Bagpuss

Using RGBA Colour

The Bagpuss Way

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Drew McLellan, edgeofmyseat.com

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There are lots of different ways to specify colours in CSS

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fuchsia
#FF00FF
#F0F
rgb(255, 0, 255)
rgb(100%, 0, 100%)

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However you write it, they're identical colours.

(it's all the same biscuit)

They all have one other important aspect in common.

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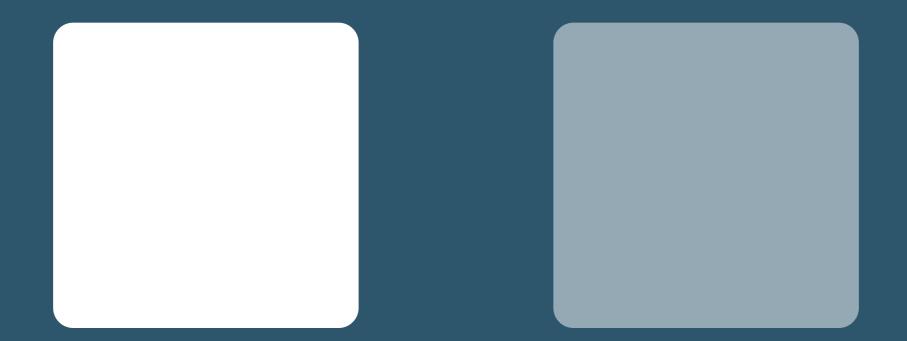These all specify solid colours.

CSS3 introduces

rgba()

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Red
Green
Blue
Alpha (opacity)

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rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)

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rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)

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But that's what CSS3 opacity does isn't it?

filter:alpha(opacity=50);
-moz-opacity: 0.5;
opacity: 0.5;

Opacity affects the entire object

Hello world

Hello world

RGBA is about the opacity of a colour

Hello world

Hello world

Hello world

Pink stripes 100% opacity

Entire Bagpuss 50% opacity

Pink stripes 50% opacity, as nature intended

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Closer to a tiled, flat colour semi-transparent PNG, without the image.

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... but also works for text, borders, foregrounds, backgrounds, playgrounds.

(maybe not playgrounds)

How?

rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)

Browser support is ok,
but not great.

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Firefox 3
Safari 3
Opera 10

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So how can we use this today without ending up with a nasty old mess in rubbish old browsers that don't support all this lovely RGBA stuff?

24 WAYS

to impress your friends

DAY

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12/2008

Recession Tips For Web Designers

Jeffrey Zeldman rounds of our 2008 season with some hard-earned advice for web designers and developers to take into 2009. As the economic climate gets tougher and budgets get cut, our skills need to extend to staying in work, not just completing work won.

Impress your friends with **your recession resilience**

23
12/2008

Contract Killer

Andy Clarke rides into town to remind us of the importance of having a proper contract in place between those providing a service (usually us) and our clients commissioning the work. Projects that don't run to plan are a fact of life, so make sure you're prepared.

Impress your friends with **your killer contracts**

About 24 ways

24 ways is the advent calendar for web geeks. Each day throughout December we publish a daily dose of web design and development goodness to bring you all a little Christmas cheer.

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Fall back to solid colour

background: rgb(187, 192, 187);
background: rgba(120, 130, 120, 0.5);

Fall back to alpha PNG

```
background: transparent
url(green50.png);
background: rgba(120, 130, 120, 0.5) none;
```

Tell me more!

http://allinthehead.com/code/rgba/
http://dorward.me.uk/www/css/alpha-colour/

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allinthehead.com/presentations

Thank you.
twitter.com/drewm