

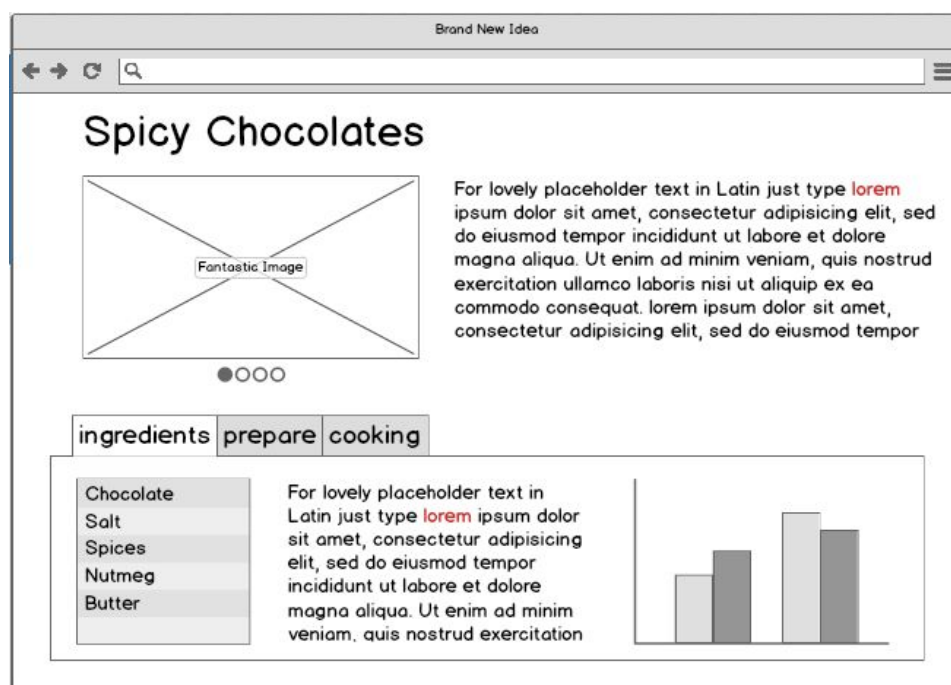


Lesson 9: Balsamiq

Introduction to Balsamiq

Balsamiq Mockups is a user interface design tool for creating wireframes or mockups. We can use it to create sketches of our product ideas to share with team members of users before writing any code.

This lesson is designed to guide you through creating your first Mockup. It will cover a basic overview of the product as well as some of the features and controls. More detailed information on each of the controls can be found in the document “Further Balsamiq Information”. Below is an example of the **Mockup** you will create in this lesson.



Learning Outcomes

Topics include:

- The basics
- Adding controls
- Image paper controls
- Completing the mockup
- Finishing touches

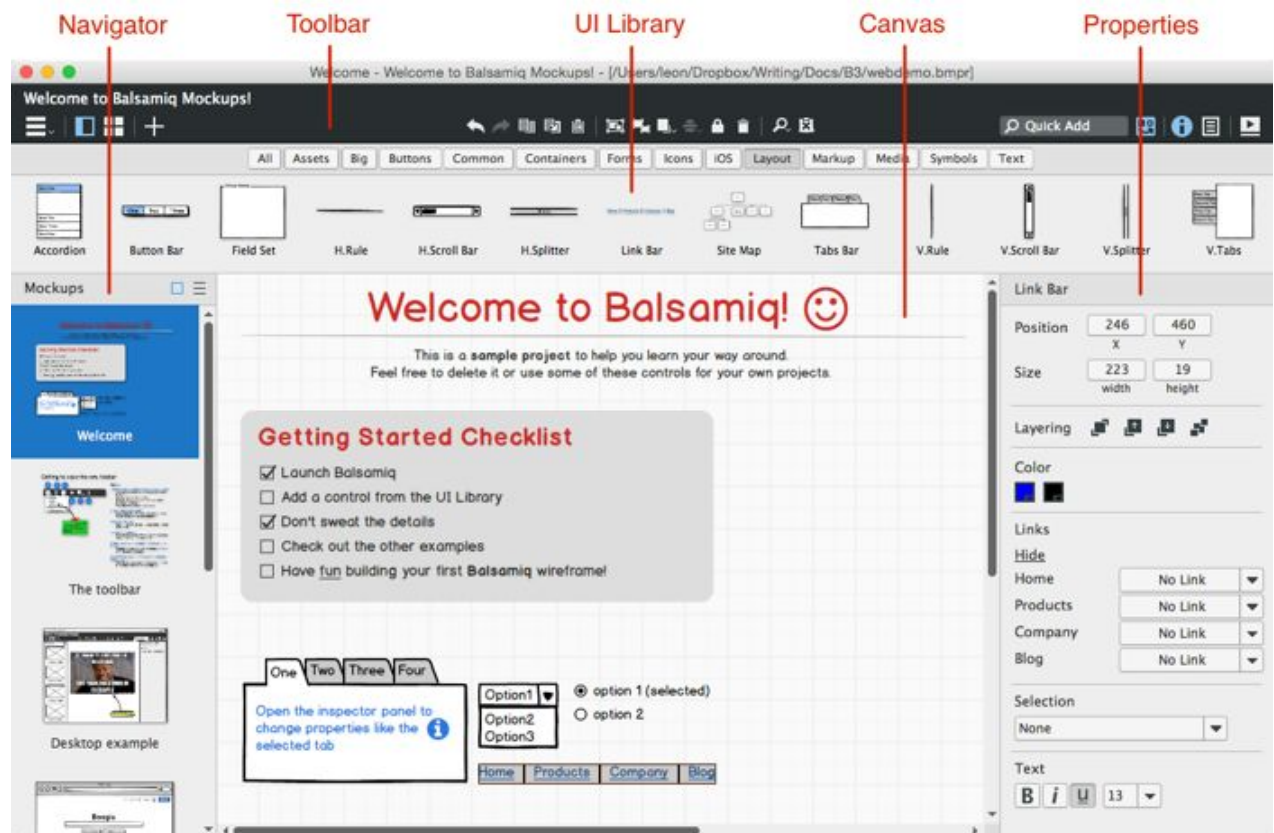
Topic 1: The Basics

To begin using Balsamiq, you can download a free trial from,

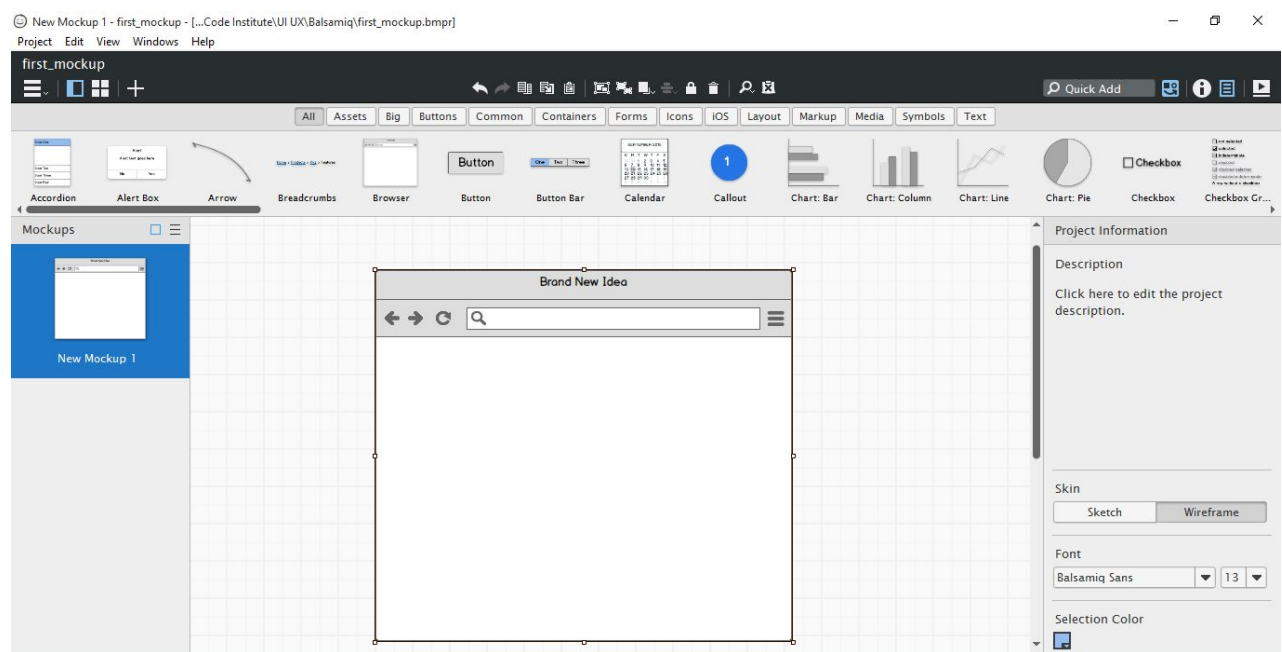
<https://balsamiq.com/>

Some of the basic components of Balsamiq include:

- **Toolbar** - The primary control interface for common commands (copy, paste, delete)
- **Canvas** - The grid area where the drawing occurs
- **UI Library** - Controls that can be dragged onto the Canvas at any time.
- **Navigator** - Allows navigation to your other mockups through thumbnail images.
- **Property Inspector** - Allows the configuration of properties and actions specific to each UI Control (colour, size).

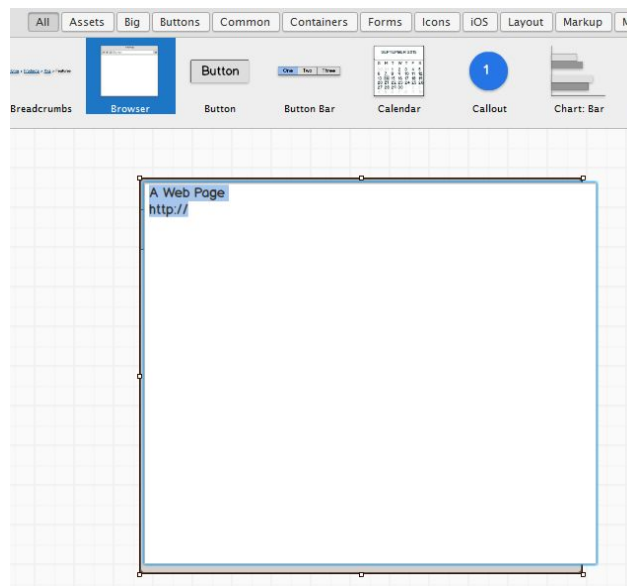


To create a new **project**, open Balsamiq and select **Project > New Project** from the menu.



