

Dreamweaver

Technical tutorial

part 1

Introduction to Dreamweaver

In this tutorial you'll be introduced to

- defining your site
- basic page layout using css
- creating an external style sheet

Create a page in Dreamweaver

In this tutorial you will learn how to create webpages using cascading style sheets to control the layout of your pages. You will be able to then follow these steps when creating your website. It's also a good idea to refer to the *Dreamweaver Technical Notes* (accessed through the Study Guide) as you work through the tutorial, for more indepth descriptions of the Dreamweaver environment and tools.

Before you start you need to do some basic 'housekeeping'. Create a folder and call it DW Tutorial. This is where you will save all your HTML pages that will make up this tutorial, and also any graphics files (photos, logos etc) that will be contained in your pages. When you start creating your website you should name your folder the same name as your website.

1. Open Dreamweaver (either from the Dock or the Applications folder on the Hard drive). The Welcome screen appears (*see page 1, Dreamweaver Technical Notes*).

2. Click More at the bottom of the 'Create New' column.

If the Welcome Screen does not appear or if you have turned it off, choose File > New

3. The New Document window appears (*see page 2, Dreamweaver Technical Notes*)

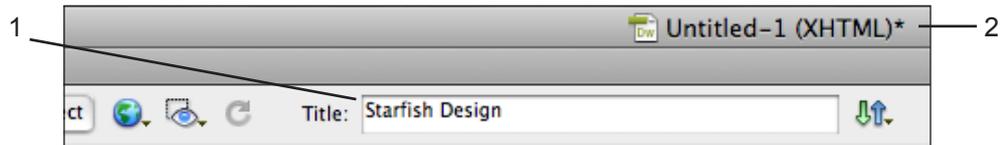
- Select Blank Page, HTML and <none> for the Layout.
- For DocType select XHTML 1.0 Transitional

A new blank page appears in the Document Window. Because the Workspace Layout is set to Classic for this tutorial, choose Classic from the pop-up menu of the Workspace Layout panel (in the top lefthand side underneath the Menu Bar).

4. Before you go any further a very important step to remember is to give your page a title.

Remember this step from the HTML Tutorial. This is important because it is the title that appears at the top of the browser window when someone visits your website. Also, this is the tag that is used to select your site when someone does a search.

- Click in the Title bar (1) at the top and type a name for your website.



- You'll notice that as soon as you make any changes to your file there is a star after the file name (2). This indicates that the file must be saved before these changes will appear in your webpage when viewed in a browser.

5. Save your page as 'index.html'.

The first page of a website or the Home page is always called index (or sometimes default). It must be saved into the same folder as all other files relating to that website – for this tutorial the DW Tutorial folder you have created on your drive.

Creating the Local Site

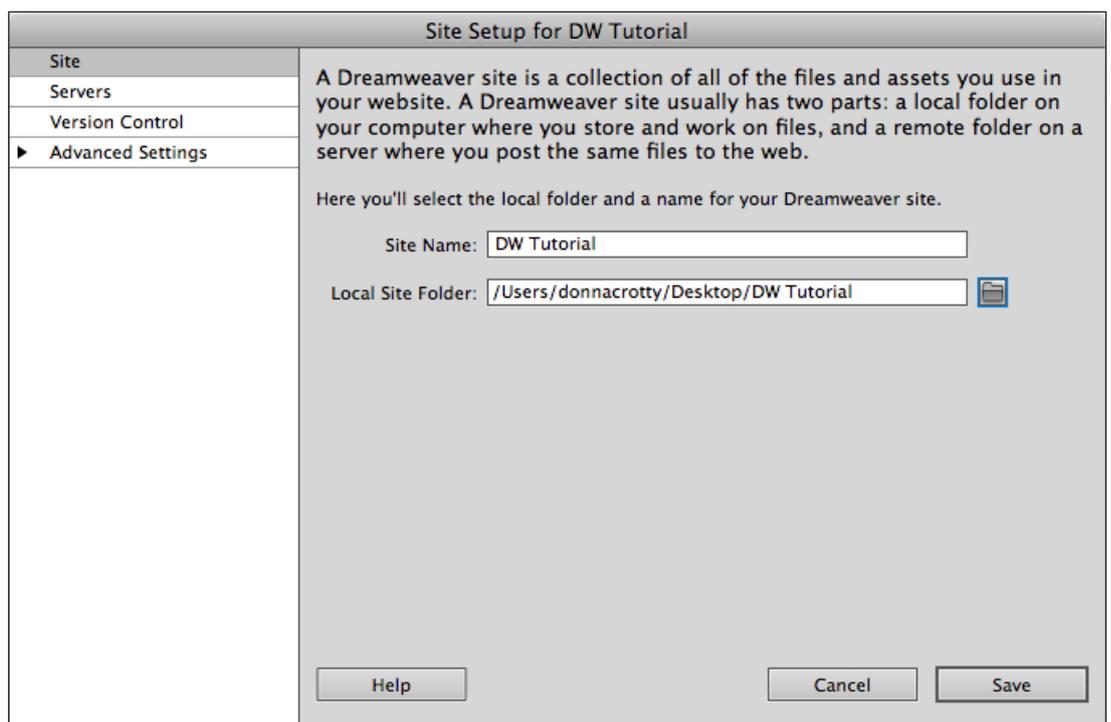
When you create a website, you first build and test the pages from your computer. All the files that make up your site are stored in a folder somewhere on your computer. Dreamweaver calls this the *local root folder*.

After you build your site, you will use Dreamweaver (or an FTP program) to copy all of your files to the Web server that you have chosen to 'house' your site. Dreamweaver replicates the folder structure from your hard disk on the Web server, so the site's structure and all of the links between the pages are preserved. Dreamweaver calls the copy of your site on the Web server the *remote site*. The remote site should always be a mirror image of your local site.

We can create the local site through the Site Definitions dialogue box.

6. From the Menu Bar, select Site > New Site.

The Site Setup dialog box appears.



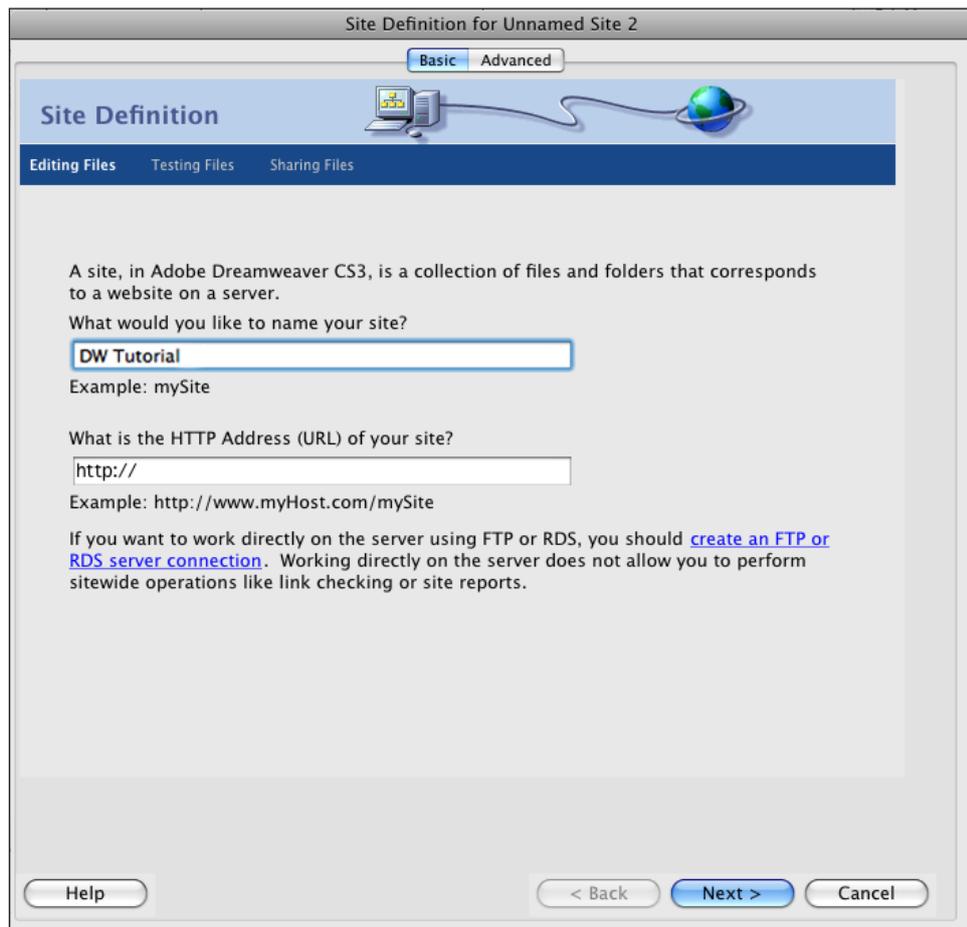
7. For Site Name type DW Tutorial (or the name of your site)
8. Click on the folder icon next to Local Site Folder and choose your DW Tutorial folder

Note: If you are using CS4 or earlier follow these steps:

1. From the Menu Bar, select Site > New Site.

The Site Definition dialog box appears.

