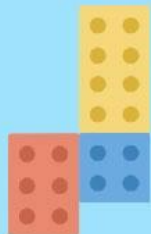
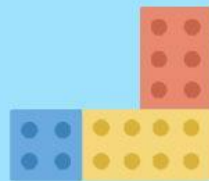


MAR 31, 2022

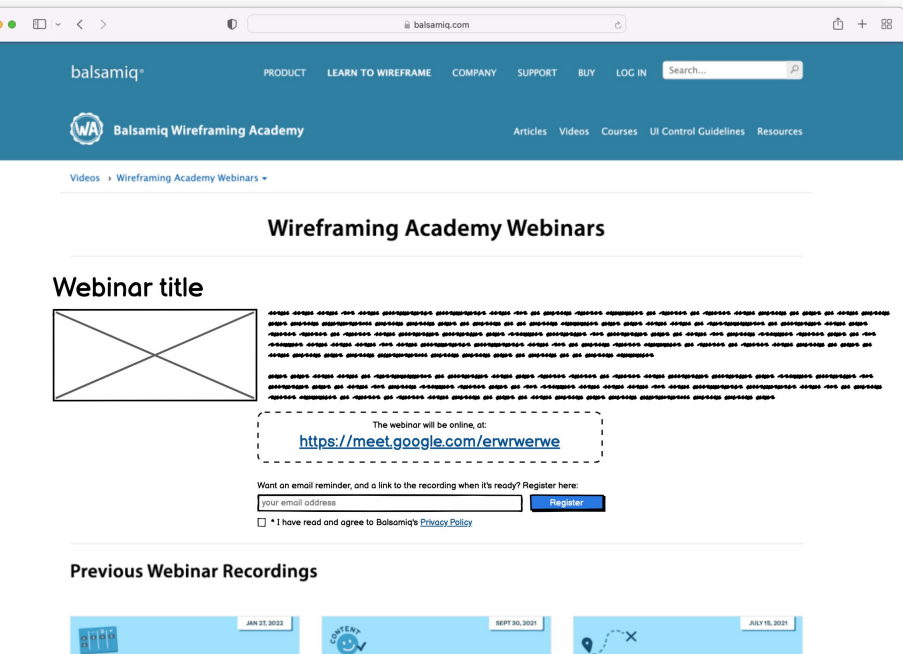


Copying as a Way to Learn User Interface Design



PRIVACY

We will be recording this webinar and posting it to our YouTube channel. If you choose to participate in any part of this webinar you may appear in the recording.





Copying an Existing UI to Learn How It Was Designed

5 min. read

Tips & Tricks UI Design Basics

Through the exercise of copying an existing app or website using wireframes you'll get to know how it was designed and why some UI choices were made.

Nowadays, designers don't feel permitted to copy someone else's work, ever. It feels like you need to innately be able to design things from your own imagination, or you're not a real designer. But copying is *not all bad*. It's not bad at all, actually. Forgery is bad. Passing other's work off as your own, terrible. But copying is a great way to become truly intimate with a piece of art, or an app, or software application, and learn how it was designed.

Imagine if every young athlete in the world felt like they had to reinvent the shot, swing, pitch, stroke, kick, etc. If you want to be the best, you start to learn by copying the best.

One of the first times I heard of this concept was from a short interview with [Jim Coudal](#).

Understanding Copying as a Learning Tool



“ Imagine if every young athlete in the world felt like they had to reinvent the shot, swing, pitch, stroke, kick, etc. If you want to be the best, you start to learn by copying the best. ”

— Me

[< Search results](#)

Mig Reyes

Chicago, IL

he/him

I'm a designer at 37signals focused on making good things for good people. You can follow me on [Twitter](#). [Read more](#)

<http://www.migreyes.com>

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Message

Activity

Showcases 4

Followers 340

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Collections 6

Member since Oct 2007

Collaborators



52 videos



Humble Pied: John Maeda



Humble Pied: Debbie Millman



Humble Pied: Randy J. Hunt



Humble Pied: Jason Fried

What you're doing is working on your craft... You are trying to get into the seat of the person who built this thing to begin with. To get into their head and see why they made the practical decisions they made..."

— Jim Coudal, Field Notes Brand



“The artist ought first to exercise his hand by copying drawings from the hand of a good master.”


— Leonardo DaVinci

Copy If You Can: Improving You: X +

← → ↻ 🔒 <https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2017/02/improving-ui-design-skills-copywork/> 📄 ☆ 📄 ⌵ ☰

Painting The Old Masters

If you've wandered through an art museum, you've probably seen copywork in action. Apart from my own desk, it's the only place I've seen it.



📷 Copywork in an art gallery. (Image: Two's Company)

Painters have an even longer history than writers of copying the masters. Leonardo da Vinci developed his art (one of his arts, anyhow) by copying his teacher, Andrea Del Verrocchio – a common practice among Renaissance apprentice artists. Da Vinci actually prescribed copywork as practice numero uno for art students:

The artist ought first to exercise his hand by copying drawings from the hand of a good master.

Why? Because copying directly from a master provides a **controlled setting** in which to train your eye.

Why is it so effective?



