

v2.0.5 **cast**
a proboards v5 theme

ellimcale

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INTRODUCTION

cast is a theme skeleton made up of basic adjustments to the default ProBoards theme, including a more neutral color scheme and multiple fixes to styles, layout templates, and markup. Its intended audience is intermediate to advanced users creating custom ProBoards themes. Those more familiar with CSS will find this theme easiest to customize through the stylesheet.

Built with the purpose of being redistributed as your own creation, you are free and encouraged to edit any part of this theme. You do not need to credit or reference me if you use this as a base for a premade or commission, but it would be cool to see what you build! That being said, a lot of personal time and effort were invested in tweaking and testing these files, and as such, my only request is that you don't explicitly claim *cast* (as a base theme) as your own.

Special thanks to [Smangii](#) for his [ClearUBBC icons](#), and [Trinity Blair](#) for pointing out several of these fixes in her own [Skeleton Theme](#).

This readme is meant to help guide you through the process of using *cast* to create a custom theme. It outlines the restructured stylesheet and contains several tutorials for basic remodels. If you can't find what you're looking for or have suggestions for additional fixes in future versions, feel free to post in the support threads on ProBoards Support, Adoxography, or Slightly Insane.

If you're less familiar with ProBoards themes or CSS/HTML, I would suggest reviewing these resources before getting started.

On ProBoards themes:

- » <http://adoxographyv2.boards.net/thread/1682/101-on-skin>
- » <http://smangii.proboards.com/thread/38907/smangiis-theme-guide-proboards-v5>

On CSS and HTML:

- » <http://htmldog.com/>
- » <http://html.net/>
- » <https://teamtreehouse.com/>

INSTALLATION

1. Download the [cast-skin.pbt file](#) and save it somewhere easily accessible, such as your Desktop or Downloads folder
2. Go to your forum's Admin Panel
3. Click on **Themes > Theme Manager**
4. Click the "Create New/Import Theme" button
5. Click on "Import an Existing Theme"
6. Click the "Choose Theme File" button
7. Navigate to and select the cast-skin.pbt file
8. Once the theme has been imported, click the "Finished" button near the bottom right of the modal dialog window

PROTIP: *If importing the .pbt file results in an error, you may need to try again. Sometimes the ProBoards theme importer fails despite multiple attempts. If the issue persists, try clearing your browser's cookies and logging in again.*

THE STYLESHEET

COMMENT HEADERS

The default stylesheet in *cast* has been taken apart and reorganized with more prominent comment headers, sectioned-off styles, and separated variables. This was done in an attempt to make it easier to read and edit, but has the added benefit of making the stylesheet more searchable.

```
189
190 /* =====
191 * HEADER
192 * ===== */
193
194 /* --- banner --- */
195
196 @banner_background_repeat: repeat;
197 @banner_text_font: normal normal bold 30px @default_forum_text_font_family;
198 @banner_text_decoration: none;
199 @banner_text_case: none;
200 @banner_text_caps: normal;
201
202 header { display: block; position: relative; margin-bottom: 10px; }
203
```

Top-level comment headers indicate primary sections of the main page, objects such as the mini profile, and sub-pages like the calendar and search page. Top-level comment headers look like this:

```
/* =====
* NAVIGATION TREE + PARTICIPATED THREADS
* ===== */
```

The stylesheet is further divided with secondary comment headers. These are usually individual parts of the main section; for example, the participated threads button is a sub-section of the navigation tree. Secondary comment headers look like this:

```
/* --- participated threads dialog --- */
```

PROTIP: You can use the asterisks and dashes in the comment headers to search for specific sections in your stylesheet. If you wanted to find the section for the info center, you could do so by clicking within the stylesheet, pressing *ctrl* (OSX: *cmd*) + *F* on your keyboard, and typing “- info center”.

THE STYLE SHEET

LESS.JS VARIABLES & MIXINS

The ProBoards v5 stylesheet is built using a CSS preprocessor called Less.js, a language created to extend the functionality of CSS by allowing for reusable code such as variables, mixins, and functions. These features are common among other programming languages, but aren't possible in vanilla CSS. With Less, you can define a color, or even an entire style block, and use it throughout your stylesheet by simply referencing only one line of code. Less then compiles the code as regular CSS so that it can be read by the browser!

