

# Package ‘picker’

May 9, 2026

**Title** Pick Data Points from a Deck.gl Scatterplot

**Version** 0.2.6

**Description** Performant interactive scatterplot for ~ 1 million points. Zoom, pan, and pick points. Includes tooltips, labels, a grid overlay, legend, and coupled interactions across multiple plots.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**URL** <https://github.com/hms-dbmi/picker>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/hms-dbmi/picker/issues>

**Imports** htmlwidgets (>= 1.5.3)

**Suggests** shiny, scales

**Depends** R (>= 4.0)

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Alex Pickering [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Alex Pickering <[alexvpickering@gmail.com](mailto:alexvpickering@gmail.com)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2022-03-31 07:30:07 UTC

## Contents

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| picker . . . . .        | 2        |
| picker-shiny . . . . .  | 5        |
| picker_proxy . . . . .  | 6        |
| update_picker . . . . . | 6        |
| <b>Index</b>            | <b>8</b> |

---

picker

*Render a Picker Widget*

---

## Description

Render a Picker Widget

## Usage

```
picker(  
  coords,  
  colors,  
  labels,  
  title = NULL,  
  label_coords = NULL,  
  polygons = NULL,  
  point_color_polygons = NULL,  
  show_controls = TRUE,  
  grid_legend_items = NULL,  
  scale_legend_props = NULL,  
  scatter_props = NULL,  
  deck_props = NULL,  
  text_props = NULL,  
  polygon_props = NULL,  
  xrange = NULL,  
  yrange = NULL,  
  xaxs = 0.04,  
  yaxs = 0.04,  
  width = NULL,  
  height = NULL,  
  elementId = NULL  
)
```

## Arguments

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <code>coords</code>               | data.frame with two columns. First has x, second has y coordinates.   |
| <code>colors</code>               | vector of hex colors, one for each row of coords.   |
| <code>labels</code>               | vector of point labels used for tooltips on hover.  |
| <code>title</code>                | character string to show in top left of plot.   |
| <code>label_coords</code>         | data.frame with three columns 'x', 'y', and 'label'. Used for text layer.   |
| <code>polygons</code>             | data.frame containing at minimum columns 'x1', 'x2', 'y1', 'y2', that define the polygons to draw and 'color' that defines the color. |
| <code>point_color_polygons</code> | character, a color to make points when polygons are shown e.g. 'white'.   |
| <code>show_controls</code>        | Should control panel be shown? Default is TRUE.   |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| grid_legend_items  | list of lists with color hex for legend square and label for legend items. Only visible for grid display.                                 |
| scale_legend_props | optional props to render a gradient scale legend. For example: <code>list(colorHigh = 'red', colorLow = 'gray', high = 4, low = 0)</code> |
| scatter_props      | Props passed to <code>deck.gl ScatterplotLayer</code> .   |
| deck_props         | Props passed to <code>deck.gl Deck</code> instance.   |
| text_props         | Props passed to <code>deck.gl TextLayer</code> .  |
| polygon_props      | Props passed to <code>deck.gl PolygonLayer</code> .   |
| xrange             | range of x-values. Default is <code>range(coords[, 1])</code> .   |
| yrange             | range of y-values. Default is <code>range(coords[, 2])</code> .   |
| xaxis              | the fraction to extend xrange on either side. Default is 0.04.  |
| yaxis              | the fraction to extend yrange on either side. Default is 0.04.  |
| width              | width of htmlwidget.  |
| height             | height of htmlwidget.   |
| elementId          | id of htmlwidget.   |

