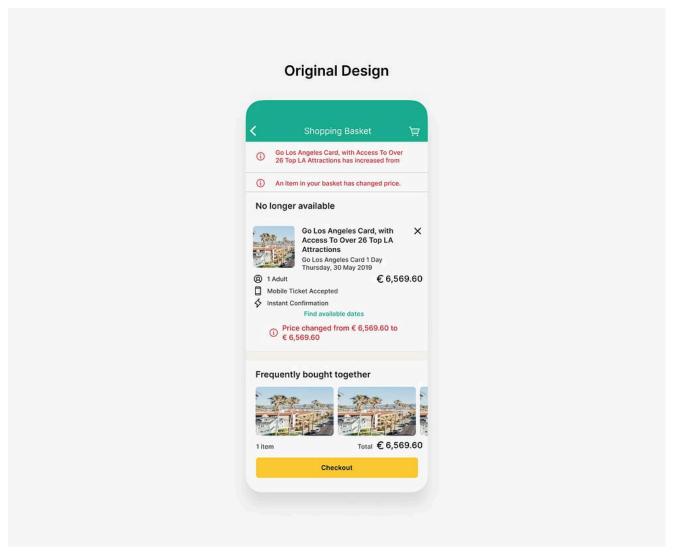
Link: How to use Strings Method to improve any UI design | by Alexander Deploy | Alexander Deploy | Blog | Medium

Sometimes, when you're building a UI or trying to analyse competitors' apps, you notice that something is wrong with the UI, but you can't say for sure what it is. It just looks wrong, or not well aligned, or noisy.

If you need to make the UI look more professional and clean, you can use Strings Method to clean it up quickly.

Let's take a look at this screen first, it's clearly noisy and not well aligned:



How to use Strings Method in UI design

1. As a first step we need **scan each line** of the screen horizontally **and draw vertical line (a string)** every time we see any new object on the path, like that:

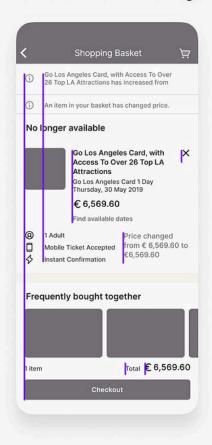
Original Design Applying Strings Shopping Basket Shopping Basket Go Los Angeles Card, with Access To Over 26 Top LA Attractions has increased from Go Los Angeles Card, with Access To Over 26 Top LA Attractions has increased from An item in your basket has changed price. An item in your basket has changed price. No longer available No longer available Go Los Angeles Card, with Access To Over 26 Top LA Attractions Go Los Angeles Card, with Access To Over 26 Top LA Attractions Go Los Angeles Card 1 Day Thursday, 30 May 2019 Go Los Angeles Card 1 Day Thursday, 30 May 2019 € 6,569.60 □ Adult □ Mobile □ Instant @ 1 Adult € 6,569.60 Mobile Ticket Accepted Mobile Ticket Accepted Instant Confirmation ♦ Instant Confirmation Find available dates Find available dates ① Price changed from € 6,569.60 to € 6,569.60 Price changed from € 6,569.60 to € 6,569.60 Frequently bought together Frequently bought together Total € 6,569.60 Total € 6,569.60 Checkout

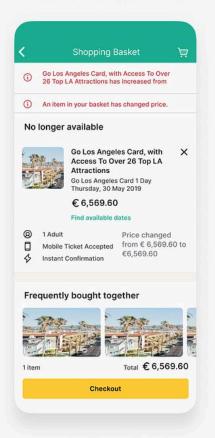
Big amount of strings is an indicator that UI is noisy and not well aligned

2. Second, you need to re-build the UI and reduce amount of vertical lines. Without changing typography, colors and improving layout, but just by **reducing amount of strings you can improve the UI dramatically**:

Reduced Amount of Strings

With Content to See the Result





On the left: reduced amount of strings, on the right: version with content and colors to see the result

3. Now we can compare original design with updated:

Using the Strings Method can be a valuable tool for improving UI design, but it's important to recognize that columns also play a role in this process. While the Strings Method helps clean up the UI quickly, columns can provide structure and organization to your design. Think of columns as a foundation, ensuring elements are neatly arranged and aligned, while the Strings Method is like a fine-tuning tool for detailed analysis.

About the author

Alexander Deplov is a digital designer with 16 years of experience who creates intuitive and easy-to-use interfaces. He interested in increasing the maturity of startups in user experience by advocating for users' needs and aligning them with business goals. Follow <u>n Alex on LinkedIn.</u>

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