

Web Design



Web Design Frames Lesson

Caution: Be sure to read things carefully. The instructions in some places are going to be a little different than what you have done in the past.

Site Management: Within Dreamweaver go to Site>New Site... and set up the site management so that it you have a Local Root Folder called “Yourname.frames. Using the “Site” window that opens up, create two new folders in your Local Root Folder. You can do this by either right clicking or Control/click on your Local Root Folder in the “Site” window. Name the folders “Images” and “Frameset2”. In the "Images" folder put one of your previous images that you have used. **Don't save the Dreamweaver yet.** Surprised you, didn't I. We have to do some other things first before we save the document the first time.

Setting the Rulers: We will need to set up the "Rulers" for this assignment. Open up a "New" page in Dreamweaver and go to View>Rulers>Show. Now lets set the ingrements to inches by going back to View>Rulers>Inches. Now the ruler will be set for inches.

Creating Frames: Go to Modify>Frameset>Split Frame Left. Now go to File>Save Frame Set as... and save the document as “index”. This will be are starting page just like previous lessons. When we have frames we are actually making more than one html page. With the two frames we have in this document we are actually creating three pages. One is the “index.html” that we just created and the others are the two seperate frames. We need to save them seperately as well. Click on the left frame and go to File>Save FrameAs... and name it “Leftframe”. Save it in the Local Root folder at the same place you saved the “index.html”. Repeat the process for the right frame and naming it “Rightframe”.

Go to Window>Frames and open a window called “Frames” This is our preview window for frames. Now go to File>Save All. You can use this command to save all changes to any of the frames.

Modifying Frame Properties: Now let's change some of the frame properties. First we will change the background color of the left frame. Click on the left frame and go to Modify>Page Properties. Click on the “Background” and change the color. Then click on “Apply” and the left frame should change to the color you chose. Give the “Rightframe” a different color. Then “Save All”. Notice that we could have an image for the background as well. Now make an image the background for the “Rightframe”. Remember that your image must be in the “Images” folder first.



Fig. #1

Changing the Frame Size: Now let's change the size of the frames. If you place your cursor on the border between the two frames you should get a cursor that looks like Fig. #1. Click and drag theborder to the left so we have about a two inch frame for the “Leftframe”. We can also change the size by clicking on the border and going to the “Properties Inspector” at the bottom of the screen. Click on the left column of the little image called the “RowCol Selection”. Now type in 200 for the number of pixels that the left column will be wide. Now the “Leftframe” is about two inches wide.

Borderless: Most of the time people don't want the borders. To turn the borders off click on the pop up area where it says "Borders" and then click on "No". Also type a 0 in the "Border Width" text box. Do a "Save All" and text out the web page in Safari.

Linking with a Target: We are going to use the "Leftframe" to be our navigation area for linking to other pages. We will want the new page to show up in the "Rightframe" area. To do this we must set up a "target" for the link. The following instructions are for making a target.

1. First we have to name each frame. Make sure the Frames window is open. We will name the "Leftframe" first. click on the left frame in the Frames window
2. Now find the "Frame Name" text box in the "Properties Inspector" window. Name the frame something simple like "Left".
3. Do the same for the "Rightframe", but give it a different name such as "Right".
4. Click on the "Leftframe" and type in the words "Linking". (We could use any words, buttons, or images to create links with, I am just trying to keep it simple).
5. Create a "New" Dreamweaver page and save it in your Local Root Folder as "Page2". Be sure to type something on it so we can see it happen.
6. Select the text and go to the "Properties Inspector" window. Create a link to "Page2". Try out the link and see what happens.
7. Didn't quite go where we wanted, did it? Now we have to "target" the link to where we want the linked page to go. Go to the "Properties Inspector" window again and click on the small arrows where it says "Target" and set it to the name you named for the "Rightframe". Then "Save All" and test out whether it works or not.

Next Example:

Frames Tab: In the "Insert" window you will find a tab labeled "Frames". This is a place that you can go to create preset frames. Let's make a "New" page and use the preset frame that is similar to what we already made. Remember to save the the Framesets like you did in the "Creating Frames" section earlier. Save them this time in the "Frameset2" folder so your other work will not be harmed. Don't give them the same names though.

Seamless Background Across Two or More Frames: With our new page we are going to make a background that goes across both frames and thus will look like one page. For this you will need to create a background in Photoshop large enough to cover the area that you want to be able to cover. For my background I made it 12x13 inches. Save it to your "Images" folder. Now you are ready to do the followings steps:

1. We will be slicing up our image into as many "Slices" as we have frames.
Make sure the "Rulers" is turned on.
2. In both Photoshop and Dreamweaver, in fact most graphic programs, have an area that we'll call the "Zero Setter". With the "Zero Setter" you can have the zeros on the rulers where ever you would like. The "Zero Setter" is located in the upper left corner of the document window (the main working window). It looks like the area shown in Fig. #2. To use it you click on the area circled in Fig. #2 and drag to the spot you want to be the zeroed area. I decided that it would be easiest to have the zeros be in the upper left corner of the document window. See Fig. #2 for an example.



