

Xway

Menu Tutorial

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Creating a menu

Xway can be used to create navigation menus that are replaced by hamburger menus on devices with small screens. A hamburger menu is a drop-down menu that appears when the user clicks or taps on a hamburger icon (so-called because it normally contains three horizontal bars that resemble a hamburger).

This is the second in a series of Xway tutorials, following the *Xway Tutorial*, which provides a general introduction to Xway.

This chapter provides a step-by-step tutorial for creating a navigation menu. The next chapter contains instructions for adding this menu to the *Ambient* and *Ambient Light* documents that are created by the *Xway Tutorial*.

*Note: This tutorial has been updated for Xway 1.1. If you are using an earlier version of Xway, please update to the latest version. Click on **About Xway** (in the *Xway* menu) if you are not sure which version of Xway you are using.*

Preliminaries

Start by creating a new document. This initially contains a single site page (Page 1) and a single master page (Master 1).

Click in the Title field in the Page section of the Page Inspector, and set the page title to **Home**, then press **Return**. Add another page by choosing **Page** from the Insert menu, and type **News** in the Page Title field. Then add three more pages, titled **About**, **Gallery**, and **Contact**.

Adding a menu

The next step is to add a menu at the top of the master page. We could add it separately on each of the site pages, but it's much less work if we add it on a master page.

Go to the master page (click on it in the Site panel) and add a menu by choosing **Menu** from the Insert menu. This adds a menu containing four menu items. We have five site pages that we want to link to, so add a further item by

selecting one of the existing items and duplicating it (choose **Duplicate Selection** from the **Edit** menu).

Editing menu items

We now have a menu box with five menu items, and we want to change the text in each menu item so that it identifies the pages that we will link to.

Double-click on the first menu item to edit it (or select it and press **Command-Return**). Change the text to **Home**, the title of the first site page. Then use the **Tab** key to switch to the second menu item and type **News**. Continue in the same way until you have five menu items named **Home**, **News**, **About**, **Gallery**, and **Contact**.

Adding links

The next step is to add some links.

Select the first menu item by clicking on it (it doesn't matter if there is a text selection or not) and choose **Link** from the **Format** menu. Select **Home** from the **Page** popup and **OK** the dialog. Then **tab** to the next item and link it to the **News** page. Continue until you have linked all the items.

Adding content

Before we test the menu, it would be helpful to have some distinct content on each page, so we can see that the links work correctly. We also want to add additional content so that we can see how the menu behaves when a page is scrolled.

Add a box to the master page, just below the menu: select the menu box (the parent box that contains the individual menu items), then choose **Box** from the **Insert** menu or toolbar. When you have inserted the box, change its type to **Main**, using the **Type** popup in the **General (Box)** section of the **Box Inspector**. Setting the type to **Main** indicates that this box contains the main content of a page. It also causes the box to be renamed **main**.

Now type “Heading” inside the box. When you have done this, type **Return** to create a new paragraph and add some text, such as the following placeholder (Lorem Ipsum) text (snippet 1):

Nulla facilisi. Duis aliquet egestas purus.

Pellentesque eu est a nulla placerat dignissim. Morbi a enim in magna semper bibendum. Etiam scelerisque, nunc ac egestas consequat, odio nibh euismod nulla, eget auctor orci nibh vel nisi. Aliquam erat volutpat. Mauris vel neque sit amet nunc gravida congue sed sit amet purus. Quisque lacus quam, egestas ac tincidunt a, lacinia vel velit. Aenean facilisis nulla.

Maecenas nec urna et dolor dictum consequat. Phasellus eu iaculis sapien. Ut in lobortis eros, ut dignissim massa. Quisque non auctor urna, eget hendrerit nulla. Praesent libero leo, iaculis eu cursus at, molestie vitae urna.

To import this text, choose **Text** from the **Insert** menu, and import snippet 1 from the **Text** folder that accompanies this tutorial. Import (or copy/paste) it a number of times, so that the page will scroll within Xway and when viewed in a browser.

Now click inside the first paragraph (“Heading”) and choose **Heading 1** from the **Type** popup in the **Paragraph Inspector**.

When you’ve done this, switch to the **Home** page in the **Site** panel, and change “Heading” (the first paragraph in main) to “Home”. Next, switch to the **News** page and replace “Heading” with “News”. Then do the same on the remaining pages, replacing “Heading” with “About”, “Gallery”, and “Contact”.

Save the document, naming it **Xway Menu**.

Testing the menu

We can now test the menu. Choose **Preview** from the **File** menu so that you can view the site in a browser. You should be able to navigate to the different

pages by clicking on menu links, and the headings on each page should identify which page you are currently on.

If a link doesn't work, go back to the master page and check that it has been set. Then preview again.