Variables are in the same positions as they are in the default stylesheet; required and global variables are placed near the top, and variables for specific sections are located within those sections. Many of them have been redefined or set to `@empty` for the sake of consistency. You can find a full list in *cast's* change log (**Admin > Themes > Theme Manager > cast Skin**).

```
54
55 /* =====
56 * THEME CREATOR REQUIRED VARIABLES
57 * ===== */
58
59 @body_background_color: #ecf0f1;
60 @body_background_image: @empty;
61
62 @default_forum_text_color: #000000;
63 @link_color: #2980b9;
64 @link_visited_color: #2980b9;
65
66 @banner_height: 100px;
67 @banner_background_color: #95a5a6;
68
```

Mixins can also be found at the top of the stylesheet. The biggest change has been the removal of rounded corners and box shadow mixins — so *web 2.0*. Hopefully you won't miss them, but if you do, they can be added back by just copy + pasting from a fresh copy of the default ProBoards stylesheet.

PROTIP: To learn more about how to use variables and mixins, read up at lesscss.org. I also suggest this tutorial, which outlines things pretty well for beginners:

» <http://verekia.com/less-css/dont-read-less-css-tutorial-highly-addictive>

THE STYLE SHEET

PREDEFINED STYLES

I've made *cast* even easier to customize by adding several predefined styles for common remodels such as sidebars, fixed navigation menus, wrapper background images, and icon fonts. These also have associated objects in the Visual Editor, so you can quickly switch out colors and images without having to directly edit the stylesheet.

FIXED SIDEBAR

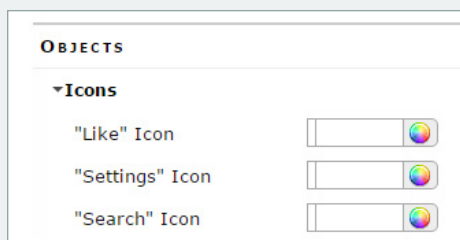
The sidebar can be found by searching, “* sidebar”. It's currently styled to be positioned on the left side of the page and 100% of the browser height, but can be customized to suit your needs using the available variables. However, for the sidebar to appear, you will need to add HTML to your Forum Wrapper layout template (or wherever you prefer).

FIXED NAVIGATION MENU

For a quick, fixed navigation menu, you can use the mixin `.fixed-navigation()` ; on `#navigation-menu`. I suggest using these remodels with a full-width banner. Complete tutorial for fixed navigation menu on [Page 8](#).

WRAPPER BACKGROUNDS

The forum wrapper has been beefed up! It now supports background colors, background images, and padding to create a bordered look. Find it by searching, “- wrapper” in your stylesheet. As mentioned above, the background properties are found in the Visual Editor.



ICON FONTS

Many of the default ProBoards icons have been replaced by glyphs from something called an “icon font”. *cast* is using one called [Font Awesome](#), and the benefit to this — over static images or SVG — is that these icons can be styled just like regular text. That means size, color, text shadows, and anything else possible with CSS are all very easy to accomplish. Change the icons' color in the Visual Editor!

CUSTOMIZATION

SIDEBARS

1. Go to **Admin > Themes > Layout Templates**
2. Click on “Forum Wrapper”
3. Find this line:

```
<div id="wrapper">  
  <header>
```

4. Created a new line directly above it
5. On your keyboard, press ctrl (OSX: cmd) + C and ctrl + V to copy and paste the following HTML to your Forum Wrapper layout template:

```
<div id="sidebar">  
  This is your sidebar  
</div>
```

6. Click the orange-highlighted “Save Theme” button near the top of the text area to save your changes
7. Now go to **Admin > Themes > Advanced Styles & CSS**
8. Click on the “Style Sheet” tab
9. Click inside the stylesheet text area, press ctrl + F and type “* sidebar”
10. This should bring you to this line:

```
/* =====  
* SIDEBAR  
* ===== */
```

- Use the `@sidebar_width` variable to adjust the width of the sidebar
 - Use the `@sidebar_padding` variable to adjust the padding (inner spacing) of the sidebar (CSS shorthand)
 - Use the `@sidebar_left_position` or `@sidebar_right_position` to adjust the sidebar’s position on the page. The current value is `left: 0`
11. Click the “Save Changes” button to save your changes.