Topic 2: Adding Controls

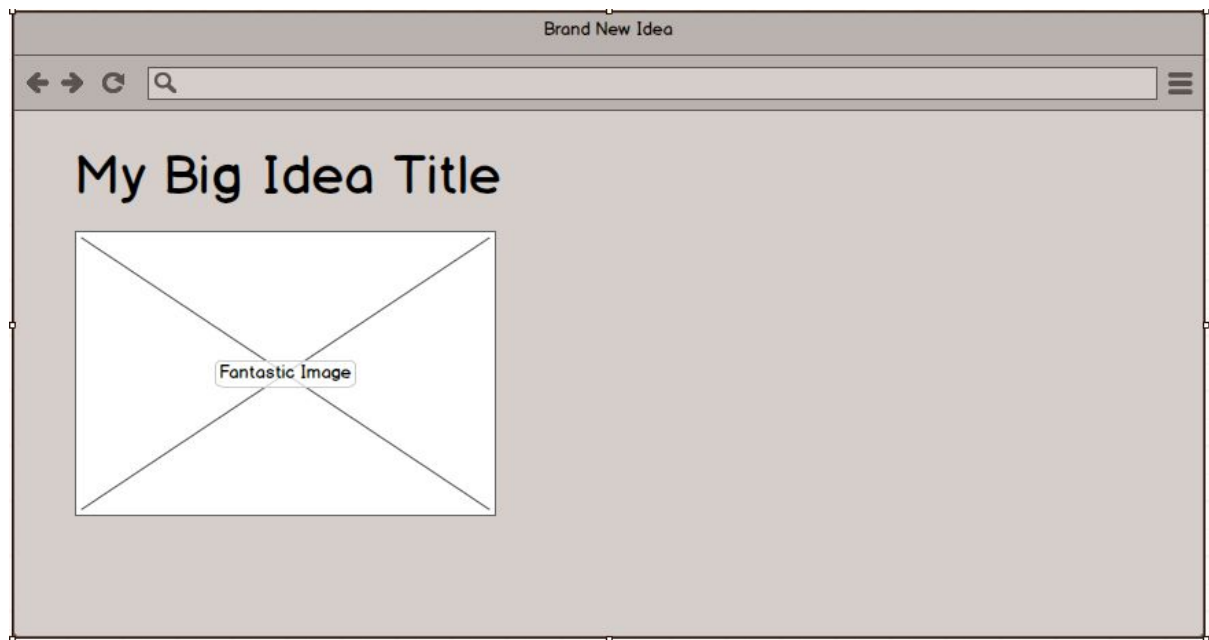
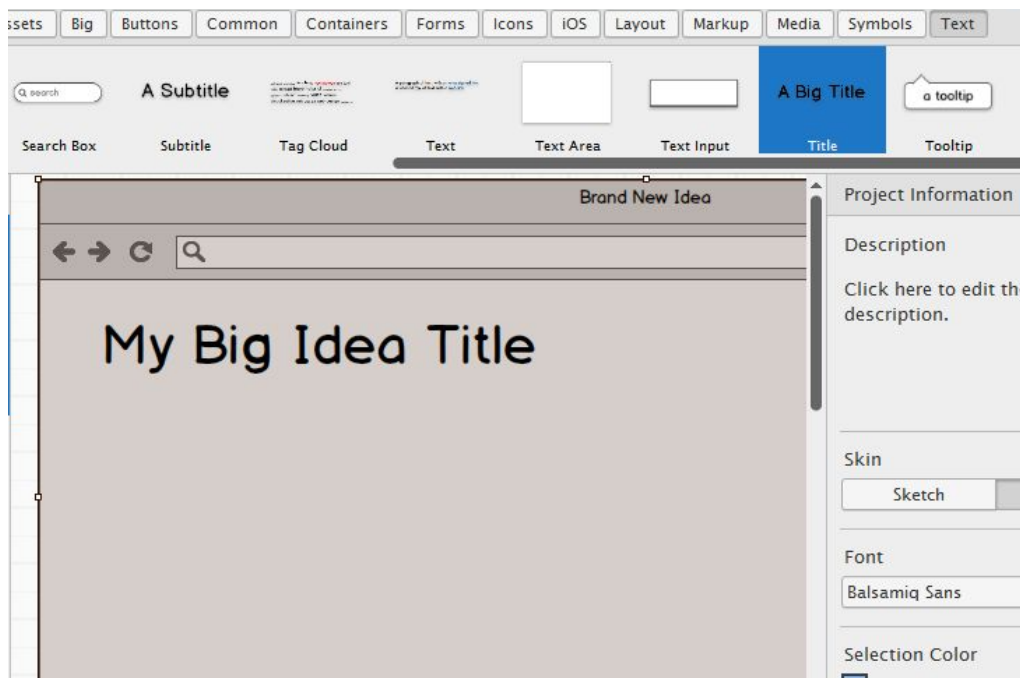
To create the Mockup as shown above, begin by dragging the **Browser UI Control** onto the **Canvas**. When a control is first added to the canvas, it will be shown in **edit mode**, often with placeholder text describing its use. For the Browser control, you can specify the **title bar** or **URL**.

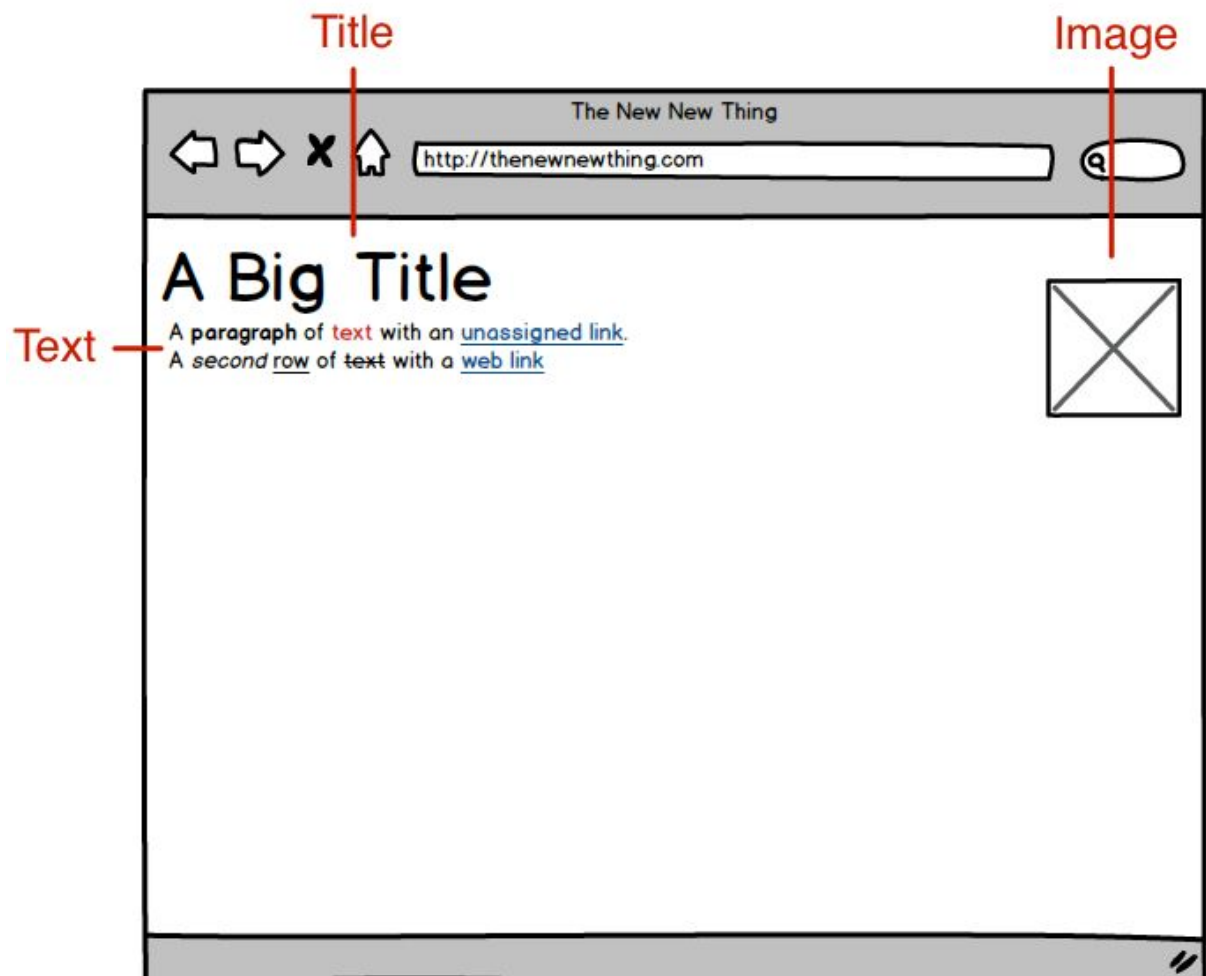
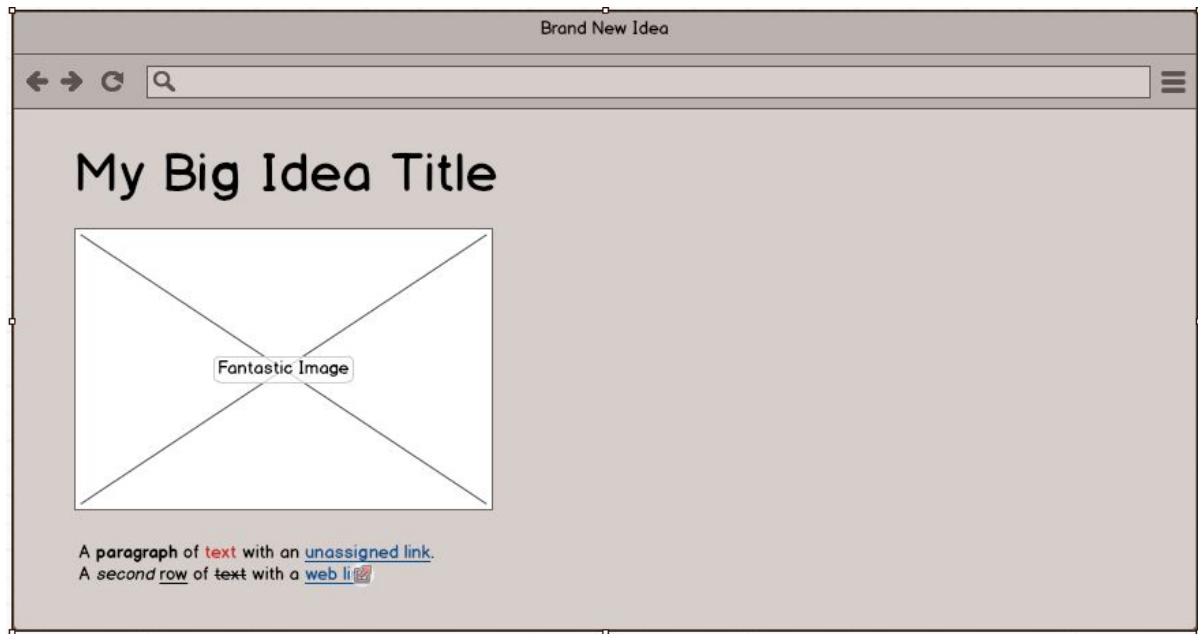


>_ Note:

We can edit a **control** at any time, **double-click** on it. In addition, we can **resize** the control to the desired size using the **resize cursor controls** at the edges and corners of the control.

