



Taking Madrid to Print

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In this tutorial we will look at porting the Madrid JumpStart to the print media type.

The best way to provide styles for print is to utilise a style sheet which is specific to that media type. In the long run it just makes everything so much easier and less complicated. Perhaps the most common down-fall when designing for print is over-doing things. You need to remember you are creating a style sheet which will present your *information* to your users in a printed format. There is no need whatsoever to redesign or recreate your web site. It is simply the information we want to provide and it is the information your users are interested in.

What is Not Required For Print?

Stop and consider what in your web site will be required for print before [starting on](#) creating the print style sheet. Forget background colours and background images; the option to print such things is determined locally by the user in their print preferences, thank goodness. I for one wouldn't be happy if you wanted to colour my paper black and then print the copy in white! You'd cost me a fortune in ink and, the same goes for background images. While these options are fine in designing your web site, and provide it with the design options of your choice, they have no real worth on the printed page.

There are several other areas of the Madrid design which have no use in the world of print, these are:

- The header div
- The nav div
- The leftcol div

I'm sure you'd agree that a navigation menu is not worth the paper it is printed on... While a nice header would be a good feature on the printed page the existing header in Madrid would serve no purpose at all, but we can change that.

Removing Content Not Required for Printing

The three elements we highlighted above can easily be removed from the printed version of your web site by using the [display: none;](#) property and value. Don't confuse this pairing with the [visibility: hidden;](#) property and value. They are both very different. [Display: none;](#) removes the item from the document completely while [visibility: hidden;](#) only prevents it displaying while the area it would have taken up in your design is preserved—unless the item is absolutely positioned and does not exist within the

document flow.

```
#header, #nav, #leftcol {  
display: none;  
}
```

Listing 1: The *Display: none*; grouped selector

The code above should reside only in your print style sheet and will remove the items as discussed only from the print version of your web site.

Linking to and Working With a Print Specific Style Sheet

In order to pass the rules you want for printing you will need to link to your print style sheet. This is done in much the same way as you link to any style sheet. The difference is in the declaration within the media type attribute as shown in Listing 2 below:

```
<link href="css/print.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print" />
```

Listing 2: The print media type.

Dreamweaver makes it very easy to work with a print style sheet, all you need to do is enable the **style rendering toolbar** and select the print option, as shown in Image 1. The style rendering toolbar can be activated and deactivated by right clicking in the document toolbar area and selecting the Style Rendering option.

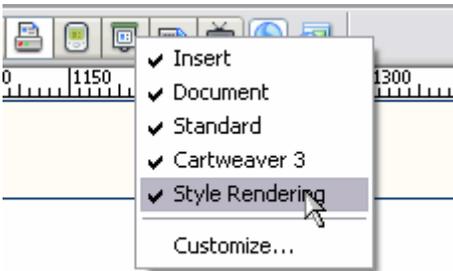


Image 1: Select Style Rendering



Image 2: The style rendering toolbar

Activating the print option will render Madrid as shown in image 3.

