

About.com: Web Design / HTML

From [Jennifer Kyrnin](#),
Your Guide to [Web Design / HTML](#).
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You don't need a separate page for wireless devices

It's funny, but Web development has been around long enough that we have some habits that we need to change. One of those habits is the impulse to build a new page for every situation. But, in the case of cell phones and other wireless devices, that isn't necessary. All you need is a separate style sheet. Eventually, most Web pages will have 2-3 style sheets associated with them: one for a computer screen, one for [printing](#), and one for handheld devices.

- [Changing the Design of a Page for Wireless Devices with the Handheld Media Type](#)

Tuesday July 3, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#)



Image courtesy cinezi from [StockXchnng](#) #583041.

Do you have an iPhone ready Web site?

I have been waiting for the iPhone for a long time. As long as anyone, I suppose. I wasn't waiting for it because I want one, although it is quite tempting, it's so pretty. I was waiting for it because I'm looking forward to the chance to start seeing Web pages that actually work in cell phones. I can't tell you how many times I've visited a Web page from my Treo and been frustrated just trying to find a phone number, not even worrying about information from the Web page. From [a recent poll](#), it seems that [about half of my readers](#) don't browse the Web on a cell phone. Based on the poor quality most Web pages take on when you use a cell phone or PDA to view them. I'm not surprised. But more and more people are getting devices like Blackberry's and iPhones and Treo's. And if your Web page can't get them the information they need, those customers will go elsewhere. The tips in this article are based on my own experiences browsing the Web on a cell phone as well as the recommendations from the [Mobile Web Best Practices](#) at the [W3C](#).

- [How to Write Web Pages for the iPhone and Other Wireless Devices](#)



Image courtesy Apple Computer.

Monday July 2, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(5\)](#)

No math required - convert RGB to hex

While it's both Windows and Macintosh have calculators that make it possible to convert RGB to Hex and Hex to RGB, why use a calculator when you can just scan a chart. What gets really scary is when you start being able to convert RGB to hex just by looking at the numbers. That's how I can tell when I've been working on color schemes too long - when I start thinking that Christmas is on December 19 and my birthday is December 10. But most of the time, I just use the chart.

- [RGB to Hexadecimal Color Codes Chart](#)

Saturday June 30, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(1\)](#)



Image courtesy foobean01 from [StockXchnng](#) #537438.

11 ways to learn (Web) design

Many beginning Web designers focus so much on learning [HTML](#), [CSS](#), and [other languages](#), that they forget that Web design is *design*, not just Web. The first thing you should learn, when learning Web design is the basics of good design - for Web or anywhere else. If you don't have a good foundation in the elements and principles of design, you won't create good Web pages. It can also help to study what doesn't work - in the Web and outside - so that you know what *not* to do.

Poll: [Are you paid for your Web design work?](#)

Elements of Good Design

- [Elements of Design](#)
- [Principles of Design](#)

Learn Good Design by Studying Bad Design

- [How to Drive Away Your Readers](#)
- [Little Web of Horrors](#)
- [Is Your Site Cool?](#)

Then Apply Good Design Techniques

- [10 Tips to a Great Web Page](#)
- [How to Create a Great Home Page](#)
- [Use Iterative Design to Change Your Site](#)
- [Be Methodical and Scientific](#)

Learn When it's Okay to Relax Your Design Standards

- [Pixel Perfect Design Does Not Necessarily Equal Good Web Design](#)
- [The Web is Not Print](#)

Friday June 29, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(2\)](#)

Poll: Do you link to other people from your Web site?

One of the best ways to improve your rankings in search engines like [Google](#) is to get more [links](#) from other Web sites. And one of the best ways to get links is to link to other people. After all, most people are going to be much more inclined to link to you if you've already returned the favor. You should also make it easy for people to link to your site. Provide ["how to link here"](#) pages with suggested graphics and text to use to link to your site. Keep in mind that being argumentative about links to your site is not a good way to get more links. For example, some sites used to insist that people only link to their home page and would threaten to sue page owners who linked deeper into their pages. Also, you should be aware of how [links are viewed in the law](#). If you have ads or frames on your links, you should be willing to remove them if asked or remove the link.



