

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Creating Compelling Designs	1
Separating Content from Style	1
Benefiting from the Cascade	2
The End of the Browser Wars	3
Who Should Read This Book	4
For designers, would-be designers, programmers, and developers alike	5
Making do in a shaky economy	5
Plain, Clear English	6
How to Use This Book	6
Foolish Assumptions	7
How This Book Is Organized	8
Part I: The ABCs of CSS	8
Part II: Looking Good with CSS	9
Part III: Adding Artistry: Design and Composition with CSS	9
Part IV: Advanced CSS Techniques	10
Part V: The Part of Tens	10
Conventions Used in This Book	11
Special symbols	11
Avoid typos: find all the code online	12
What you need to get started	12
Icons used in this book	12

Part I: The ABCs of CSS 13

Chapter 1: CSS Fulfills a Promise	15
Improving HTML	15
Getting Efficient with CSS	17
Changing Web design for the better	17
Being ready for anything	18
Designers Want to Design	20
Where CSS Fits with the Tools You Already Use	22
Getting Practical	24
Look for CSS features in your current software	24
Resources on the Web	24
Avoiding Browser Compatibility Problems	25
Getting Dramatic with Filters	26

Chapter 2: Getting Results with CSS31
Starting from Scratch	31
Selectors and Such: CSS Syntax	33
Properties refer to attributes	34
Grouping	35
Showing Some Class	35
Specifying All-Purpose Properties	37
Using an ID Selector	38
Specifying more than one class	40
Capitalizing on case-sensitivity	40
Just stay in lowercase	41
When Styles Cascade	41
Visualizing specificity	41
Understanding CSS specificity	43
Grasping Inheritance	45
Chapter 3: Up and Running with Selectors47
Working with Universal Selectors	48
Using Multiple Declarations	49
Using Attributes as Selectors	50
The Simplest Attribute Selector	52
Matching attribute selection types	53
Matching partial attribute values	53
Matching exact attribute values	54
Building Your First Style Sheet	54
Transforming a Word document into a Web page	55
Visualizing levels of specificity	57
Creating an External Cascading Style Sheet	59
The importance of !Important	60
The importance of being closest	62
Omit semicolons	62
Everything must be important	62
Adding New Selectors	63
When Cascades Collide	64
Part II: Looking Good with CSS67
Chapter 4: Taking a Position69
Relativity Explained	72
Flow Versus Positioning, Floating Versus Coordinates	73
Controlling Layout with Offsetting	76
Moving Deeper into Positioning	79
Stacking Elements on Top of Each Other with the Z-Axis	81
Combining Stacking with Translucence	82

Chapter 5: All About Text85
Thinking About User Interfaces	85
Substituting Fonts	86
Types of Type	87
Avoiding monospace	90
Using system styles	91
All Roads Lead to Rome	92
Simplicity above all	92
When you're not too picky about typeface	94
Using Font Variants	94
Specifying Font Weight	95
Using the Font-Variant for Small Caps	96
Simple Font-Style	96
Choosing the Right Typeface Size	97
Specifying relative sizes	97
Controlling font size with greater precision	98
Specifying Absolute Measured Sizes	99
Font: The All-Purpose Property	100
Adjusting Line Height	101
Decorating Text with Underlining and Strikethrough	103
Transforming Text with Capitalization	104
Shading with Drop-Shadowing	105
Chapter 6: Managing Details in Style Sheets107
Specifying Size and Position	107
Measuring length	108
Understanding little em	109
Figuring the Percentages	111
Adding a Bit of Color	113
Creating special paragraph styles	115
Calculating color	115
Using the color list	116
Coloring borders	118
Using inset border colors	119
Where does light come from?	121
Coloring the Background	123
Chapter 7: Styling It Your Way127
Kerning for Better Headlines	127
True kerning	129
Ultra kerning	131
Vertical Tightening	133
Adjusting percentages	133
Understanding baselines	135
CSS3 Introduces Kerning Mode	135

Word spacing	135
Aligning Text	138
Vertical aligning	138
Using descriptive values	139
Aligning by percentages	140
Horizontal Alignment	141
Indenting Text	142
Texturing	143
Setting Individual Background Properties	147
No background inheritance	148
Special repeats	148
Background Positioning	149

Part III: Adding Artistry: Design and Composition with CSS 153

Chapter 8: Web Design Basics 155

Organizing with White Space	156
Take a second look	156
Getting on balance	156
Emphasizing an Object with Silhouetting	159
Adding Drop Caps	160
Trapping White Space	163
Following the Rule of Thirds	164
The four hot spots	165
Background image positioning	166
Keeping It Appropriate	168

