

WORKSHOP

Mobile Design with Figma

A Hands-On Workshop for Creating Modern,
User-Centric Mobile Interfaces



4-Hour Workshop
Theory + Hands-on
Practice

Agenda

01

Mobile Design Fundamentals

Master the mobile-first mindset, core design principles, and platform-specific guidelines for iOS and Android. Understand what makes mobile interfaces intuitive and effective.

 60 minutes

02

Figma for Mobile Design

Set up mobile frames, implement the 8pt grid system, and leverage Auto Layout for responsive components. Build a solid foundation for efficient mobile design workflows.

 50 minutes

03

Mobile UI Components & Patterns

Explore essential navigation patterns, particularly bottom tab bars, and common UI components. Learn design specifications and best practices for mobile interfaces.

 40 minutes

04

Hands-On: Build a Mobile Screen

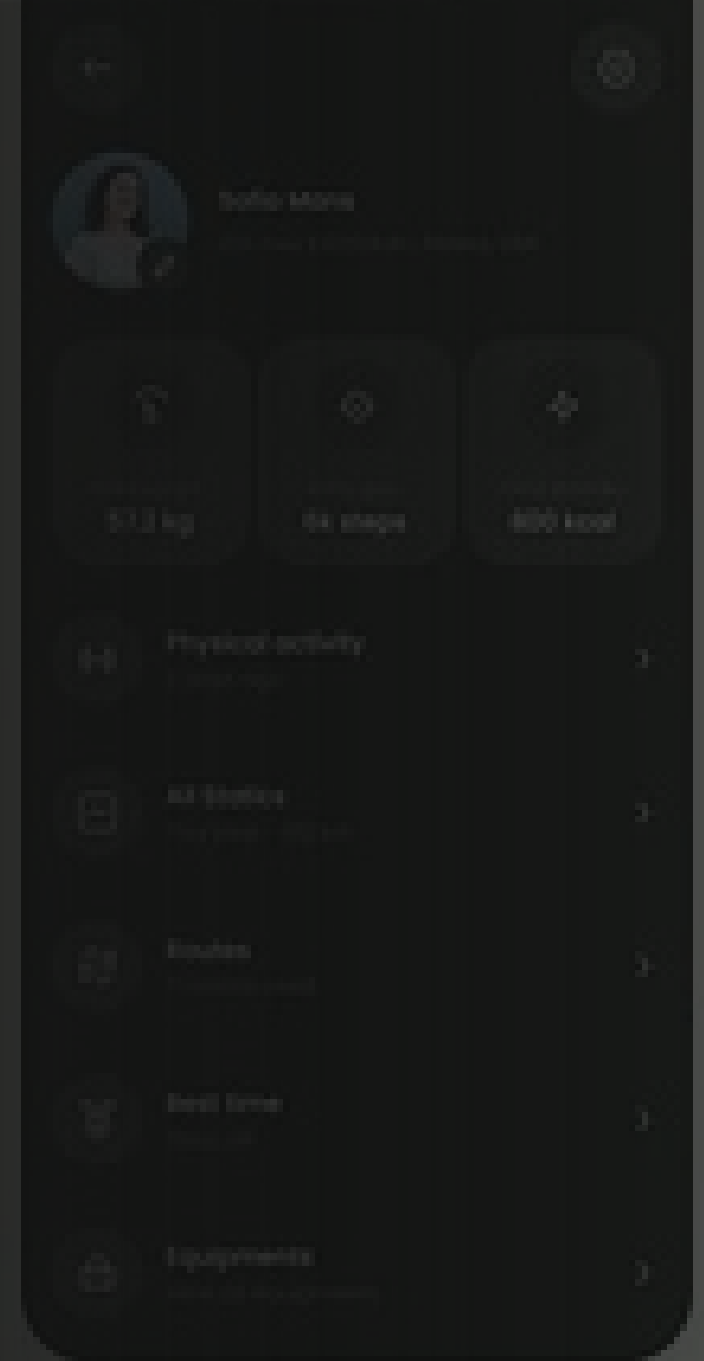
Apply everything you've learned by designing a complete mobile profile screen from scratch. Step-by-step guidance with real-world design specifications.