Image courtesy yarranz from [StockXchnng](#) #426123.

Do you link to external pages from your Web site?

- [Vote Now](#)
- [Yes, I prefer external links](#)
- [Yes, but only to extremely relevant links](#)
- [Yes, when I think about it](#)
- [I don't have a policy one way or the other](#)
- [No, I don't link outside my own site](#)

Do you write to Web designers [asking for links](#)? How successful are you in those requests? What about webring and linksharing, [do you do that](#)? And do they work well for you?

[View Results](#)

Thursday June 28, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(4\)](#)

RSS isn't called "Really Simple" because it's hard

One of the cool things about [RSS](#) is that it really is easy to learn and use. There are only a limited number of tags, and if you're comfortable with editing HTML, you can edit RSS. This article will walk you through the steps to create an RSS feed from scratch, including what tools to use, the basic tags you'll need to know, and where to put your new feed entries.



Image courtesy J Kyrnin

- [Anatomy of an RSS File](#)

Wednesday June 27, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#)

Use an extension to add an RSS feed to a Dreamweaver site

Dreamweaver allows you to edit RSS in the XML, but if you're not comfortable editing XML, this can be daunting. But there is hope - there is an extension for Dreamweaver (versions 6 and up) to help you create an RSS feed for your Web sites. It's easy to use and can even be automated to connect the RSS feed to the headlines and changes that you make on your site normally.



Dreamweaver 8
Image courtesy
[Adobe](#).

- [How to Add RSS Feeds to a Web Site with Dreamweaver](#)

Tuesday June 26, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#)

But I want that font!

One of the great things about CSS is the ability to specify the font you want your page text to display in. But the problem is that while you can provide a [list of fonts](#), there is no guarantee that the font you like best is the one that will be available on your customer's computer. And if you've never had the dubious pleasure of seeing your Web site display completely wrong on a friend's computer, well, I envy you. In order to prevent this calamity, you should be prepared to include in your font list some families that are commonly found on both Windows and Macintosh computers.



Font families: Goudy Stout,
Papyrus, Kunstler Script, and
Matisse ITC.

Image courtesy J Kyrnin

- [But I Want That Font - Standard Fonts on Windows and Macintosh](#)

Monday June 25, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#)

Syndicate this Site!

It's easy to [get the About.com Web Design / HTML site delivered right to you with RSS syndication](#). You can read it in a [newsreader](#) or [post it directly to your Web site](#). And this article will show you how to [syndicate any RSS feed](#). But many people don't really know [what RSS and syndication is](#). And yet, some people think that [RSS will kill email newsletters](#).

Do you read this site in an RSS reader?

- [Vote Now](#)
- [Yes, I read it every day via RSS](#)

- [Yes, but only the headlines that interest me](#)
- [It's in my reader, but I forget to read it](#)
- [No, I don't subscribe to this feed](#)
- [I didn't know Web Design / HTML had a feed](#)
- [What is RSS?](#)

I think the thing I find most difficult about RSS is that there are so many sites out there to read. Do you [get overwhelmed](#) by the number of sites in your newsreader? Or is RSS [just another technology](#) that you do or don't have time for?

[View Results](#)

[Subscribe to the Web Design / HTML Feed](#)

Sunday June 24, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(6\)](#)

Are you familiar with the CSS 2 properties?

The CSS 2 specification gives us things like border colors for specific sides, first-child pseudo classes, and a bunch of Aural Style Sheet properties. If you're not using CSS 2, you're missing out on a lot of well supported features and functionalities.

- [CSS 2 Properties](#)

Saturday June 23, 2007 | [permalink](#) | [comments \(0\)](#)



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Image courtesy clix from [StockXchnng](#) #449243.