CSS:
Vertical Text Alignment

Sprout Means Grow

I think this tutorial would be much clearer if I tweaked the code a bit -- renaming my classes, in particular -- so this is a beta version.

What This Is Not

An introduction to CSS.

What This Is

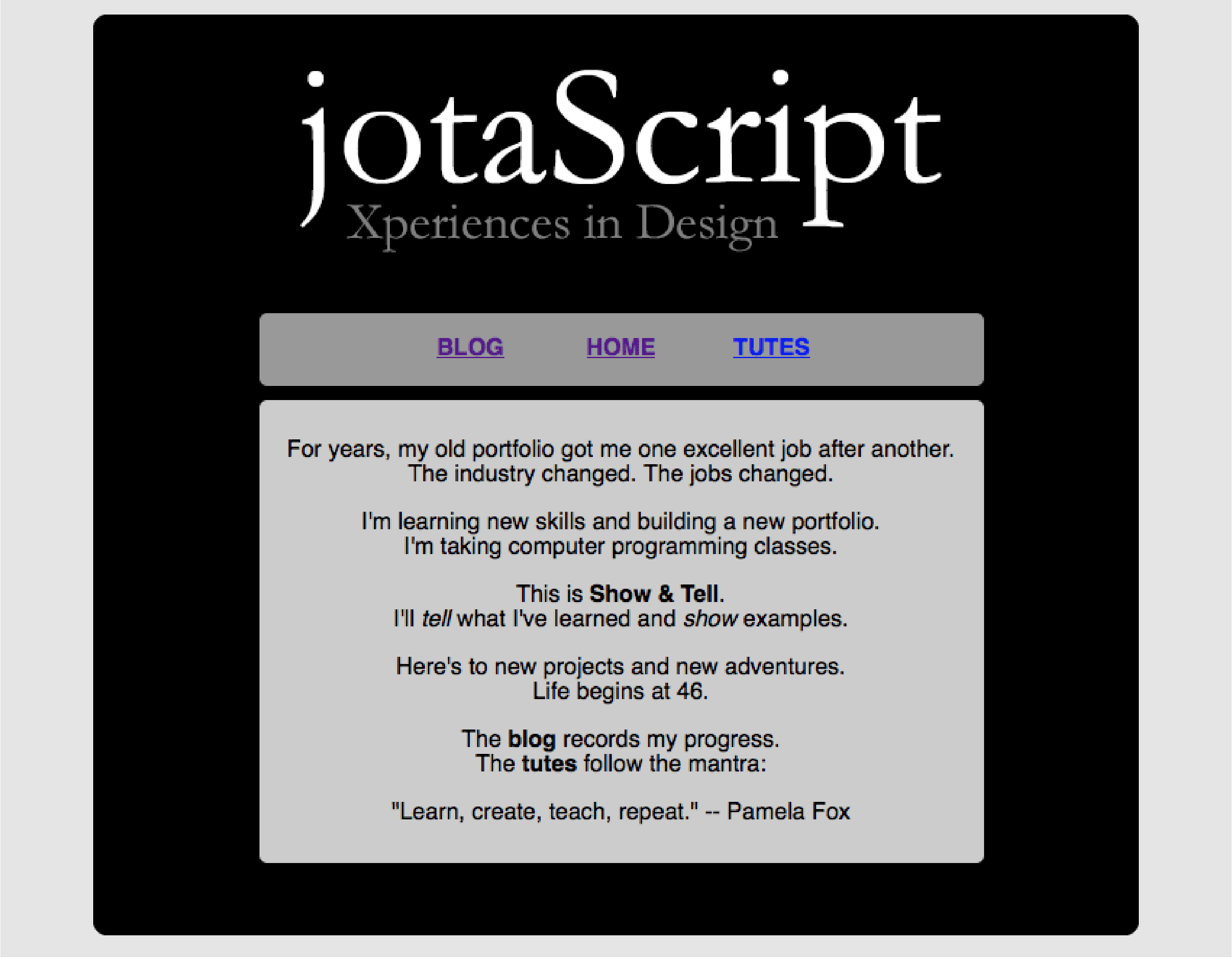
Basically, a solution for vertical alignment of text in a DIV but also to explain some other alignment and layout issues that are, quite frankly, confusing as f**k. They're not confusing because they're complex and unfamiliar--they're confusing because they make no sense whatsoever.

Pre-Requisites

You're familiar with HTML and CSS.

What This Code Does

The navigation bar in the image below has three links spaced rather nicely, I think, and centered in the navigation bar. That's not difficult to do but getting that text to align in the middle vertically can send you out of your mind. This tutorial shows what seems to be the conventional method for vertical alignment and then dealing with the consequences. Sadly, once you vertically align the text, the links/buttons are no longer centered horizontally and they kick each other around so they're each moved to their own line on top of each other instead of sitting next to each other all pretty like (see "confusing as f**k," above).