 90 minutes

01

Mobile Design Fundamentals

Understanding the core principles that make mobile interfaces intuitive, accessible, and delightful



FOUNDATION

The Mobile-First Mindset

Why Mobile-First?

Mobile usage has surpassed desktop worldwide. In 2025, over 60% of global web traffic comes from mobile devices. Designing for smaller screens first forces us to prioritize content and focus on what truly matters.

- ✓ **Constraints drive creativity:** Limited space requires thoughtful decisions about hierarchy and content priority
- ✓ **Performance matters:** Mobile users expect instant load times and smooth interactions
- ✓ **Context is key:** Mobile users are often on-the-go, requiring quick, task-focused experiences



Key Insight

"15% of US adults rely solely on smartphones for internet access." — Pew Research Center

The Thumb Zone



Place primary actions in the **green zone** for one-handed use

60%

Mobile Traffic

70%

Uninstalls Due to Poor UX

48dp

Min Touch Target

CORE PRINCIPLES

Mobile Design Principles & Best Practices



Clarity

Interfaces should be clean, precise, and uncluttered. Every element must have a clear purpose.

- ✓ Clear visual hierarchy
- ✓ Recognizable icons
- ✓ Consistent spacing



Consistency

Maintain uniformity in design elements, typography, and navigation patterns across the entire app.

- ✓ Standard UI components
- ✓ Predictable behavior
- ✓ Familiar patterns



Touch Targets

Ensure interactive elements are large enough for comfortable finger tapping without errors.

- ✓ Min 48×48dp (Android)
- ✓ Min 44×44pt (iOS)
- ✓ Adequate spacing



Readability

Text must be legible at all sizes with proper contrast and spacing for comfortable reading.

- ✓ Min 16px body text
- ✓ 4.5:1 contrast ratio
- ✓ Dynamic type support



Accessibility

Design for all users including those with disabilities. Accessibility is not optional—it's essential.

- ✓ Screen reader support
- ✓ Color-blind friendly
- ✓ Voice controls



Performance

Fast, responsive interactions are crucial. Users expect immediate feedback and smooth animations.

- ✓ Quick load times
- ✓ 60fps animations
- ✓ Instant feedback



Remember: These principles work together. Clarity supports accessibility, consistency improves performance perception, and proper touch targets benefit all users.

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Platform Guidelines: iOS vs Android



iOS

Human Interface
Guidelines

Philosophy

Deference, Clarity, Depth. The UI defers to content, creating a sense of depth without distracting from the user's focus.

Typography

SF Pro is the system font. Dynamic Type allows users to scale text. Default body size is **17pt**.

Navigation

Tab Bar (49pt height) at bottom for primary navigation. **Navigation Bar** at top for hierarchical navigation.

Buttons

Capsule-shaped for standout actions. Rounded rectangles for compact layouts. Minimal use of shadows.

 developer.apple.com/design/human-interface-guidelines



Android

Material Design 3 / Material
You

Philosophy

Adaptability, Personalization, Expressiveness. Dynamic theming based on user's wallpaper creates deeply personal experiences.

Typography

Roboto and **Google Sans**. Clear typographic scale with support for variable fonts.

Navigation

Bottom Navigation (56dp height) for 3-5 destinations. **Navigation Rail** for tablets.

