W3Conversions

CSS Layouts & Dreamweaver CS3

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Agenda

- What are the CSS Layouts?
- Using the CSS Layouts
- Combining Layouts
- Things to watch for
- Q&A

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Partner - CommunityMX.com

Author - DW MX 2004 Magic, Web Developer's & Designer's Journal (formerly MXDJ), Adobe's DevNet Center, and other web publications

List Mom for WebWeavers & moderator for SEM 2.0

Coming soon - Mastering CSS with Dreamweaver CS3 by New Riders - authored with Adobe's Greg Rewis

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What Are The CSS Layouts?

CSS Layouts are structure only

- No images
- No styling

Quick starts for CSS development

- Heavily commented for those new to layout
- Fast start for those comfortable with CSS
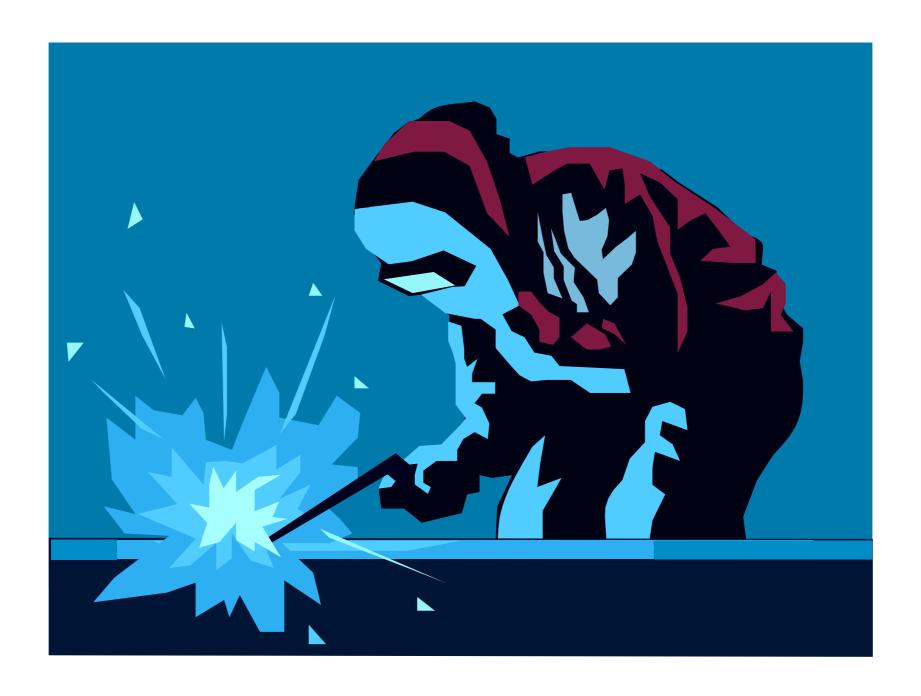
Browser Compatibility

- Firefox (Win and Mac) 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0
- Internet Explorer (Win) 5.5, 6.0, 7.0
- Opera (Win and Mac) 8.0, 9.0
- Safari 2.0

Five Types of Layouts

- Fixed
- Liquid
- Elastic
- Hybrid
- Absolute Positioning

Page Structure of the CSS Layouts

- Right and left columns are floated

- Main Content column is margined on the side of the column

- Body class and descendant selectors used to define page type to allow combination - for example: .twoColFixLtHdr

- Heavy commenting explains each page section and some specific property/value pairs

- Internet Explorer Conditional Comments

A quick demonstration of the CSS Layouts

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Fixed

Specific pixel width - centered

Pros / Cons

✓ Full background color on columns is easy to achieve (faux columns)

✓ Easy to know exact dimensions for elements within the main content area and avoid float drop*

◉ Columns do not expand with increased text size

Liquid

Overall width and columns based on percentage of user's viewport

Pros / Cons

- ✓ Allows for creative use of headers - repeat on X axis or show more when browser is wider

- ⊙ Background column color more challenging (liquid faux columns)

- ⊙ More difficult to know exact dimensions for elements to avoid float drop - use min-width

