

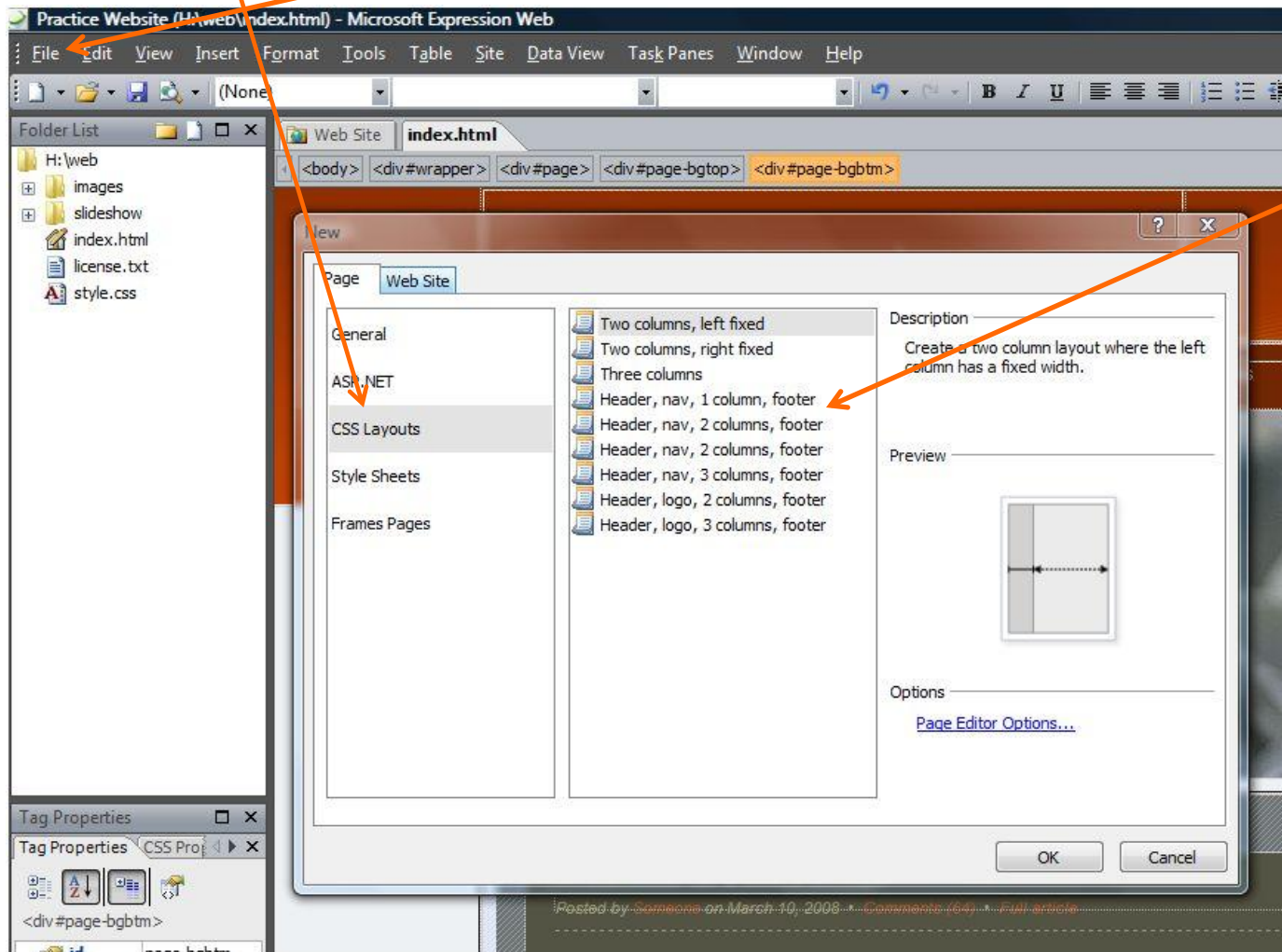


CSS – UNDERSTANDING LAYOUT

Using Expression Web's CSS Layouts (Layout Boxes) – *English: Why things are where they are on the page.*

By Ted Mitchell

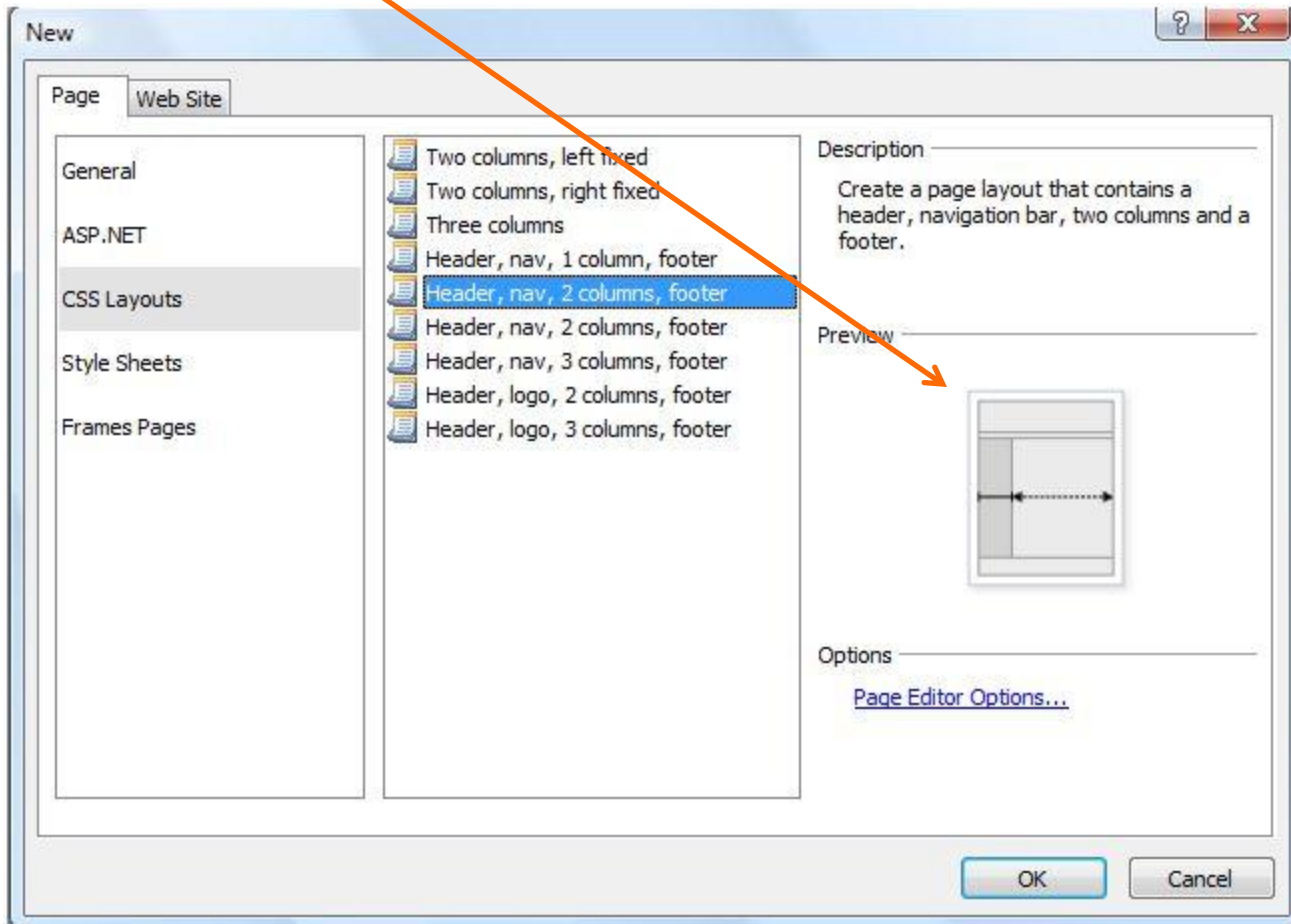
TO SHOW YOU HOW THIS WORKS, I CLICKED FILE, THEN “NEW” THEN THIS WINDOW APPEARS. EXPRESSION WILL CREATE A BASIC CSS PAGE TO START WITH.



