

Dependent Options

OpenCartHelp.com

Software Version 1.1.6

Documentation Version 1.h

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Introduction

Also called conditional options or chained selects, dependent options allow you to control which option values are displayed for a product based on those selected in a "parent" option. This decreases complexity for your customers and helps keep down the total number of option values in your store.

Blank Cotton T-Shirt



Product Code: tshirt
Reward Points: 0
Availability: In Stock

Price: \$10.00
Ex Tax: \$10.00

Available Options

* **Size & Color:**

- Please Select —
- Please Select —
- Large Black
- Large Green
- Large White
- Medium Black
- Medium Blue
- Medium Pink
- Medium White
- Small Black
- Small Pink
- Small Red

Dependent Options

Available Options

* **Size:**

- Small

* **Color:**

- Please Select —
- Please Select —
- Black
- Pink
- Red

Requirements

- OpenCart 1.5.1.3 or later (as specified in the OpenCart Extension Store)
- VQMod 2.1.5 or later (<http://vqmod.com>)
- Chained Selects jQuery Plugin (included) (<http://www.appelsiini.net/2010/jquery-chained-selects>)

Standard Installation/Upgrade

Upload the contents of the **/upload** folder to the base of your OpenCart installation (do **not** upload the folder itself). If you are upgrading from a previous version of Dependent Options make sure to select “Yes” to overwrite the previous files. No OpenCart core files are overwritten. To verify Dependent Options is working correctly in Admin go to **Catalog->Products**, select **Edit** on any product which uses options, and go to the **Options** tab.

Products

Save Cancel

General Data Links Attribute Option Discount Special Image Reward Points Design

Color Required: Yes

Size

Style

Parent Option: --- None ---

Control + mouse-click to select or deselect multiple Parent Option Values below.

Option Value:	Quantity:	Subtract Stock:	Parent Option Value:	Price:	Points:	Weight:	
Red	0	No		+ 0.0000	+ 0	+ 0.000000	Remove
Green	0	No		+ 0.0000	+ 0	+ 0.000000	Remove
							Add Option Value

You should see new selection options called **Parent Option** and **Parent Option Value**. If they do not appear like above see the **Troubleshooting** section. If you have issues at any time with Dependent Options you can disable the VQMod script (`dependent_options.xml`) and your store will return to its default configuration.

Dependent Options / Option Boost Compatible Installation/Upgrade

A special version of Dependent Options has been released which is compatible with OpenCart co-developer Qphoria's Option Boost v152.1 (<http://opencartguru.com/options-boost>). Installation occurs the same way as with the regular version of Dependent Options.

If you have previously installed the standard version of Dependent Options you will need to delete `dependent_options.xml` in the **/vqmod/xml** directory (this can be done by FTP or through VQMod Manager if you have it installed) to avoid conflicts then upload the contents of the **/upload** folder to your store.

Please note that Dependent Options must load **after** Option Boost. This is done by making sure the file name for the Dependent Options VQMod script (`third-party_compatible_dependent_options.xml`) comes after the Options Boost script (`options_boost_vqmod.xml`) alphabetically. If the Options Boost VQMod script is listed under a different name you will need to rename one of the scripts accordingly.

How Options and Dependent Options Work In OpenCart

In OpenCart select-type options are made up of two parts: an *option* and the *option values* it holds. For example, an *option* would be Color. Its *option values* would be Blue, Green, and Red.



Options and their option values are created in Admin under **Catalog->Options**. After they're added they can be used and customized - including price, stock levels, weight and reward points - on any number of products in the product form at **Catalog->Products->Insert or Edit->Options** (these are *product options* and *product option values* but for simplicity's sake they will still be referred to as option and option values).

