



RJ CODE MODERN UI

Custom themes, styles, forms and controls for WinForm + Source code



FAST GUIDE

PROGRAMMING TUTORIALS

Simple, easy, fast and fun learning

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1. Introduction

Hello colleague ☺, RJ Code greets you. First of all, I want to thank you for acquiring the project, I really hope this adds a little more to your skills and that you gain new knowledge.

Well, **the project itself is NOT a template. The main objective of the project is to teach how to make custom forms and controls** to build modern and elegant user interfaces, which is why I categorize it as a written tutorial. There are **3 help components for this**: the documentation, the comments and the demo.

1.1. Documentation

It should be mentioned that it does not refer to the documentation of the life cycle of a software, but rather it is a simple documentation for the end user (For you).

The documentation **describes each of the components of the project**, this facilitates the interaction with the source code, so that you can know the functionality of each of the fields, properties and methods, or **be able to quickly locate a class, method or property** in a context determined, thus being able to modify or add new functions or appearance properties.

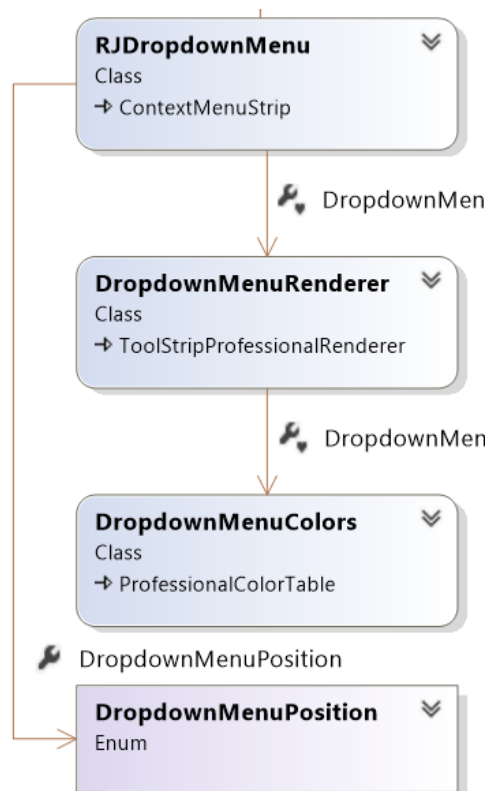
The trick is to **look at the class diagrams**, because with this you will already **know from which class a control or form inherits**, as well as knowing which fields, properties and methods it implements. **For example**, suppose we have the **dropdown menu control** (RJDropDownMenu):

- RJDropDownMenu - Collapsed Class Diagram

With this we can determine that:

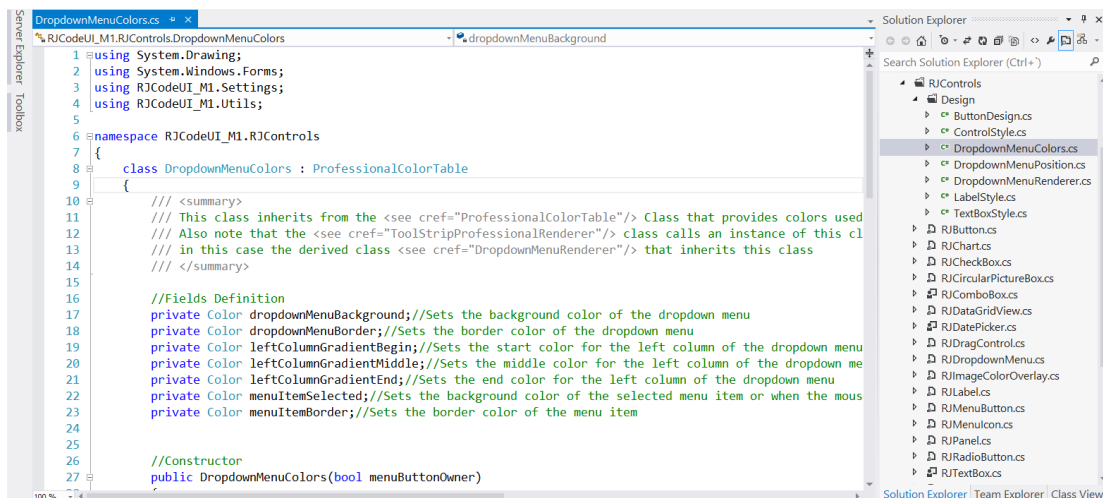
- ✓ The **RJDropDownMenu** control inherits from the **ContextMenuStrip** class (existing Windorm Form control), therefore it retains all its functionalities.
- ✓ The **RJDropDownMenu** control depends on the **DropDownMenuRenderer** and **DropDownMenuColors** class to configure its appearance properties.
- ✓ The **DropDownMenuRenderer** class inherits from the **ToolStripProfessionalRenderer** class.
- ✓ The **DropDownMenuColors** class inherits from the **ProfessionalColorTable** class.

There are also the **expanded class diagrams** to know the fields, properties and methods of a class. So if you want to modify the border color, just locate the **ColorBorder** property or something related to it.



1.2. Comments

Comments **describe or specify the function of a field, property, method, or class**. As seen in the following screenshot of the **DropDownMenuColors** class.



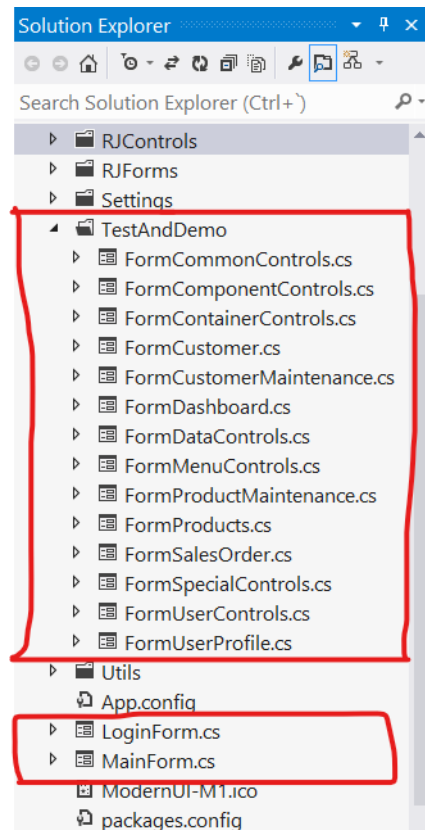
Therefore, it is not so necessary to read the description of the fields, properties and methods in the documentation, as they are often similar.

1.3. Demonstration

The demo basically consists of all the forms already designed in the project that test and demonstrate how to use the controls and custom forms (Most of these forms group and describe a specific control).

The LoginForm, MainForm, and all forms in the TestAndDemo folder are demo samples.