- Select Basic, at the top of the window



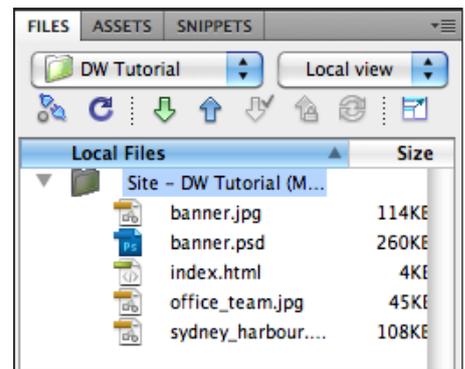
2. Name your site DW Tutorial

Don't worry about the HTTP address. Because we are only setting up a local site we don't need this information. When you have selected a Web server, the network administrator will supply you this and your FTP information.

- Click Next
3. Select 'No, I don't want to use a server technology', click Next
 4. Select 'Edit local copies on my machine', then click the folder icon to locate the folder you will be saving your files to on your directory, in this case DW Tutorial (the folder you have just created). Click Next
 5. How do you want to connect to your remote server? Select None, then click Next.
 6. Click Done.

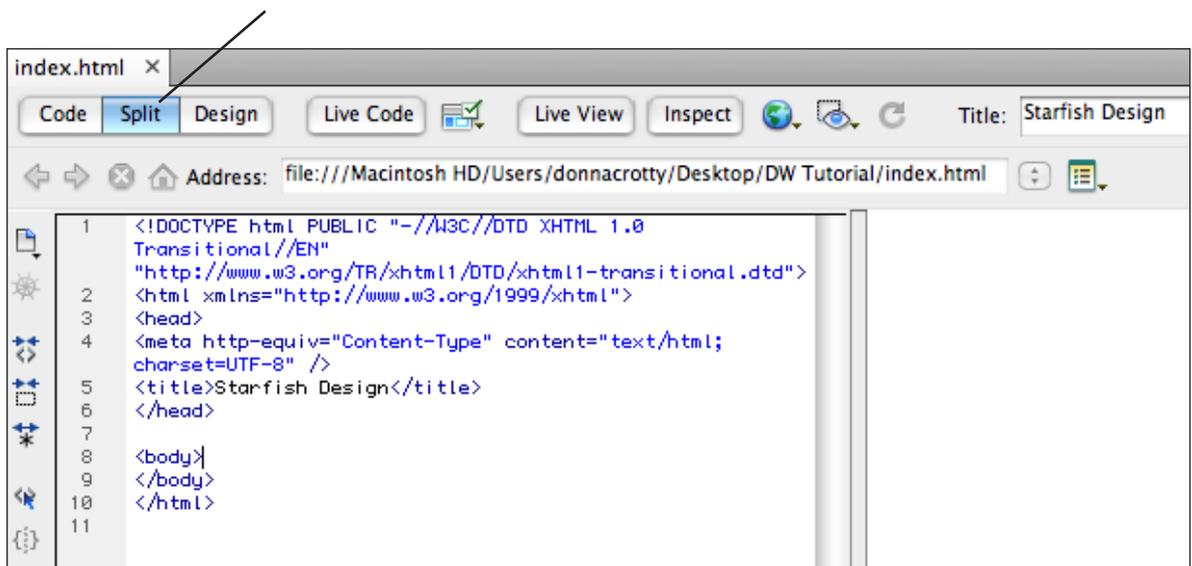
Your site should now appear in the Files window to the right. This displays all the files that you save into your root directory which you have defined as your DW Tutorial folder.

It's important to define a site for any website you create as this helps you to make sure your files are kept in the correct folders. If you try to add say an image to your webpage, and this image is not in the same folder, or directory, Dreamweaver will prompt you to move it to the right location.



In your index.html file, let's have a look at the code Dreamweaver has already created for us

9. Click on Split view, to view both the code and the design view.



Dreamweaver has added the doctype which was determined from the information we gave when choosing a new file. You will also recognise the html, head, body and title tags.

Page layout with css

Now with basic housekeeping out of the way, time to create a basic layout for our page. As we learned from the HTML and CSS tutorials earlier, html controls the underlying structure of your webpages, and with css you have much more control and flexibility of the layout and visual design.

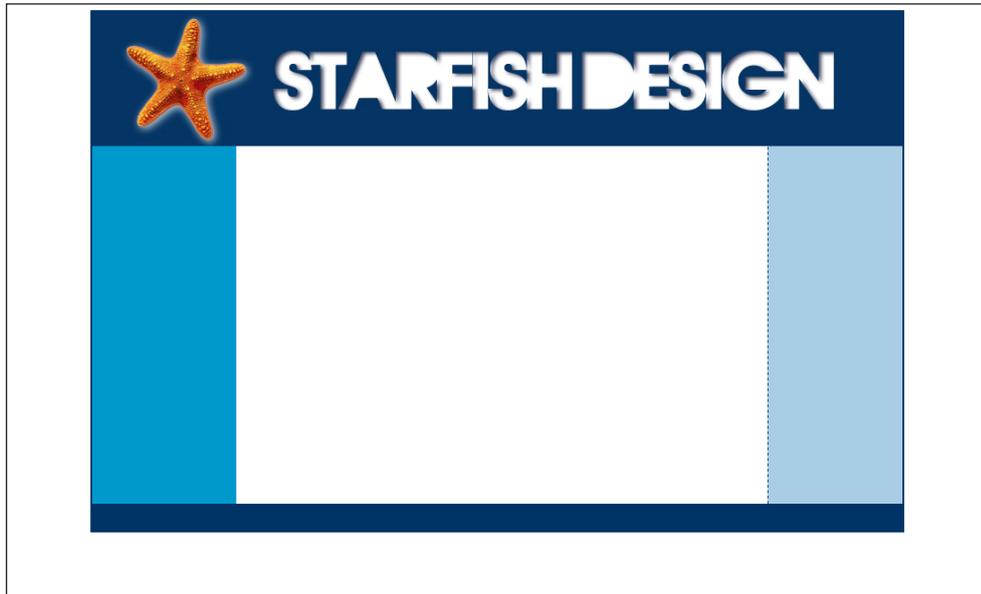
There are two principal methods for laying out Web pages: CSS and tables (not unlike tables in Word). Using CSS has several advantages. First, keeping content separate from layout instructions means you can easily apply the same layout to an entire website all at once (a big advantage when you are working on a site that has 100 pages). You can then change the layout of the whole site simply by modifying the CSS file.

The CSS + (X)HTML combination also tends to produce smaller file sizes, which means your visitors don't have to wait as long to see your site.