Products

Save

Cancel

General

Data

Links

Attribute

Option

Discount

Special

Image

Reward Points

Design

Color

Required:

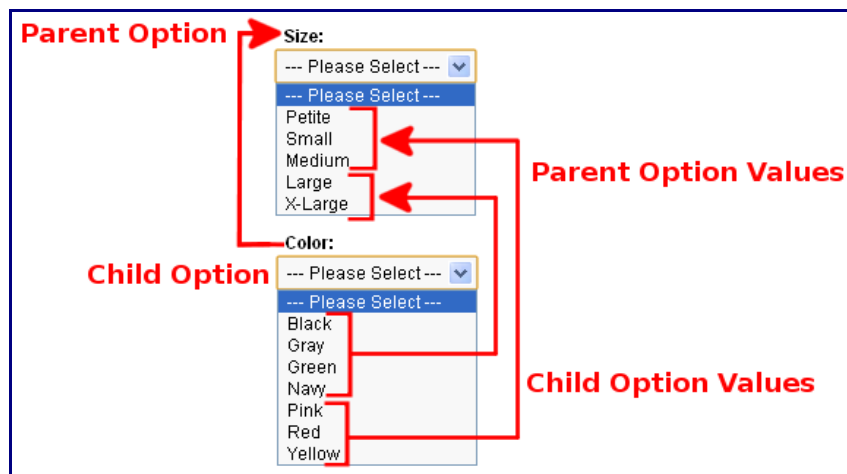
Yes

Option Value:	Quantity:	Subtract Stock:	Price:	Points:	Weight:	
Blue	72	Yes	+ 5.00	+ 25	+ 0	Remove
Green	15	Yes	+ 0	+ 5	+ 0	Remove
Red	0	No	- 3.00	- 10	+ 0	Remove
						Add Option Value

Default OpenCart Product Options

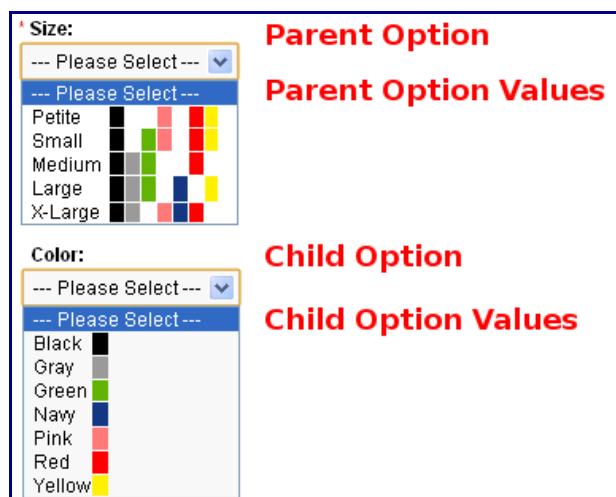
Adding Dependent Options To The Mix

Dependent Options adds another layer of control to this: *parent option* and *parent option values*. These allow you to control when an option value (called a “child”) is displayed for a product in your storefront. If the required *parent option value* is not selected then the dependent *child option value* will not appear. This process is called “chaining”.



In the example above we see Color (the *child option*) has been chained to Size (the *parent option*). When Petite, Small, or Medium are selected (the *parent option values*) then Pink, Red, and Yellow (the corresponding *child option values*) will appear as available option values in Color. If Large or X-Large is selected then Black, Gray, Green, and Navy will appear.

A *child option* may only have **one** *parent option* but a *child option value* may have an unlimited number of *parent option values* from the *parent option* as illustrated below.



The above is an example of a more advanced chained option. Each of the child option values in Color has multiple

parent option values in Size. For instance, selecting any available Size will make Black available in Color. Selecting Medium will make Black, Gray, Green and Red available. Selecting Petite will make Black, Pink, Red, and Yellow available. And so on.

Setting Up Dependent Options

Dependent Options are set up on a per-product basis for maximum control. To begin adding dependencies go to **Catalog->Products** and **Edit** or **Insert** a product and select the **Option** tab.

Products

General Data Links Attribute **Option** Discount Special Image Reward Poi

Color Required: Yes

Size Parent Option: --- None ---

Style Control + mouse-click to select or deselect multiple Parent Option Values below.

