Saving Your Work

Because frames pages are made up of multiple documents, saving them is a multi-step process. If you just press Ctrl+S (Command+ S), you might not be quite sure of which page you're saving, because Dreamweaver's Save dialog box doesn't offer any distinguishing marks. You need to save each frame separately because they are distinct documents.

You can skip these steps for any previously completed pages you attached to the frameset, as described in *Setting Content Pages*, earlier in this chapter.

To save each frame:

1. Select the frame you want to save by clicking in it in the Document window.

2. From the Document window menu bar, select File > Save, or press Ctrl+S (Command+S). The Save As dialog box will appear (**Figures 13.46** and **13.47**).

3. Type a meaningful filename in the File Name text box. You'll want to be able to distinguish one frame file from another when dealing with these documents later, so choose a name such as left.html or main_body.html rather than frame1.html.

4. Make sure that the Save In list box displays the folder you want to save the files in; otherwise, browse through the folders on your computer and select one.

5. Click on Save to close the Save As dialog box and return to the Document window.

6. Repeat these steps for each frame.

✔ Tip

■ If you create work within a frame in the Document window, you can save your work, and Dreamweaver will automatically set the URL for that page as the default page for that frame.

Figure 13.46 This Save As dialog box is no different from any other one in Dreamweaver. Some other Web page programs, such as Microsoft FrontPage, have distinct Save As dialog boxes for the different parts of a frameset.
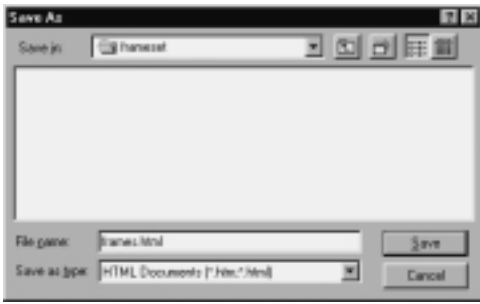

Figure 13.47 The Save As dialog box on the Mac.

Saving All Your Work at Once

After you've saved all the pages in your frameset once, you can periodically save all of them at the same time.

From the Document window menu bar, select File > Save All Frames. Changes to any frames currently open in any Dreamweaver window will be saved. A Save As dialog box will appear for any previously unsaved documents that you have open in Dreamweaver.

Figure 13.48 The URL for this page will end up being something like `http://www.yoursite.com/frameset/frames.html`. If you want your frameset to appear as the default page in a directory, name the frameset document `index.html`, or whatever your house convention is for a default page.

Titling the Frameset Page

Because the frameset page is the one whose URL you'll point to, and because it's the page in charge, you need to give it a title:

1. Select the frameset by clicking on the outermost frame border in the Document window or in the Frames panel. You can double-check that you've selected the frameset instead of a frame, because the filename (or "Untitled Frameset") will appear in the Document window title bar.

2. Type the title in the toolbar's Title text box, and press Enter (Return).

You can also set the page title for the frameset page

You'll see the title in the title bar when you preview the page in the browser window.

Saving the Frameset Page

The frameset page, which contains all the behind-the-scenes data that makes the page function as a frames page, needs to be saved separately as well.

To save the frameset page:

1. With your frames page visible in the Document window, choose File > Save Frameset from the Document window menu bar. The Save As dialog box will appear.

2. Type a meaningful filename in the File Name text box. This filename will be part of the URL, or pathname, for the entire frames-based page (**Figure 13.48**).

3. Make sure that the Save In list box displays the folder you want to save the files in; otherwise, browse through the folders on your computer until you find the one you want.

4. Click on Save to close the Save As dialog box and return to the Document window.

✔ **Tips**

■ It's helpful to save all the files in a frameset in the same folder in order to keep those files separate from the rest of the HTML files on your computer. That way, not only will you be able to locate the files easily and distinguish them from your other projects, you'll have them tidily in their own folder when you get ready to upload them all to the Web.

■ Of course, if you also place frameset files in their own directory on your Web site, you should use document-relative filenames, which work in all browsers.

