

## 5.9: Tools of the trade

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UX tools range from rudimentary (pen and paper) to highly sophisticated (web applications and tech tools). Here is a brief roundup of popular options.

**Balsamiq** (<https://balsamiq.com>) bills itself as a ‘rapid wireframing tool’ and is great for creating fun, low-fidelity wireframes and simple prototypes.

**Axure** ([www.axure.com](http://www.axure.com)) is an all-purpose prototyping tool that allows you to create fully interactive wireframed websites without needing to code anything. A useful feature is that it also generates technical specifications for developers to work from based on the interactions and links created in the prototyping process.

**Gliffy** ([www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com)) is a web-based tool that allows you to create a wide range of diagrams, everything from wireframes to sitemaps to charts.

**Invision** ([www.invisionapp.com](http://www.invisionapp.com)) is a web based tool that allows you design prototypes across web and mobile.

**Morae** ([www.techsmith.com/morae.html](http://www.techsmith.com/morae.html)) is a good place to start if you’re looking for a web-based replacement for user labs.

**Pop** (<https://marvelapp.com/pop/>) or Prototyping on Paper, is a free app for prototyping apps on mobile.

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