Now try shrinking the width of your browser window, and you should find that the menu is replaced by a hamburger menu when the window shrinks below a minimum width. The hamburger menu bar contains a hamburger icon at the top left. If you click on the hamburger icon, it will open a drop-down menu containing links to the other site pages, and the hamburger icon will be replaced by a cross. Clicking on the cross closes the drop-down menu.

This shows how your menu will appear on mobile devices (phones or tablets) with narrow screens. Another way to test responsive layouts, without having to resize your browser window, is to view them in Safari and choose **Enter Responsive Design Mode** from the **Develop** menu. If you don't see this menu in the menu bar, choose **Settings** from the Safari menu, click **Advanced**, and select **Show features for web developers**.

Styling the menu

By default, Xway creates a menu that contains black text on a white background. Let's change this so that the menu contains white text on a black background.

Go back to the master page (click on it in the **Site** panel or choose **Master Page** from the **Go** menu). Option-click on the disclosure arrow next to it in the **Site** panel to open it (if it's not already open), and click on the disclosure arrow next to the **Site** folder in the **Site** panel to close it.

Select the menu box (the parent box that contains the individual menu items) by clicking on it in the **Page** view or in the **Site** panel. If you look at the **Box Inspector** when a menu box is selected, you should see that it contains a **Menu** section with controls that allow you to change the menu's style and settings. Some of these controls are duplicated elsewhere, but they are collected here for convenience.

To get white text on a black background, choose **White** from the **Text Color** popup, then choose **Black** from the **Background Color** popup.

The next control in the **Menu** section is labelled **Hover Text Color**. This allows you to set a color that will be used when the mouse hovers over one of the links. Currently, this is the same as the normal text color, but we can change it so that text changes color when the mouse moves over it.

Change the hover text color to **Red**, and switch to Xway's **Web** view by choosing **Web Preview** from the **View** menu, or by clicking on the **Web Preview** icon in the toolbar. Since we are on a master page—and master pages are not published—Xway will preview the first available site page instead of the master page, and temporarily show this page as the current page in the **Site** panel (the **Home** page icon is darkened). You should see that text in the menu changes to red when the mouse is moved over it. This also happens with the hamburger icon—as you can see if you reduce the width of the **Web** view by dragging the divider between it and the **Inspector** panel.

Let's choose a more subtle change. Go back to the **Page** view. Then click on the **Text Color** popup (currently **White**) and choose **Other** from the bottom of the menu. Create a new color called **Light Gray**. This is a standard CSS color, so Xway will automatically set the **Hex** value. **OK** the dialog. Now choose **White** from the **Hover Text Color** popup.

To make this effect smoother, we can set a transition so that the color changes more gradually when the mouse is moved over it. With the menu box selected, type **0.5s** in the **Hover Transition** field. This creates a half-second transition from light gray to white (and back).

Switch to Xway's **Web** view to see how this looks.

*Note: Don't worry that menu links don't work if you click on them in Xway's **Web** view. This doesn't follow links away from the current page.*

Adjusting the breakpoint

Xway uses 768px as a default breakpoint—the point at which a menu is replaced by a hamburger menu. But we only have five items in our menu, and

we don't need the breakpoint to be as wide as this. Staying in Xway's **Web** view, reduce its width by dragging the divider between it and the **Inspector** panel. You will see that there is plenty of space left in the menu bar when it switches to a hamburger menu. Let's try a smaller breakpoint. Go back to the **Page** view and type **400px** in the **Breakpoint** field, then preview again in Xway's **Web** view. You should find that this works fine. Using a smaller breakpoint (when possible) means that users can navigate your site on tablets and larger phones, without having to go through the extra step of opening a hamburger menu. Conversely, if you have a lot of items in a menu, you may need to use a larger breakpoint. If there isn't room for all the items in a menu when you shrink Xway's **Web** view, choose a larger breakpoint. If there's plenty of room, try using a smaller breakpoint.

Changing the menu's CSS position

You may have noticed that when you open the hamburger menu in Xway's **Web** view (or in a browser) it pushes other content down the page as it opens. Perhaps it would be neater if the menu simply opened in front of the other content.

To fix this, go back to the **Page** view and change the menu's CSS position from **Relative** to **Absolute**, using the **Position** popup in the **Style** section of the **Box Inspector**. **Absolute** items are positioned independently of other items, which makes them unsuitable for general layout—but this is precisely what we want in this case.

There is one drawback, which you may have noticed: the heading which was previously visible at the top of the main box has now disappeared behind the menu. We can fix that by adding some padding at the top of this box: **38px** works in this case (select **main** on the master page and type **38px** in the **Top Padding** field in the **Padding** section of the **Box Inspector**).