For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.
The industry changed. The jobs changed.

I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.
I'm taking computer programming classes.

This is **Show & Tell.**
I'll *tell* what I've learned and *show* examples.

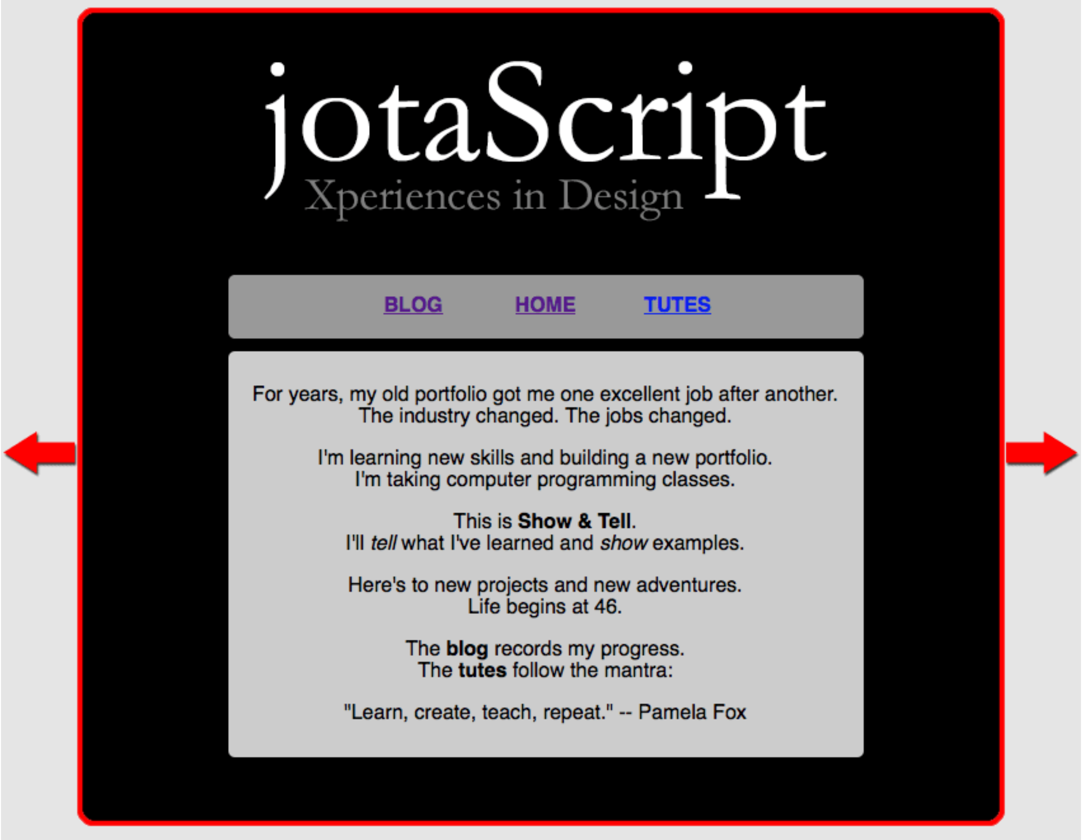
Here's to new projects and new adventures.
Life begins at 46.

The **blog** records my progress.
The **tutes** follow the mantra:

"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox

Bonus Section: Centering Content in the Window

This used to be done with tables. Some responsible designers, who didn't otherwise use tables excessively--or even moderately--might use a simple, one-cell/one-row table inside another, similar table as an easy solution for centered, fixed-width content. Widespread abuse of tables messed it up for everyone and we don't do that at all anymore. We're civilized now and using any tables at all is for Philistines.



For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.
The industry changed. The jobs changed.

I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.
I'm taking computer programming classes.

This is **Show & Tell**.
I'll *tell* what I've learned and *show* examples.

