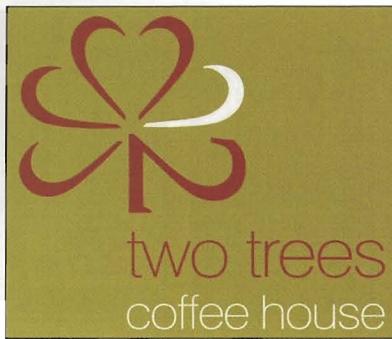


Layout 1: Two Trees Coffee House

Here we're creating the homepage for a fictitious coffee house...

Resource

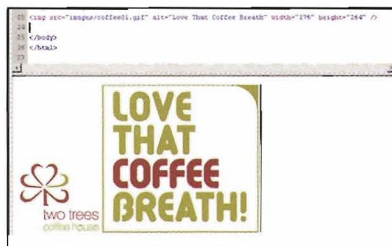
There is a wealth of information on the web to help you learn CSS. We won't lie to you, it's a difficult path to become CSS enlightened, but it's worth the journey. Head to [w] www.mezzoblue.com/zengarden/resources and read many of the helpful articles, all provided free, for you to peruse.



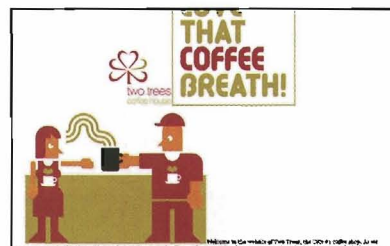
- 1 We'll be creating the homepage for a fictitious coffee shop called Two Trees Coffee House. The homepage is going to have their logo, some introductory text and two other visual elements.



- 2 The four main visual elements that are going to appear on all three layouts are: 1. the logo 2. The boy-girl characters 3. The 'Love That Coffee Breath' graphic and 4. the intro text. All these elements are on the coverdisc.

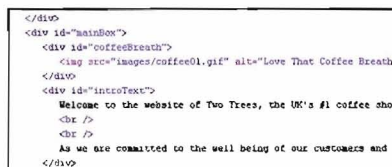


- 5 Next, add the image of the two characters and the Two Trees intro text. Now we've added all four elements, but the layout is still a bit dull.



- 6 Now the magic begins. Create a new CSS document in Dreamweaver. We'll be adding a body and container <div> tag. The body tag controls the font, background colour, etc and the container div makes the content appear in the centre of the browser.

```
body {font: Georgia, "Times New Roman", Times, serif; font-size: 12px; color: #FFFFFF; margin: 0px; } #container {float: none; margin: 10px auto 0px auto; text-align: center; width: 800px; }
```

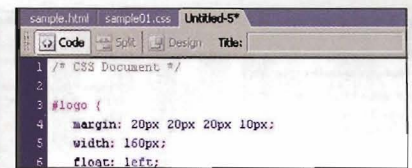


- 8 Now that we've added the container, logo, twoCharacters, coffeeBreath and introText divs, we need to place divs around them to give the page the right look. We're going to create two new divs: headerBox and mainBox.

```
Place the <div id="headerBox"></div> around the logo and twoCharacters divs and the <div id="mainBox"></div> around the coffeeBreath and introText divs. #headerBox {margin: 0px; padding: 0px; text-align: left; height: 320px; } #mainBox {margin: 0px; padding: 0px; text-align: left; height: auto; }
```

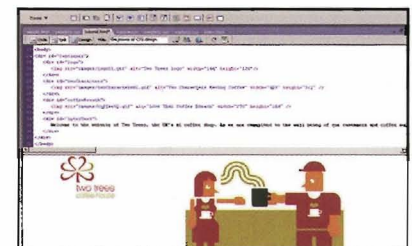


- 9 The last thing to do is give the page a background image. We've created a GIF that is 1,200 pixels high and one pixel wide. The top 166 pixels are white and the bottom is #BCA013. Now add this code to the body div: background: #BCA013 url(images/bg01.gif).



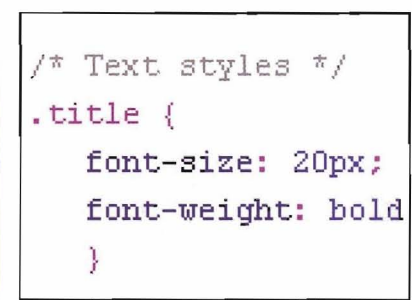
- 3 When you're using CSS, you'll usually breakdown your page into logical chunks. Each of them will be assigned a <div> tag, with info about their height, width and so on.

- 4 Open a new HTML page in Dreamweaver or your favourite HTML editor. We'll start by adding all of the basic elements to the page – the Two Trees logo and the 'Love That Coffee Breath!' image.