Chapter 9: Spacing Out with Boxes 169

Getting a Grip on Boxes	169
Adding a border	171
Adding padding	171
Adding a margin	172
Vertical Positioning	173
Horizontal Positioning	176
Breaking Up Text with Horizontal Lines	178

Chapter 10: Organizing Your Web Pages Visually 183

Managing Borders	184
Specifying a simple border	184
Choosing from lotsa border styles	186
Mixing and matching styles	188
Specifying border width	189
Coloring a border	190

Floating About	191
Cancelling a Float with Clear	194
Chapter 11: Designing with Auto and Inline Elements	197
Employing Auto to Control Layout	197
Specifying margins	200
Centering	201
Using !DOCTYPE to force IE to comply	201
Vertical Positioning with Auto	202
Handling Inline Elements	203
Chapter 12: Handling Tables and Lists (And Doing Away with Tables)	207
List Styles O' Plenty	208
Getting exotic with the list-style-image property	210
Positioning lists	211
Putting it all together	213
Managing Tables	213
Stalking invisible .gifs	213
Employing the table-layout property	214
Avoiding properties not supported by IE	216
Doing Without Tables	216
Positioning where you will	217
Placing content willy-nilly	217
Loving your layout a little too much	222
Creating Columns that Resize with the Browser	224
Building Fixed Columns	228
Chapter 13: Creating Dramatic Visual Effects	233
Impressing with Static Filters	234
Dazzling with Transition Filters	238
Fading Between Images	243
Transitions between Pages	246
Part IV: Advanced CSS Techniques	251
Chapter 14: Specializing in Selection	253
Getting Specific with Inheritance	253
Grasping tree structure	254
Parents versus ancestors	254
When a root sits above the tree	255
The shaky tree	256
Offspring Inheriting	257

Contextual Selectors	257
Selecting by context rather than grouping	258
Descending deeper	261
Styling distant descendants	262
Thwarting Descendant Selectors	263
Selectors Using Attributes	264
Chapter 15: CSS Moves into the Future	265
Getting to Know CSS3	265
Working with Mozilla-supported CSS3 features	266
Setting opacity	268
Discovering False Pseudo-Classes	269
Hyperlink formatting with pseudo-classes	270
Hovering with pseudo-classes	272
Adding your own class name to a pseudo-class	272
Selecting first children	273
Employing Fake Pseudo-Elements	273
Creating quick drop caps with first-letter	274
Using the first-line element for special lines of text	275
The Future of Pseudo	275
Enabling, disabling	276
Checking radio buttons and check boxes	276
Figuring Out Dubious Descendant Selectors	277
Chapter 16: Programmatic CSS	279
Extending CSS with Scripting	279
Executing Scripts Automatically upon Loading	282
Using the Right Tools for the Job	283
Modifying CSS Styles through Programming	284
Changing styles	284
Changing the rules	288
Timing Things Right	290
Grasping countdown timers	293
Employing metronome timers	294
Chapter 17: Testing and Debugging	297
Checking Punctuation	297
Validating Your Work	300
Ignoring Fringe Browsers	301
Going back in time	301
What if you must consider compatibility?	301
Checking compatibility charts	302
Sniffing browsers	302
Forcing users to upgrade	303

Trying Out the W3C Validator	304
Hoping for helpful error messages	307
Identifying property value problems	308
Validating HTML	309
Meeting some requirements	310
Finding a better bug trap	314
Debugging Script	315
Part V: The Part of Tens	317
Chapter 18: Ten Great CSS Tips and Tricks	319
Letting Users Control Font Size	319
Making Sure Your Borders Show Up	320
Watching Out for Color Clash	320
Centering for Everyone	320
Timing Blurring and Other Effects	321
Debugging Script	323
Finding a List Apart (Get It?)	324
Using Your Own Bullets in Lists	324
Specifying Graphics Locations	325
Combining Classes	326
Aunt Mildred's Glazed Carrots	327
Chapter 19: Ten Topics That Don't Fit Elsewhere in the Book (But Are Important)	329
Keeping Current via the Internet	330
Upgrading HTML Web Pages to CSS	330
Finding Good Tutorials and Reference Information	330
Remembering Inheritance	331
The SelectORacle: Getting Explanations About Complicated Rules	332
Providing Alternatives	332
Letting the User Decide	333
Exploring Visual Studio	335
Rediscovering Columns	336
Playing with Positions	337
Index.....	339