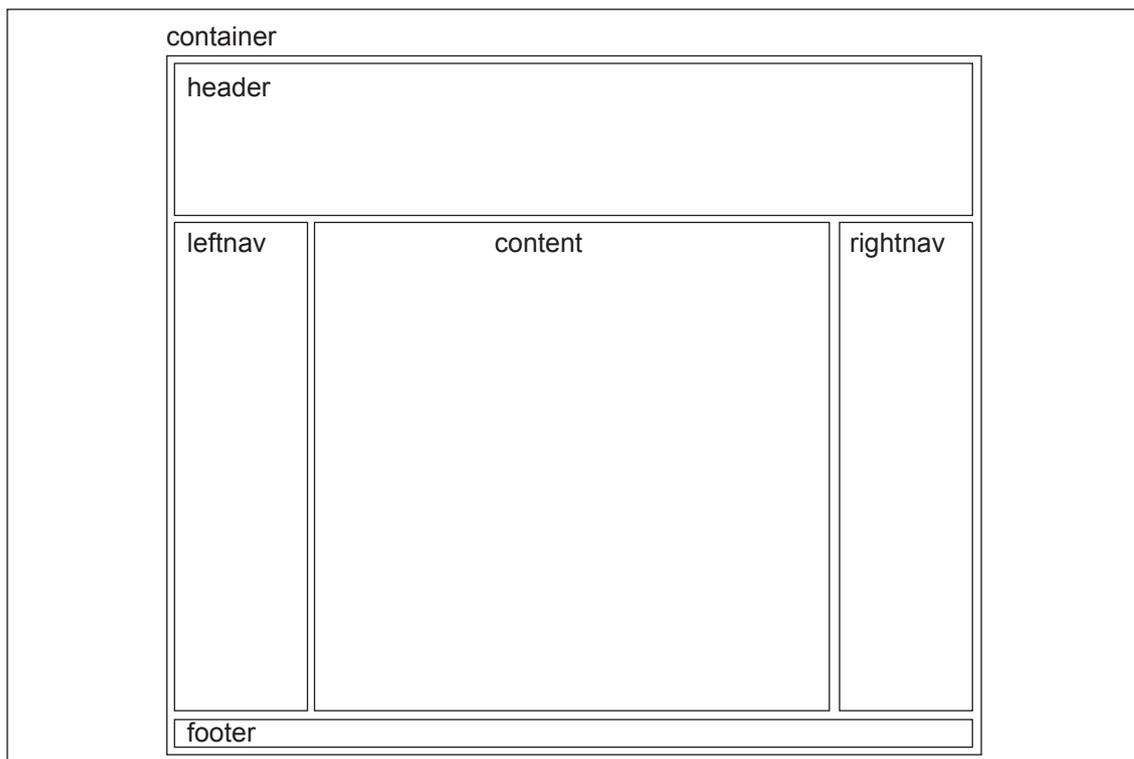
Finally, since CSS and (X)HTML are the current standards, pages that adhere to their rules are guaranteed to be supported in future browsers (and eventually a requirement of Web Standards).

Structuring your pages

When creating the layout for our pages we begin with dividing the page up into logical sections using 'div' tags in our (x)html pages. For this tutorial our page layout is going to look like this:



- We have a Header at the top of the page.
- We have navigation on both the left and right hand sides
- We have a content area in between the nav sections
- We have a footer.
- All of these sections will be nested within a container



We are going to apply css rules to each of these sections or div tags. The CSS rules will be in our external style sheet that we are going to create, which will be linked to each of our webpages. Therefore we will need to give our div tags each a unique name or what's called an ID selector.

10. In your index.html click in the Document window or Design view to insert the cursor. If you are not sure which is the Design view see the *Dreamweaver Technical Notes, p2*.

11. Click on the Insert Div tag icon in the Insert bar or panel. 

12. In the window that appears choose 'At insertion point' for Insert

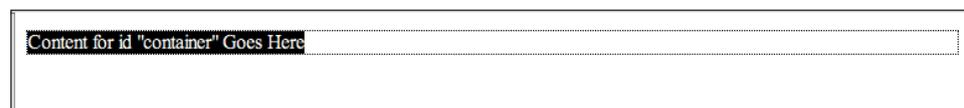
For ID type container

Hit OK



We have given our div tag that represents our container the unique name of 'container'.

In our design window it appears like this:



The div is represented by the dotted line and text has been placed within this to let us know that the content for the id "container" goes in that area.

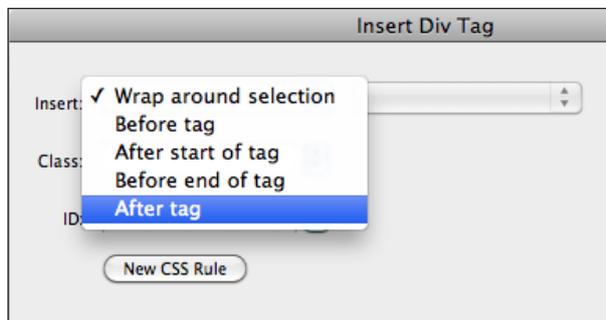
Your code will look like this, with the beginning and end div tags, the id name, and the content between the beginning and end tags. Notice that the div tags are in the body tags.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0
  Transitional//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
2 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
3 <head>
4 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;
  charset=UTF-8" />
5 <title>Starfish Design</title>
6 </head>
7
8 <body>
9 <div id="container">Content for id "container" Goes Here
10 </div>
11 </body>
12 </html>
```

13. While this text is selected (indicated by the black in the design window or grey in the code window) hit the delete key. This text would show on our page so we don't want it there.

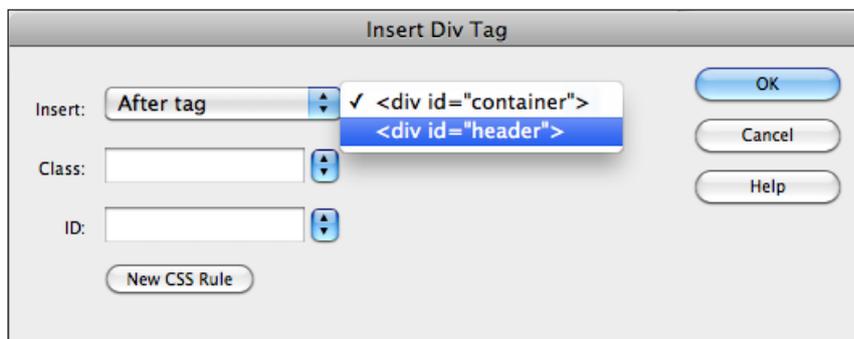
14. With the cursor still within the dotted lines of the container, click on the Insert Div tag again, and select At insertion point, and for ID type header, and hit OK.

- Keep the text selected (as it is important to have your cursor positioned in the right spot to add the other div tags).
- Click on the Insert Div tag icon again and this time click on the drop down menu next to Insert and choose After Tag



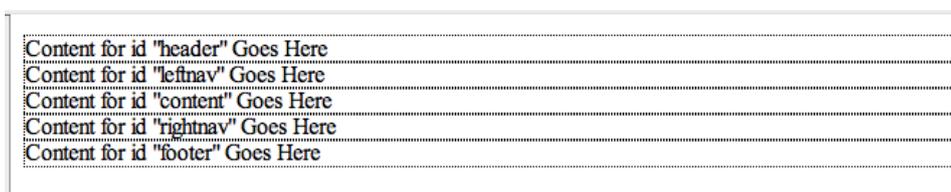
Note:
For a definition of each of these options go to page 19

- The dropdown menu next to this will appear with the two tags you have already created. Choose `<div id="header">`



- For ID type leftnav, click OK
- Repeat again choosing After tag, `<div id="leftnav">`, content for ID
- Repeat again choosing After tag, `<div id="content">`, rightnav for ID
- Repeat again choosing After tag, `<div id="rightnav">`, footer for ID

Your design view should look something like this:



Save your file and view it in a browser by clicking on the 

A list of the browsers you have on your computer will appear.

It's not that interesting yet, but that's because we haven't created any css rules to add any styling.

The code should look like this:

