



Web 2.0 Navigation: Rounded Buttons

WEB 2.0 NAVIGATION: ROUNDED BUTTON MENU

GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

This button tutorial will design four images that will be displayed as a rounded button navigation menu using html and css:

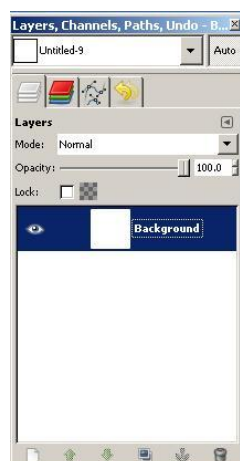
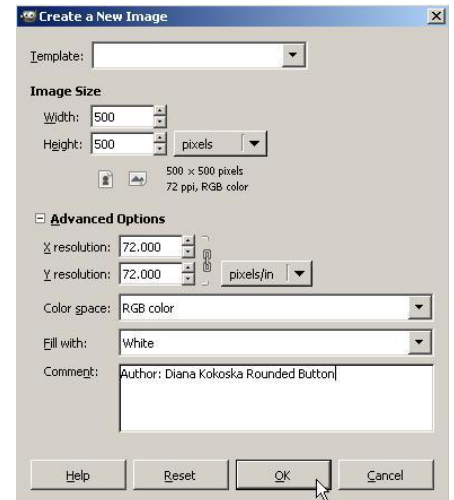
- **The right background image**
- **The left background image**
- **The left hover background image**
- **The right hover background image**

Each button image will be saved as two separate images – left and right.

OPEN GIMP®


Step 1: To begin a new GIMP® project, from the Menu Bar, select File | New. At the Create a New Image dialog box, select a size and background color for your new image. I selected 500 x 500 pixels with a white background.

You will need to click the + sign beside Advanced Options to expand the menu.




Click the Ok button. Click the Fill with: down arrow and select white.

A new canvas displays in the GIMP document window, information about the new image displays in the Title Bar, and a layer named Background displays in the Layers palette.

Step 2: At the bottom of the Layers palette, click the Create New Layer and add to image icon  and at the Create New Layer dialog box, name the layer `Button`. Click the Ok button.

A new layer displays above the “Background” layer in the Layers palette.

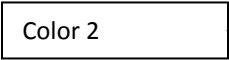
Step 3: From the Toolbox, select the Rectangle Select Tool . In the Rectangle Select options, select the Rounded corners option and drag the Radius: slider to 15.

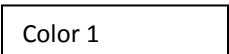
Move the cursor on the image canvas and draw a rectangle 250 x 70 pixels. Notice that the pixel dimensions display below the image canvas. (The height will be the actual height of the navigation bar, but the width will be dynamic; the button should be wider than the largest navigation item)

Step 4: For a later part of this tutorial you will need to find 6 hexadecimal colors in complementary shades.

A) In the address bar of a browser type

<http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/color-blend/>

B) Click in the Color 1 textbox and select  the 3rd column 4th row from the bottom. A #009999 displays in the Color 1 textbox. This will be the dark border color.

C) Click in the Color 2 textbox and click the square for color 2. A #99CCCC displays in the 



Step 5: In the Toolbox, click the Foreground color icon and type the Original Button Color `1FA3A3` in the HTML notation: text box and press the Enter Key. Click the QK button.

From the Menu bar, select Edit | Fill with FG color.



The button is filled with the second Palette color.

Step 6: With “Button” layer selected in the Layers palette, right click and select Duplicate Layer.

In the Layers palette, double click the name of the “Button copy” layer and type `Hover Button` and press the Enter key.


Step 7: In the Toolbox, click the Background color icon and type the Hover Button Color `7AC2C2` in the HTML notation: text box and press the Enter key. Click the QK button.

Step 8: From the Menu bar, select Edit | Fill with BG Color.



The button is filled with the Hover Button color.


From the Menu bar, click Select | None to remove the *marching ants* from the selection.

Step 9: From the Toolbox, click the Crop Tool  and draw a rectangle around the image. Adjust and click the center of the button to accept the crop.


Step 10: From the Menu Bar, select File | Save. At the Save Image dialog box type `rounded_button_menu_mm_dd_yy` (replacing the mm, dd, and yy with the current month, day, an year) and select `\PortableApps\GIMP\buttons\images` as the destination folder and click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (by Extension) and select `GIMP xcf image`. Click the Save button.

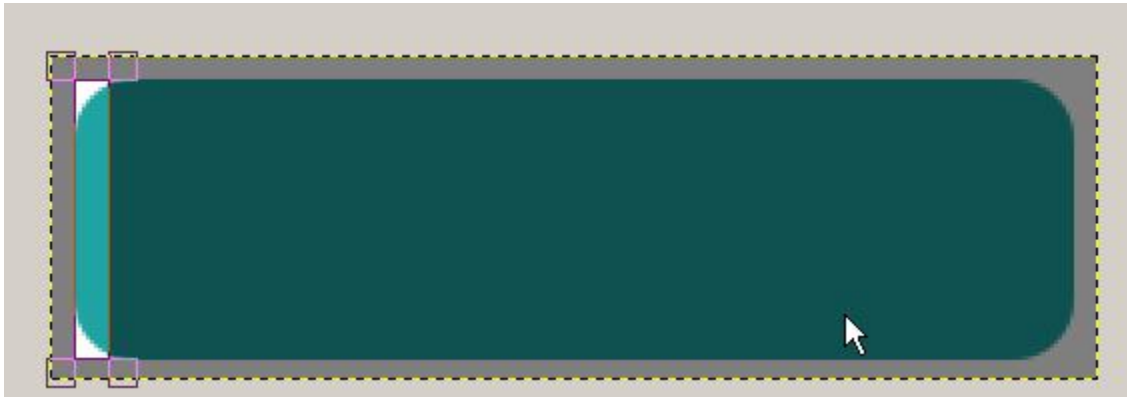
ORIGINAL BUTTON

Each button image will be saved as two separate images: a left and right image.

