

ZEN CART CSS GUIDE



**A complete guide to
Zen Cart™ Stylesheets**

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Welcome

Zen Cart™ is a fantastic, open-source shopping cart solution. It's powerful, flexible and feature-rich. It can also be a bit of a learning curve! A recent comment by *micmed* was made on the Zen Cart Support forum:

“A builder put up a sign that read "Free house to anyone!". A man shows up to find just the frame of the house built and all of the rest of the material needed to finish it neatly piled up around the site. The builder said all of it was free to the person that would put effort into finishing the house. The man went away sad because the builder would not tell him what the house was supposed to look like nor would he stay and show him how to put it together. Sound familiar?

I dare say that Zen Cart has more resources to complete the framework than any other open source system out there. The framework is free, but you have to put the effort into it. I am grateful for the help that I get on this site when I get stuck. I usually only ask after having put the time in to try and figure it out for myself. Take the time to learn the basics of HTML, CSS, PHP and maybe some SQL. You won't regret it and you just might end up with a beautiful "free mansion" of a site that all you had to do is spend the time learning and creating.”

I think that sums up the beauty of open-source software – it is not of the Henry Ford model (you can have any color as long as it's black!) – rather its a world of opportunities to make your Zen Cart Store **your** online store, not a carbon copy of an out-of-the-box store. This guide will help you 'build your mansion'.

A big thank you to the Zen Cart development team who are continually improving and enhancing Zen Cart and bringing the opportunity to build a global business to everyone.

And, David, thank you.

Good luck in your Zen Cart journey.

Kerrin Hardy

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10.1 General

body {

```
margin: 0;
font-family: Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
font-size: 62.5%;
color: #000000;
background-color: #e5edf5;
}
```

The *body* tag defines the overall look of your online store. Here we set the basics such as Margin and Padding, Font Size, Font Family, Color (this is the text color) and Background Color.

CSS Lesson: font-size

The default size for 'medium' text in all modern browsers is 16px. However, if we specify font sizes in pixels, Internet Explorer users will be unable to resize the text using View > Text Size. So, you will note that font sizes in the Zen Cart stylesheet are specified as ems.

An em (pronounced emm) is a typographer's unit of horizontal spacing and is a sliding (relative) measure. One em is a distance equal to the text size. In 10 pixel type, an em is 10 pixels; in 18 pixel type it is 18 pixels. Thus 1em of padding is proportionately the same in any text size.

By specifying text sizes in ems, visitors to your store will be able to resize the text as they require. By setting the font size here to 62.5%, we are in effect setting the default text size to the equivalent of 10 pixels.

Below is a section of the home page of Zen Cart where you can see the use of the background color.



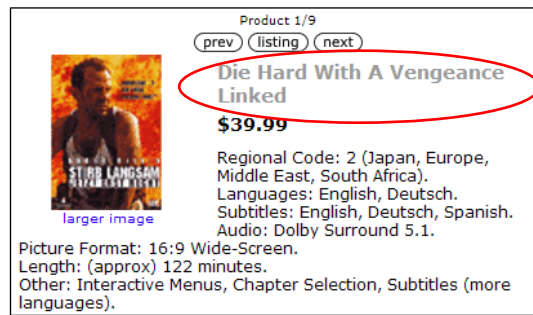
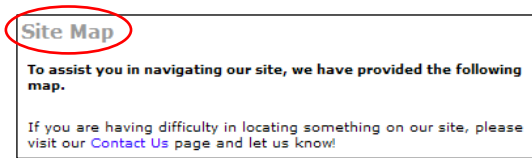
a img {

```
border: none;
}
```

This rule specifies that where an image is used as the source for a hyperlink, do not display a border. The default behaviour without this rule would be to show a blue border around the image to indicate that the image is 'clickable'.



This rule indicates the styling of text marked as Heading 1. Examples in Zen Cart include the Product Heading on product listing pages and the heading on pages such as Privacy Policy and Site Map.



```
h2 {  
    font-size: 1.4em;  
    color: #9a9a9a;   
}
```

This rule indicates the styling for text marked Heading 2. Examples in Zen Cart of Heading 2 text include the headings of the Centre Boxes, such as the New Products, Featured Products and Monthly Specials.

The font-size of 1.4em is equivalent to 14 pixels based on 62.5% and the browser set to Medium text size.



```
h3 {  
    font-size: 1.3em;  
}
```

This rule indicates the styling for text marked Heading 3. Examples in Zen Cart of Heading 3 text is the sidebox headings and the product headings on category pages.

The font-size of 1.3em is equivalent to 13 pixels based on 62.5% and the browser set to Medium text size.