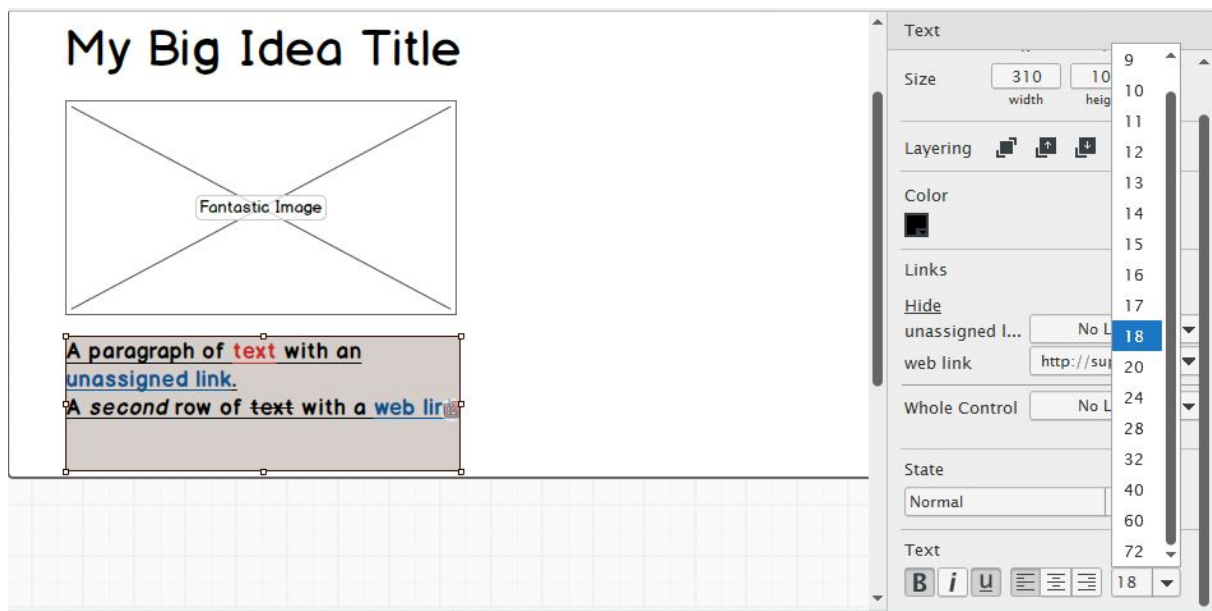
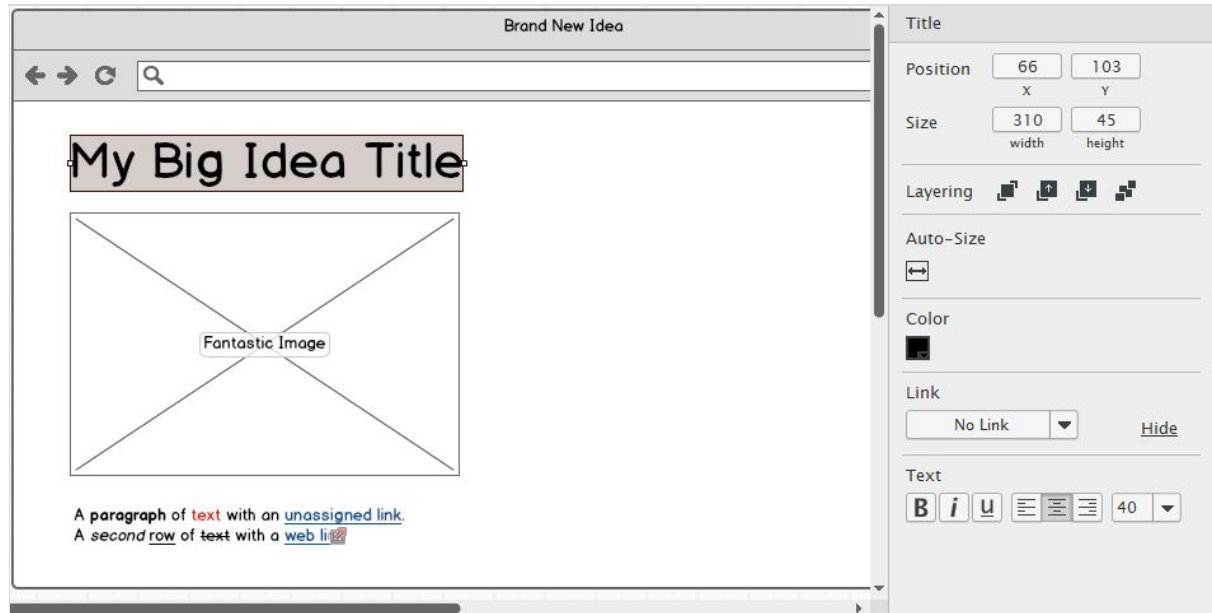
When you move controls on the canvas, **guides** appear allowing you to easily "snap" controls to into alignment. Let us add some more controls to our canvas, such as a **Title**, **Text**, and **Image** as shown in the screenshot examples below.

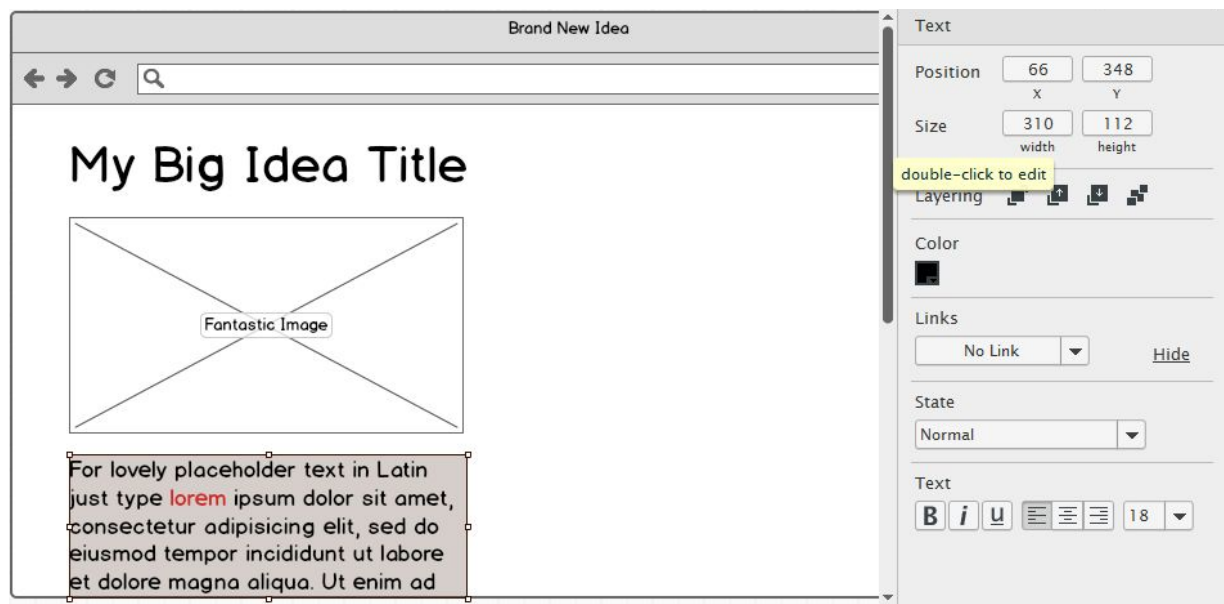




Tip: Controls can also be added using the [Quick Add](#) box by typing the first few letters of the name of the control and pressing Enter.

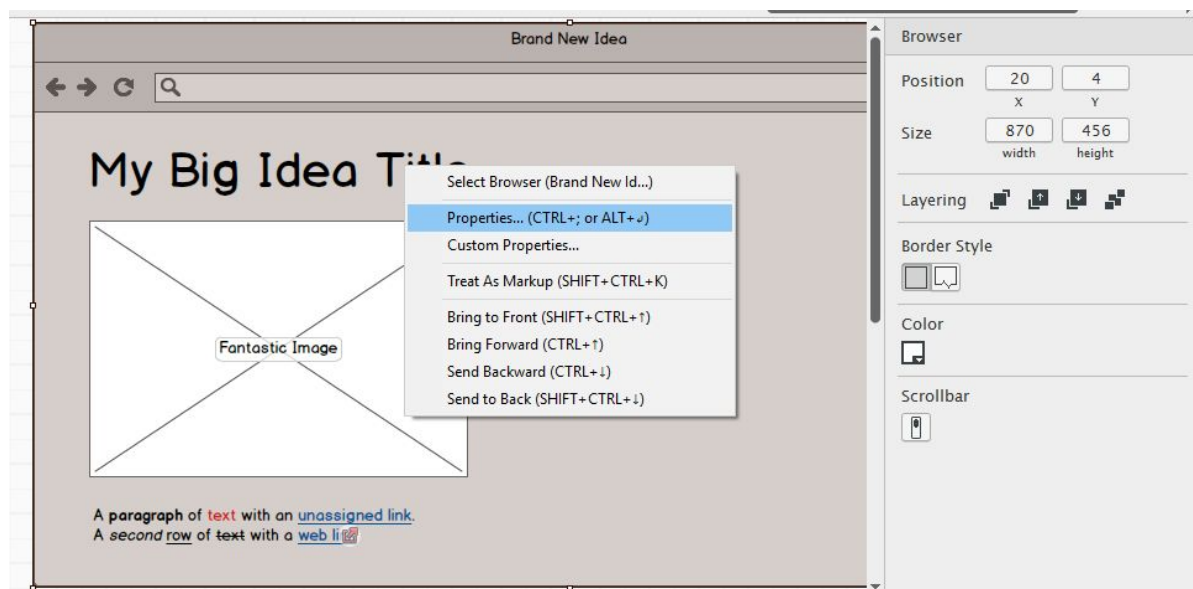
To change the size of the text for the product name label, select the **Title** control and change the font size using the now visible font property on the bottom right of the **Property Inspector**, as shown below:



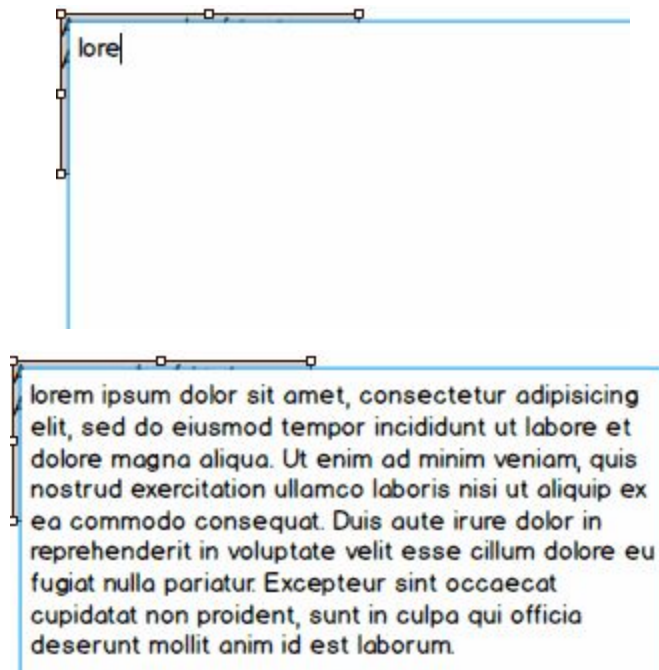


>_ Note:

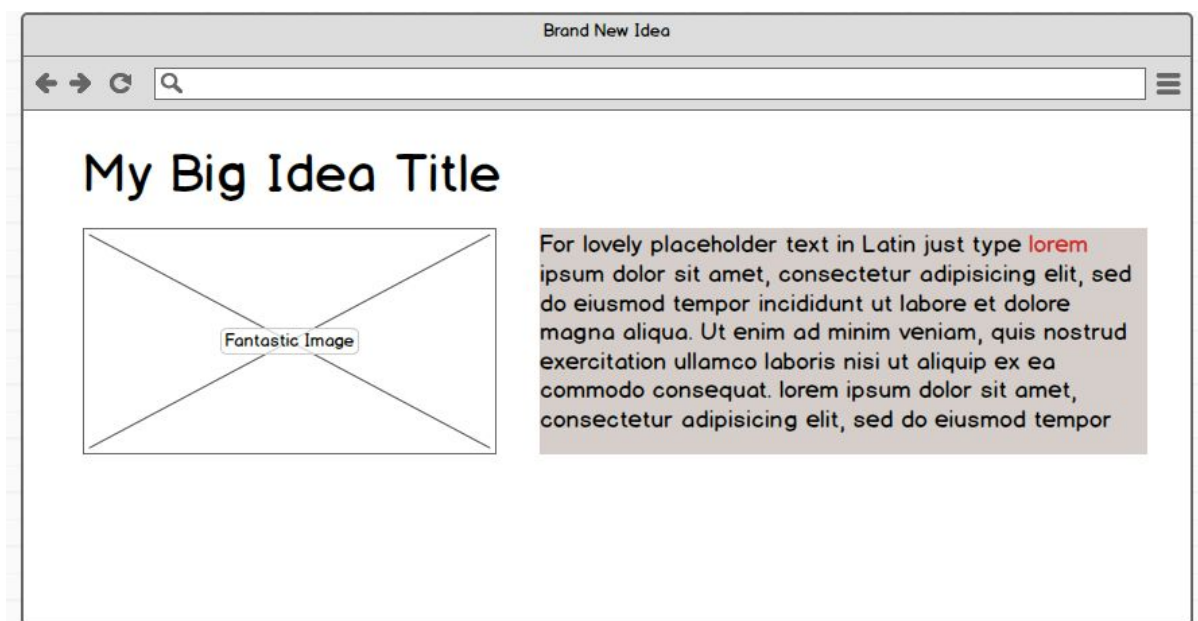
If the property inspector is not displaying, right-click on a control and select **Properties**, as shown below:



We can also automatically add **placeholder text** by typing "lorem", as shown below:

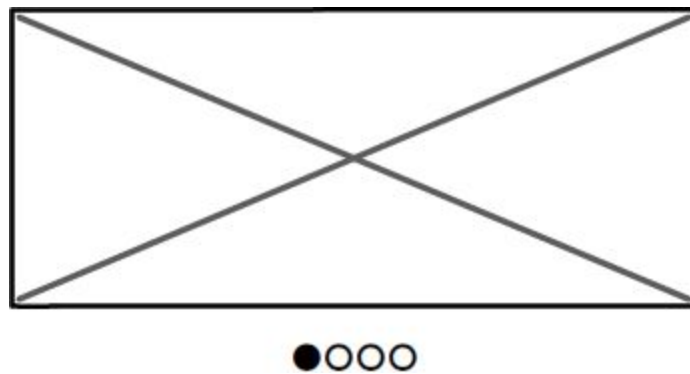


Additionally, we can **move** and **resize** the textbox. Our design should now look something like this:

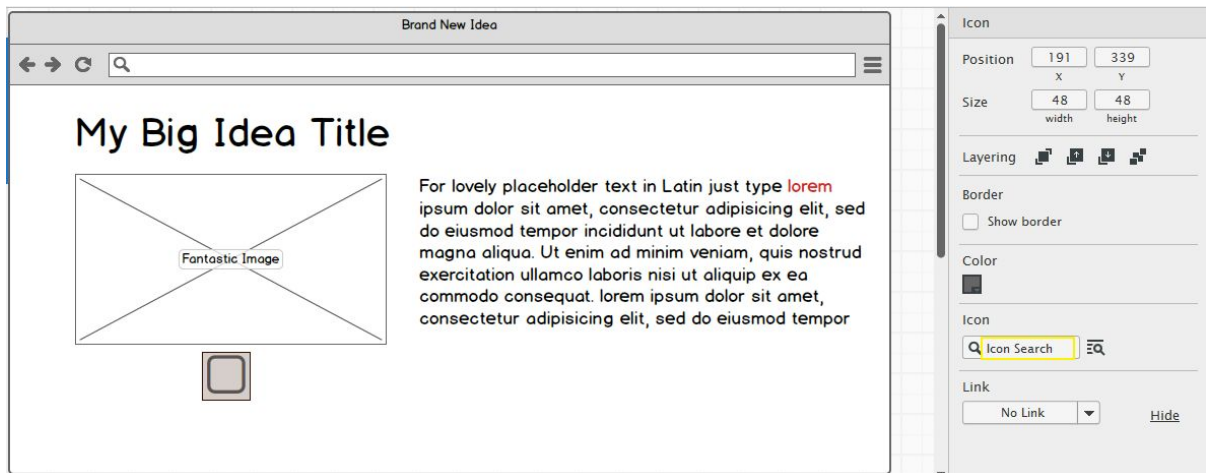
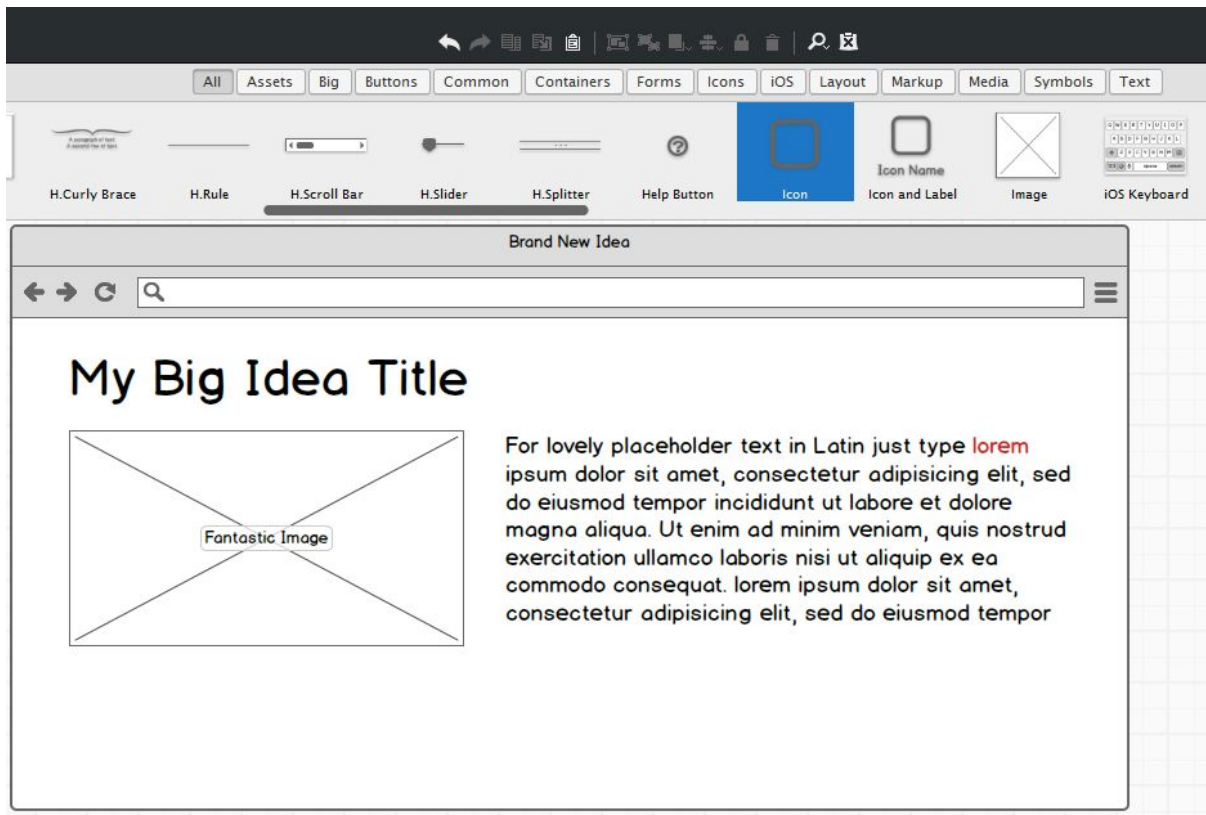


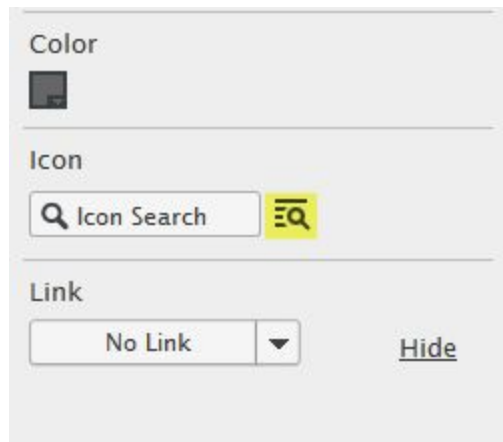
Topic 3: Creating and Aligning the Image Pager Controls

In this part of the tutorial you will learn about adding **Icons**, **Grouping** and **Aligning** controls. The next step is to **add the little dots** beneath the Image that indicate a rotating content or image control.