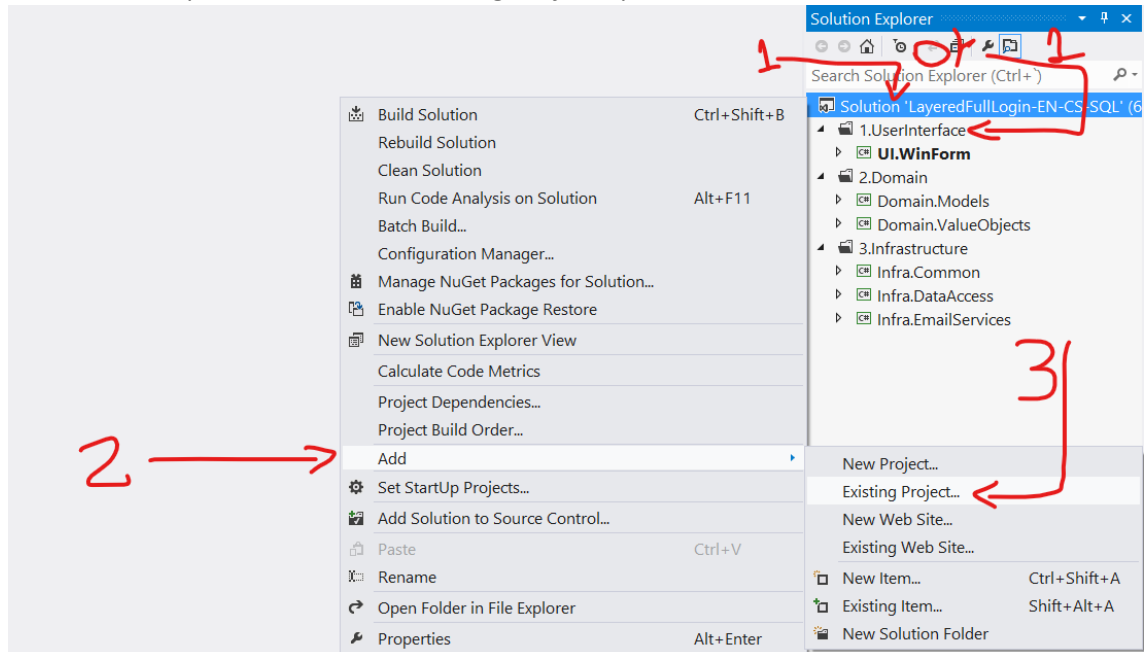
- ✓ The **LoginForm** demonstrates the use of the base class **RJBaseForm**.
- ✓ The **MainForm** demonstrates the use of the **RJMainForm** base class.
- ✓ The forms in the **TestAndDemo** folder demonstrate the use of the **RJChildForm** base class.
- ✓ **All the above forms add custom controls to demonstrate usage of these.**



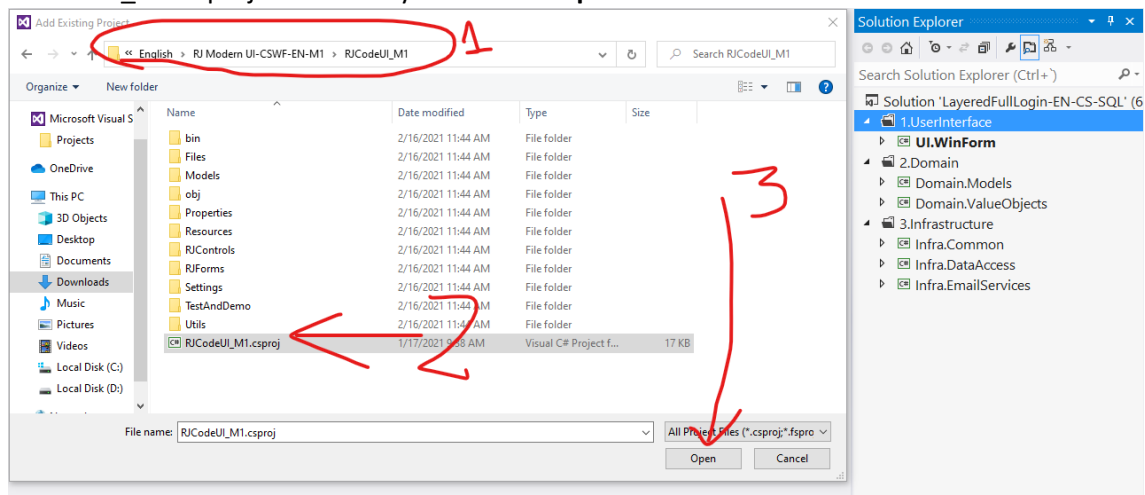
2. How to implement the project in my existing project?

You can easily add the RJ Code Moden UI-M1 project to your existing project by following the steps below:

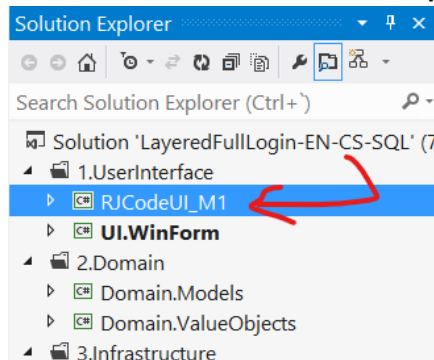
1. **Right click on the solution or solution folder** of your Visual Studio project -> Hover over the **Add** option -> Select the **Existing Project** option.



2. **We locate the RJCodeUI_M1.csproj file in the downloaded package** -> We select the RJCodeUI_M1.csproj file -> Finally we click on **Open**.



3. **You can now use and work on the project RJ Code Moden UI-M1 (Don't forget to set the project as the startup project).**



RECOMMENDATION:

It is not possible to update the appearance of your existing forms and controls with the RJCodeUI_M1 project. Therefore, I recommend redoing the entire User Interface (Presentation) layer of your project in the RJCodeUI_M1 project. As explained later.

3. How to use the custom forms?

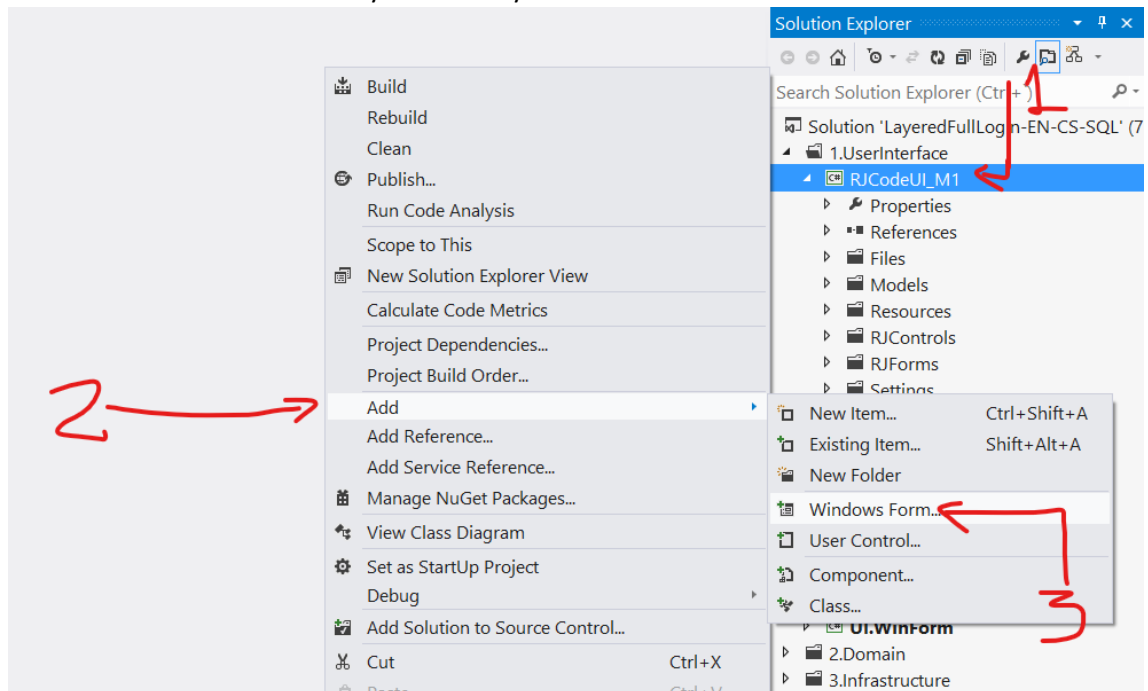
As stated above, **you need to completely redo the User Interface layer** of your existing project **in the RJCodeUI_M1 project** that you added. **I do not recommend editing the project's test and demo forms** (This includes LoginForm, MainForm and all forms in the TestAndDemo folder), as these help you understand and interact with the source code. Therefore, **I recommend creating new forms.**

To use custom forms base (RJBaseForm, RJMainForm, and RJChildForm), just inherit one of them, as shown below.

