

**Creating Technology
For Today's
Digital Workforce**



**Web Design &
Dreamweaver MX
2004
Part IV**

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In Pursuit of Excellence Through People and Technology

**Web Design and Dreamweaver MX, Part IV:
Dreamweaver Basics**

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Adding Buttons

You can add buttons two ways in Dreamweaver. The first is to insert a button image from another source, like a clipart site or perhaps a button image you have created or you can insert a Flash button.

Button Images

When you insert a button image from another source to use as a button in your site, you are simply adding a link to the image. When users click on the image of the button they will be taken to your target destination.



<http://www.aaa-buttons.com>



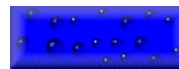
http://www.australdata.com/buttons_preview.html#



<http://www.buttonme.com/ButtonME/002/>



http://createafreeWeb site.net/button_gallery.html



<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/7255/buttons4.html>



<http://highpowergraphics.com/templates/page2.html>



<http://highpowergraphics.com/templates/page2.html>

So where can you get button images from? There are tons of places just under your nose on the Web. Try searching for “copyright free buttons” using your search engine. Once you find the button you like, download it to your images folder in your Web site, or right click on it and select save as and then save it to your images folder.

To insert a button as an image from another source

- 1.) Save the button image in your images folder
 - 2.) Place your pointer in the desired location for the button.
 - 3.) Select Insert Image from the Objects panel or from Insert on the menu bar and select the button image.
 - 4.) in your Properties Panel and do one of the following:
 - Right click the button image and select Make Link.
 - do one of the following:
 - Browse and Select a Web document from your Web site folder and click OK **or**
 - enter an absolute path including the type of protocol (such as http://)
- Or
- click the folder icon to the right of the Link field in the Properties Panel to browse to and select a file, enter a document-relative, root-relative path, or enter an absolute path including the type of protocol (such as http://)

Flash Buttons

Flash is actually the name for another Macromedia software package that creates SWF (Shockwave) files. When you add a Flash button you are really adding a movie to your page. In this case, this movie will swap one image for another when the button is moused over.

Flash places a Flash movie at the insertion point using the object and embed tags. A dialog box appears in which you can browse to an SWF file. The codebase, class id, and plugins page attributes have been preset with the proper values for Macromedia Flash Player; use the Property inspector to specify other attributes for the movie.

Flash Button and Flash Text place Flash objects at the insertion point.

Note: You must save your document before inserting a Flash button or text object.

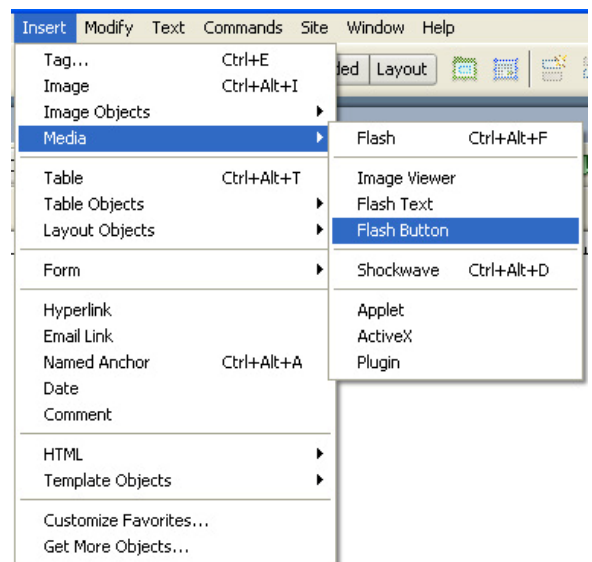
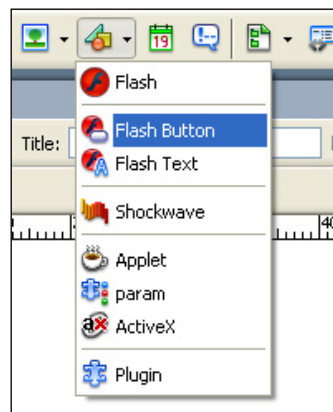
Inserting Flash Buttons

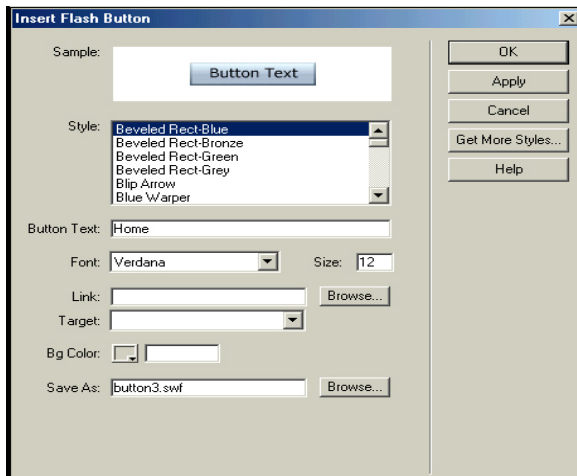
1.) Do one of the following:

- Scroll your mouse to the top of the screen and select "Insert" and scroll down to "Media". A new menu will pop up and select "Flash Button", and click once over the option.

