

CSS Layouts

Consider CSS layouts like building your HTML page out of layers of acetate. Each layer can inherit/see the attributes of the layers below it only.

The basic page you start with is the table, the “wrapper” (width limiter) layer is your bottom layer of acetate.

The header, navigation and main areas (and footer if you choose to have one) are the 2nd layer of acetate, but each is a separate piece which can be moved or laid out in any shape or design you wish.

The navigation bar (for example) may contain a layer for each of the links inside it. See the “Bring Back Enterprise” example for why you may want to do this. These would be a third layer.

Note: This is where indenting your code really comes into its own if you want to be able to edit it later. Also, planning plays a big part here, as you will need “label” names for each section. Once you start getting into layers within layers – you do not want to find out that you’ve got different layers with identical names!

Example: In your HTML file, you would define each layer as follows:

```
<body>
  <div id="wrapper">
    <div id="header">
      Content here
    </div>
    <div id="nav">
      <div id="navlink">
        Content here
      </div>
      <div id="navlink">
        Content here
      </div>
      <div id="navlink">
        Content here
      </div>
    </div>
    <div id="main">
      Content here
      <div id="picturebox">
        Content here
      </div>
      Content here
    </div>
    <div id="footer">
      Content here
    </div>
  </div>
</body>
```

This is all you need to do in

To start with, make all of your pieces/layers different colours – preferably bright ones! Make it look like an explosion in a crayon factory! If you don't – then you won't be able to see where the 2nd and 3rd layer pieces start and finish – and making it look right when you've entered all of your content will be an absolute nightmare.

Once you've done this, tweak

Key layer attributes for your CSS file:

| Attribute | Possible Values |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| width: <i>value</i> ; | Any integer (whole number) though preferably less than 1000. This can be finished with % for percentage values, or px for absolute values. |
| height: <i>value</i> ; | Any integer (whole number) though preferably less than 1000. This can be finished with % for percentage values, or px for absolute values. |
| background-color: <i>value</i> ; | A color in name, hex code or "transparent" |
| background-image: url('value'); | The filename of the image you want to use for the background |
| background-repeat: <i>value</i> ; | No-repeat, repeat-x, repeat-y |
| border-color: <i>value</i> ; | A color in name or hex code |
| border-style: <i>value</i> ; | A choice of up to four from: None, hidden, dotted, dashed, solid, double, groove, ridge, inset, outset |
| border-width: <i>value</i> ; | Thin, medium or thick |

Again, www.w3schools.com gives a lot more thorough listing of available attributes, complete with descriptions and editable examples.

http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_reference.asp#positioning will be particularly useful.