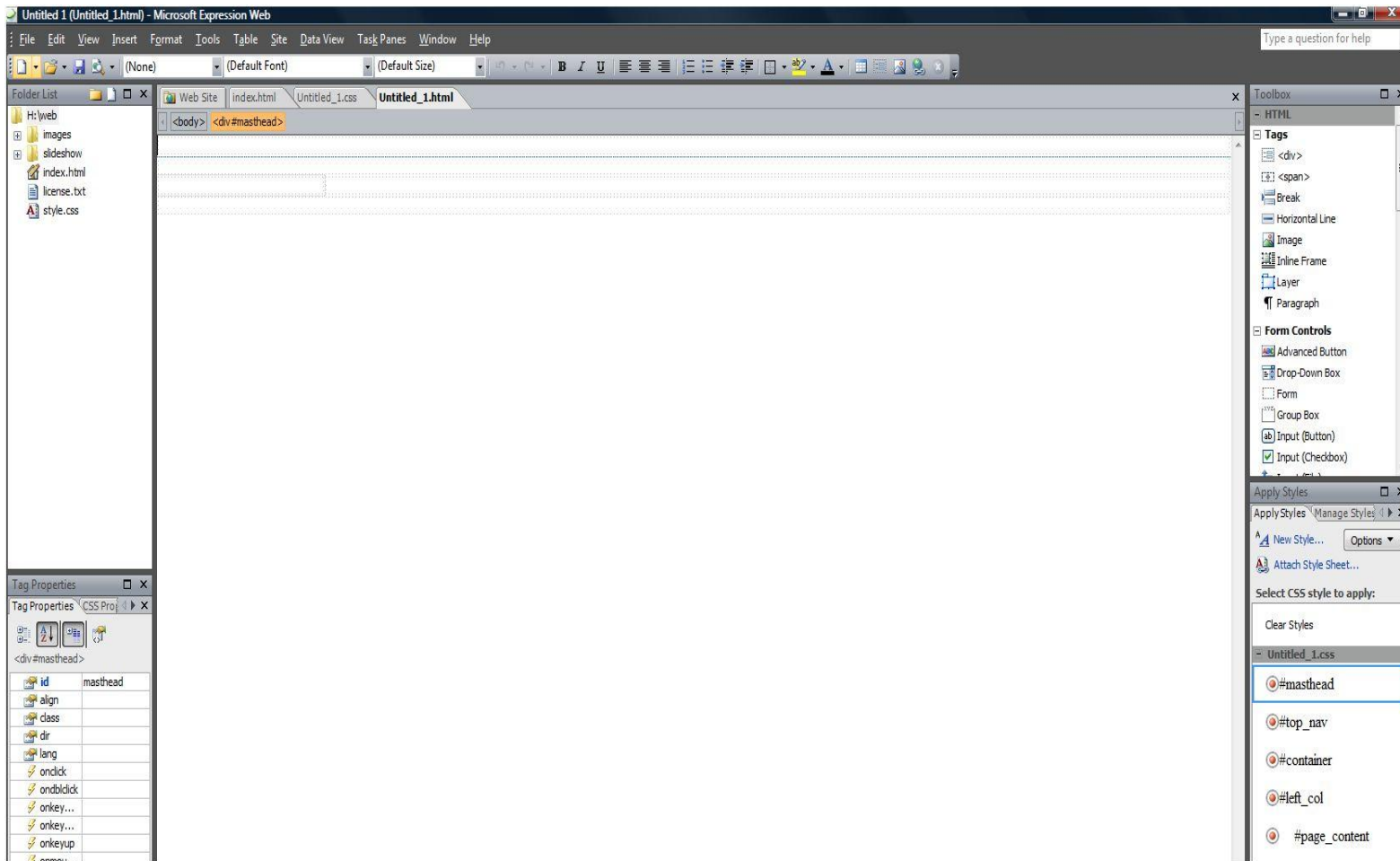
There are different layouts to choose from. You have to add content, color, backgrounds, etc. But, the structure is there for you.



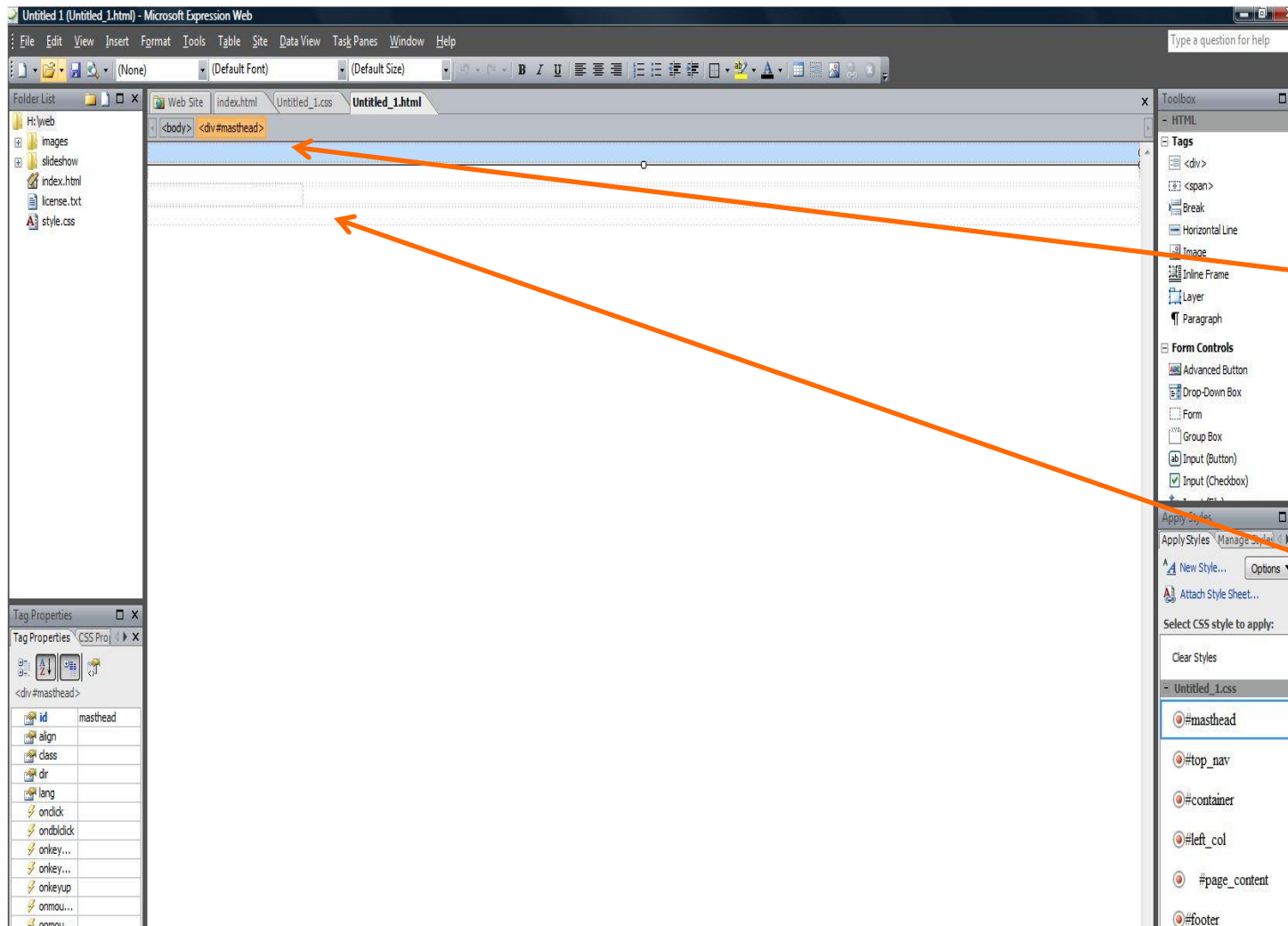
I'M CHOOSING THE "HEADER, NAV,.. " PAGE LAYOUT. AN EXAMPLE OF THE LAYOUT IS ON THE RIGHT.



THIS IS THE PAGE THAT IS DISPLAYED. REAL BORING,
BUT THERE'S MORE HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES.



EXPRESSION CREATES A BUNCH OF DIVS OR LAYOUT BOXES FOR YOU. THEY DON'T HAVE SPECIFIED FONT STYLES, BACKGROUNDS, ETC. YOU HAVE TO ASSIGN THOSE ATTRIBUTES.

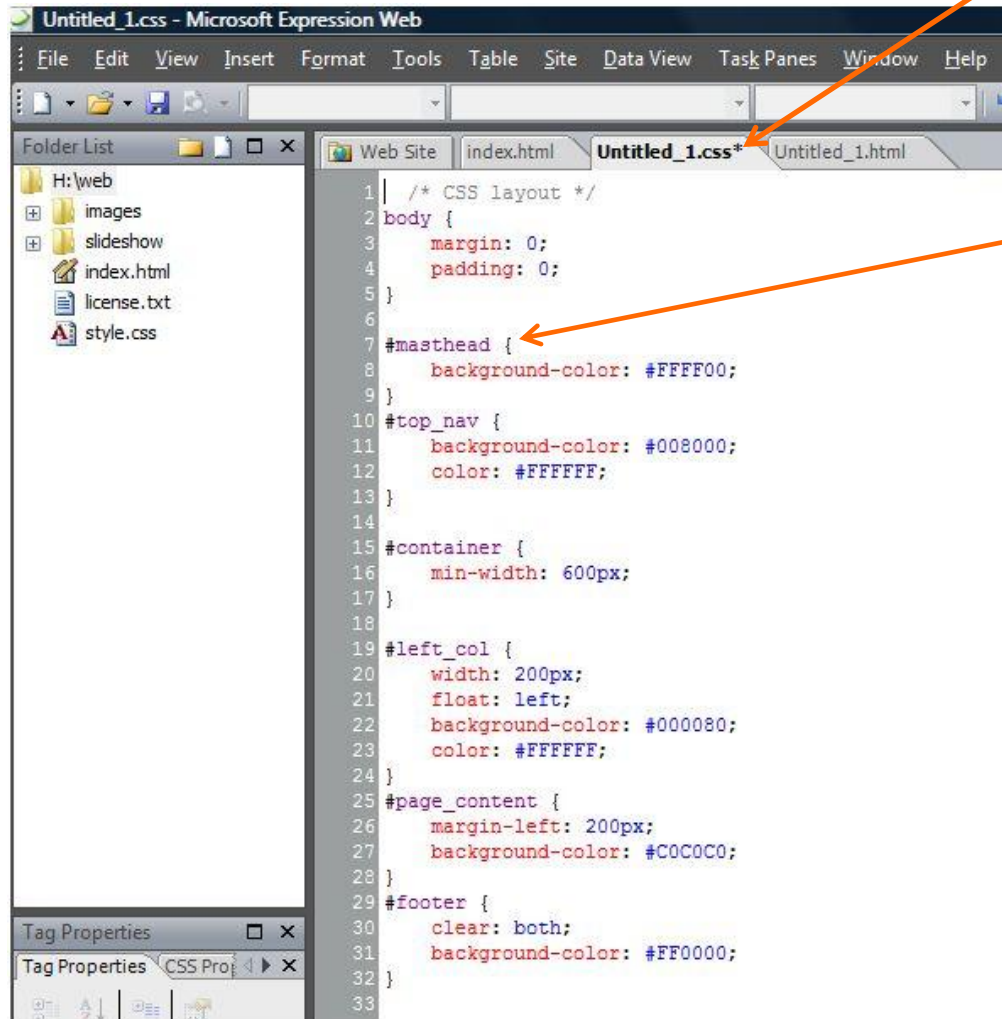


A CSS style sheet is created. The “masthead” div is highlighted now.

