

Inserting a CSS Menu Writer menu to a CSS Sculptor page

CSS Menu Writer and Eric Meyer's CSS Sculptor both create web standards compliant CSS to generate navigation menus and layouts. With both of these tools combined, you can easily design your entire site utilizing CSS principles, and allowing you to easily modify and maintain your site.

This Solution Recipe runs through the process of creating a basic CSS Sculptor page and inserting a CSS Menu Writer menu to that page. In addition, the various optional steps in CSS Menu Writer that allow for more advanced customization are exposed.

What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver CS3 or 8
- CSS Menu Writer 1.0
- Eric Meyer's CSS Sculptor
- A site defined in Dreamweaver

Creating a CSS Sculptor Layout

To get started, we first need to create a CSS Sculptor layout. Before starting make sure that your site is defined in Dreamweaver.

1. Select File from the Menu bar and select **New CSS Sculptor Page**.
2. In the CSS Sculptor Wizard, select **2 Column Fixed, Left Sidebar, Header and Footer** from the Layout menu.
3. Under Design select **Nautica**.
4. Select the **Top navigation** checkbox.

Note: The top navigation div will provide an ideal space for inserting our CSS Menu Writer menu.

5. Click **Apply** next to the Preview window to see your changes.

Since we are only creating a basic CSS Sculptor layout to demonstrate incorporating CSS Menu Writer, we will only adjust a few more settings.

6. Click on the **Output** tab.
7. Under Presets, select **Create new preset**.
8. Enter a name for your new preset.
9. Click **Finish**.
10. Press **Ctrl (Cmd) + S** to save your page.
11. Enter **index** as the filename.
12. Click **Save**.

The file suffix of HTML will be added automatically when you click Save.

Creating a CSS Menu Writer menu

Now that our CSS Sculptor page has been created, we are going to insert a horizontal navigation menu into the top navigation div.

1. Select the Top Navigation placeholder text.
2. Press **Delete** to remove this text.
3. From the WebAssist Category of the Insert bar, select **New CSS Menu Writer Menu**.
4. From the style menu, select **Horizontal Accent**.
5. Select **Desert Spice** from the Design menu.
6. In the Menu component window, select **Item 1**.
7. In the name field enter **Home**.
8. In the link field enter **index.htm**.
9. Select **Item 2**.
10. In the name field enter **Products**.
11. In the link field enter **products.htm**.
12. Select **Item 3**.
13. In the name field enter **Events**.
14. In the link field enter, **events.htm**.

We now want to create two 2nd level menu items under Products.

15. Select the **Products** item.
16. Click once on the **Add (+)** icon.
17. In the Name field enter, **Gear**.
18. In the link field enter **gear.htm**.
19. Select the **Products** item.
20. Click once on the **Add (+)** icon.
21. In the Name field enter **Music**.
22. In the link field enter **music.htm**.
23. Click the **Apply** button to preview your new menu.
24. Select **Create a new preset**.
25. Enter **horizontal-nav** in the Name field.
26. Press **Enter**.
27. Select **Finish**.

Reentering the Wizard

The code created by CSS Menu Writer works differently for dynamic pages such as PHP, ASP or Coldfusion, than it does for static HTML pages. With static pages, a menu list is inserted into the code for your page, as you can see if you select your menu, and click the Code button. Dynamic pages reference an include file for the menu list, and the actual list is stored in that file.

For this reason, HTML users may have to change one additional setting in Dreamweaver in order to reenter the Menu Writer Wizard.

CSS Menu Writer allows you to easily reenter the Menu Writer wizard to make changes to your menu at any time.

1. When using dynamic pages, click on your menu.
2. Click the **Edit** button from the Properties Inspector to open the Menu Writer Wizard.

If you are working with a static HTML page, you will need to have the Invisible Element; Scripts displayed.

3. Select **Edit** from the Dreamweaver Menu bar.
4. Select **Preferences**.
5. From the Category column, select **Invisible Elements**.
6. Select **Scripts**.
7. Click **OK**.

Notice that next to your menu writer menu is a script icon.

8. Select the script icon.
9. Click once on the Edit button in the Properties Inspector to reenter the CSS Menu Writer Wizard.

Creating a CSS Menu Writer menu

After viewing your menu in your Sculptor layout, you may want to make some additional changes to your menu settings. Having reentered the Menu Writer Wizard, we can easily make any changes that we need.

1. Select the **Box** tab.

The Box tab allows you to change Dimension, Margin, and Padding settings for all levels of our menu.

For this example, let's leave the settings defined by the design we selected earlier.

2. Select the **Type** tab.

The Type tab allows you to customize the appearance of any text in your menu. For this example, let's increase the font size for our main level menu items.

3. Select **Main** from the menu component control.
4. Enter **11** in the Size field under Link.
5. Click **Apply** to see your changes in the Preview window.
6. Select the **Hover** tab.
7. From the Decoration menu list, select **Underline**.

This will underline a menu item when the mouse is hovering over that button.

8. Select the **Design** tab.

The Design tab allows you to modify the appearance of your menu items, including how they appear in each of the various states.

For this example, let's change the background color of the Main level menu items.

9. Select **Main** from the menu component control.

10. In the Background area, click once in the **Color Picker**.

11. With the color picker selected, run your mouse over the Header of your CSS Sculptor page, and click once.

This will match the background color of your navigation to the header of your page.

12. Click **Apply**.

13. Click **Finish**.

Modifying your menu with the Dreamweaver CSS styles panel

Since CSS Menu Writer creates web standards compliant CSS, you can also use Dreamweaver's built-in CSS Styles panel to make further modifications.

1. Click inside the **topNav** div.

2. Select the **topNavigation** option from the Tag Selector.

3. From the CSS Styles Panel, enter **26** in the **Height** entry.

Next, let's set the padding to 0 so that the top navigation is the same height as the navigation menu.

4. In the CSS Styles panel, select the **padding** option.

5. Enter **0** in the padding field.

This is a simple example of how you can further modify the appearance of your CSS Sculptor layouts and your Menu Writer navigation menu using Dreamweaver's CSS Styles panel