Switch to Xway's **Web** view, and shrink its width until the menu is replaced by a hamburger menu. If you open this, you should find that it opens in front of the page content, without affecting it.

Close the hamburger menu in Xway's Web view, and scroll down the page. Notice that the menu scrolls out of view when you do this. If you'd rather it stayed at the top of the window (or screen on mobile devices) this is easily arranged. Go back to the **Page** view, select the menu, and change its position from **Absolute** to **Fixed**, using the **Position** popup in the **Style** section of the **Box Inspector**. Now, instead of being displayed at the top of the page (and scrolling when the page is scrolled) it is fixed to the top of the window, and the page content scrolls behind it. This happens in the **Page** view as well as the **Web** view.

One other tweak that we can make is to change the menu's background color from opaque black to a partially transparent black. Select **Other** from the **Background Color** popup, type 0 (zero) in the **Hex** field, followed by 85% in the **Opacity** field, then tab out of the **Opacity** field and **OK** the dialog. Now, if you switch to the **Web** view and scroll the page, you should see that the page content is faintly visible behind the menu—but only when the full menu bar is shown (hamburger menus are always displayed with an opaque background).

Now preview the site in a browser, and test that everything works correctly. Save your document (call it **Xway Menu**). You can use the menu you've created in the following chapter.

Further options

See the *Xway User Guide* for more information on menus—there is a separate chapter with detailed information—and feel free to experiment with other options. You can change the font that is used, or the size of text within the menu, or the padding that is used within each menu item, or the horizontal space (margin) between menu items. You can set a hover background color, and choose whether to use rounded or square corners for this background. You can change the alignment of menu items within a menu, and you can change the alignment of the hamburger icon within a hamburger menu. You can also choose whether to animate the menu or have it display instantly (if a user has chosen **Reduce Motion** as an accessibility option it will always display instantly for them). If you'd like to keep the **Home** link in the hamburger

menu bar, so it is more easily accessible, you can select the **Keep Home in Menu Bar** checkbox. For other options, see the *Xway User Guide*.

*Note: Mac users can choose **Reduce Motion** from the **Accessibility/Display** section of **System Settings**.*

Ambient menus

This chapter provides steps for adding a navigation menu to the *Ambient* and *Ambient Light* documents that are created by the *Xway Tutorial*. This assumes that you have already worked through the previous chapter (“Creating a menu”).

Adding a menu to the Ambient document

The page titles that we used in the previous chapter are identical with the page titles that are used by the *Ambient* document, so we can copy the menu we created and use it to replace the navigation bar in the *Ambient* document.

Open the *Ambient* document. If you haven’t worked through a recent version of the *Xway Tutorial*, or you didn’t keep a copy of the document you created, download the *Ambient* document from our website (choose Xway Resources from Xway’s Help menu, then click on Tutorials followed by Download the tutorial documents). When you’ve opened it, duplicate the document by choosing Duplicate from the File menu, and name the duplicate document Ambient 2. When you’ve done this, close the original *Ambient* document.

Close the current page of the new document by clicking on the disclosure arrow that is next to it in the Site panel, and switch to the master page (Master 1) by clicking on it in the Site panel. Open this by Option-clicking on the disclosure arrow next to it.

We’re going to replace the navigation box: select it in the Site panel and choose Delete from the Edit menu (or press Backspace).

Now open the document you created in the previous tutorial, and copy the menu from the master page: select menu in the Site panel and choose Copy from the Edit menu (shortcut: ⌘C). Now switch back to the *Ambient 2* document and select the brand box before choosing Paste from the Edit menu (shortcut: ⌘V). This will paste the menu after brand (where the navigation box used to be)—although it won’t actually look like that in the Page view, because we set the menu box to have fixed position. I don’t think this works

too well with the current *Ambient* design, so let's change it back to absolute position: go to the **Box Inspector** and choose **Absolute** (instead of **Fixed**) in the **Position** popup (in the **Style** section of the **Box Inspector**). Next, delete the **Top** offset (currently **0px**) in the **Offsets** section of the **Box Inspector**. Now the menu is where the old navigation box used to be.

You might wonder what just happened. How does deleting the top offset of an item with absolute position cause it to move in this way? The answer (which you can also find in the *Xway User Guide*) is that absolute-positioned items which don't have a vertical offset are vertically positioned according to where they would be in the flow if they had relative (or static) position: in this case, immediately after the brand box.

There is a third position option that is useful with menus. Xway has support for sticky position. This behaves like a combination of **Relative** and **Fixed** position: boxes with sticky position are relatively positioned (like other inflow boxes) until they reach a defined offset, at which point they become fixed to the viewport. Give the menu sticky position by choosing **Sticky** from the **Position** popup in the **Style** section of the **Box Inspector**. Now preview the page in a browser, and shrink the height of the browser window so that you can scroll the page upwards.

