

3-D Buttons

Introduction

When defining a theme for any of the CSS menus, you may specify different colors for each of the 4 borders. This provides a mechanism for creating menu buttons that have a 3-dimensional appearance. In this tutorial we will define a theme that has a red button and shaded borders that create the 3-D effect. The basic idea is to give the top and left borders a lighter shade than the button background in its normal state and also give the bottom and right borders a darker shade of the background color. Reverse the order of these shades in the highlighted button like this.



Normal button



Highlighted button

1. Create a new blank page.


Start Dreamweaver in an empty site and go to: **File->New...**

On the General tab, select category 'Basic page' and then select 'HTML' in the 'Basic page' panel. Create the page. Save the page as 'start.htm'.

Menukit can only be used on a html (xhtml) page that has been saved.

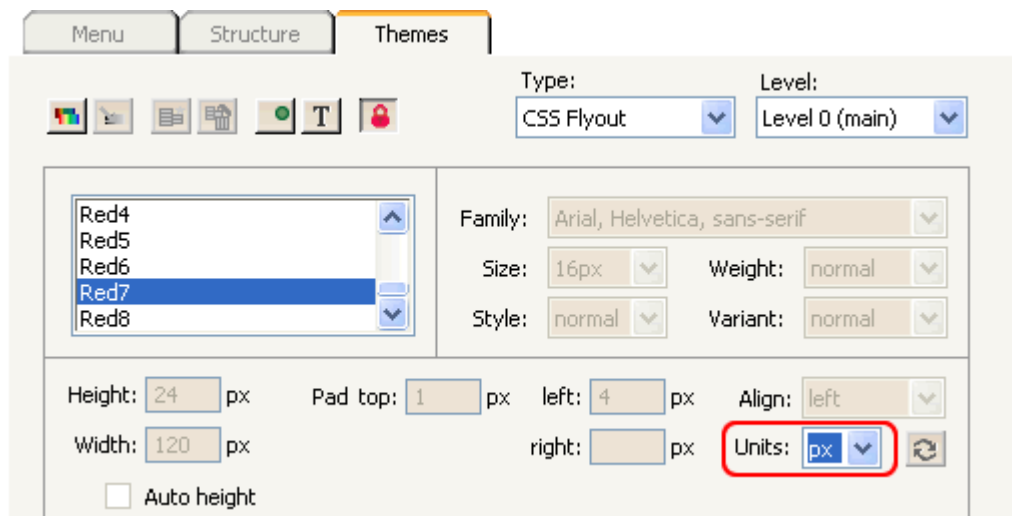
2. Clone an existing theme.


Open Menukit and bring forward the Themes tab. Select a theme that has colors similar to the ones you want. We selected Red7 for this tutorial.

Theme 'Red7' is permanently locked, as indicated by the red padlock , because it is a system theme.

When working with themes for CSS menus, you can choose to work either in 'px' units or in 'em' units. By default, CSS menus display all lengths in 'em' units.

For the purpose of this tutorial we need to work with 'px' units. Select 'px' in the Units selection list.



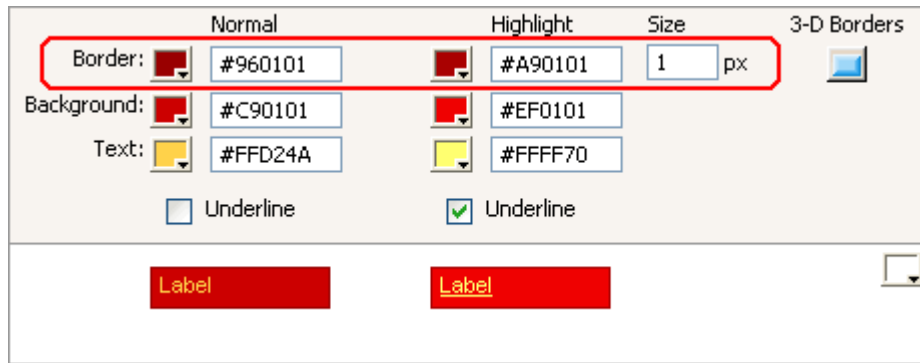
Click the 'Clone Theme' button  and enter the name you want to give the new theme, 'MyRed7' (without quotes), in the dialog box that opens.


3. The new theme has a 2-dimensional border of size 1px. The

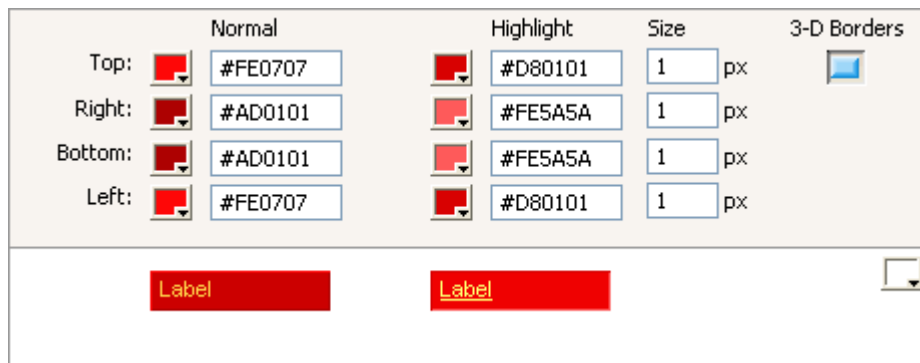
All 4 borders in a

screenshot below shows the fields on the Themes tab where the 2-D border is defined.

