

It is not possible to completely "turn off" or remove all CSS from JavaFX, as all nodes are designed to ship with a default stylesheet called **Modena**. The best approach is to override Modena's styles with your own custom CSS file or inline styles to achieve a plain or specific look. [↗](#)

How to Override Modena

You can replace or modify the default styles by applying your own CSS to the Scene or individual nodes. [↗](#)

1. Apply a Custom Stylesheet to the Scene [↗](#)

The most common way to change the look of your entire application is to load a new CSS file, which will override the defaults where specified. [↗](#)

java



```
import javafx.application.Application;
import javafx.scene.Scene;
import javafx.scene.control.Button;
import javafx.scene.layout.StackPane;
import javafx.stage.Stage;

public class CustomStyleApp extends Application {

    @Override
    public void start(Stage stage) {
        Button button = new Button("Click Me");
        StackPane root = new StackPane(button);
        Scene scene = new Scene(root, 300, 250);

        // Load your custom stylesheet
        scene.getStylesheets().add(getClass().getResource("my_styles.css").toExternalForm())

        stage.setScene(scene);
        stage.show();
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        launch(args);
    }
}
```

In your `my_styles.css` file, you can define styles to achieve a simpler appearance.

2. Use Inline Styles

For specific components, you can use the `setStyle()` method to apply CSS properties directly in Java code. This is useful for minor adjustments but can become unmanageable for large applications. [↗](#)

java



```
button.setStyle("-fx-base: #666;"); // gives a dark grey button
```

3. Customize Specific Visual Effects

Modena applies effects like a glow on focus. To remove these, you need specific CSS overrides:

- **Remove focus glow:** The `modena.css` uses `-fx-focus-color` and `-fx-faint-focus-color` to create a glowing effect.

CSS



```
.button:focus {  
    -fx-focus-color: transparent;  
    -fx-faint-focus-color: transparent;  
}
```

- **Prevent specific elements from being focusable (removes glow and tab navigation):** You can disable focus traversal on a node.

java



```
button.setFocusTraversable(false);
```



By using these methods, you can effectively bypass the default Modena styling to customize your JavaFX application's appearance.