You really need to study it

1. To see how its constructed
2. Notice what UI elements are being used
3. Notice the patterns that are used and reused

All this leads to developing a designer's eye

Search Billy Carlson Friend Activity

- Home
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- YOUR LIBRARY
- Made For You
- Recently Played
- Songs
- Albums
- Artists
- Stations
- Videos
- Podcasts
- PLAYLISTS
- Friends of Hip Hop
- This Is Rage Again...
- o DTD - Winter 20...
- Feel Good Dinner
- All Out 00s
- Road Trip Playlist
- Have a Great Day!
- Old School Metal
- + New Playlist

ALBUM HIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The London (feat. J. Cole & Travis Scott)

Young Thug, J. Cole, Travis Scott

Young Thug is here with 'The London' featuring J.Cole and Travis Scott

[PLAY](#) [SAVE](#) [...](#)

- Ben Geier** 2 h
 - Annie
 - Dan Romer
 - June 2019
- Caveman** 12 h
 - Fire and Wings
 - White Lies
 - FIVE
- Jeremy Frye** 3 d
 - No Sleep 'Til Aròd
 - Tear Them Down
 - Release Radar

[FIND FRIENDS](#)

All the latest hits < >

RapCaviar

New music from YG, Young Thug and Joyner Lucas.

11,598,000 FOLLOWERS

Hot Country

Today's top country hits of the week, worldwide! Cover: Granger Smith

5,382,032 FOLLOWERS

Today's Top Hits

Shawn Mendes is on top of the Hottest 50!

23,268,002 FOLLOWERS

¡Viva Latino!

Today's top Latin hits are right here, on ¡Viva Latino! Cover: Paulo Londra

9,758,957 FOLLOWERS

Made for Billy

Shut Up And Dance With Me + Fun Guns

0:00 3:24

Home
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Radio

YOUR LIBRARY
Made For You
Recently Played
Songs
Albums
Artists
Stations
Videos
Podcasts

PLAYLISTS
Playlist One
Playlist Two
Playlist Three
Playlist Four
Playlist Five

+ New Playlist

search

Billy Carlson

HIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAYLIST
Have a Great Day!
Elton John, Led Zeplin, Janis Joplin, The Bee Gee's, Metallica, Don Henley...

Play Save ...

All the latest hits

Playlist One
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS

Playlist Two
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS

Playlist Three
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS

Playlist Four
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS

Friend Activity

Friend's Username
Song Name
Artist Name
May 2019

Friend's Username
Song Name
Artist Name
May 2019

Friend's Username
Song Name
Artist Name
May 2019

Find Friends

Song One Title +
Name of Artists

0:00 5:14



search

Billy Carlson

Friend Activity

Home

Browse

Radio

YOUR LIBRARY

Made For You

Recently Played

Songs

Albums

Artists

Stations

Videos

Podcasts

PLAYLISTS

Playlist One

Playlist Two

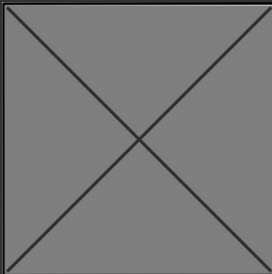
Playlist Three

Playlist Four

Playlist Five

+ New Playlist

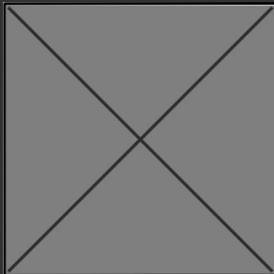
All the latest hits



Playlist One

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

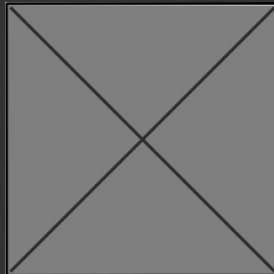
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Two

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

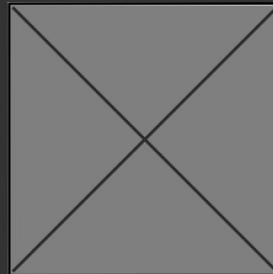
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Three

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

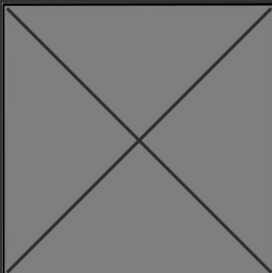
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Four

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

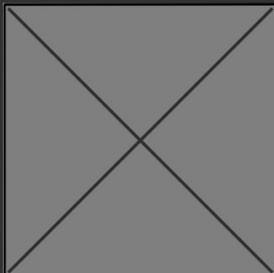
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist One

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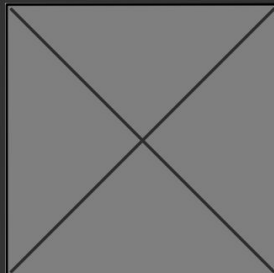
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Two

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

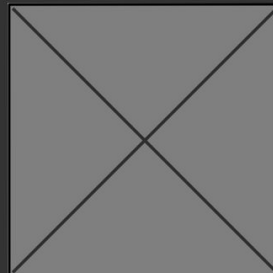
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Three