2-dimensional buttons have the same color and size (thickness).

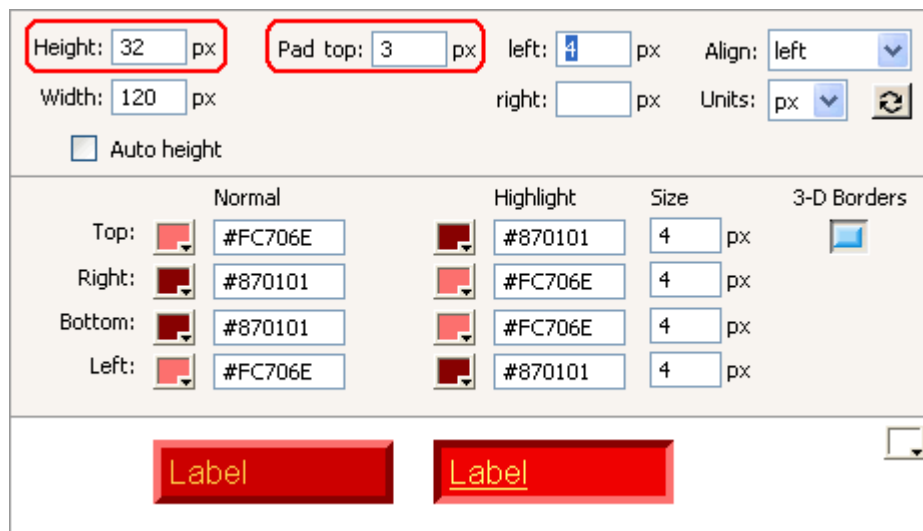


- Since we are defining a theme for a CSS menu, we have the option of working with 3-dimensional borders. Press the 3-D Borders button  to switch to the layout for specifying individual borders.



As shown above, each of the 4 borders has a width of 1px. Although this is usually fine for most applications, in this tutorial we will make bigger buttons with wider borders so we can see them more clearly.

- To create the normal and highlighted buttons shown above in the introduction, change the button's height to 32px and increase the top padding from 1px to 3px. Set the 3-D Border fields as shown here:



Press Save.

The MyRed7 theme is ready for use. Create 2 simple 3-button menus 'M1' and 'M2', for viewing

the new theme. Position the menus absolutely at (10px, 0px) and (10px, 152px) as shown in the screenshots.

When a CSS menu is selected, the Menu tab includes a checkbox that offers a choice between using 3-D Buttons and 2-D Buttons.

To give M1 a 3-D appearance tick the 3-D Buttons checkbox:

The screenshot shows the configuration panel for menu M1. The 'Menu' dropdown is set to 'M1', 'Type' is 'CSS Flyout', and 'Units' is 'px'. The 'Theme' dropdown is set to 'MyRed7', which has expanded to show 'Opart1', 'Opart2', 'Opart3', and 'Opart4'. The 'Container' is 'Document body', 'Position' is 'absolute', 'Top' is '10px', 'Left' is '0px', and 'Z-Index' is '50'. On the right side, there are four checkboxes: 'Format source' (unchecked), 'Create page stubs' (unchecked), 'Use "sticky" layers' (unchecked), and '3-D Buttons' (checked).

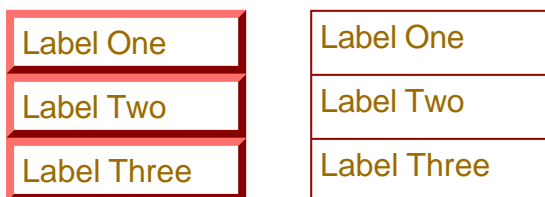
To give M2 a 2-D appearance, don't tick the 3-D checkbox:

The screenshot shows the configuration panel for menu M2. The 'Menu' dropdown is set to 'M2', 'Type' is 'CSS Flyout', and 'Units' is 'px'. The 'Theme' dropdown is set to 'MyRed7', which has expanded to show 'Opart1', 'Opart2', 'Opart3', and 'Opart4'. The 'Container' is 'Document body', 'Position' is 'absolute', 'Top' is '10px', 'Left' is '152px', and 'Z-Index' is '50'. On the right side, there are four checkboxes: 'Format source' (unchecked), 'Create page stubs' (unchecked), 'Use "sticky" layers' (unchecked), and '3-D Buttons' (unchecked).

Make sure to set the Units to 'px' on the Menu tab.

Your page should now look like [start.htm](#) in the [support files](#).

Live Demo



The menu on the left was styled with the 'MyRed7' theme and the 3-D Buttons checkbox ticked. The example on the right is the same menu/theme combination without a tick in the checkbox.

Note The 3-D menu's border is 4px wide; the 2-D menu's border is 1px wide.

Review

We saw in step 2 above that the new theme had a 2-dimensional border that was 1px wide. We did not modify the size of the 2-D border; it is still 1px as can be seen from the menu on the right of the demo.

Each theme includes separate sets of parameters for the 2-D and 3-D borders - they can be set independently.