

Learn CSS By Use Cases

ebook by Joe Harrison



Properties position

Along with
top right bottom left z-index



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position

Properties

Let's first look at the available property values:

static - The default setting of all elements.

relative - Like static but relative to its default position.

absolute - Floating and positioned relative to a non static ancestor.

sticky - Moves between **relative** and **fixed** based on scroll position. You'll see this use case in the source code as it relies on interactions.

fixed - Floating and positioned relative to browser window.

z-index

Specifies the stack order of an element and works on absolute, relative, fixed and sticky. It also works on flex items that are direct children.

position

Properties

top, right, bottom & left

Set the various offset properties: From the element itself (relative), from the nearest non static ancestor element (absolute) or from the browser window (fixed). These properties do not apply to position static elements.

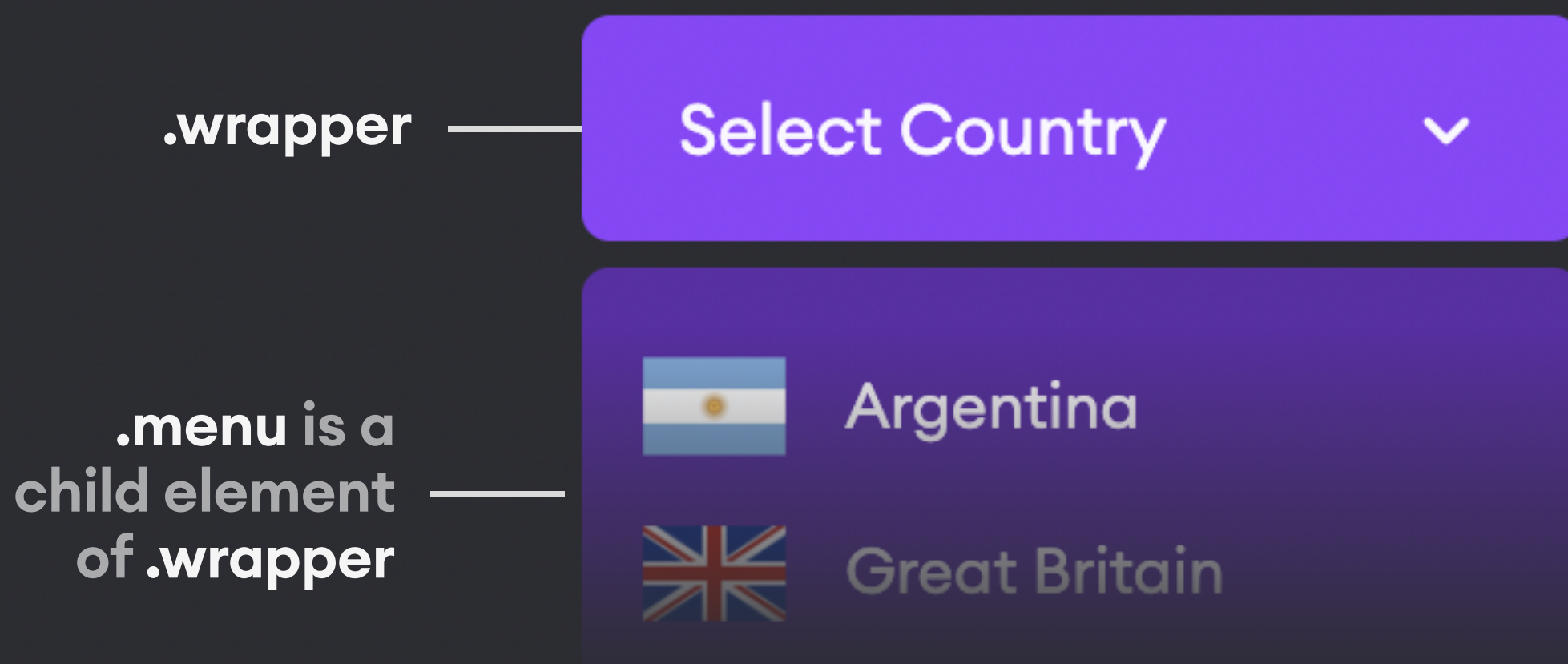
Tips

Absolute and relative combinations allow you to create elements outside of the flow, but still directly relate to elements within the flow. This means that we can create animated dropdown menu's extremely easy. If you need a static element within the CSS flow to appear above another element, you can use a combination of position relative and z-index.



relative and absolute

Create dropdown menus

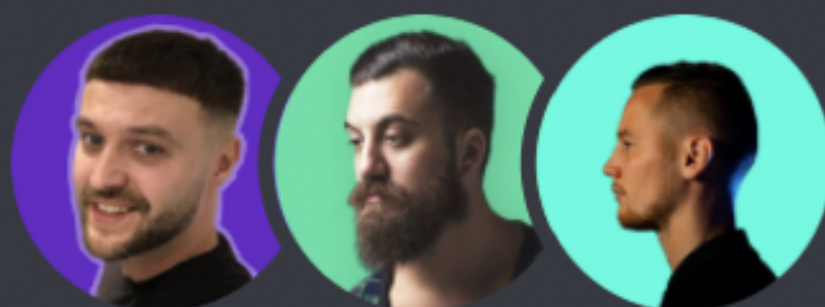


```
.wrapper { position: relative; }  
.menu { position: absolute; z-index: 1; }
```