Step 1: In the Layers palette, click the Visibility icon  to the left of the “Hover Button” layer and the “Background” layers to hide the layers.

Step 2: With the “Button” layer selected in the Layers palette, click the Zoom down arrow and select 200%.

From the Toolbox, select the Crop Tool . Move the cursor onto the image and draw a rectangle 9 pixels wide and 70 pixels high at the left of the button, being sure to capture the rounded edges of the button in the selection.




Move the cursor inside the crop area until it turns to a four-pointed arrow. Click to accept the crop.



Step 3: From the Menu Bar select File | Save As... and at the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the same folder with a Name: `of menu_left.png`.

Step 4: From the Menu Bar, select Edit | Undo Crop Image to redisplay the entire button image.

Note: You may need to do this step twice to undo both crops.



Step 5: With the Crop Tool  selected in the Toolbox, draw a rectangle 241 pixels x 70 pixels selecting all but the 9-pixel image that you saved previously.



Step 6: Click in the center to accept the crop.

Step 7: Save the image in the `button\images` folder as `menu_right.png`.

HOVER BUTTON

Step 1: Click the Visibility icon  to the left of the “Hover Button” layer to display the layer and click the Visibility icon  to the left of the “Button” layer to hide the layer.

Step 2: Repeat Steps 2-7 and saving the images in the `buttons\images` folder as `hover_menu_left.png` and `hover_menu_right.png`.

These button images will be formatted with html and css to create a horizontal navigation menu in the Menu section.

WEB 2.0 NAVIGATION: BUTTONS_MENU_1 (COLOR)

Using the `.xcf` image and the Color Blender to create a color palette for the web 2.0 buttons, create the four `.png` files in multiple colors. The second color will be the color of the original button and the fifth color will be the color of the hover button.

Take a screenshot of the Color Blender as the other four colors will be used as border colors to create buttons with a depressed effect during the Menu tutorials.

1. Using GIMP®, with the Color Blender Web page open behind the GIMP® workspace, from the Menu Bar, select File | Create Screenshot...
2. At the WinSnap dialog box, click the Grab button, drag the crosshair to the Web page behind the GIMP® workspace.

A new GIMP® window opens with a snapshot of the Web page.

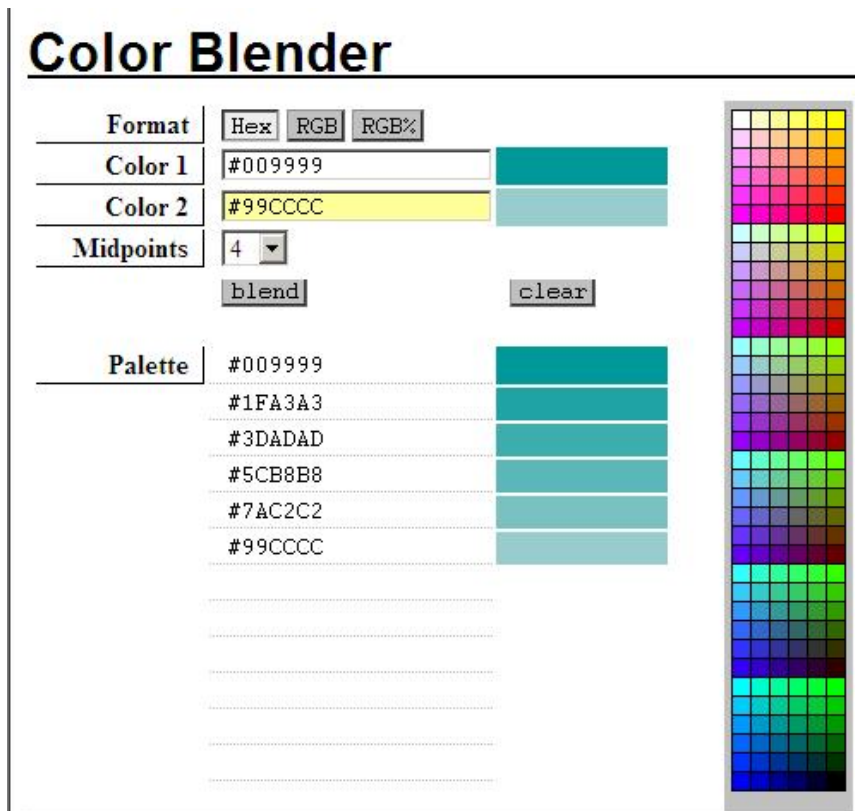
Notice that because the image is quite large, the Zoom level

is 66.7%. Click the Zoom down arrow and select 100%.

3. Use GIMP®'s Crop Tool to select only the portion of the image you want to save.

4. Save the image in the

PortableApps\GIMP\buttons\images\ folder as rounded_button_colors.png.



Note: If you right click on the Color Blender web page and select View Source Code and then select File | Save As, you can save the Color Blender web page to your flash drive as a free-standing .html application and use it whenever you want to find complementary colors for your buttons.