Other divs are created as well, but you can hardly see them yet.



BEHIND THE SCENES, EXPRESSION HAS CREATED A CSS STYLE SHEET THAT YOU CAN ALTER TO YOUR LIKING. BUT, THE LAYOUT STRUCTURE IS THERE FOR YOU TO BEGIN.

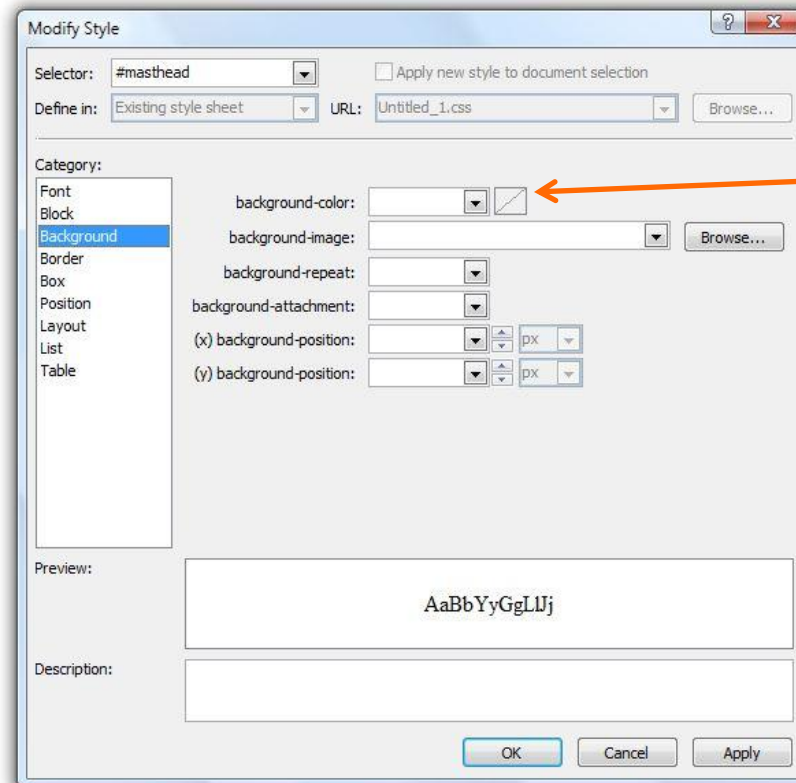
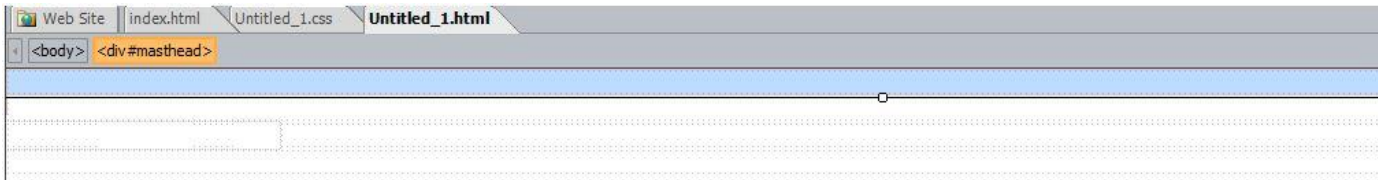


```
1  /* CSS layout */
2  body {
3      margin: 0;
4      padding: 0;
5  }
6
7  #masthead {
8      background-color: #FFFF00;
9  }
10 #top_nav {
11     background-color: #008000;
12     color: #FFFFFF;
13 }
14
15 #container {
16     min-width: 600px;
17 }
18
19 #left_col {
20     width: 200px;
21     float: left;
22     background-color: #000080;
23     color: #FFFFFF;
24 }
25 #page_content {
26     margin-left: 200px;
27     background-color: #C0C0C0;
28 }
29 #footer {
30     clear: both;
31     background-color: #FF0000;
32 }
33
```

The different divs are represented here. Once you “Modify Style” for any of them, Expression writes the code for you here on the style sheet.



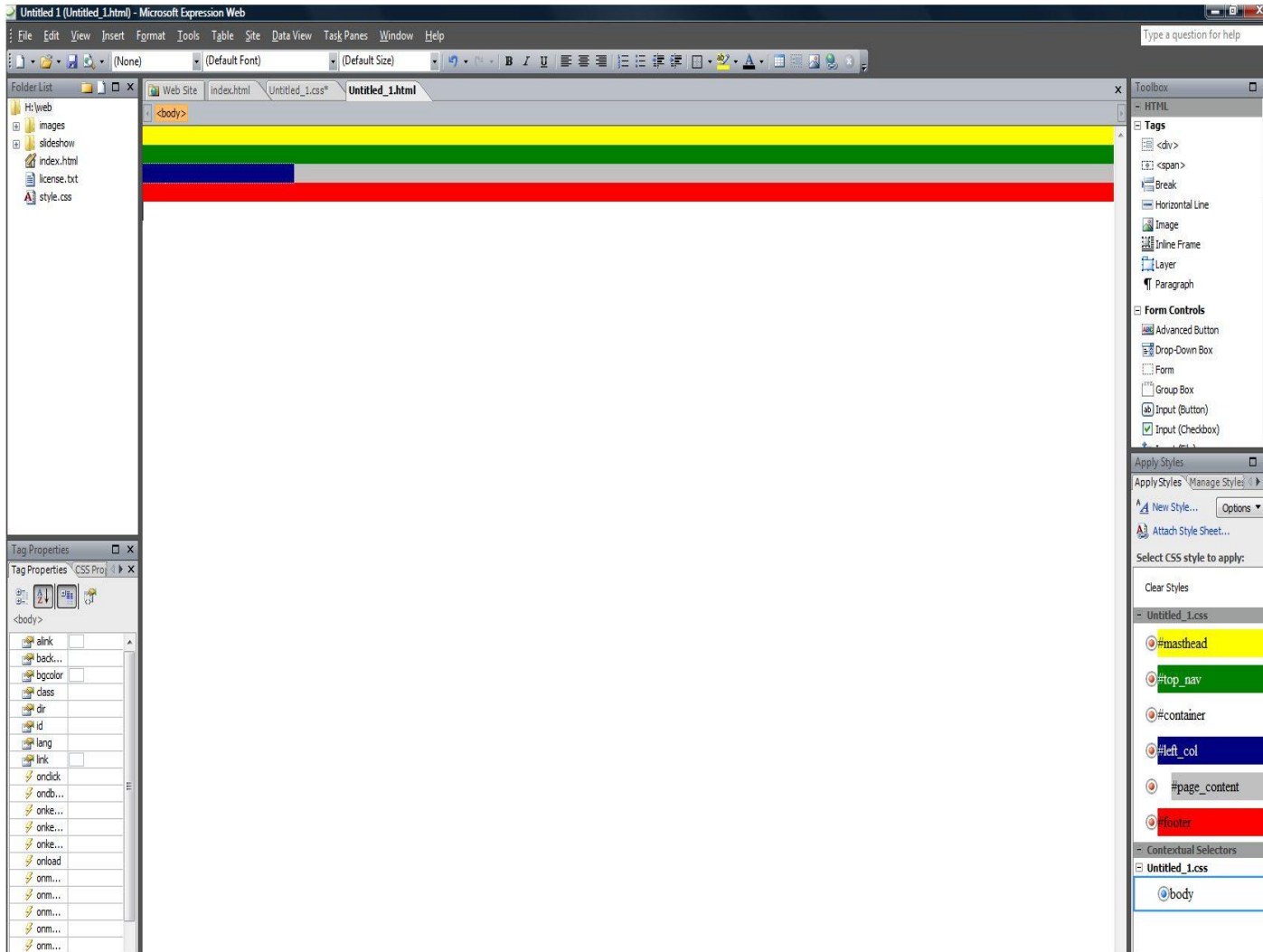
THIS IS THE MODIFY STYLE BOX FOR THE “MASTHEAD.” (IF YOU DON’T KNOW HOW TO GET HERE, SEE PREVIOUS TUTORIALS (RECOMMENDED))