It's good practice to
always set a **z-index** value
on absolute elements

relative and z-index

Create layered elements



.layer

left and
others
can be
negative

```
.layer:not(:first-child) {  
  position: relative;  
  left: -1rem;  
}
```

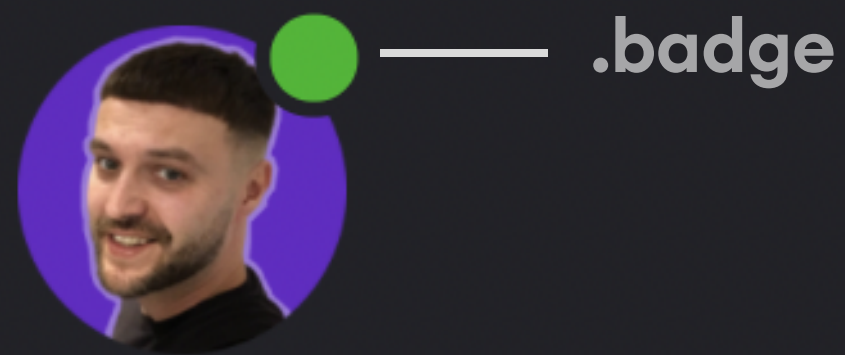
```
.layer:nth-child(1) { z-index: 1; }  
.layer:nth-child(2) { z-index: 2; }  
.layer:nth-child(3) { z-index: 3; }
```

In position:
relative the
offset
properties
are relevant
to itself
(bounding
box)



top, right, bottom and left

Create floating badges



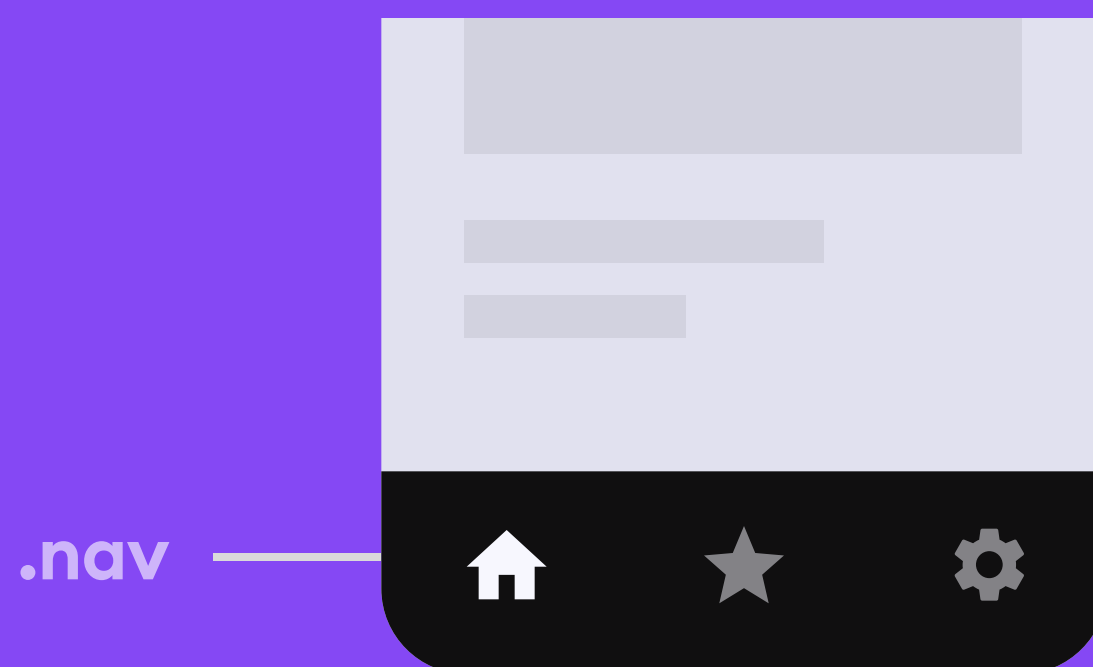
If a value is
not set it's
default will be
auto

```
.badge {  
  position: absolute;  
  top: -0.5rem;  
  right: -0.25rem;  
  bottom: auto;  
  left: auto;  
}
```

In position:
absolute the
offset properties
are relative to the
nearest non
static ancestor

fixed

Elements that do not move



z-index will
be typically
higher than 1

```
.nav {  
  position: fixed;  
  z-index: 5;  
  left: 0;  
  bottom: 0;  
  width: 100%;  
}
```

Top, right,
bottom, left,
width & height
relative to
browser window

position

Properties

Knowledge Gained

- 🏆 Add positional behaviour to elements
- 🏆 Position absolute allows us to float elements relative to a parent container
- 🏆 Position fixed allows us to float an element relative to the browser window
- 🏆 Z-index defines which elements appear on top when layered over one another
- 🏆 Top, right, bottom and left are how we define how an element is offset



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