Align inline-block DIVs to top of container element

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When two `inline-block` `div`s have different heights, why does the shorter of the two not align to the top of the container? (**DEMO**):

```css
.container {
    border: 1px black solid;
    width: 320px;
    height: 120px;
}

.small {
    display: inline-block;
    width: 40%;
    height: 30%;
    border: 1px black solid;
    background: aliceblue;
}

.big {
    display: inline-block;
    border: 1px black solid;
    width: 40%;
    height: 50%;
    background: beige;
}
```

```html
<div class="container">
    <div class="small"></div>
    <div class="big"></div>
</div>
```

⊙ Run code snippet   ↗ Expand snippet

How can I align the small `div` at the top of its container?

`css`

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edited Mar 24 at 2:38
Andy Hoffman
11.2k ● 3 ● 20 ● 41

asked Feb 28 '14 at 10:39
Youssef
1,681 ● 16 ● 51 ● 91

> or float them like so: jsfiddle.net/RHM5L/12 – Andrew Odendaal Feb 28 '14 at 10:41

> Take a look – Mr. Alien Feb 28 '14 at 10:41

> 1 apply vertical-align:top; for .small class – Deepu Sasidharan Feb 28 '14 at 10:46

> 1 i don't want to use float. thanks @Mr.Alien it works now :) – Youssef Feb 28 '14 at 10:47

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Because the `vertical-align` is set at *baseline* as default.

Use `vertical-align:top` instead:

```
.small{
    display: inline-block;
    width: 40%;
    height: 30%;
    border: 1px black solid;
    background: aliceblue;
    vertical-align:top;
}
```

http://jsfiddle.net/Lighty_46/RHM5L/9/

Or as @f00644 said you could apply `float` to the child elements as well.

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edited Nov 25 '18 at 19:28
Temani Afif
96.5k ● 11 ● 58 ● 107

answered Feb 28 '14 at 10:41
Lighty_46
3,455 ● 1 ● 10 ● 17

> If i apply the float i will have a problem in height if the container have just float childrens like in my case. Take a look here article – Youssef Feb 28 '14 at 10:53

> 1 Any idea why `baseline` is the default? I'm sure there's a good reason, but to a non-expect it just seems weird. You end up with a Manhattan skyline effect. – Sridhar Sarnobat Aug 27 '17 at 6:08

> Vertical align is used for font alignment, since fonts have baseline, it's just logical that the default resolves to baseline. In other occasions like this one, you have to overwrite it. – ceed Jan 10 '18 at 11:54 ✎

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You need to add a `vertical-align` property to your two child div's.

If `.small` is always shorter, you need only apply the property to `.small`. However, if either could be tallest then you should apply the property to both `.small` and `.big`.

```
.container{
    border: 1px black solid;
    width: 320px;
    height: 120px;
}

.small{
    display: inline-block;
    width: 40%;
    height: 30%;
    border: 1px black solid;
    background: aliceblue;
    vertical-align: top;
}

.big {
    display: inline-block;
    border: 1px black solid;
    width: 40%;
    height: 50%;
    background: beige;
    vertical-align: top;
}
```

Vertical align affects inline or table-cell box's, and there are a large nubmer of different values for this property. Please see https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/vertical-align for more details.

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answered Feb 28 '14 at 10:41

michaelward82
3,514 ● 16 ● 35

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```
<style type="text/css">
        div {
    text-align: center;
        }

        .img1{
            width: 150px;
            height: 150px;
            border-radius: 50%;
        }

        span{
            display: block;
        }
    </style>

<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/2.1.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<div>
    <input type='password' class='secondInput mt-4 mr-1' placeholder="Password">
    <span class='dif'></span>
    <br>
    <button>ADD</button>
</div>

<script type="text/javascript">

$('button').click(function() {
  $('.dif').html("<img/>");

})
```

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answered Aug 1 '18 at 13:24

holyghostgym
4 ● 2

I think simply changing the default display properties of a span from inline to block will do the trick. –
holyghostgym Aug 1 '18 at 13:26

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Add overflow: auto to the container div. http://www.quirksmode.org/css/clearing.html This website
shows a few options when having this issue.

share improve this answer

answered Feb 28 '14 at 10:52

Kbaugh
1 ● 1

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