Option Value:	Quantity:	Subtract Stock:	Parent Option Value:	Price:
Black	0	No		+ 0.0000
Green	0	No		+ 0.0000
Red	0	No		+ 0.0000

Go to the option which will be set as a child (Color in the example above). In the **Parent Option** drop-down box select the option you would like set as the parent. A parent option must be a select-type (radio or image options will **not** work) to appear in the list and you may only set one parent option. Once you've selected the parent option the Parent Option Values will populate for each option value.

Products

General Data Links Attribute **Option** Discount Special Image Reward Poi

Color Required: Yes

Size Parent Option: Size

Style Control + mouse-click to select or deselect multiple Parent Option Values below.

Option Value:	Quantity:	Subtract Stock:	Parent Option Value:	Price:
Black	0	No	Petite Small Medium Large	+ 0.0000
Green	0	No	Petite Small Medium Large	+ 0.0000
Red	0	No	Petite Small Medium Large	+ 0.0000

By default all Parent Option Values are selected for an Option Value. Mouse-clicking on a Parent Option Value will de-select all the other Parent Option Values and select only the one you've clicked. Holding Control while selecting a Parent Option Value will allow you to select or de-selection multiple values. **Please Note:** You should ***always*** add option value rows to a product before changing parent option values. This is because of the chained selects jQuery plugin will reset selected options whenever a row is added. This does not apply for parent option values which have already been saved or if you are working in a different option tab.

In the example above Color (*child option*) is chained to Size (*parent option*). That means the color Black will appear when the customer selects a size of Petite, Small, Medium, or Large, the color Green will appear when the customer selects a size of Small or Large, and the color Red will appear when the customer selects Petite or Small.

Option Stock Control

Dependent Options uses OpenCart's default method of controlling stock per option value. You can set up stock levels that represent a combination of options but it does take extra work and adds complexity. To do so you will need to add an absolutely unique child option value for each possible combination at the bottom of the select chain then assign stock level to it.

For example, say you have a t-shirt shop. Each shirt has three sizes - small, medium, and large - and comes in three colors - black, green, and red. Size is the parent option and color the child. To set up stock control you will need to make a color option value for every combination. Instead of "Black" you'll have "Black [Small]", "Black [Medium]", and "Black [Large]". You then assign stock levels to each of the option values.

Product and Option Form Errors

Dependent Options contains form validation in order to help prevent against errors in the storefront. You may encounter one of the following if there is a misconfiguration when editing or adding to a product or option.

Product Form

You may only use an option once per product!

This error occurs when you've added an Option, such as Size, more than once to a product. Removing one of the duplicate options will allow you to save.

You may only use an option value once per product!

You've added a duplicate Option Value, such as Large, to a product option. Removing one of the duplicate option values will allow you to save.

Parent option recursion!

Two options have been set as each others parent option. For instance, Size has been set as Color's parent option and Color has been set as Size's parent option. Recursion is bad because recursion is bad.

You must enter at least 1 parent option value!

An option value must have at least one parent option value set in order to appear in the storefront.

You must enter at least 1 option value!

An option must have at least one option value set.

A required option must have at least 2 different parent option values!

There must be at least two different parent option values when an option is required. If only one parent option value exists for all the option values (for example, all colors have only Small size as their parent option) then a required option could end up unselectable by a customer. Care should always be taking when creating required options with dependencies.

You have set a parent option which does not exist in this product!

You have set a parent option which isn't present in the product. You must either add the option or change/remove the parent option.

You have set a parent option value which does not exist in this product!

You have set a parent option value which isn't present in the product. You must either add the option value or change/remove the parent option value.

Option Form

Warning: A product with dependent options currently has this option value set as a Parent Option Value! You cannot delete a Parent Option Value!

Warning: A product with dependent options currently has this option set a Parent Option! Parent Options can only be set as 'Select' type!