Buttons

Elevated buttons with shadows. FAB (Floating Action Button) for primary actions. More visual depth.

 m3.material.io

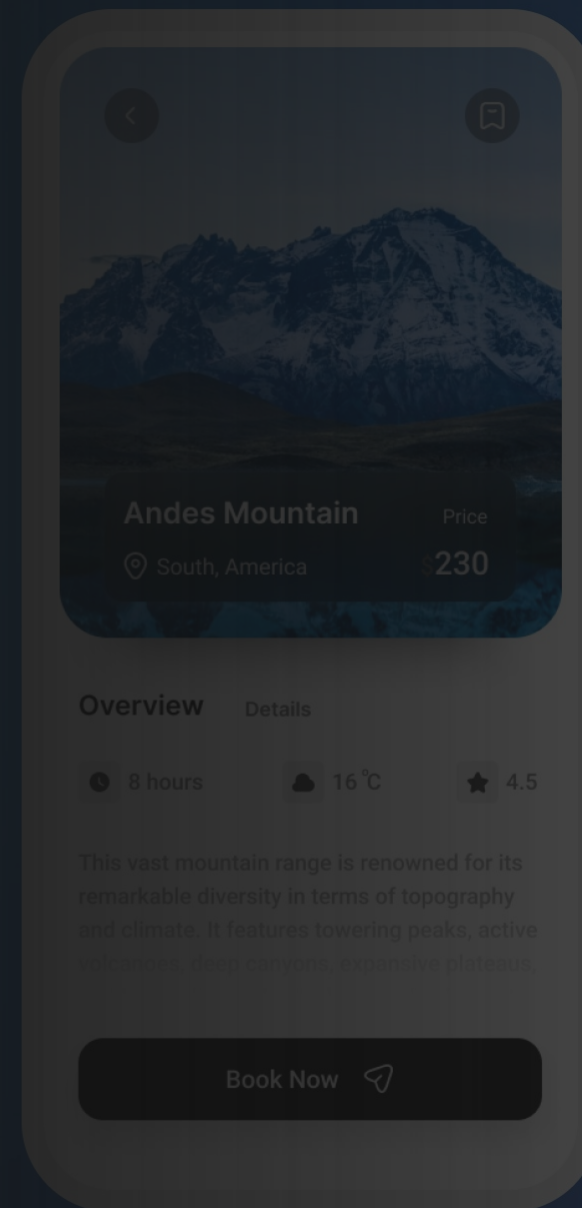


Pro Tip: Respect platform conventions but maintain brand consistency. Users expect native behaviors—don't force iOS patterns on Android users or vice versa.

02

Figma for Mobile Design

Mastering Figma's powerful features for efficient, scalable mobile interface creation



Setting Up Mobile Frames & Screen Sizes

Standard Frame Sizes



iOS

Base: 375 × 667px

Modern: 390 × 844px

Large: 430 × 932px



Android

Base: 360 × 640px

Common: 393 × 851px

Large: 412 × 915px

Key Considerations

- 1

Start with Base Resolution

Design at 1× scale. The OS automatically scales to 2×, 3× for higher density screens.
- 2

Safe Areas & Status Bars

Account for notches, dynamic islands, and system bars. iOS status bar: 44-59pt, Android: 24dp.
- 3

Use Vector Graphics

Vectors scale perfectly. Export raster images at 1×, 2×, 3× for crisp display on all screens.

Quick Setup in Figma

Step 1

Press **F** for Frame tool

Step 2

Select preset from right panel

Step 3

Search "iPhone" or "Android"

Step 4

Choose specific device model

Screen Density Multipliers

1×	mdpi
(Base)	
1.5×	hdpi
2×	xhdpi / @2x
3×	xxhdpi / @3x
4×	xxxhdpi



Pro Tip: Figma's preset frames include safe areas and device-specific dimensions. Always design within the safe area to ensure content isn't obscured by notches or system UI.

The 8pt Grid System & Spacing

What is the 8pt Grid?

A spacing system where **all measurements are multiples of 8** (8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64...). This creates visual harmony and ensures designs scale perfectly across different screen densities.

Why 8?