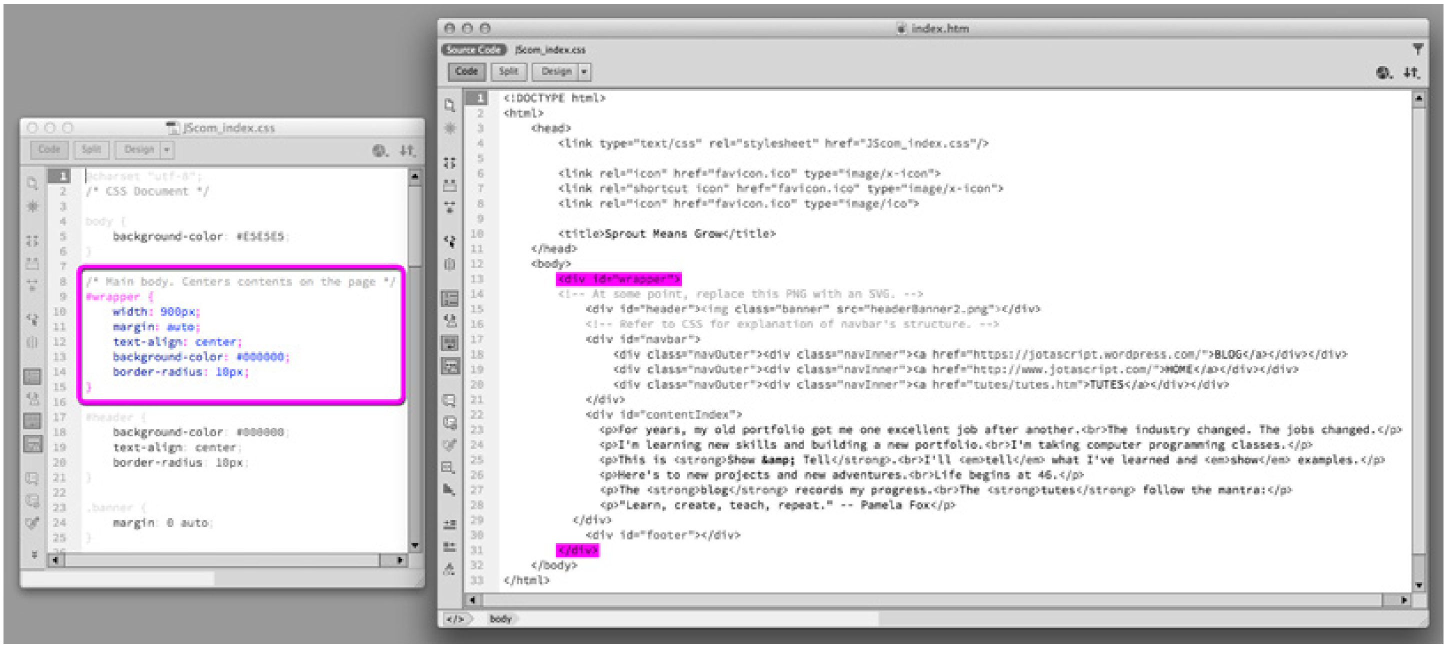
Here's to new projects and new adventures.
Life begins at 46.

The **blog** records my progress.
The **tutes** follow the mantra:

"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox

The main content lives in my *wrapper* class. *Wrapper*'s primary purpose is to hold all the content in a container and center that container on the stage. How? Set the **margin** to **auto**. That's it--even if tables weren't taboo, this one line of code is so much simpler!

Note also that the **text-align** property is set to **center**. That will be important later.

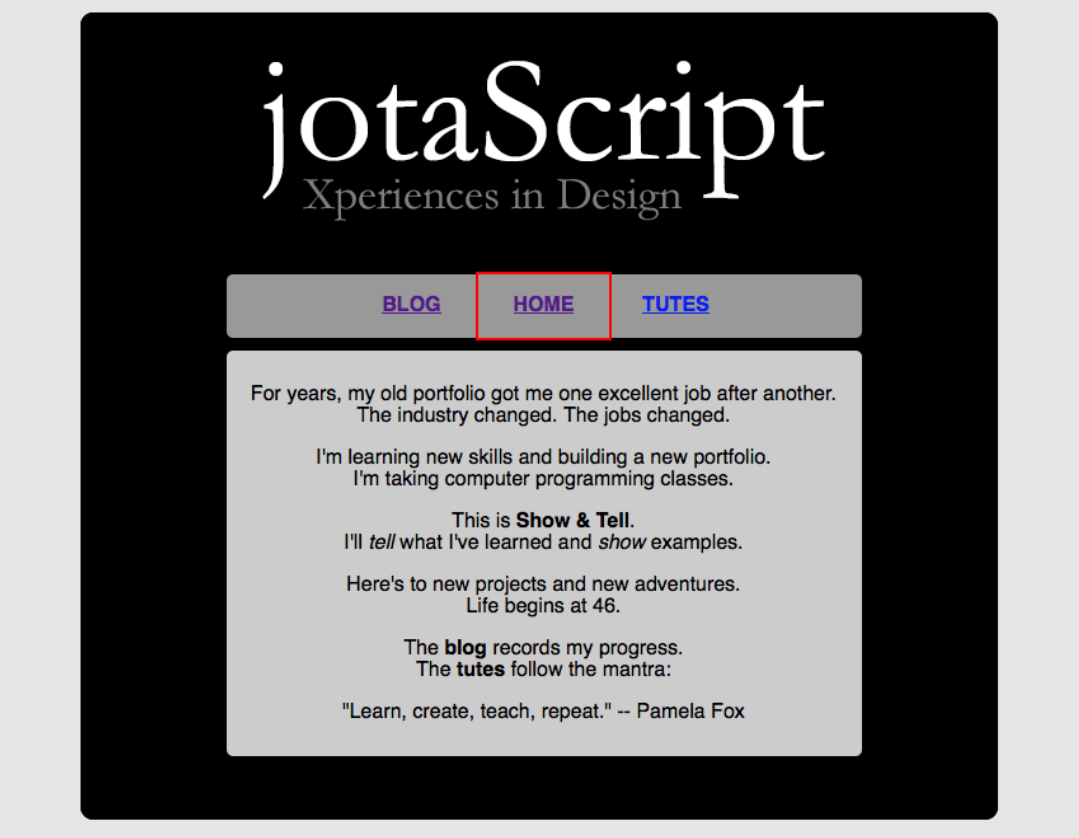


```css
@charset "utf-8";
/* CSS Document */

body {
    background-color: #E5E5E5;
}

/* Main body. Centers contents on the page */
#wrapper {
    width: 900px;
    margin: auto;
    text-align: center;
    background-color: #000000;
    border-radius: 10px;
}

#header {
    background-color: #000000;
    text-align: center;
    border-radius: 10px;
}

.banner {
    margin: 0 auto;
}
```

