

CSS Background Opacity [duplicate]

Asked 12 years, 7 months ago Modified 3 years, 3 months ago Viewed 3.0m times



888



This question already has answers here:

[How do I reduce the opacity of an element's background using CSS?](#) (30 answers)

Closed 8 years ago.

I am using something similar to the following code:

```
<div style="opacity:0.4; background-image:url(...);">
  <div style="opacity:1.0;">
    Text
  </div>
</div>
```

I expected this to make the background have an opacity of 0.4 and the text to have 100% opacity. Instead they both have an opacity of 0.4.

html css opacity

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:24



Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

asked May 2, 2012 at 23:05



John Wheal

10.3k ● 6 ● 30 ● 39

10 This is my solution: `<div style="background-image: url(...);"><div style="background-color: rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.7);">Text</div></div>`
– Beamer Sep 12, 2018 at 19:52

It's too bad there's no **background-opacity** property for BG *images*. I've got a responsive situation where a background that slides underneath text on smaller devices needs to be more subtle and transparent. I'm probably going to have to change the HTML structure and give the BG its own dedicated div just because of this. It's funny to me because the property [background-blend-mode](#) exists, but no such thing for opacity (something you'd be more likely to want to change, and prob tweak when changing blend mode). – Mentalist Aug 8, 2023 at 6:31

8 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



Children inherit opacity. It'd be weird and inconvenient if they didn't.



You can use a translucent PNG file for your background image, or use an RGBA (a for alpha) color for your background color.

1397



Example, 50% faded black background:



```
<div style="background-color:rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);">
  <div>
    Text added.
  </div>
</div>
```

Run code snippet

[Expand snippet](#)

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:25



[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered May 2, 2012 at 23:07



[SeanCannon](#)

77.9k ● 17 ● 125 ● 145

10 A more in-depth tutorial can be found here: robertnyman.com/2010/01/11/... – [Iain Fraser](#) Mar 14, 2013 at 0:56

22 Is it possible to set alpha through a separate css rule? – [jayarjo](#) Apr 11, 2014 at 8:02

3 No, it's a single channel of the color value, and the color value is assigned to the css rule. – [SeanCannon](#) Apr 11, 2014 at 17:29

3 @jayarjo `rgba(255,255,255,0.6)` is equivalent to colour neutral fade out of the background. – [LateralFractal](#) Mar 4, 2015 at 7:13

52 It's not really correct to say that "Children inherit opacity". They don't. It's just that if a child is contained in a parent with opacity, the child will have opacity: 1, but the parent applies it's opacity to itself including all it's children. – [stephband](#) Jan 15, 2016 at 16:11



You can use pseudo-elements `::before` or `::after` to get a semi-transparent background and you can do this with just one container. Use something like this:

267



```
<article>
  Text.
</article>
```



Then apply some CSS:

```
article {
  position: relative;
  z-index: 1;
}
```

```
article::before {
  content: "";
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  width: 100%;
  height: 100%;
  opacity: .4;
  z-index: -1;
  background: url(path/to/your/image);
}
```

Example:

```
body {
  background: red;
}

article {
  position: relative;
  z-index: 1;
}

article:before {
  content: " ";
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  width: 100%;
  height: 100px;
  opacity: .4;
  z-index: -1;
  background:
url(https://31.media.tumblr.com/8ec07e49f33088c2e32c158ca4262eb2/tumblr_n5wav6
```

```
<article>
  Text.
</article>
```

 Run code snippet

[Expand snippet](#)

Note: You might need to adjust the `z-index` values.

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edited Aug 27, 2021 at 6:17



user14550434

answered Sep 24, 2013 at 15:26



daniels

5,230 ● 2 ● 23 ● 11

Actually it does work in all new browsers and IE 9 and up. Take a look here [example](#)
– daniels Jun 18, 2014 at 20:33

-
- 18 I prefer this solution over the one with rgba because it works with both images and background-colors. – [BillyTom](#) Sep 26, 2014 at 6:27
-
- 5 The accepted answer is correct but this creative solution answers the OP more directly. Editing your background image to be a semi-transparent png/gif/etc.. is even more correct. Opacity takes a bit more juice to render. – [Patrick Borkowicz](#) Dec 5, 2014 at 19:11
-
- 6 @dudewad The OP wants the opacity to apply to a background image. – [daniels](#) Feb 4, 2015 at 9:48
-
- 1 This works, however if you want to change the background color of a pseudo element via javascript - you won't be able to since it is part of the shadow-dom. – [Adam Cooper](#) Dec 14, 2016 at 15:14
-



64



The following methods can be used to solve your problem:

1. CSS alpha transparency method (doesn't work in Internet Explorer 8):

```
#div{background-color:rgba(255,0,0,0.5);}
```

2. Use a transparent PNG image according to your choice as background.

3. Use the following CSS code snippet to create a cross-browser alpha-transparent background. Here is an example with `#000000` @ 0.4% opacity

```
.div {
  background:rgb(0,0,0);
  background: transparent\9;
  background:rgba(0,0,0,0.4);

  filter:progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#66000000,en
    zoom: 1;
}
.div:nth-child(n) {
  filter: none;
}
```

For more details regarding this technique, see [this](#), which has an online CSS generator.

