node group as an asset. The asset catalog you assign the asset to in the Asset Browser will be used to determine the tool will go.

To define where the Node Group Tool is located in the interface, you need to assign the asset to a catalogue in the Asset Browser Editor. If the catalog name matches an existing menu in the interface, the tool will be appended to that specific menu. Assets that have no catalog assigned to them, or local tools, are exposed in the “Unassigned (Catalogue)” menu.

Note: *To define if a node group is exposed in the Modifier add menu or into the Tool add menus, go to the sidebar to define it.*

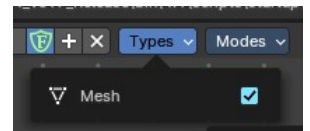


Defining Modes and Data-Types

Node group tools must specify which modes and object types they support to determine where the tool is exposed in the user interface.

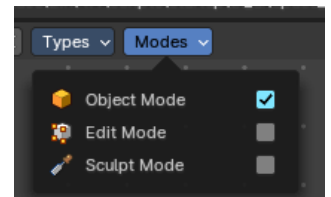
Types

The type of object where the tool is contextually accessible.



Modes

The mode where the the tool is contextually accessible.



Tool-specific Nodes

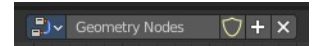
The following nodes are only supported in the *Tool* context:

- Add>Input>Scene>3D Cursor Node
- Add>Mesh>Read>Face Set Node
- Add>Geometry>Read>Selection Node
- Add>Mesh>Read>Set Face Set Node
- Add>Geometry>Write>Set Selection Node

Note: *The Self Object node returns the Active object when inside a Tool node group.*

Geometry Nodes Prop

Manage the nodes. If there is no geometry node tree for the current object, then you will see the New button

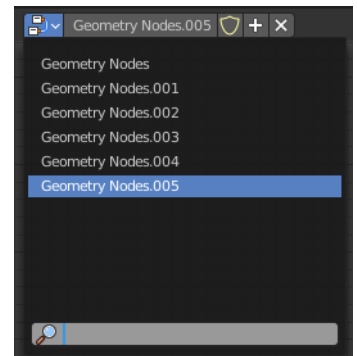


Data Browser

The list of available geometry node trees in the scene.

Edit box

The name of the current active geometry node tree. Here you can also rename the node tree.



Add Fake User

With this button you assign a fake user to this selected geometry node tree.

Data, like node trees, that is not longer linked to anything else gets removed when you save and reload a scene. Bforartists has the concept of fake users to go around this behavior. An image with a fake user is in fact linked to something. And so it is not lost when you save and reload the scene.

User

The number of users that uses this data. Data with a user number of 0 will be removed with closing Bforartists.

Remove

Removes the geometry node tree. To delete it completely you need to purge it. See Fake user.

Options

At the right side you will see some options.



Pin (pin icon)

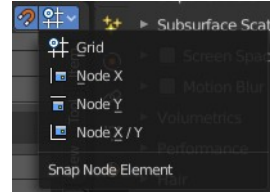
The pin button will keep the current node tree selection fixed. When a node tree is pinned, it will remain visible in the shader editor even when another object is selected.

Parent Node Tree

Grouping nodes can simplify a node tree by allowing instancing and hiding parts of the tree. Nodes can be grouped. This button becomes active when you work with such grouped nodes, and you are in a child group. it allows you to switch to the parent group.

Snap

Activates snapping. When the tool is activated, then you will also reveal the snap settings where you can choose different snap methods.



Geometry node Overlays

Show Overlays

Show or hide the overlays.

Node Editor Overlays

Wire Colors

Show the colors at the noodles.

Context Path

Show the breadcrumb up left.

Annotations

Show Annotations.

Timings

Shows a timing box above each node to indicate the evaluation time of it.

Named Attributes

Adds an overlay that helps users to see where named attributes are used with node groups

This helps to see where named attributes are used.