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="JScom_index.css"/>

        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/ico">

        <title>Sprout Means Grow</title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <div id="wrapper">
        <!-- At some point, replace this PNG with an SVG. -->
            <div id="header"><img class="banner" src="headerBanner2.png"></div>
            <!-- Refer to CSS for explanation of navbar's structure. -->
            <div id="navbar">
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="https://jotascript.wordpress.com/">BLOG</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="http://www.jotascript.com/">HOME</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="tutes/tutes.htm">TUTES</a></div></div>
            </div>
            <div id="contentIndex">
              <p>For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.<br>The industry changed. The jobs changed.</p>
              <p>I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.<br>I'm taking computer programming classes.</p>
              <p>This is <strong>Show &amp; Tell</strong>.<br>I'll <em>tell</em> what I've learned and <em>show</em> examples.</p>
              <p>Here's to new projects and new adventures.<br>Life begins at 46.</p>
              <p>The <strong>blog</strong> records my progress.<br>The <strong>tutes</strong> follow the mantra:</p>
              <p>"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox</p>
           </div>
            <div id="footer"></div>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```

Centering Text Vertically in a DIV

Since we can't just vertically align the text but must also deal with the consequences, explaining this makes more sense if I work from the inside out.



For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.
The industry changed. The jobs changed.

I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.
I'm taking computer programming classes.

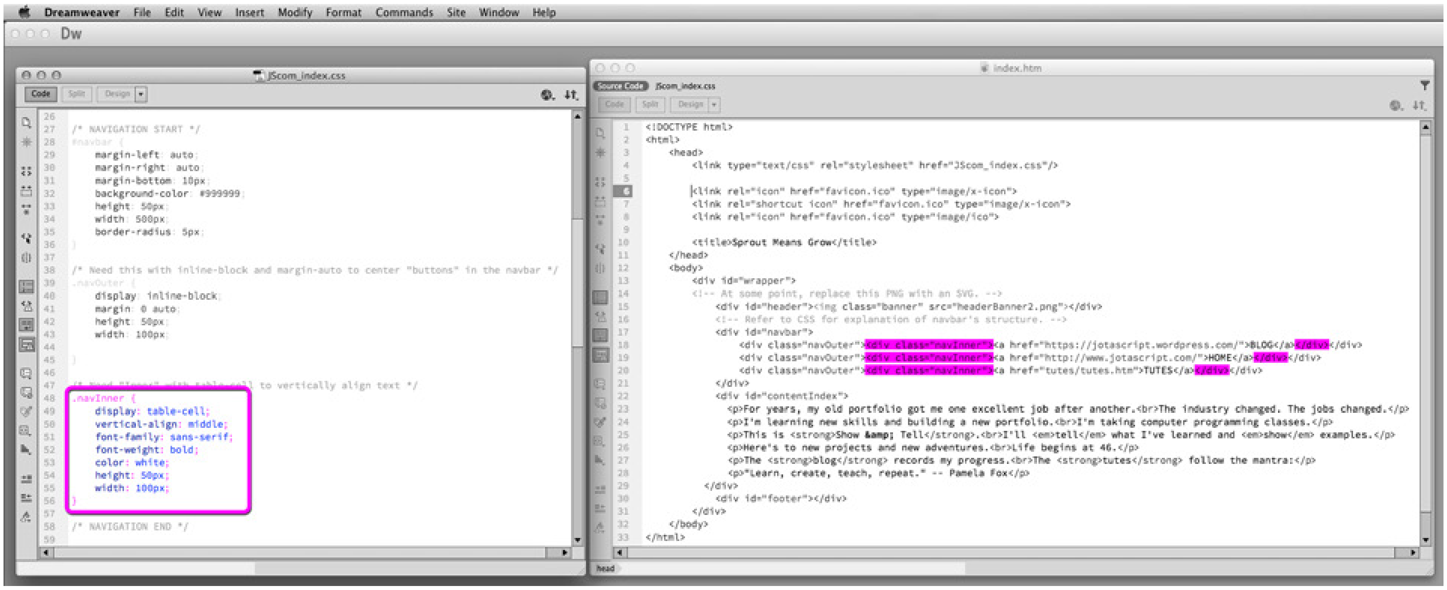
This is **Show & Tell**.
I'll *tell* what I've learned and *show* examples.