```
7
8 <body>
9 <div id="container">
10 <div id="header">Content for id "header" Goes Here</div>
11 <div id="leftnav">Content for id "leftnav" Goes Here</div>
12 <div id="content">Content for id "content" Goes Here</div>
13 <div id="rightnav">Content for id "rightnav" Goes Here</div>
14 <div id="footer">Content for id "footer" Goes Here</div>
15 </div>
16 </body>
17 </html>
18
```

You'll notice that our five div id's are nested within the container div tags. If your tags are not arranged like this you can simply select them (in the code view) and cut and paste in the right spot. **It is important that your five div tags sit within the container div tag.**

Creating an External Style sheet

Now we are going to create some css rules for each of our div containers by setting up an external style sheet.

22. Create a new file, File > New
23. In the New Document window, this time select CSS from the Page Type column, and hit OK.
24. Save your file as starfish.css making sure it is saved into your DW Tutorial folder.

You'll notice that it will appear in the Files panel.

Your css file opens in code view (1), and Dreamweaver has created the necessary code at the beginning (2).

As you create or open more files they will appear in tabs along the top (3). This allows you to move easily between your open files by clicking on the tab.

3

1

2

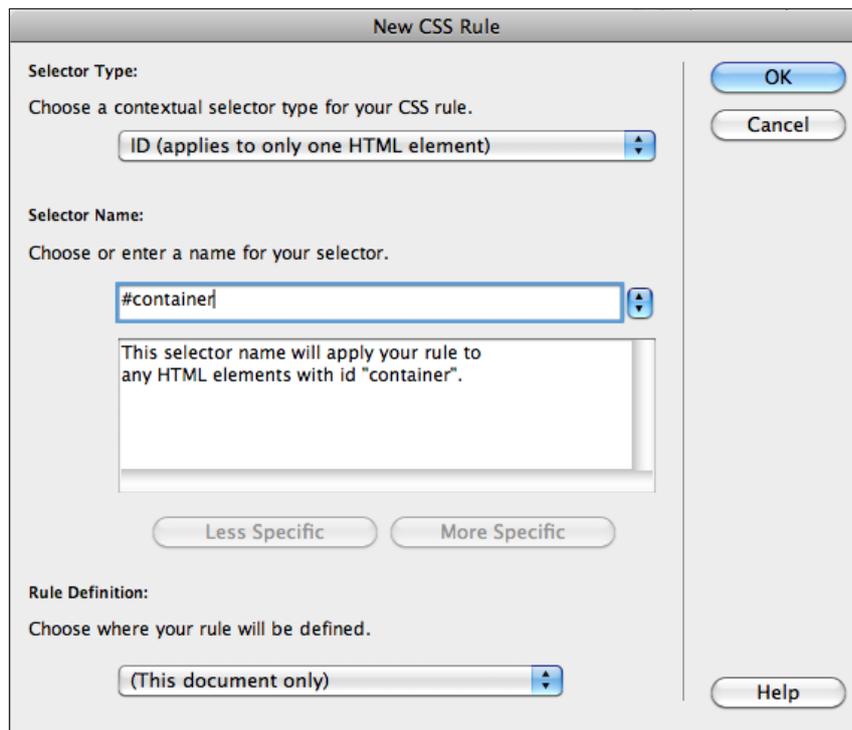
1

25. Create a new CSS rule by clicking the New CSS Rule button (1) in the CSS Styles panel.

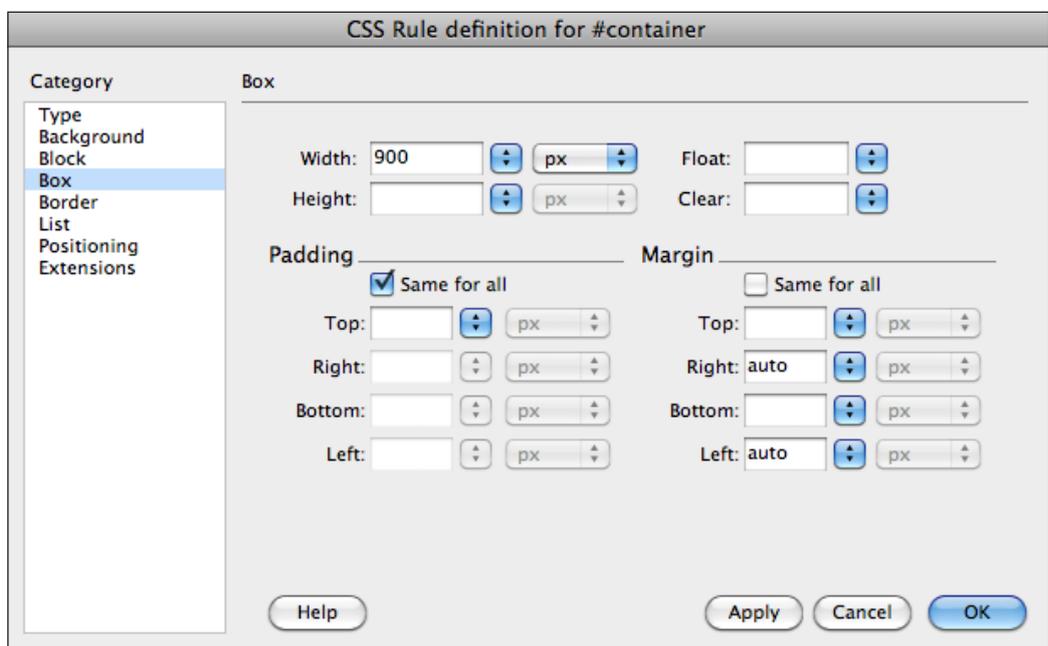
The New CSS Rule dialog box appears.

26. Choose the ID option from the Selector Type menu and then enter the name **#container** into the Selector Name text box.

Note: The pound symbol, #, represents ID (therefore the ID selector name is *container*). The dialog box should look like this:



27. Click OK. You are now ready to define the properties for your container rule, which will control the positioning of the contents of the webpage.
28. Click on the Box Category (left column). Set the Width to 900 pixels, uncheck the Same for All check box for Margin, and select Auto for both Left and Right.

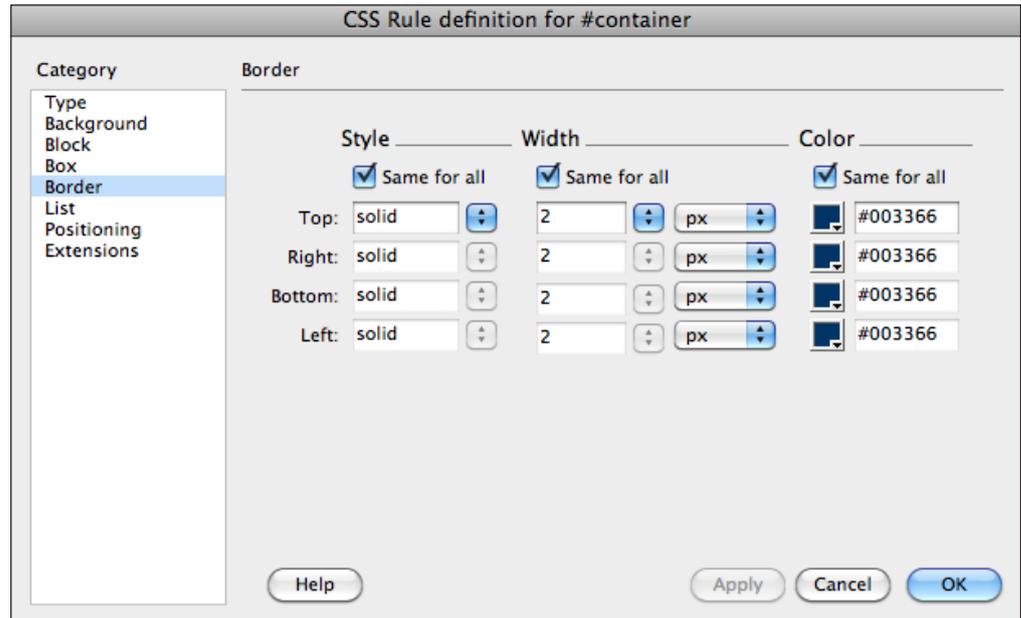


What we've done here is set a fixed width for our webpage (by using a pixel width). We could give the width a percentage value which means when a user resizes the browser window the webpage resizes as a percentage of the browser window size.

We've also centred the webpage by setting the Left and Right Margins to Auto. This means that no matter what size the browser window is the page will always be centred.

29. Click on the Border Category, keep Same for all checked for each column

- For Style choose solid from the dropdown menu, for Width type 2, for Color type #003366