Elastic

Width based on user's default text size

Pros / Cons

- ✓ Layout and columns expand with text size changes not browser width
- ✓ Allows for creative use of headers - repeat on X axis or show more when browser is wider
- ◉ More difficult to know exact dimensions for elements to avoid float drop - use min-width

Hybrid

Overall width based on percentage, while the side columns are based upon em's

Pros / Cons

✓ Column widths expand with increased text size

✓ Allows for creative use of headers - repeat on X axis or show more when browser is wider

◉ Still challenging to know exact dimensions for elements to avoid float drop - use min-width

Absolutely Positioned

Fixed, pixel-based width

Pros / Cons

✓ Float drop not a problem since there is no floating

✓ Headers and footers are simple due to set width

◉ Columns are absolutely positioned and taken out of the flow of the document - footer will not "see" them

Points to Remember

Principles of Floating

- A float must be given a width

- A float must be given a directional value of left or right (there is no top or bottom)

- If you want a float to appear alongside another element, it must precede that element in the source order of the document

- A float never covers text or inline images

- Since a float is taken "out of the flow" of the document, a float inside another container must be cleared in order for the parent container to enclose it properly

Clearing Floats in the #mainContent div

Clearing within a non-floated div will clear **all** floats – including the side columns.

Fixes:

Float the #mainContent div
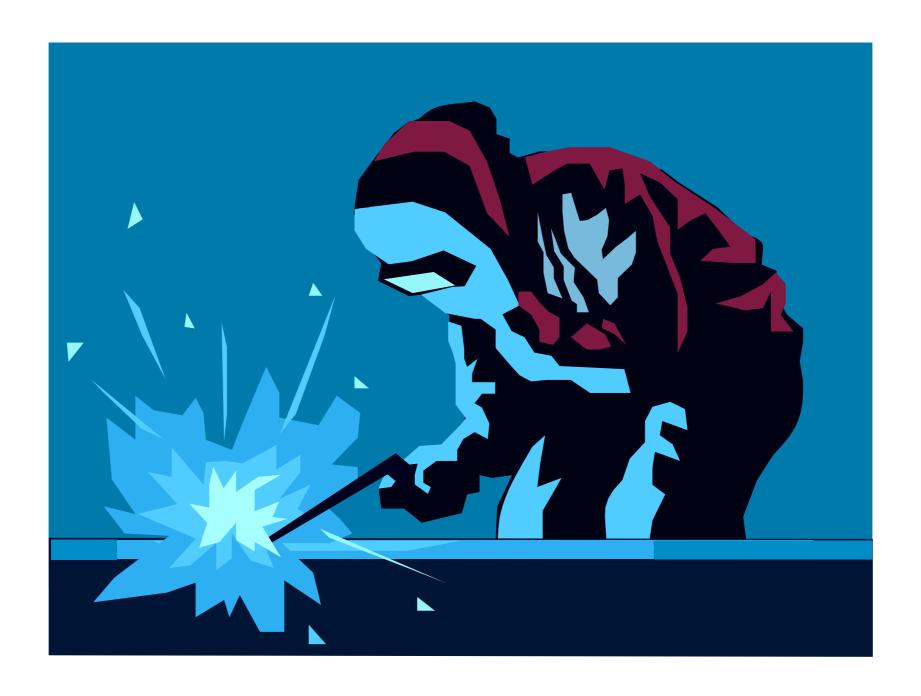
Place a floated div within the #mainContent div

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Beware of Float Drop

Evident when one div starts below the level of the div next to it

Causes:

An element, like an image, that is wider than can fit in the space provided. The div will move down until it can fit next to the floats. (Make sure clients who are taking care of their own sites with Contribute are aware of their size specs and limitations.)

3px text jog in Internet Explorer (unaccounted for in your math)

A quick demonstration of combining CSS Layouts

Q&A

Resources

David Powers - Strip Comments RegEx

http://foundationphp.com/tools/

Adobe CSS Advisor beta

http://www.adobe.com/go/cssadvisor

Community MX

http://www.communitymx.com

W3Conversions

http://www.w3conversions.com

Amazon.com (for preorder)

Mastering CSS with Dreamweaver CS3

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Thank You
Danke schön
Dank u wel
Merci beaucoup