Here's to new projects and new adventures.
Life begins at 46.

The **blog** records my progress.
The **tutes** follow the mantra:

"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox

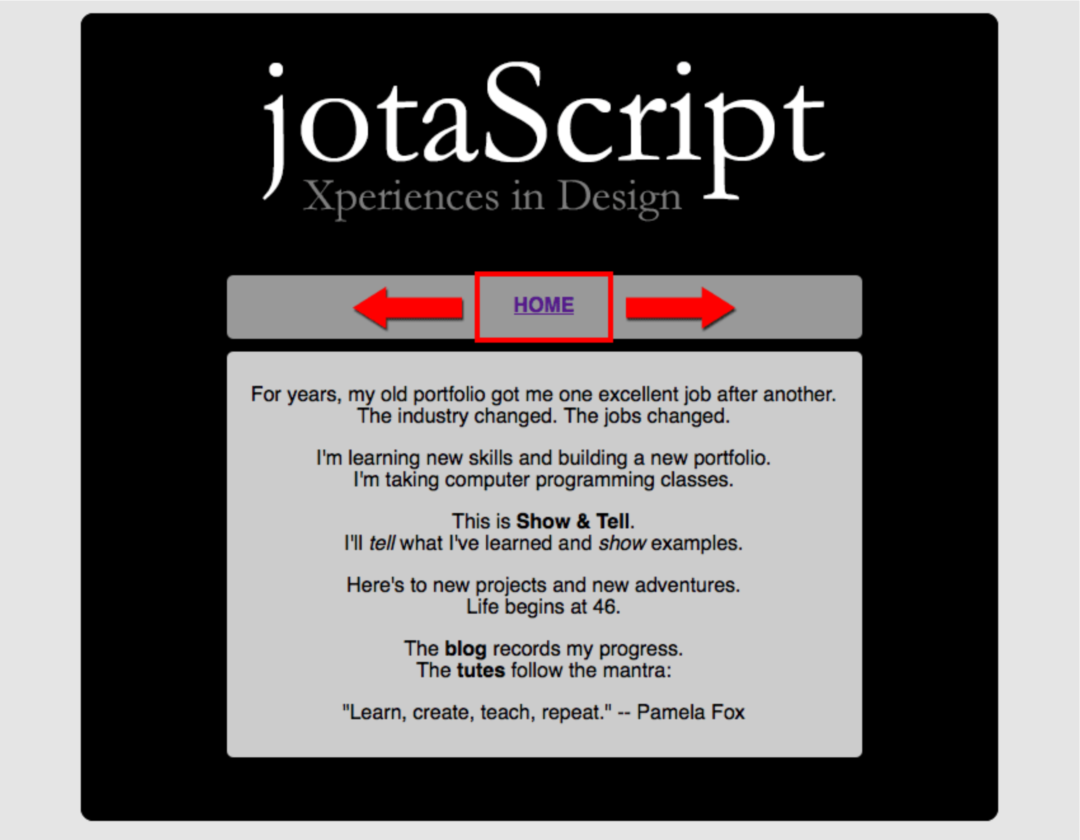
Main Point: To vertically align text in a div (my "NavInner" class), set the **display** property to **table-cell** so you can also set the **vertical-align** property to **middle**.



```

/* NAVIGATION START */
#navbar {
    margin-left: auto;
    margin-right: auto;
    margin-bottom: 10px;
    background-color: #999999;
    height: 50px;
    width: 500px;
    border-radius: 5px;
}

/* Need this with inline-block and margin-auto to center "buttons" in the navbar */
.navOuter {
    display: inline-block;
    margin: 0 auto;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;

}

/* Need "Inner" with table-cell to vertically align text */
.navInner {
    display: table-cell;
    vertical-align: middle;
    font-family: sans-serif;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: white;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;
}

/* NAVIGATION END */

```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="JScom_index.css"/>

        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/ico">

        <title>Sprout Means Grow</title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <div id="wrapper">
        <!-- At some point, replace this PNG with an SVG. -->
            <div id="header"><img class="banner" src="headerBanner2.png"></div>
            <!-- Refer to CSS for explanation of navbar's structure. -->
            <div id="navbar">
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="https://jotascript.wordpress.com/">BLOG</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="http://www.jotascript.com/">HOME</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="tutes/tutes.htm">TUTES</a></div></div>
            </div>
            <div id="contentIndex">
              <p>For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.<br>The industry changed. The jobs changed.</p>
              <p>I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.<br>I'm taking computer programming classes.</p>
              <p>This is <strong>Show &amp; Tell</strong>.<br>I'll <em>tell</em> what I've learned and <em>show</em> examples.</p>
              <p>Here's to new projects and new adventures.<br>Life begins at 46.</p>
              <p>The <strong>blog</strong> records my progress.<br>The <strong>tutes</strong> follow the mantra:</p>
              <p>"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox</p>
          </div>
            <div id="footer"></div>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```

Sadly, "table-cell" divs won't sit next to each other on the same line so even if they can be centered horizontally, that would still be a really ugly navigation bar with the buttons stacked vertically on top of each other. So, each of my buttons needs to be inside two DIVs -- my "inner" DIV that vertically aligns the text and my "outer" DIV that allows them to sit next to each other in a group I can horizontally align. Now we'll look at the "outer" DIV.



