

1. Pick a login name.

Your login will be part of your website URL.

Login / Surname

2. Choose a password for your new account.

Passwords must be 6-30 characters in length.

Password

Repeat Password

3. Enter your email address.

You must enter a valid email address to activate your account.

An email address is required:

Email

Repeat Email

Complete Signup »

By clicking the "Complete Signup" button, I am attaching my electronic signature to and agreeing to the Squarespace Terms of Service Agreement. I understand that if I do not agree to these terms of use and privacy statements, I should refrain from using the website.

Form Layout & Design

HAVE YOUR SAY

Feel free to publish your thoughts but please be judicious when communicating. I am.

Gravatars are enabled. Go get yourself one

All the cool kids use Textilla

Your email address is required but will not be posted or distributed.

Name

Email

http://

Comments

PREVIEW

Remember details?

CONTACT FORM

Name:

e-mail:

Website:

Comment:

SEND

Sign up for a monthly newsletter:

First Name

Last Name

Zipcode

Email

Select a Newsletter

Garden

Home Decor

Cooking

Subscribe Now

There are a variety of different ways that you can layout a form. The layout will be dictated by the length and purpose of the form. When it comes to layout, both CSS and Tables can be used to create the structure for the layout.

Let's create a basic form without any layout. Include the following elements:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Zip code
- Email
- Garden
- Home Décor
- Cooking
- Subscribe Now

Sign up for a monthly newsletter: First Name Last Name Zipcode
 Email Select a Newsletter Garden Home Decor Cooking

Form Layout & Design: Layout with Tables

The form should look like this:

Sign up for a monthly newsletter: First Name Last Name Zipcode

Email Select a Newsletter Garden Home Decor Cooking

Form Layout & Design: Layout with Tables

Using a basic table, let's build a layout.

Sign up for a monthly newsletter:			
First Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Zipcode	<input type="text"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>
Select a Newsletter			
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden			
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Decor			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking			
<input type="button" value="Subscribe Now"/>			

The table can be dressed up with a few more details

Sign up for a monthly newsletter:			
First Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Zipcode	<input type="text"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>
Select a Newsletter			
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden			
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Decor			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking			
<input type="button" value="Subscribe Now"/>			

Form Layout & Design: Layout with CSS

In this case, we are going to take the same form and use CSS to create the layout.

Sign up for a monthly newsletter: First Name Last Name Zipcode

Email Select a Newsletter Garden Home Decor Cooking

Here is the form when we float the labels...

Sign up for a monthly newsletter:

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Zipcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

Select a Newsletter

Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Decor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>

```
<style type="text/css">

label {

    float:left;
    margin-right: 1em;
    width: 10em;
    height: 20px;
    text-align:right;

}

</style>
```

Form Layout & Design: Layout with CSS

Here we add CSS to the fieldset, legend and input tags.

Contact Information

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Zipcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

Select a Newsletter

Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Decor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>

```
label {  
  
    float:left;  
    margin-right: 1em;  
    width: 10em;  
    height: 20px;  
    text-align:right;  
  
}  
  
fieldset {  
  
    width: 25em;  
    background-color:orange;  
    margin-bottom:2em;  
  
}  
  
legend {  
  
    font-family:calibri;  
    margin: .5em;  
    background-color:orange;  
  
}  
  
input {  
  
    margin-bottom: .5em;  
    background-color:#33cc66;  
  
}
```

Focus is a pseudo class (links) that does the same thing as hover, but is geared for tabbing and not pointing with a mouse. Great way to show users where they are in a form.

Contact Information

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Zipcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

Select a Newsletter

Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Decor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>

Subscribe Now

```
input:focus {  
  
    border: 2px solid #972324;  
    background-color: #ffffff;  
  
}
```

Form Layout & Design: Accesskey and Tabindex

An easy way to make your form more accessible for a user is to add the accesskey and tabindex attribute to individual form tags such as input or legend.

Tabindex: By default the order depends on the order of the elements. You can change the tab order with `tabindex="n"` where n is a number. The lower numbers get the focus first.

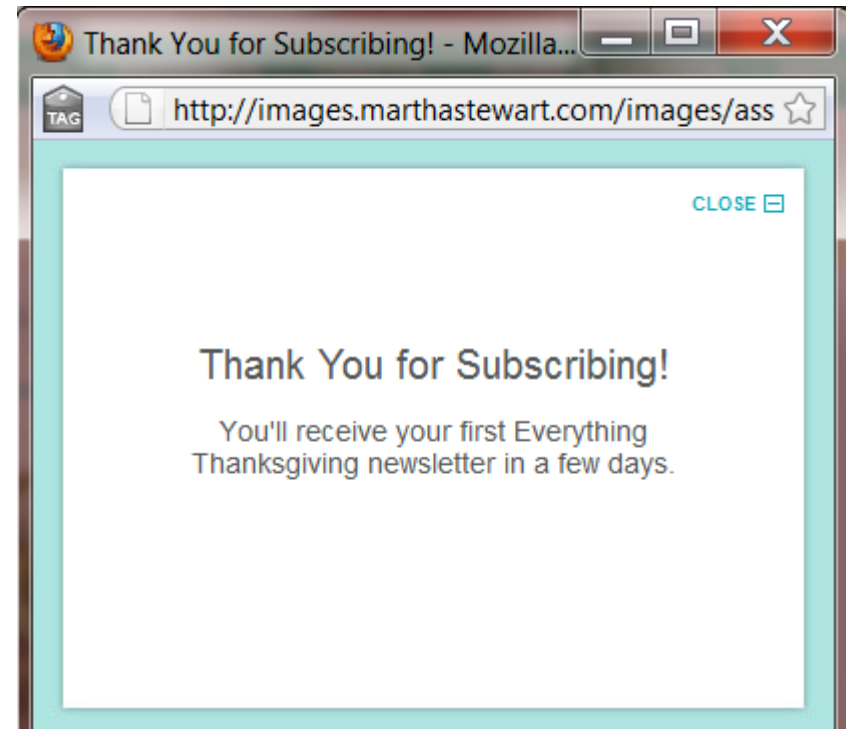
Accesskey: The accesskey attribute allows you to create a keyboard shortcut for a form element. Type `accesskey="letter"`. To activate on a PC type alt and letter and on a Mac ctrl and letter.

Form Layout & Design: Confirmation Page

A confirmation page is your way to let users know they have successfully submitted their data. In a commerce situation, a confirmation page is vital for the continued experience of the user.

Things a confirmation page can do:

- Continue the experience for the user
- Direct them to a certain location
- Give information about next steps
- Reassure them their data is safe
- Make sure content is only submitted once
- Encourage another action...



This confirmation box floats over the homepage, so the user can continue their experience.

Resources

CSS Based Forms: Modern Solutions

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2006/11/11/css-based-forms-modern-solutions/>

Styling Forms in CSS

http://veerle.duoh.com/index.php/blog/comments/styling_forms_in_css/

Fancy Form Design Using CSS

<http://articles.sitepoint.com/article/fancy-form-design-css>

Creating Funky Forms with CSS

http://www.outfront.net/tutorials_02/adv_tech/funkyforms1.htm