Or

- Select the Media Tab in the Objects Panel and click on the insert Flash button.





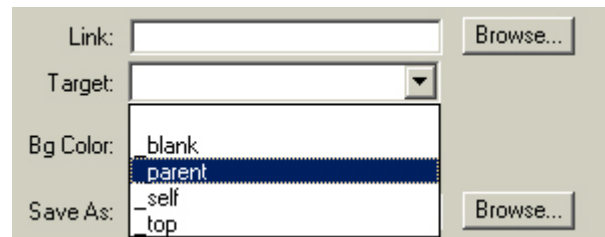
2) A dialog box will then appear, here is where you are going to choose which button you want to insert and where you want to link it too.

3) Choose an option next to the word style, these are your choices of styles to apply for your button.

4) Beneath this you will see a section call "Button Text". Next to this write the text you want to appear on your button itself.

5) You can also customize your font by choosing a different one from the drop down menu which can be found below the Button Text Entry.

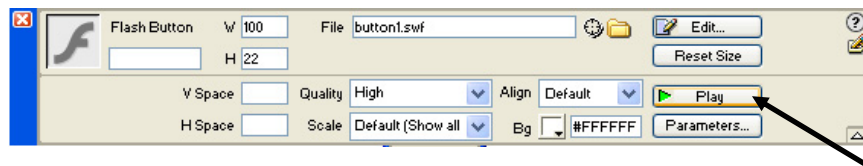
6) Now to link the button to another Web site or a page within your Web site choose the link section and click on browse. Browse through your computer and find the page you want to link it too. (If you want to link it to a Web site just type the URL directly into the box.



7) Underneath link you will see an option called "Target" this will tell the button where to display the page it is linking too.

8) To choose more styles you can click on the button marked "get more styles". It will bring you to macromedia's Web site. Here you can pick more buttons to download. Get More Styles...

Dreamweaver allows you to preview .swf movies directly in the Document Window. To preview a .swf file select the .swf file then press play in the Property Inspector panel.



Templates

One way to save a lot of time and effort when building Web pages is to use template pages. Template pages will also help you to develop consistency throughout your Web site.

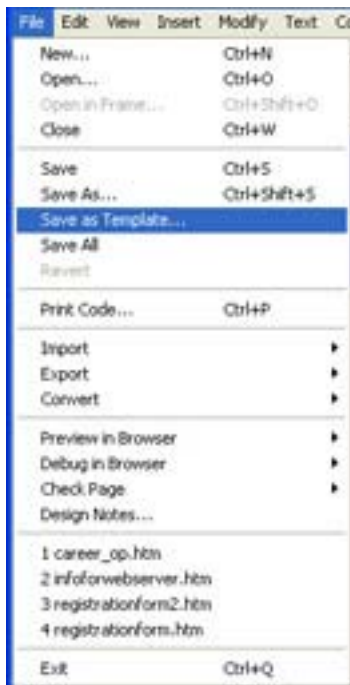
A Web site template is simply a Web page with no content. A template is a common structure of a Web site that most of your Web pages use. Usually Web sites follow a standard structure as we noted in earlier, for example: you would have a header, a navigation bar and a footer that is common to all your pages. Imagine that your site has 20 or 30 pages. If you need to make one small change to one of those basic structure elements, let's say adding a new link, you would need to go to each of those pages and change it manually. However, by using a template you only need to change it in the template and all the pages get updated automatically.

You create your own template or download one from one of the many template resources on the Web. Creating your own allows you to design it the way you want from the start. Downloading one allows you to see how others have designed templates that many people have found useful.

Creating Your Own Template

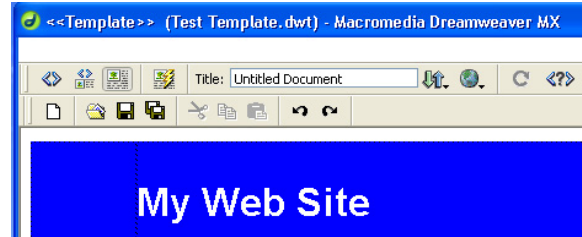
1.) Create a directory (folder) in your Web site and title it “templates.”

2.) Make a Web page with the basic structure of the site. The structure should be common to most of the pages in your site. Note: Don't put content in your template that will be unique to only one page in your site.



3.) Once you have created the structure go to **File** and click on **Save As Template**, give a name to the template and click on **Save**. Notice that Dreamweaver uses the .DWT file extension to indicate a Template file.

4.) You should also note the blue bar on top says <<Template>>. You now are in the Template. The template is automatically saved under a folder called templates.



5.) Now you need to make parts of the template editable so that you can put in content and add information that is unique to parts of the site. As the main content of the pages will keep changing this should be made an editable region. You can make more than one area in a template editable.

6.) To make an area editable you need your cursor to be in that location, then do one of the following:

- right click your mouse and select **New Editable Region**,
- go to **Modify/Template/New Editable Region**,
- Or use your key board short cuts and press **Ctrl/Atl/V**

Next give your region an appropriate name (perhaps editable region or region 1). You will notice a light blue box appear with the name of the editable region in your cursor's location.

