



LEARN

Adobe Dreamweaver CC

for Web Authoring

SECOND EDITION

Adobe Certified Associate Exam Preparation

Mark DuBois
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SETTING SOME BACKGROUND COLOR

It's helpful to visualize the layout of the page by assigning temporary background colors to the different containers. This will allow you to see any gaps that might appear and to check the position of the content blocks.

- 1 In the CSS Designer panel, click the **body** selector, as shown in **Figure 3.20**. You may have to drag the left side of the panel farther to the left so your display matches that shown in the figure. Note that the view at the top of the panel is set to All and that the `<style>` tag is highlighted in the Sources area. The Show Set check box should be unselected.
- 2 Click the Background category at the top of the Properties section, as shown in **Figure 3.20**. Drag the color selector to the position you see indicated, and set the background of the `<body>` tag to a light gray. Alternatively, you can type the hexadecimal value highlighted in the image, `#D7D7D7`.

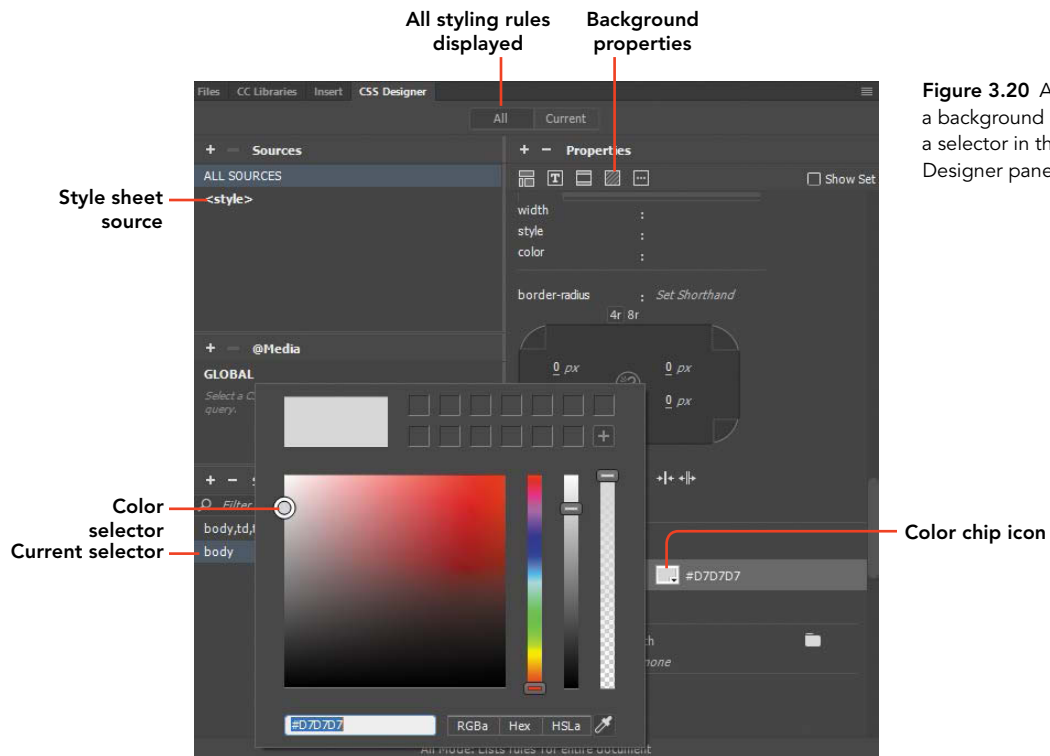
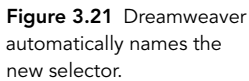


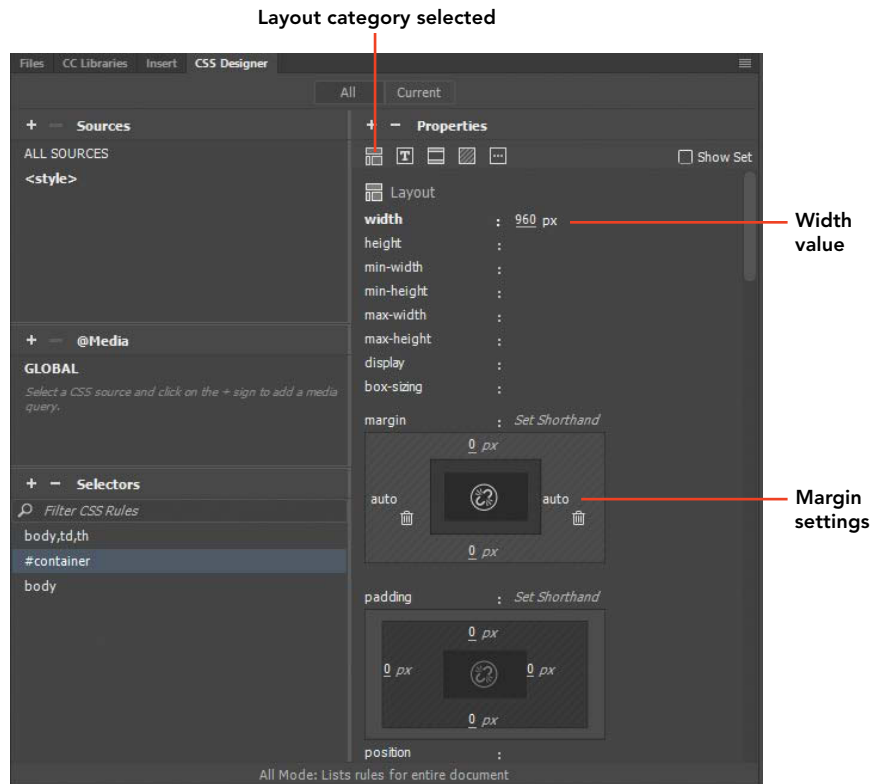
Figure 3.20 Applying a background color to a selector in the CSS Designer panel