- 7 Now we need to add the other CSS divs that will place the logo, the 'Coffee Breath' image, the two characters image and the intro text. After creating these divs in the CSS file, place the <div> tags around the elements in the HTML file.

```
#logo {float: left; margin-left: 0px; } #twoCharacters {float: left; margin-left: 0px; margin-left: 160px; } #coffeeBreath {float: left; margin-top: 0px; } #introText {float: left; margin-top: 0px; margin-left: 45px; height: 240px; width: 405px; }
```



- 10 The last item to take care of is changing the type a little to provide it with more impact. We'll be creating two CSS styles to do this. To make text use the style, place a tag around it like this: Styled text

Layout 1: Two Trees Coffee House

continued

CSS sense

Most of the attributes of CSS elements are self-explanatory. For instance, width controls the width, height controls the height, etc. Float controls how the element sits on the page. If you assign 'left' to float, the element will align itself as far left as it can go, before hitting another element. The best way to learn what these different elements do is have a play around and preview the results.



1 Now that we've created layout 1, it'll be easier to create layouts 2 and 3. Save tutorial.css as tutorial2.css and change its name in tutorial.html. Also change @import 'tutorial.css'; to @import 'tutorial2.css'. This can be found in the <head> tag in your HTML document.



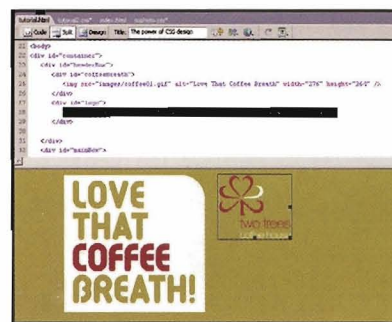
2 Layout 2 is going to have a flat background and the images will be moved around a bit. All we have to do is change a couple of elements in the CSS and the page will change.



3 In tutorial2.css, remove url (images/bg01.gif) from the background line in the body div; we want the background to be a flat colour without using a tiling graphic.



4 Move the 'Coffee Breath' graphic to the top left by moving the coffeeBreath <div> into the headerBox <div> (before the logo <div>) and move the twoCharacters <div> into the mainBox <div>.



5 In the tutorial2.css file, change the height of headerBox to 264 (the height of the 'Coffee Breath' image). The Two Trees logo is a bit close to the 'Coffee Breath' image, so change left-margin in logo to 20px.



6 In tutorial.html, move the introText <div> tag into the headerBox <div> tag, right after the logo <div>. Now change the introText div in tutorial2.css to: #introText {float: right;padding: 85px 0px 0px 20px;}. This tells the text to place itself next to the logo, but place it 85 pixels down from the top of headerBox and place 20 pixels in between the logo and the text.

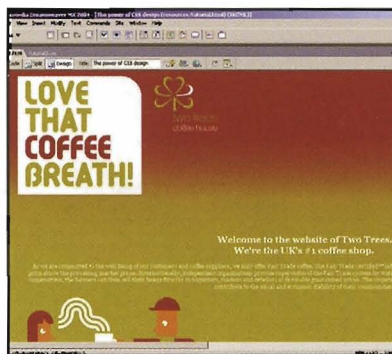
Layout 1: Two Trees Coffee House

continued

XHTML

When creating your web page, use XHTML coding; all HTML tags need to have a closing tag and all attributes need to be lowercase and enclosed in double quotes: `<select name="Names">` `<option>Bob</option>` `</select>`. If the tag doesn't have a closing tag, add a slash at the end, like this: ``

```
body {
  font: Georgia, "Times New Roman";
  font-size: 12px;
  color: #FFFFFF;
  margin: 0px;
  background: url(images/bg03.jpg);
}
```



1 Save tutorial2.css as tutorial3.css and change the link in tutorial.html as in step 11. We're going to use a funky background in this layout, so add `url(images/bg03.gif)` into the background line in the body div.

2 Now move the introText `<div>` into the mainBox `<div>`, before the twoCharacters. As you'll see, the CSS needs tweaking, as the page doesn't look right.

3 We need to change the values of the introText div in tutorial3.css.

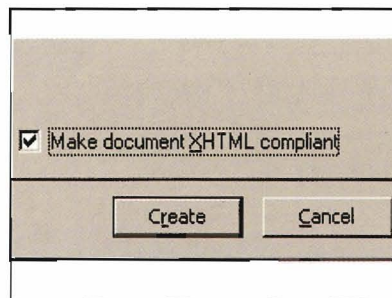
```
#introText {float: left;text-align:
left;padding: 20px 0px 0px 0px;width:
276px;}
```



4 To keep the text from cramming itself into the top of the page, we have to force headerBox to be a certain height. Add a height of 246px to the headerBox div. As you can see from the screengrab, Dreamweaver MX 2004 does a great job of rendering the page right inside the program, without having to open it in a browser.

5 However, it's still quite important to preview in several different browsers to check your CSS layout.

6 You've now successfully created three new looks, all based on the same content file. Some would argue that using traditional HTML tables is simpler, but this isn't the case. With CSS, your code will be leaner and easier to understand.



7 We've had to modify the HTML file slightly for Layout 1, 2 and 3 to make the tutorial simple. However, you should aim to use the same HTML file and only change the CSS. This is where the power of CSS really becomes apparent.

8 In addition to using CSS, make sure you use XHTML syntax when creating your HTML (which will actually turn your HTML into XHTML). For a more complete explanation, read the margin note on XHTML.

9 Well done! You will invariably find CSS frustrating at times, but the pain is worth the gain. Have a play around with all the different elements of CSS styles and see how they affect the page. ■