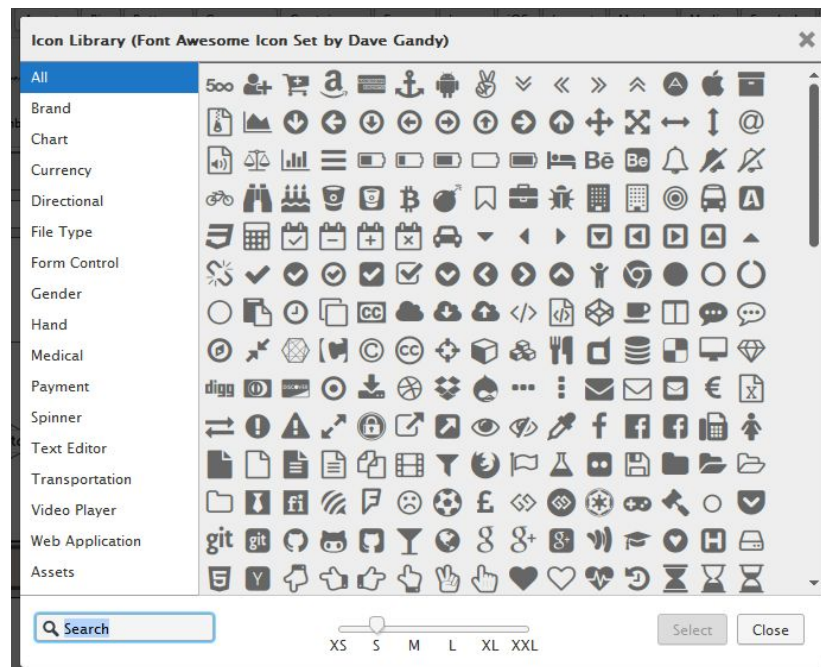


You will begin by adding the **Icon control** to the canvas, as shown below:

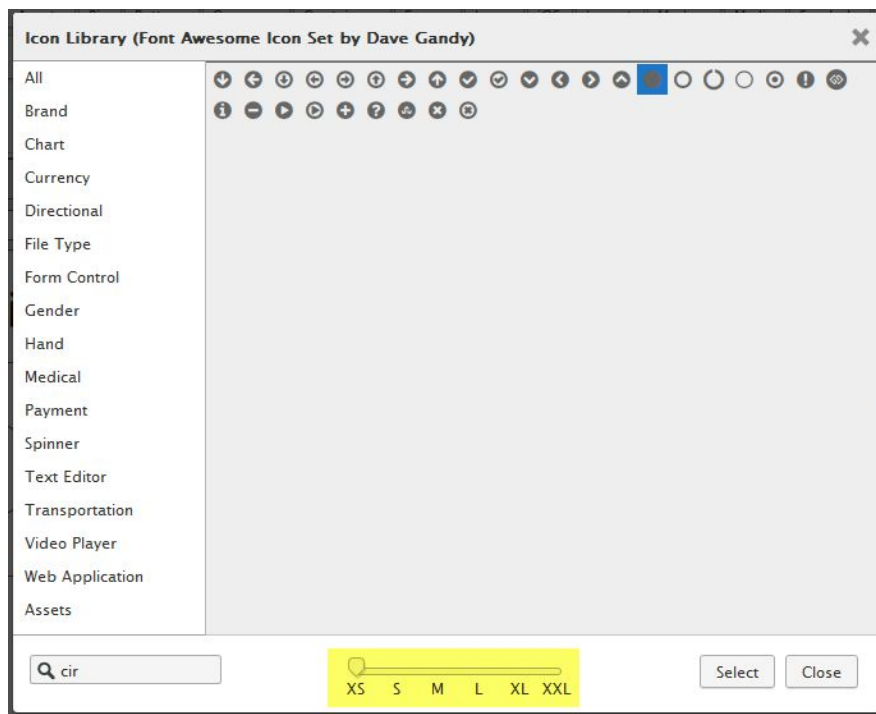




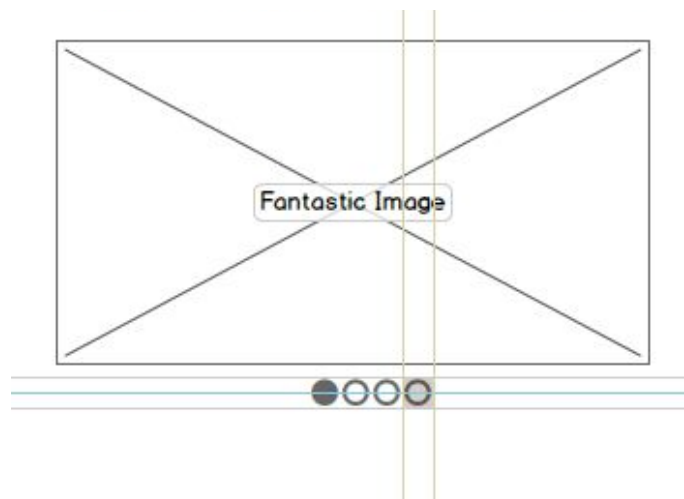
Next, click the **arrow** inside the "Icon Search" box, as shown below, to open the **Icon Library**:



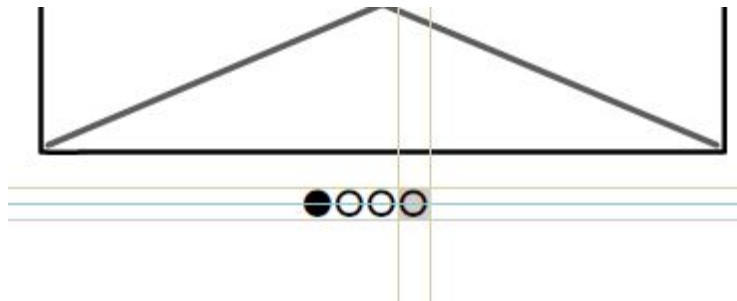
The below screenshot of the window shows the list of all the **icons** included with Balsamiq Mockups. You can filter them by category or search by name. Once you have selected an icon you can choose from one of six **sizes**. For this tutorial, select the **Circle** icon, set the size to "**XS**" and click "**Select**".



Now you will need to add three more icons to the right of the Circle icon (use the Circle Outlined this time), as shown in the below screenshots. You can also copy and paste once you've added the second icon. Using your mouse, position the icons next to each other.



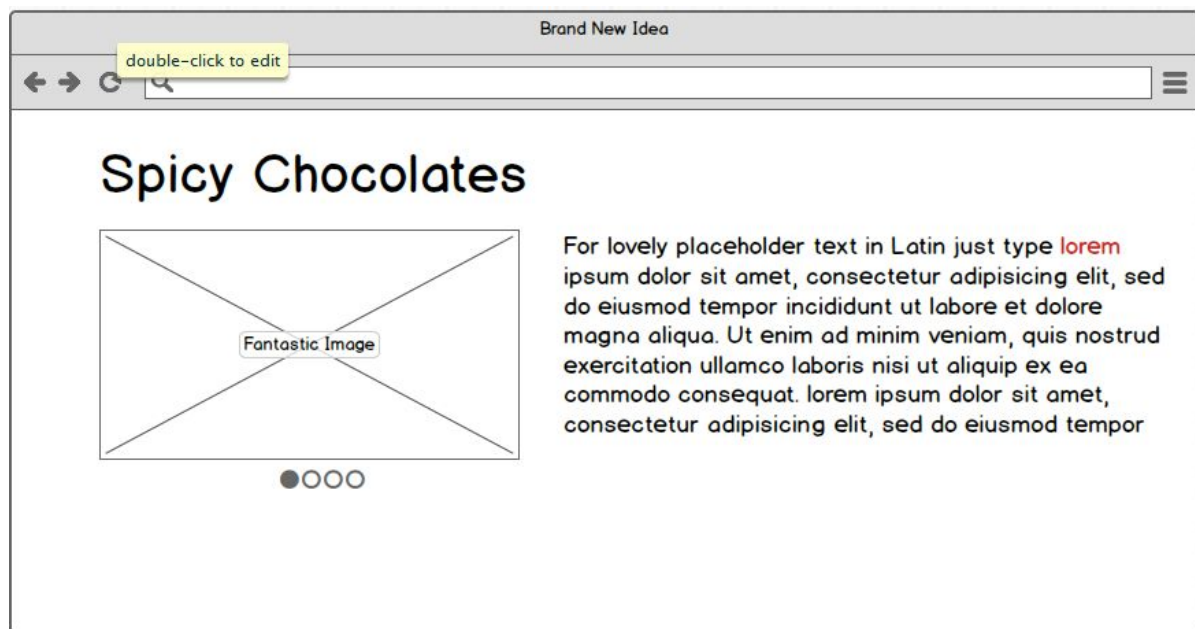
You can also see that **alignment guides** appear both horizontally and vertically, helping you place them appropriately, in positions next to each other.