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Four

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Billy's Friend
Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019



Billy's Friend
Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019



Billy's Friend
Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019

Find Friends



Song One Title +
Name of Artists



0:00

5:14





search



Billy Carlson



Friend Activity

Home

Browse

Radio

YOUR LIBRARY

Made For You

Recently Played

Songs

Albums

Artists

Stations

Videos

Podcasts

PLAYLISTS

Playlist One

Playlist Two

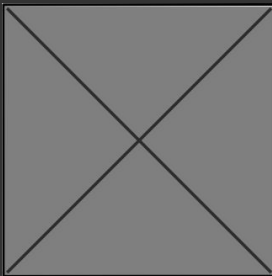
Playlist Three

Playlist Four

Playlist Five

+ New Playlist

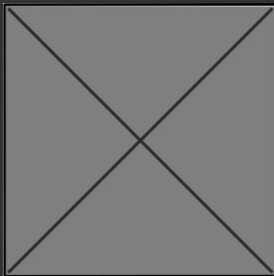
All the latest hits



Playlist One

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

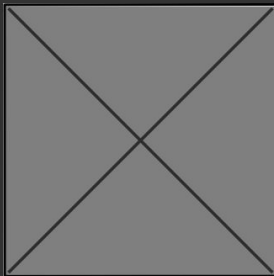
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Two

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

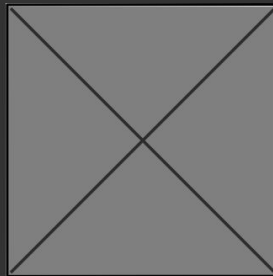
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Three

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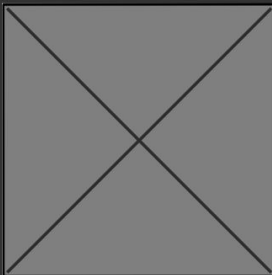
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Four

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

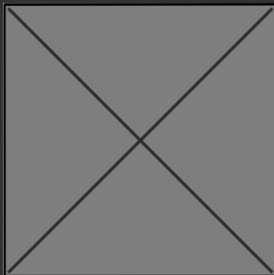
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist One

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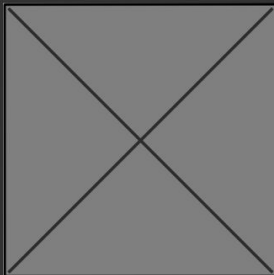
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Two

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

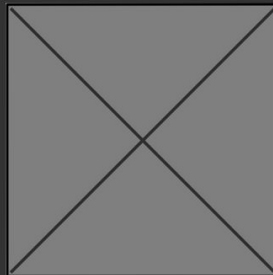
1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Three

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Playlist Four

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

1,000,000 FOLLOWERS



Friend's Username

Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019



Friend's Username

Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019



Friend's Username

Song Name
Artist Name

May 2019

Find Friends



Song One Title +
Name of Artists

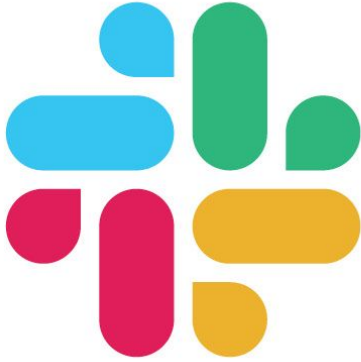


0:00

5:14



Octothorpe

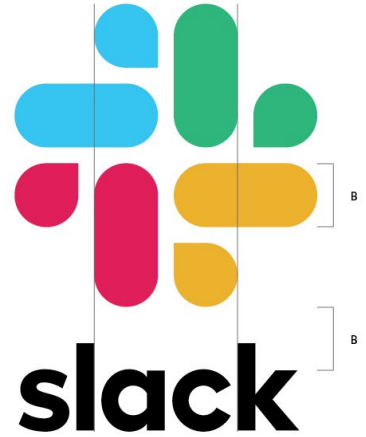
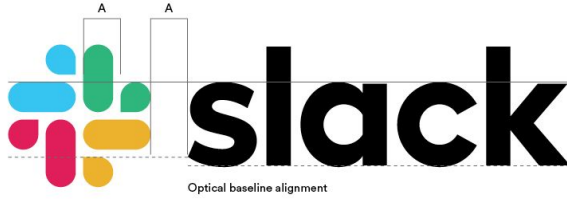
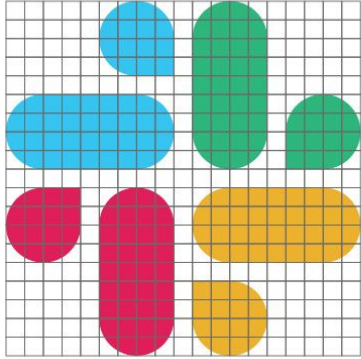