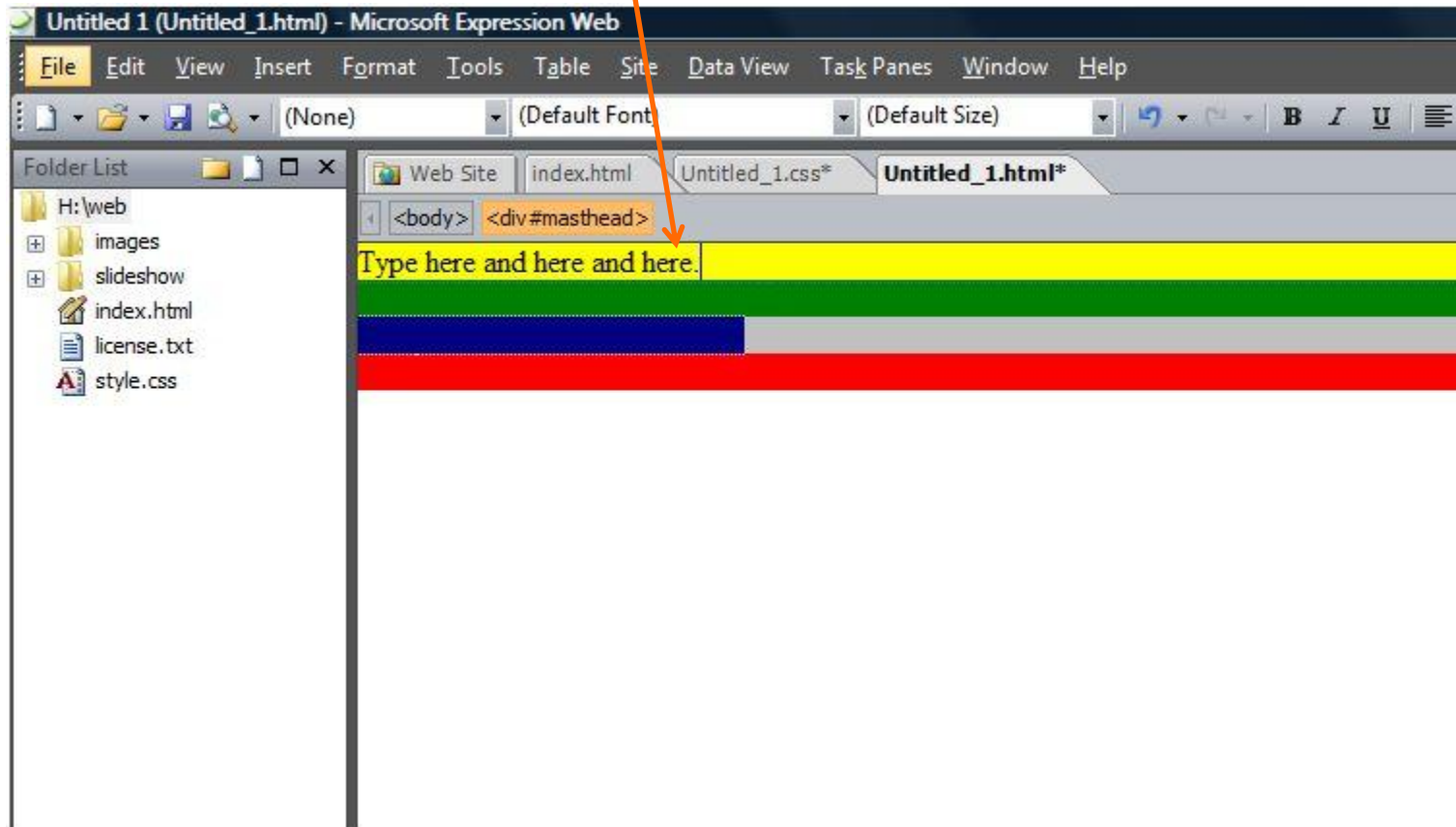
I'm going to give each div a colored background, so you can see what is going on. Then I'll go over layout techniques.



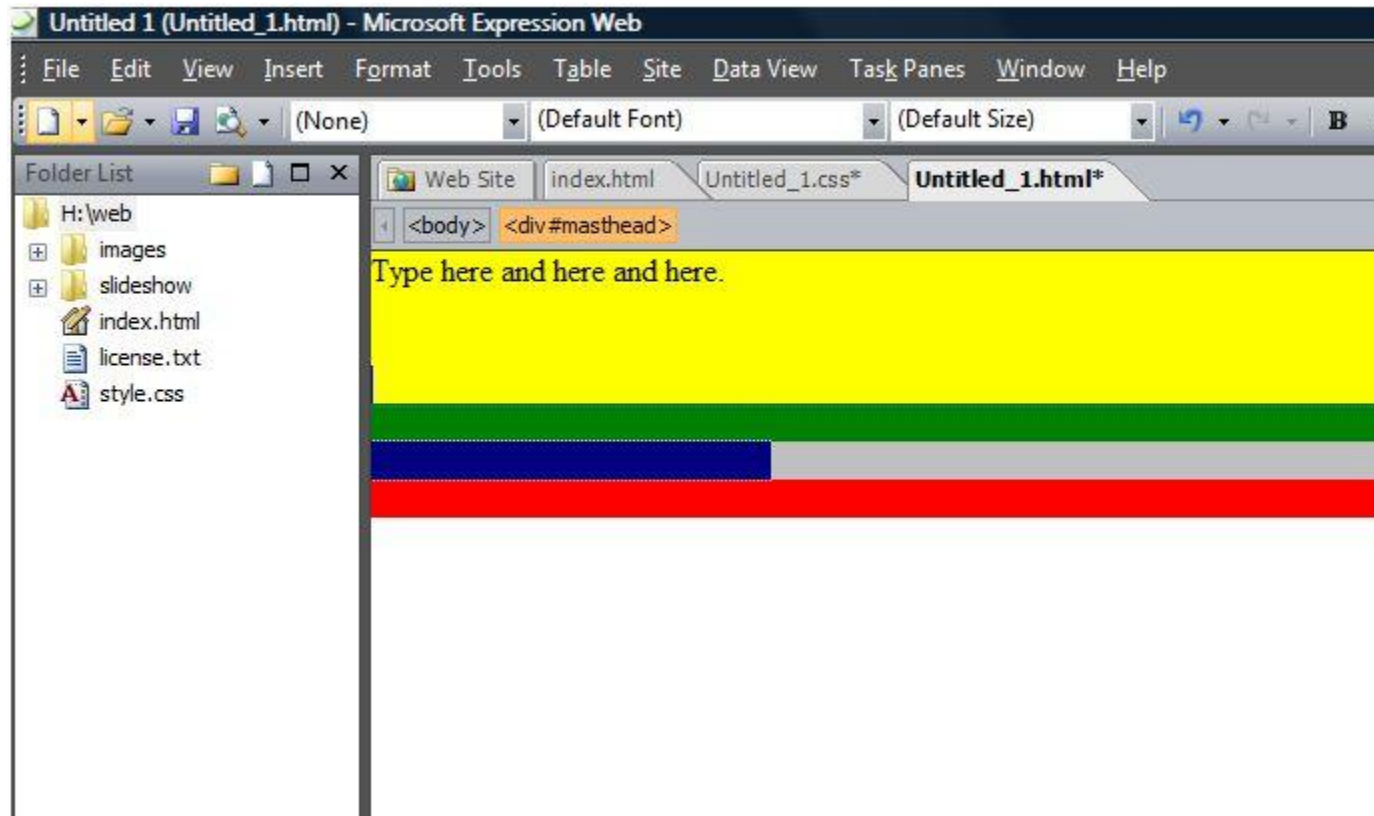
I ADDED COLOR BACKGROUND TO EACH DIV,
BUT YOU CAN SEE HOW EACH BOX IS STACKED
ON TOP OF EACH OTHER WITH MINIMAL ROOM.



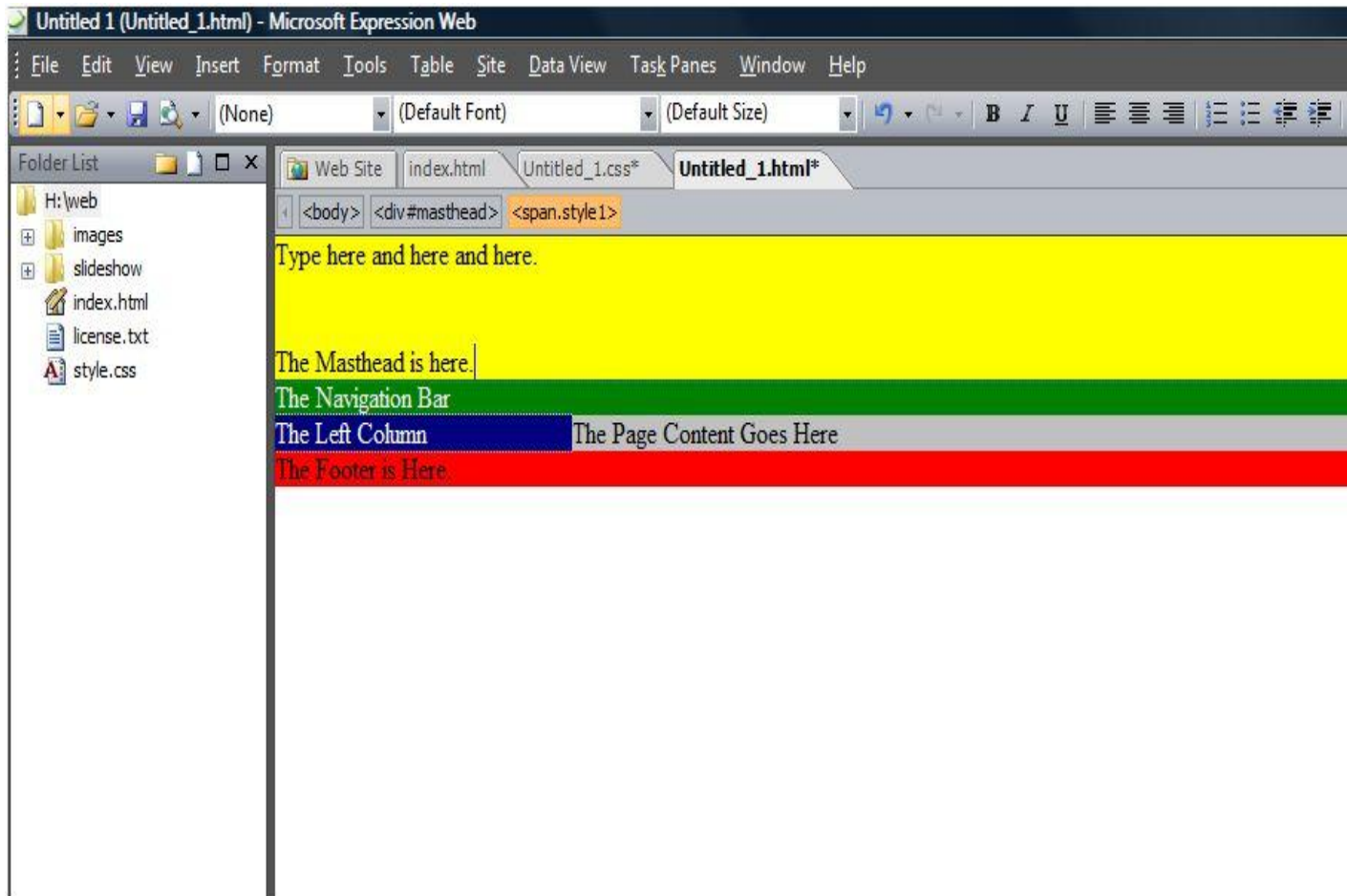
I PLACED THE CURSOR INSIDE THE “MASTHEAD” DIV AND STARTED TYPING. BY DEFAULT, IT PLACES ALL IN THE TOP-LEFT CORNER.



