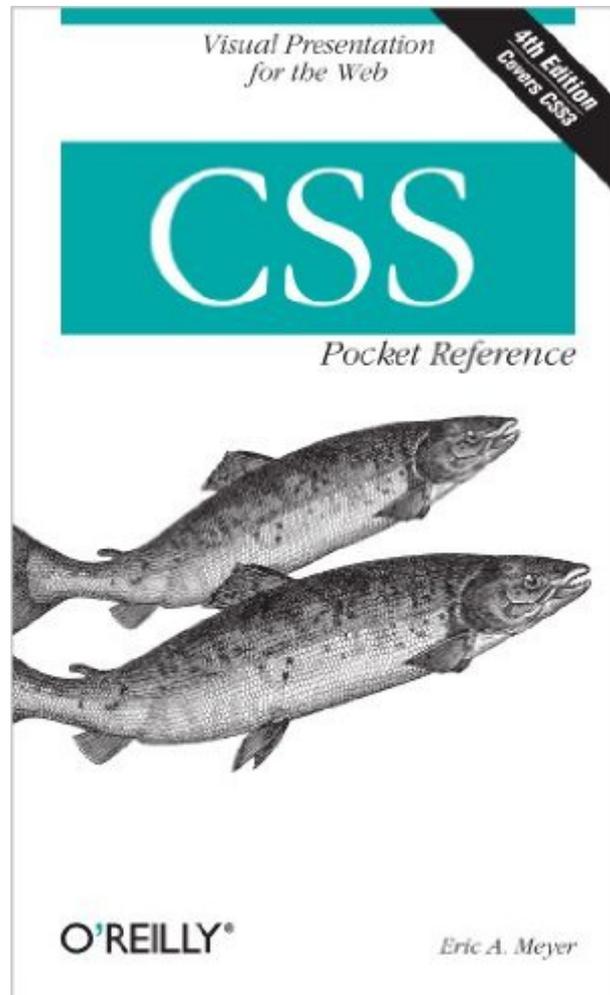


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CSS Pocket Reference



Synopsis

When you're working with CSS and need a quick answer, CSS Pocket Reference delivers. This handy, concise book provides all of the essential information you need to implement CSS on the fly. Ideal for intermediate to advanced web designers and developers, the 4th edition is revised and updated for CSS3, the latest version of the Cascading Style Sheet specification. Along with a complete alphabetical reference to CSS3 selectors and properties, you'll also find a short introduction to the key concepts of CSS. Based on *Cascading Style Sheets: The Definitive Guide*, this reference is an easy-to-use cheatsheet of the CSS specifications you need for any task at hand. This book helps you: Quickly find and adapt the style elements you need Learn how CSS3 features complement and extend your CSS practices Discover new value types and new CSS selectors Implement drop shadows, multiple backgrounds, rounded corners, and border images Get new information about transforms and transitions

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Customer Reviews

The majority of the book consists of an alphabetical guide to CSS properties. If you need to look up

what a particular property does this would be quite useful. However, if you are trying to find a property to use and you do not know the name, this does not help. The book is entirely lacking any categorical index to the CSS properties. Had CSS Pocket Reference 2nd Edition contained a two to four page index of the properties grouped by categories such as text, layout, borders and so forth, I would have rated it better, but alas, it does not.

(note: this review is for the 2ND edition of the book...) I just found a new book that I'll get to wear out really quickly. It's the CSS Pocket Reference (2nd edition) by Eric A. Meyer (O'Reilly). As with all O'Reilly Pocket References, it's just the core information formatted so you can find it quickly for reference. Chapter Breakout: Adding Styles to HTML and XHTML; Rule Structure; Style Precedence; Element Classification; Element Display Roles; Basic Visual Layout; Floating Rules; Positioning Rules; Table Layout; Values; Selectors; Pseudo-Classes and Pseudo-Elements; Property Reference; Tables; Paged Media; Dropped From CSS2.1; Visual Styles; Paged Media; Aural Styles; Index

For all the reviewers complaining about this book not being up-to-date... You need to get the 2nd edition. It's got the latest on what you need. Now, this is not a training manual or something you're going to be able to use to pick up CSS. Rather, like all Pocket Guides, it's the distilled essence of the reference material that you need on a daily basis. Rather than dig through a large book looking for stuff, you can use the pocket guide to get the answer quickly. I'm at the stage in my CSS learning where I understand what I can and can't do, but I don't always know the exact syntax or options available to me in a particular parameter. I've grown quite fond of the larger CSS book from Meyer and O'Reilly, and in fact I've memorized certain page numbers that I continually go back to. This pocket reference will replace much of the wear and tear on that book, and allow me to save it for when I need explanations on concepts. Another keeper to add to my programming bookshelf...

This is a good book, but certain types of user may find it a little frustrating. Regular or advanced users of CSS will find it very convenient. It contains a lot of useful information and, when you need to check the syntax of a particular property, the information is easy to find, clearly written and very comprehensive. The problem arises when you don't remember all the basics. The index structure contains references to property names, but not applications. For example, suppose you want to put some text in italics and justify the paragraph, there is no entry in the index that says "italic" or "justify". You need to know which properties to use, or scan the index until you see properties that might be relevant (in this case, the properties you need are 'font-style' for italics and 'text-align' for

justify). So, it is a good book, but I would like to echo the message of Joshua Cogliati's review: it would be a much better reference with the addition of some basic information in the index.

As a Perl and PHP programmer who does a lot of web-based pages, I use this pocket reference very often when designing page styles. It helps immensely that I have syntax and samples in front of me for each of the items I expect to be able to use in today's modern browser. As the title indicates, it is a pocket reference and is not designed to teach people how to get started using CSS. There are plenty of good books out there to help users do that. My favorite is Elizabeth Castro's *HTML For The World Wide Web (5th Ed.)*. Once users have a basic understanding of the rules for creating CSS, this book is an invaluable tool to jog the memory and sits next to my desk anytime I'm doing HTML or XML page layout. Because nearly all the properties covered in this book are supported by Internet Explorer, Mozilla and Firefox, I chose not to ding the book for failing to cover what features were not supported by the major browsers. Target audience: Web site developers, HTML, XHTML, XML authors with a basic understanding of CSS. Hits: Excellent property reference, good examples, explanations. Well organized. Misses: Could have done a better job explaining which items are supported in which (of the most popular) browsers.

A mistake so often made is judging a pocket reference guide in the same way you would judge a full size text. Pocket guides should only provide a quick reference for a technology you already know, and not be looked at as a learning tool. This reference is a boil-down of selected sections from the author's larger definitive title on Cascading Style Sheets, and there is no question that the information provided within is as informative and exact as is covered in the larger book; the light-weight pocket guide is much easier to carry when you need to verify something with CSS. The guide is designed well, with a structured table of contents which breaks the styles up into logical groups, and even an index for those quick find needs. Each style entry provides the information needed without wasting space on the cautions and extras that a larger text typically provides. If you already own "Cascading Style Sheets: The Definitive Guide, 2nd Edition" (ISBN: 0596005253) that this pocket guide companions, this is a good addition to the set. If not, obtain both as there are no better references.

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