

What does CSS do?

CSS or cascading style sheet tells the browser how to style all of the different elements on the page.

What's the # and "." All about?

describes single ID elements, "." Describes classes of a style for giving multiple objects the same style. It doesn't really matter, but it helps explain the reason why some CSS styles start with different characters!

Elements you can style on your blog:

First, download the blog CSS to see what all of the defaults are set to:

<http://www.labspaces.net/blogger.css>

If you want to style other elements, download the style sheet for the entire site:

<http://www.labspaces.net/labspaces.css>

You can style any element on the page. The site is now setup to check the database to see if you've added custom styles to your blog. If so it loads them in the "head" section of the page before all of the stylizable elements which means any changes you make to the blog styles will take precedence because they are loaded last (Last supersedes first, bottom supercedes top – styles are loaded linearly!) Also, don't forget that styles from the main style sheet will still be loaded! You are only APPENDING the original styles. Keep this in mind. For example, say I have a style set to give a box a border.

```
.style{  
border: 1px solid #000; (black 1 pixel border)  
}
```

If you don't want the border, you'll have to turn it off:

```
.style{  
border: none;  
}
```

Most common elements to style:

---General Link Styles---

a – controls the font size/style of hyperlinks

a:hover – controls the hover state of hyperlinks

a:visited – controls the visited state of hyperlinks

---Blog Body Styles---

#blog_body – This is the background container of your blog. Add a background image, change the color, etc.

Ex say you want the background to be an image and have a backup color of black –

```
#blog_body {  
background: url(http://www.labspace.net/path/to/image.jpg) ;  
background-color: #000;  
}
```

If your image is a tile that you'd like repeated

```
#blog_body {  
background: url(http://www.labspace.net/path/to/image.jpg) repeat-x (or -y depending on the tile)  
top left ;  
background-color: #000;  
}
```

---Blog Banner Style---

#blog_banner – sets the location of your banner

---Blog Profile Styles---

#blog_left – Sets up the container for your blog profile strip. This is confusing because it's currently on the right ;) But you can switch which side your profile is on in the CSS using this:

```
#blog_left{  
float: left;  
}
```

---Blog Profile Styles continued---

#blog_profile – holds your headshot image

.blog_profile_description – styles your profile text

.h3 – Heading 3 style, controls all of the headings on the blog page, currently set to large text left justified with an underline

p.bprofile – Styles the text in .blog_profile_description (specialized paragraph class that only applies to p elements with the class set to bprofile)

.other_blogs – styles the other blogs section

--Tweet Styles---

#tweet – controls the twitter box

.status – controls text of the twitter update information

.time – controls location and size of the update time

---Blog Article Output Styles---

.blog_right – controls the style of all of the content to the left of the blog profile strip

.blog_article – container that holds all of the article information

.blog_title – controls the font size of the blog title

.article_pics – container that controls where the pictures are located (currently set to right with text centered)

.article – a span class that controls the color, font size and line height of the blog article text

.blog_share – Controls the share box style

.blog_rss – controls the RSS links box at the bottom of each blog

---Page Navigation Styles (used for advancing comments pages and blog list pages)---

.page_nav – controls the page navigation location and styling

a.page_nav_link , a.page_nav_link:hover – controls link styles for page navigation (ie page 1,2,3)

---Blog Comment Styles---

#blog_comments – holds the blog comment section

.blog_clear, .blog_blue – containers for the blog comments with alternating color background

.blog_comment_profile – Centers user image, name, etc

.blog_comment_header – styles the header information, delete/edit buttons, post time

.blog_comment_content – styles the content text section

---Blog list Styles---

.blog_wrapper – holds each item of the blog post list

.blog_preview_contain – holds the top half of the blog list item (Image, title, summary)

.news_image – sets the parameters for displaying the image

.summary – holds the title and summary text

a.news, a.news:hover – controls the color and size of the title link for each blog item

p.newsSummary – controls the text style of each item summary

.blog_bottom – styles the bottom information of each item (Source text, comment text, views)

Advanced Styling

If you would like to style other elements on the site like the user navigation, friends section, or ad locations, you can do this BUT I'm not going to go into detail on those element styles here. If you need help styling these things, feel free to ask. If you feel overwhelmed with page styling, send me a link to what you would like your page to look like and I'll style it for you when I get some free time! I do encourage you to play with it yourself though, because it's fun to learn this stuff 😊