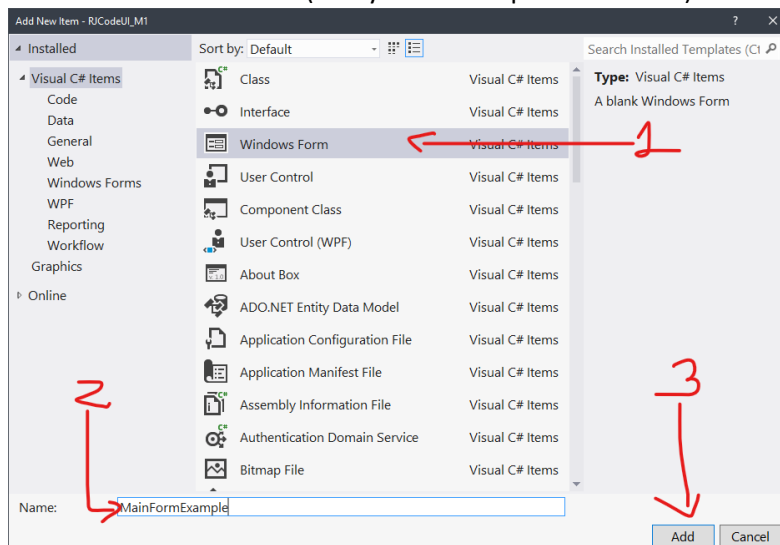
3.1. Create main form

To create a main form **inherit the RJMainForm class**, following the steps below:

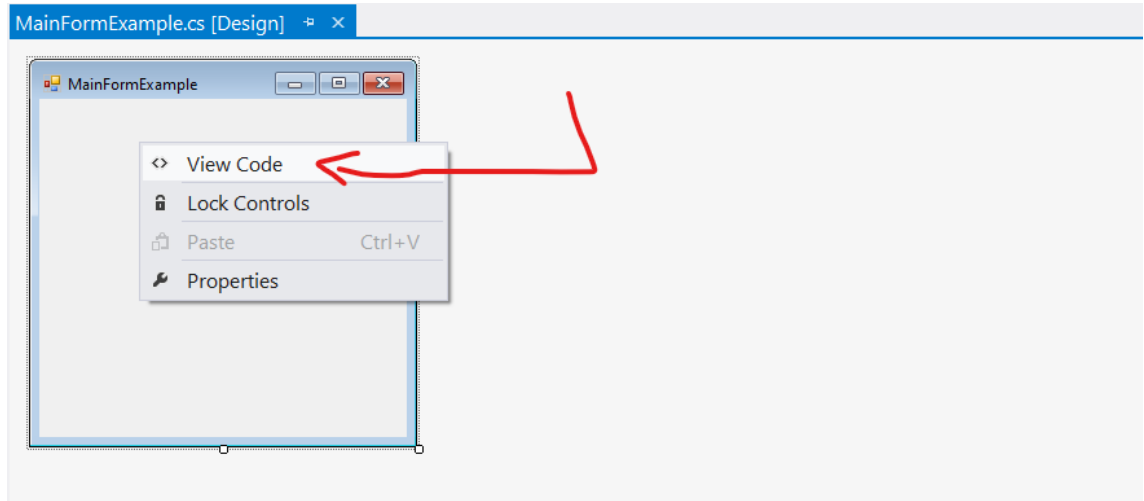
1. **Add a new Windows Form** as you normally would.



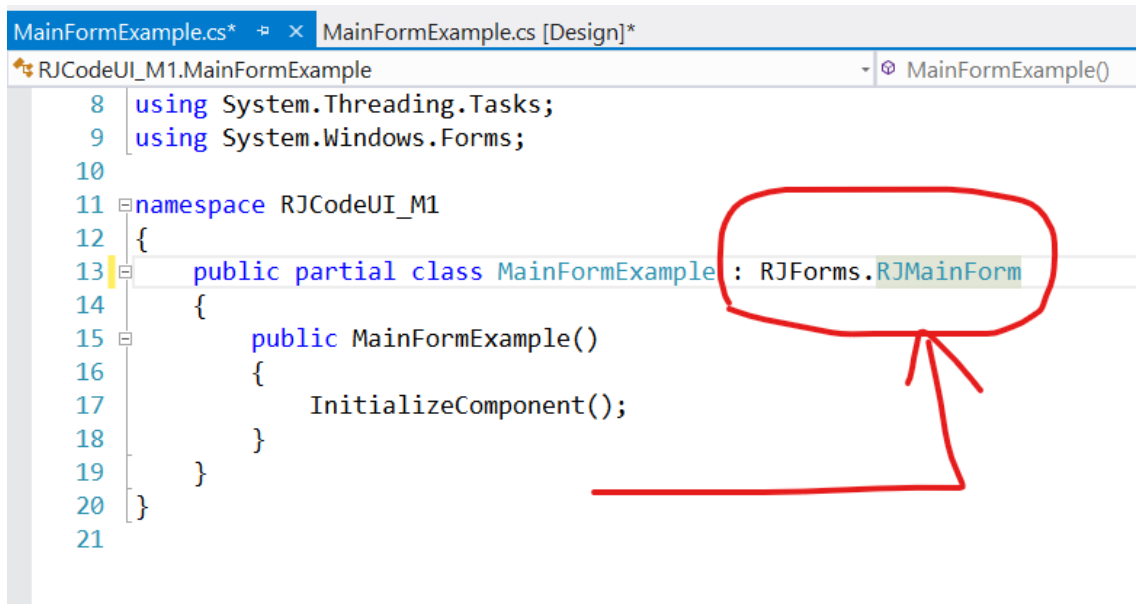
2. **Put a name for the form (In my case Example Main Form) and click on Add.**



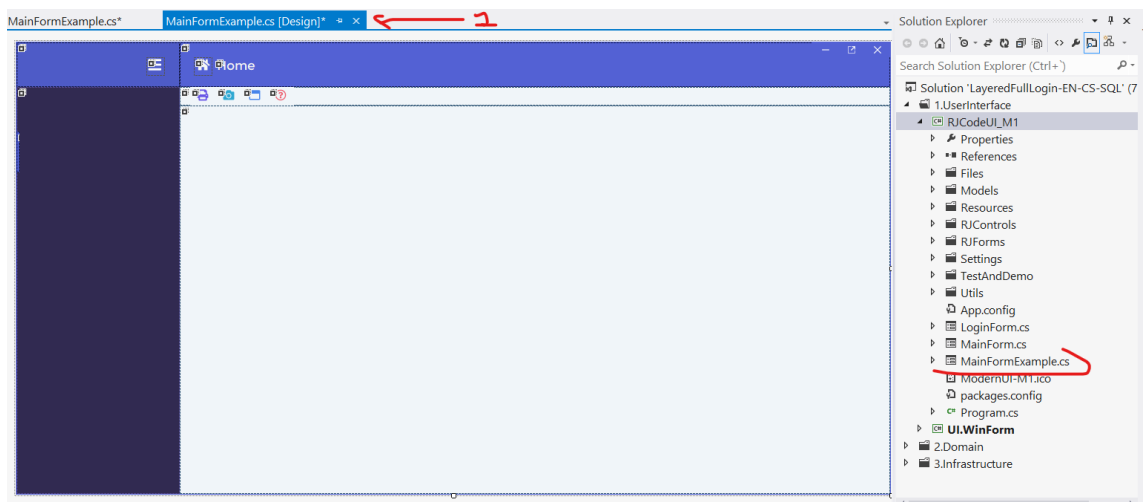
3. Go to the form code added (Right click-> View code).