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:42



Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Sep 24, 2013 at 16:06



Achyuth Ajoy

641 ● 5 ● 3

The css tag is called `background-color` not `background` – Wilt Feb 16, 2016 at 16:06

- 12 @Wilt the css rule background-color is a subrule of background. Similar to border, margin, and padding, all background subrules can be set inside of background in one line instead of separately. Using background in this instance is what you want though so you can override other background subrules. – David R. Jun 10, 2016 at 14:57



45



I would do something like this

```
<div class="container">
  <div class="text">
    <p>text yay!</p>
  </div>
</div>
```

CSS:

```
.container {
  position: relative;
}

.container::before {
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  bottom: 0;
  right: 0;
  background: url('/path/to/image.png');
  opacity: .4;
  content: "";
  z-index: -1;
}
```

It should work. This is assuming you are required to have a semi-transparent image BTW, and not a color (which you should just use rgba for). Also assumed is that you can't just alter the opacity of the image beforehand in Photoshop.

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:41

answered May 2, 2012 at 23:28

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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133



Pete Lada

1,318 ● 10 ● 12

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do you have to set z-index: -1 on #bgd ? otherwise it'll make the entire thing transparent
– [windmaomao](#) Jun 18, 2015 at 3:58

not `z-index`, but `bgd` div element needs to be before the `text` element – [T.Todua](#) Feb 7, 2016 at 18:16 ✎

1 `pointer-events: none;` instead of `z-index: -1` on the `::before` pseudo-element will allow the mouse to click through it to the actual element while still showing the pseudo on top. – [OXIGEN](#) Sep 27, 2020 at 7:41



14



You can use [Sass'](#) `transparentize`.

I found it to be the most useful and plain to use.

```
transparentize(rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5), 0.1) => rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.4)
transparentize(rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.8), 0.2) => rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.6)
```



See more: [#transparentize\(\\$color, \\$amount\) => Sass::Script::Value::Color](#)

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:45

answered Mar 21, 2016 at 12:53

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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133



ilan weissberg

668 ● 1 ● 7 ● 13

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8



```
.transbg{/* Fallback for web browsers that don't support RGBA */
background-color: rgb(0, 0, 0);
/* RGBA with 0.6 opacity */
background-color: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.6);
/* For IE 5.5 - 7*/
filter:progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#99000000,
endColorstr=#99000000);
/* For IE 8*/
-ms-filter:
"progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#99000000,
endColorstr=#99000000)";}
```

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answered Mar 16, 2014 at 6:08



[Wael Wafik](#)

121 ● 1 ● 3



5



This is because the inner div has 100% of the opacity of the div it is nested in (which has 40% opacity).

In order to circumvent it, there are a few things you could do.

You could create two separate divs like so:

```
<div id="background"></div>
<div id="bContent"></div>
```

Set your desired CSS opacity and other properties for the background and use the z-index property ([z-index](#)) to style and position the bContent div. With this you can place the div overtop of the background div without having it's opacity mucked with.

Another option is to [RGBA](#). This will allow you to nest your divs and still achieve div specific opacity.

The last option is to simply make a semi transparent .png image of the color you want in your desired image editor of choice, set the background-image property to the URL of the image and then you won't have to worry about mucking about with the CSS and losing the capability and organization of a nested div structure.

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edited Mar 23, 2019 at 0:30



[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered May 2, 2012 at 23:14



[jshbrmn](#)

1,777 ● 3 ● 23 ● 54



Just make sure to put width and height for the foreground the same with the background, or try to have top, bottom, left and right properties.

4



```
<style>
  .foreground, .background {
    position: absolute;
  }
  .foreground {
    z-index: 1;
  }
  .background {
    background-image: url(your/image/here.jpg);
    opacity: 0.4;
  }
</style>

<div class="foreground"></div>
<div class="background"></div>
```

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answered Jul 25, 2016 at 23:57



Niño Angelo Orlanes
Lapura

813 ● 9 ● 10

Dedicated background element with opacity controller seems like the way to go. It'd be nice to have a real background opacity rule though. – [Llama D'Attore](#) May 20, 2023 at 0:32