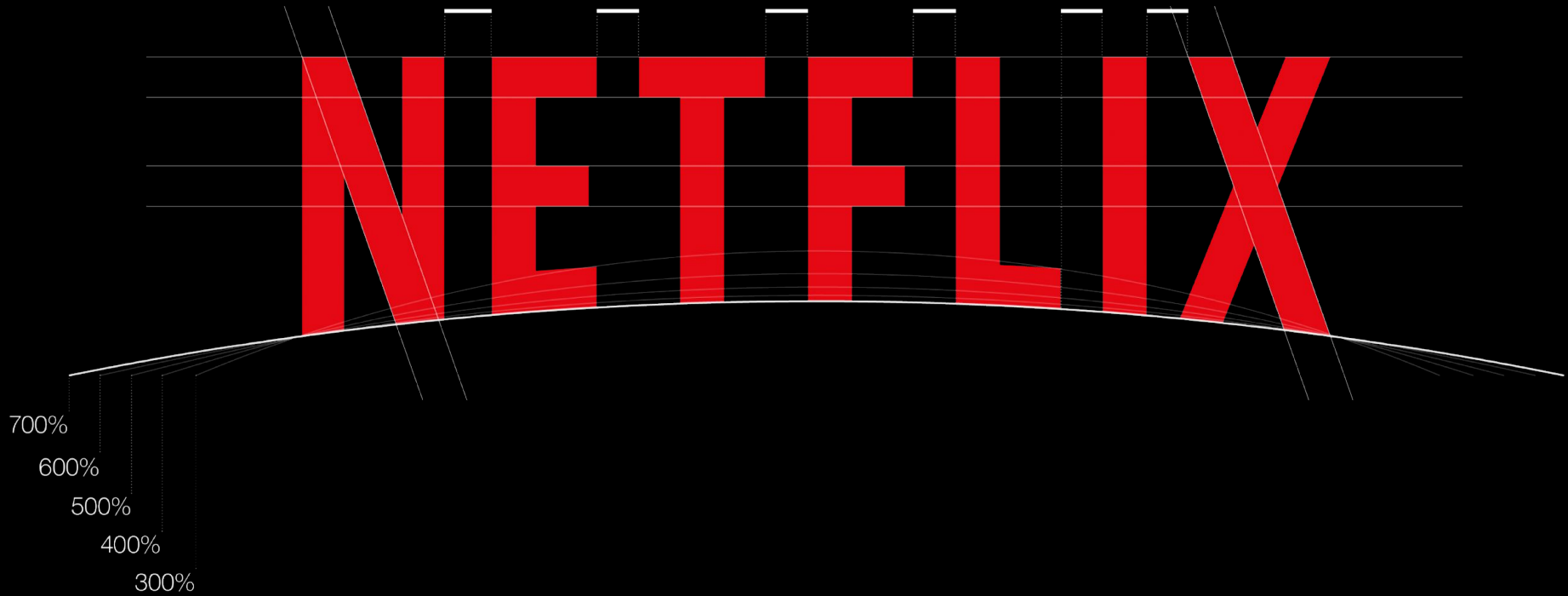
Logo Construction

The octothorpe and logotype have very specific placement relationships within each logo. The alignments create a solid lockup and allow for other graphic elements to align with them.

Knowing these spacial relationships is critical for maintaining consistency across the brand.

19x19 grid







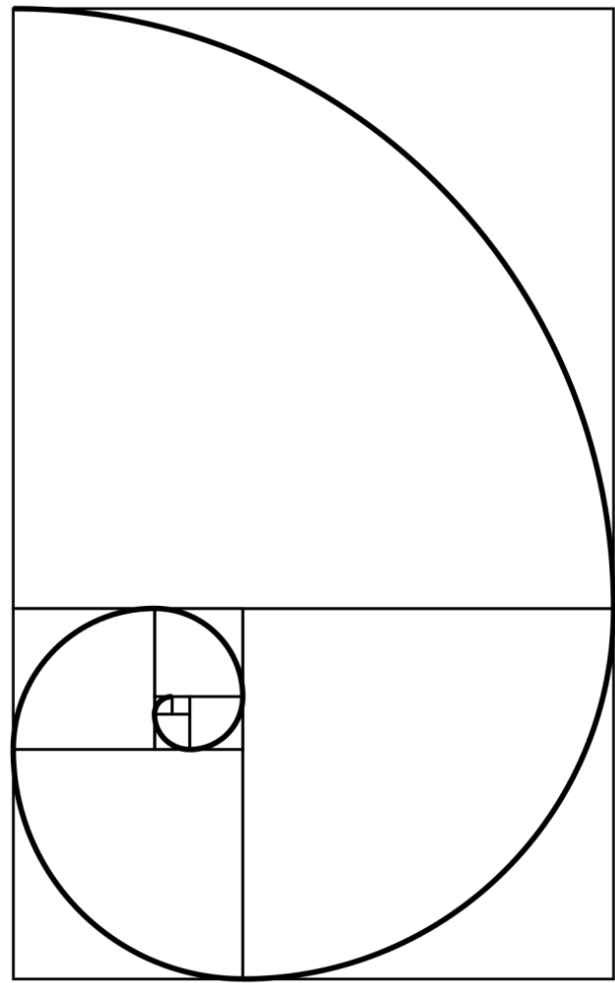
Lettering

dienstag, den 7. januar 1958
 20.15 uhr großer tonhallaesa:
 12. volkskonzert
 der tonhalle-gesellschaft
 zürich
 als drittes konzert
 im zyklus «musica viva»
 leitung hans rosbaud
 solisten alfred baum klavier
 andré jaunet flöte

schweizerische erstaufführungen
 andré jolivet
 cinque danses rituelles
 ernst krenek
 zweites klavierkonzert
 luigi nono
 «y su sangre va vienne cantando»
 musik für flöte und kleines orchester
 bernd aloys zimmermann
 sinfonie in einem satz

musica viva

karten fr. 1.-, 2.- und 3.-
 vorverkauf tonhallekasse hug
 jecklin kuoni
 genossenschaftsbuchhandlung