4. Once in the code, inherit the **RJMainForm** class.



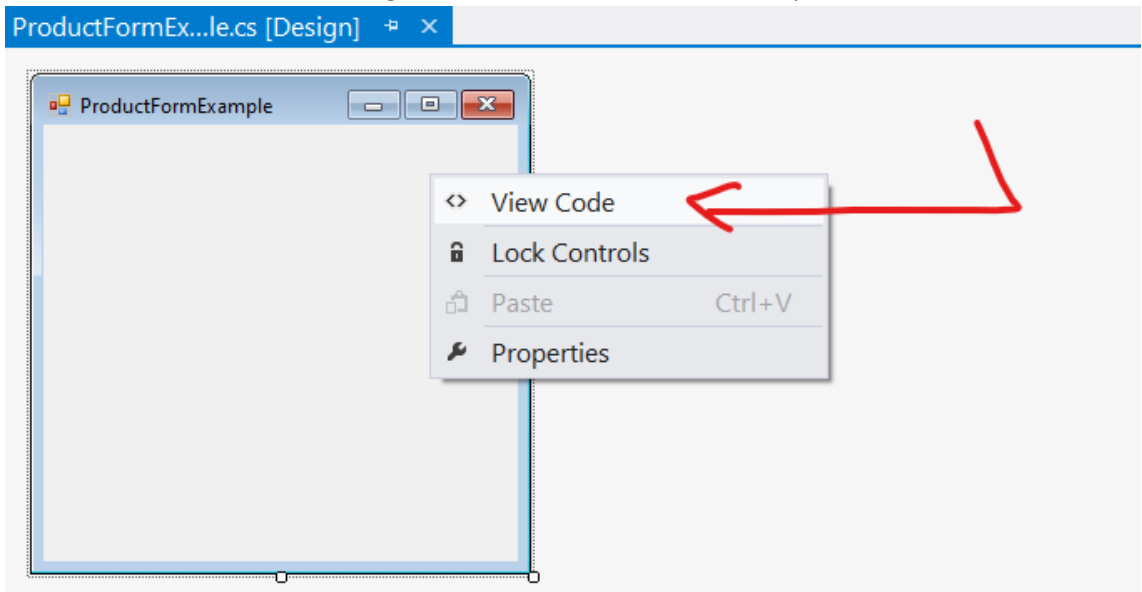
5. Lastly, go to the form designer and you will have the applied appearance of the main form as shown below.



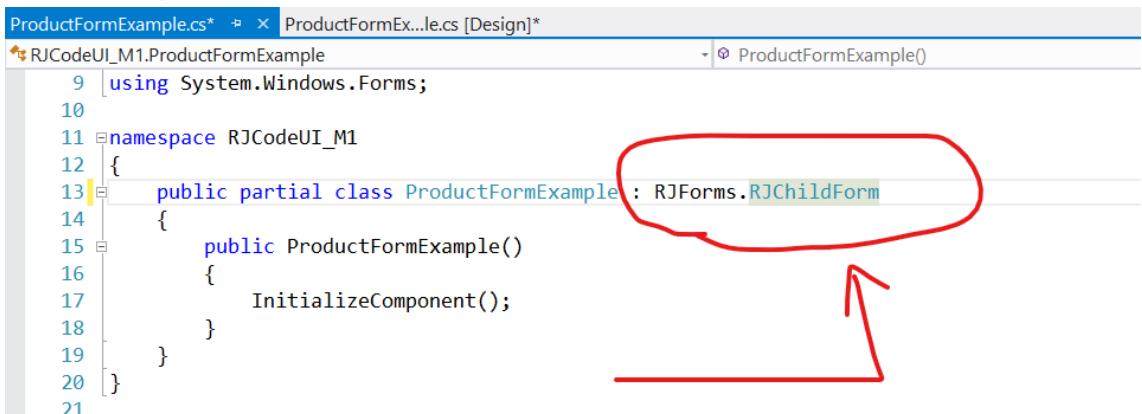
3.2. Create child forms

To create a child form **inherit the RJChildForm class**, following the steps below:

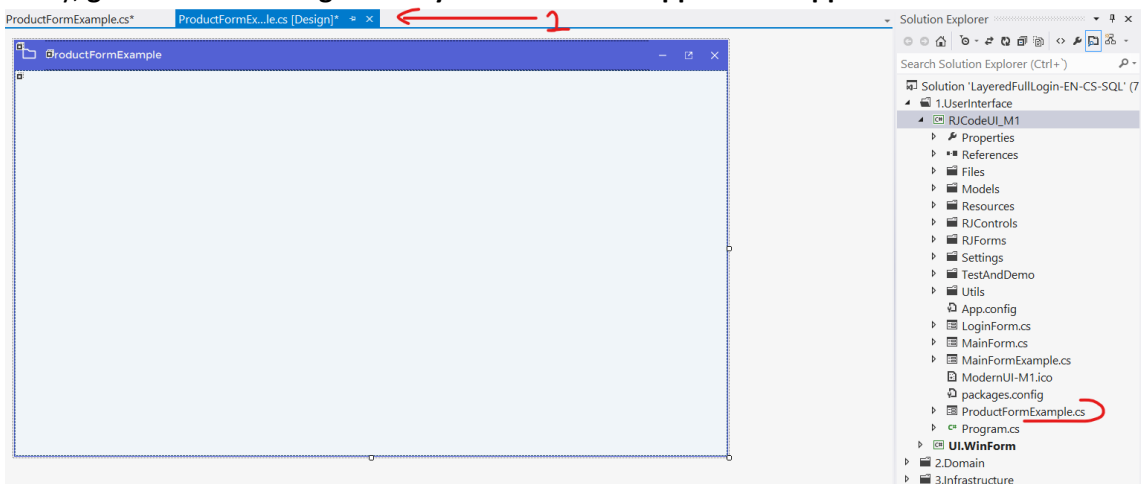
1. **Add a new Windows Form** and go to the form code as before (Step 1-3).