For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.
The industry changed. The jobs changed.

I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.
I'm taking computer programming classes.

This is **Show & Tell**.
I'll *tell* what I've learned and *show* examples.

Here's to new projects and new adventures.
Life begins at 46.

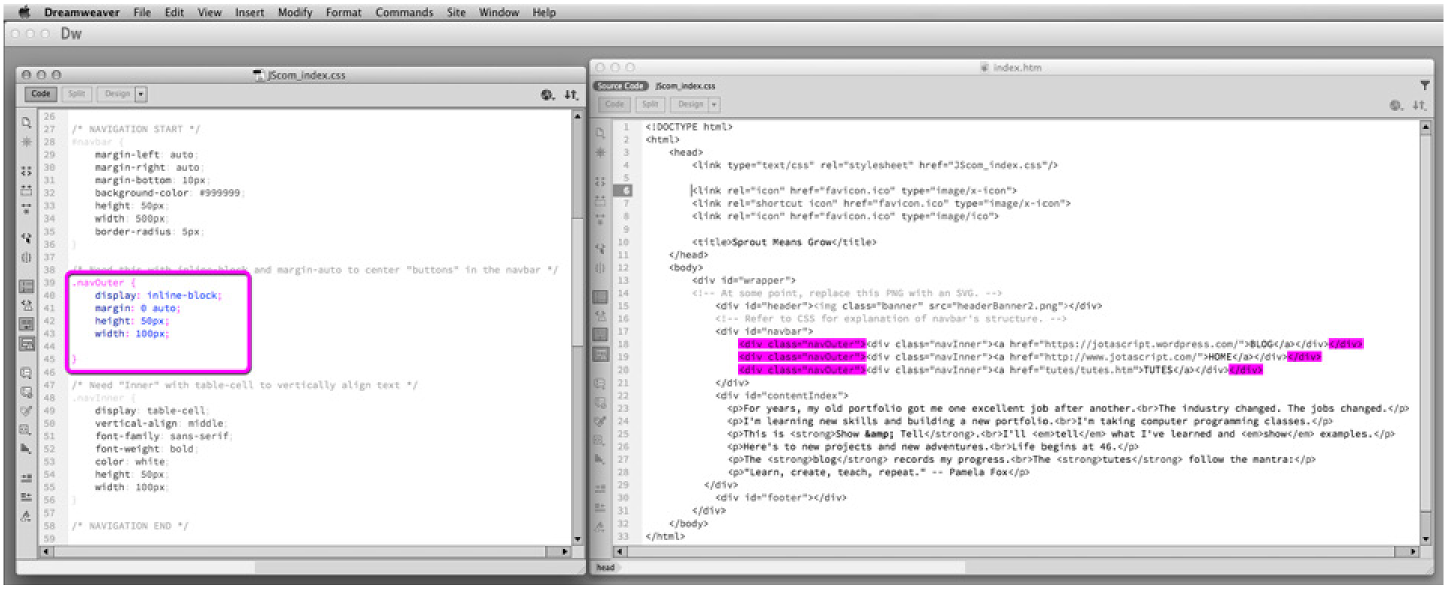
The **blog** records my progress.
The **tutes** follow the mantra:

"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox

Centering Horizontally Redux

I wanted my three "button" DIVs to be next to each other and centered in the navbar DIV. For a DIV (let's call it "containee") to be centered horizontally inside another DIV (we'll call "container") two conditions must be met:

- Containee (my "NavOuter" class) must have a **display** of **inline-block** and a **margin** of **auto** (how we centered "wrapper" in the window).
- Container (my "wrapper" class--but could also have been my "navbar" class) must have a **text-align** property with a value of **center**.