**Value**

renders html widget

**Examples**

```
if (interactive()) {
  library(shiny)
  library(picker)

  # load example data
  load(system.file('extdata/pbmcs.rda', package = 'picker'))

  # setup gradient scale legend
  scale_legend_props <- list(
    colorHigh = 'blue',
    colorLow = '#f5f5f5',
    high = round(max(exp)),
    low = min(exp))

  text_props <- list()

  # get colors for gene expression
  exp <- scales::rescale(exp, c(0, 1))
  expression_colors <- scales::seq_gradient_pal('#f5f5f5', 'blue')(exp)

  # legend to show when grid is visible
  grid_legend_items = list(
    list(color = '#FF0000', label = '\U2191'),
```

```

    list(color = '#0000FF', label = '\U2193'),
    list(color = '#989898', label = 'p \U003C .05'),
    list(color = '#EAEAEA', label = 'p \U2265 .05')
  )

  ui = shinyUI(fluidPage(
    tags$head(tags$style(".picker {border: 1px solid #ddd; margin: 20px 0;}")),
    shiny::column(
      width = 6,
      pickerOutput('clusters', width = '100%', height = '400px'),
      pickerOutput('expression', width = '100%', height = '400px'),
      verbatimTextOutput('selected')
    )
  ))

  server = function(input, output) {

    # show selected output
    output$selected <- renderPrint({
      input$clusters_selected_points
    })

    # coordinate views (zoom/pan)
    clusters_proxy <- picker_proxy('clusters')
    observeEvent(input$expression_view_state, {
      update_picker(clusters_proxy, input$expression_view_state)
    })

    expression_proxy <- picker_proxy('expression')
    observeEvent(input$clusters_view_state, {
      update_picker(expression_proxy, input$clusters_view_state)
    })

    # change title between grid/scatterplot
    observeEvent(input$clusters_show_grid, {
      title <- ifelse(input$clusters_show_grid, '\U0394 CELLS', '')
      update_picker(clusters_proxy, title = title)
    })

    # render pickers
    output$clusters <- renderPicker(
      picker(
        coords,
        cluster_colors,
        labels,
        label_coords = label_coords,
        polygons = polygons,
        text_props = text_props,
        point_color_polygons = 'white',
        grid_legend_items = grid_legend_items)
    )
  }

```

```
output$expression <- renderPicker(  
  picker(coords,  
    expression_colors,  
    labels,  
    show_controls = FALSE,  
    scale_legend_props = scale_legend_props)  
)  
}  
  
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server, options = list(launch.browser = TRUE))  
}
```

---

picker-shiny

*Shiny bindings for picker*

---

## Description

Output and render functions for using picker within Shiny applications and interactive Rmd documents.

## Usage

```
pickerOutput(outputId, width = "100%", height = "400px")  
  
renderPicker(expr, env = parent.frame(), quoted = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| outputId      | output variable to read from   |
| width, height | Must be a valid CSS unit (like '100%', '400px', 'auto') or a number, which will be coerced to a string and have 'px' appended. |
| expr          | An expression that generates a picker  |
| env           | The environment in which to evaluate expr.   |
| quoted        | Is expr a quoted expression (with quote())? This is useful if you want to save an expression in a variable.                    |

## Value

An output or render function that enables the use of the widget within Shiny applications.

---

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| picker_proxy | <i>Create a picker proxy object</i> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Creates a picker-like object that can be used to update a picker object that has already been rendered.

**Usage**

```
picker_proxy(shinyId, session = shiny::getDefaultReactiveDomain())
```

**Arguments**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| shinyId | single-element character vector indicating the output ID of the deck to modify                       |
| session | the Shiny session object to which the picker widget belongs; usually the default value will suffice. |

**Value**

a picker\_proxy object that can be updated with update\_picker.

**See Also**

[update\\_picker](#)

---

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| update_picker | <i>Send commands to a picker instance in a Shiny app</i> |
|---------------|--|

---

**Description**

Send commands to a picker instance in a Shiny app

**Usage**

```
update_picker(  
  proxy,  
  view_state = NULL,  
  colors = NULL,  
  labels = NULL,  
  label_coords = NULL,  
  polygons = NULL,  
  show_grid = NULL,  
  title = NULL  
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| proxy        | picker proxy object created by <code>picker_proxy</code> .  |
| view_state   | view state from other picker input (optional).  |
| colors       | vector of hex colors, one for each row of coords.   |
| labels       | vector of point labels used for tooltips on hover.  |
| label_coords | data.frame with three columns 'x', 'y', and 'label'. Used for text layer.   |
| polygons     | data.frame containing at minimum columns 'x1', 'x2', 'y1', 'y2', that define the polygons to draw and 'color' that defines the color. |
| show_grid    | set to TRUE to turn on grid layer.  |
| title        | character string to show in top left of plot.   |

**Value**

The original proxy object. Called for side effects.

**See Also**

[picker\\_proxy](#)

# Index

`picker`, [2](#)  
`picker-shiny`, [5](#)  
`picker_proxy`, [6](#), [7](#)  
`pickerOutput` (`picker-shiny`), [5](#)  
`renderPicker` (`picker-shiny`), [5](#)  
`update_picker`, [6](#), [6](#)