- Divides evenly into common screen sizes
- Works across all pixel densities (1x, 1.5x, 2x, 3x, 4x)
- Recommended by Apple and Google
- Reduces decision fatigue—fewer choices

Applying the Grid

Layout Spacing

Margins, gutters, section gaps

Component Sizing

Buttons, inputs, cards, avatars

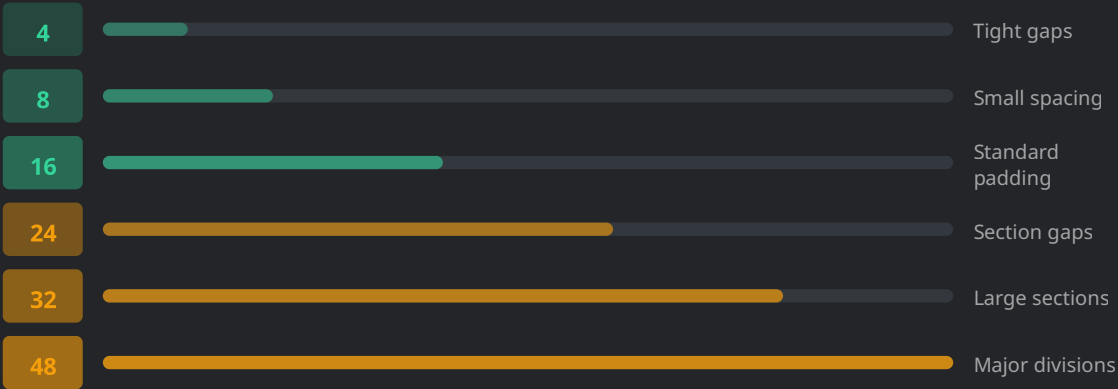
Padding

Internal spacing within elements

Typography

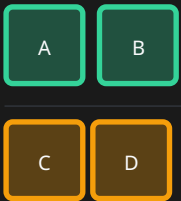
Line heights (use 4pt for finer control)

Common Spacing Values



The Internal ≤ External Rule

Space between elements should equal or exceed space within elements. This creates clear visual grouping and hierarchy.



Remember: The 8pt grid is a guide, not a prison. Use 4pt for fine-tuning when needed, but stick to multiples of 8 for major spacing decisions.

Auto Layout for Mobile Components

What is Auto Layout?

Auto Layout is Figma's powerful feature for creating responsive components that automatically adjust their size based on content. It enables dynamic, flexible designs that adapt to changes.

- ✓ Buttons that expand with longer text
- ✓ Cards that grow with content
- ✓ Lists that adapt to item count
- ✓ Consistent spacing that auto-adjusts

Key Properties

Direction

Horizontal (row) or Vertical (column) stacking

Spacing Between Items

Gap between child elements (use 8pt multiples)

Padding

Internal space around content (top, right, bottom, left)

Resizing

Hug contents, Fill container, or Fixed width/height

Practical Example: Button

→ Get Started

→ Learn More About Our Product

Auto Layout Settings:

- Direction: Horizontal
- Spacing: 8px (between icon & text)
- Padding: 16px 24px (vertical, horizontal)
- Resizing: Hug contents

How to Apply Auto Layout

1. Select frame or group of elements
2. Press **Shift + A** or click "Auto layout" in right panel
3. Configure direction, spacing, padding
4. Set resizing behavior for each child
5. Test by editing content