Dreamweaver File Edit View Insert Modify Format Commands Site Window Help
Dw
JScom_index.css
Code
Split
Design
index.htm
Source Code
JScom_index.css
head

```
/* NAVIGATION START */
#navbar {
    margin-left: auto;
    margin-right: auto;
    margin-bottom: 10px;
    background-color: #999999;
    height: 50px;
    width: 500px;
    border-radius: 5px;
}

/* Need this with inline-block and margin-auto to center "buttons" in the navbar */
.navOuter {
    display: inline-block;
    margin: 0 auto;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;

}

/* Need "Inner" with table-cell to vertically align text */
.navInner {
    display: table-cell;
    vertical-align: middle;
    font-family: sans-serif;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: white;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;
}

/* NAVIGATION END */
```

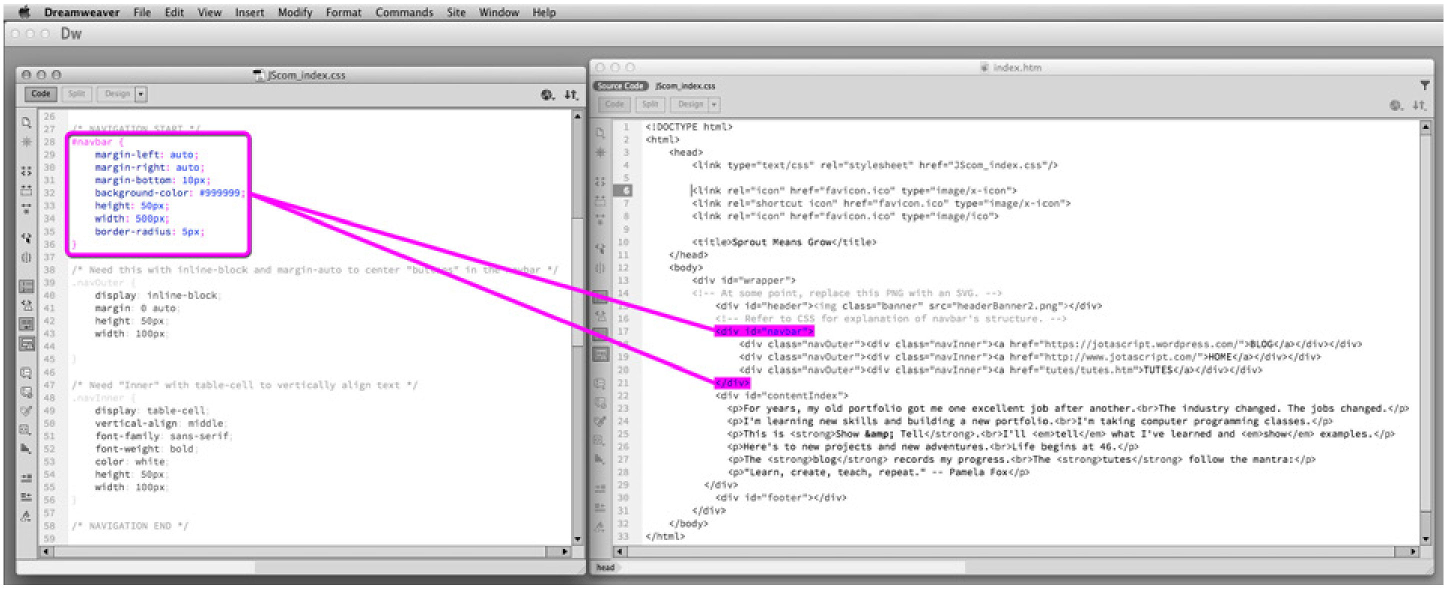
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="JScom_index.css"/>

        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/ico">

        <title>Sprout Means Grow</title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <div id="wrapper">
        <!-- At some point, replace this PNG with an SVG. -->
            <div id="header"><img class="banner" src="headerBanner2.png"></div>
            <!-- Refer to CSS for explanation of navbar's structure. -->
            <div id="navbar">
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="https://jotascript.wordpress.com/">BLOG</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="http://www.jotascript.com/">HOME</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="tutes/tutes.htm">TUTES</a></div></div>
            </div>
            <div id="contentIndex">
              <p>For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.<br>The industry changed. The jobs changed.</p>
              <p>I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.<br>I'm taking computer programming classes.</p>
              <p>This is <strong>Show &amp; Tell</strong>.<br>I'll <em>tell</em> what I've learned and <em>show</em> examples.</p>
              <p>Here's to new projects and new adventures.<br>Life begins at 46.</p>
              <p>The <strong>blog</strong> records my progress.<br>The <strong>tutes</strong> follow the mantra:</p>
              <p>"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox</p>
           </div>
            <div id="footer"></div>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```

So, all together, each button is inside a:

- DIV ("navInner") with **display: table-cell** for vertically aligning its text (and "navInner" is inside a ...)
- DIV with **display: inline-block** for horizontally aligning itself (inside a DIV with **text-align: center**)

