

CSS for Navigation

Text links or image based links with
rollover effects

Why use CSS

Un-ordered lists for navigation?

- Best for Search Engine Optimization
- Degrades well – easily accessible for screen readers & hand-held devices
- No need for excessive code or javascript
- Easy to edit, add/delete page links
- Plenty of design/color options available through CSS only

Menu Style Sheets

- Make a separate CSS files for the menus, buttons etc. *(makes it easier to stay organized!)*
- Link to to the style sheets in the <head></head> section of the HTML page
- `<link href="menustyle.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />`

Sliding Door Technique

- Where 2 images are used to create the background of a button – rollover effect.
- The link text can vary in length and will ‘stretch’ to the required width.
- Create the button in Photoshop, and slice into two images, with one slice being the exact right side of the button.
- The smaller, right image will slide on the top of the wider, left image. The right image slides to adjust to the text in the link.

Image based Navigation CSS

- Where the image is double the size, with both up and over states, and the CSS controls which part is visible.
- Create a file the exact width, and **double the height** of the final button.
(this will be specified in the style)
- Use even-number px height so it can be divided in half.
- Design the 'up' state on the **top** half, the 'over' state on the **bottom** half of the button

`/*--rollover effect – where “news” is the name
of this navigation link--*/`

`. Set li width, remove padding and markers--*/`

```
#navnews, #navnews li {  
    width:77px;  
    margin:0;  
    padding:0;  
    list-style:none;  
}
```

Block elements –to **define size-- 77px x 40px** (width / height of link button)

Specify that the background image will be positioned at the top left of the link element. No repeat (for good measure).

Remove link text underline, because even though it will be hidden, some browsers (like FireFox) may still show the underline).

```
#navnews li a {  
  display:block;  
  width:77px;  
  height:40px;  
  background:top left no-repeat;  
  text-decoration:none;  
}
```

Set the background for each class to its corresponding button.

Specify the hover state - move the background image up by changing the background's vertical alignment.

Hide the link text itself from view.

```
#navnews li a.news { background-  
  image:url(images/button-  
  news.gif); }
```

```
#navnews li a:hover { background-  
  position:bottom left; }
```

```
#navnews li a span {  
  visibility:hidden; }
```

Adding the link ul and li's in page body

```
<ul id="navnews" >
  <li>
    <a class="news" href="#"
      title="Home" ><span>News</span>
    </a>
  </li>
</ul>
```

Links

- <http://www.cssplay.co.uk/menus/>
- <http://csshowto.com/menus/accessible-graphical-menus/>
- <http://www.alistapart.com/articles/slidingdoors/>
- <http://www.blog.spoongraphics.co.uk/freebies/five-free-css-sliding-door-tab-menus>
- <http://www.design.annagraphics.com/tutorials/CSS/css-image-links.html>
- <http://www.design.annagraphics.com/tutorials/CSS/simplenav.html>