

Introduction to 960 Grid System

You need to download the 960 grid system from 960.gs web site (<http://960.gs/>).

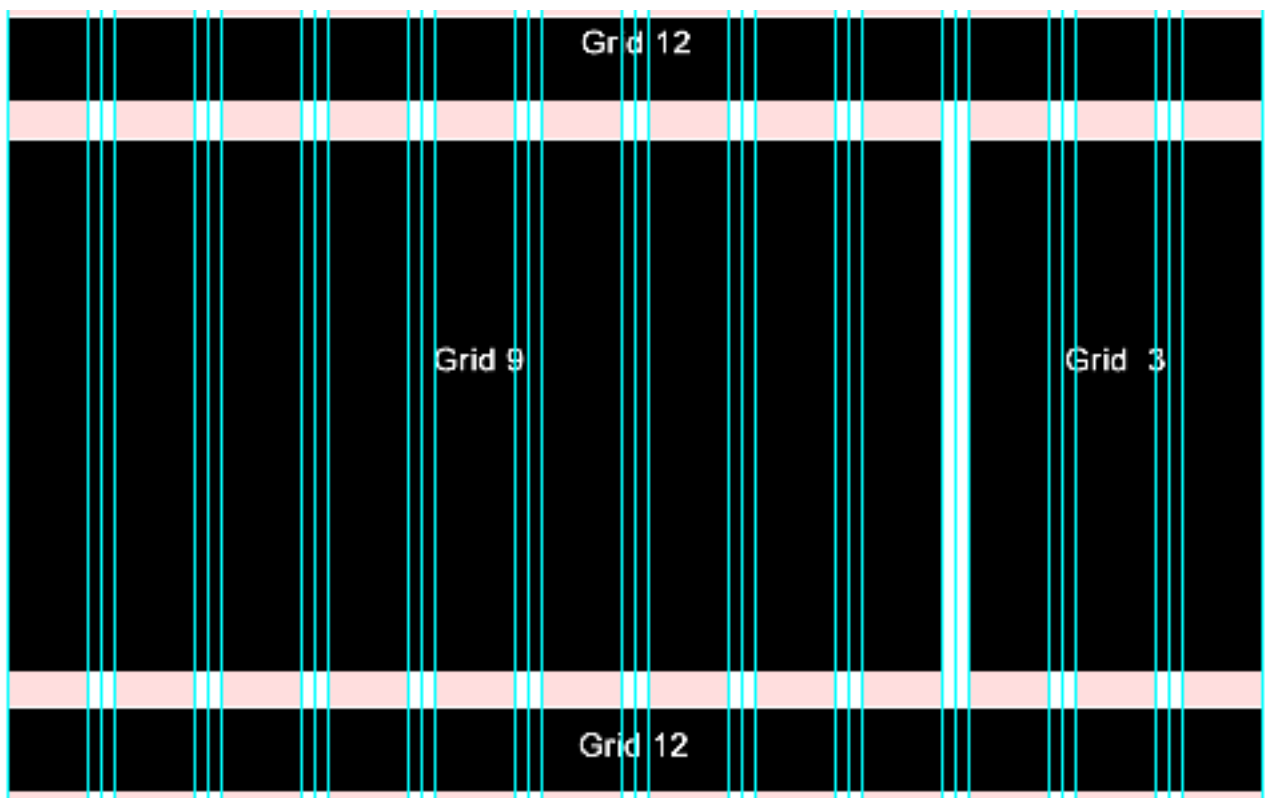
What is a grid based system?



Conceptual the 960 Grid system uses a grid for layout purposes. This is based on one of the core elements of graphic design . . . alignment. Alignment is the concept that you can provide unity to a design by making connections between the different elements within your design. This is done by aligning your elements with each other. Designers have been using grid systems to produce layouts for decades, if not longer.

Download and unzip the framework from the <http://960.gs> website. In the code folder duplicate the demo.html file and open in your text editor.

Deciding on a Layout and Setting the Basic Grid



For this tutorial I will be building a basic web page with a header, a main section, a sidebar for links and a footer with some information about the site.

I am going to go with the 12 column layout with 700px main section and a 220px sidebar. To accomplish this I will use grid_9 and the grid_3 together.