These two errors occur when trying to make changes to an Option or Option Value in **Catalog->Options** that's currently assigned as a parent. Making these changes would break the option chain so you must change the dependencies on the product level then make the option form changes.

Custom Themes

Dependent Options has a high degree of compatibility with custom themes. No modification should be required with well designed templates.

Shoppica Theme

The Shoppica theme does not follow OpenCart standards and has many issues with third-party mods that make even minor template changes. It is also poorly constructed internally. As an independent developer I no longer have the time and resources to make one version of a mod that works with the vast majority of custom themes and one just for Shoppica. That's why I've come to the difficult decision of discontinuing future support for Shoppica.

I have integrated changes needed to work with Shoppica and Shoppica 2 into Dependent Options 1.1.6 (those who previously changed their Shoppica template manually and want to use the latest version of Dependent Options can simply restore the default version of `/shoppica/template/product/product_options.tpl`). **THIS IS THE OFFICIAL END OF LIFE FOR SHOPPICA SUPPORT.** All future assistance with Shoppica will be commercial support only, no exceptions.

Shoppica users should also modify the Dependent Options script as to not receive unnecessary VQMod errors. Open up `dependent_options.xml` or `options_boost_vqmod_compatible_dependent_options.xml` (depending on which version you use) with a text editor such as [Notepad++](#) and near the bottom of the document find:

```
<!-- If using Shoppica/Shoppica2 theme change:  error="log"  to:  error="skip"  below -->
```

And change the line below it from:

```
<operation error="log">
```

To:

```
<operation error="skip">
```

AceShop

AceShop is Joomla with a modified OpenCart component. As a restricted source, non-standard derivative of OpenCart it does not fall under standard Dependent Options support (paid support only). Statements on their website that “*All OpenCart extensions can be installed/used*” are not accurate. AceShop users should contact AceShop support to make the changes needed to make Dependent Options compatible which includes modifying the Dependent Options VQMod script to load `jquery.chained.mini.js` through their system.

Dependent Option Limitations

Please keep in mind the following limitations when using Dependent Options.

Option Types

Dependent Options **only** works with Select-type options. Radio, Checkbox, and Image along with all Input, File and Date-type options are **not** available.

Parent Option Value Deselection

Because of the way the Chained Selects jQuery Plugin works adding a new option value row will cause other new or modified option value rows to lose their parent option value selections in the product form. This **only** applies to new or modified option values on the currently active option vertical tab. If you are working on a product with existing parent option values which have not been modified then there is no issue.

Large Number of Option Values

Stores with greater than 500 total option values *may* see slowdowns when adding an option value row to a product depending on your computer speed and total number of option values. This is due to javascript having to dynamically create large blocks of HTML and does *not* effect server or store speed.

Troubleshooting

Issue: Parent Options does not appear in the product form.

Solution: Make you have have properly uploaded the Dependent Option files to your store. Ensure that you have uploaded the *contents* of the `/upload` folder, *not* the folder itself. You may be asked to overwrite `admin`, `catalog`, and `vqmod` by your file transfer program when uploading the files. Go ahead and select **yes**. No files will actually be overwritten.

If you have successfully uploaded the files then check for errors the in the VQMod log. It's located at `/vqmod/vqmod.log`. If no errors exist make sure VQMod is installed and running correctly. Check that cache files have been created in `/vqmod/vqcache`. If you have useCache enabled in VQMod make sure to delete all the files in the `vqcache` folder so they can be re-generated.

Double-check that the product is using Select-type options.

Issue: All option values appear in the product form under Parent Option Value.

Solution: jQuery Chained Selects has not loaded properly. Make sure the file `jquery.chained.mini.js` exists in `/admin/view/javascript/jquery/`. If not re-upload Dependent Options to your store. If it does check the VQMod log for errors in `/admin/view/template/common/header.tpl`.

Issue: “Undefined index: parent” appears instead of the option value name in the storefront.

Solution: If you're using Options Boost make sure you have installed the Options Boost compatible version of Dependent Options.