```
1 @charset "UTF-8";
2 /* CSS Document */
3
4 #container {
5     width: 900px;
6     margin-right: auto;
7     margin-left: auto;
8     border: 2px solid #003366;
9 }
```

30. Click OK. Our css rule appears in our style sheet. You'll recognise the coding from the css tutorial.

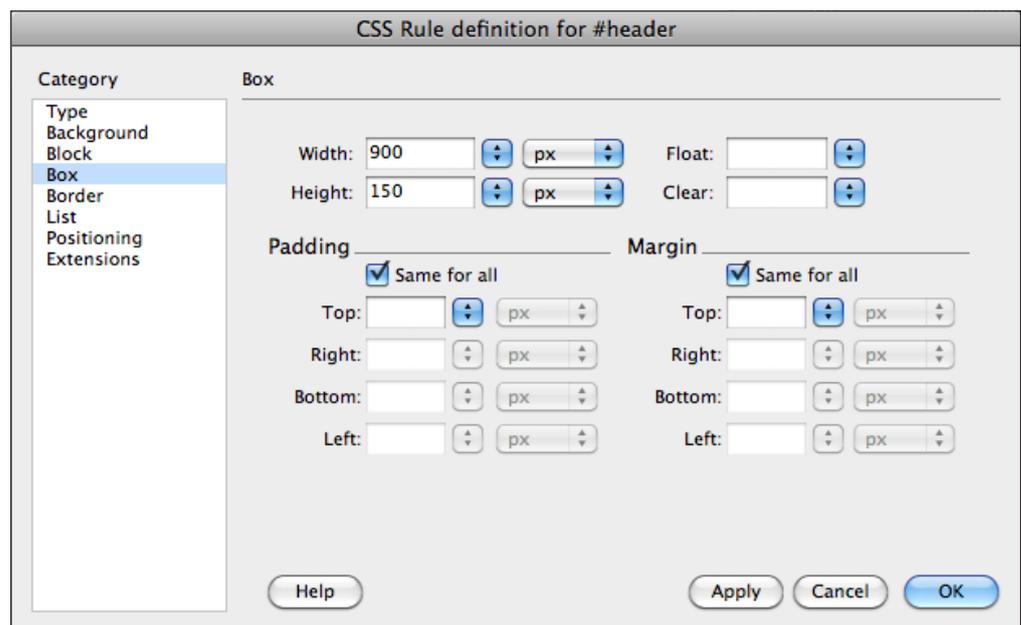
You've created the rule for the container. Now we can go on and create the rules for the rest of the remaining div elements.

31. Create a new CSS rule (see step 25)

32. Choose the ID option and type **#header** into the Selector Name text box.

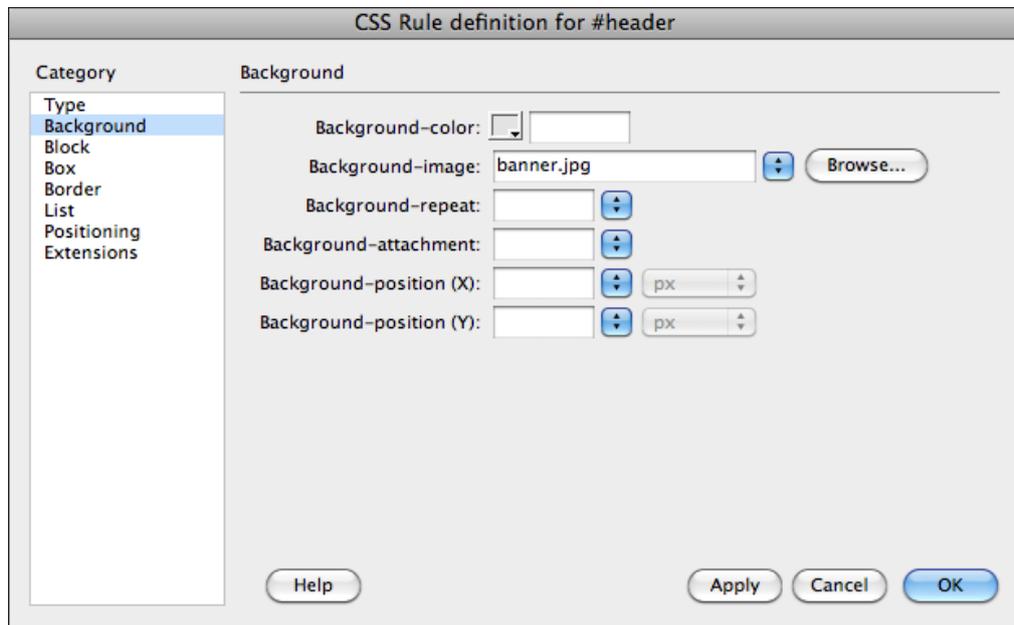
33. Click OK. Now start defining the properties that will make up the header rule.

34. Select Box from the Category column, set the Width as 900 px and the Height as 150 px

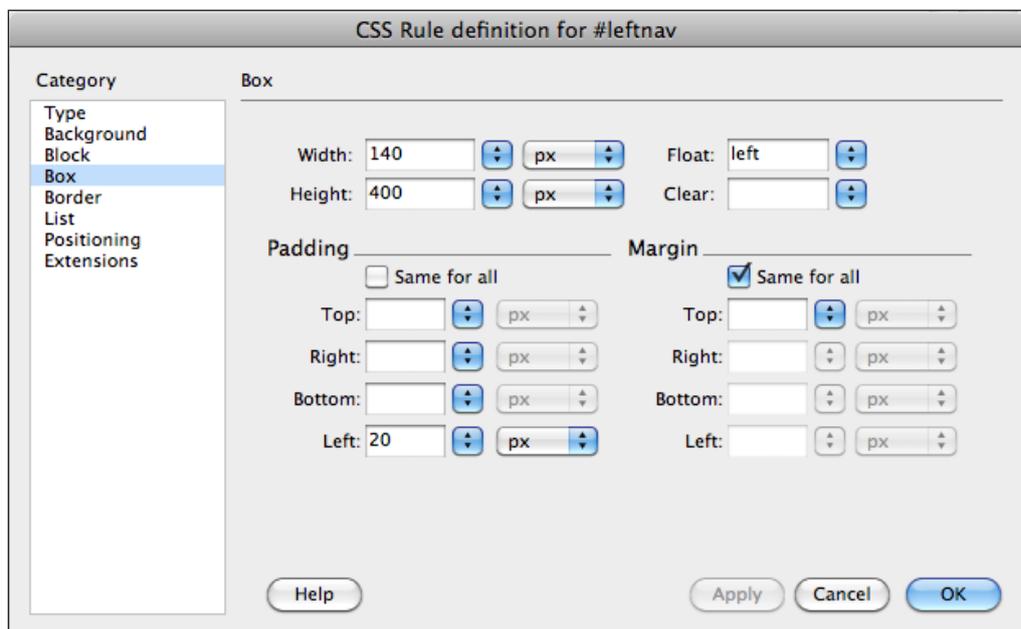


35. Select Background from the Category column, for Background-image click on the Browse button and from your DW Tutorial folder select banner.jpg (which has been downloaded from the Study Guide).

I have created a banner graphic in Photoshop with the dimensions 900 x 150 px. This is the width that we also set our container.



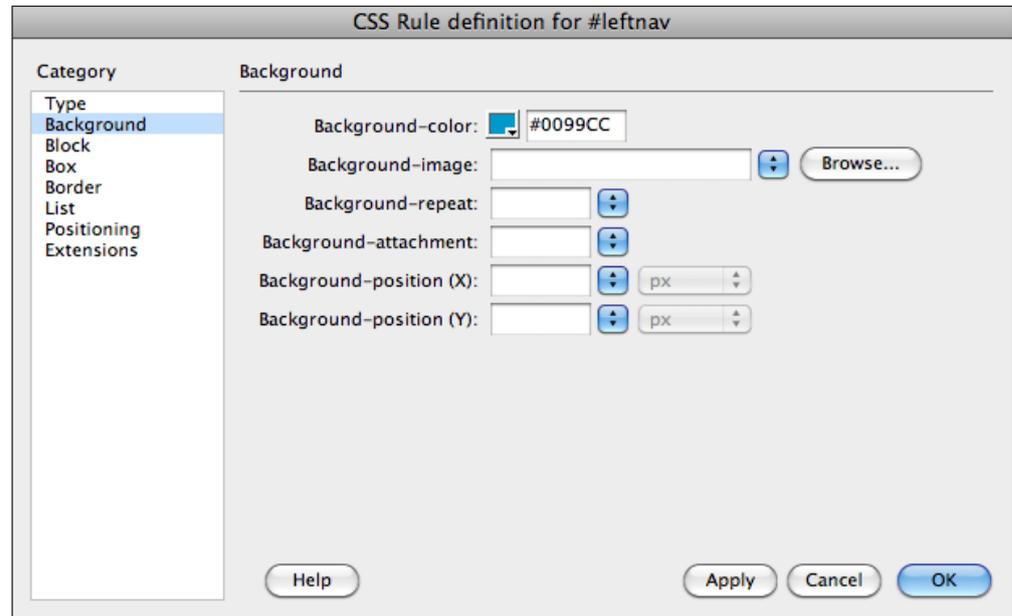
36. Click OK. Your header rule is now defined. We have added an image as a background to the header.
37. Create a new CSS rule
38. Choose the ID option and type **#leftnav** into the Selector Name text box.
39. Click OK. Now start defining the properties that will make up the leftnav rule.
40. Select Box from the Category column, set the Width as 140 px and the Height as 400 px, uncheck the Same For All check box for Padding, enter a value of 20 px for Left, then choose the left option from the Float menu. (See pages 17-18 for an explanation of the width).



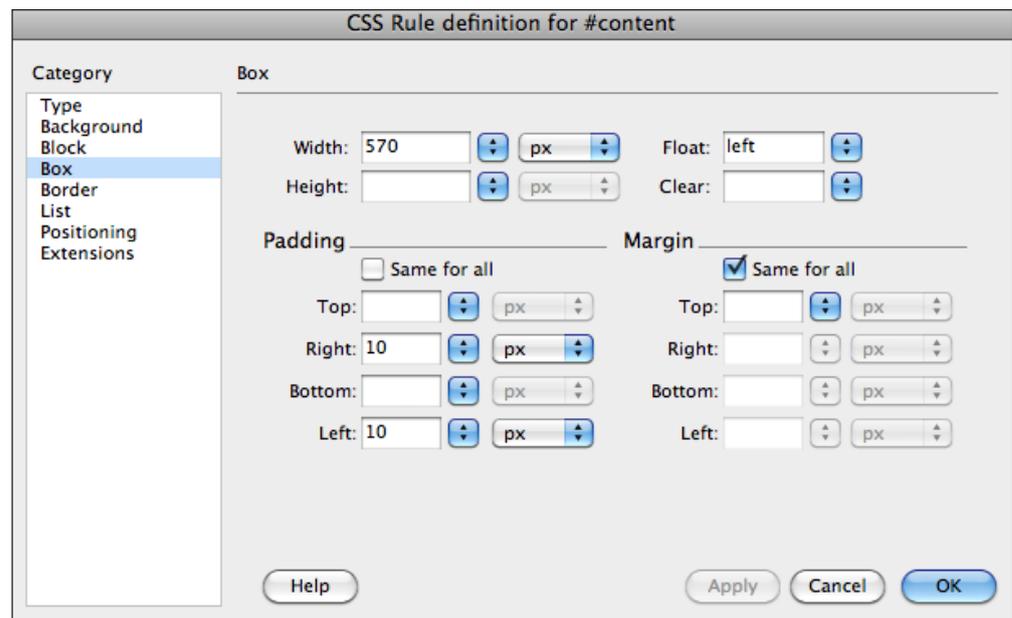
Float is used in CSS when you want to allow div elements to coexist side by side. Because we want the content <div> to reside next to the leftnav <div>, we use Float Left.

We've also created some padding so that when we add content to this div it will sit 20px away from the edge.

41. Select Background from the Category column, and for background-color type #0099CC

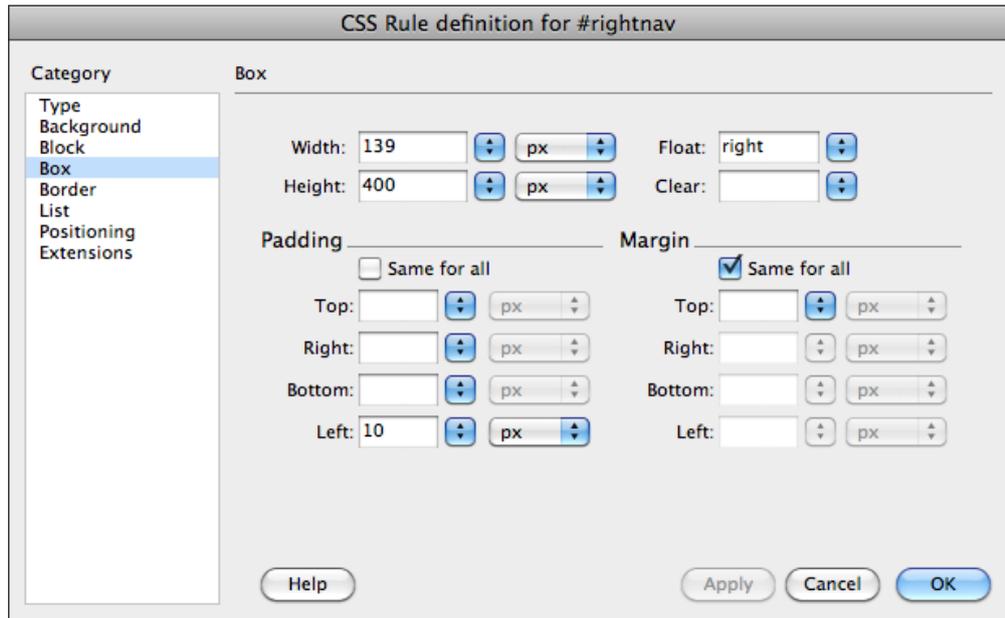


