tableau ⟶ Metabase

How to use Metabase if you know Tableau?

What's it called in Metabase?

Tableau	Metabase
Worksheet	Query Builder/Question
Measures	Summary (aggregation)
Dimensions	Group by
Folder	Collection
Story/Dashboard	Dashboard
Calculated field	Custom column
Publishing	Embedding
Data-driven alert	Alert

How does the workflow differ?

Tableau

You build visualizations by dragging and dropping fields onto shelves and cards inside Worksheets, and then adding them to Dashboards and Stories.

Metabase

You use the Query Builder to aggregate your data and save the results as Questions. These Questions can then be organized into Collections and added to Dashboards.

How to browse data?

Tableau

1. Go to the **Data Source** tab.
2. View all tables in the left pane.
3. Click on a table name to view data, or use the Metadata Grid to edit metadata.

Metabase

1. Go to **Databases** from the sidebar.
2. Select your database to see a list of tables.
3. Click the table name to view data, or click the book icon to view and edit metadata.

Metabase features

Querying

	Query builder	Instead of Tableau's **drag-and-drop** interface, Metabase's Query Builder lets you visually build queries.
	Questions	Instead of **Sheets**, questions are the results of your queries along with their visualizations.
	Model	A saved, reusable query you can use as a starting point to create more detailed analyses.
	Metrics	Pre-defined calculations for consistent, reusable measures.
	Dashboard	A collection of questions organized into tabs on a single page, similar to Tableau's dashboard.
	Native query	Native code editor for when you want to use SQL.

Organizing and sharing

	Collections	Like **Folders** in Tableau, Collections organize and store your Questions, Dashboards, and Models.
	Embedding	Embed dashboards into external sites.
	Public sharing	Create a shareable public link for dashboards.
	Permissions	Control who can see and edit specific data.

Administration

	Caching	Speed up performance by temporarily storing query results, reducing load times on repeated queries.
	Usage analytics	Track activity within Metabase, giving insights into how people interact with data.
	X-rays	Automatically generates insights to help you find patterns and trends in your data.

Metrics and Grouping

Tableau

You split your fields into Dimensions and Measures to organize your data for visualization.

Metabase

There's no need to categorize columns that way. Instead, you use *Summarize* in the query builder on the column where you want to calculate a metric, and *Group by* on the column you want to use for grouping, similar to Dimensions in Tableau.
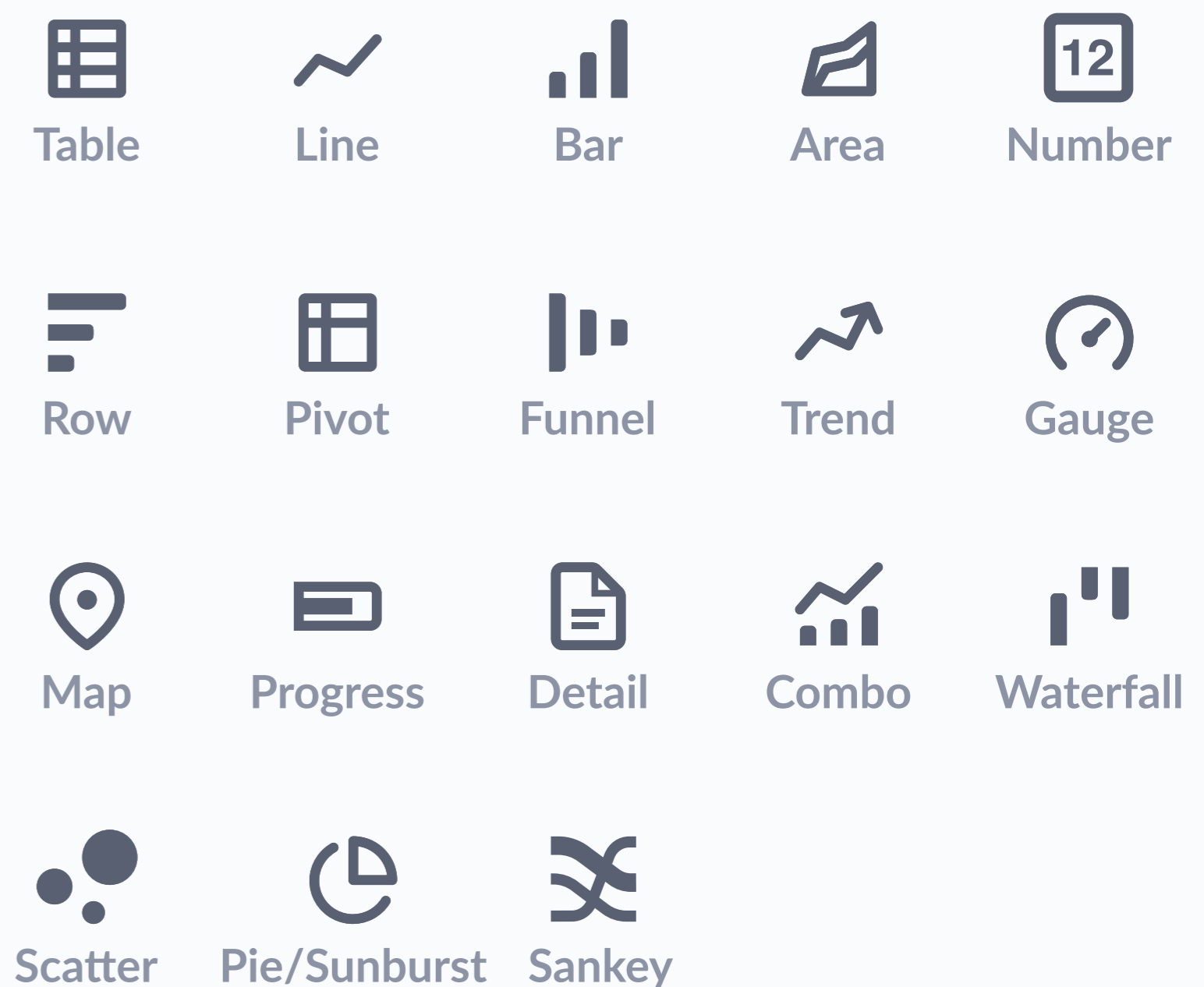
How to create visualizations?

Tableau

1. Open a new Worksheet.
2. Drag fields into Columns and Rows.
3. Use the Marks Card to add details.
4. Choose visualization types via the Show Me panel.

Metabase

1. Start a new question, click **+ New** and select **Question**.
2. Select a table from your database, or start from an existing question or model.
3. Use the query builder to add **filters**, **summarize** your data, and **group it** by a column if needed.
4. Metabase will suggest a visualization based on your query. You can adjust it using the Visualization button.
5. Save your question in the desired collection.

Data visualizations in Metabase

Table	Line	Bar	Area	Number
Row	Pivot	Funnel	Trend	Gauge
Map	Progress	Detail	Combo	Waterfall
Scatter	Pie/Sunburst	Sankey		