>_ Note:

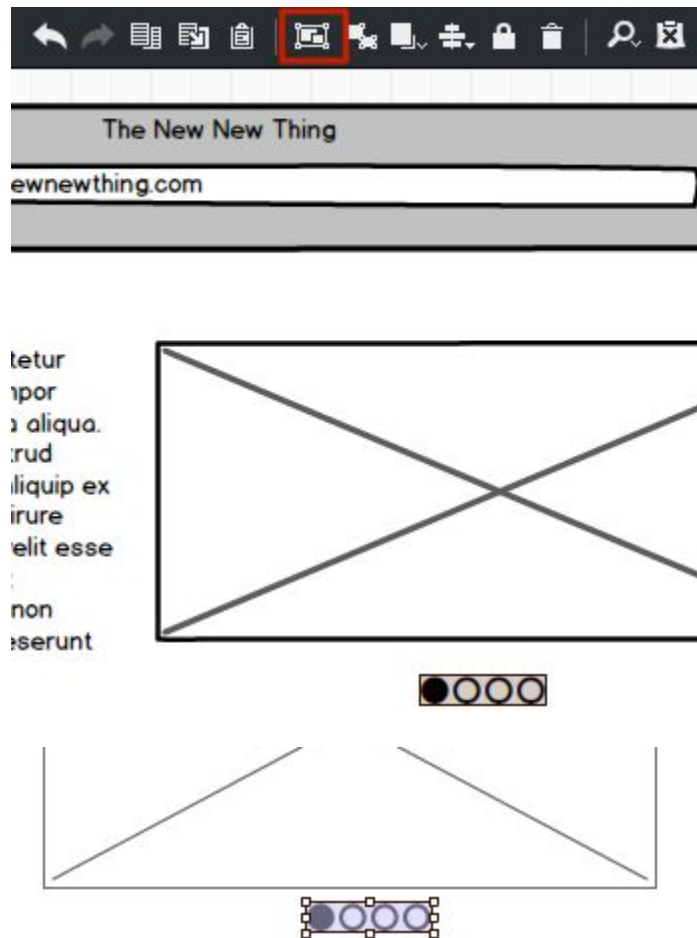
We can use the **Duplicate** keyboard shortcut (CTRL + D on Windows; CMD + D on Mac) to quickly replicate items on the canvas. ([More keyboard shortcuts here](#)).

The next step is to **center-align** the four icons below the Image control. The procedure for doing this is to first **group the icons** and then **align the icon group** with the image control.

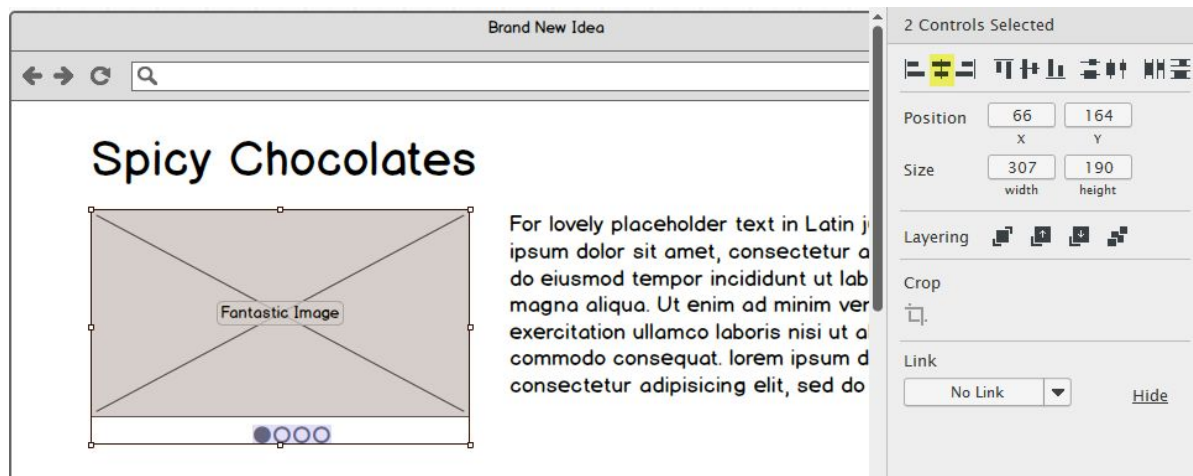


To group a set of controls, select them by drawing a boundary around them with your cursor or holding down **SHIFT** and selecting each one with your mouse. Then click the **Group command** in the Toolbar or press CTRL+G (on Windows; CMD +

G on Mac). Grouped controls can be identified by a light purple color and will remain grouped until **Ungrouped** (shortcut: CTRL/CMD + SHIFT + G).



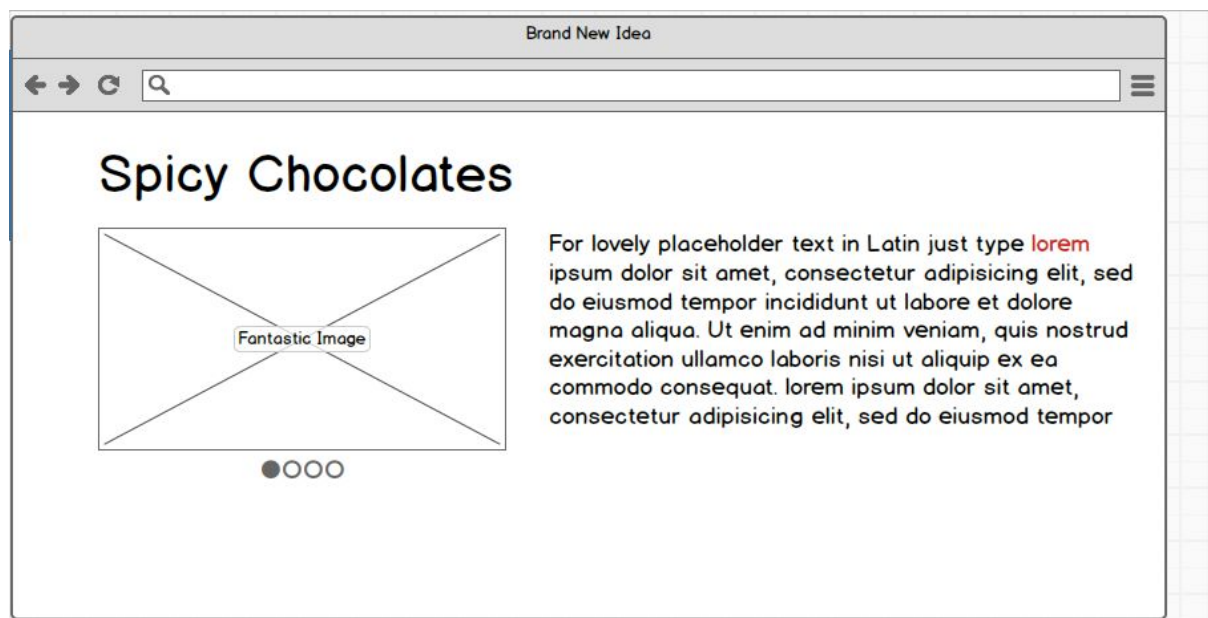
To align the grouped icons with the Image control, select them both and use the **Align Center** icon in the Property Inspector, as shown below:



You can move the pager controls closer to the Image control either by using the keyboard arrow keys or by using the mouse and the alignment guides.

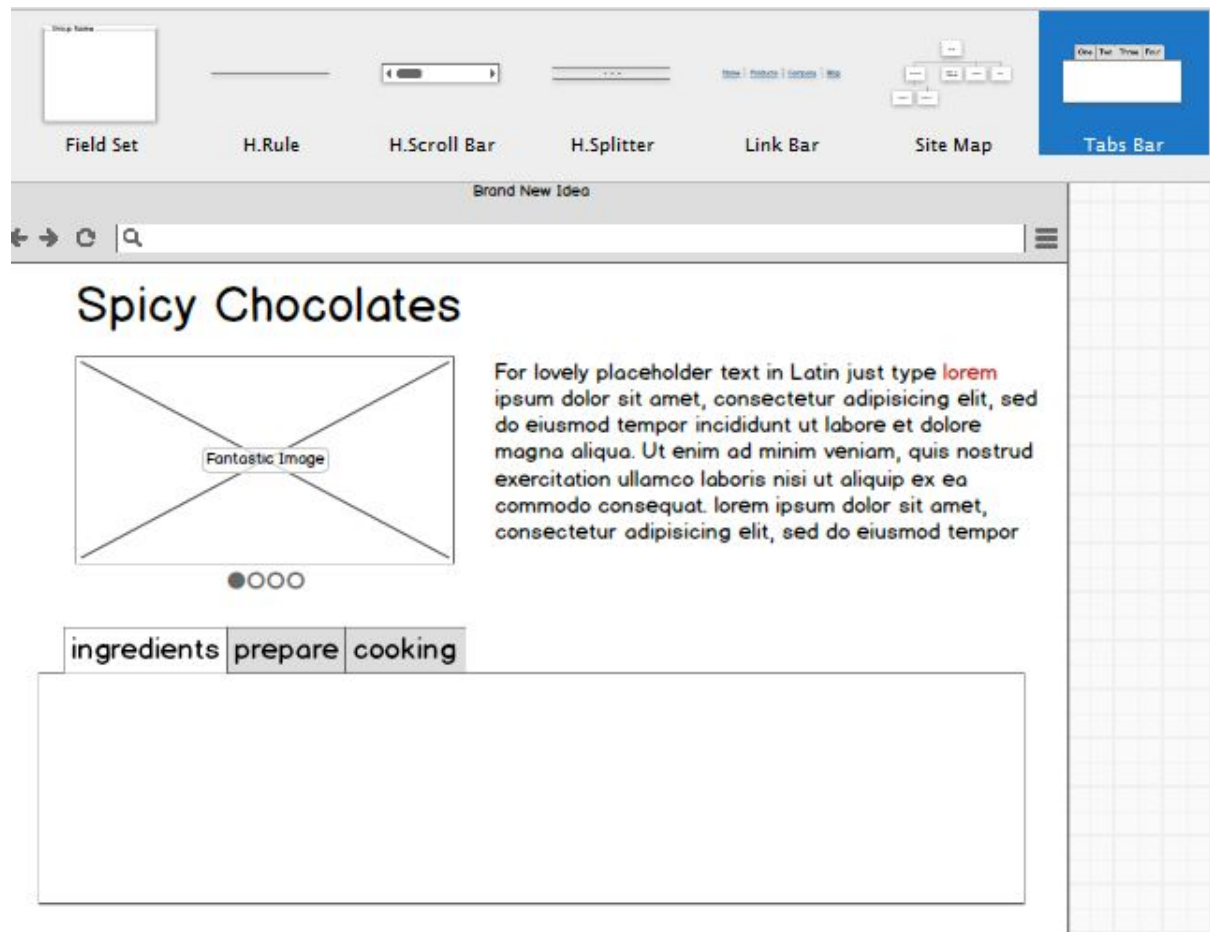
Tip: Holding down SHIFT while moving controls with the arrow keys will move them 10 pixels at a time (instead of the usual 1 pixel).

The below image demonstrates the Mockup so far, including the pager controls.