42. Click OK.
43. Create a new CSS rule
44. Choose the ID option and type **#content** into the Selector Name text box.
45. Click OK. Now start defining the properties that will make up the content rule.
46. Select Box from the Category column. Set the width as 570px, uncheck Same for All check box for Padding, enter a value of 10px for Left and 10px for Right, and then choose the Left option from the Float Menu. (See pages 17-18 for an explanation of the width).

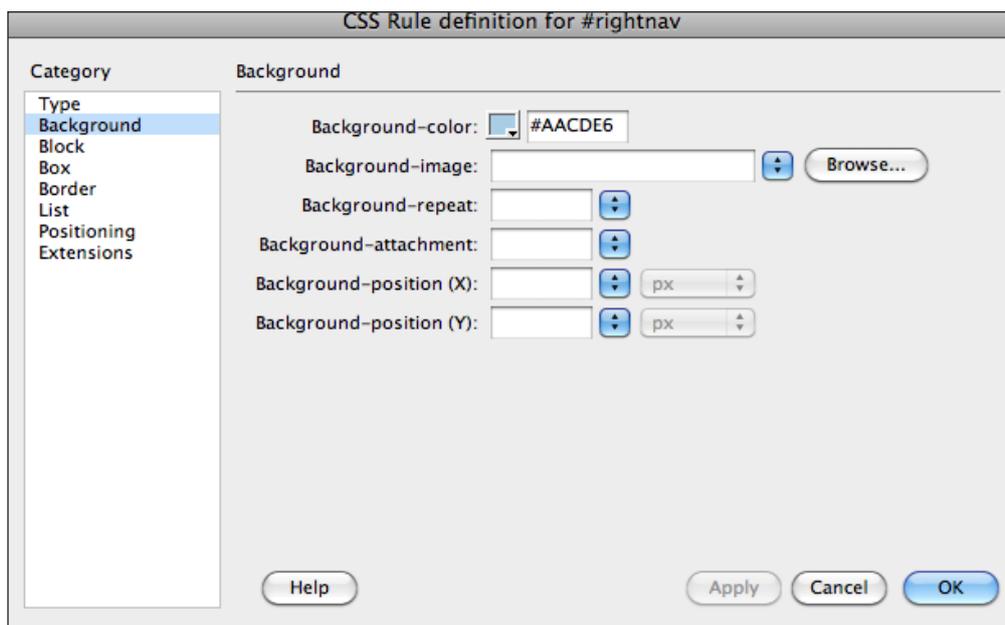


Again, we want the float to be set at left because we also want the rightnav to coexist side by side with the content and the leftnav

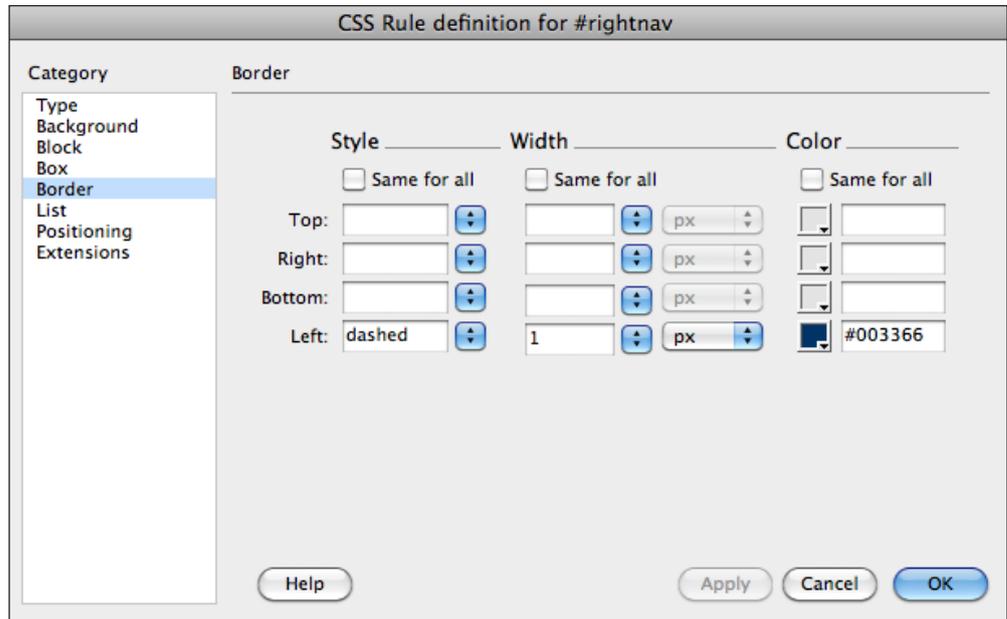
47. Click OK, and create a new CSS rule
48. Choose the ID option and type **#rightnav** into the Selector Name text box.
49. Click OK. Now start defining the properties that will make up the rightnav rule.
50. Select Box from the Category column. Set the width as 139px and Height as 400px, uncheck Same for All check box for Padding, enter a value of 10px for Left, and then choose the Right option from the Float Menu. (See pages 17-18 for an explanation of the width).



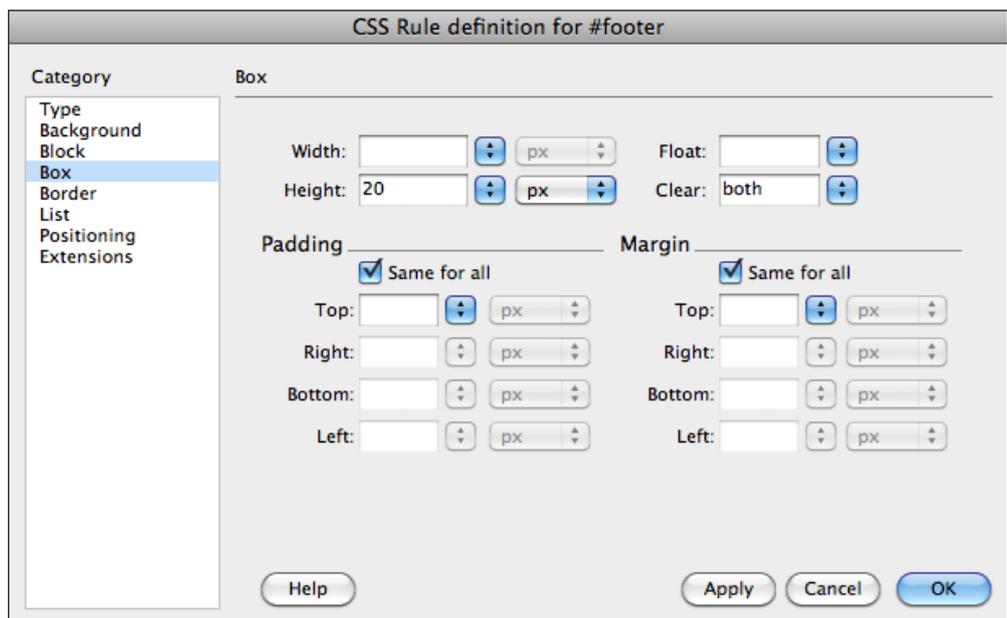
51. Select Background from the Category column and for Background-color type #AACDE6



52. Select Border from the Category column, uncheck Same For All for each column
 - Under Style for Left choose dashed from the dropdown menu, under Width for Left type 1, and under Color for Left type #003366



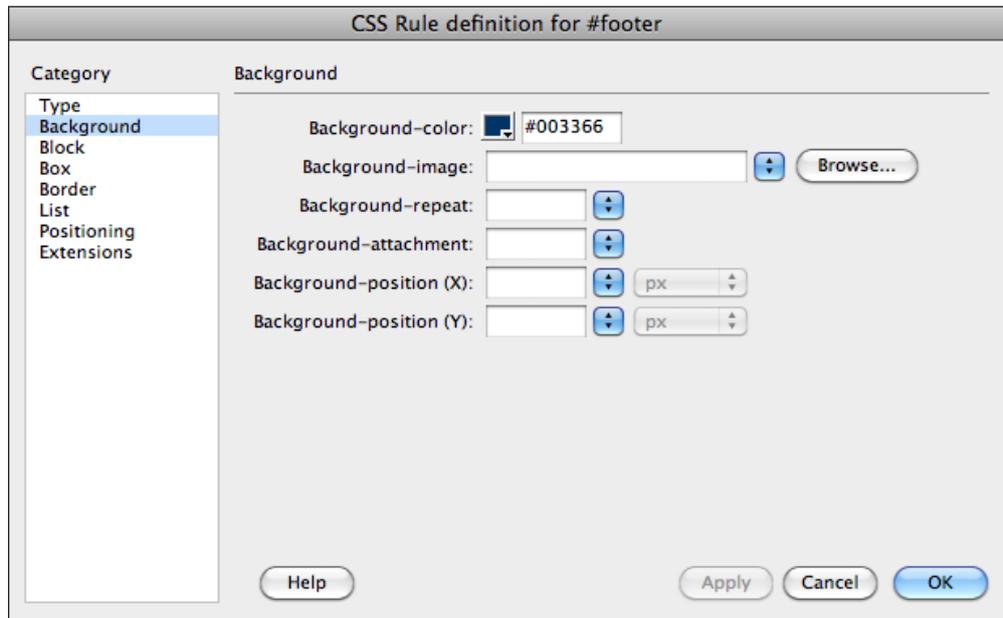
53. Click OK, and now for the last of our div rules
54. Create a new CSS rule
55. Choose the ID option and type **#footer** into the Selector Name text box.
56. Click OK. Now start defining the properties that will make up the footer rule.
57. Select Box from the Category column and choose the Both option from the Clear Menu.



This is important as it clears the previous floats so the footer will be placed underneath the other elements.

58. For Height type 20

59. Select Background from the Category column and for Background-color type #003366



60. Click OK and you're done!

Your stylesheet will look something like this:

