

## 9.1 Iteration D1: Moving the Cart

Currently, our cart is rendered by the `add_to_cart` action and the corresponding `.html` template. What we'd like to do is to move that rendering into the layout that displays the overall catalog. And that's easy, using *partial templates*.<sup>1</sup>

### Partial Templates

Programming languages let you define *methods*. A method is a chunk of code with a name: invoke the method by name, and the corresponding chunk of code gets run. And, of course, you can pass parameters to a method, which lets you write one piece of code that can be used in many different circumstances.

You can think of Rails partial templates (*partials* for short) as a kind of method for views. A partial is simply a chunk of a view in its own separate file. You can invoke (render) a partial from another template or from a controller, and the partial will render itself and return the results of that rendering. And, just as with methods, you can pass parameters to a partial, so the same partial can render different results.

We'll use partials twice in this iteration. First, let's look at the cart display itself.

[Download](#) `depot_i/app/views/store/add_to_cart.html`

```
<div class="cart-title">Your Cart</div>
<table>
  <% for cart_item in @cart.items %>
    <tr>
      <td><%= cart_item.quantity %>&times;</td>
      <td><%= h(cart_item.title) %></td>
      <td class="item-price"><%= number_to_currency(cart_item.price) %></td>
    </tr>
  <% end %>

  <tr class="total-line">
    <td colspan="2">Total</td>
    <td class="total-cell"><%= number_to_currency(@cart.total_price) %></td>
  </tr>
</table>

<%= button_to "Empty cart", :action => :empty_cart %>
```

1. Another way would be to use *components*. A component is a way of packaging some work done by a controller and the corresponding rendering. In our case, we could have a component called `display_cart`, where the controller action fetches the cart information from the session and the view renders the HTML for the cart. The layout would then insert this rendered HTML into the sidebar. However, there are indications that components are falling out of favor in the Rails community, so we won't use one here. (For a discussion of why components are *déclassé*, see Section 22.9, *The Case against Components*, on page 514.)