

Exercise 3-4: padding, margin and border

Adding a little padding

In this exercise, we'll use basic box properties to improve the appearance of a fictional shopping site, Jenware.com. I've given you a big head start by marking up the source document and creating a style sheet that handles text formatting, colors, and backgrounds. The document, *jenware.html*, i shows before and after shots of the Jenware home page. It's going to take a few exercises to get this page into presentable shape, and padding is just the beginning.



Start by opening *jenware.html* in a browser and a text editor to see what you've got to work with. The document has been divided into two main `div` elements ("intro" and "content"), and the `#content` `div` is divided again into "products" and "testimonials". The background colors have been added to the `body`, `#nav`, `#products`, and `#testimonials` divisions. I've also added a gradient at the top of the page and an exclamation point image to the background of the "testimonials" `div`. The remaining rules are for formatting text.

1. The first thing we'll do is add padding to the "products" `div`. One `em` of padding all around ought to be fine. Find the `#products` selector and add the `padding` declaration.

```
#products {  
    background-color: #FFF;
```

```
line-height: 1.5em;
padding: 1em;
}
```

2. Next, we'll get a little fancier with the "testimonials" section. I want to clear some space in the left side of the `div` so that my nifty exclamation-point background image is visible. There are several approaches to applying different padding amounts to each side, but I'm going to do it in a way that gives you experience deliberately overriding earlier declarations.

Use the `padding` shorthand property to add 1 em of padding on all sides of the testimonials `div`. Then write a second declaration that adds 55 pixels of padding to the left side only. Because the `padding-left` declaration comes second, it will override the 1em setting applied with the `padding` shorthand property.

```
#testimonials {
background: #FFBC53 url(images/ex-circle-corner.gif) no-repeat
left top;
color: #633;
font-size: .875em;
line-height: 1.5em;
padding: 1em;
padding-left: 55px;
}
```

3. Save your work and look at it in the browser. The testimonials and product descriptions should look a little more comfortable in their boxes. highlights the padding additions.

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Tired of sickly-sweet? These onesies with oversized letters in bold, bright patterns are a welcome change from the usual pastel fare. Monogrammed pants and baby shoes are also available. Tell us the initial and mix and match from 6 fun fabric patterns and 8 edging colors. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. Sizes: 3mos, 6mos, and 12mos.

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TESTIMONIALS

"The Jenware onesies were the hit of the baby shower. The custom letter 'a' and handmade quality made this gift really stand out among the cookie-cutter clothes from the department store."

"Thanks for the cool Jenware barware. I couldn't wait until I found 'Mr. Right,' so I just bought a set for myself! My friends always want to know where I got them so I send them to your site."

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Border tricks

In this exercise, we'll have some fun with borders on the Jenware home page. In addition to putting subtle borders around content sections on the page, we'll use borders to beef up the product headlines and as an alternative to underlines under links.

1. Open *jenware.html* in a text editor if it isn't already. We'll start with the basics by using the shorthand `border` property to add a light-orange (#FFBC53) double rule around the "products" area. The shade should be light enough as to not call too much attention to itself. Add the new declaration to the rule for the "products" `div`.

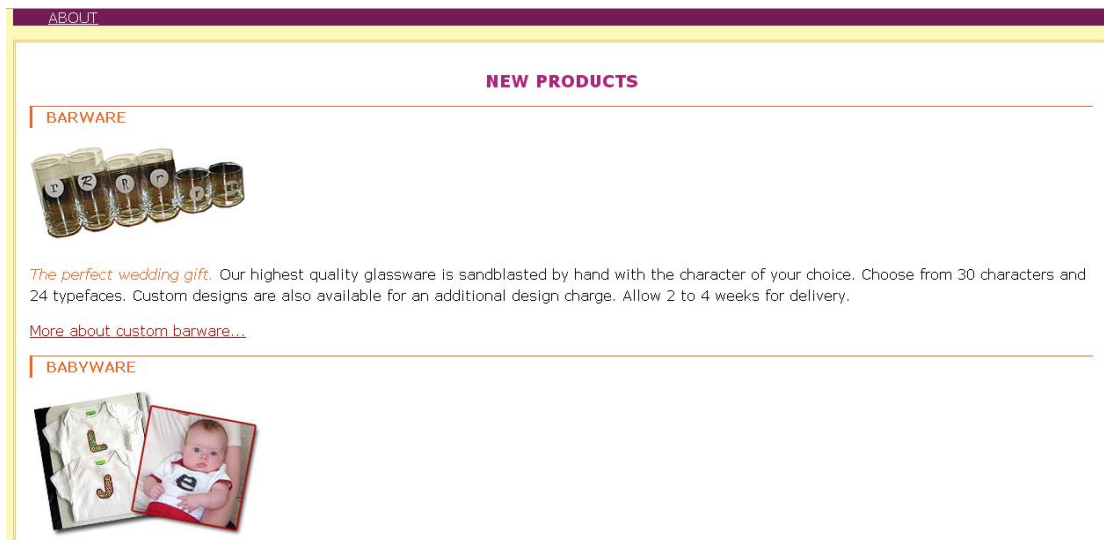
```
#products {  
  ...  
  border: double #FFBC53;  
}
```

