

Using Layers for page Layout

Layers are DHTML components and are similar to tables with a few different properties. Like tables they are containers where you put text or images. Unlike tables layers allow you to position an image or text in a particular point on the page and dreamweaver automatically derives the x and y coordinates for the layer. You can reposition the layer by selecting and dragging it on the screen. Layers can be hidden or made visible, this is an added advantage in layers. Layers are viewed differently in different browsers.

DHTML- Dynamic HTML or **DHTML** is a collection of technologies used together to create interactive and animated web sites by using a combination of a static markup language (such as HTML), a client-side scripting language (such as JavaScript),

Layers consisted in a transparent block within which text; images, animations and even other blocks could be inserted.

The advantage is that layers –contrary to tables that did not always allow a precise positioning, because they were not created on that purpose- could be placed to the pixel in the page.

Layers could also overlap each other, completely or in part only, as transparent pages one over the other.

Layer can be moved freely on the page – Tables cannot

Layers are one of the mechanisms Dreamweaver provides for developing visual layouts. The term layer is in reality a chunks of structured content within an HTML page.

Layers are designed to hold any content that may be needed. It can be text, images, navigational component, or even another layer. Layers are tool that allows you to structure your documents and maintain consistent styling.

There are two ways to insert a layer.

Start by placing your cursor on the page where you want the layer to appear.
Insert->layout object->layer menu option.

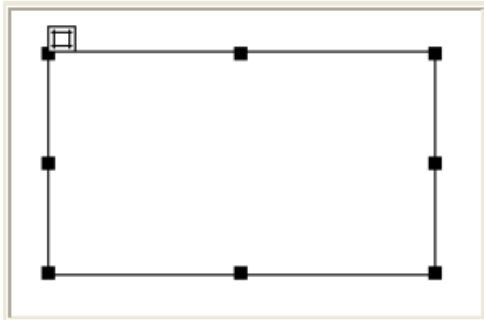
OR to “draw” the layer onto the page:

Change the mode from Common to Layout Standard

Click on “Draw Layer”

Now you can click where the layer should be positioned on the page and drag it to the desired size. To freely resize layer drag one of the layer’s resize handle to a desired width or height.

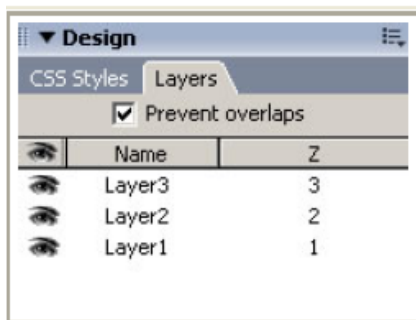
Click on **Insert>Layout Objects>Layers** from the menu bar. The following image is displayed on the screen. This is the layer into which content will be added.



Click inside the frame and add content or insert an image.

Naming a layer

Dreamweaver gives a generic name such as Layer1, Layer2, etc. when layers are created. You can give your own name for easy reference. To do this goto the **Layers** panel, if it is not displayed, goto windows and select layers, the panel will appear towards the right. Double click on the name of the layer and enter the new name.



Add Background color to the layer:

1. Click the layer
2. Click the color box
- 3.

Position and Size a layer:

1. Click the layer name
2. Open the property inspector, The layer properties are displayed
3. Type the distance from the left edge
4. Type the distance from the top
5. Type the width
6. Type the height

7.

Make a Layer Invisible:

1. Open the property inspector
2. click on “vis” select hidden (The layer is invisible but still there, a closed eye icon shows that the layer is hidden)
- 3.

Align layers (To align more than one layer to allow precise alignment)

1. Shift-click all layers to be aligned (All layers are aligned to the layer clicked last)
2. Click Modify (top toolbar)
3. Choose Arrange
4. Click align top (or choose alignment)
- 5.

Change the Stacking order (Dreamweaver assigns a number to each layer called the z-index)

1. Type in property different z-index number

Convert Layers to Tables:

1. Click Modify
2. Select convert
3. Click Layer Table
4. The convert Layers to Table Dialog box opens
5. Select your options
6. Click OK