```
1  @charset "UTF-8";
2  /* CSS Document */
3
4  #container {
5      width: 900px;
6      margin-right: auto;
7      margin-left: auto;
8      border: 2px solid #003366;
9  }
10 #header {
11     height: 150px;
12     width: 900px;
13     background-image: url(banner.jpg);
14 }
15 #leftnav {
16     float: left;
17     height: 400px;
18     width: 140px;
19     background-color: #0099CC;
20     padding-left: 20px;
21 }
22 #rightnav {
23     float: right;
24     height: 400px;
25     width: 139px;
26     background-color: #AACDE6;
27     padding-left: 10px;
28     border-left-width: 1px;
29     border-left-style: dashed;
30     border-left-color: #003366;
31 }
32 #content {
33     float: left;
34     width: 570px;
35     padding-right: 10px;
36     padding-left: 10px;
37 }
38 #footer {
39     clear: both;
40     background-color: #003366;
41     height: 20px;
42 }
```

61. Save your stylesheet.

Linking the External Stylesheet

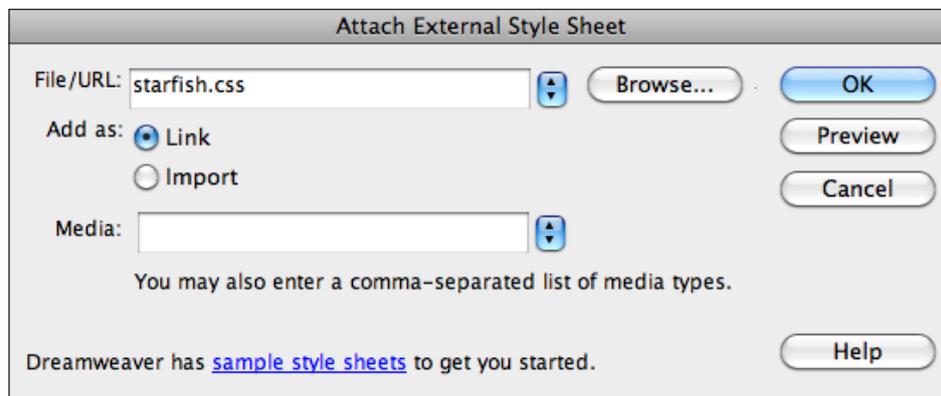
We've now created the layout structure for our webpages in an external stylesheet. But, if we look at our `index.html` nothing has changed. That's because our webpage doesn't know to apply these styles. The last thing we are going to do in this tutorial is link our external stylesheet `starfish.css` to our `index.html` page.

62. Make sure you are in your `index.html` file (in Dreamweaver), so click on the `index.html` tab. If you don't see a tab for your page then you will need to open your file.

63. Click on the Attach Stylesheet button at the bottom of the CSS Styles panel  If you can't find it see the *Dreamweaver Technical Notes, page 2*

64. The Attach External Stylesheet window opens. Click on Browse and select your `starfish.css` file.

- Make sure Link is checked for Add As



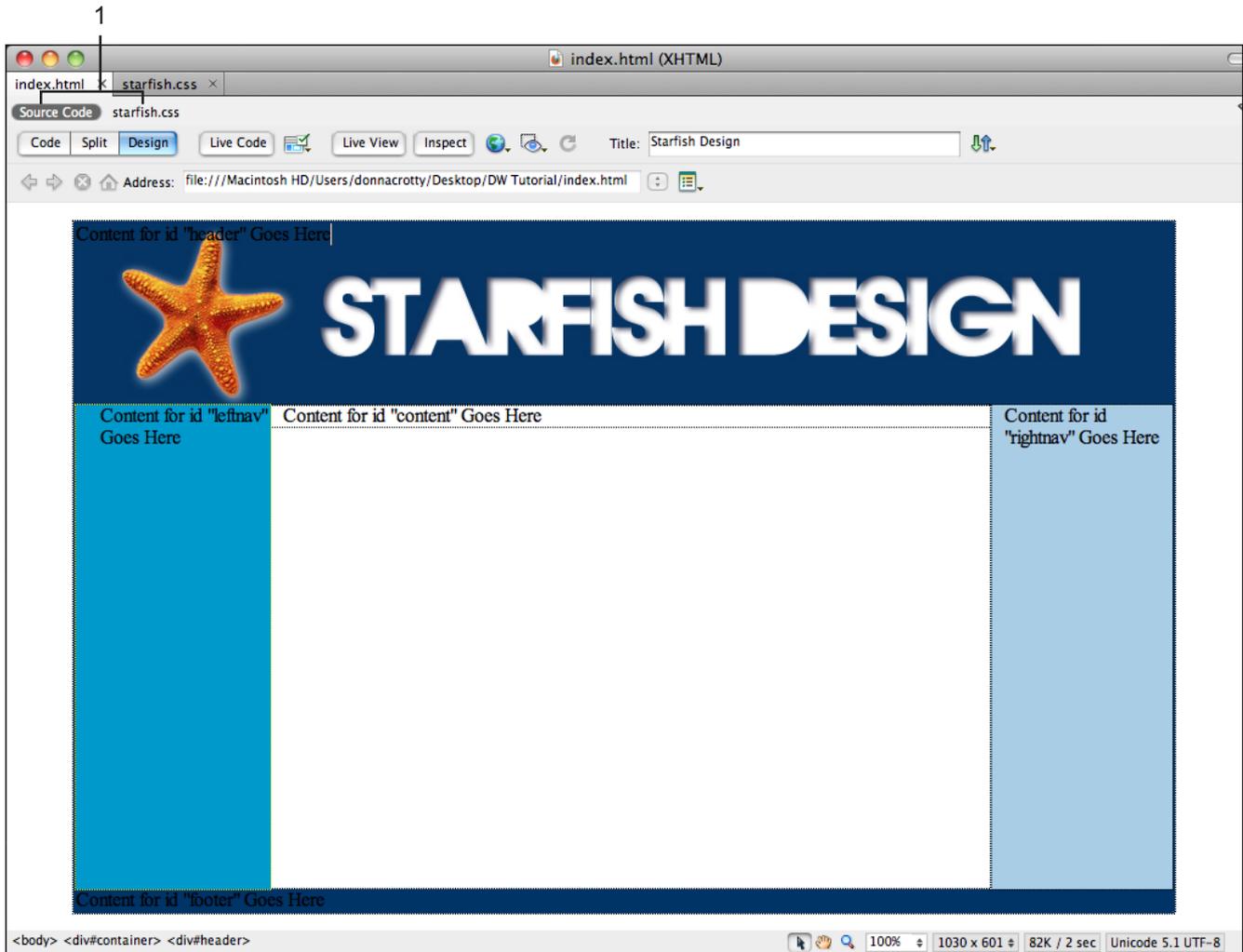
65. Click OK

Once you have linked your stylesheet your page will take on a whole different look. Each of the rules you set up are being applied to the specific `div id`'s you created in your `index.html` file.

You'll notice in the code of your page the tag for the external stylesheet.

Apart from this nothing else has changed in your code.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
2 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
3 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
4 <head>
5 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;
6 charset=UTF-8" />
7 <title>Starfish Design</title>
8 <link href="starfish.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
9 </head>
10 <body>
11 <div id="container">
12 <div id="header">Content for id "header" Goes Here</div>
13 <div id="leftnav">Content for id "leftnav" Goes Here</div>
14 <div id="content">Content for id "content" Goes Here</div>
15 <div id="rightnav">Content for id "rightnav" Goes Here</div>
16 <div id="footer">Content for id "footer" Goes Here</div>
17 </div>
18 </body>
19 </html>
```

