



MetaBrainz
Brand Guidelines

Contents

1	Logo	4
1.1	Logo usage	6
2	Colours	8
2.1	Colour usage	9
2.2	Project Colours	10
3	Design Guidance	16
4	Accessibility	17

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1 Logo

Use logo sizes consistently across projects.

For instance, *Brainz logo mini is used as the top left logo across all MB database project pages.

When unsure, align with other projects.

Although the icons should never be smaller than the minimum sizes, you may increase sizes as you wish.

*a specific logo may display fine at a smaller size, but other project logos have more detail, and won't. Smaller sizes make consistent logo display across projects difficult and are to be avoided. However there may be fringe cases where using smaller sizes is appropriate.



No minimum

**Brainz icon*

Useable at any size



32px / 12mm
high min.

**Brainz icon detail*

Under this size details can
get unclear and distracting,
particularly for visually impaired*

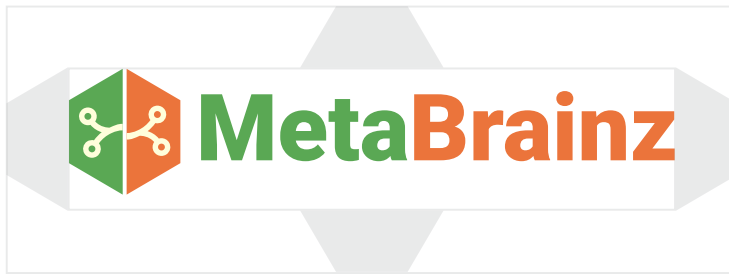


55px / 20mm
high min.

**Brainz logo no text*

Ideally has generous sizing and
space to breathe. If the page/
app/context is very busy, consider
using a simpler icon instead.

1.1 Logo usage



Clearspace

An area of clear space must be maintained around all sides to preserve the integrity of the logo. This separation from other elements optimises visibility and recognition.

Clear space on all sides of the logo is one 'half honeycomb'.

a.



b.



c.



d.



Don'ts

- a. *Don't* stretch the logo.
- b. *Don't* alter the logo or add effects such as drop shadows, embossing, etc.
- c. *Don't* change the logo opacity
- d. *Don't* use the logo on a busy or colorful background

2. Colours

MetaBrainz sub-brands each have their own colour, which is combined with the Metabrainz orange (right).

The PANTONE colour system is a way of matching print inks to a colour as closely as possible. Please use the digital colour for digital applications, the PANTONE swatch only applies to physical print items.

MetaBrainz does not use full black.

This includes for web use, for instance all headers and body text should be set to #1e1e1e.

A non-full black is easier to read against a white background, including for most visual impairments.



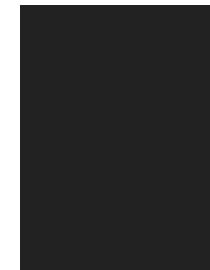
*R 235, G 116, B 59
C 4, M 67, Y 87, K 0
#eb743b*



*PANTONE:
1575 C*



*R 30, G 30, B 30
C 72, M 66, Y 65, K 75
#1e1e1e*



*PANTONE:
Neutral Black C*

2.1 Colour usage

Colours are to be used *sparingly*.

If a sub-brands colour is purple, it doesn't mean headers should be purple - usually you should use the MB black.

Let the logo at the top of the page stand out.

Do

About MusicBrainz

MusicBrainz is an open music encyclopedia that collects music metadata and makes it available to the public.

Don't

About MusicBrainz

MusicBrainz is an open-music encyclopedia that collects music metadātā and makes it available to the public.

Gradients are to be used *sparingly*.

Gradients are appropriate for backgrounds on landing pages and minimal items that are high up in the hierarchy (level of importance on the page).

It should not be used for elements that contain data/information, beyond a header. It should be used sparingly on data-centric pages, if at all.

When in doubt, leave it out.

Do (sparingly)

Download and Use our
App and Software



Don't

About MusicBrainz

MusicBrainz is an open music encyclopedia that collects music metadata and makes it available to the public.

MusicBrainz aims to be:

- ✓ The ultimate source of music information by allowing anyone to contribute and releasing the data under open licenses.
- ✓ The universal lingua franca for music by providing a reliable

2.2a Colours: MetaBrainz



R 90, G 168, B 84
C 69, M 11, Y 90, K 0
#5aa854

PANTONE:
7738 C



#3b9766 *#ffa500*
(web: orange)

2.2b Colours: MusicBrainz



R 186, G 71, B 143
C 27, M 86, Y 9, K 0
#ba478f

PANTONE:
674 C



#800080 *#ffa500*
(web: purple)

2.2c Colours: AcousticBrainz



R 78, G 126, B 194
C 72, M 46, Y 0, K 0
#4e7ec2

PANTONE:
660 C



#4e7ec2 *#ffa500*

2.2d Colours: MessyBrainz



R 181, G 4, B 55
C 20, M 100, Y 78, K 11
#b50437

PANTONE:
200 C



#b50437 *#ffa500*

2.2e Colours: CritiqueBrainz



R 54, G 181, B 178
C 71, M 5, Y 35, K 0
#36b5b2

PANTONE:
7465 C



#36b5b2 *#ffa500*

2.2f Colours: ListenBrainz



R 53, G 48, B 112
C 95, M 95, Y 24, K 12
#353070

PANTONE:
274 C



#353070 *#ffa500*

2.2g Colours: BookBrainz



R 78, G 126, B 194
C 72, M 46, Y 0, K 0
#754e37

PANTONE:
660 C



#754e37 *#ffa500*

2.2h Colours: Picard



R 119, G 27, B 133
C 66, M 100, Y 9, K 2
#771b85

PANTONE:
7588 C



#771b85 *#ffa500*

2.2i Colours: Cover Art Archive



R 32, G 101, B 108
C 87, M 45, Y 49, K 20
#20656c

PANTONE:
5473 C



#20656c *#ffa500*

2.2j Colours: OfficeBrainz



R 255, G 222, B 0
C 2, M 9, Y 100, K 20
#ffde00

PANTONE:
Yellow C



#ffde00 *#ffa500*

4. Design Guidance

Think about the layout in terms of 'hierarchy'. (Hierarchy: the order of importance of elements)

Add emphasis (good location, style, colour, imagery, etc) to elements at the top of the hierarchy.

De-emphasize elements at the bottom of the hierarchy.

Less clicks = better

MetaBrainz users spend millions of hours entering data- this means that one more click to perform a common task can have a massive time cost.

Make a users path clear, then get them there quick.

Less is more

When using design elements - colours, space, graphics - consider how it helps users understand and use data.

Functionality first, then enhance with visual tools.

Mobile-first? Not always

Assess the audience for a page/site.

The nature of some MetaBrainz data-entry orientated projects means that users may primarily use a desktop.

The ultimate aim is to provide every user with a good experience, regardless of their device.

5. Accessibility

We aim to be accessible for all users.

Use your judgement based on the situation, and make your best effort to apply these guidelines.

Images should always have alt-text, and critical content/information be included as text.

Alternate Text describes an image for people using screen readers, or who cannot display images for another reason.

Images should accompany, not replace, important text, otherwise consider repeating the information as text.

Font/text size No smaller than 12-14pt
(1-1.2em / 16-19px)

‘Small print’ can be reduced down to 9pt

Contrast Use sufficient contrast levels between background and text.

Use a contrast checker to assess this:
<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>

Your type/background combination should achieve a ratio of **4+** on the checker.

Contrast 2 Extreme contrast is also to be avoided.

This is why we use #1e1e1e instead of full black, on pure white.



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