

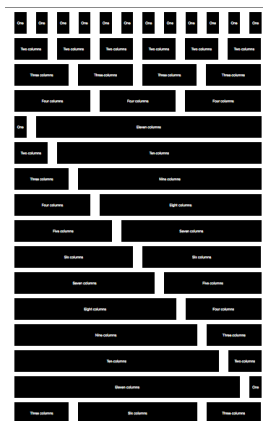
UI Design using CSS Grid Frameworks

Grids have been used in print publishing to layout pages. They divide the page into horizontal and vertical consistent parts where text, headlines, images, and advertising can be placed. There are advantages and disadvantages to using grids. If you use grids, you typically have to include extra HTML tag markup to your content, thus increasing page file sizes. This also means that markup and style are not truly separated and that there is no semantic benefit from the addition.

However, there are a number of design benefits to using grid frameworks - The Grid can be used to achieve many different layouts. You can divide up space for major regions of an application, or defining the relationship in terms of size, position, and layers. Like tables, grids enable an author to align elements into columns and rows, but unlike tables, grids don't have content structure, and thus enables a wide variety of layouts not possible with tables.

Developing with grids:

1. The 1140 CSS Grid <http://cssgrid.net/> can be used to intelligently reflow elements into 12 columns. On smaller monitors, it becomes fluid and adapts to the width of the browser. Once it gets very small (e.g. for mobile) it will stack all of the columns on top of each other. Or into numerous uneven combinations like seven and five or five, four, three. Go to cssgrid.net and download the 1140 grid.



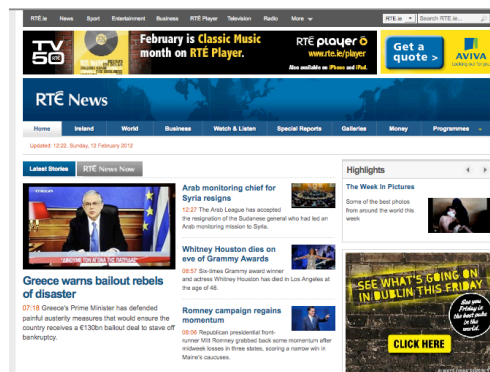
2. Copy the index.html and edit it so that you have a <div> with a container, row, and multiple columns like the example below. 1140.css controls the rows and cols.

```

<div class="container">
  <div class="row">
    <div class="threecol">
      <p>Column 1</p>
    </div>
    <div class="threecol">
      <p>Column 2</p>
    </div>
    <div class="threecol">
      <p>Column 3</p>
    </div>
    <div class="threecol last">
      <p>Column 4</p>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>

```

3. Create a column that spans across all 12 rows. This example is not in index.html – but there is a CSS rule in 1140.css already. Find the right rule and implement it.
4. You are going to recreate a news website – these types of sites often have numerous entry points for large amounts of information. A grid can be a useful tool to get you started when designing this complex interface. Recreate a grid similar to below after taking a look at <http://www.rte.ie/news/> It doesn't have to be an exact replica, instead use this as inspiration!



5. Next, style the page using your CSS. The boxes are currently just <p> paragraphs inside each div – this won't work for your page as we want to include other tags such as <h1> headings. You can take content from <http://www.rte.ie/news/> to fill in your page. Once you have some sample content change the style of the boxes.

Further References:

CSS3 Grid Layout Specification (This is still at the experimental phase)

<http://dev.w3.org/csswg/css3-grid-align/>

YUI CSS Grids <http://yuilibrary.com/yui/docs/cssgrids/>

1140 CSS Grid <http://cssgrid.net/>

Adapt.js – Responsive adaptive CSS <http://adapt.960.gs/>

SASS <http://sass-lang.com/>

LESS <http://lesscss.org/>

CSS Easy <http://csseasy.com/>