2. Once in code, **inherit the RJChildForm class**.



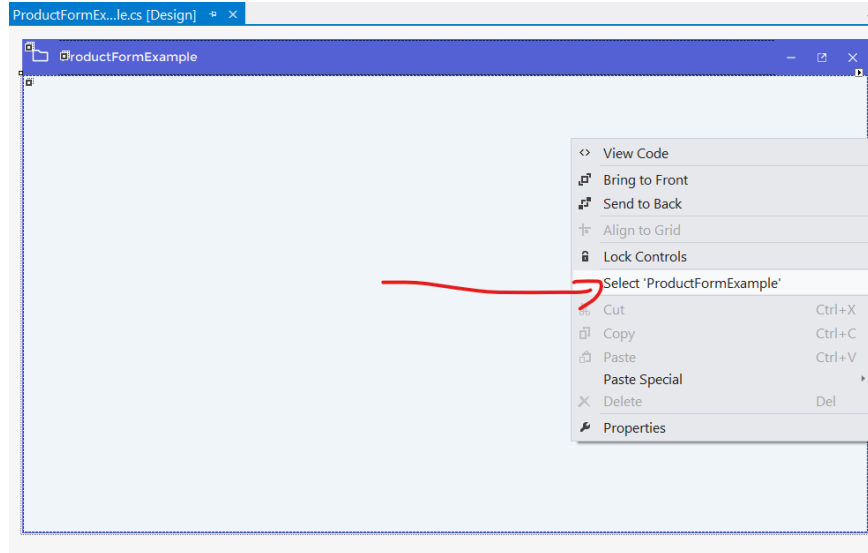
3. Lastly, **go to the form designer and you will have the appearance applied.**



3.3. How to change the properties?

Due to the fact that the base forms RJMainForm and RJChildForm already have controls added for appearance, **it is not possible to directly select the form and change the properties**. To be able to do it you have to do it in the following way:

1. **Right click on the form** or the designer space-> **Click on Select 'Form name'**.



2. You can now change the properties of the form from the toolbox.

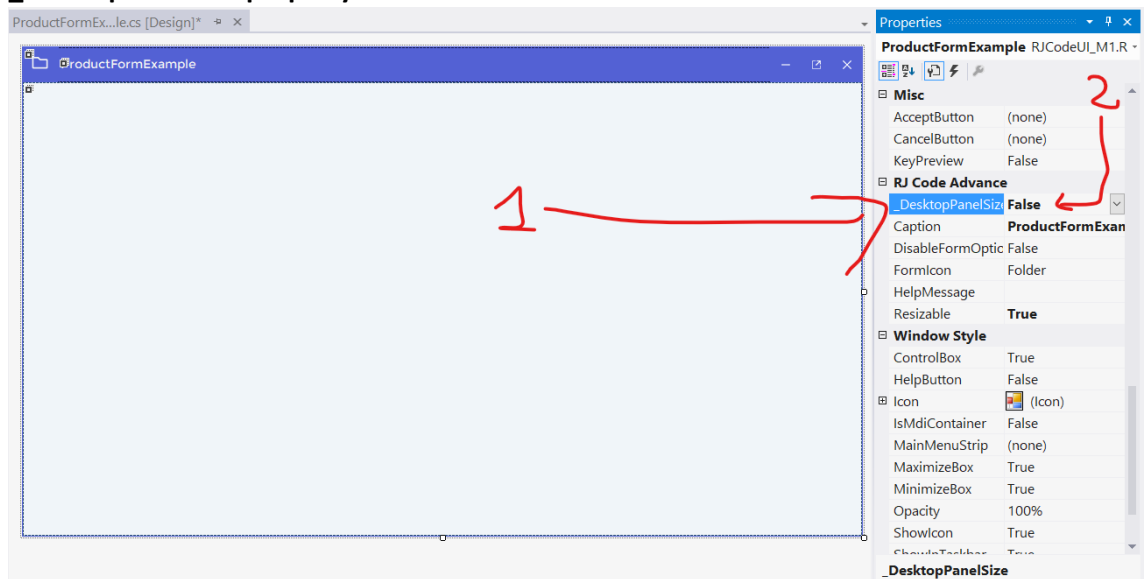


3.4. How to change the width of the child form?

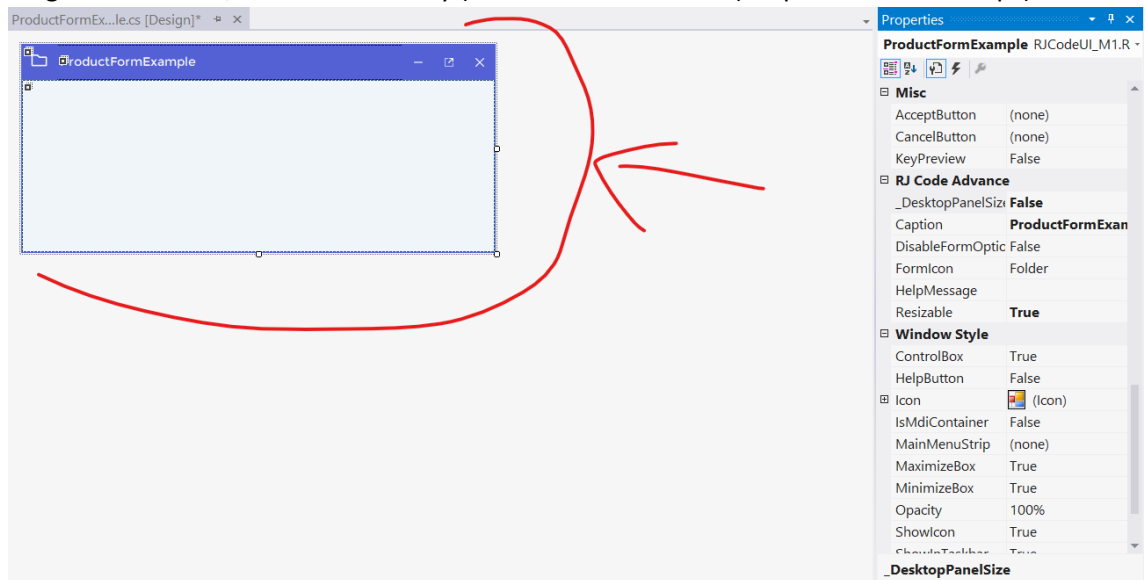
By Default, the size of the child form is the same as the size of the desktop panel of the main form and **it is not possible to change the width**, it **only allows you to change the height**, because this makes it easier for you to design the form in a more elegant and exact way for the desktop of the main form.

However, in many cases we do not need to open the child form on the desktop of the main form and we want a different size.

1. To change the width of the form, go to the **form properties** and set the **_DesktopPanelSize** property to **FALSE**.



2. Now you can change the width of the form at will (If you only want to change the height of the form, it is not necessary (nor do I recommend it) to perform these steps).



4. How to use custom controls?

To use the project's custom controls, simply open the Visual Studio toolbox and start dragging the controls you need onto the form as you normally would (In case the controls do not appear, compile the project), below are some examples .