Now you can begin to style the outermost `<div>` in this design—the `#container` div.



- Dreamweaver will identify the selection on the page and automatically name the selector based on its attribute, as you see in **Figure 3.21**. How slick is that?

- 3 In the CSS Designer panel, select the Layout category, and set the width value to **960 px**. Then set the left and right margins to **auto** in the margin section. Set the top and bottom margins to **0 px**. Use **Figure 3.22** as a guide.



- 4 Switch to the Background category and set the Color value to white using the same process you followed in step 2 of the previous exercise.
- 5 Preview this page using the Preview in Browser button located in the lower-right corner of the Document window. If you have unsaved changes, you'll be prompted to save the file before you preview.

You'll see that the container `<div>` is floating above the page and that margins appear to the left and right (Figure 3.23). Great job!

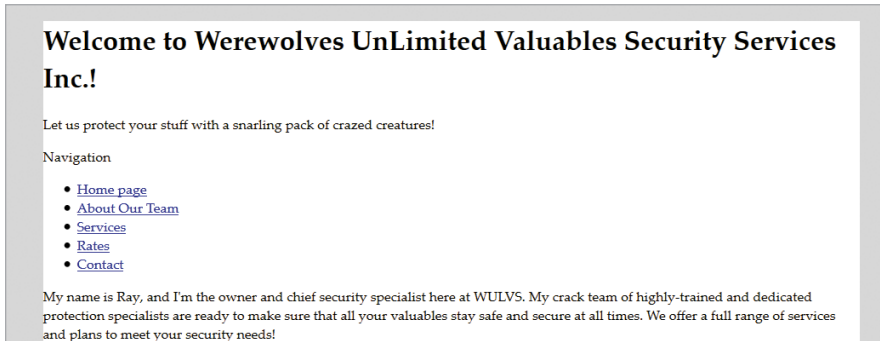


Figure 3.23 The preview shows the container `<div>` styled with a white background and gray margins.

STYLING THE HEADER `<DIV>`

The next `<div>` to style is the header.

- 1 Select `<div id="header">` in the Code window, and then click the + in the Selectors section to create a selector for the header. If your code is still collapsed from your previous exploration, you may need to expand the code to see this tag.

You'll see that in this case Dreamweaver creates a *descendent* selector by putting the `#container` selector in front of the `#header` selector. You can make these settings more or less specific by pressing the Up Arrow key on your keyboard. The only selector you need in this case is `#header`.

- 2 Press the Up Arrow key until only the `#header` value remains, and press Enter/Return.
- 3 Switch to the Text category in the CSS Designer panel, and set the `text-align` value to "center" using the button located next to the name of the property.

- 4 Select `<div id="sidebar">` in the Code window.
- 5 Click the + to create a selector. Press the Up Arrow key on your keyboard to change the value of the selector until only the `#sidebar` name remains, and accept the name.
- 6 In the Layout category, apply the following values to the `#sidebar` styling rule to set the width of the box and move it to the left side of the screen:
Width: **180 px** Float: **left**

- 7 Select the line of code containing the `<div>` named `content` and create a new selector with the name set to `#content`.

The goal here is to set the width of this container so that it snugs up against the sidebar. Since you have a 960 px container `<div>` and the sidebar `<div>` is 180 px, the content `<div>` *should* be 780 px, right? But not when a little padding is added to the left side of the container. When that happens, the CSS box model comes into play, so the content actually slides underneath the sidebar. But you can adjust that easily enough by subtracting the 10 px of padding from the formula to get a width value of 770 px.

- 8 Apply the following values to the `#content` styling rule in the Layout category:

Width: **770 px** Float: **left** Padding-left: **10 px**

When you finish creating that styling rule, the content `<div>` will float up against the sidebar, and you'll be good to go.