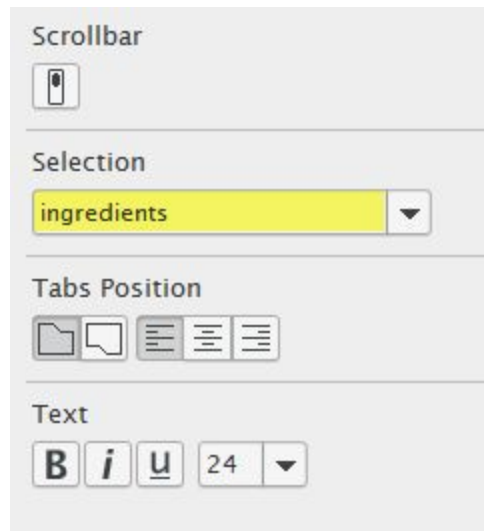


Topic 4: Completing the Mockup

The remainder of the Mockup consists of a **tab bar**, a **list** and a **chart**. Begin by **adding a tab bar control** and place it in the bottom half of the Mockup, as shown in the below screenshots:



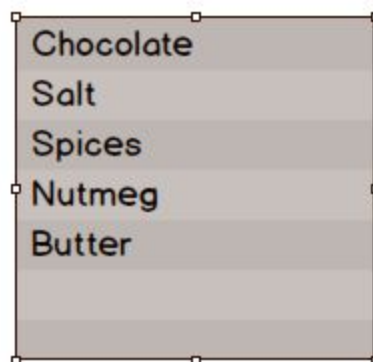
Each **tab heading** is separated by a comma. To select one tab choose **Selection** on the properties tab. **Resize the Tabs Bar control** to match the width of the page.



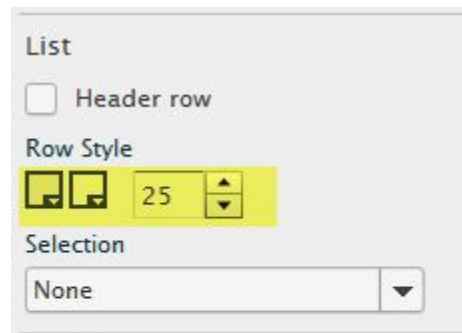
Next, let us add a list of ingredients. Each list item goes on a new line.



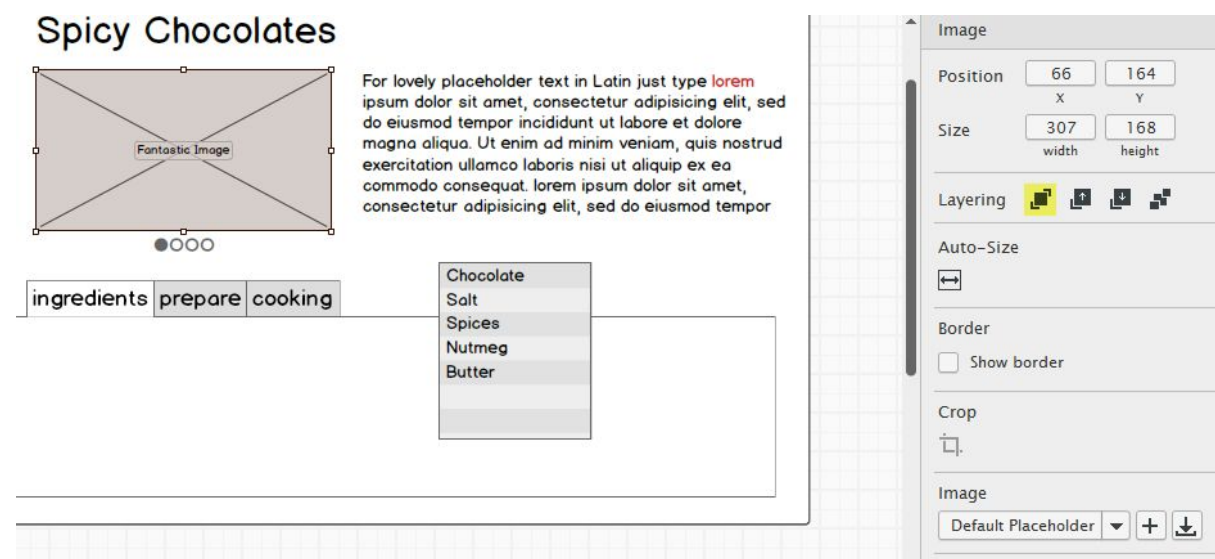
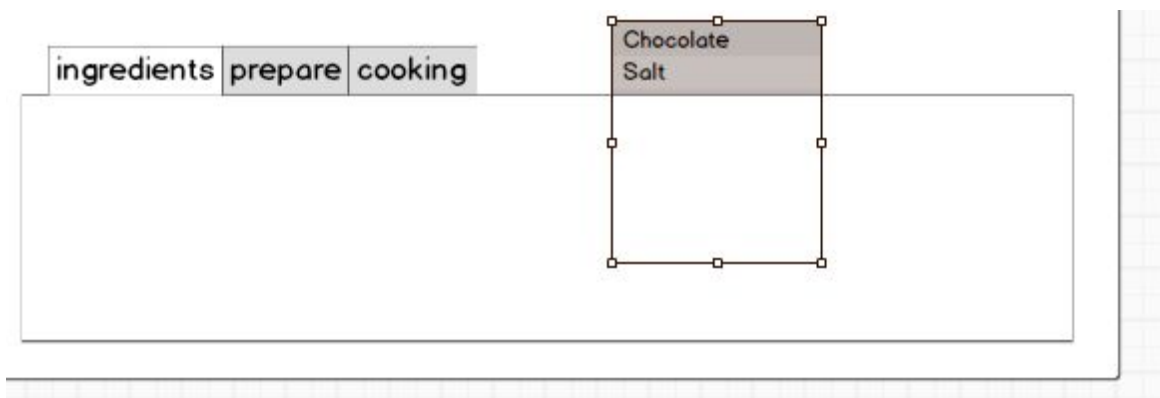
We can change the **attributes** of the list on the properties panel:



The **row style** changes the row backgrounds:

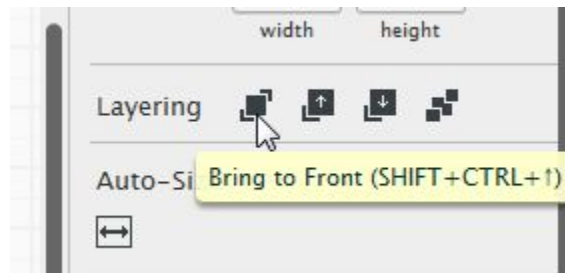


Now, we need to **add the list** to the tab. If the list is positioned behind the Tab Bar using the **Layering** tools on the properties toolbar then bring it to the **front**, as shown in the below screenshots:

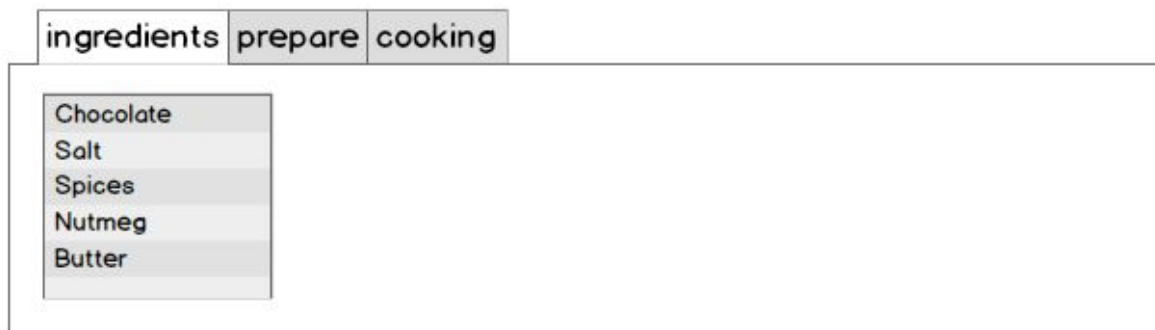


>_ Note:

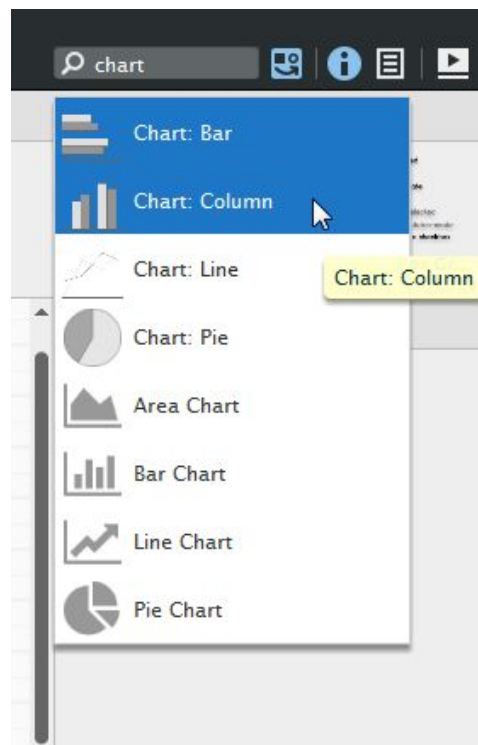
Like many similar Windows interfaces we can find out what a button does by hovering over it.