4.1. Example 1- Design the main form

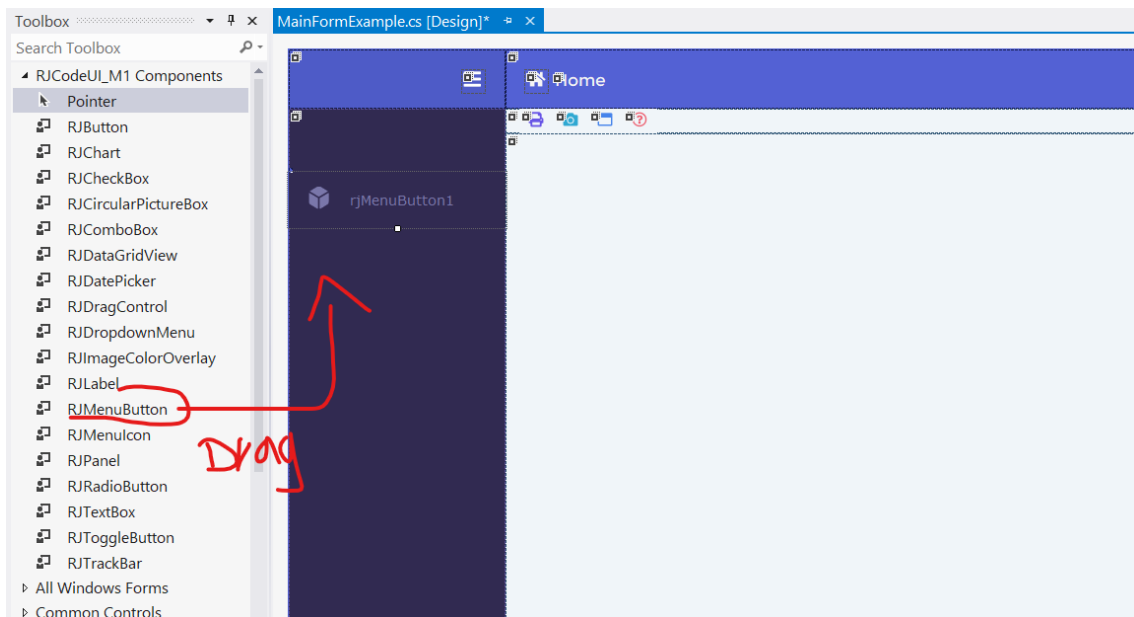
It is worth mentioning that in the project there are specific controls that you can add to the main form, these are:

- ✓ **RJMenuButton** (It is optimized only to be used in the side menu of the main form).
- ✓ **RJMenuIcon** (By default it is optimized to be used in the title bar of the main form, you can change that by setting the BackIcon property to true).
- ✓ **RJDropDownMenu** (Drop-down menu that you can associate with the above controls: RJMenuButton and RJMenuIcon, no need to code to display).
- ✓ **RJLabel**(You can set the Style property to BarCaption or BarText and use it in the title bar of the main form.)

You can add other controls, for example RJCircularPictureBox to display the photo of the logged in user in the application.

Add a menu button (RJMenuButton)

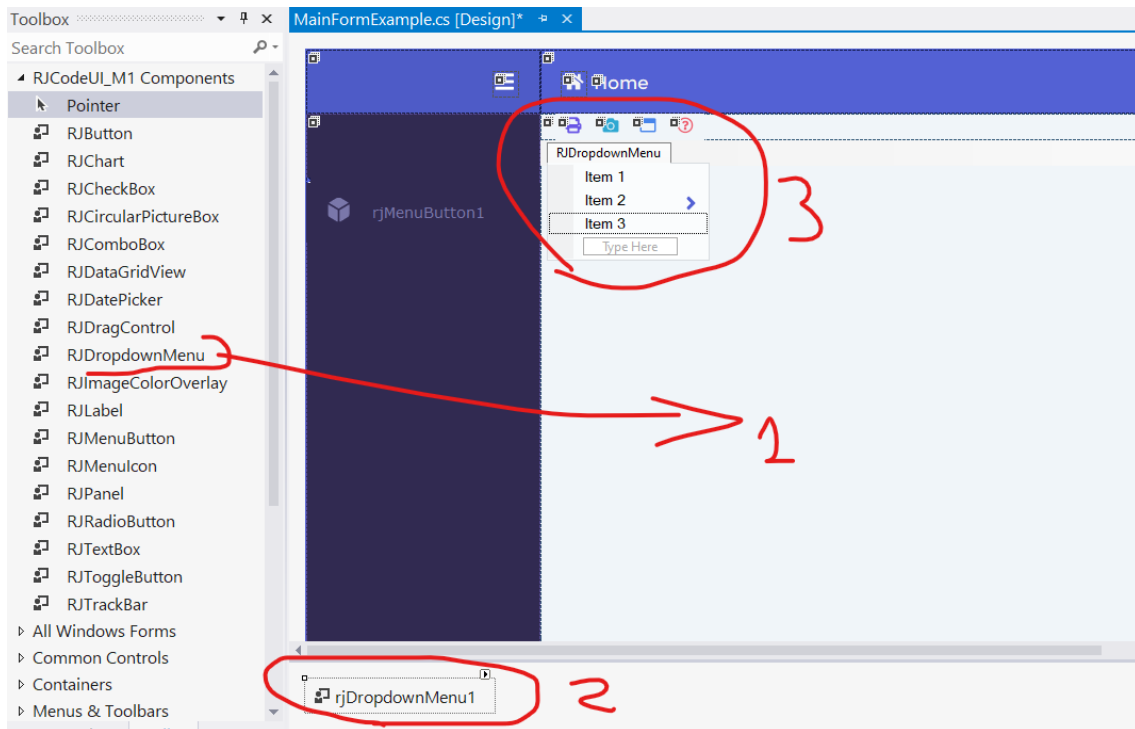
Drag control RJMenuButton from the toolbox to the **main form side menu panel** as shown in the image.



For now the control behaves like a normal menu button, you can turn it into a dropdown menu button, by adding the RJDropDownMenu control and associating it with the menu button, as demonstrated below:

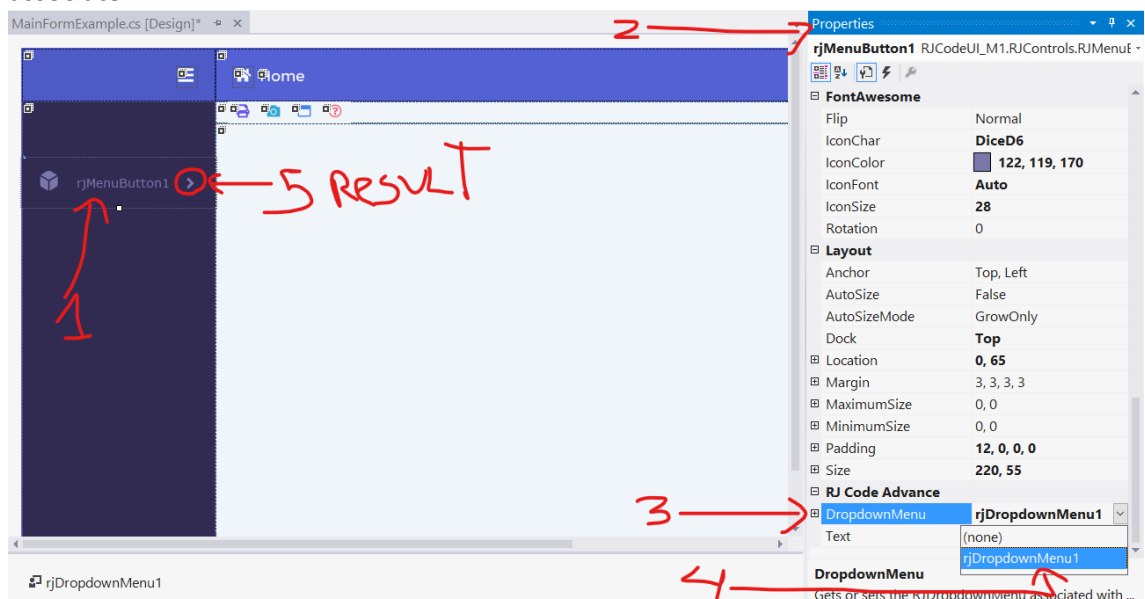
Add a dropdown menu (RJDropDownMenu)

- 1) Drag control RJDropDownMenu from the toolbox to the form and add the elements and sub-elements you want.