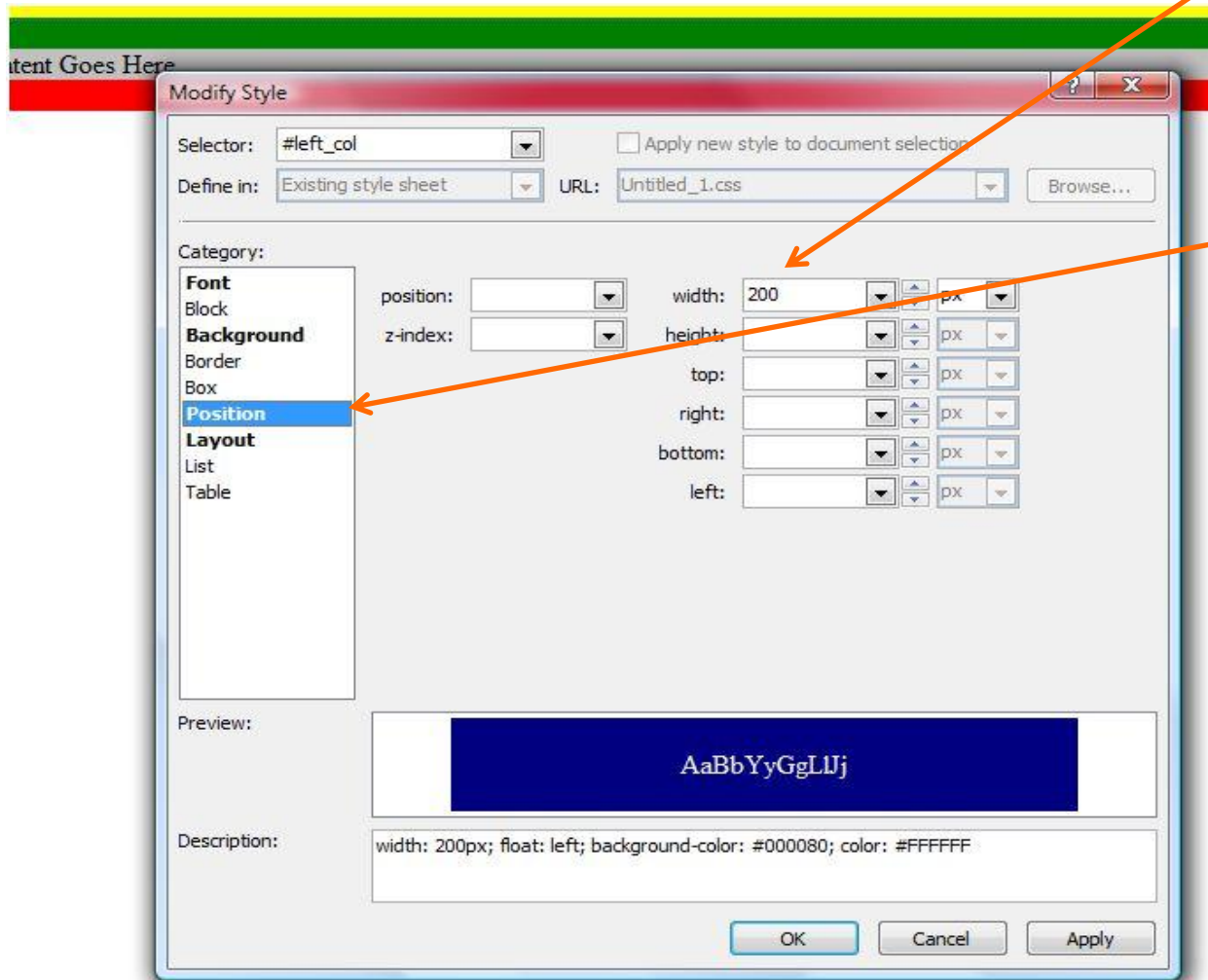
IF I KEEP TYPING OR HIT ENTER, THE DIV BOX WILL EXPAND AS NEEDED.



I TYPED EACH DIV'S TITLE IN THE CORRESPONDING DIVS BELOW.



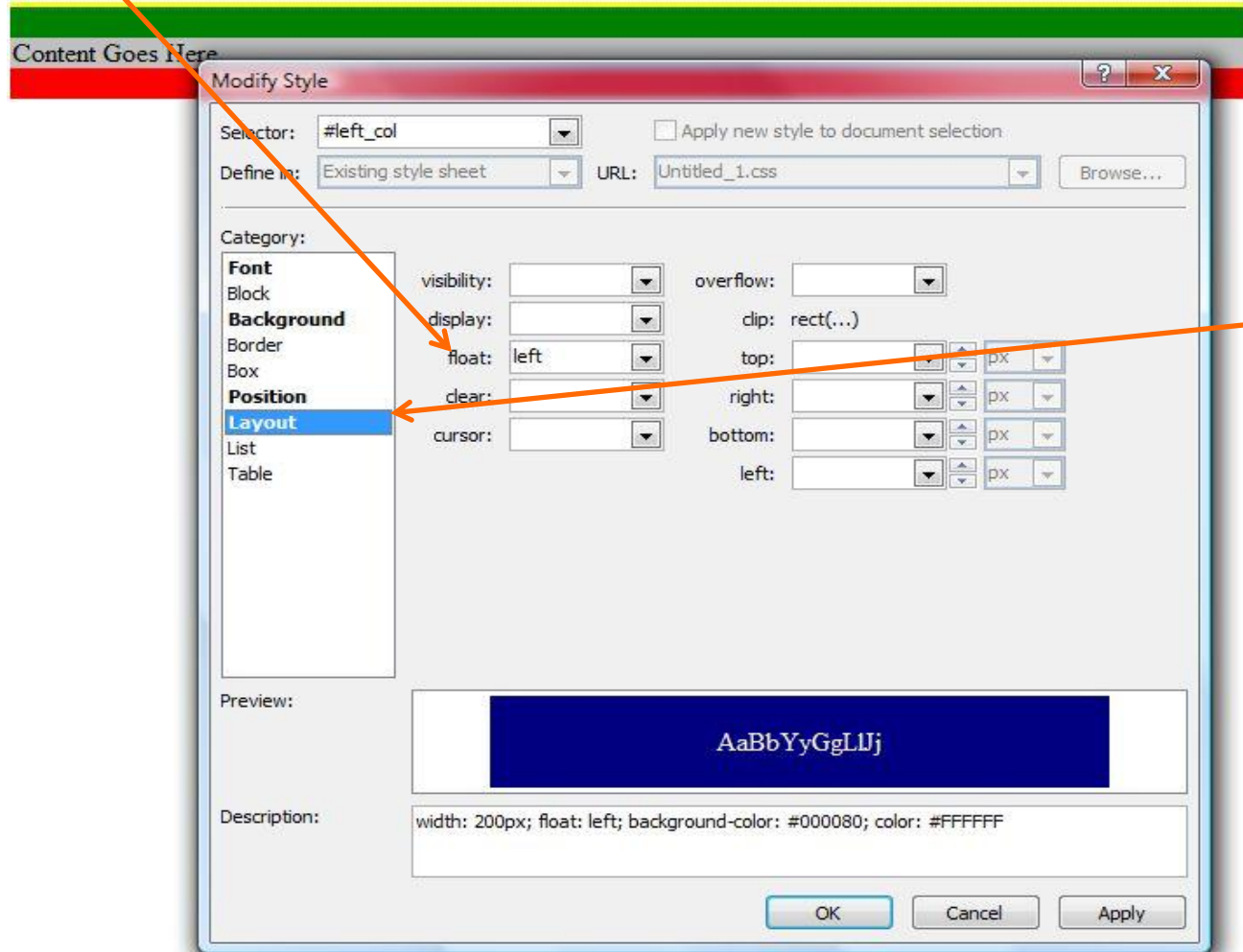
HERE IS THE MODIFY STYLE PANEL FOR THE DIV: “LEFT_COL” (BLUE – SEE PREVIOUS) EXPRESSION CREATED A WIDTH OF 200 PIXELS TO CREATE A COLUMN.



The “Position” dialogue is highlighted here.