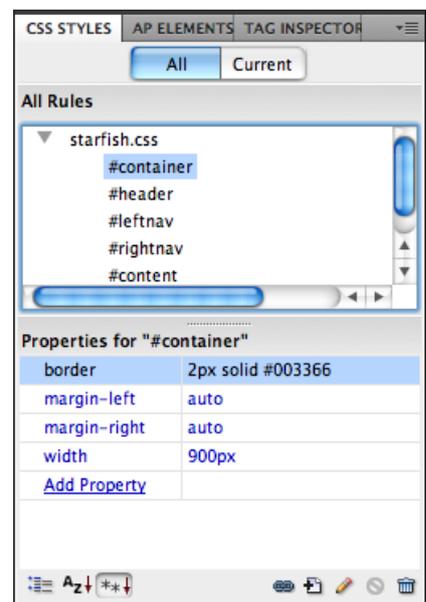


You'll also notice that along the top in the Document Toolbar the linked file (in this case our *starfish.css* file) is indicated along with the Source Code (1). The Source Code indicates the code for *index.html*. Therefore this allows you to jump between the two files.

The *starfish.css* is also shown in the CSS Styles panel within *index.html*. If you click on the grey arrow the list of rules within the stylesheet will appear. You will also be able to edit your linked stylesheet from here.

Determining widths of div elements

Now that you can actually see what your page looks like (and what it will look like in the browser) it's a good idea to go through how the widths for the elements were determined.



If you have a look at your stylesheet you'll see that we set the width of our **container** to 900 pixels. You can set this to whatever width you want, but it is this width that then determines the widths for the other elements.

Our **header**, that stretches the whole width of the container is also 900 pixels and because the image was created in Photoshop with the dimensions 900 x 150px, we can also set the height of the header div.

The **leftnav** has been set to 140px wide with left padding of 20px.

The **content** has been given a width of 570px with a right padding of 10px and a left padding of 10px.

The **rightnav** has been given a width of 139px, with left padding of 10px and a border on the left of 1px.

Because we want the Leftnav, the Content and the Rightnav to sit along side each other all these widths, including padding (and margins if we had included any) and border widths must add up to the width of the container which is 900px.

Therefore $140 + 20$ (leftnav) $+570 + 10 + 10$ (content) $+ 139 + 10 + 1$ (rightnav) = 900px

If these added up to over 900px the Rightnav would be pushed down to sit under the content.

This tutorial has shown you how to set up a basic page layout for a website in Dreamweaver using CSS. You also created an external stylesheet which you linked to your webpage. You can use this resource and follow the basic set up for your own website.

In the next part of the Dreamweaver Tutorial we will add some navigation and some content to our page.

There are a few Dreamweaver books that I recommend :

Lowery, J W (2010), *Adobe Dreamweaver CS5 Bible*, Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Negrino, T, Smith, D (2010) *Visual Quickstart Guide Dreamweaver CS5*, Peachpit Press, CA

McFarland, D S (2010) *Dreamweaver CS5 The Missing Manual*, Pogue Press, O'Reilly, and now also for CS5.5

There are also various websites with more Dreamweaver tutorials, some of these are listed in the Useful Links section of MySCU.



View these video demos for further information on styling your pages with CSS and div tags.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wWjrKET3G4&feature=related>

This video is using Dreamweaver CS4 but is still quite relevant

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9mfunkiB5cM>

This video demonstrates another way to create div tags in Dreamweaver

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx1vimCDk4>

This video follows a similar layout , but uses a **class** selector for the div tags rather than an **id**.

Definitions: Insert Div options *(from page 7)*

The options available are:

At insertion point. The new div is inserted wherever the Insertion point currently is.

Before tag. The new div is inserted immediately before the specified element's opening tag.

After start of tag. The new div is inserted immediately after the specified element's opening tag.

Before end of tag. The new div is inserted immediately before the specified element's closing tag.

After tag. The new div is inserted immediately after the specified element's closing tag.

Wrap around selection. This option is displayed only when something is selected in the document window. The new div is wrapped around the selected element(s).