Introduction to Grids

Traditional table layouts can still be achieved in modern day web practices while maintaining coding standards and conventions. One such way is to use a CSS (Cascading Style Sheet, which is a cleaner coding method) Grid pattern.

In This Document:

- **How to Add Grids on Your Site**
  *(Easy 3 step process to get started with grids)*
- **How to: Complex Grids and New Rows**
  *(Instructions for adding multiple columns and rows)*
- **Advanced: How Grids Work**
  *(Understand how grids work in-depth)*

Summary of Steps to Add Grid Layouts

Add Columns

- **Step 1**: Select the content you wish to put into a grid column and then click on the div button.
- **Step 2**: Select the div element by clicking on the div link in the path bar.
- **Step 3**: Add the grid class to this div using the styles drop down and select one of the Grid classes.

Add new Rows

- Click in the grid you want to send to a new row and select the first link from the path bar to highlight the content. Once highlighted select ‘New Row’ form the styles drop down menu.
How To Add Grids On Your Site

To add a grid to your site you need to use the ‘div’ button and the ‘Styles’ drop-down with an easy to use 3 steps process outlined below.

STEP 1: Select the content you wish to put into a grid column and then click on the div button. You might not notice a change in the content but what is happening is that the div button is creating a containing wrapper for your grid content.
**STEP 2:** Click in the paragraph you added the div around in step 1. If the div was correctly added you will see ‘Path:div>>p’ in the path bar. **Select the div that is around the paragraph by clicking the underlined ‘div’ in ‘Path:div>>p’**. This will select that whole div.

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**STEP 3:** Add the grid class to this wrapper div using the styles drop down **select one of the Grid class**

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That is it! You have Successfully Added Your First Grid.
How to: Complex Grids and New Rows

This is a continuation from the first three step process tutorial above to show you how to add multiple columns and new rows to your grids.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Path:</strong> div.grid-3 p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Wrapper container selected and choosing a Grid-3 width*

When you added the first grid option to your selected text you may have noticed that the other two paragraphs in the content editor naturally fill in the space to the right. This is acceptable for a simple layout but for more complex layouts you will have to repeat the same three step process as you did for the first grid with your remaining grids.

Lets take the two remaining paragraphs and turn them into their own grid columns. Start by highlighting the first paragraph and selecting the div button. Click back into the middle of that paragraph and from the path bar select the div link. You can now select a grid option from the drop down.
Second column with a Grid-2 class

Repeat this process one more time for the third column and select Grid-1 (shown on next page)
Three grids are now aligned

Now that you have your grid layout you can click into any one grid and continue adding content.

Change a Grid Width

To change a grid width you must first remove the grid width from the existing grid. To remove
the grid class from an existing grid, click into that grid and look in the path bar for the div
element that has a grid-# class applied to it. Click on that link.

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Path: div.grid-3

A selected grid.

Now remove the grid width by **clicking on the ‘Style’ drop down** in the tool bar and selecting
the word ‘Style’. It is the item at the top of the list with a grey background. This will remove the
grid class and cause your content to shift temporarily (careful not to click anywhere else or you
will lose your selection). Now select a new grid width by clicking on the Style drop down once
again and selecting a different grid width.
Send a Grid to a new Row

This is a continuation from the tutorial above.

To send a grid to a new row **first click into the grid you want to send to a new row and select the first link from the Path bar**. This will highlight the content that you wish to force down to a new row. After your content is highlighted select ‘New Row’ from the styles drop down menu.
The selected content should now appear below the previous two grids. This technique for forcing a new row works on non grid items as well.
Suggested Method To Replace an Existing Table with the New Div Grid-Layout

To make converting existing tables to divs easy we suggest leaving the old table on the screen and start to insert the new grid above. This way you can copy out the content from each old table cell and and past it above to be formatted into the new div grid. Once the new div grid is complete you can delete the old table and be finished with the table replacement.
Advanced: How Grids Work

Portland State University has a 6 grid system built into the content area (shown above in pink columns). Think of a grid as a single column that runs down the page that has a specific width. Grids will stack side by side to each other with a little breathing room. This space between a grid column is called the gutter (the gutter for PSU is 10 pixels wide). Each grid column is 102 pixels wide. This gives you a total width of 662 pixels of usable space. When creating layouts you can select to use one or all of the available grids to set the width of your content.

