

Handbook

For icons v 1.9.2, written by Jan Kovařík

GLYPHIC**NS**.com

This handbook is intended for all GLYPHICONS PRO and ALL users, who will decide to use the icons on the web, on a desktop or elsewhere.

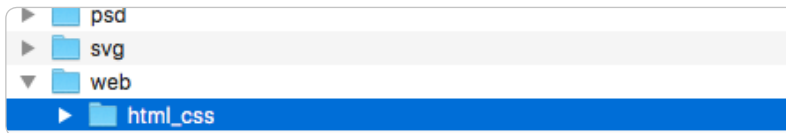


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GLYPHICONS on the web

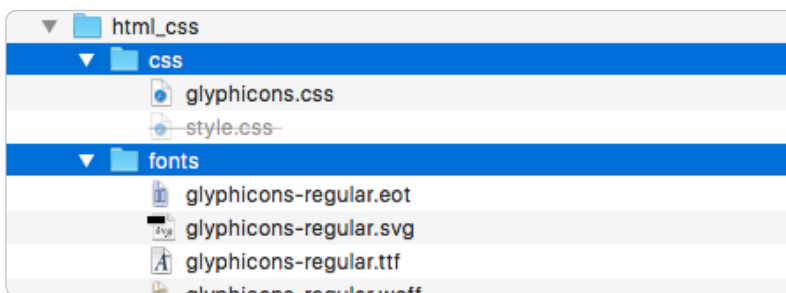
Each icon set contains example HTML/CSS files, ready to use in your web project. You may find these files always in a same place for each icon set in folder **../web/html_css**



Please note that these are web font files. If are looking for OTF font format for desktop, it's in a root of your PRO version in folder: **../font**

How to display icons in my HTML?

1. Copy folders **../css** and **../fonts** in a root of your web project, but delete the file **style.css**, you'll not need it there.




This is a quick dive for those, who have no previous experience with HTML/CSS. If you know these basics, you can skip this chapter on page 7 ;]

2. Now simply include **glyphicons.css** file in your header.

```
1 <html>
2 <head>
3 <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/glyphicons.css">
4 </head>
5 <body>
```

3. You can display icons (e.g. camera icon) with simple code.

```
5 <body>
6
7 <span class="glyphicons glyphicons-camera"></span>
8
9 </body>
10 </html>
```



In order to display icon, you should always add a base class (glyphicons, halfling, etc.) and individual icon class (glyphicons-camera) to neutral HTML tag (for example).

Change the appearance of all icons at once

Please remember, this HTML/CSS is just an example, you can create your own CSS, all HTML/CSS files are only as a demonstration. Here we're with basic GLYPHICONS, but it is the same for all other sets.

If you want control the appearance of all icons on the page at once, the best way is to add your own CSS: **.glyphicons:before** as it is shown below.

```
1 <html>
2 <head>
3 <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/glyphicons.css">
4
5 <style type="text/css">
6
7 .glyphicons:before{color:red}
8
9 </style>
10
11 </head>
12 <body>
13
```



I added CSS code directly in header, but this is just an example, you should create a special CSS file for all your customizations.

Change their size with pre-defined classes

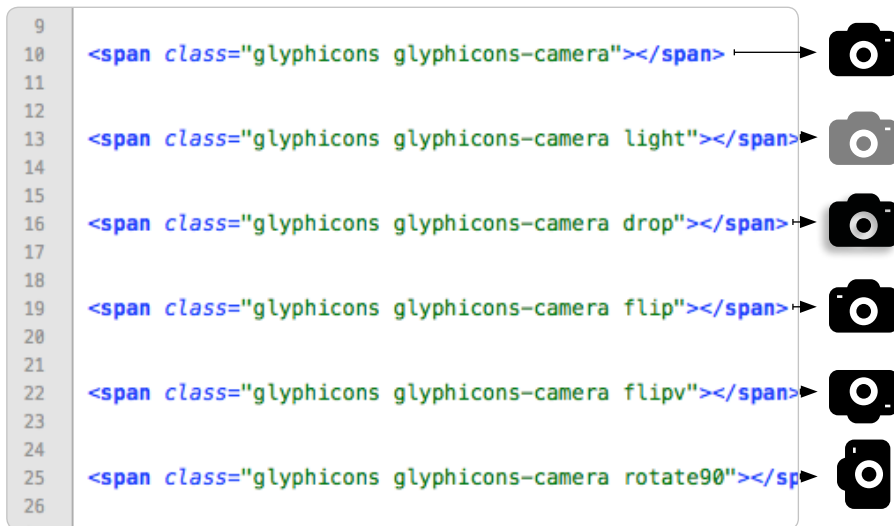
The best way is to use these predefined classes such as: **.x05**, **.x2**, **.x3**, **.x4**, **.x5**, **.x6**, **.x7**, **.x8** - icons will remain as sharp as possible! You should use this method whenever possible.

```
9
10 <span class="glyphicons glyphicons-camera x05"></span>
11
12 <span class="glyphicons glyphicons-camera"></span>
13
14
15 <span class="glyphicons glyphicons-camera x2"></span>
16
```



Add effects with pre-defined classes

You can also add classes such as: **.light**, **.drop**, **.flip**, **.flipv**, **.rotate90**, **.rotate180** or **.rotate270**. These should be applied along with main icon class as is it in example below. Of course, you can combine these classes whatever you need.



