

CSS Outline

An outline is a line that is drawn around elements, OUTSIDE the borders, to make the element "stand out".

CSS has the following outline properties:

- outline-style - Specifies the style of the outline
 - outline-color - Specifies the color of the outline
 - outline-width - Specifies the width of the outline
 - outline-offset - Adds space between the outline and the edge/border of an element
 - outline - A shorthand property
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CSS The outline-style Property

The outline-style property specifies the style of the outline, and can have one of the following values:

- dotted - Defines a dotted outline
- dashed - Defines a dashed outline
- solid - Defines a solid outline
- double - Defines a double outline
- groove - Defines a 3D grooved outline
- ridge - Defines a 3D ridged outline
- inset - Defines a 3D inset outline
- outset - Defines a 3D outset outline
- none - Defines no outline
- hidden - Defines a hidden outline

The following example shows the different outline-style values:

Example

Demonstration of the different outline styles:

```
p.dotted {outline-style: dotted;}  
p.dashed {outline-style: dashed;}  
p.solid {outline-style: solid;}  
p.double {outline-style: double;}  
p.groove {outline-style: groove;}  
p.ridge {outline-style: ridge;}  
p.inset {outline-style: inset;}  
p.outset {outline-style: outset;}
```

CSS Outline Width

The outline-width property specifies the width of the outline, and can have one of the following values:

- thin (typically 1px)
- medium (typically 3px)
- thick (typically 5px)
- A specific size (in px, pt, cm, em, etc)

CSS Outline Width Examples

Here are some outlines with different widths:

A thin outline.

A medium outline.

A thick outline.

A 8px thick outline.

Example

Demonstration of different outline widths:

```
p {  
    padding: 5px;  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: green;  
}
```

```
p.ex1 {  
    outline-width: thin;  
}
```

```
p.ex2 {  
    outline-width: medium;  
}
```

```
p.ex3 {  
    outline-width: thick;  
}
```

```
p.ex4 {  
    outline-width: 8px;  
}
```

CSS Outline Color

The outline-color property is used to set the color of the outline.

The color can be set by:

- name - specify a color name, like "red"
- HEX - specify a hex value, like "#ff0000"
- RGB - specify a RGB value, like "rgb(255,0,0)"
- HSL - specify a HSL value, like "hsl(0, 100%, 50%)"
- invert - performs a color inversion (which ensures that the outline is visible, regardless of color background)

CSS Outline Color Examples

Here are some different outlines with different colors. Also notice that these elements also have a thin black border inside the outline:

A solid red outline.

A dotted blue outline.

An outset green outline.

A solid invert outline.

Example

Demonstration of different outline colors:

```
p {  
    border: 1px solid black;  
    padding: 5px;  
}
```

```
p.ex1 {  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: red;  
}
```

```
p.ex2 {  
    outline-style: dotted;  
    outline-color: blue;  
}
```

```
p.ex3 {  
    outline-style: outset;  
    outline-color: green;  
}
```

```
p.ex4 {  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: invert;  
}
```

HEX Values

The outline color can also be specified using a hexadecimal value (HEX):

Example

```
p.ex1 {  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: #ff0000; /* red */  
}
```

RGB Values

Or by using RGB values:

Example

```
p.ex1 {  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: rgb(255, 0, 0); /* red */  
}
```

HSL Values

You can also use HSL values:

Example

```
p.ex1 {  
    outline-style: solid;  
    outline-color: hsl(0, 100%, 50%); /* red */  
}
```

CSS Outline - Shorthand property

The outline property is a shorthand property for setting the following individual outline properties:

- outline-width
- outline-style (required)
- outline-color

You can specify one, two, or three values from the list above. The order of the values does not matter.

CSS Outline Shorthand Examples

Here are some different outlines specified with the shorthand outline property:

A dashed outline.

A dotted red outline.

A 7px solid yellow outline.

A thick ridge pink outline.

Example

Demonstration of the outline shorthand property:

```
p.ex1 {outline: dashed;}  
p.ex2 {outline: dotted red;}  
p.ex3 {outline: 7px solid yellow;}  
p.ex4 {outline: thick ridge pink;}
```

CSS Outline Offset

The outline-offset property adds a space between an outline and the edge/border of an element. The space between an element and its outline is transparent.

The following example specifies an outline 15px outside the border edge:

This paragraph has a black border and a red outline 15px outside the border edge.

Example

```
p {  
    margin: 30px;  
    padding: 5px;  
    border: 1px solid black;  
    outline: 3px solid red;  
    outline-offset: 15px;  
}
```

The following example shows that the space between an element's border and its outline is transparent:

This paragraph has an outline of 15px outside the border edge.

Example

```
p {  
    margin: 30px;  
    padding: 5px;  
    background: yellow;  
    border: 1px solid black;  
    outline: 3px solid red;  
    outline-offset: 15px;  
}
```

CSS Outline Offset with Negative Value

The following example shows the use of an outline-offset with a negative value, now the outline will be placed inside the border edge:

This paragraph has a black border and a red outline -5px inside the border edge.

Example

```
p {  
    margin: 30px;  
    padding: 5px;  
    background: yellow;  
    border: 1px solid black;  
    outline: 3px solid red;  
    outline-offset: -5px;  
}
```