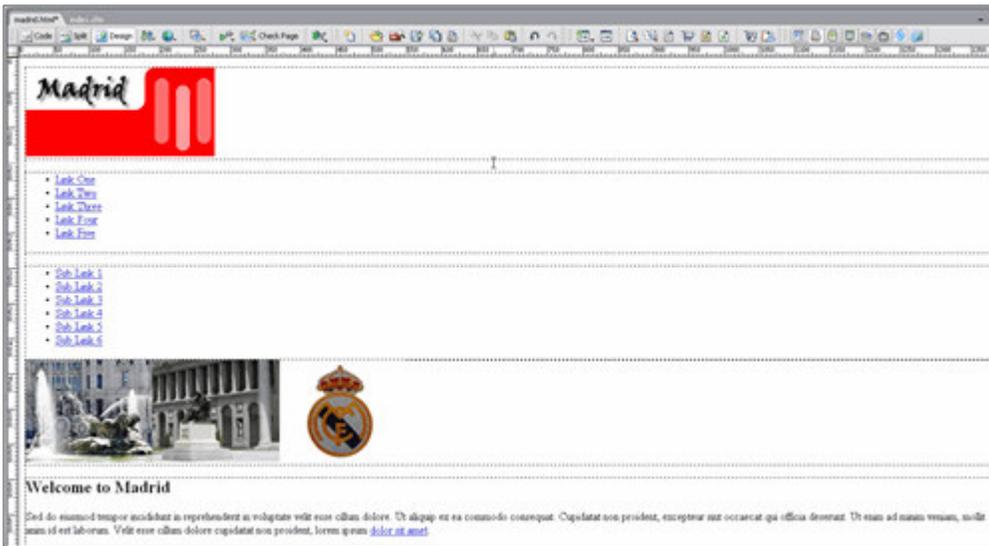


Image 3: *Not a print style in sight!*

Fine Tuning for Print

You can lay out your print content in much the same way as you do for the screen, all the techniques you use in your screen style sheet are perfectly valid for your print style sheet. We can, however, make some changes to our defaults to improve the way our information is printed.

```
body {
width: 7in;
margin: auto;
font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif;
font-size: 12pt;
color: #333;
}
```

Listing 3: *Setting defaults for print*

The first change you will notice is the width value, this is set to suit standard A4 paper. The font is changed to a serif font which looks so much nicer than sans-serif on the printed page and the font size value has been changed to pt [points].

I have also created a rule specifically to hide inline links within the content area, this keeps our printed page looking as it should.

```
#content a {
color: #333;
text-decoration: none;
}
```

Listing 4: *Hiding the inline links*

By removing the text-decoration [the underline on our inline links] and displaying the link in the same colour as the body text we can blend such elements in with the surrounding content, this provides a much

more professional appearance on the printed page.

The print CSS file is available in the downloads section at the foot of this page.

Adding Print Specific Content

We have no idea what page a user may print. Different users will find different areas of our web site of interest, therefore when pages are printed as a point of reference by our users will vary from user to user. As things stand a user may not get our all important contact information when printing their page of interest. With this in mind it is easy to see the value of providing print specific information. Our contact details should be included on each and every page throughout our web site when a user chooses to print a page.

Adding the new header is a simple affair, let's look at Listing 5.

```
<div id="printhead">
<h1>Tourist Information for Madrid</h1>
<p>Email: info@madridsights.co.uk</p>
<p>Contact: Tel N<sup>o</sup>: 123-456-789 </p>
<!-- Close #printhead -->
</div>
```

Listing 5: The print header code

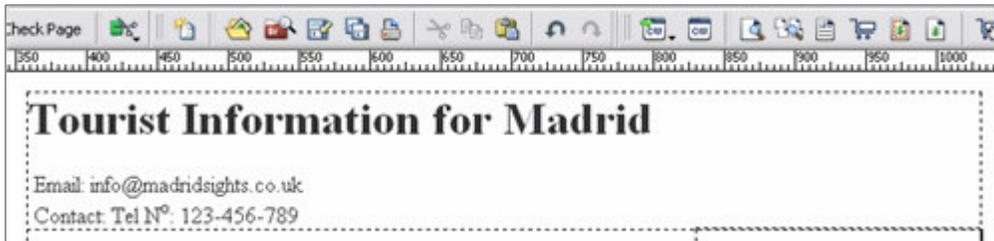


Image 4: The print header in design view

You can of course style the content of the printhead div to appear however you wish.

You should be aware that when you add content into your code it will of course be presented in all versions of your web site unless you take steps to prevent it. Once you have added the printhead div to your code you would need to return to your screen style sheet and set a rule for this div not to display on the screen.

```
#printhead {
display: none;
}
```

Listing 6: Preventing the printhead div from displaying on the screen

Using the print style rendering option in Dreamweaver provides a great way to easily see how your layout is progressing, the finished layout should look like Image 5 below.



Image 5: *The completed Madrid print view*

Conclusion

In this tutorial we have seen how easy it is to port Madrid to the print media type.

You can experiment as much as you want and any content that you think may be needed for your Madrid redesign but always remember to hide print specific content from your alternative media style sheets.

Until next time :~)

Keywords

Madrid, print, CSS, style, sheet, display, none, media, style rendering, toolbar, Dreamweaver