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Technical Report

HTML & CSS CA₁

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1. Summary

Create a responsive website based on my adobe designs using only html and css, mimicking as best I can any java interactions, keeping the code neat and semantic, adhering to DRY principles.

2. Body

2.1. First Steps

From my MA3 homepage, I created a general template for the header and footer. From the comments received I fixed some bugs and incorrect html use. My initial designs used a width of 360px, so I aimed to make the site responsive to that size, but based on data from statcounter.com, I made some considerations for sizes down to 320px.

2.2. Stylesheet Organisation

For my stylesheet I decided to use a main stylesheet with shared styles for all the pages and then create an additional stylesheet for each page to avoid running into conflicts, and to make fixing bugs and adding alterations to those pages easier. With the aims to consolidate overlapping styles on the pages into the main as I created additional pages.

2.3. Images and Icons

I exported icons from Adobe XD and resized my stock photos to the same sizes so they would responsively grow in their grids equally. In the case of promo images on the main page I created 2-3 different image sizes to increase quality on bigger screens, avoiding a pixelated look on higher resolutions. I also standardised the size of my icons to 60 by 60 pixels so they would uniformly enlarge and shrink.



2.4. HTML and CSS

I then began writing out the main html for each of the pages, applying some general grids and layouts I had in my main stylesheet as well as creating addition layouts ending up with 3-page wrappers to use depending on the amount of content to avoid large sprawls of text. I then began styling pages to get the look and feel of them.

I validated the pages using '<https://validator.w3.org/nu/>' and corrected any errors and warnings. As I went through the website, I fixed bugs I noticed and made note of others if the fixes were not apparent to me at the time, and created a check list of things to do, and extra things I would like to add if time permitted.

2.5. Inputs and Forms

On pages with user input I used forms, with the action to send them to the next step in the process. I added some validation to prevent incorrect information entries and insure all relevant fields were filled in, I expect this can be expanded upon later with java and to add more useful error messages, especially in the case of the number fields to ensure they are filled in correctly. I then pre-filled the sections with values to allow a quick flow through.

On the products, cart and details pages I similarly styled the radio and checkbox. I removed all the appearances and used a pseudo after element to style them, but found on Iphones and I pads they continued to display a box, so after looking at examples from 'W3 Schools' and an article on 'Modern CSS, Pure Css Custom Checkbox Style', I found a solution in making the input a container for the after element and overlaying it on top to hide the button. For the product page I used radio buttons on the thumbnails to change the product image.

I also added a tooltip on the contact form and payment form, which displays a data tooltip when hovering over the element, the method of which I got from 'Kevin Powells' youtube videos on pseudo elements.



2.6. Buttons and Overlays

For my buttons I had a general style with various alteration made based on the element they were applied to. I added hover interactions with some transition timings to have the colours fade into the next, of which I applied to my navigation bar as well and removed the underline text on hover. I also added some CTA buttons to my images on the home page.

For the image hover I created a container and placed an empty division set to overlay and darken the image. I positioned this ahead of the text and button overlays in the html, so they would be on top as they had their own stylings for hover.

2.7. Wrappers, Grids and Containers

I used 3 wrappers with max-widths 1200/800/600px, setting a width of 90% to avoid content riding the edge of the screen. I used 1200px for 1 to 2 columns grow and the 800 and 600 on pages with a single column, to avoid a massive text sprawl on larger screens.

I used a general grid pattern 1 column to 2 from mobile to tablet/desktop, with the product cards in a grid following 1-2-3/4.

2.7. Media Queries

I added snapping points at 500px for the product cards, 700px for the two-column layout to start, and then finally at 850px where the navigation bar is large enough to be in open format, the images also go to their largest sizes. I also added a 360px and below to allow the header and footer to shrink to 320px.

2.8. Bug Testing

I used 'Lambda test' to thoroughly check my site on iPhones and iPads as I do not own any apple devices, I then used the 1 min testing window on 'Browser Stack' to spot check fixes to my code. I used my own galaxy tablet and phones to check functionality on android with various browsers.



2.8. Conclusion

Overall, I have captured the general style of my design with a decrease in options on the main navigation as further filtering can be done on the product lists. I have tried to adhere to DRY principles although as my CSS file gets larger it has gotten more difficult to keep track of more minor overlaps.



3. References

3.1. Screen Size Statistics

State Counter, gs.statcounter.com

<https://gs.statcounter.com/screen-resolution-stats>

<https://gs.statcounter.com/screen-resolution-stats/mobile/worldwide>

3.2. Tool tip

Kevin Powell, CSS Before and After pseudo elements explained - part two: the content property,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoRbkm8XgfQ&t=207s>

3.3. Checkbox

W3 Schools, How to – Custom Checkbox,

https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_custom_checkbox.asp

Stephanie Eckles, Pure CSS Custom Checkbox Style,

<https://moderncss.dev/pure-css-custom-checkbox-style/>

3.4. Website testing

Lambdatest, <https://www.lambdatest.com/>

Am I responsive design, <http://ami.responsivedesign.is/#>

Browser Stack, www.browserstack.com

4. Inspiration and Guides

<https://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/complete-guide-grid/>

<https://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/a-guide-to-flexbox/>

Kevin Powell, [Youtube channel](#)

Hover effects for buttons;

<https://www.sliderrevolution.com/resources/css-button-hover-effects/>