■ When you post your site on the Web or open it in the browser window, it's the frameset document that you will be using as the URL.

Frame Page Options

There are several options you can set for the frames in your page, including options for scrollbars and borders, whether the frames can be resized, and margin settings for each frame.

Using scrollbar settings

You can set scrollbar options for each frame on a page. **Figure 13.49** demonstrates the options.
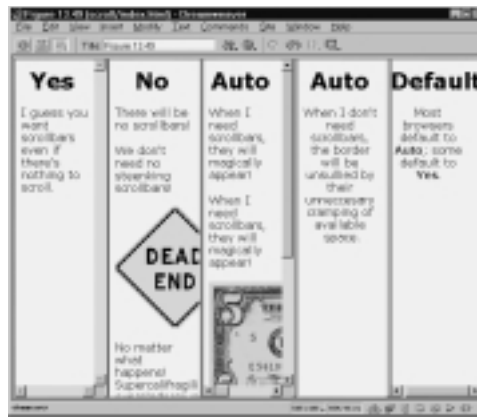
To set scrollbar options:

1. Select the frame whose scrollbar settings you want to change.

2. In the Property inspector, choose a scrollbar option from the Scroll drop-down menu (**Figure 13.50**):
   - ◆ Yes (the frame will always have scrollbars, whether they're needed or not)
   - ◆ No (the frame will never have scrollbars, whether they're needed or not)
   - ◆ Auto (the frame will display scrollbars when they are needed)
   - ◆ Default (uses browser default settings, which are usually Auto)

Note that these scrollbar settings affect both horizontal and vertical scrollbars. The Yes and No settings should be used with discretion.
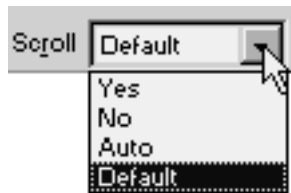
Generally, when a frames page is loaded into a browser window, the user can resize the frames to personal taste or viewing convenience. If you want some or all of the frames in your page not to be resized, you can set the No Resize option.

To use the No Resize option:

1. Select the frame whose size you want to control. The Property inspector will display settings for that frame.
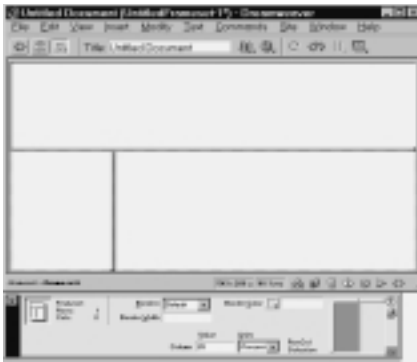
2. Place a check mark in the No Resize checkbox.

Figure 13.49 Scrollbar options demonstrated here are, from left to right, Yes, No, Auto (with scrollbars), Auto (without scrollbars), and Default. Obviously, Auto makes the most sense most of the time.

Figure 13.50 Choose one of the scrollbar options from the drop-down menu on the Property inspector.

✔ Tip

- ■ Obviously, all frames adjacent to frames with the No Resize option selected will not be able to be resized on that border. In **Figure 13.41**, it sure would be nice to be able to resize some of those frames.

Figure 13.51 Here's the same page we saw in **Figure 13.41,** with a normal, default frame border. To change back to this setting after a departure, use a frame border of 5.

Figure 13.52 Here's the page with a border width of zero. You can also turn off the borders by selecting No from the Borders drop-down menu with an entire frameset selected.

Figure 13.53 Same thing, with a rather thick border of 10. Play around with it; the most interesting effects are between 0 and 10. You can experiment with using different widths for nested framesets or different settings for frames within different framesets.

Using frame borders

You can turn off borders for the frames on a page, and you can set the width of all the borders on a page. You can set these options for a frameset or a single frame.

Figures 13.52 and **13.53** show the same page, with frame borders turned off in **Figure 13.52**, and a border width of 10 in **Figure 13.53**.