Fig. #2

- You may have noticed that as you move the mouse cursor over the document window the rulers will indicate the location of the cursor relative to the ruler. See Fig. #4 to see an example of how the rulers are indicating the location of the cursor. Notice that there is a dotted line at the top ruler that is indicating the location from the left side of the window. See circled area in Fig. #3. On the left ruler there is another dotted line that indicates the distance from the left side of the window. See the squared area in Fig. #3. The rulers are telling us in Fig. #3 that the cursor is located 2.5 inches down and 2.5 inches right of the upper left corner. Figure out the size of your frames and type that down in “Word”.
- Now we are going to “Slice” our Photoshop image to create the backgrounds for our frames. The “Slicing” is done in Photoshop so open your background image in Photoshop. To do the “Slicing” we use the “Slice” tool. The “Slice” tool is the button that looks like Fig. #4.

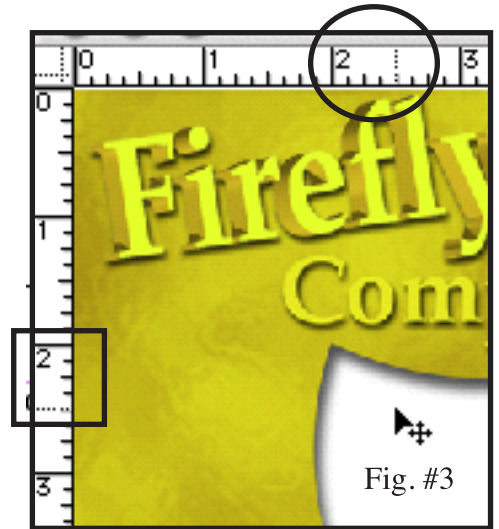


Fig.



Fig. #4

- Use the “Slice” tool like you have used selection tools in Photoshop and other programs. You click on the spot where you want to start the slice and drag over the area that you want to be part of the slice. For my slicing, I clicked at the spot you see the cursor in Fig. #3 and dragged down to the bottom left corner of the window. This created the area that is labeled “Slice #2” in Fig. #5. The other two “Slice” areas were automatically created by the Photoshop program. The program divides the area left over into the most likely configuration. It would be possible to “Slice” the other areas more, but for my web page this was just what I wanted.
- My web page has 3 frames to it. Only the top and left frames do I need to have my slices as the background though. For my web page I named the frames “Top.html”, “Left.html”, and “Right.html”. That is how I will be referring to during the rest of these instructions.
- To be able to use the “Slices” we must get them “Web Ready” by going to File>Save for Web...
- There is a tool that is a slice tool in the “Save for Web...”. Most likely it will already be selected.

If not go ahead and click on it.

9. The “Slices” can be saved either as JPEG or GIF. Choose which one you want using the “Settings” button.

10. Click on “4 up” or “2 up” and click on the slice that you are going to be “Optimizing”.

11. Click on “Save” and name it a name that will help you to remember what frame this slice is for. For example the Slice #1 seen in Fig. #5, I named Top.jpg.

12. Do the same for your other slices.



Fig. #5

13. Now back to Dreamweaver. Click on the Frame that you want to change the background. Remember how to do that? If not go back to the first page of this lesson.
14. Then "Save Frame".
15. Do the same for each of the frame that you need to have the background modified.
16. Now use one of the frames as your navigation frame, by putting buttons or text links in that Frame.
17. Make a new web page and put something on it so we can tell it is a new page.
18. Have one Frame as the location that a new web page will show up.
19. Test it out in Safari.

To be turned in:

Send the Local Root Folder with everything in it to the Web Design Drop Box and fill out the evaluation sheet with your name. Then put the evaluation sheet into your assignment folder and place it into the period tray.

1. Site Management-
 - a. Local Root folder named correctly
 - b. Images folder
 - c. Frameset2 folder
 - d. index.html starting page
 - e. Page2.html in Local Root folder
 - f. Seamless background starting page in Frameset2 folder
 - g. Second page for Seamless part of the lesson in Frameset2 folder
 - h. All the images used for this lesson are in the Images folder
2. Creating Frames-
 - a. 2 frame page created
 - b. Page modified to have one frame with background color
 - c. Page modified to have one frame with background image
 - d. Change the frame size
 - e. Make the frames borderless
 - f. Linking with a Target
3. Seamless Background Across Two or More Frames-
 - a. Sliced image
 - b. Seamless background create and works in Explorer
 - c. Target link to one of the frames
 - d. One frame used as a navigation frame with links
4. Everything works on Mr. R.'s computer