When you create grid based layouts you will be applying CSS classes to your page elements. These classes will then set the size and position of that element. The available classes for your content are Grid-1 through Grid-6 (the six pink columns shown above) and a New Row class (for horizontal fields). Grid-1 through Grid-6 control the size and placement of your content. Applying Grid-1 to a paragraph will cause the paragraph to become a single column of 102
pixels wide. If you applied the Grid-2 class to a paragraph element that paragraph element will then span two columns and be 214 pixels wide (214 pixels = (102 x 2) +10 for the gutter). The example below illustrates how Grid classes above Grid-1 will span multiple columns.

Grid-2

Grid-4

½ & ¾ Column Layout

Grids stack (can be placed) side by side to each other. You have an available 6 grid units to work with. This will allow you to create various Layouts. In the above example the content author would have selected a Grid-2 class for the first column and a Grid-4 class for the second column. Because the two grid columns add up to 6 they will sit nicely side by side and take up the full available width. Below are two more examples of how grids can be stacked side by side each other.

Grid-3

Grid-3

2 equal column layout

Grid-2

Grid-2

Grid-2

3 equal column layout

It is possible to select a layout that does not nicely add up to the 6 grids. This can result in empty space to the right of the content or a grid container wrapping down to the next line. This is perfectly fine as long as you know to expect extra white space or the grid container to wrap to the next line.

Example of Grid-4 with a Grid-5:
Example of a Grid-4 with a Grid-3:

Example of a Grid-1 with a Grid-2:
All content is not equal: The New Row class

Say you wanted to create a layout that looked like this:

| COLUMN 1 – Venison short loin chicken beef ribs, salami fatback meatloaf. Chuck tongue biltong ham hock, tri-tip venison bresaola brisket meatball biltong strip steak. Turkey brisket bacon pork loin. |
| COLUMN 4 – Salami fatback beef, ball tip chicken chuck corned beef andouille ham. Sirloin beef chicken t-bone, pork belly tenderloin ham drumstick porankle tenderloin pig bacon beef jerky hamburger. |
| COLUMN 5 – Rump shankle pork, andouille swine sausage venison shank strip steak chicken corned beef flank pork chop. Rump shank meatloaf, biltong tail beef ribs ball tip pork belly tenderloin pig jowl fatback bork belly pastrami. Shank pastrami tongue pancetta, sausage andouille beef. |
| COLUMN 6 – Chuck beef ribs tenderloin ham hock rump sausage ham, shoulder venison shank. Fatback pork chop chuck bresaola, sirloin shoulder jerky meatball cow boudin venison ham hock shankle. Corned meatball andouille, tail ham pig tonguground round ham pork loin pancetta jowl biltong bacon corned beef short loin ham hock. |

3 column layout with un-even content

You may end up with something that looks like this:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN 1 – Venison short loin chicken beef ribs, salami fatback meatloaf. Chuck tongue biltong ham hock, tri-tip venison bresaola brie meatball biltong strip steak. Turkey brisket bacon pork loin.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLUMN 4 – Salami fatback beef, ball tip chicken chuck corned beef andouille ham. Sirloin beef chicken t-bone, pork belly tenderloin ham drumstick porankle tenderloin pig bacon beef jerky hamburger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMN 5 – Rump shankle pork, andouille swine sausage venison shank strip steak chicken corned beef flank pork chop. Rump shank meatloaf, biltong tail beef ribs ball tip pork belly tenderloin pig jowl fatback bork belly pastrami. Shank pastrami tongue pancetta, sausage andouille beef.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMN 6 – Chuck beef ribs tenderloin ham hock rump sausage ham, shoulder venison shank. Fatback pork chop chuck bresaola, sirloin shoulder jerky meatball cow boudin venison ham hock shankle. Corned beef meatball andouille, tail ham pig tonguground round ham pork loin pancetta jowl biltong bacon corned beef short loin ham hock.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice the 4th column tucked under the 3rd column? This is because grids naturally like to stack side by side to each other and fill in what space they can. The middle column in this case is larger and creates a small amount of space to the right of it for a grid to fit. This is where the **New Row class** comes in handy. If you apply the new row class to the 4th column it will be forced below the previous grids as a new row would work in traditional tables. The New Row class works on all content and not just grids (whenever you want a new row so that items don’t stack side by side please use the ‘New Row’ class).