You can see, explore and copy these live HTML/CSS examples on to bottom of each HTML example page.


Add complete custom CSS values

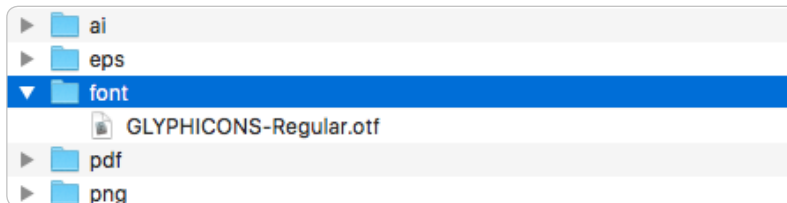
If predefined classes are not enough for you, you can control complete visual appearance of your icons by adding any valid CSS value.



If you're going to add your own CSS code, do not forget to add pseudo element **:before**

GLYPHICONS for desktop

OTF font files are for desktop use only, and you may find them for all sets always in a same file path in folder  **../font**



Please note that this is the font file for desktop use only. If you are looking for web icon font and HTML/CSS example, it's always in folder  **../web/html_css**

Icons are not showing as I type letters

Since all GLYPHICONS fonts contain symbols and not regular letters, are all these symbols mapped in special space inside a font called **Private Use Area (PUA)**.

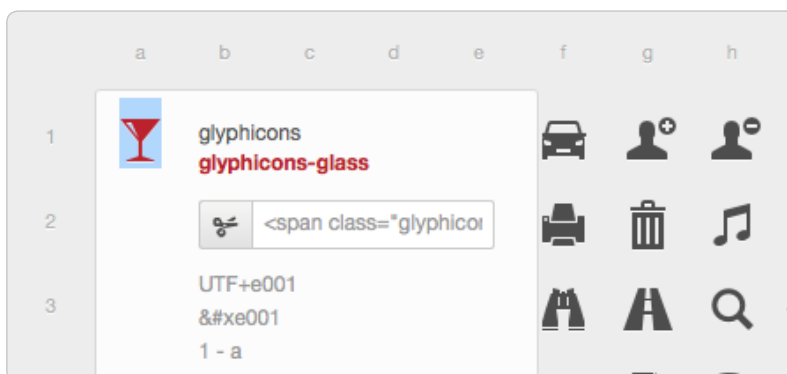
This is a correct way how to create an icon font (for web and desktop as well), because screen readers will do not read this symbols aloud.

If you want to know more about Private Use Area, please visit: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_Use_Areas

How to use font on desktop

There are more ways, but this is the most straightforward one:

1. Install font in **OTF format** in to your operation system.
2. Open your **desktop app**, choose one of the GLYPHICONS fonts you've just installed.
3. Now open **your browser** on www.glyphicons.com and simply **copy icons** and paste them directly in your app.



The great thing about this approach is that you can very quickly copy & paste icons and what's even better is that you can also use fulltext search in top right corner above icons.

Step-by-step on your beloved Mac



1. Find font file: **📁 ../font/GLYPHICONS-Regular.otf**
2. Double click on the font file and click on **“Install Font”**.
3. Now you can **copy any icon** from the table on www.glyphicons.com - you have to select an icon first and copy - press **cmd+c**.
4. Open your favorite graphic app, choose a correct GLYPHICONS font, start to type and paste - press **cmd+v** and voilà :)

TIP: also you may hold down option key while typing the four digits: e001 (glass icon will appear). If it's not working, you need to enable Unicode Hex Input in: Keyboard Preferences - Input Sources - click on “+” symbol and add “Unicode Hex Input” - now just switch keyboards.

Step-by-step on Windows



1. Find font file: **📁 ../font/GLYPHICONS-Regular.otf**
2. Double click on the font file and click **“Install”**. You can also right-click on a font file, and then select “Install”.
3. Now you can **copy any icon** from the table on www.glyphicons.com - you have to select an icon first and copy - press **ctrl+c**.
4. Open your favorite graphic app, choose a correct GLYPHICONS font, start to type and paste - press **ctrl+v** and it's done.