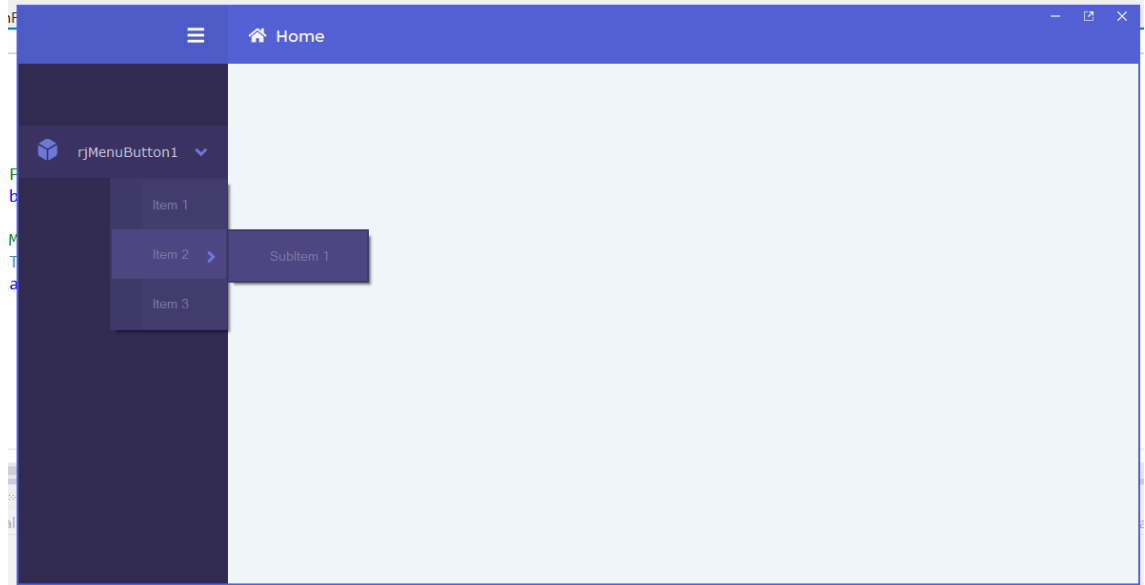


It is important to remember that the **RJDropDownMenu** control inherits from the **ContextMenuStrip** control, this control is a component. Components **generally do not have a visual representation and are not children of the form**. Therefore, adding a component to the form **places them at the bottom of the form designer workspace**.

- 2) Associate control RJDropDownMenu with the RJMenuButton or RJMenuIcon control, to do this, do the following: **Select the menu button**-> Go to the **properties**-> Locate the **DropDownMenu** property -> Finally select the drop-down menu that you want to associate.

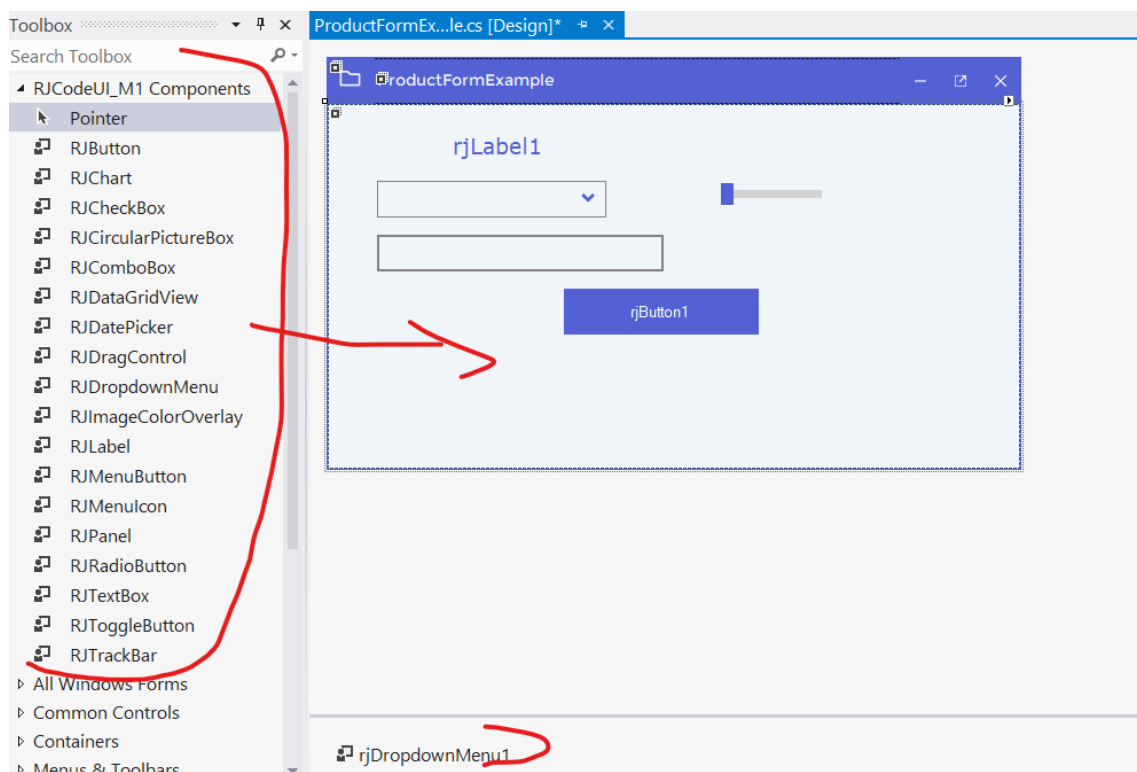


3) Result.



4.2. Example 2- Design a child form

As before, just **drag the controls you need onto the form and set the properties.**



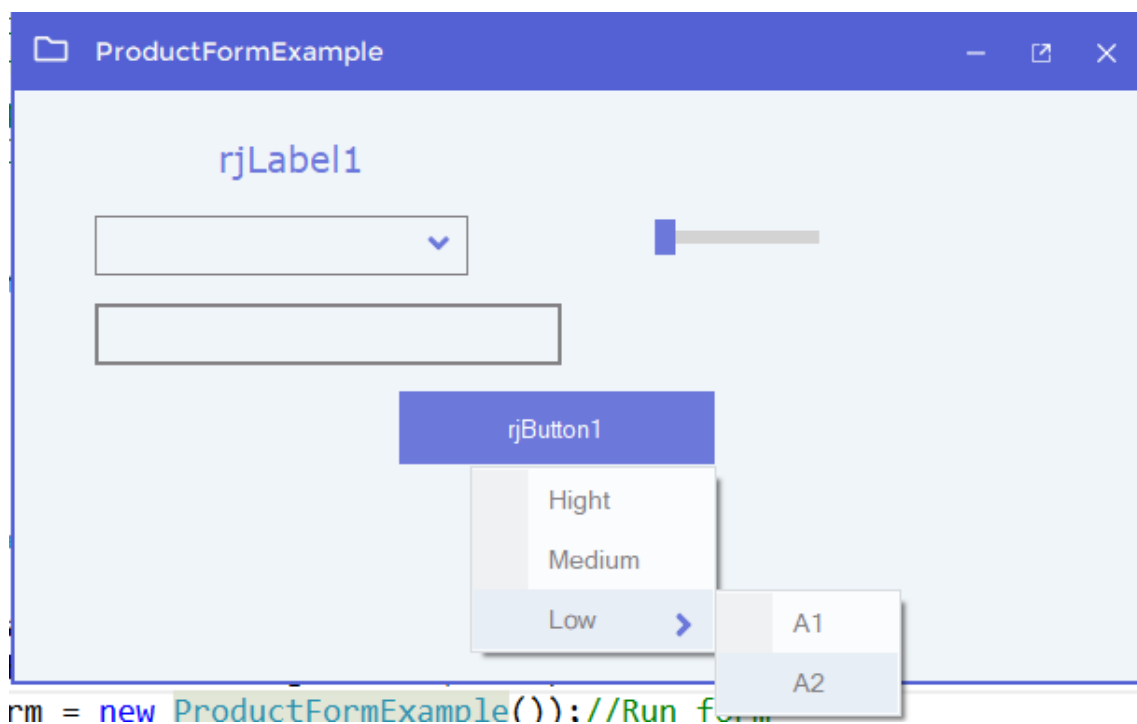
You may be wondering, **how to use the drop down menu in child forms.** Well, I remind you again that the **RJDropDownMenu** control inherits from the **ContextMenuStrip** control, therefore **use the Show () method** of the control **in any event of any control**, as you normally would with the **ContextMenuStrip** control. For example in the Click event of the button **rjButton1**.

```
ProductFormExample.cs*  ProductFormEx...le.cs [Design]*
RJCodeUI_M1.ProductFormExample  rjButton1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)

9  using System.Windows.Forms;
10
11  namespace RJCodeUI_M1
12  {
13      public partial class ProductFormExample : RJForms.RJChildForm
14      {
15          public ProductFormExample()
16          {
17              InitializeComponent();
18          }
19
20          private void rjButton1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
21          {
22              rjDropDownMenu1.Show(rjButton1, DropdownMenuPosition.BottomRight);
23          }
24      }
25  }
```