CUSTOMIZATION

WRAPPER

1. Go to **Admin > Themes > Advanced Styles & CSS**
2. Click on the “Style Sheet” tab
3. Click inside the stylesheet text area, press ctrl (OSX: cmd) + F and type “- wrapper”
4. This should bring you to this line:

```
/* --- wrapper --- */
```

- Use the `@wrapper_background_*` variables to adjust the background properties of the wrapper
 - Use the `@wrapper_padding` variable to adjust the padding (inner spacing) of the wrapper
 - Use the `@wrapper_**margin` variables to adjust the margin (outer spacing) of the wrapper
5. Click the orange-highlighted “Save Theme” button near the top of the page to save your changes

REMODELS

STICKY HEADERS

This tutorial will help you create a sticky header — meaning, navigation menus and banners that follow the user as they scroll up and down the page. Using mixins and jQuery, follow the steps below to achieve your desired effect.

STICKY NAVIGATION

This is a simple remodel to the main navigation menu that will follow users as they scroll. To get started, go to your Admin Panel.

1. Go to **Admin > Themes > Layout Templates**
2. Click on “Forum Wrapper”
3. Find this line:

```
<a id="navigation-skip" href="#content" accesskey="s" class="aria-hidden"
title="Skip Navigation">Skip Navigation</a>
```

4. Select the above through the navigation menu’s closing `</div>` tag:

```
<div id="navigation-menu" class="ui-helper-clearfix">
...
</div>
```

5. On your keyboard, press ctrl (OSX: cmd) + X to cut the text
6. Find this line:

```
<div id="wrapper">
```

7. Create a new line directly above it
8. Press ctrl + V to paste the navigation menu above the forum wrapper
9. Click the orange-highlighted “Save Theme” button near the top of the text area to save your changes
10. Now go to **Admin > Themes > Advanced Styles & CSS**
11. Click the “Style Sheet” tab

12. Click inside the stylesheet text area, press ctrl + F and type “#navigation-menu”

13. Find this line:

```
#navigation-menu { padding: 0 8px; background: @nav_bar_background; border: @nav_bar_border; }
```

14. Add the following properties:

```
#navigation-menu { width: 100%; padding: 0 8px; background: @nav_bar_background; border: @nav_bar_border; .fixed-navigation(); .box-sizing(); }
```

15. Now press ctrl + F and type “ - wrapper”

16. Find this line:

```
/* --- wrapper --- */
```

17. Find the @wrapper_top_margin variable and replace “0” with the pixel value of the height of the navigation menu (30px by default) plus the desired distance between the navigation menu and forum wrapper (20px for example). So 30px (navigation menu height) + 20px (distance between nav and forum = 50px

```
@wrapper_top_margin: 50px;
```

18. Click the “Save Theme” button to save your changes.

Note: This will overlap the control bar on scroll. To fix this, find `.container > .control-bar` and add:
`top: [navigation bar height]px !important;`

PROTIP: To make the entire header sticky, apply a similar process to `<header>` by moving it outside of the forum wrapper and appending the `.fixed-navigation()` ; *mixin* to header in the CSS!

REMODELS

STICKY HEADERS

DELAYED STICKY NAVIGATION

This is a delayed sticky navigation. The navigation will stay under the banner until the user scrolls past it, at which point it will stick to the top of the page. To get started, go to your Admin Panel.

1. Go to **Admin > Themes > Advanced Styles & CSS**
2. Click on the “Style Sheet” tab
3. Find this line:

```
#navigation-menu { padding: 0 8px; background: @nav_bar_background; border: @nav_bar_border; }
```

4. Create a new line directly below it
5. Created a new class `.sticky-navigation` and add the mixin `.fixed-navigation();` and `width: @wrapper_width;` between the brackets:

```
.sticky-navigation { width: @wrapper_width; .fixed-navigation(); }
```

6. Click the orange-highlighted “Save Theme” button near the top of the text area to save your changes
7. Now go to **Admin > Structure > Headers & Footers**
8. Click on “Global Header & Footer”

10. On your keyboard, press ctrl (OSX: cmd) + C and ctrl + V to copy and paste the following script to your Global Headers:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
$(document).ready(function() {
    var $nav = $("#navigation-menu");
    var pos = $nav.position();
    $(window).scroll(function() {
        var windowpos = $(window).scrollTop();
        if (windowpos >= pos.top) {
            $nav.addClass("sticky-navigation");
        } else {
            $nav.removeClass("sticky-navigation");
        }
    });
});
</script>
```

11. Click the “Save Changes” button to save your changes.

Note: This will overlap the control bar on scroll. To fix this, find `.container > .control-bar` and add:
`top: [navigation bar height]px !important;`