TIP: you may also hold down alt key while typing the four digits: e001 (glass icon will appear).

Step-by-step on Linux



1. Find font file: **📁 ../font/GLYPHICONS-Regular.otf**
2. Double click the font file and click **“Install Font”** at the bottom of the preview. You can also right-click on a font file, and then select “Install”.
3. Now you can **copy any icon** from the table on www.glyphicons.com - you have to select an icon first and copy - press **ctrl+c**.
4. Open your favorite graphic app, choose a correct GLYPHICONS font, start to type and paste - press **ctrl+v** and it's working.

TIP: if this is not working in your Linux distribution, you have to create a new directory in `../usr/share/fonts/opentype`, copy OTF font file in this folder and update the font cache.

Learn more about icons

First thing first. Before you start to use icons in your design, you should know the basic facts and rules. In short, you should respect the main purpose and minimal size for each icon set, if you want to use them as effectively as possible.

Please keep in mind, GLYPHICONS Halflings and the rest of the GLYPHICONS sets have different basic size for a good reason!

Poorly selected set or a wrong size of icons - these are the far most common mistakes I've been seeing around. Please, go this extra mile and read the following short text, it's worth it!

It's crunch time

I was doing some housework recently and I've got this idea that this very same problem actually exists in a physical world with the real tools, so I hope this analogy will make it more obvious and easy to remember for you.

I needed to drill a few holes at home, to hang some pictures. I had various types of drill bits in front of me. It's perfectly obvious, that in order to choose the correct drill bit, you have to know the material of the wall first, right? Of course, you can quickly pick up the closest one without thinking a much about it and start to drill, but... you may find it very ineffective, at least.

Icons (same as drilling bits) can be very effective, hard working and useful, but you have to use them wisely first!

My point is, that you can use the correct drilling bit (icon set) only when you already examined the material (user interface) and exact place you want to use it (e.g. main menu). It's very same process with icons. You have to do some simple research and thinking each time, you want to use it.v

Please do not skip this short story, its punch line is very important for all next reading.

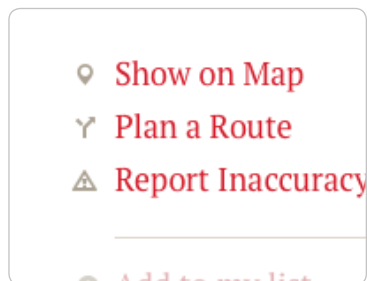
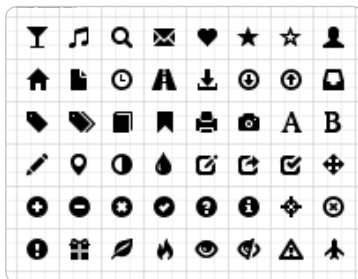
Choose them wisely

So let's say that the wrong size or poorly selected icon set are the most common mistakes, we want to avoid. Let's start.

GLYPHICONS Halflings

Their default size is approx. **12px** or more.

- GLYPHICONS Halflings adhere more square proportions, because they are made to be closely one next to the each other and yet, remain consistent.
- Halflings play nicely directly in your text, in a small buttons, in sidebar menus, narrow lists and wherever you need visual attraction in very small size.

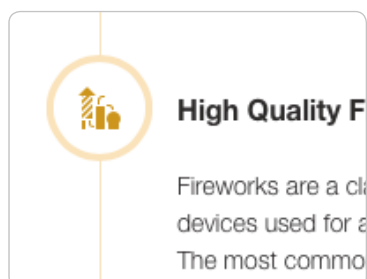
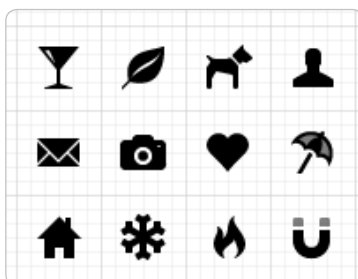


The main purpose of GLYPHICONS Halflings lies in a complementary graphic in a smaller sizes.

GLYPHICONS Basic, Filetypes and Social

Their default size is approx. **24px** or more.

- GLYPHICONS Basic (and other sets) are not so strictly squared as Halflings, they are more suitable as standalone symbols.
- These icons are convenient to use anytime you need bigger applications requiring more details and more visual attraction in bigger size.



GLYPHICONS Basic icons are mostly more complex icons for bigger applications, print, or whenever you need strong and more standalone symbol.

It's not a chinese arithmetic

It's not that complicated right? Now it's clear, that when you trying to incorporate any icon in your design, you shouldn't choose it blindly, but rather always re-consider if it has appropriate size, dimensions and what's most important, if it fits in your design aesthetically.