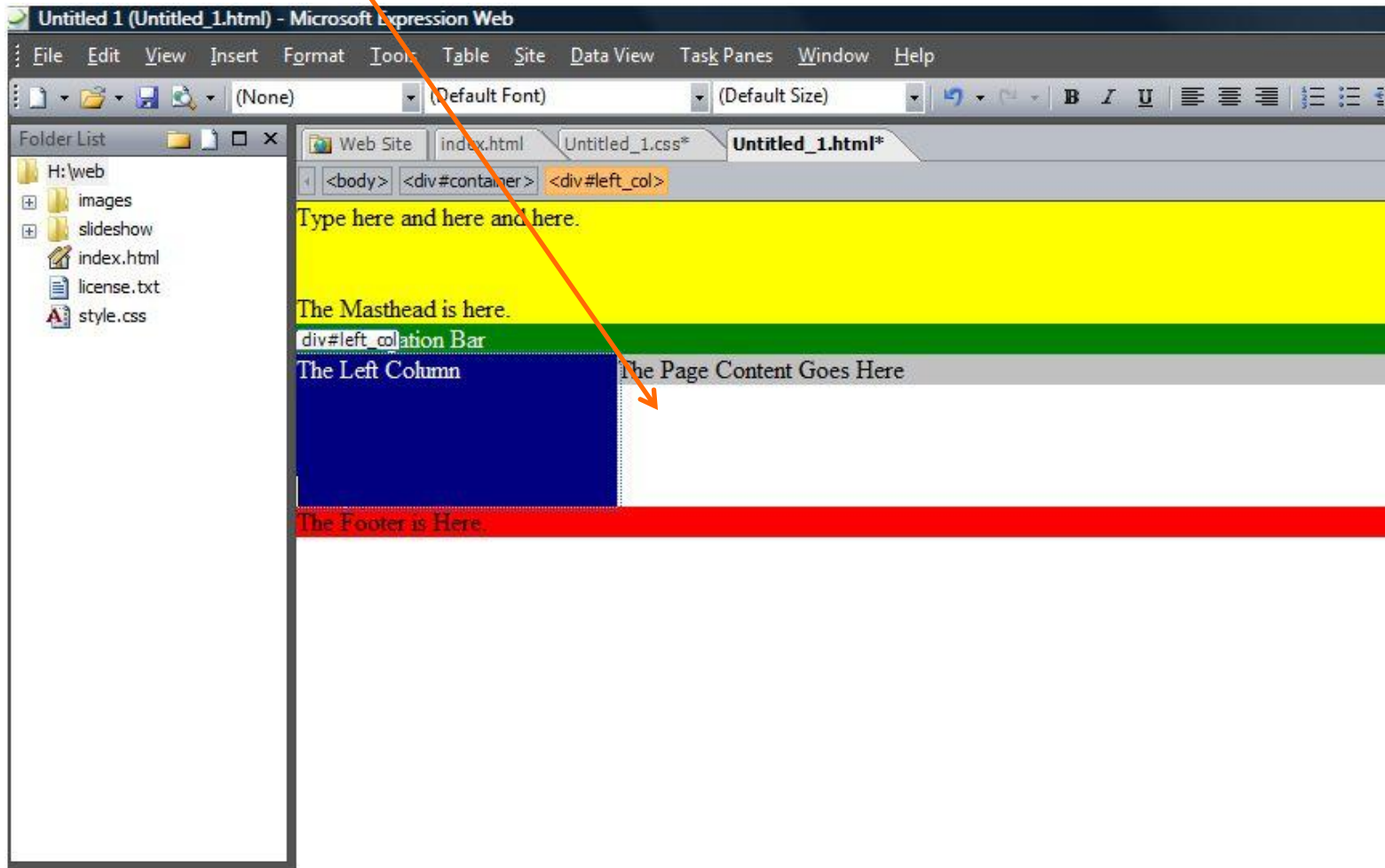
EXPRESSION ALSO MADE THIS DIV “FLOAT” LEFT FOR LAYOUT.



The “Layout” dialogue is highlighted here.



POSITION ISSUE: I HIT ENTER A FEW TIMES IN THE DIV “LEFT_COL” AND THE “PAGE_CONTENT” DIV DID NOT KEEP UP.



INSTEAD, SPECIFY A HEIGHT FOR THE COLUMN
AND DO THE SAME FOR THE DIV NEXT TO IT.
HERE I USED “500.”

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a blue sidebar on the left and a white main content area on the right. The sidebar is labeled "The Left Column" and the main content area is labeled "The Page Content Goes Here". At the bottom, there is a red footer labeled "The Footer is Here".

The "Modify Style" dialog box is open, showing the following settings:

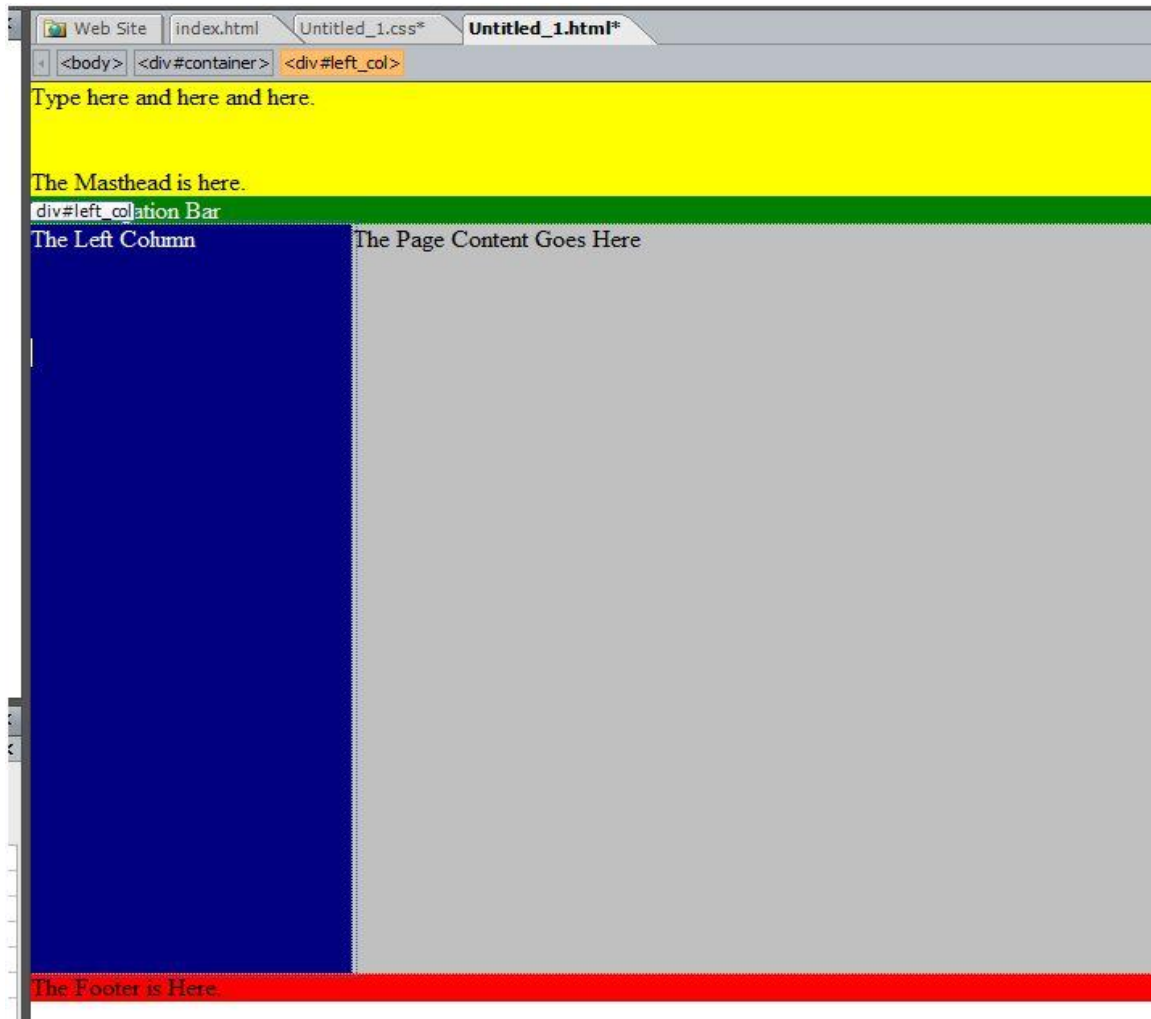
- Selector: #left_col
- Define in: Existing style sheet
- URL: Untitled_1.css
- Category: Position (selected)
- width: 200 px
- height: 500 px
- top: [empty] px
- right: [empty] px
- bottom: [empty] px
- left: [empty] px

The dialog box also includes a "Preview" section showing a blue rectangle with the text "AaBbYyGgLIj" and a "Description" section showing the CSS code: "width: 200px; float: left; background-color: #000080; color: #FFFFFF; height: 500px".