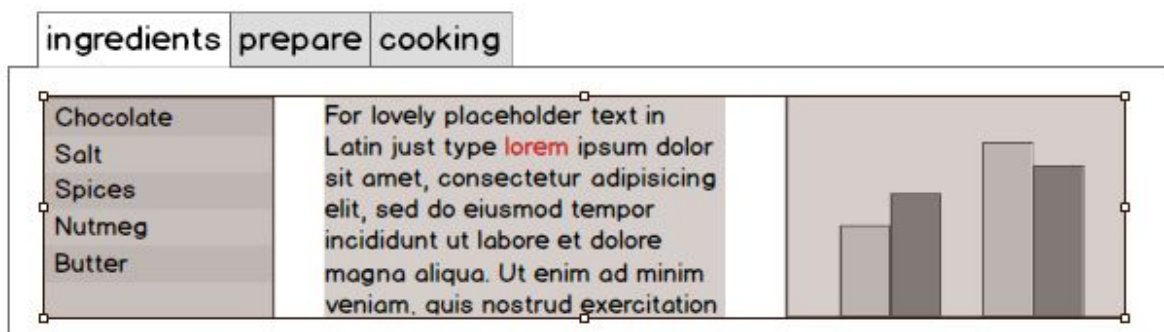
We can now reposition the list like so:



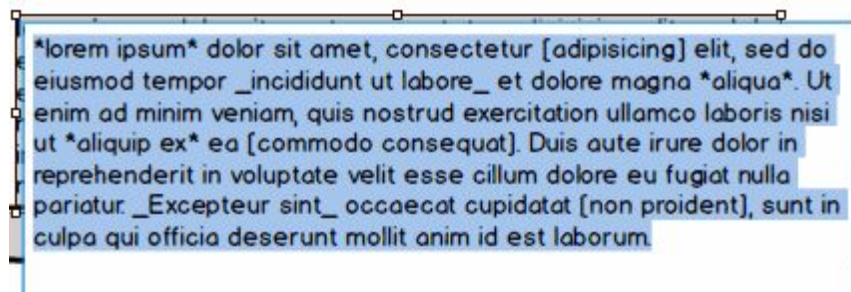
Now, we complete the final step, by inserting a column chart. This time we will type chart into the **Quick Add** field on the top right of the interface and choose **Column Chart**, as shown below:



Finally, drag a **Chart: Column** control into the empty area inside the Tabs Bar as a finishing touch to complete the Mockup. We can add some text content in the middle column and **align** the three columns, for good measure, as shown below:



You can format the text as bold, italic, or [hyperlinked](#) in many controls by enclosing the text with special characters. Use **text** for bold, *_text_* for italics, or [\[text\]](#) for hyperlinks, as shown below:

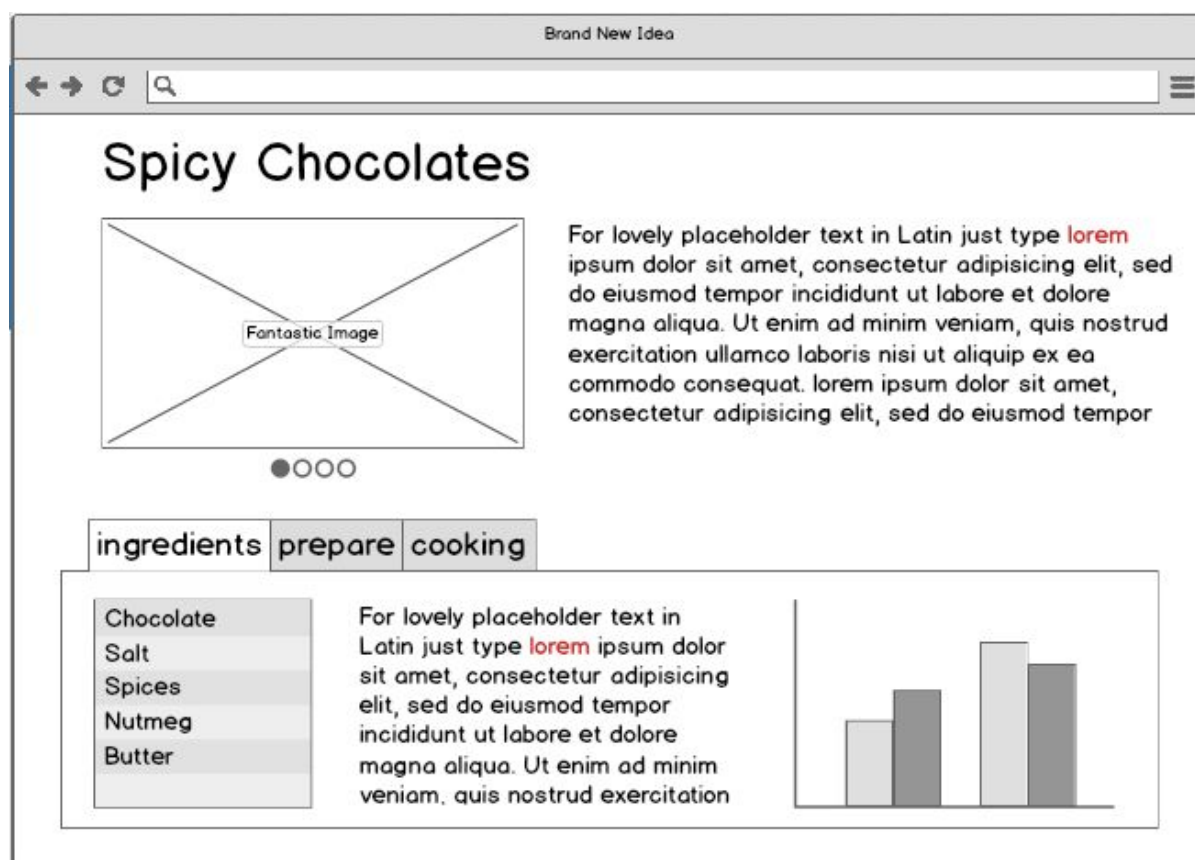


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Tip: Learn more formatting tips on the [Working with Text](#) page.

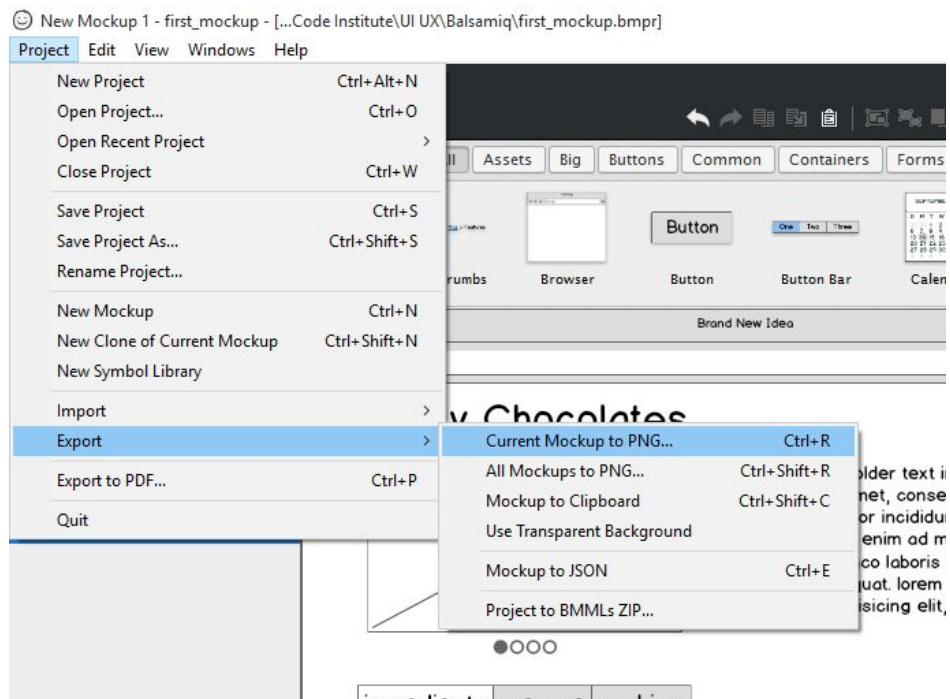
Topic 5: Final Layout

Your Mockup should now look something like that shown below:



Exporting and Next Steps

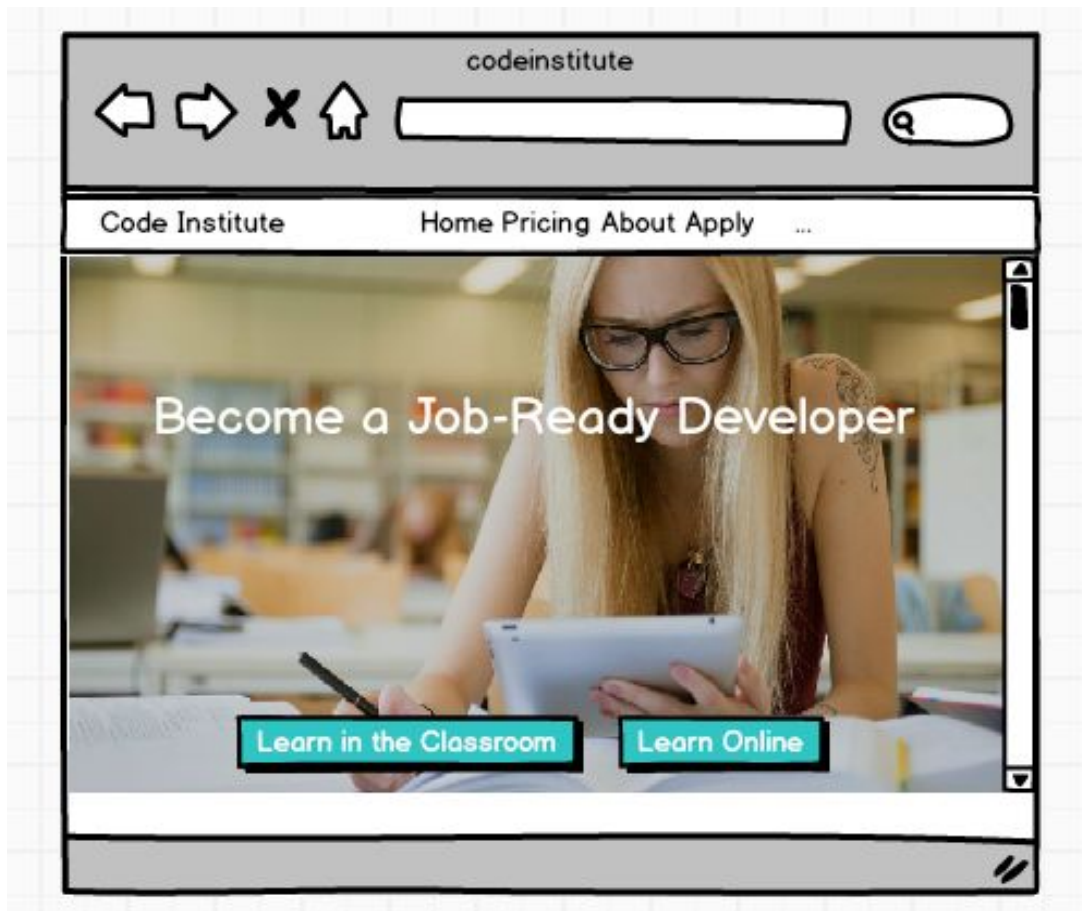
Now that the Mockup is finished, you can easily export it as an **image** via the **Project > Export > Mockup to PNG** menu, shown in the below screenshot:



Congratulations! You have now completed your first **wireframe** with Balsamiq Mockups! You are on your way to become an User Experience (UX) expert!

Challenge 1

Taking what you have learned in this lesson, can you generate a Mockup similar to the one shown below:



Note: the image is taken from the code-institute home web page

Summary

In this lesson you have been introduced to Balsamiq. This software helps you to rapidly build wireframe and mockup screens of our product ideas.

You have also completed a tutorial Mockup and generated your own Mockup using the skills you have learned.

Further Reading: [user experience design](#)