



Web 2.0 Menus: Horizontal Navigation Bar

WEB 2.0 MENUS: HORIZONTAL NAVIGATION BAR

Final display in I.E.:



Final display in Firefox:



Hover effect:

CREATING AN HTML LIST

Most horizontal or vertical navigation bars begin with a simple unordered list `` tag and the hyperlinks as list items `` tags.

Step 1: In a text editor, create an html file with the `<html>`, `<head>`, `<title>`, `</title>`, `</head>`, `<body>`, `</body>`, and `</html>` tags and save as `horizontal_navigation_bar.html` in the `PortableApps/GIMP/menus/` folder.

Step 2: Between the beginning and ending `<body>` tags, type

```
<ul id = "nav_bar">
  <li><a href = "#">Home</a></li>
  <li><a href = "#">About Us</a></li>
```

```
<li><a href = "#">Services</a></li>

<li><a href = "#">Blog</a></li>

<li><a href = "#">Contact Us</a></li>

</ul>
```

Step 3: Save with the same name in the same folder.

Step 4: View in a browser.

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

STYLING THE UNORDERED LIST WITH A CASCADING STYLE SHEET

The links are then styled with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). The following instructions use an embedded style in the <head> section of the html file, but you may prefer to create a separate css file.

Step 1: Between the beginning and ending <head> tags in the html file, add a style section as shown below and add the two style definitions.

```
</title>

<style>

</style>

</head>
```

Step 2: Between the beginning and ending <style> tags insert two style definitions to style the unordered list with an id value of "nav_bar" to define a **width** for the nav_bar and **remove the bullets** before each list item:

```
<style>

ul#nav_bar
{
```

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

```
width: 700px;
list-style:none;
}
```

</style>

Step 3: A list is a block style element, which means that the items in the list display in a vertical list with a return between each list item (as shown above). Since you want the list items to display in a horizontal navigation bar, you will want to change the style of the list items **from block to inline**.

```
ul#nav_bar li
```

```
{
```

```
display: inline;
```

```
}
```

</style>

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Services](#) [Blog](#) [Contact Us](#)

Step 4: In the display above, you will want to **remove the underline** from the hyperlinks, **add some space (padding) between each link**, **add a background color, a text color, and set a standard width for each of the links** so the buttons will all be the same size (Just make sure that the total number of links multiplied by the width does not exceed the total width of the navigation bar. An important step here is to **position the links by floating each one left**. The css selector for a hyperlink is the pseudo element “a”.

```
ul#nav_bar li a
```

```
{
```

```
/* removes the underline */
```

```
text-decoration: none;
```

```
/* inserts a 10-pixel padding around each hyperlink */
```

```
padding: 10px;
```

```
/* sets the background color to blue */
```

```
background-color: blue;
```

Home	About Us	Services	Blog	Contact Us
------	----------	----------	------	------------

```

/* sets the width of each hyperlink to 100 pixels */
width: 100px;

/* sets the color of the font to white */
color:white;

/* allows block elements to slide next to each other */
float:left;
}

```

Step 5: Let's add some styling, such as **centering the link text** on the buttons and **bolding the link text**.



```

ul#nav_bar li a
{
...
/* centers the text on the button */
text-align:center;

/* bolds the link text */
font-weight:bold;
}

```

Step 6: Now you will want to **add a right border between each of the buttons** so you can tell where one button begins and one button ends.

```

ul#nav_bar li a
{
/* inserts a 2-pixel solid white border between each button */
border-right: 2px solid white;
}

```



Step 7: Since this menu is on a white background, you cannot see the extra white line to the right of Contact Us button, but if the background of the Web page were not white, you would see a two-pixel border to the right of the last navigation button.

To show this, add a body background style of lightblue to the body selector.

```
body
{
    /* adds a light blue background to the Web page */
    background-color: lightblue;
}
```



Step 8: To remove the white border to the right of the Contact Us button, add a class to the hyperlink tag for the Contact us button.

```
<li><a href = "#" class = "last">Contact Us</a></li>
```

and then add a style for the hyperlink with a class of “last”

```
ul#nav_bar li a.last
{
    /* removes the border to the right of contact us */
    border-right: none;
}
```



Step 9: Now you will want to **add solid white bar below the buttons** to separate them from the color of the Web page and match the color of the space between the buttons.

In the style declaration for the `ul#nav_bar li a`, add

```
ul#nav_bar li a
{
  ...
  border-bottom: 5px solid white;
}
```



Step 10: Now all that is left is to **center the navigation bar between the left and right margins** of the Web page. This will only work correctly if you figure out the number of pixels that you have used in the navigation bar:

5 links at 100 pixels each	500 pixels
10-pixel padding on each button (5)	100 pixels
2-pixel padding on 4 of the buttons	<u>8 pixels</u>
	608 pixels

In Step 1, change the width of navigation bar from 700px to 608px.

Firefox and I.E. center differently between the left and right margins.

For Firefox, add a `margin:auto` style to the `ul#nav_bar` definition

```
ul#nav_bar
{
  /* changes the width of the nav_bar from 700 to 608 pixels */
  width:608px;
  list-style:none;
  /* horizontally centers the nav_bar in Firefox */
  margin:auto;
```

```
}
```

For I.E. add a division named “navigation_bar” around the entire list.

```
<div id = "navigation_bar">  
  
  <ul id = "nav_bar">  
  
    <li><a href = "#">Home</a></li>  
  
    <li><a href = "#">About Us</a></li>  
  
    <li><a href = "#">Services</a></li>  
  
    <li><a href = "#">Blog</a></li>  
  
    <li><a href = "#" class = "last">Contact Us</a></li>  
  
  </ul>  
  
</div> <!--ends the nav_bar division -->
```

and add a style for the navigation bar division

```
#navigation_bar  
  
  {  
  
    text-align:center;  
  
  }
```

Final display in I.E.



Final display in Firefox:



ADDING A HOVER EFFECT

A hover effect is when you move the mouse over a hyperlink. Sometimes you want a navigation link to display differently when the mouse is located over a

hyperlink. For example, you may want the background color or the text color to change.

Step 1: `a:hover` is the selector for a hover effect.

```
ul#nav_bar li a:hover
{
  /* sets the background color to white */
  background-color:white;

  /* sets the font color to blue */

  color:blue;
}
```



Step 2: You may also want to add a **solid blue line for the hover effect** that displays below the button:

```
ul#nav_bar li a:hover
```

```
{
  /*adds a 5-pixel solid blue border below the hover link */

  border-bottom: 5px solid blue;
}
```



You can also make other changes, but remember that if you change the style to UPPERCASE or add a **bold** effect, you may need to increase the overall width of the navigation bar in Cascading Style Sheets Step 1 because bold or uppercase lettering take up more space than lowercase or normal-weight font.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE DISPLAY IN BOTH FIREFOX AND I.E. TO BE SURE THAT ALL OF THE STYLES WORK PROPERLY IN BOTH BROWSERS.