



Dark UI Design Best Practices



01. Plan your color use

Avoid or limit white on pure black colors. You can use pure black (#000) as a background for dark mode, but make sure you dim your text slightly. Just enough not to cause eyes to bleed from cutting-edge contrast.



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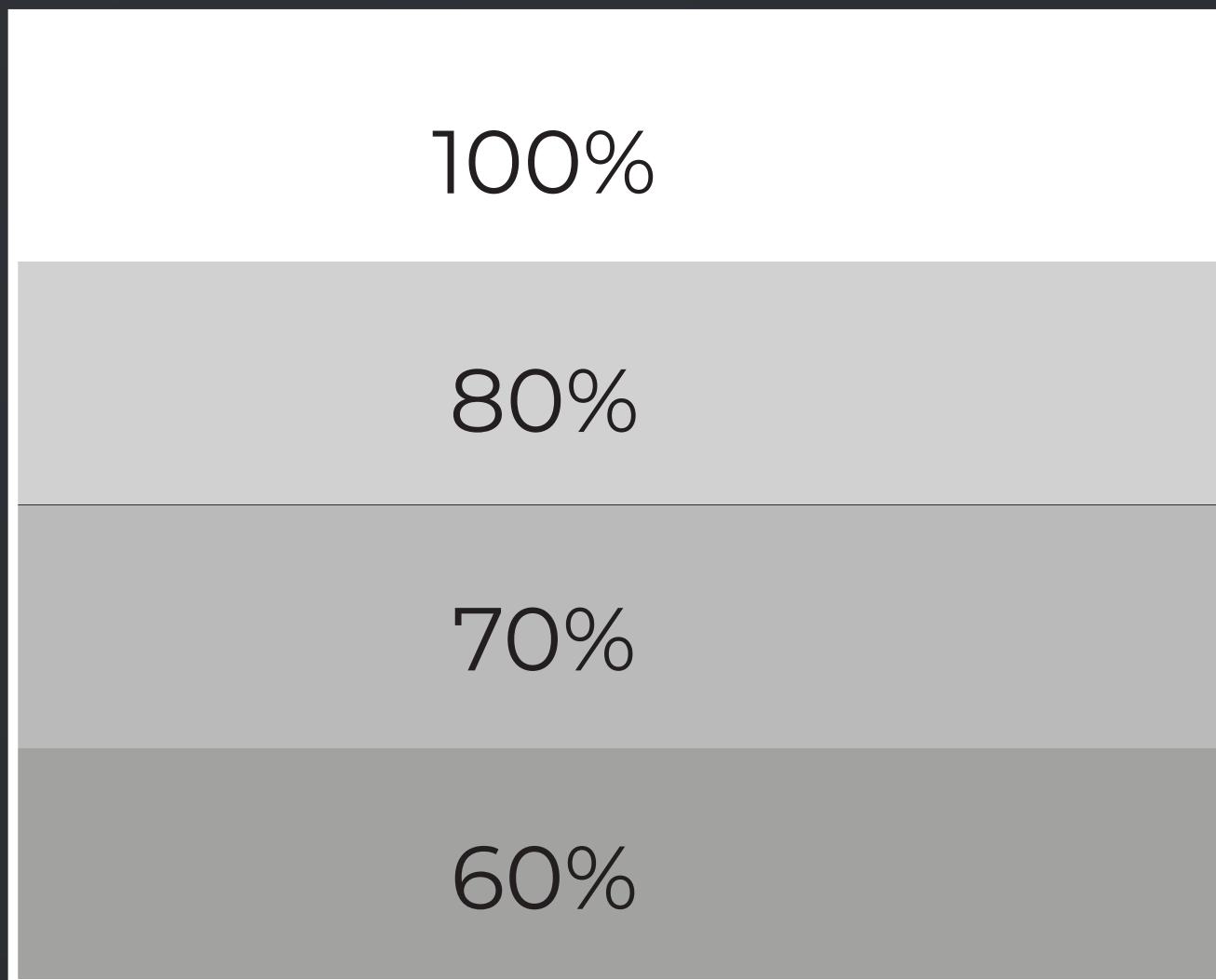
background: 000000 text: e0e0e0



02. Use base colors

To make it predictable turning your light-themed UI to the dark side. Use a set of base or “neutral” colors with the same transparency values from the very start of your project.

Base Light



Base Dark





03. Reduce color saturation

Avoid fully saturated colors in dark mode.

High saturation has a visual “shaking” effect when viewed on darker surfaces. Instead, use low saturation or slightly muted versions of your primary colors for best performance.



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04. Communicate depth

Use a scale of lighter colors to translate the elevation. Avoid using shadows in dark mode. Instead, use border property to emit depth levels for UI elements. Distant elements should still have lower elevation compared to the closer elements.

background: 383838

background: 242424

background: 1f1f1f

background: 131313



05. Don't overuse dark mode

Avoid or limit white on pure black colors. You can use pure black (#000) as a background for dark mode, but make sure you dim your text slightly. Just enough not to cause eyes to bleed from cutting-edge contrast.



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05. Design light mode first

While bringing your designs from light to dark mode, keep all the visual cues in place. Don't ignore or remove some colors for the sake of a dark theme not to confuse users. Instead, prepare a color pallet that focuses on inverting existing colors without UI losing efficiency.

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