# How to make a transparent border using CSS?

I'm trying to do something like this for a client who has a blog.

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She wanted a semi transparent border. I know that's possible with making it just a background. But I can't seem to find the logic/code behind this kind of css technique for banners. Does anybody know how to do this? It would be a lot of help because that's the look my client's wanting to achieve for his blog....



edited Feb 6 '14 at 4:30

Mr. Alien
122k 27 232 23

asked Jul 19 '13 at 16:29 user2578407

- 1 Possible duplicate: stackoverflow.com/questions/4062001/css3-border-opacity showdev Jul 19 '13 at 16:32
- 1 Like this? jsfiddle.net/6qJcc/1 defaultNINJA Jul 19 '13 at 16:37 ▶

# 4 Answers



Well if you want fully transparent than you can use

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border: 5px solid transparent;



If you mean opaque/transparent, than you can use



border: 5px solid rgba(255, 255, 255, .5);

Here, a means alpha, which you can scale, 0-1.

Also some might suggest you to use opacity which does the same job as well, the only difference is it will result in child elements getting opaque too, yes, there are some work arounds but rgba seems better than using opacity.

For older browsers, always declare the background color using # (hex) just as a fall back, so that if old browsers doesn't recognize the

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## Demo 3 (With an img tag instead of a background-image )

```
body {
    background: url(http://www.desktopas.com/files/2013/06/Images-1920x1200.jpg);
div.wrap {
    border: 5px solid #fff; /* Fall back, not used in fiddle */
    border: 5px solid rgba(255, 255, 255, .5);
    height: 400px;
    width: 400px;
    margin: 50px;
    border-radius: 50%;
div.inner {
    background: #fff; /* Fall back, not used in fiddle */
    background: rgba(255, 255, 255, .5);
    height: 380px;
    width: 380px;
    border-radius: 50%;
    margin: auto; /* Horizontal Center */
    margin-top: 10px; /* Vertical Center ... Yea I know, that's
                         manually calculated*/
}
```

Note (For Demo 3): Image will be scaled according to the height and width provided so make sure it doesn't break the scaling ratio.

edited Aug 31 '13 at 6:31

answered Jul 19 '13 at 16:31



Mr. Alien

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You can also use border-style: double with background-clip: padding-box, without the use of any extra (pseudo-)elements. It's probably the most compact solution, but not as flexible as the others.

11 For example:

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```
height: 100px;
padding: 50px;
border-radius: 200px;
border: double 15px rgba(255,255,255,0.7);
background: rgba(255,255,0.7);
background-clip: padding-box;
}
```



If you look closely you can see that the edge between the border and the background is not perfect. This seems to be an issue in current browsers. But it's not that noticeable when the border is small.

answered Aug 2 '13 at 10:31



**7.7k** 5 59 101

This allows it to work with no additional markup and <u>has pretty good support</u>. background-color plus border:double doesn't work for transparency between the borders without the background-clip style. – Jo. Jun 2 '17 at 22:02

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### **LIVE DEMO**



<div class="circle"></div>

### CSS:

```
.circle, .circle:before{
  position:absolute;
  border-radius:150px;
}
.circle{
  width:200px;
  height:200px;
  z-index:0;
  margin:11%;
  padding:40px;
  background: hsla(0, 100%, 100%, 0.6);
}
.circle:before{
  content:'';
  display:block;
  z-index:-1;
```

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```
top:-10px;
left:-10px;
}
```

The :before attaches to our .circle another element which you only need to make (ok, block, absolute, etc...) transparent and play with the **border opacity**.

answered Jul 19 '13 at 18:14



Roko C. Buljan 132k 24 211 236



use rgba (rgb with alpha transparency):

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border: 10px solid rgba(0,0,0,0.5); // 0.5 means 50% of opacity



The alpha transparency variate between 0 (0% opacity = 100% transparent) and 1 (100 opacity = 0% transparent)

answered Jul 19 '13 at 16:40



You cant avoid the use of "background-clip: padding-box;" if you want a distinct border. Without this css property, the background color will fill all the div, your border will be stacked with the background color. — Georgio Jun 28 '16 at 14:10

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