

Contents

1. Overview
2. DW Workspace
3. Site Management
4. Create Web pages
5. Links & Images
- > Tables & CSS
7. Templates & Libraries
8. Javascript
9. Accessibility
10. Resources

about this lesson

- **Title:** Tables and CSS
- **Description:** Tables are the easiest way to lay out pages in HTML 4.01; it is useful to learn how tables work before moving on to table-less design. CSS (cascading style sheets) can provide simple text formatting as well as intricate (table-less) layouts.
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this lesson

1. Table Basics
2. Modifying Tables
3. Creating Tables
4. CSS Basics
5. Modifying styles

DW home : 6. Tables & CSS



Home



Print



Open PDF

Previous   Next

6.1 Table Basics

Netscape introduced the table tags with version 1.2; this set of proprietary tags allowed designers to use a grid layout, something that was not possible prior to this innovation. However, the tags were not designed to hold "design" information -- they were designed to hold "tabular data" and this foundation is reflected in the code names.

Tables are composed of rows, columns, and cells, just like they are in a word processing program. And we can "merge" cells, just like we do in a word processing program.

Basic Table Code

```
<table border="1" cellpadding="5" cellspacing="0" width="400">
  <tr>
    <td>
      Some information
    </td>
    <td>
      More information
    </td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td colspan="2" bgcolor="#ccffff">
      merged cells
    </td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

It looks like this:

Some information	More information
merged cells	

Next: *Modifying tables*

DW home : 6. Tables & CSS : **6.1 Table Basics**

exercise

1. View source (right-click, view source or select from main browser menu)
2. Examine the table structure of this page

resources

- [W3C Tables - HTML 4.0](#)

6.2 Modifying Tables

We can modify table appearance - such as color - globally or cell-by-cell. Other modifications apply to the entire table (border, spacing, padding).

In this exercise, we will modify some basic table parameters.

Next: *Creating tables*

exercise

1. Open lesson_5c.html (art_of_bonsai folder)
2. To align the image and its caption in the center of its cell, we will add this code to each TD: "align=center"
In Design View, click inside the cell that holds the Formal Upright bonsai image.
The Tag Inspector - at the foot of the document window - shows the relevant HTML tags. Click on the opening TD tag: <td>
The Property Inspector shows you your design options. Set **Horizontal** to center and **Vertical** to middle. Look at the code in Split View.
Do this for the other image cells.
Click inside the cell that holds the Formal Upright bonsai text. Set **Horizontal** to left and **Vertical** to top.
Do this for the other text cells.
Save and preview in browser. See what happens with different settings.
In Design View, click on <table> in the Tag Inspector.
Change border to 1; preview in browser. Review the other table setting options.

6.3 Creating Tables

Dreamweaver has a new table wizard, which can be accessed via the **Insert Menu** or the **Insert Bar**.

Next: CSS Basics

exercise

1. Create a new HTML document. Call it my_table.html
2. In Design View, type **My Table**. Highlight the text. Using Property Inspector, make this an H1
3. Click the **Table** tab on the **Insert Bar** or choose **Insert > Table**.
4. Complete the Table dialog box with these parameters and then select **ok**
 - 3 rows
 - 3 columns
 - width 90%
 - border 1
 - cell padding 0
 - cell spacing 0
5. **Merge the left column rows into one cell.**
Highlight the three cells by clicking/dragging (mouse button stays depressed). Choose **Modify > Table > Merge Cells**
6. **Merge middle row cells into one cell.**
Click in the left-middle cell; drag the cursor to the right-middle cell, keeping the mouse button depressed. In the **Property Inspector**, click **Merge Cells**. This is a second way to accomplish this task. [A third way is to type the code in Code View!]
7. **Delete the top row.**
Click in the left-middle cell; drag the cursor to the right-middle cell, keeping the mouse button depressed. Choose **Edit > Cut** (Ctr/Command+X)
8. **Insert a new bottom row.**
Click in the left-middle cell of the bottom row. Choose **Modify > Table > Insert Rows or Columns**. Select **Insert Rows, Number of Rows:1, Where: Below the Selection**. Click **ok**.

6.4 Basic CSS

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) provides a flexible way to format text and allows designers to separate content from presentation.

CSS also makes it easy to institute global changes -- you can change the appearance of 100s of pages by changing body color in the core stylesheet.

"Cascading" means that when there are multiple styles defined for a specific page or element, the browser will give them priority based on "how close" they are to the element in question. Thus:

- An inline style takes precedence over all other styles
- An embedded style (in the **head** of the document) takes precedence over an external stylesheet
- If more than one external stylesheet is referenced, the last one will take precedence

Anatomy of Style

```
h1 {color: #900;
    }
|      |
|      | declaration
|      | selector

.subHead {font-size: 120%;
         }
|              |
|              | declaration
|              |
class
```

Next: Modifying styles

DW home : 6. Tables & CSS : 6.4 Basic CSS

exercise

1. View the primary stylesheet for this tutorial. Link for non-MSIE browsers (.css) - View the MSIE stylesheet for this tutorial. Link for MSIE browsers (.txt - MSIE will not render a CSS file)

resources

- [CSS W3C Site](#)
- [W3Schools - Learning CSS](#)

6.5 Modifying Styles

Dreamweaver provides several ways to modify the appearance of text using CSS.

When designing for older (version 4 and older) browsers, designers sometimes code with both CSS and HTML tags (font color, for example). View source on [lesson_5c.html](#) to see this in action.

The easiest way to build sites is to use HTML tags for structure and then CSS to "style" the document. This means that older browsers will render a "plain" page, but the page will be functional.

This strategy works if most of your audience is using more modern browsers but does not if a majority is still using old browsers. We're assuming the former.

Next: [Section 7: Templates](#)

exercise

1. Open [lesson_5c.html](#) ; use Split View.
2. Find the section:

```
<!-- unstyled text -->  
<h3>There are five training styles:</h3>
```
3. Open the **CSS Styles Panel** (Shift+F11 or **Window > CSS Styles**)
4. Click **New Style** (the + button). Select **Redefine HTML Tag**; in the tag field, scroll to h3; define in **this document only**. Click **ok**.
5. Click **New Style** (the + button). Select **Redefine HTML Tag**; in the tag field, scroll to h3; define in **this document only**. Click **ok**.

6. You now have a CSS Definition Panel:

In the "type" field, select **Verdana, Arial ...** for the Font and **medium** for the Size.

In the "border" field, de-select "Same For All" and make the **Bottom - Dashed ...** pick a Color for the bottom border by clicking the color "square" and using the color-picker.

View the **head** section of the document using Split or Code view.

Preview in browser (F12)

resources

- [Css Zen Garden](#)