HOME   HTML5   CSS3   JAVASCRIPT   JQUERY   BOOTSTRAP4   PHP7   SQL   REFERENCES   EXAMPLES   FAQ   SNIPPETS

BOOTSTRAP BASIC

Bootstrap Introduction

Bootstrap Getting Started

Bootstrap Grid System

Bootstrap Fixed Layout

Bootstrap Fluid Layout

Bootstrap Responsive Layout

Bootstrap Typography

Bootstrap Tables

Bootstrap Lists

Bootstrap List Groups

Bootstrap Forms

Bootstrap Custom Forms

Bootstrap Input Groups

Bootstrap Buttons

Bootstrap Button Groups

Bootstrap Images

Bootstrap Cards

Bootstrap Media Objects

Bootstrap Icons

Bootstrap Navs

Bootstrap Navbar

Bootstrap Breadcrumbs

Bootstrap Pagination

Bootstrap Badges

Bootstrap Progress Bars

Bootstrap Jumbotron

Bootstrap Helper Classes

BOOTSTRAP ADVANCED

Bootstrap Modals

Bootstrap Dropdowns

Bootstrap Tabs

Bootstrap Tooltips

Bootstrap Popovers

Bootstrap Alerts

Bootstrap Stateful Buttons

Bootstrap Accordion

Bootstrap Carousel

Bootstrap Typeahead

Bootstrap ScrollSpy

BOOTSTRAP EXAMPLES

Bootstrap Practice Examples

Bootstrap FAQ's Answers

BOOTSTRAP ARCHIVE

Bootstrap 3 Tutorial

Bootstrap 3 Practice Examples

Bootstrap Nav: Tabs and Pills

In this tutorial you will learn how to create Bootstrap nav components.

Bootstrap Nav Components

Bootstrap provides an easy and quick way to create basic nav components like tabs and pills which are very flexible and elegant. All the Bootstrap's nav components—tabs and pills—share the same base markup and styles through the base `.nav` class.

Creating Basic Nav with Bootstrap

You can use the Bootstrap `.nav` class to create a basic navigation menu, like this:

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

    Home   Profile   Messages   Reports

> **Note:** You can use the class `.disabled` to make a link look like disabled. But, the `.disabled` class only changes the visual appearance of the link by making it gray and removing the hover effect, however the link will remain clickable unless you remove the `"href"` attribute.

Alignment of Nav Items

By default, navs are left-aligned, but you can easily align them to center or right using flexbox utilities.

The following example uses the class `.justify-content-center` to align nav items to center.

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav justify-content-center">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

| Home | Profile | Messages | Reports |

Similarly, you can align nav items to right using the class `.justify-content-end`, like this:

| Example | Try this code » |

```
1   <nav class="nav justify-content-end">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

| | | Home | Profile | Messages | Reports |

Moreover, you can even vertically stack your nav items by changing the flex item direction with the class `.flex-column`, as demonstrated in the following example:

| Example | Try this code » |

```
1   <nav class="nav flex-column">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home

Profile

Messages

Reports

Creating the Basic Tabs

Simply, add the class `.nav-tabs` to the basic nav to generate a tabbed navigation, like this:

| Example | Try this code » |

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-tabs">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```
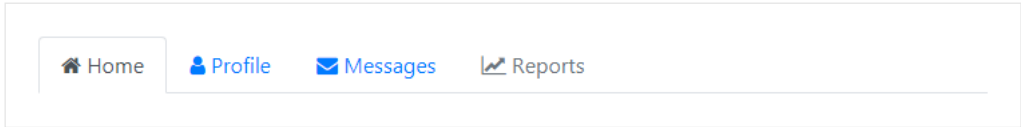
— The output of the above example will look something like this:

| Home | Profile | Messages | Reports |

You can also add icons to your tab items to make it more attractive, as shown here:

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-tabs">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">
3           <i class="fa fa-home"></i> Home
4       </a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
6           <i class="fa fa-user"></i> Profile
7       </a>
8       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
9           <i class="fa fa-envelope"></i> Messages
10      </a>
11      <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">
12          <i class="fa fa-line-chart"></i> Reports
13      </a>
14  </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