STYLING THE FOOTER <DIV>

The final content container to address is the footer `<div>`. This container needs to have a special float property applied to it so that the sidebar and content containers stay put and aren't allowed to move next to the footer.

- 1 Select `<div id="footer">` in the Code window, and create a selector named `#footer`.
- 2 Apply the following values to the `#footer` styling rule in the Layout category to clear out the previous floats in the page and make the text center aligned:

Text-align: **center** Clear: **both**

Now is a good time to temporarily assign background color values to the containers on the page so you can see how things lay out and see if there are any gaps that need to be addressed.

- 3 Return to the selectors for the `#header`, `#sidebar`, and `#footer`, and set a background color of your choice in the Background category.

FIXING THE GAPS

If you preview your design in a browser now, you'll see that there are indeed two issues with this page. There's a margin at the top of the page and a margin below the header.

These gaps (**Figure 3.24**) are caused by the default margin properties that the paragraph tags in the header contain. A great way to see these hidden margins is by switching to Dreamweaver's Live view and turning on Inspect mode. With that little button selected, Dreamweaver will display hidden margin and padding properties as you float your mouse over the different containers on the page. To correct those margins, you'll need to add some new attributes to the paragraphs within the header.

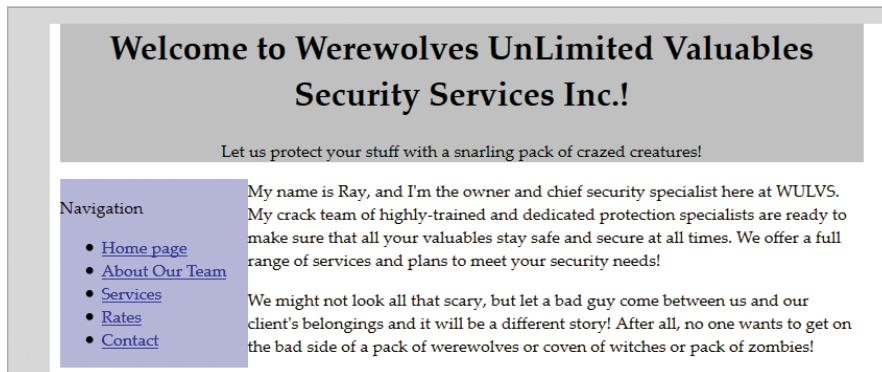
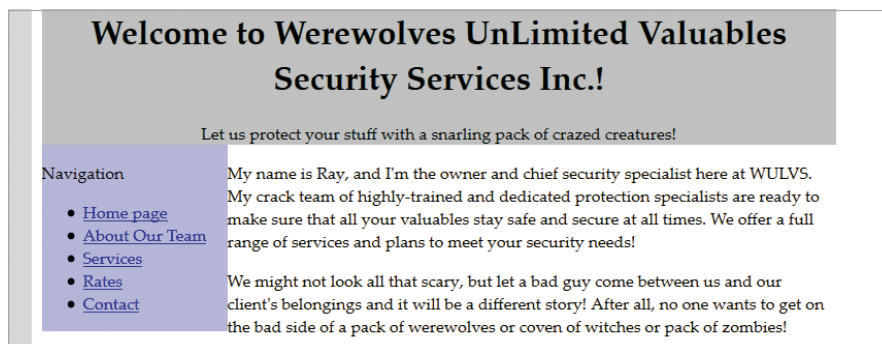


Figure 3.24 Dreamweaver provides multiple ways for you to visualize the contents of a page and check for errors.

- 1 Select the line of text that contains the company name, at the very top of the document. In the Property inspector's ID field, type **header-name**.
- 2 Create a selector for `#header-name` and set the margin-top value to **0px**.
- 3 Select the next paragraph in the header area—the tagline—and set the ID of the paragraph to **header-tagline**.
- 4 Create a selector for `#header-tagline` and set the margin-bottom value to **0px**.

Once this action is complete, you'll find that the margins that were at the top of the page have disappeared, as you see in **Figure 3.25**. Great work.

Figure 3.25 Gaps have been eliminated with a little CSS.



STYLING THE LINKS IN THE FOOTER

The final bit of work that needs to be done is in the footer area. The list of links in this part of the page need to be displayed side by side, and you certainly don't want those bullets to appear. Let's take care of those things with a few more styling rules.

- 1 Locate and select the `` tag that's inside the footer container. Add a selector using the descendent selector. Dreamweaver suggests names for selectors based on the element that's selected. For this selector, set the name to `#footer ul`.
- 2 In the Text category, set list-style-type to **none** as the value for the text in this list.
The bullets magically disappear.
- 3 Click the first `` tag in the list, and click the + in the Selectors area. Accept the suggested new selector name: `#footer ul li`.
- 4 In the Layout category, set the display value to **inline** to have the text appear side by side.

More magic! The list of links shrinks down to a single line, and the footer area now appears as it was envisioned. Once again—well done.

Hooray! You made it!