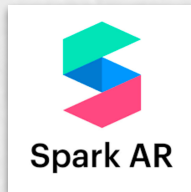
There are no excuses to get started

All the decisions have been made for you.

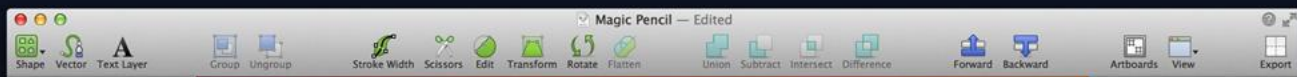


Learn Design Tools

It is a fantastic way to practice using new tools or learning new features.







- Page 1 (Artboard 1)
 - Spotlight
 - Swoosh
 - Pencil
 - overlay pencil
 - pencil
 - Stroke
 - Shadow
 - Overlays
 - Motion
 - Blurred Motion
 - Background
 - Stroke
 - Main
 - Cut 2
 - Cut 1
 - Stroke
 - Base
 - Shadow
 - Shadow
 - Floor
 - Back
 - Main



Inspector Link

Floor

Radius

Opacity

Blending Normal

Position X: 1954 Y: -122 Rotate: 0°

Size Width: 1756 Height: 1026

Fill

Fill 1 Fill 2

Borders

Inside Position: 1 Size: 1 Color: Purple

Shadows

X: 0 Y: 2 Blur: 4 Spread: 0 Color: Purple

Inner Shadows

X: 0 Y: 1 Blur: 3 Spread: 0 Color: Orange

Gaussian Blur

Reflection

Artboards View Export

Back Border Color

Color picker showing a purple gradient.

6C2388 269 81 73 100

Hex H S L A

Options

Blending Normal

Color palette with various color swatches.

Gradient

Artboards View Export

Back Text

Helvetica	0
Al Bayan	9
American Typewriter	10
Ardale Mono	11
Arial	12
Arial Black	13
Arial Hebrew	14
Arial Narrow	18
Arial Rounded MT Bold	20
Arial Unicode MS	24
Avenir	36
Avenir Next	48
Avenir Next Condensed	64
Ayuthavo	72