Icons can either elevate your design really high
or bury it very, very deep, if you use them blindly.

Of course you can ignore these basic facts and advices. You may say: "I do not need your advices, I doing my own design decisions". Well, good for you! As everything in a life, it's completely up to you and it's perfectly fine, from time to time, simply break these rules on a certain level, but...

In order to brake these rules and get something
better and new, you have to know them very well
and understand their origin and reasons.

I hope you see a light now and this short article helped you understand icons and their main purpose better.

I'm really glad you read all the text till this point. If you're hungry for more tips on using icons, you can sate it in next chapter.

Other tips on using icons

Pixel perfection with icon font

When the icons seem blurred, make sure you are using predefined CSS classes (.x05, .x2, .x3, .x4, .x5, etc.), basic **12px size** for Halflings, **24px size** for other GLYPHICONS sets or multiples of these sizes. Also check your CSS file and make certain that it includes all the default values as a webkit-font-smoothing, etc.

Unfortunately, using the web font format is not a 100% way and at this time, there is no way how to keep the icons sharp and pixel perfect in all sizes on all devices in all operating systems. Please, keep this in mind, do not panic and just keep calm and carry on with what we have.

Primary function of icon

Icon itself **doesn't have to be self explanatory**, it have rather complementary and auxiliary function, think about it each time before you place it in your design.

I want to be cool

I know it is easy to succumb temptation to use all latest popular effects, but keep in mind, that icons are working the best as **a half invisible friend** who guides you, they shouldn't ever yell on you.

Whitespace is essential

If you want to use icons like a PRO, do not ignore the essential design rules, **work with empty space around the icons** and let them breath and they will not die inside your design.

This is not the end

Hope you'll find these advices useful, I'll try to improve this handbook and add a new content during next updates.

Frequently Asked Questions

I can't find HTML/CSS files?

HTML/CSS example files are for all sets always in a same file path:

```
▣ ../glyphicons/web/html_css/  
▣ ../glyphicons-social/web/html_css/  
▣ ../glyphicons-halfings/web/html_css/  
▣ ../glyphicons-filetypes/web/html_css/
```

Icons are now showing in my website

If it's something wrong and icons are not showing at all, **keep calm** and simply explore live HTML/CSS preview and **compare it with your code** - when it is working there, you had to make some mistake in your implementation.

Most common issues are:

- **missing font or CSS file**
- **wrong file path** in header
- **conflict with existing HTML/CSS** (we tried to create CSS as neutral as possible, but maybe is some CSS class in conflict)

Any cheatsheet from where I can copy & paste?

You can **search across all icons**, **copy & paste** their CSS values or a whole **HTML code with pre-generated** neutral SPAN code with correct CSS class, right in to your clipboard, just visit: www.glyphicons.com

When you **click on any icon**, it will show all its attributes. You can copy its name, any values or an icon itself, which may come in handy especially if you're using GLYPHICONS in your desktop app. You may read more about font on desktop in previous chapter.

What is an icon font anyway?

Icon font includes all GLYPHICONS as a vectors in one “small” file. You can change their **color**, **size** or even **animate** them. If you want to create your own icon font, I can recommend an app called Glyphs. I’m using it for creating all GLYPHICONS icon fonts!

www.glyphsapp.com

What is LESS?

LESS **extends CSS with dynamic behavior** such as variables, mixins, operations and functions. LESS runs on both the client-side (Chrome, Safari, Firefox) and server-side, with Node.js and Rhino.

www.lesscss.org

Documentation for Bootstrap?

Bootstrap HTML in GLYPHICONS PRO version is a free, unofficial bonus to you purchase. Since a part of my customers asked for this, I hired HTML/CSS coder to create these examples as a free addition to the basic HTML/CSS. If you're looking for more info about this framework or have any questions related to its code, please visit the link below.

www.getbootstrap.com

In desktop app without icon font?

Do you want to use icons in your desktop app in vectors, but do not like font format? No problem, you may find all icons as **individual PDF** and **SVG files**, in the appropriate folder in each set:

📁 **../glyphicons/pdf/individual_pdf/**

📁 **../glyphicons/svg/individual_svg/**

📁 **../glyphicons-social/pdf/individual_pdf/**

📁 **../glyphicons-social/svg/individual_svg/**

📁 **../glyphicons-halflings/pdf/individual_pdf/**

📁 **../glyphicons-halflings/svg/individual_svg/**

📁 **../glyphicons-filetypes/pdf/individual_pdf/**

📁 **../glyphicons-filetypes/svg/individual_svg/**



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Have any other questions or anything important to say?

[Send me an email on glyphicons@gmail.com](mailto:glyphicons@gmail.com)