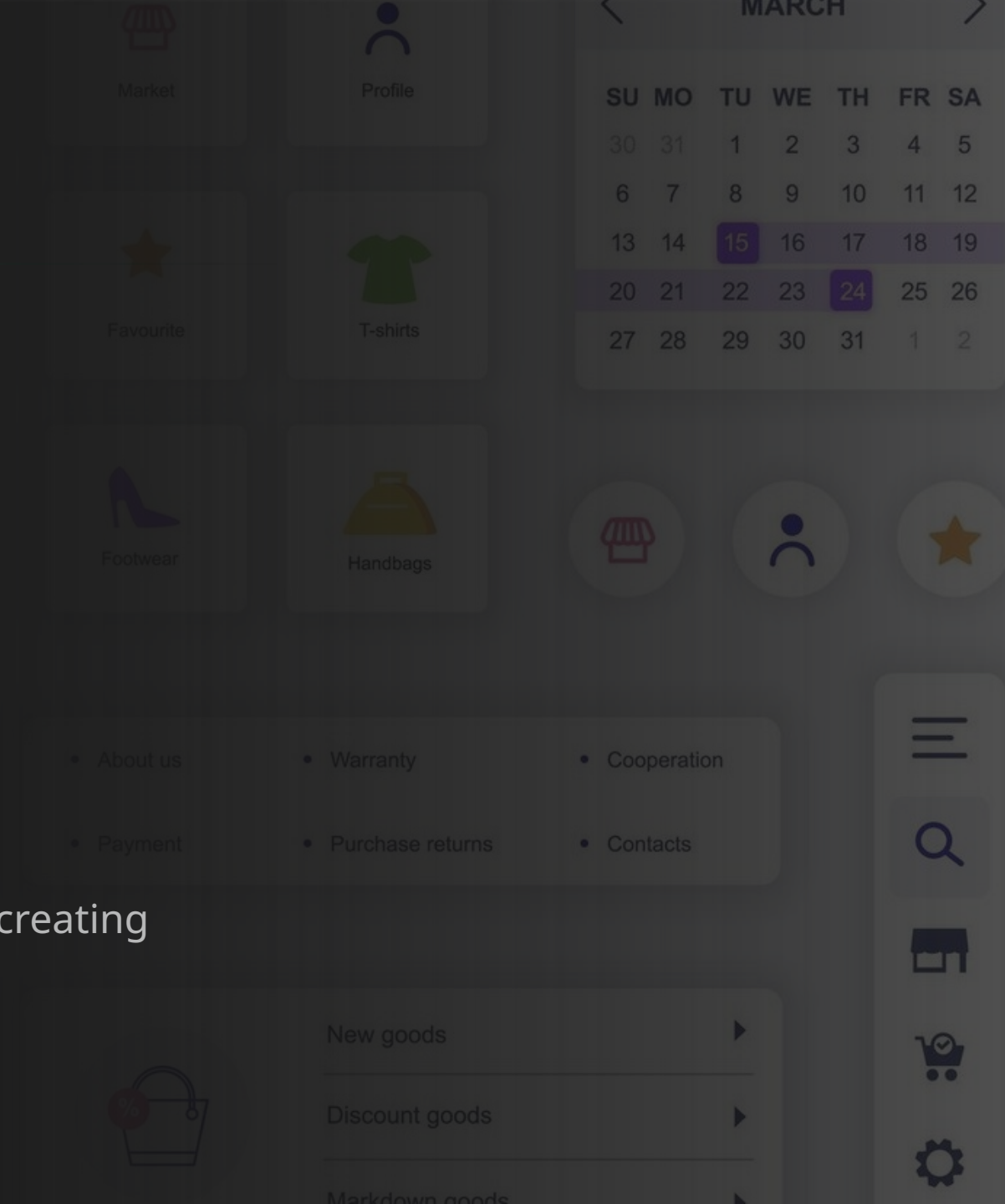


Pro Tip: Combine Auto Layout with Components for maximum efficiency. Create a button component with Auto Layout, and every instance will automatically adapt to its content.

03

Mobile UI Components & Patterns

Essential building blocks and navigation patterns for creating
intuitive mobile experiences



Navigation Patterns: Bottom Tab Bar

Why Bottom Navigation Works

The **bottom tab bar** is mobile's most popular navigation pattern because it aligns with natural ergonomics. Users can reach primary destinations with their thumb without changing grip.

-  **Thumb Zone Optimized**
Primary actions within natural thumb reach
-  **Always Visible**
Unlike hamburger menus, navigation is persistent
-  **One-Tap Access**
Direct navigation to top-level destinations

Anatomy of a Tab Bar

3-5 items	Optimal count (more = confusion)
Icon + Label	Clear, recognizable symbols
Active State	Filled icon, accent color highlight
Height	49pt (iOS) / 56dp (Android)

Real-World Examples


Instagram
5 tabs


Spotify
3 tabs


LinkedIn
5 tabs

 Redbooth saw **65% increase** in daily active users after switching from hamburger menu to bottom tab bar.