This is the **demonstration of the new Show () method** that makes it **easy to quickly configure the position of the drop-down menu**. However, you can still use the other original Show () methods of the ContextMenuStrip control.

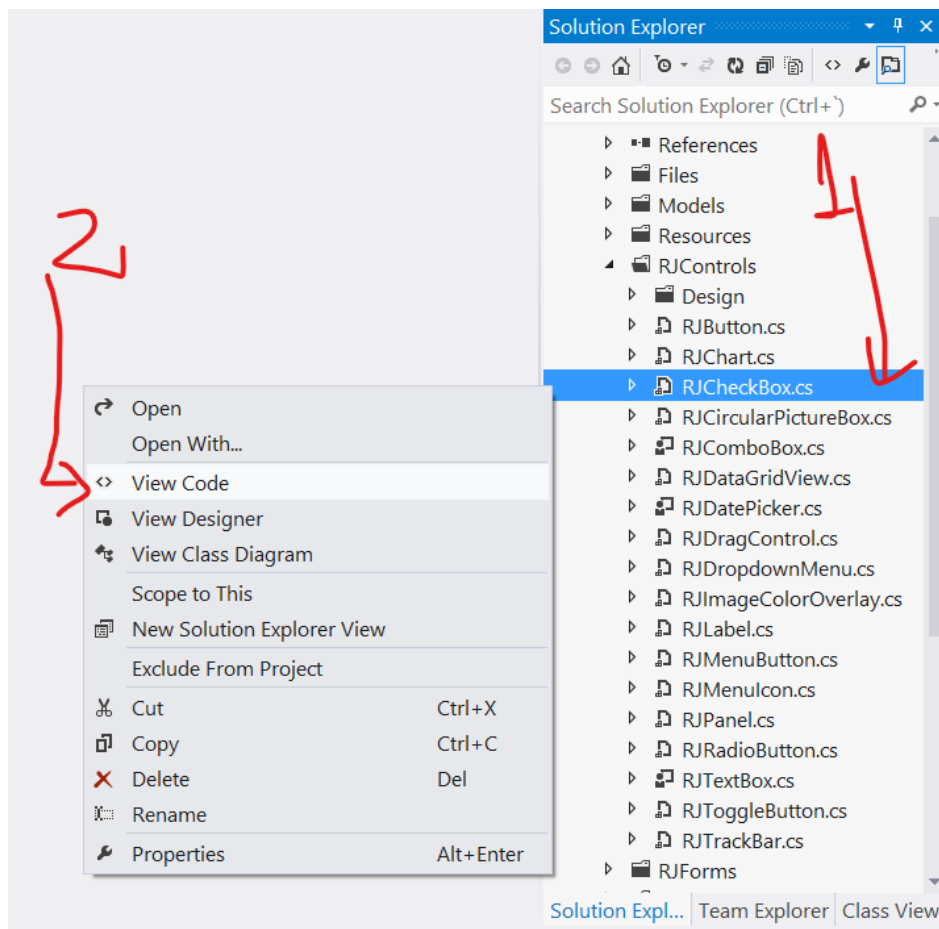
Result:



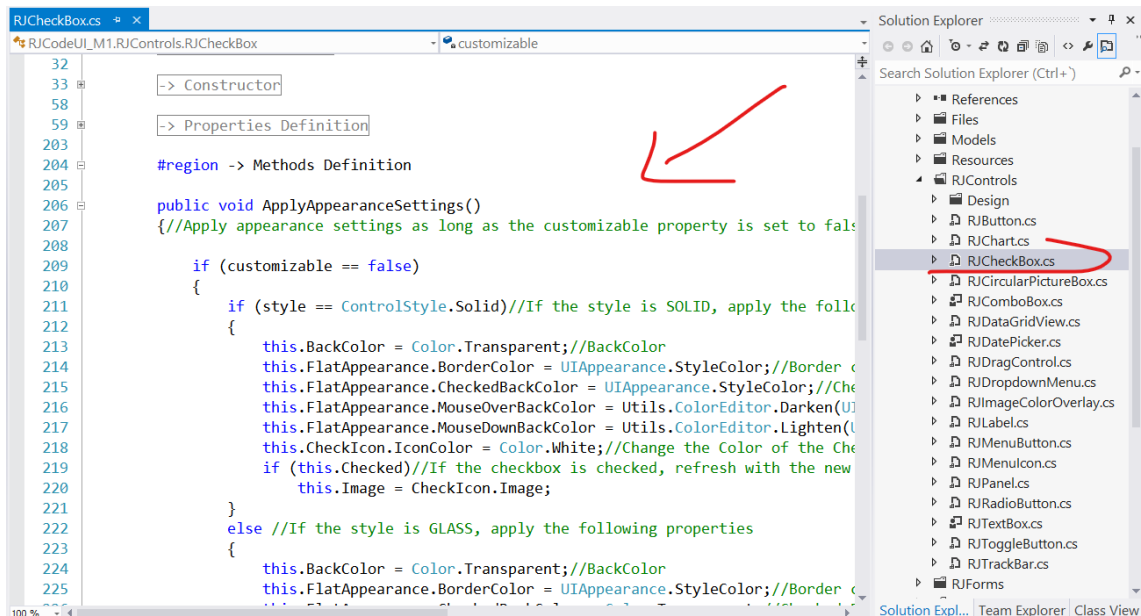
5. How to modify the project components?

You can modify or add properties and methods of any control or custom form, but simply locate (With the help of the class diagram and demo) the class-> field, property or method that you want to modify.

- 1) To make changes, **open the control or form code**: Right click on the class-> Select View Code.



- 2) Modify the source code.



Every time you make changes to controls or forms, you must **Compile / Build the project** to apply the changes at design time.

Well that's it, I hope it has helped you with any of your doubts.