Georgia

Alignment: Left

Decoration: None

Color: Black

Spacing: Character 0 Line 0 Paragraph 0

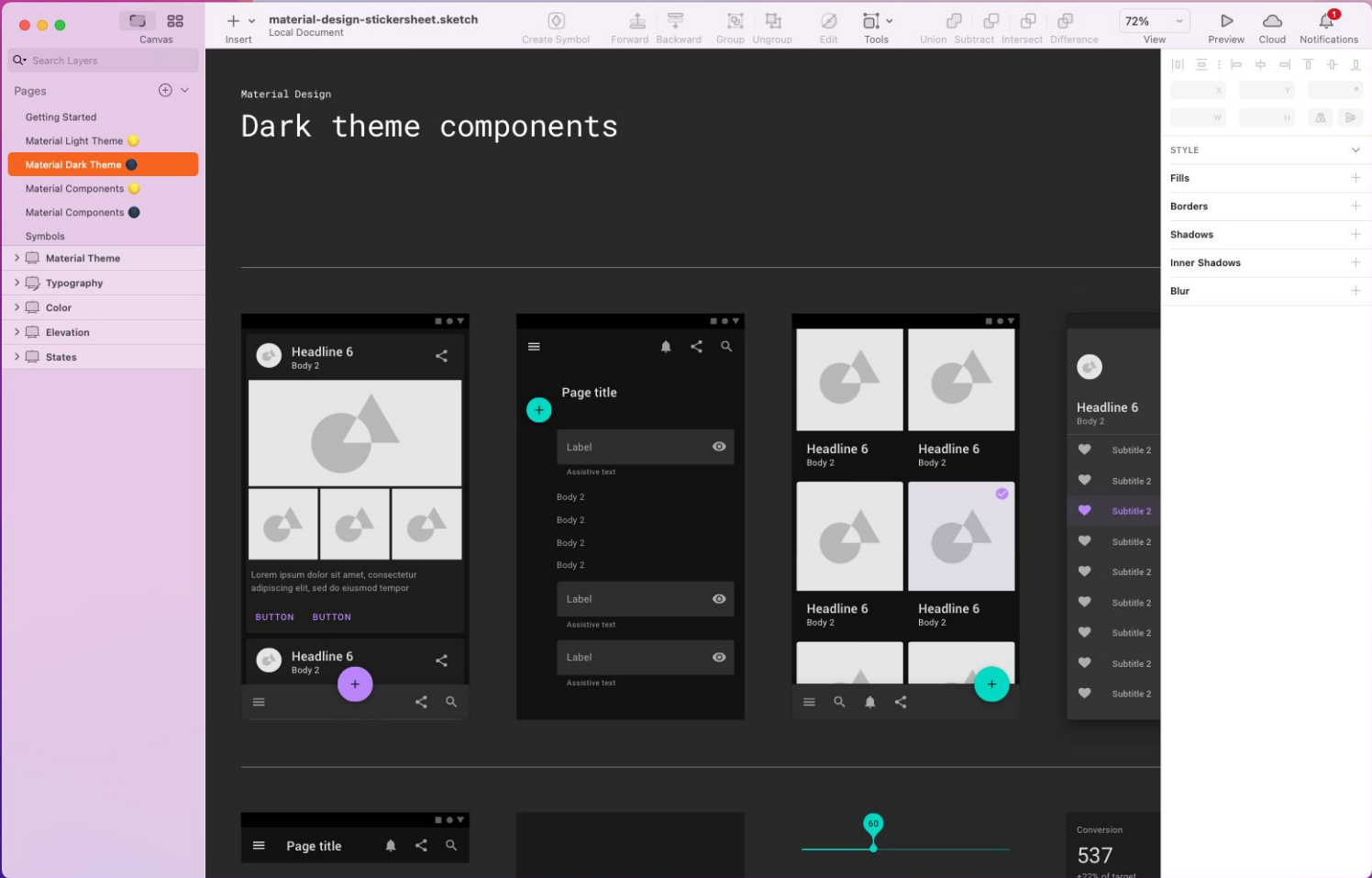
None
No Style Associated

Main
Helvetica - 12px

Title
Helvetica - 20px

Body
Futura Medium - 14px

+



Education Team > Data Table example for webinar

Education Team > Data Table example for webinar

Quick Add

All Android Assets Big Buttons Common Containers Forms Icons iOS Layout Markup Media Symbols Text More Controls...

28-4-202... Accordion Alert Box Alert Box... App Bar Arrow Block of T... Breadcru... Browser... Button Button Bar Buy button Buy Sell Calendar Callout Chart: Bar Chart: Col... Chart: Line Chart: Pie Checkbox Checkbo

Wireframes

- New Wireframe 1
- Home
- Trade

Crypto Trade

crypto trade Trade Buy / Sell Send / Recieve

Assets Trade Pay For You Learn and earn \$11 Notifications 4 Invite Friends \$10

Bitcoin BTC Watchlist

Overview Wallet Vault

\$54,996.00 -2.78% 1H 1M 1D

Buy Sell Convert

\$0 You can buy up to \$35,000.00 One time purchase

Buy Bitcoin >

Play with Community Bank of ... >

Buy Bitcoin

BTC balance 0.00355664 BTC = \$195.60

Price correlation with

Name \$12.34

Trade Notes

Click here to edit notes.

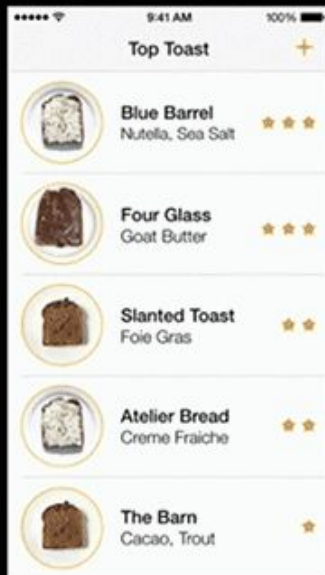
Alternate Versions ? +

Quickly Prototyping Ideas

Copying is a great way to visualize and test a product idea you have.



Make Fake Apps



Let me show you an example



Learn to Wireframe with Balsamiq

Do you have brilliant ideas, but are intimidated by the process of putting them on paper?

Do you wish you could communicate with others your product ideas and features?

Do you want to learn how to design User Interfaces that your customers will LOVE?

You've come to the right place.



Courses



Community



Resources



Inspiration

Meet your guides:



Mike
Pixelsmith



Leon
Designer and Writer



Peldi
Founder and CEO

v1

Started content-first

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Balsamiq website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://balsamiq.com/learn/>. The website has a dark red header with the Balsamiq logo and navigation links for PRODUCTS, COMPANY, SUPPORT, BLOG, DOWNLOAD, BUY, and LOG IN. A search bar is also present in the header.

The main content area features the heading "Learn to Wireframe with Balsamiq" and three questions: "Do you have brilliant ideas, but are intimidated by the process of putting them on paper?", "Do you wish you could communicate with others your product ideas and features?", and "Do you want to learn how to design User Interfaces that your customers will LOVE?". Below these questions is the text "You've come to the right place." and four colored buttons: "Courses" (blue), "Community" (green), "Resources" (yellow), and "Inspiration" (orange).

Below the buttons is the section "Meet your guides:" featuring three circular profile pictures of Mike (Pixlsmith), Leon (Designer and Writer), and Peldi (Founder and CEO).

