Short Dagitty guide

For detailed instructions go to the Dagitty user manual here: http://www.dagitty.net/manual-3.x.pdf

1. Go to the link: http://www.dagitty.net/
2. In the website you will find some background information
3. You will see four options: Launch, Download, Learn, Code
4. Click Launch
5. You see a canvas in the middle. This is a very easy click interface where you can click the variables and move them around.
6. Options on the top:

   Model | Examples | How to ... | Layout | Help

   a. Model. Mainly used to create a new model and export your final model.
   b. Examples. Contains different examples that you can use from the literature
   c. How to… This is where you go when you don't know how to do things in Dagitty. For example, click: how to … add a new variable. Prompt: "To add a new variable, click/tap on the canvas".
   d. Help.
      i. Manual. Very detailed manual
      ii. Other Resources. Contains interactive tutorials and examples
7. Options on the left side (from bottom to top starting with ⚡ Legend)
   a. Legend. Used to indicate exposure, outcome variables as well as the ancestor structure.
   b. Coloring. Allows you to disable color of causal and biasing paths and the ancestral structure. We recommend leaving them all checked.
   c. Diagram style: leave it as "classic".
   d. View mode. Leave it as 'normal'.
   e. Variable. Allows you assign variables as exposure, outcome, adjusted, or unobserved.
8. Options on the right side
   a. Causal effect identification. We will normally be interested in the "Adjustment (total effect)", but it can also be used to "direct effect" when conducting mediation analysis or "Instrumental variable".
      i. When 'Adjustment (total effect)' is selected, Dagitty will display the minimal sufficient adjustment sets for estimating the total effect.
   b. Testable implications. Displays the conditional independencies implied in your model.
   c. Model code. This code changes as you modify your DAG and you can save it to modify your DAG later.
   d. Summary. Gives you a summary of the exposure and outcome in you DAG and the number of covariates and causal paths.
9. Short example:
   a. Go to 'Model' and click 'New model'
   b. Click anywhere in the canvas. A text box will pop up. Write a name for a variable. Repeat this step three times to create 3 variables.

c. Click to select one variable. Set variable type using the 'Variable' menu on top left. Set your exposure and outcome variables.
d. To add the arrows between variables. Click on a variable (origin) and then click on another variable (destination). Repeat this if you want to remove the arrow. Create three edges: (1) from exposure to outcome, (2) from covariate to exposure, (3) from covariate to outcome.
e. To show your adjustments click on the variable that you want to adjust for and select 'adjusted' from the 'Variable' menu on top left.
f. Check 'How to…' section if you forget how to do something.