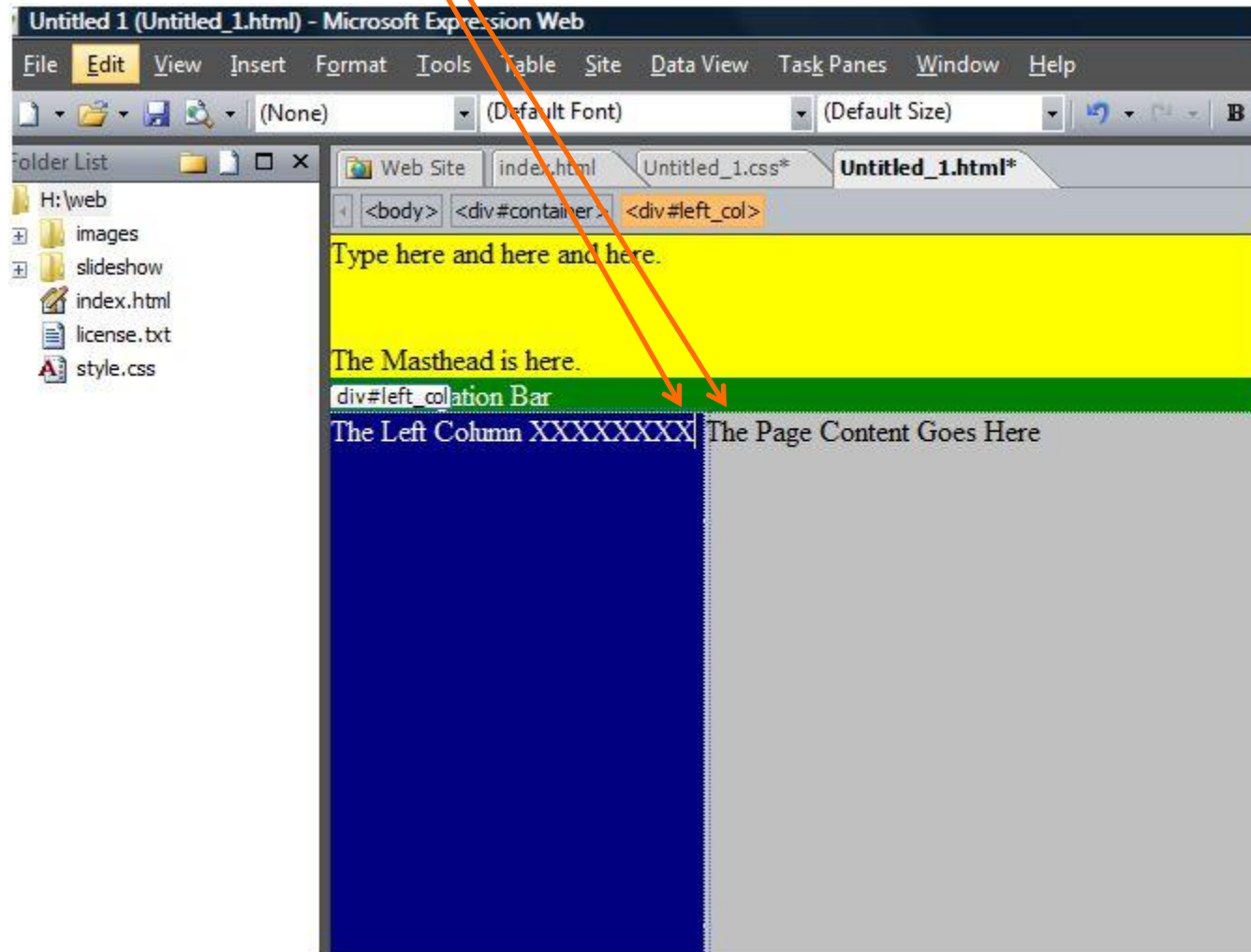
An orange arrow points from the text "HERE I USED '500.'" to the "height" field in the dialog box.



BOTH ARE NOW 500 PIXELS IN HEIGHT.
YOU CAN ADD LENGTH AS NEEDED LATER.



NEXT ISSUE: NOTICE HOW THE TEXT WITHIN EACH BOX IS NEXT TO EACH OTHER. THIS CAN CREATE ISSUES. YOU CAN EDIT THE DIVS TO AVOID THIS.



BEFORE CORRECTING THIS, I'LL ZOOM IN ON THE "CSS BOX MODEL REFERENCE" TO SHOW YOU WHAT EACH PART OF THE DIV DOES.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a page layout. The page has a yellow masthead, a green navigation bar, a blue left column, and a red footer. A 'Modify Style' dialog box is open, showing the 'Box' category selected. The 'padding' input field is highlighted with an orange arrow. The 'CSS box model reference' diagram shows a blue box with a black border and a white margin, with labels for Top, Bottom, Left, Right, Margin, Border, and Padding. The 'margin-left' is set to 200px. The 'Description' field shows the CSS rule: margin-left: 200px; background-color: #C0C0C0; height: 500px.

Web Site | divlayoutexample.html

<body> <div #masthead>

Type here and here and here.

The Masthead is here.

The Navigation Bar

The Left Column XXXXXXXXX The Page Content Goes Here

Modify Style

Selector: #page_content

Define in: Existing style sheet URL: E:\web\divlayoutexamplestyle.css

Category:

- Font
- Block
- Background
- Border
- Box
- Position
- Layout
- List
- Table

padding: Same for all

margin: Same for all

top: [] px

right: [] px

bottom: [] px

left: [] px

top: [] px

right: [] px

bottom: [] px

left: 200 px

CSS box model reference:

Top

Margin

Border

Padding

Left

Right

Bottom

Preview:

AaBbYyGgLIj

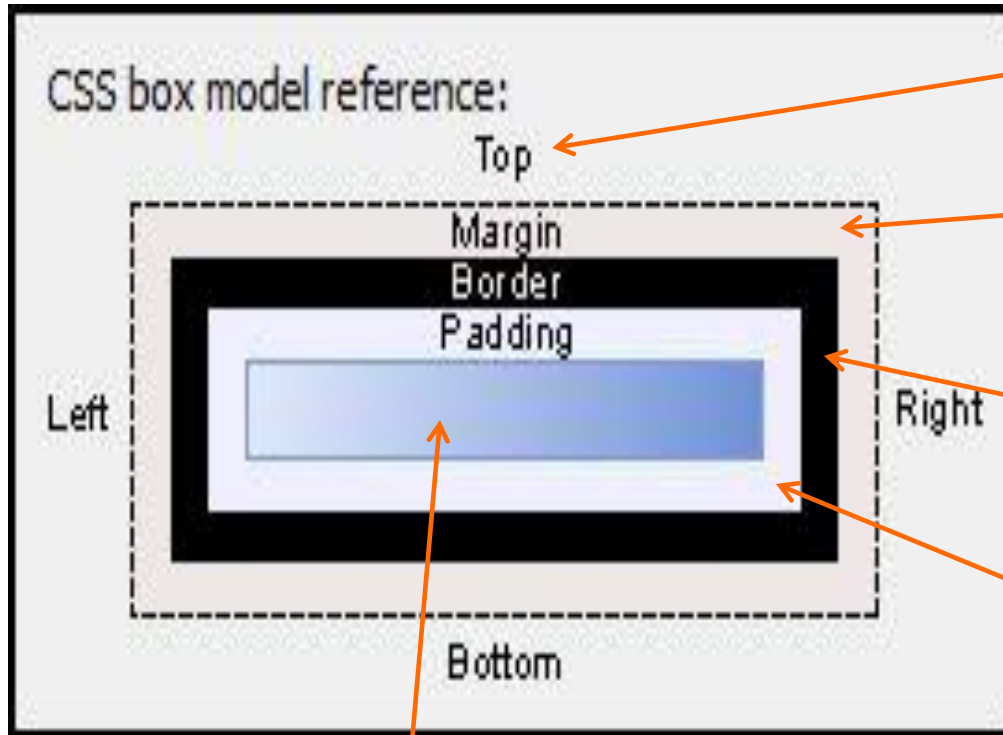
Description:

margin-left: 200px; background-color: #C0C0C0; height: 500px

OK Cancel Apply



EACH DIV ON A WEB PAGE HAS THESE ATTRIBUTES BELOW THAT CAN BE EDITED:



Sides – Each div has a Top, Left, Right, and Bottom. You can edit all or some.

Margin – This is the space between each div. You can create an invisible barrier between each div.

Border – Simple, the perimeter. You can make this visible as a color or thicken it so be more pronounced.

Padding – Here is where you add an invisible buffer area to push text/images in or away from the border.

Your content (text, images, etc.) will go in here.



TO CORRECT THIS ISSUE, GO TO THE MODIFY STYLE WINDOW AND CLICK “BOX.”

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a multi-column layout. The layout consists of a yellow masthead, a green navigation bar, a blue left column, and a red footer. The main content area is white. A 'Modify Style' dialog box is open, showing the selector '#page_content' and the 'Box' category selected. The dialog box has fields for padding and margin, a CSS box model diagram, and a preview of the style.

Web Site **divlayoutexample.html**

<body> <div #masthead>

Type here and here and here.

The Masthead is here.

The Navigation Bar

The Left Column XXXXXXXXX The Page Content Goes Here

The Footer is Here

Modify Style

Selector: #page_content

Define in: Existing style sheet UPL: E:\web\divlayoutexamplestyle.css

Category:

- Font
- Block
- Background
- Border
- Box**
- Position
- Layout
- List
- Table

padding: Same for all

margin: Same for all

top: [] px

right: [] px

bottom: [] px

left: [] px

top: [] px

right: [] px

bottom: [] px

left: 200 px

CSS box model reference:

Top

Margin

Border

Padding

Left Right

Bottom

Preview:

AaBbYyGgLIj

Description:

margin-left: 200px; background-color: #C0C0C0; height: 500px

OK Cancel Apply

This is to edit the “page_content” div.



I UNCHECKED THE “SAME FOR ALL” BOX, THEN ADDED PADDING OF 10 PIXELS TO THE TOP AND LEFT OF THE DIV. THIS PUSHES THE TEXT IN FROM THE BORDER.

The Masthead is here.

div#left_colation Bar

The Left Column XXXXXXXXX

The Page Content

The Footer is Here.

Modify Style

Selector: #page_content Apply new style to document selection

Define in: Existing style sheet URL: E:\web\divlayoutexamplestyle.css Browse...

