None More Black Website

By Alycia Saris

When I started thinking about the subject matter for my website, I figured I would base it on what I know and what I am passionate about. Only one thing came to mind: Metal.

As a metal head, I visit various metal websites. Most websites cater to the global market, most of those bands are on major labels and book giant tours. There is no shortage of media coverage for these bands. I thought about the best concerts I’ve ever seen. These shows usually took place in dark bars in the middle of the week with about ten devout metal heads in the audience. This is my bread and butter. This is what I want to focus on. The unsigned talent. The hidden gems. I wanted to have a website that caters to local musicians. I want to entertain and inform people. A funny meme, a newsworthy story. My ever changing line-up of news, humor, video clips and album samples will keep my site active.

To begin, I chose the name “None More Black” as an homage to the funniest mockumentary ever: This is Spinal Tap. Keeping with “black” theme, I used a lot of black #000000 in my website. To create a banner and background image, I used photographs that I took at a Watain concert. These photos were taken with a 35ml camera on 400 speed film. I had the developer make a disk file so that I could load them into my computer. I edited them using paint and saved them as gif images. I added a glow around the banner to make it stand out.

I insisted on horizontal navigation and searched the web for the proper way to code this using CSS. Of course it is black- None More Black, so I used a glow here too. I used text-shadows to add color to my site. I am not trying to depress people- I want my site to look lively.

I used a rather large font for the page titles. I like the way the teal and white looks against black. I used H1, H2, H3 and H4 to customize text and make it look bright. I used different CSS for each heading to catch your eye.

I formatted three tables for the calendar, venue page and music page. I used CSS to be sure my information was clear and readable. I used deep red as the table border so that my site wouldn’t be overly flashy. For the venue page, I didn’t want biased reviews on the establishment. I wanted information only. Not all venues serve food. Some feel like saunas. This is pertinent information. You may want to rethink your wardrobe before leaving the house.

Purchasing CDs pays your band. Pick up a CD or a t-shirt and line their pockets. Go see them live or check out some bands you may have never heard of. For the swag page, I featured two small businesses that I support. I am a huge supporter of underdogs and the little guys. The music page features some small-time record stores. (I remember Brad Singer- founder of Zia’s so to me they are still a small business.) I used an unordered list to display my photos. These businesses are fun. This is where I shop. My gear page that links you to the swag and music page features my image map. This is a photo of a 1997 Gibson SG. This is my guitar. This is the guitar Tony Iommi plays. I thought it would be fun to use the knobs as links. I love this page.

For the locals page I featured my friend’s bands. He is in both bands. I was worried about copyrights so I called him up and asked if I could use his material. He was agreeable. The Via Vengeance album cover is the only place that I used a float. I wanted to go film some bands with my phone but I ran out of time. I created the Sorxe video by laying a track over a public domain movie. The film is The Red Spectre from 1907 and I thought this looked cool. I posted this video to YouTube so that he could see it. He shared it with his band mates and they all approved. I know we were not required to have an audio file, but I had to have one anyway. For the form I wanted to have small-time up and coming bands get their music out there. This is a great way to hear new artists. If you have never heard of someone, you can’t check out their Facebook page. I would love to help these bands get noticed.

The news page features recent news affecting the metal world. This page is intentionally not fancy. I don’t plan on having a plethora of information on this site. One or two news articles is sufficient.

The text was formatted “centered” as it is on the back of a t-shirt.

I formatted the footer similar to the navigation. This way it won’t look tacked on. I used my actual g-mail account.

All photos (except the lightning photo-creative commons) were taken by me with my phone. I got permission from the clerks before I just started snapping away.