To turn borders off or on and set widths:

1. Select the frameset or the single frame to which you want to apply border settings. The Property inspector will display options for the frameset or the frame.

2. From the Property inspector's Borders drop-down menu, choose one of the following options:
   - ◆ Yes (displays all frame borders)
   - ◆ No (hides all frame borders)
   - ◆ Default (uses browser default settings, usually displaying borders)

3. To change the border width, select the entire frameset and type a number, in pixels, in the Property inspector's Border Width text box.

✔ Tips

- If adjacent frames have different border settings, No often overrides Yes.

- The default border width is 5.

- You can display or hide borders while you're working in Dreamweaver, regardless of what your final browser settings are. Just select View > Visual Aids > Frame Borders to toggle the borders on and off.

- Border width affects the spacing between the frames on a page whether or not the borders themselves are displayed. In other words, you can set a frame border of 10 and also turn off borders.

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Using frame border colors

If you don't turn off frame borders or set their width to zero, you can set a border color.

To choose a border color:

1. Select the frameset, and the frameset properties will appear in the Property inspector.

2. Choose a border color by:

 Typing or pasting a hex code in the Border Color text box.

 or

 Clicking on the Border Color button to display the Colors panel, and then clicking on a color in the Colors panel.
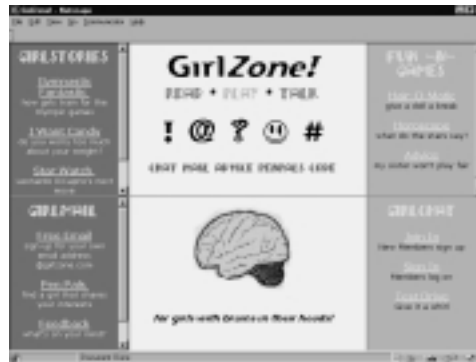
 or

 Displaying the Colors panel, clicking on the Color Wheel button ▣, and using the Colors dialog box to select a specific color (see Chapter 3).
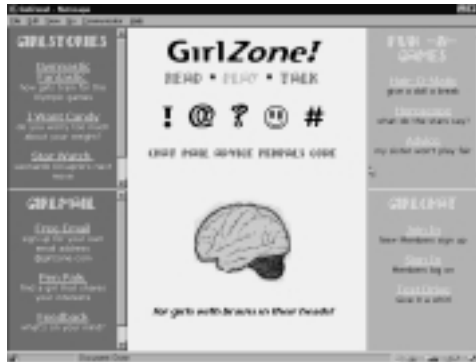
The color you selected will be displayed on the frame borders (**Figure 13.54**); the appearance will differ depending on border width.

✔ Tips

- You can set border colors for individual frames, which will override any border color settings you made for the entire frameset, although your mileage may vary (**Figure 13.55**).

- Border colors will not display if the borders are turned off or set to 0 width.

Figure 13.54 This frameset has colored borders and a border width of 3.

Figure 13.55 I changed the border color setting only for the top-left frame, and all the borders were affected except the border between the middle and right frames.

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Figure 13.56 I turned on the grid in this view (View > Grid > Show) so that you could see the difference that margin settings make. Each of these four frames has different margin settings. Experiment with different settings for pages that use images or different sizes of text.

Setting Margins

Before Dynamic HTML, the only way to set page margins was by using frames. You can set two border values for each frame in a set: Margin Width (left and right margins) and Margin Height (top and bottom margins).

To set margins:

1. In the Frames panel, select the frame for which you'd like to set margins.

2. In the Property inspector, type a number (in pixels) in the Margin Width and/or Margin Height text boxes.

3. Press Enter (Return), or click on the Apply button to see your changes take effect.

Figure 13.56 demonstrates the effect that margins can have. In Dreamweaver, the upper-left corner of the grid, also called the zero point, actually moves in relation to the upper-left corner of the frame. This is a more accurate and useful depiction of the placement of the content of a frame than in earlier editions of the program. For more about the grid, see Chapter 1. See Chapter 11 to use style sheets to set other kinds of margins.

SETTING MARGINS