Note: You can create as many templates as you like. If you are using different layouts for different sections of your site you can use different templates for each of the sections.

Using a Your Template in Dreamweaver

Once you have successfully made your Template your job is not yet over. You still need to make sure that all the pages are using the Template so that when you update the Template the pages using the Template will automatically get updated. Here are the steps to Apply a template to a page.

- 1.) Once you have created a page which will the same structure as the template all you need to do is, Go to **Modify/Template/Apply Template** to page
- 2.) Once you have applied the specified template to the page you will see a window 'Choose editable region for orphaned content', choose the editable region that you want the content to go into and click on **OK**. You will see that the template is in yellow and cannot be edited. The only region that is editable is the editable region you have specified in the template.

Note: You can apply the template before writing any content or after it. If you do it after writing content you need to choose an editable region where the content will go.

Updating a Template in Dreamweaver

Once you have made the template and applied it to all the necessary pages, the last step you need to know is how to update a template. This is the magic of using Templates.

Any changes that you need to make in the basic structure of the site, you need to do in the Template. So go ahead and make the changes and click on save. If you have applied the Template to any of your site pages, you will get a dialog box asking you if you want to 'Update Templates used in the following files'. Below that, you will see a list of files that will be updates. You must click on Update. If you click on Don't Update, none of the pages using the Template will get updated.

Note: If you have any pages open in Dreamweaver that use the template you have made changes to, you will need to resave those pages before closing them so the changes take effect.

Detaching From Templates

By detaching a document from a Template, you are converting that document to an ordinary document, no longer locked into the Template. To detach a document from a template go to **Modify/Templates/Detach From Template**.

Downloading a Template from the Web

Downloading a template from the Web has many advantages. The templates are often times well designed, use layout designs that are common on the Web and are well suited for user to navigate and view. In addition, they can give you great ideas how to layout your information in your site and save you tons of time creating your own templates. Unless there is a specific notice on the Web site, no one says you have to keep the template the way it was found on the site. You could change the locations of main images, the color scheme or other main attributes.

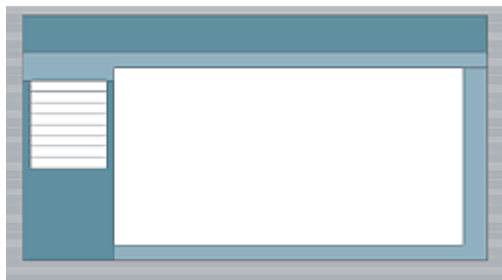
Downloading a template from the Web does require some work. You will need to develop images and other parts that will replicate the theme of the template. Some templates may difficult to work with because following the coloring or design is just too time-consuming.



<http://www.steves-templates.com/>



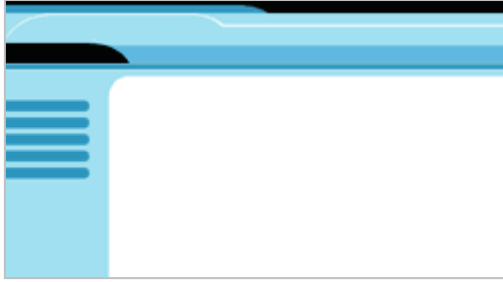
<http://www.steves-templates.com/>



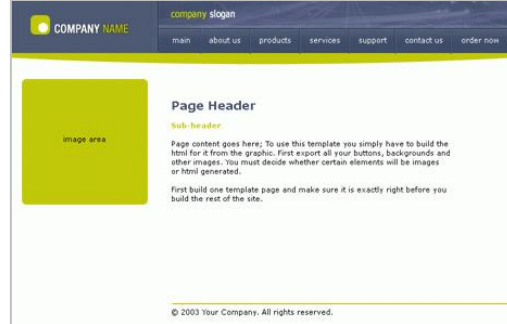
<http://www.stickysauce.com/freetemplates/>



<http://www.stickysauce.com/freetemplates/>



<http://www.stickysauce.com/freetemplates/>



<http://www.myfreetemplates.com/>



<http://www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/download/templates/>

Downloadable Template Resources:

Macromedia Dreamweaver Templates – Macromedia’s own Dreamweaver templates
<http://www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/download/templates/> . Be sure to check out the tutorial for editing the Macromedia templates using Dreamweaver and Fireworks:
http://www.macromedia.com/support/dreamweaver/templates/dwfw_templates_tutorial/

MyFreeTemplates – An outstanding site for free templates, logos and scripts.
<http://www.myfreetemplates.com/>

Sticky Sauce.Com: The Webmasters Resource – A good resource for many Web designer needs including templates, graphics, tutorials and programming directories.
<http://www.stickysauce.com/freetemplates/>

Some Problems

Downloading templates can have some hassles. Be sure you read the rules. You may need to reference their site or keep the basic structure of the template. Other hassles may include some significant graphical work to make the template meet your sites’ needs.