Issue: There appears to be an incompatibility with another VQMod script I have.

Solution: Try changing the load order of your VQMod scripts. The vast majority of servers will load them in alphabetical order. Rename `dependent_options.xml` to `00_dependent_options.xml` to force it to load first or `zz_dependent_options.xml` to make it load last. If you're using the Options Boost compatible version of Dependent Options make sure to rename both `options_boost_vqmod.xml` and `options_boost_vqmod_compatible_dependent_options.xml` accordingly.

Issue: “Could not resolve path for [admin/language/english/catalog/options_boost.php]” or “Could not resolve path for [catalog/model/catalog/options_boost.php]” appear in the VQMod error log.

Solution: Make sure you are only using the Options Boost compatible version of Dependent Options if you have Options Boost. Otherwise you should be using the Dependent Options marked compatible with your version of OpenCart.

Issue: “Undefined variable: parent_option_values in [vqmod/vqcache/vq2-admin_view_template_catalog_option_form.tpl] on line 100” and “Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in [vqmod/vqcache/vq2-admin_view_template_catalog_option_form.tpl] on line 100” errors appear on the page and in the OpenCart error log.

Solution: You are using the wrong version of Dependent Options for your store. Re-download and install the version marked as compatible with your version of OpenCart.

Support

Bugs should be reported to opencarthelp@gmail.com. Please be sure to include a copy of any on-screen errors and VQMod and OpenCart error logs. Bug fix releases of mods and extensions are always free.

This extension is designed for use with the standard OpenCart installation of the version specified. Compatibility with modified installations or future versions of OpenCart is not guaranteed.

Version History

Version 1.1.6 (2012-08-19)

- Confirmed compatibility with OpenCart 1.5.4.1
- Added compatibility with Shoppica/Shoppica 2 directly into Dependent Options script (changes previously needed to be made manually to the template). **THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER SHOPPICA SUPPORT FROM 1.1.6 FORWARD!** If Shoppica makes future changes that break support it will be stripped out of Dependent Options and users will need to purchase commercial support
- Updated documentation to 1.h with Shoppica and AceShop info

Version 1.1.5 (2012-07-23)

- Moved javascript to before the product page footer to ensure it's loaded at the bottom of the page; this will help with select custom themes like Spicylicious
- Updated documentation to v1.g with the addition of option stock control info

Documentation v1.f (2012-05-07)

- Added more troubleshooting help.

Version 1.1.4-boost.1 (2012-04-11)

- Fixed Options Boost batch add options bug (standard version unaffected)

Version 1.1.4 (2012-04-04)

- Fixed “Undefined index: option_id” error on some instances of product form validation errors
- Improved custom theme compatibility (because there's no completely unnecessary template change Shoppica won't make)
- Updated troubleshooting section in documentation (Version 1.e)

Version 1.1.3 (2012-04-03)

- Fixed small bug where Dependent Options database table wasn't being created in rare instances (only effects new installations of Dependent Options)
- Backported to OpenCart 1.5.0.x through 1.5.1.2

Version 1.1.2 (2012-03-26)

- Added compatibility with Qphoria's Option Price Update Redux (<http://opencartguru.com/opu-redux>). Compatibility exists in both the standard and Option Boost compatible versions of Dependent Options.

Version 1.1.1 (2012-03-13)

- Option Boost compatible Dependent Options released (separate download from regular version)
- Slight speed improvement when adding products without dependent options
- Expanded Troubleshooting and added Option Boost installation to documentation (Version 1.d)
- Expanded code commenting for other developers

Version 1.1.0 (2012-03-03)

- Fixed bug where new product option value rows weren't properly saving parent option values
- Added OpenCart 1.5.2 compatibility
- Documentation "Installation/Upgrade" and "Troubleshooting" sections update

Version 1.0.1 (2012-03-01)

- Small template changes to improve compatibility with third-party mods
- Database validation routine update

Version 1.0.0 (2012-02-29)

- Initial Release

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