Category:

- Font
- Block
- Background**
- Border
- Box**
- Position
- Layout
- List
- Table

padding: Same for all

margin: Same for all

top: 10 px

right: px

bottom: px

left: 10 px

top: px

right: px

bottom: px

left: 200 px

CSS box model reference:

Top

Margin

Border

Padding

Left

Right

Bottom

Preview:

AaBbYyGgLLj

Description:

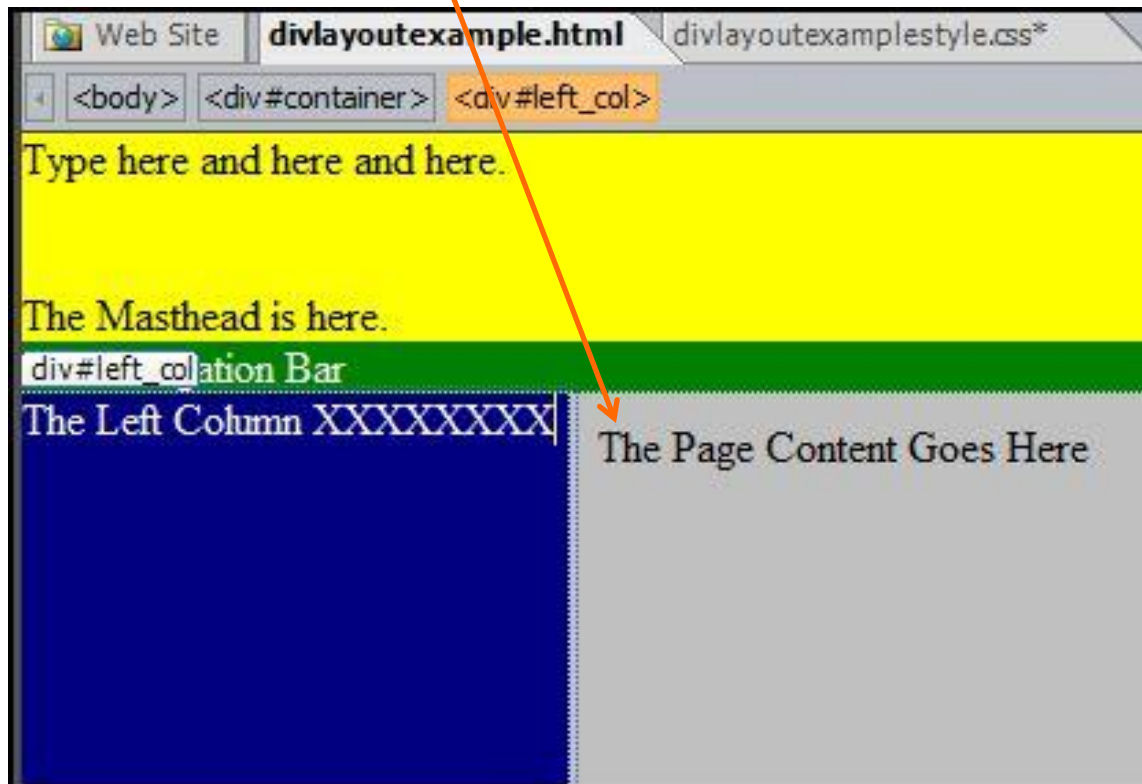
margin-left: 200px; background-color: #C0C0C0; height: 500px; padding-top: 10px; padding-left: 10px

OK Cancel Apply

Given I added 10 pixels to the grey column, now the blue column is short 10 pixels.



A CLOSER PICTURE SHOWS HOW THE PADDING HAS PUSHED THE TEXT AWAY FROM THE BORDER OF THE DIV.



I CHANGED THE DIV: LEFT_COL'S TOP PADDING AS WELL SO THAT BOTH DIVS WOULD LINE UP WITH EACH OTHER.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Address bar: Web Site | divlayoutexample.html | divlayoutexamplestyle.css*
- Page content: Type here and here and here. (Yellow background)
- Page content: The Masthead is here. (Green background)
- Page content: div#left_colation Bar (Green background)
- Page content: The Left Column XXXXXXXXX (Blue background)
- Page content: The Page Content Goes Here (Grey background)
- Page content: The Footer is Here (Red background)

The 'Modify Style' dialog box is open for the selector `#left_col`. The 'Box' category is selected in the left sidebar. The 'padding' section is expanded, and the 'top' value is set to 10px. The 'margin' section is collapsed. The 'CSS box model reference' diagram shows the padding area. The 'Preview' section shows a blue box with the text 'AaBbYyGgLLj'. The 'Description' section shows the following CSS rules: `width: 200px; float: left; background-color: #000080; color: #FFFFFF; height: 500px; padding-top: 10px`.

Two orange arrows originate from the text above: one points to the 'padding-top: 10px' field in the dialog, and the other points to the blue 'The Left Column' area in the browser window.



HERE I MODIFIED THE "TOP_NAV" STYLE AND ADDED 10 PIXELS TO THE TOP AND BOTTOM MARGIN. THIS PUSHES THE ENTIRE DIV'S BORDER FROM THE ADJACENT DIVS.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following layout:

- Yellow Masthead:** "Type here and here and here."
- Green Navigation Bar:** "The Navigation Bar" (div#left_col)
- Blue Left Column:** "The Left Column XXXXXXXXXXXX"
- White Page Content:** "The Page Content Goes Here"
- Red Footer:** "The Footer is Here"

The "Modify Style" dialog box is open for the selector `#top_nav`. The "margin" section is expanded, and the "Same for all" checkbox is checked. The "margin-top" and "margin-bottom" values are both set to 10px. The "margin-left" and "margin-right" values are empty. The "CSS box model reference" diagram shows a green box with a black border and a blue padding area. The "Preview" section shows a green box with the text "AaBbYyGgLIJ". The "Description" field contains the following CSS rules: `background-color: #008000; color: #FFFFFF; margin-top: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px`.



HERE I EDITED THE BORDERS OF THE “MASTHEAD” DIV. THE “BORDER-STYLE” GIVES YOU OPTIONS LIKE “GROOVE” (3-D LIKE). THEN CHOOSE A WIDTH AND COLOR. PLAY AROUND WITH IT.

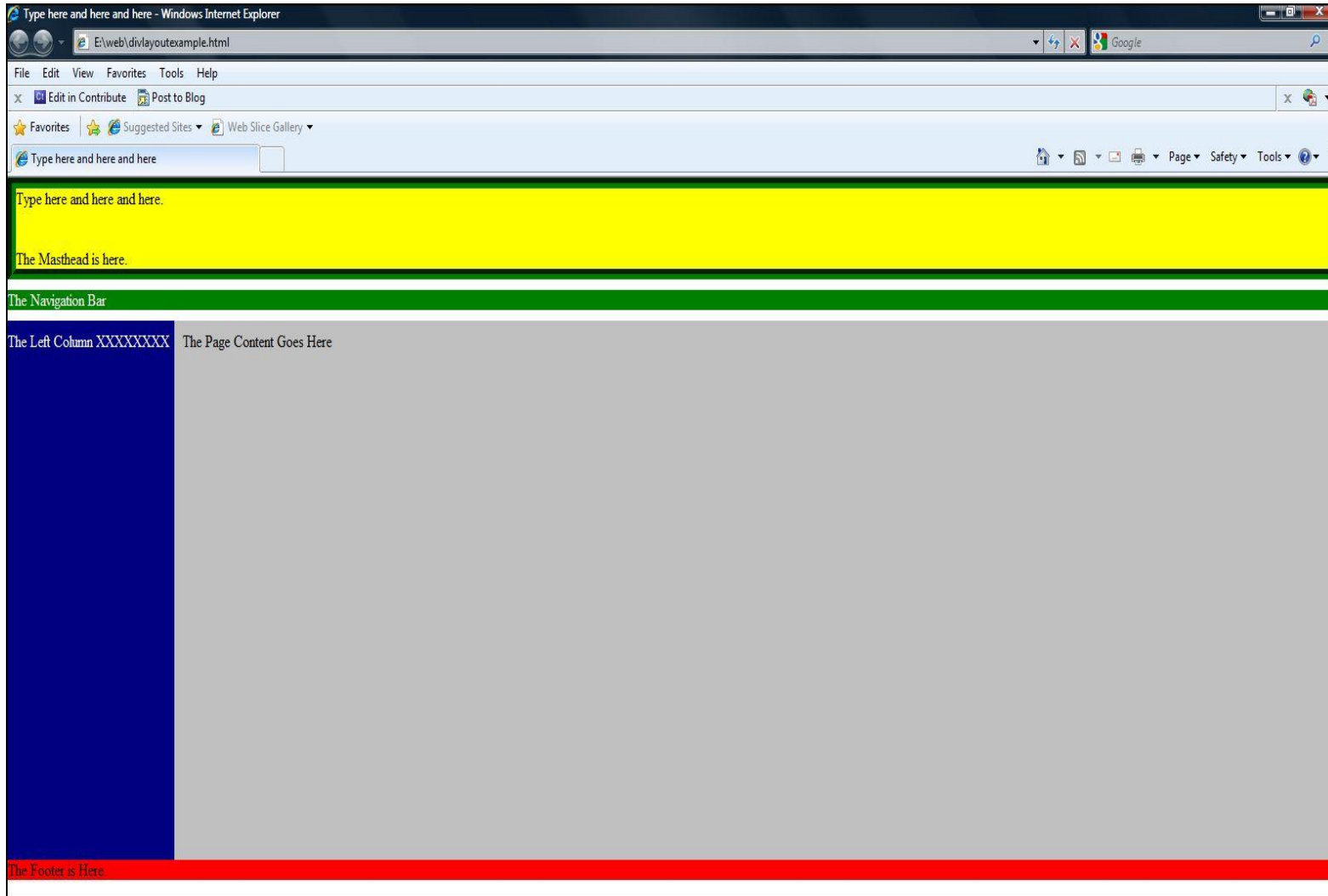
The screenshot shows a web browser window with a yellow masthead area. A 'Modify Style' dialog box is open, showing the following settings for the #masthead selector:

- Selector: #masthead
- Define in: Existing style sheet
- URL: E:\web\divlayoutexamplestyle.css
- Category: Border
- border-style: groove (Same for all)
- border-width: 10px (Same for all)
- border-color: #008000 (Same for all)

The preview shows a yellow box with a green 3D border. The description at the bottom reads: background-color: #FFFF00; border: 10px groove #008000.



THIS IS THE PAGE AS IT WOULD LOOK ONLINE.
NOT PRETTY, BUT YOU SHOULD GET THE IDEA
OF WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.





THE END

It is important you understand how the templates we're using work behind the scenes. The best way to do this is to play around with one of these sample pages, like I created. Then you will understand the rules that govern the divs in the page.