Platform Differences

 **iOS Behavior**
Retains user's position in each tab when switching. Tab bar can hide on scroll.

 **Android Behavior**
Resets screen state when switching tabs. Tab bar typically stays visible.



Common Mistake: Don't use more than 5 items. If you need more navigation, consider a "More" tab or alternative patterns like a navigation drawer.

Common Mobile UI Components

**Buttons**

Primary

Secondary

Text Button

Height: 44-48dp
Min width: 88dp

**Input Fields**

Email
user@example.com

Password
.....

Height: 48-56dp
Touch target: 48dp

**Cards**

Card Title
Description text here

Corner radius: 8-12dp
Elevation: 2-8dp

**Lists**

Item One

Item Two

Item Three

Item height: 48-64dp
Divider: 1dp

**Avatars**

SM

JD

AK

Sizes: 24, 32, 40, 48dp
Shapes: Circle, Rounded

**Badges**

3

9+

Size: 16-20dp
Position: Top-right

**Modals**

Modal Title
Modal content goes here

Confirm

Cancel

Corner radius: 16-28dp
Backdrop: 50% opacity

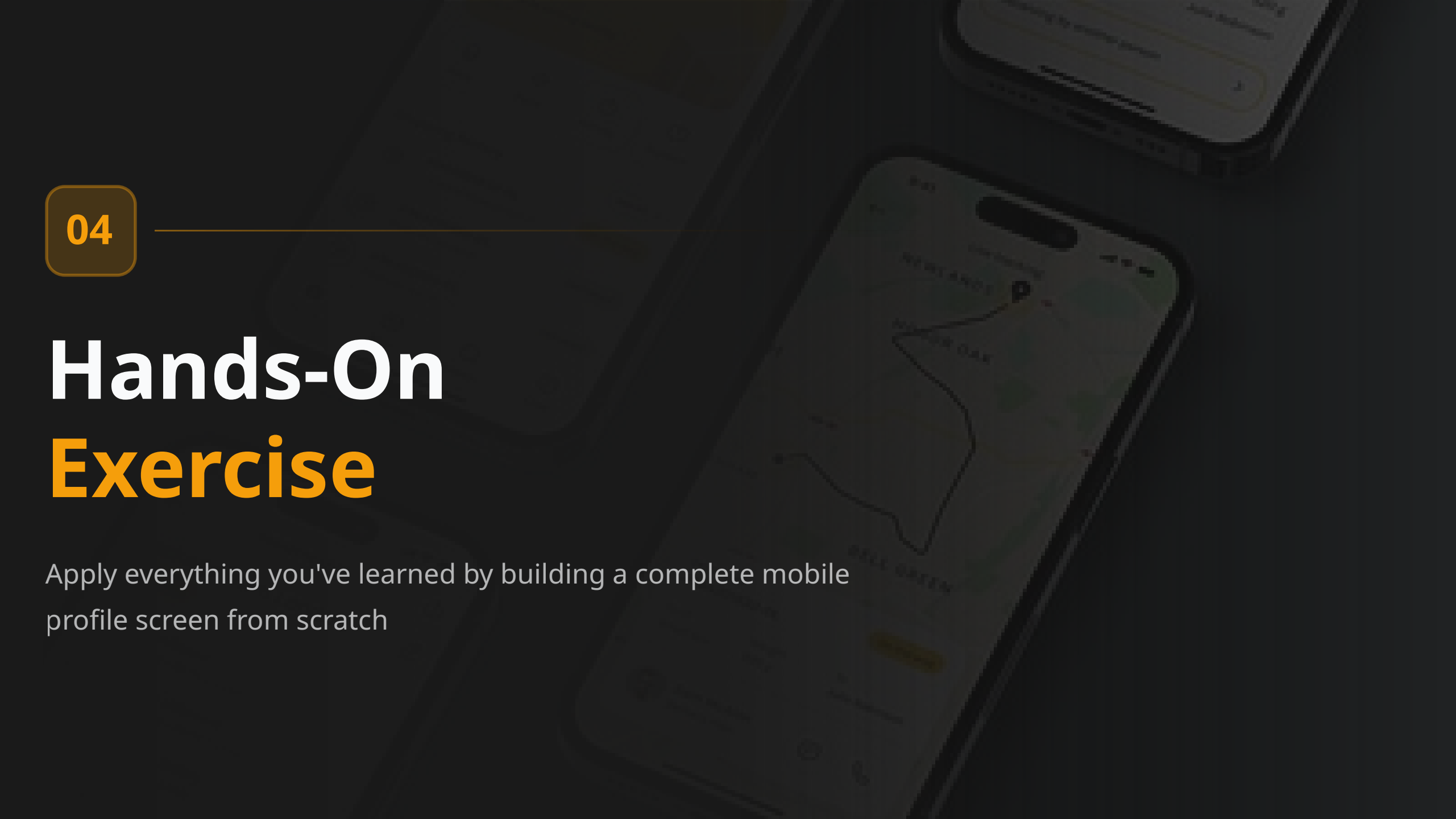
**FAB**

+

Size: 56dp
Position: Bottom-right



Component Tip: Always design components with states: Default, Hover, Active, Disabled, and Focus. This ensures comprehensive implementation and better user experience.



04

Hands-On Exercise

Apply everything you've learned by building a complete mobile profile screen from scratch

Exercise: Design a Mobile Profile Screen

Design Brief

Create a **mobile profile screen** for a social networking app. The screen should display user information, key statistics, and provide access to profile actions.

Requirements:

- Clean, modern design following platform guidelines
- Use the 8pt grid system throughout
- Implement Auto Layout for responsive components
- Ensure all touch targets meet minimum sizes
- Apply consistent color and typography

Design Specifications

Colors



Typography

Heading: 24px Bold
Body: 16px Regular
Caption: 12px Regular

Spacing

Section gaps: 24px
Element padding: 16px
Small gaps: 8px

Step-by-Step Instructions

- 1

Set Up the Frame
