



# CSS Mastery: Advanced Web Standards Solutions

*Andy Budd , Cameron Moll , Simon Collison*

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This book is your indispensable guide to cutting-edge CSS development all you need to work your way up to CSS professional. You'll learn how to:

- Plan, organize, and maintain your stylesheets more effectively
- Apply the secrets of liquid, elastic, and hybrid layouts
- Create flickr-style image maps, remote rollovers, and other advanced CSS features
- Lay out forms using pure CSS
- Recognize common browser bugs, and how to fix them

While CSS is a relatively simple technology to learn, it is a difficult one to master. When you first start developing sites using CSS, you will come across all kinds of infuriating browser bugs and inconsistencies. It sometimes feels like there are a million and one different techniques to master, spread across a bewildering array of websites. The range of possibilities seems endless and makes for a steep and daunting learning curve. By bringing all of the latest tips, tricks, and techniques together in one handy reference, this book demystifies the secrets of CSS and makes the journey to CSS mastery as simple and painless as possible. While most books concentrate on basic skills, this one is different, assuming that you already know the basics and why you should be using CSS in your work, and concentrating mainly on advanced techniques. It begins with a brief recap of CSS fundamentals such as the importance of meaningful markup, how to structure and maintain your code, and how the CSS layout model really works. With the basics out of the way, each subsequent chapter details a particular aspect of CSS-based design. Through a series of easy-to-follow tutorials, you will learn practical CSS techniques you can immediately start using in your daily work. Browser inconsistencies are the thorn in most CSS developers' sides, so we have dedicated two whole chapters to CSS hacks, filters, and bug fixing, as well as looking at image replacement; professional link, form, and list styling; pure CSS layouts; and much more. All of these techniques are then put into practice in two beautifully designed case studies, written by two of the world's best CSS designers, Simon Collison and Cameron Moll.

Summary of Contents:

- Chapter 1: Setting the Foundations
- Chapter 2: Visual Formatting Model Recap
- Chapter 3: Background Images and Image Replacement
- Chapter 4: Styling Links
- Chapter 5: Styling Lists and Creating Nav Bars
- Chapter 6: Styling Forms and Data Tables
- Chapter 7: Layout
- Chapter 8: Hacks and Filters
- Chapter 9: Bugs and Bug Fixing
- Case Study 1: More Than Doodles
- Case Study 2: Tuscany Luxury Resorts

## CSS Mastery: Advanced Web Standards Solutions Details

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## From Reader Review CSS Mastery: Advanced Web Standards Solutions for online ebook

### Erik Mallinson says

I loved this book. If you've done a bunch of CSS but have some problems that you'd like to tackle once and for all (EM layouts, for example) then this book is a great reference. It's definitely a go-to book for common web problems regarding layout, box inheritance, etc.

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### Marlon Bernardes says

This book was really good some years ago, but things have changed so fast in web development that this book is almost completely outdated nowadays. There are a lot of references to old browsers (IE 6, for example) and old hacks that are no longer necessary.

The 3rd chapter - "Visual Formatting Model Overview" - is still relevant and I recommend it.

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### Mark says

This is one of the better introductory CSS books out there. As with most, the information is available on the Net if you want to spend the time hunting it down. Andy Budd goes beyond many such online resources by providing insight into common problems and several tips on how to optimize solutions for some common CSS approaches. Overall, worth the money to have on your reference shelf.

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### Michael says

Overall, I thought it a very handy reference tool for a barely CSS literate person like myself. My only complaints are that it seems to be getting a little out dated. He mentions things such as CSS 3 and how it was supposed to come out later that year (2006). He also spends a lot of time talking about bugs associated with IE, especially 5.X which from my understanding is rarely used these days with the release of IE 7.0 (which he can't mention). Other than that, it was a good eye opener into my future possibilities with CSS.

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### Charles says

This book has really fine tuned my arsenal and widely broadened my understanding of CSS. The book has several nicely organized sections and comes with files that allow you quick references and opportunities to play with the code for a better understanding. Case studies at the end of the book are a great companion for putting all the things they throw at you too. My favorite part of this book was the CSS organization files that are ingenious. To sum up the book in a few words, CSS galore!

Not a fast read and the coding can become somewhat difficult to understand if you're not willing to stop and think through it. But come out of this book with half your sanity still intact and you'll be creating websites like the pros. Well, I can't guarantee you that much, but at least it gives a better understanding of bugs and hacks so you won't have a headache when testing across multiple browsers. That alone is worth much more than thirty bucks.

Requirements: Before you pick this up, make sure you have a basic understanding of XHTML and CSS 2.0 or higher (the book concentrates on 2.1). A little Javascript (not a must) wouldn't hurt for a few files they throw out to you at the end.

*Didn't give this five stars because it's in black and white. Come on, this is supposed to be a coding book for a visual art, no excuses for it not being in color.*

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### **Shaan says**

To be honest, I had no idea what I was doing with CSS until I read this book. Got me quickly up to speed on the basics and then learned all the advanced techniques. Important areas that always confused me such as floating and positioning are completely clear now. And now I understand how to work with different browsers as well. Great book!

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### **Dan says**

An aging but still relevant old standard. There's a lot of focus on cross-browser hacks that will be of little interest to the designers of today, as most of these hacks have been encapsulated in frameworks or are simply no longer relevant for most use cases. Additionally, the two case studies are showing their age. But, overall, still excellent.

