

perpendicular angel design

organizing and simplifying, one illumination at a time

AN EVENT APART DC 2018: GRADUATING TO GRID BY RACHEL ANDREW

Rachel Andrew is the one I go to when I need to learn about Grid. If she doesn't have resources that cover the question, no matter what the question is, chances are resources don't exist.

(pdf backup)



Anne Gibson

@perpendicularme

It's time for us to hear from [@rachelandrew](#) on Graduating to Grid.

In March 2017, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and Opera all shipped Grid. Edge caught up in October [#AEADC](#)

2:02 PM - Jul 30, 2018

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Anne Gibson

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Suddenly everyone was talking about grid.

Grid is

- Exciting: real game changer
- Confusing: doesn't seem to do what folks thought
- Scary: so many new properties to learn

How do you feel?

Excited but worried about falling behind, tired, worried of inconsistencies#AEADC

2:05 PM - Jul 30, 2018

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Anne Gibson

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“Is this the right thing to do?” @rachelandrew can't rubber stamp your work any more than anyone else without the context can So she's going to help us develop the skills to make the decisions ourselves.

This talk is about building confidence, becoming amazing at CSS#AEADC

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Rachel Andrew

@rachelandrew

If Grid is new to you I have lots of examples and a video tutorial at Grid by Example gridbyexample.com #aeadc

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114 25 people are talking about this



Anne Gibson

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Understanding CSS isn't about learning every property and value by heart. "My main skill is 'can use a search engine'" — amen sister.

But without understanding the core ideas, weird things happen and we can't understand why#AEADC

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Anne Gibson

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Cascading style sheets *cascade*.

Inheritance - which properties will inherit values from their parent

Specificity - which rule wins when two things could both apply to an element

Learn these.

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Anne Gibson

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developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Lea... is a great source for those first topics #AEADC

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Cascade and inheritance

In this article we will define what the CSS cascade is, what specificity is, what importance is, and how properties inherit from different rules.

developer.mozilla.org

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Anne Gibson

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Block and inline dimensions depend on the language. In grid layout block axis is the direction the paragraphs go and inline dimension is the opposite.

In Flex: the main axis is what you set, and the cross axis is the opposite.

CSS cares about writing mode #AEADC

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No one understands how big anything is anymore. Sizing matters. We're moving from a world where we do the sizing to one where the browser does the work for us.

Float-based grid-systems mean a row-wrapper and we give everything a percentage.

Lots of math![#AEADC](#)

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Percentages are pretty ugly but they're easy to understand and they resolve to a length. Can be calculated using a straightforward calculation. We know what will happen if they total >100%

Grid is supposed to take away the pain of calculation, but can be confusing[#AEADC](#)

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“You can do all this grid stuff in flexbox” - sure, by using the float method on flexbox. An improvement over floats, and proper alignment, but still faking appearance of a grid by lining things up and pushing them around [#AEADC](#)

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With grid layout we have a grid into which we can put things. Instead of faking it, it's already there.

CSS Intrinsic and Extrinsic Sizing: drafts.csswg.org/css-sizing-3/#AEADC

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Intrinsic is the size the content would have things be if there were no external influences

Extrinsic is that the size is defined by a parent. The container could define the size. Or we could define the size. [#AEADC](#)

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If the content of the box sets the size intrinsically for max content, it's exactly the size of the string. Or we can use min-content which means soft wrap everything possible and use that to set the size.

[#AEADC](#)

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You can still overflow things. If you max-content a box and then put that box in a fixed-width (smaller) box, you're going to overflow. Generally we don't want that. But the browsers won't do this unless we cause it, they size things smartly in general [#AEADC](#)

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I'm not going to try to show [@rachelandrew](#)'s examples in twitter because I am not a masochist. If you'd like to see the examples please go to your local [@aneventapart](#) :) [#AEADC](#)

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If flex can't fit everything as max-content, it'll take space away from everything in a percentage-type manner. Flex-grow and flex-shrink help with that (flex-basis of 0 is "nothing has any size, give it all out equally") [#AEADC](#)

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Grid layout is very similar except it starts with min-size content and then adds to them, instead of starting with max-size and taking space away. #AEADC

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Rachel Andrew

@rachelandrew

How big is that box? Understanding sizing in CSS Layout #aeadc smashingmagazine.com/2018/01/unders...