The footer contains three columns of links:

- PRODUCTS**
 - Compare Balsamiq Wireframes Versions
 - Web App (Balsamiq Cloud)
 - Download for Desktop
 - Add-On for Google Drive, Confluence or Jira
 - Pricing
 - Resources
 - Testimonials
 - Documentation
 - User Forums
- COMPANY**
 - Contact Us
 - About Balsamiq
 - Customers
 - Newsletter
 - Blog
 - Jobs
 - Press Mentions
 - Brand Assets
 - Legal Information
- LEARN TO WIREFRAME**
 - Courses
 - Community
 - Resources
 - Inspiration

Below the footer links is the section "HOW WE GIVE BACK" with the following items:

- Sponsorships
- Raffles
- Free Software
- SWAG
- Customer Interviews


v2

Applying Information Architecture

We show more options for our visitors to choose from.

The screenshot shows the Balsamiq website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Balsamiq logo and links for Product, Learn UI Design, About Us, How We Give Back, Support, Buy, and Log In. Below this is a main heading "Learn to Wireframe with Balsamiq" with sub-links for Learn, Courses, Community, Resources, and Inspiration. The main content area features three introductory questions: "Do you have brilliant ideas, but are intimidated by the process of putting them on paper?", "Do you wish you could communicate your product ideas and features to others?", and "Do you want to learn how to design User Interfaces that your customers will LOVE?". Below these questions is a section titled "You've come to the right place." which contains a grid of four content categories: Courses, Community, Resources, and Inspiration. Each category has a list of links: Courses (Intro to UI Wireframing, The Psychology of UI Design, Rapid Wireframing: Finding the Right Product Design), Community (Balsamiq Slack Channel, Community Forum, Balsamiq Tutorials), Resources (Knowledge Base Articles, UI Controls Dictionary, UI Reference Library, Website UX Reviews), and Inspiration (UX/UI Links Of the Month, Live Wireframing Sessions, Case Studies, UI Pattern Galleries). At the bottom, there are four columns of links: Product (Balsamiq Wireframes Home, Balsamiq Cloud (Web App), Download for Desktop, For Google Drive, Confluence or Jira, Pricing, Support, Documentation, Tutorials, User Forums), Learn to Wireframe (Courses, Community, Resources, Inspiration), About Us (Contact Us / Support, Company Info, Newsletter, Blog, Jobs, Press Mentions, Brand Assets, Legal Information), and How We Give Back (Free Software, Help to Nonprofits, Sponsorships, Baffles, SWAG, Open Source, Office Hours, Customer Advisory Board). The footer includes contact information (CONTACT US, TWITTER, FACEBOOK), a privacy policy link, and the Balsamiq logo.

MEDITATION LIVING HEALTH SPORT WORK BIRTH DEATH WATCH & LISTEN Q




LIVING / MEDITATION

A summer state of mind

Get more summer out of your summer with our featured collection. These exercises help you unwind, recharge, escape, and explore – yourself and your world.


Headspace

Editor's Picks

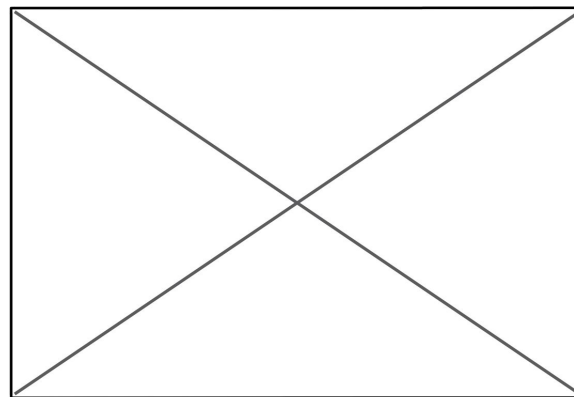


WATCH & LISTEN

Stuck in the past? This week on the podcast, we're getting over our regrets.



HEALTH / LIVING

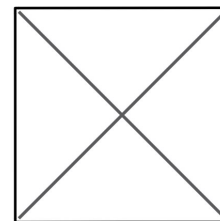


CATEGORY

Title of article

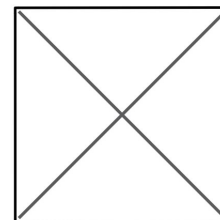
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris.

AUTHOR



CATEGORY

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur elit, sed do eiusmod tempor.



CATEGORY

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur elit, sed do eiusmod tempor.

TRENDING TOPICS

Leadership

Digital Tools

Cash Flow

Marketing & Sales

Growth Opportunities

Productivity

TOP STORIES

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

4 Questions to Ask Yourself Before Scaling Your Freelance Business

Rodika Tollefson

Managing Money

What Does It Take to Run a Profitable Side Hustle?