2. Next, let's give the "testimonials" section rounded corners. They won't show up for Internet Explorer 6–8 and some other old browser versions, but that doesn't really hurt anything.

```
#testimonials {  
  ...  
  border-radius: 20px;  
}
```

3. Just for fun (and practice), we'll add a decorative border on two sides of the product category headings (`h3`). I want the borders to be the same color as the text, so we don't need to specify the `border-color`. Find the existing rule for `h3` elements in the "products" `div`, and add a declaration that adds a 1-pixel solid rule on the top of the headline. Add another declaration that adds a thicker, 3-pixel solid rule on the left side. Finally, to prevent the text from bumping into that left border, we can add a little bit of padding (1em) to the left of the headline content.

```
#products h3 {  
  font-size: 1em;  
  text-transform: uppercase;  
  color: #F26521;  
  border-top: 1px solid;  
  border-left: 3px solid;  
  padding-left: 1em;  
}
```



4. The last thing we'll do is replace the standard text underline under links with a decorative bottom border. Start by turning the underline off for all links by setting the `text-decoration` to `none` for the `a` element. Add this rule in the "link styles" section of the style sheet.

```
a {
  text-decoration: none;
}
```

5. Next, add a 1-pixel dotted border to the bottom edge of links by adding this declaration to the `a` rule.

```
a {
  text-decoration: none;
  border-bottom: 1px dotted;
}
```

Notice that because we want the border to have the same color as the links, we do not need to specify a color. However, if you try this on your own pages, you can easily change the color and style of the bottom border.

As is often the case when you add a border to an element, it is a good idea to also add a little padding to keep things from bumping together. Add some padding to the bottom edges only, like so:

```
a {
  text-decoration: none;
  border-bottom: 1px dotted;
  padding-bottom: .1em;
}
```

See the following [Figure](#) for what the page looks like.

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Adding margin space around elements

Open *jenware.html* in your text editor if it isn't open already, and we'll adjust the margins. We'll start by adjusting the margins on the whole document, and then make tweaks to each section from top to bottom.

1. It is common practice to set the margin for the `body` element to zero, thus clearing out the browser's default margin setting and creating a starting point for setting our own margins on elements throughout the page.

```
body {  
  ...  
  margin: 0;
```

```
}
```

Save the file and take a look in the browser. I like the way the purple navigation bar stretches from edge to edge of the browser window, but I think we need to tweak our other content areas.

2. Start with the `#intro` div, and add a 2-em margin on the top and 1em below. I also want to close up the space between the logo and the tagline, so set the bottom margin on the `h1` to zero and the top margin on the `h2` to `-10px` to move the tagline up nice and close to the logo. Finally, put a 1-em margin all around the introductory paragraph (`p`).

```
#intro {  
  ...  
  margin: 2em 0 1em;  
}  
  
#intro h1 {  
  margin-bottom: 0;  
}  
  
#intro h2 {  
  ...  
  margin-top: -10px;  
}  
  
#intro p {  
  ...  
  margin: 1em;  
}
```

3. Give the `#products` section a 1-em margin all around.

```
#products {  
  ...  
  margin: 1em;  
}
```

4. Now add a 2.5em space above the products subsection headings (`h3`). By this point, I bet you could write this one without my help, but for the sake of thoroughness, here is the new declaration added to `h3s` in the “products” section. You can try different amounts of space and see what you like best.

```
#products h3 {  
  ...  
  margin-top: 2.5em;  
}
```

5. Finally, we'll set apart the Testimonials box by adding 1em of space above and 10% on the left and right edges. This time, see if you can figure it out on your own.

6. Save the document again, and it should look something like the one in the following [Figure](#). This isn't the most beautiful design, particularly if your browser window is set wide. However, if you resize your browser window very narrow, you'll find that it wouldn't be too bad as the small-screen version in a responsive web design.



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