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	<p>How Big Is That Box? Understanding Sizing In ...</p> <p>When starting to use Flexbox and Grid, it can be frustrating to find that we sometimes don't get the layout we expect. Often this is due to the way sizing smashingmagazine.com</p>
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Fit-content: sizing keyword - allows you to pass a value like 15ch. This allows to wrap at a set character value. #AEADC

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Instead of worrying about fitting everything into a grid, we can make things fit what we want them to fit, and not force a grid on it. Fit-content gives you the ability to define the max, so smaller images still look good, and bigger images size down [#aeadc](#)

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@rachelandrew

Breaking out with CSS Grid explained [#aeadc](#)
rachelandrew.co.uk/archives/2017/...

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Breaking out with CSS Grid explained

I spotted a nice technique to break an item out of a container. In this post I attempt to explain why that works.

rachelandrew.co.uk

47 17 people are talking about this

**Anne Gibson**

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Grid layout isn't exciting in and of itself, but it will let you do exciting things with layout. It's the CSS equivalent of eating your vegetables and getting enough sleep.

Put your time into understanding sizing. It will help you understand everything to come. [#AEADC](#)

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“Grid is really complicated! Why is it being made so difficult?!”
People want fully-featured and really easy. Difficult to match both of those things. CSS specs - you don’t need to use everything to be able to use the spec.

It really comes down everything is lines. [#AEADC](#)

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5 column tracks and 6 row tracks means 6 column lines and 5 row lines (because there’s lines on both ends). We can define space based on the lines. Or we can name the lines and place items by line name. “Content-start” and “content end” make things easier to read. [#AEADC](#)

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A content area could be named “content” and we can use either set of names (content-start/content-end, or “content”) to define where it is. This also allows for a lot of shorthand, like setting a “grid-area: content;”

We can also use an ascii-art layout [#AEADC](#)

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If things go weird, go back to see what *line* the grid thinks is happening.

You can just use numbered lines. Anything else is a choice that you have.

If you're starting a new project, go look at what the best method is now available. [#AEADC](#)

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How old is the oldest CSS in your project? 8% of folks Rachel surveyed had css in their codebase written 10 years or more ago. Old CSS in the code base doesn't mean you can't use new CSS. A new component for example [#AEADC](#)

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This is where understanding CSS comes in really useful. If you understand sizing, you can use it to ensure that your new CSS still aligns with your old grid [#AEADC](#)

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Rachel is showing using Bootstrap 3 to show a grid component popped into a Bootstrap layout [#AEADC](#)

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If you can start a new thing or creating a system with a new layout, work out which layout methods work best. Other layout methods still exist. If you need a float, with its wrapping behavior, use a float. (If you need a data table, use a data table.) [#AEADC](#)

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Use multi-column layout for where you have a load of checkboxes and collapse that down, or similar use cases. The basics work really well. Flexbox is great for spacing a bunch of things equally. You don't need a grid-shaped hammer for every layout task [#AEADC](#)

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Off-the-shelf frameworks are designed to solve *generic* problems. We end up absorbing solutions for problems we don't have. You can start to build your own framework with your own layout utilities [#AEADC](#)

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Solving your specific problems only will result in lighter easier to understand code.

Once nice thing about grid is you do most of the work on the container and don't have to put things on the content [#AEADC](#)

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Then there's working with less-capable browsers. All the way back with YUI in 2006ish we were grading browsers on support. A lot of conversations about browser support go back to a lack of understanding on one side and a lack of confidence on another [#AEADC](#)

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Progressive enhancement is possible, but it can be very difficult to explain that websites don't need to look the same in all browsers. Yahoo was saying "this old browser is C-grade, it's not important anymore". Compelling data [#AEADC](#)

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Becoming confident in CSS skills will help you to make your case to use newer methods. (Although quite often asking permission is optional.) Come up with a solution, demonstrate it works, and show it supports the business needs. that's the goal [#AEADC](#)

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IE 10 and 11 have the -ms for support of some features. Other browsers generally are supported last 2 versions.

Grid version 2 is already in progress in the CSS Working Group. It includes subgrids [#AEADC](#)

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Browser market share in India, UC Browser comes in 2nd to Chrome. Most browsers that don't support grid are Mobile, data is expensive, and devices are less-powerful [#AEADC](#)

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People are searching for grid polyfills. Stop. They will make the experience *worse* for less capable browsers and devices. Progressive enhancement works better.