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### **Chiel says**

A fine book for everybody working with CSS, great examples. Though I must add I learned that learning CSS is like learning to ride a bike, one can read about it but only learn by doing it.

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### **Book says**

Although it sounds like a cliché, "CSS Mastery" is an excellent book, from the first to the last page. Most of book is written by Andy Budd, with Cameron Moll and Simon Collison contributing with final two chapters.

As easy as it is to find lot of content on Internet that would educate user what can be done with CSS, there's something special to have a book to articulate concepts from beginning to end providing a consistent narrative of the thought and methodology behind some technique's implementation. That is exactly what this book is providing.

Covering everything from the basics of marking up documents properly by using clean, semantic and valid (X)HTML to the advanced CSS tips and tricks. The foundations of CSS are explained as well along with ways to resolve browser bugs on which web designer can run into. Authors will teach you how to style forms and data tables, how to use lists to able creating visually appealing content.

PDF file with errata is available for download from the book's accompanying website where also sample chapter, the table of contents and all the code included in the book can be found.

For the couple of times at least during the read I was happy to realize "...how something works" or "...that's the way they done it" so whether you're new or experienced to CSS for sure you will also find this book useful.

Chapter 1 called "Setting the Foundations" addresses usage of meaningful markup, using classes Vs. ids, different versions of HTML and CSS, DOCTYPE among other things.

Chapter 2 called "Getting Your Styles to Hit the Target" discusses selectors, specificity, inheritance, style sheet planning and organizing, and style guides.

Chapter 3 called "Visual Formatting Model Overview" discusses the box model, differences with IE, positioning (relative/absolute/etc.) and floating.

Chapter 4 called "Using Backgrounds for Effect" discusses using images for list bullets, various rounded corner techniques (including border-radius), multiple background images, opacity (including RGBA), drop shadows and image replacement techniques.

Chapter 5 called "Styling Links" discusses all sorts of interesting ways to play up links, including creating CSS-only tooltips.

Chapter 6 called "Styling Lists and Creating Nav Bars" discusses all the various proven methods of creating CSS-styled navigation, but also includes excellent section about Flickr-style image maps creation.

Chapter 7 called "Styling Forms and Data Tables" discusses calendar styles and what markup can be used to make various layout methods for a simple form.

Chapter 8 called "Layout" discusses how to create fixed, elastic and liquid layouts, explaining the bonuses of each one.

Chapter 9 called "Bugs and Bug Fixing" discusses how to find and isolate bugs, reminding user to "...fix the problem, not the symptoms".

The final two chapters, tenth and eleven are the case studies for sample sites "Roma Italia" (by Cameron Moll) and "Climb the Mountains" (by Simon Collison). Both authors walk through their approach for site building and the implementation of various techniques. Both case studies serve as professional models for reader to be able to learn from and experiment with.

The book's only minor drawbacks should be addressed to some outdated data because of book release date, more color highlighting for code differentiation would be more than welcome and some content overlapping can be seen because three authors were part of this writing project. But all of these drawbacks are so minor comparing to all good things provided, although I wanted to mention them.

As verdict, I will quote Andy Budd who with sentence "...There are an increasing number of CSS resources around, yet you only have to look at a CSS mailing list to see the same questions popping up time and again." greatly summarized this book. The material contained here user can find somewhere else for sure, but if you're in a search for a handy collection of advanced techniques, you'll get that and much more from this book.

Probably this is the best book on the market for this subject, huge recommendation.

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### **Nathan says**

One of the better beginners CSS books I've come across. If you are just starting CSS and feel like you're not making enough progress, definitely check this book out.

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### **Janis says**

Very good, although a bit out of date as IE7 wasn't out yet. Would benefit from a revision. Explores some concepts more widely than Bulletproof Web Design, although I must say that it doesn't demonstrate the markup and markup changes as well as the other. Both books overlap in large areas, but each has its own strong point.

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### **Chenyu Wu says**

A lot of experience, but some are out of date.

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### **Kal Ström says**

The book suffers from sloppy editing, which is particularly unacceptable since it's a revised edition. Also it's much too noticeable when the authors change between chapters both in coding style and in language. An overall editor is sorely missed.

That said the coding techniques covered is nice and useable, however not that much CSS Mastery as I expected.

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### **Rachel Nabors says**

A perfect follow-up to Friends of Ed's "yellow CSS book" which is more basic (but whose title escapes me).

This is not a beginner's CSS book. You should at least read the yellow book or "Bullet Proof Web Design" before tackling this one, which builds heavily off the core concepts you should have already learned.

It covers everything from layouts, to browser hacks, even showing you how to add little icons at the end of external links. Nifty, huh!

This book is absolutely necessary if you are in web design or development. But make sure you've got a good core foundation in CSS and structured markup before diving in.

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### **Prahlad Yeri says**

This book is THE correct way CSS should be learned and taught. Like many Web Developers I used to have a "snippet" approach to CSS design. Since I am primarily a backend PHP developer, I didn't spare much thought when it came to CSS and preferred to copy-paste things from places like css-tricks and bootply.

This book goes into the core of CSS and lucidly explains everything from semantic web and layouts to resets, cascading, selectors, etc. and finally also gives us those "tricks" for stuff like animating objects and building customized widgets like links, buttons, navs, etc. But most importantly, it tells you HOW those tricks work, so you don't have to go googling for snippets!

For me, this book has changed the way I approach CSS and web design!

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