

within the sidebar. But how would the partial know where to find the cart object? One way would be for it to make an assumption. In the layout, we have access to the `@cart` instance variable that was set by the controller. It turns out that this is also available inside partials called from the layout. However, this is a bit like calling a method and passing it some value in a global variable. It works, but it's ugly coding, and it increases coupling (which in turn makes your programs brittle and hard to maintain).

Remember using `render` with the `collection` option inside the `add_to_cart` template? It set the variable `cart_item` inside the partial. It turns out we can do the same when we invoke a partial directly. The `:object` parameter to `render` takes an object that is assigned to a local variable with the same name as the partial. So, in the layout we could call

```
<%= render(:partial => "cart", :object => @cart) %>
```

and in the `_cart.rhtml` template, we can refer to the cart via the variable `cart`.

Let's do that wiring now. First, we'll create the `_cart.rhtml` template. This is basically our `add_to_cart` template but using `cart` instead of `@cart`. (Note that it's OK for a partial to invoke other partials.)

[Download](#) `depot_j/app/views/store/_cart.rhtml`

```
<div class="cart-title">Your Cart</div>
<table>
  <%= render(:partial => "cart_item", :collection => cart.items) %>

  <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 %>
```

Now we'll change the store layout to include this new partial in the sidebar.

[Download](#) `depot_j/app/views/layouts/store.rhtml`

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
  <title>Pragprog Books Online Store</title>
  <%= stylesheet_link_tag "depot", :media => "all" %>
</head>
<body id="store">
  <div id="banner">
    <%= image_tag("logo.png") %>
    <%= @page_title || "Pragmatic Bookshelf" %>
  </div>
  <div id="columns">
```