“The time it takes your customer to get the information she came for” - [@zeldman](#)

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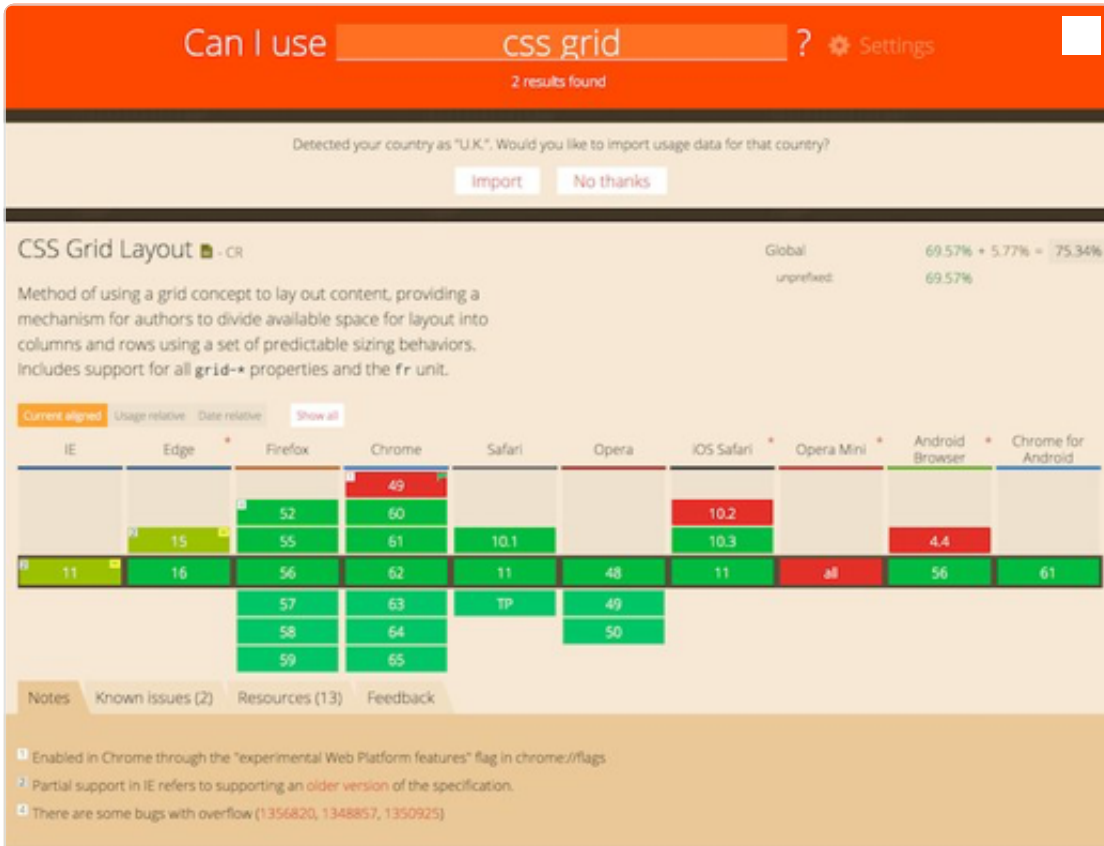
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Using Grid rather than a framework can help create a better experience even for browsers that don't use grid because everything's smaller.

Feature queries - use CSS to ask if a browser supports a feature before using it [#AEADC](#)

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Rachel Andrew
@rachelandrew

CSS Grid: Supporting Browsers Without Grid #aeadc
smashingmagazine.com/2017/11/css-gr...

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There will always be the unknown browser that they can't/won't update for whatever version. Old android devices, old browser in-house at big companies, etc. #AEADC

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Adding support for Grid is just a few lines of CSS, the fallbacks don't cause significant problems for other browsers. Start with simpler experiences for limited browsers, then add the Grid layout for the browsers that have support. [#AEADC](#)

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Making the web available to *everyone* has to be key. That's exciting. There's enough people making cool stuff for rich people. Let's give people with access in short bursts a good experience.

[#AEADC](#)

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Rachel Andrew

@rachelandrew

For @abookapart I wrote The New CSS Layout #aeadc
abookapart.com/products/the-n...

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My weekly newsletter on all things CSS Layout is at csslayout.news
#aeadc

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