Barry Moltz



Planning for Growth

5 Ways to Help Get the Most Out of the Gig Economy

Rodika Tollefson



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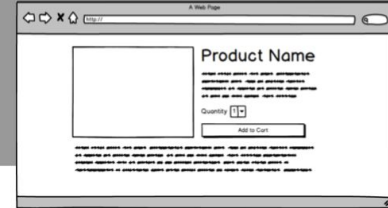
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The best ways to wireframe your product idea. 5 Tips. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,

Billy Carlson



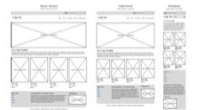
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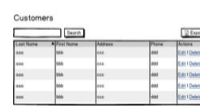
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Wednesday

3 Lessons From Marketing's Top Creatives about Building a Successful Career

Jenny Coppola in [Marketing](#)

Monday

5 Ways to Make Creating a Video Series Less Daunting and More Efficient

Jenny Coppola in [Production](#)

December 5

Getting Started with Show Creation: How to Come Up with Ideas for Your Video Series

Lisa Marinelli in [Production](#)

December 4

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Phil Nottingham in [Marketing](#)

December 3

Wistia Custom Audiences Help You Get More From Your Social Ads

Jessie Angell Carlson in [Product Updates](#)

11 Ways to Grow Your Audience and Get More Eyes on Your Video Series

Use these tips to grow your audience and get your next video series the attention it deserves.



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🚩 Product Updates

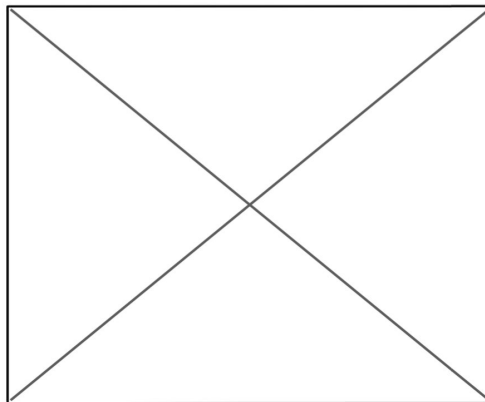
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We help you go from zero to decent

Learn to wireframe with Balsamiq

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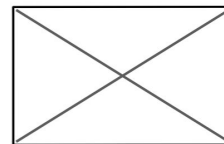
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Tips from the Pro



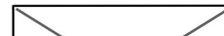
A Step by Step Guide to Creating Mobile App Wireframes

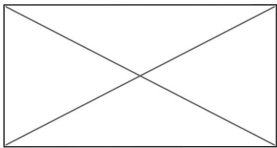
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12 Practical Tips for Creating Better Wireframes

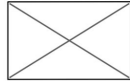
Most product designers are familiar with the concept of wireframes — low fidelity representations of a user interface, mainly used to demonstrate product's functionality.

Live Wireframing Sessions





Vertical Thumbnail Block



Live Wireframing Sessions



First Impressions Website UX Reviews



Design Process Interviews



How to Add a Blank Row to a ComboBox or Menu

Horizontal Thumbnail Block



The Psychology of UI Design

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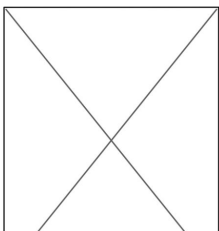
Rapid Wireframing: Finding the Right Product Design

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Design Resource

Wireframes-to-Go style site with lots of downloadable goodies for people to use. Not only balsamic wireframe templates, but user research templates or sketch / figma files to

[View All Resources](#)

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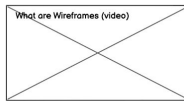
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New to Wireframing? Start Here.



Learning Resources

UI Guidelines, UI Guidelines, UI Case Studies, UI/UX Links of the Month etc.

Are You Blank Canvas? Only for small canvas or with small number of screens.

What are Wireframes

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Wireframing for Newbies

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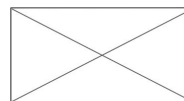


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A Step by Step Guide to Creating Mobile App Wireframes



Rapid Wireframing: Finding the Right Product Design



The Psychology of UI Design

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Practical training for creating more usable products

Wireframing Academy

UI/UX Links of the Month

What are Wireframes (video)

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How to Start a Wireframe Project

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For Designers

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Process

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Copying helps...

1. You really see the thing you're copying
2. Remove any excuses to get started
3. Learn UI Design Software or new features
4. Quickly Prototype Ideas



Thanks

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Contact Me:

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The screenshot shows the top portion of the Balsamiq Wireframing Academy website. The header is dark blue with the Balsamiq logo and navigation links: PRODUCT, LEARN TO WIREFRAME, COMPANY, CONTACT US, BUY, LOG IN, and a search bar. Below the header, the main navigation includes BWA Home, Articles, Videos, Courses, and Resources. The hero section features the text "Practical training for creating more usable products" and the "Wireframing Academy by balsamiq" logo, which is a white circular seal with "WA" and a pencil icon.

New to Wireframing? Start Here.

[What Are Wireframes?](#)

Answers to common questions about wireframes and suggestions for how to start using them.

[Five Steps to Creating Great Wireframes](#)

Good wireframes solve real problems and lead to strong products. From writing out the scenario to gathering inputs, here is a proven path to a great website or app.

[How to Start a Wireframe Project](#)

Four techniques to start a wireframe project from scratch and ensure

Learning Resources

- [UI Control Guidelines](#)
- [User Interface Platform Guidelines](#)
- [UX/UI Links Of the Month](#)
- [UI Pattern Galleries](#)
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