Create a mobile frame (375×667px). Add a status bar at top (44pt height).
- 2

Create Header Section
Add avatar (80×80dp), user name, and bio. Use 16px padding.
- 3

Add Stats Row
Create 3 stat items (Posts, Followers, Following) with Auto Layout.
- 4

Build Action Buttons
Add "Edit Profile" and "Message" buttons. Height: 44dp, spacing: 12dp.
- 5

Design Content Grid
Create 3-column photo grid with 4dp gaps. Use placeholder images.
- 6

Add Bottom Navigation
Create tab bar with 5 items. Height: 49pt (iOS) or 56dp (Android).

Success Criteria

- ✓ All spacing uses 8pt grid
- ✓ Auto Layout applied to components
- ✓ Touch targets ≥ 48dp
- ✓ Clear visual hierarchy
- ✓ Consistent component styles
- ✓ Platform-appropriate navigation



Time Allocation: 90 minutes total. Spend ~15 min on each step. Don't worry about perfection—focus on applying the principles you've learned!

Key Takeaways

Mobile design is about creating intuitive, accessible experiences within constrained spaces



Mobile-First Thinking

Start with the smallest screen. Prioritize content, embrace constraints, and design for thumbs. Remember: **60% of traffic is mobile.**



The 8pt Grid

Use multiples of 8 for all spacing. It creates visual harmony, scales perfectly, and simplifies the design-to-development workflow. Consistency is key.



Platform Guidelines

Respect iOS and Android conventions. Users expect native behaviors. Follow HIG and Material Design principles while maintaining your brand identity.



Auto Layout Power

Leverage Figma's Auto Layout for responsive, flexible components. Buttons that expand, cards that grow—design smarter, not harder.



Next Steps

Continue practicing by redesigning your favorite apps. Explore Figma's community resources, join design challenges, and build your own component library. **Remember: great design comes from iteration and feedback.**



[figma.com/
community](https://figma.com/community)



[developer.apple.com/
design](https://developer.apple.com/design)



[m3.material.i
o](https://m3.material.io)