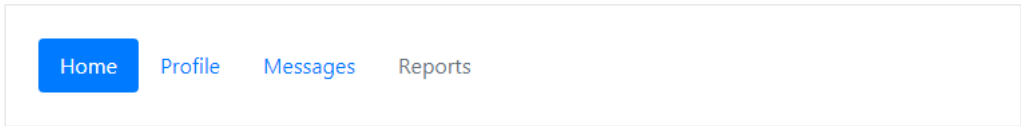🏠 Home   👤 Profile   ✉ Messages   📈 Reports

Creating the Pills Nav

Similarly, you can create pill based navigation by adding the class `.nav-pills` on the basic nav instead of class `.nav-tabs`, as shown in the following example:

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-pills">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Messages</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
6   </nav>
```
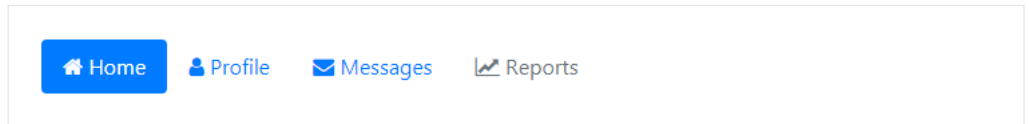
— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home   Profile   Messages   Reports

Similarly, like nav tabs you can also add icons to your pills nav to make it more attractive:

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-pills">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">
3           <i class="fa fa-home"></i> Home
4       </a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
6           <i class="fa fa-user"></i> Profile
7       </a>
8       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
9           <i class="fa fa-envelope"></i> Messages
10      </a>
11      <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">
12          <i class="fa fa-line-chart"></i> Reports
13      </a>
14  </nav>
```
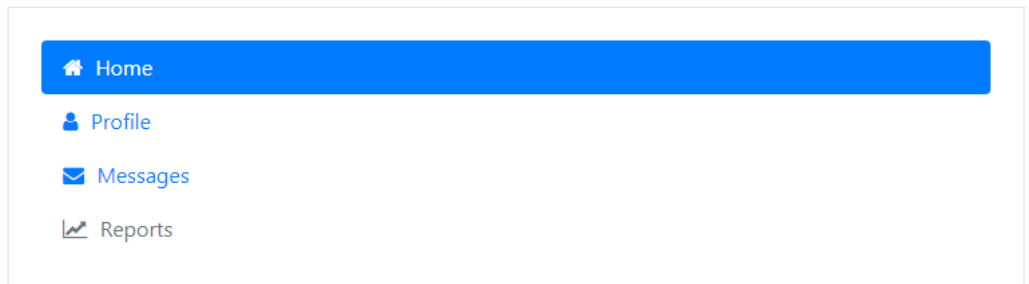
— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Additionally, you can apply the class `.flex-column` on the `.nav` element to make the pills nav appear vertically stacked, as shown in the following example:

Example	Try this code »

```html
<nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">
        <i class="fa fa-home"></i> Home
    </a>
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
        <i class="fa fa-user"></i> Profile
    </a>
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">
        <i class="fa fa-envelope"></i> Messages
    </a>
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">
        <i class="fa fa-line-chart"></i> Reports
    </a>
</nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Bootstrap Tabs and Pills Nav with Dropdown Menus

You can add dropdown menus to a link inside tabs and pills nav with a little extra markup.

The four CSS classes `.dropdown`, `.dropdown-toggle`, `.dropdown-menu` and `.dropdown-item` are required in addition to the `.nav`, `.nav-tabs` or `.nav-pills` classes to create a simple dropdown menu inside the nav without using any JavaScript code.
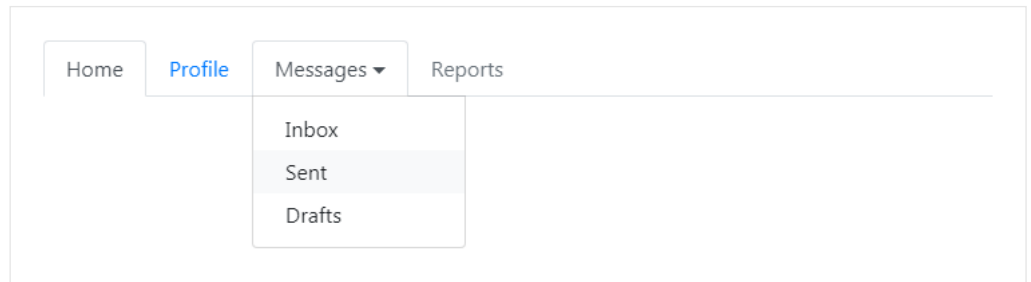
Creating Tabs with Dropdowns

The following example will show you how to add simple dropdown menus to a tab.

Example	Try this code »