HTML Code for Grid Layout

```
<body>
<h1><a href="http://960.gs/">960 Grid System</a></h1>
<div class="container_12">
  <h2>12 Column Grid</h2>
  <div class="grid_12">
    <p>940px</p>
  </div>
  <!--end .grid_12-->
<div class="clear">&nbsp;</div>
  <div class="grid_9">
    <p>700px</p>
  </div>
  <div class="grid_3">
    <p>220px</p>
  </div>
  <div class="grid_12">
    <p>940px</p>
  </div>
</div>
<!--end .container_12-->
</body>
```

This is a default grid for a 12 column container layout made up a 12 column grid header and footer with a 9 column grid wide main grid and a 3 column grid wide sidebar.

Customizing the Basic Grid

```
<div class="container_12">
<div class="grid_12">
<div id="header">
<h2>My Blog</h2></div>
<p>Description of my blog</p></div>
<!--end .grid_12-->
<div class="clear">&nbsp;</div>
<div class="grid_9"><div id="main">
<h1>Title of the blog post</h1>
<p>My Blog</p>
<p> Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras
fermentum ac, sagittis quis, volutpat sed, magna. Nulla vehicula m
elementum fermentum massa. </p>
<p>Cras posuere, est quis adipiscing suscipit, dolor felis pulvina
ut dui cursus augue scelerisque molestie. Suspendisse ut velit et
Proin pulvinar placerat leo. Etiam at mauris id justo ultricies s
tristique vitae, rutrum at, elementum adipiscing, risus. Integer a
suscipit eget, imperdiet vitae, consectetur fermentum, erat. </p>
</div></div>
<div class="grid_3"><div id="sidebar">
<h3>Navigation</h3>
<ul>
<li><a href="#">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#">About Me</a></li>
<li><a href="#">Articles</a></li>
<li><a href="#">Contact</a></li>
</ul>
<h3>More Articles:</h3>
<ul>
<li><a href="#">Article 1</a></li>
<li><a href="#">Article 2</a></li>
<li><a href="#">Article 3</a></li>
<li><a href="#">Article 4 </a></li>
</ul>
</div></div>
<div class="grid_12">
<div id="footer">
<p>Footer information like email and licensing for site</p>
</div></div></div><!--end .container_12-->
```

To customize the basic grid you want to add some ids to your divs so you can add your own styles. You are going to add a header id to the 12 col grid at the top and a footer id to the 12 col grid at the bottom of the page. Next, add the id main to the 9 grid and the id sidebar to the 3 grid.

Add a Style Sheet to the Page

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="all" href="css/reset.css" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="all" href="css/text.css" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="all" href="css/960.css" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="all" href="css/blog_demo.css" />
```

A list of all the stylesheets in the head section.

Create a new external style sheet, called `blog_demo.css`. Make sure the style sheet is linked underneath the rest of the 960 style sheets.

This style sheet will only be used to change the presentation (color, background images, etc) not the positioning of the divs which are defined in the 960 stylesheets.

Your Custom Style Sheet

```
@charset "utf-8";
/* CSS Document */
/* My additional styles to add to the 960.gs styles */
body {color:#333333}
#main, #header, #footer {padding: 0 20px;}
#header {
    background-color: #D7EDEE;
    border-bottom: 3px #115B77 solid;
    margin-bottom: 20px; padding-top: 10px}
#footer {
    background-color: #D7EDEE;
    border-top: 3px #115B77 solid;
    color: #666666;
    margin-top: 10px; padding-top: 10px}
a:link {color: #115B77; text-decoration: none;}
a:visited {color:#332745; text-decoration: none;}
a:hover {text-decoration: underline}
```

Adding Padding to your Stylesheet

```
@charset "utf-8";
/* CSS Document */

body {color:#333333}
#main, #header, #footer {padding: 0 20px;}
#header {
    background-color: #393;
    border-bottom: 3px #115B77 solid;
    margin-bottom: 20px;
    padding-top: 10px;
    color: #FFF;
}
#footer {
    background-color: #393;
    border-top: 3px #115B77 solid;
    color: #FFF;
    margin-top: 10px;
    padding-top: 10px
}
a:link {
    color: #393;
    text-decoration: none;
}
a:visited {
    color:#333;
    text-decoration: none;
}
a:hover {text-decoration: underline}
strong {color:#222222}
```

The updated stylesheet.

Bonita Blog

Web Design and Development, Bonita High School

Welcome to McGarvey's World

Published on Jun. 01, 2011 by Dr. McG

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