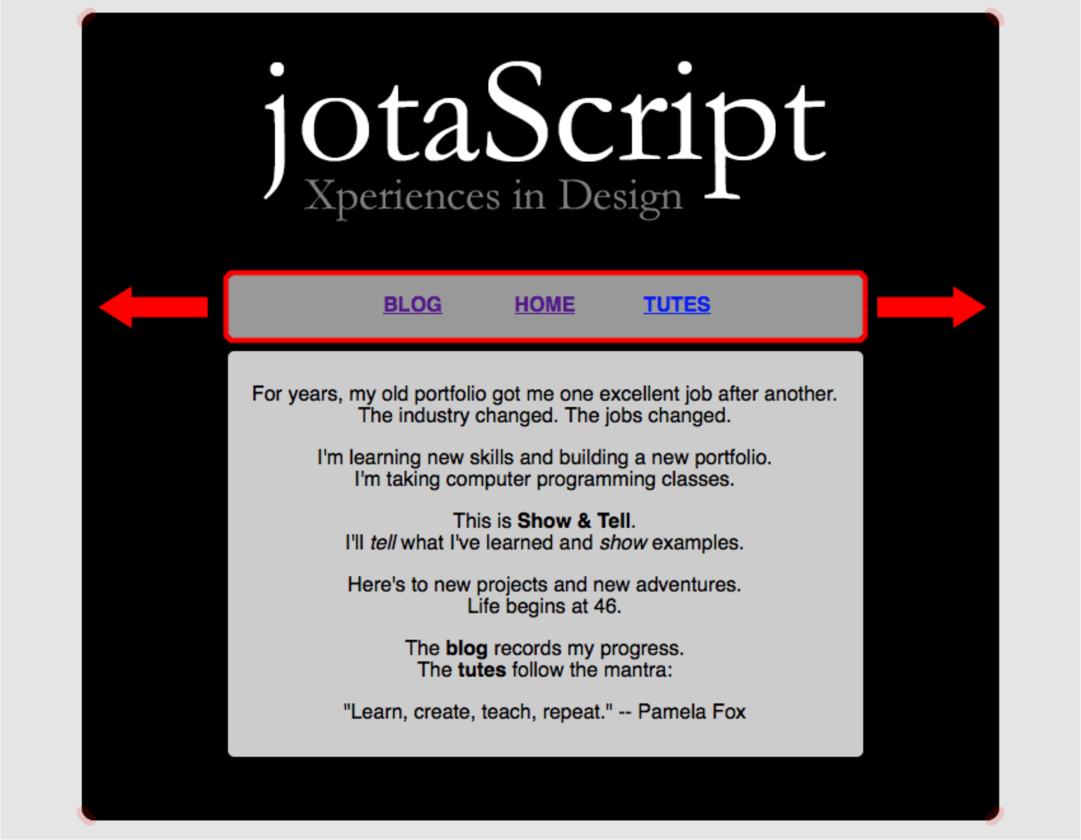
Final Note

The navbar DIV has its left and right margins set to auto so it is centered in the wrapper. Normally, I might just use **margin: auto** instead of separating the two but I wanted **margin-bottom** to have a different value.



```
/* NAVIGATION START */
#navbar {
    margin-left: auto;
    margin-right: auto;
    margin-bottom: 10px;
    background-color: #999999;
    height: 50px;
    width: 500px;
    border-radius: 5px;
}

/* Need this with inline-block and margin-auto to center "buttons" in the navbar */
.navOuter {
    display: inline-block;
    margin: 0 auto;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;

}

/* Need "Inner" with table-cell to vertically align text */
.navInner {
    display: table-cell;
    vertical-align: middle;
    font-family: sans-serif;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: white;
    height: 50px;
    width: 100px;
}

/* NAVIGATION END */
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="JScom_index.css"/>

        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
        <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/ico">

        <title>Sprout Means Grow</title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <div id="wrapper">
        <!-- At some point, replace this PNG with an SVG. -->
            <div id="header"><img class="banner" src="headerBanner2.png"></div>
            <!-- Refer to CSS for explanation of navbar's structure. -->
            <div id="navbar">
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="https://jotascript.wordpress.com/">BLOG</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="http://www.jotascript.com/">HOME</a></div></div>
                <div class="navOuter"><div class="navInner"><a href="tutes/tutes.htm">TUTES</a></div></div>
            </div>
            <div id="contentIndex">
              <p>For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.<br>The industry changed. The jobs changed.</p>
              <p>I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.<br>I'm taking computer programming classes.</p>
              <p>This is <strong>Show &amp; Tell</strong>.<br>I'll <em>tell</em> what I've learned and <em>show</em> examples.</p>
              <p>Here's to new projects and new adventures.<br>Life begins at 46.</p>
              <p>The <strong>blog</strong> records my progress.<br>The <strong>tutes</strong> follow the mantra:</p>
              <p>"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox</p>
           </div>
            <div id="footer"></div>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```



For years, my old portfolio got me one excellent job after another.
The industry changed. The jobs changed.

I'm learning new skills and building a new portfolio.
I'm taking computer programming classes.

This is **Show & Tell**.
I'll *tell* what I've learned and *show* examples.

Here's to new projects and new adventures.
Life begins at 46.

The **blog** records my progress.
The **tutes** follow the mantra:

"Learn, create, teach, repeat." -- Pamela Fox