```html
<nav class="nav nav-tabs">
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
    <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
    <div class="nav-item dropdown">
        <a href="#" class="nav-link dropdown-toggle" data-toggle="dropdown">Messages</a>
        <div class="dropdown-menu">
            <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Inbox</a>
            <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Sent</a>
            <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Drafts</a>
        </div>
```

```
11          </div>
12          <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
13      </nav>
```

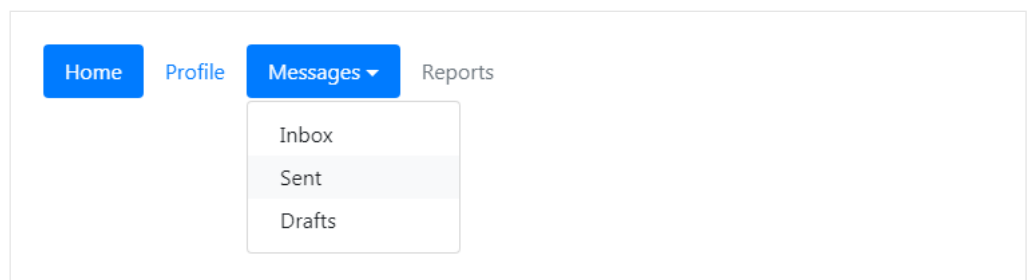— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home	Profile	Messages ▾	Reports

Inbox
Sent
Drafts

Creating Pills with Dropdowns

The following example will show you how to add simple dropdown menus to a pill nav.

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-pills">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Profile</a>
4       <div class="nav-item dropdown">
5           <a href="#" class="nav-link dropdown-toggle" data-
    toggle="dropdown">Messages</a>
6           <div class="dropdown-menu">
7               <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Inbox</a>
8               <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Sent</a>
9               <a href="#" class="dropdown-item">Drafts</a>
10          </div>
11      </div>
12      <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link disabled" tabindex="-1">Reports</a>
13  </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home   Profile   Messages ▾   Reports

Inbox
Sent
Drafts

You will learn more about dropdown menus later in Bootstrap dropdowns chapter.
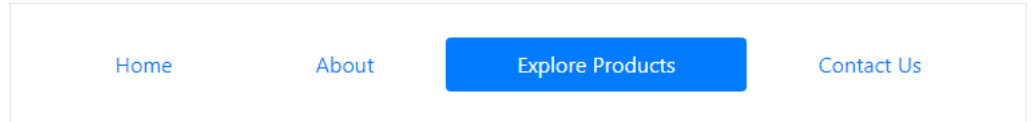
Fill and Justify Nav Component

You can force your nav items to extend and proportionately fill all available width using the class `.nav-fill` on the `.nav` element. In the following example all horizontal space is occupied by the nav items, but every nav item doesn't have the same width.

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-pills nav-fill">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">About</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Explore Products</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Contact Us</a>
6   </nav>
```

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home	About	Explore Products	Contact Us

Alternatively, you can use the class `.nav-justified` instead of `.nav-fill`, if you want nav that fills all horizontal space as well as every nav item has the same width.

Example	Try this code »

```
1   <nav class="nav nav-pills nav-justified">
2       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Home</a>
3       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">About</a>
4       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link active">Explore Products</a>
5       <a href="#" class="nav-item nav-link">Contact Us</a>
6   </nav>
```
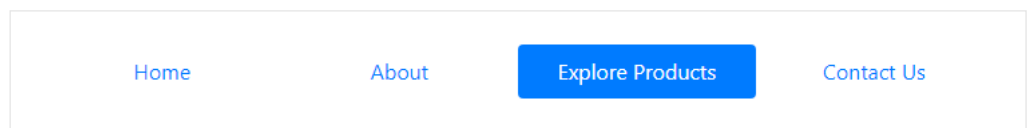
— The output of the above example will look something like this:

Home	About	Explore Products	Contact Us

« PREVIOUS PAGE   NEXT PAGE »

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