



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating_Horizontal_Menus

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Creating Horizontal Menus

Horizontal Menus are an excellent way to create a menu of categories or Pages, highlighting specific areas of interest within your website. Many web designers place a horizontal menu under the header, where they draw the eye.

Horizontal menus are created with the HTML List feature. Yes, while they are horizontal instead of vertical, like typical lists, they are still a list. CSS presentation styles allow us to set the list to run on one line instead of a separate line for each list item.

Since horizontal menus are simply lists in a horizontal line, let's start the process with a list.

Creating a Horizontal Menu

Below is the simple list for our horizontal menu. We recommend you keep your list small as too many will stretch wide across the screen and may cause some layout problems. We've enclosed the list in a division called `navmenu`.

```
<div id="navmenu">
<ul>
    <li><a href="<?php echo get_settings('home'); ?>">HOME</a></li>
    <li><a href="wordpress/recipes/">RECIPES</a></li>
    <li><a href="wordpress/travel/">TRAVEL</a></li>
    <li><a href="http://www.wordpress.org">WORDPRESS</a></li>
</ul>
</div>
```

As you can see, within our list we've included a PHP tag for the "home page" and several categories, as well as a link to WordPress, those helpful folks. The list would look like this, in its simplest form (*as styled by the Codex*):

- HOME
- RECIPES
- TRAVEL
- WORDPRESS

You can also use the [wp_list_cats\(\) template tag](#) to list your categories. If you just want categories 1, 3, 4, and 5 listed and the rest excluded, your list might look like this:

```
<div id="navmenu">
<ul>
    <li><a href="<?php echo get_settings('home'); ?>">HOME</a></li>
    <?php list_cats('FALSE', '',
        '', '', TRUE, FALSE,
        FALSE, TRUE, TRUE,
        FALSE, , '', ,
        '', '', '2,6,7,8,9,10,11,12',
        FALSE); ?>
    <li><a href="http://www.wordpress.org">WORDPRESS</a></li>
</ul>
</div>
```

The place to put your new list might be just under the `header`. In WordPress v1.5, open

the `header.php` file in the [WordPress Theme](#) folder you are using. Paste the code at the bottom of the file after the `header` DIV and then save the file.

In WordPress v1.2, open the `index.php` file and look for the end of the `header` section and place your list code there.

Applying the CSS

By default, a list runs vertically, each item on it's own line. It also includes an image, known as a bullet, before each line. In your stylesheet, we need to add a reference to the `navmenu` and the first step is to remove the bullet and set our margins and padding to zero for the whole list.

```
#navmenu ul {margin: 0; padding: 0;
            list-style-type: none; list-style-image: none; }
```

If you save and upload your stylesheet, then refresh the test page in your web page browser, you would see that your list now has no bullets and no indents, if everything is working right.

Now, we need to add the technique that will set this list into a horizontal line. We need to add a style reference to the list item itself.

```
#navmenu ul {margin: 0; padding: 0;
            list-style-type: none; list-style-image: none; }
#navmenu li {display: inline; }
```

Because these are links, we have to take a moment to clean up the look of the links. There are many things you can do to style this list, but for now, let's add some space to the list of links so they aren't crowded together and remove the default link underline and have the link change colors when the mouse moves over it.

```
#navmenu ul {margin: 0; padding: 0;
            list-style-type: none; list-style-image: none; }
#navmenu li {display: inline; padding: 5px 20px 5px 20px}
#navmenu a {text-decoration:none; color: blue; }
#navmenu a:hover {color: purple; }
```

Okay, we can't resist. Let's take this another step further and give our new horizontal menu list some real jazz. See if you can tell what is being done to change the look.

```
#navmenu ul {margin: 0; padding: 0;
            list-style-type: none; list-style-image: none; }
#navmenu li {display: inline; }
#navmenu ul li a {text-decoration:none; margin: 4px;
                padding: 5px 20px 5px 20px; color: blue;
                background: pink;}
#navmenu ul li a:hover {color: purple;
                background: yellow; }
```

More Information on Horizontal Menus

There are many different ways to style lists. Use your imagination and come up with your own design, alternating colors, or whatever you want. Here are a few resources that will help you get started and learn more about Horizontal and other special effects menus:

- [Dynamic Menu Highlighting](#)

- [Maxdesign's Listamatic](http://css.maxdesign.com.au/listamatic/) (<http://css.maxdesign.com.au/listamatic/>)
- [Maxdesign's Listutorial](http://css.maxdesign.com.au/listutorial/index.htm) (<http://css.maxdesign.com.au/listutorial/index.htm>)
- [2D Web Design - Create Stylish Menus with CSS](http://www.2dwebdesign.com/tips/2-left-nav1.html) (<http://www.2dwebdesign.com/tips/2-left-nav1.html>)
- [Web Page Designer's CSS Rollovers with Single Image](http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd0404footnote.htm) (<http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd0404footnote.htm>)
- [Horizontal Menu Bar Using Style Sheets](http://www.moronicbajebus.com/playground/cssplay/hormenu/) (<http://www.moronicbajebus.com/playground/cssplay/hormenu/>)
- [Juicy Studio CSS Styling a List as a Menu](http://www.juicystudio.com/tutorial/css/menu.asp) (<http://www.juicystudio.com/tutorial/css/menu.asp>)
- [Your HTML Source: CSS Text Formatting](http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/stylesheets/csstext.html) (<http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/stylesheets/csstext.html>)
- [Your HTML Source: CSS Link Formatting](http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/stylesheets/csslinks.html) (<http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/stylesheets/csslinks.html>)
- [CSS-2 Pure CSS Menus with No Javascript](http://www.howtocreate.co.uk/tutorials/testMenu.html) (<http://www.howtocreate.co.uk/tutorials/testMenu.html>)
- [Camera On the Road's CSS Fun with Lists](http://www.cameraontheroad.com/learn/web/cssfun1.html) (<http://www.cameraontheroad.com/learn/web/cssfun1.html>)
- [CSS Experiments with Lists and Menus](#)