What you should find is that changing the menu position to sticky doesn't seem to have made any difference to its scrolling behavior. This is because there is one significant difference between the behavior of fixed-position boxes and that of sticky boxes: fixed boxes remain fixed on screen when their parents scroll out of view, but sticky boxes remain within the bounds of their parents, and will scroll when the far edge of their parent catches up with them. In the case of a sticky-positioned box with a top offset of zero, this will stick to the top of the screen until the bottom edge of its parent (the header box in this case) catches up and pushes it out of view.

The way to fix this is to make the menu (or any other sticky box) be a direct child of the page div (called **page-wrapper** in this case). Select the menu on the master page and cut it from its current position (as a child of **header**), then select the **header** box and paste the menu back after it (so it is a child of **page-**

wrapper). If you preview again, you should find that the menu sticks to the top of the screen when you scroll upwards. (The page div is always visible, unless there is absolute-positioned content outside its bounds.)

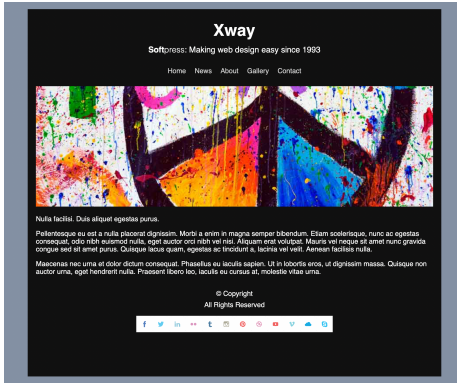
There is a slight difference between the background color of the menu box (Black 85%) and the background color of adjacent content (Charcoal). To fix this, select menu on the master page and choose **Other** from the **Background Color** popup in the **Menu** section of the **Box Inspector**. Enter Charcoal as the name of the new color, then enter 111111 (or just 1) in the **Hex** field, and 85% in the **Opacity** field (this will rename the color to Charcoal 85%).

The one thing that we still need to do is to set up the links, so they go to pages in our current document. Click on the **Home** menu item, go to the **Link Inspector**, and choose **Home** from the **Page** popup. Then press **Tab** to move to the next menu item (**News**), and choose **News** from the **Page** popup in the **Link Inspector**. Set up the links for **About**, **Gallery**, and **Content** in the same way.

Now preview in a browser. You should find that you have a working navigation menu. If you have problems with any of the links, go back and check that you set them up correctly. If you want to see how the site will look and behave on a mobile device, try shrinking the browser window, or use Safari's responsive design mode (see above).

Now save the document. Name it *Ambient 2* if you haven't already done so.

This is what the *Ambient 2* home page looks like in a desktop browser and on a phone:



Adding a menu to the Ambient Light document

Let's take a slightly different approach with the *Ambient Light* document. Instead of changing the menu to have absolute or sticky position, let's adapt the design so that it works with a fixed-position menu.

Open the *Ambient Light* document—download it from our website if you haven't recently created it with the *Xway Tutorial*. Now duplicate it by choosing Duplicate from the File menu, and name the duplicate document Ambient Light 2. Close the original *Ambient Light* document.

If the current page of the new document is not the master page, close it and switch to the master page (Master 1), then open this by Option-clicking on the disclosure arrow next to it in the Site panel.

Now delete the navigation box and replace it with the menu. Select navigation in the Site panel and choose Delete from the Edit menu (or press Backspace). Now open the document you created in the first chapter of this tutorial ("Creating a menu") and copy the menu from the master page: select menu in the Site panel and choose Copy from the Edit menu (shortcut: ⌘C). Switch back to the *Ambient Light 2* document and select the brand box before choosing Paste from the Edit menu (shortcut: ⌘V). This will paste the menu box after brand (where the navigation box used to be)—although it won't actually look like that in the Page view, because we set the menu box to have fixed position.

This time we're going to leave the menu box fixed to the top of the window, and adapt the rest of the page to fit around this. First, let's remove the space above and below the page div (page-wrapper). Go to the Document: Pagediv Margins section of the Document Inspector and remove the top margin (currently 2vh). Next, go to the Document: Pagediv Dimensions section (just above) and change the minimum height from 96vh to 100vh.

Now we need to add some padding at the top of the page, to prevent the menu from overlapping other content (except when it is scrolled): select page-wrapper on the master page (Master 1) and set Top Padding to be 38px (in the Padding section of the Box Inspector).

Perhaps the menu would look better if it didn't extend across the entire width of a page, when this is wider than the page div. We can align the left edge of the menu with the left edge of the page div by removing its left offset: select the menu and delete the left offset (currently 0px) in the Offsets section of the Box Inspector. You might remember from earlier in this tutorial that absolute-position boxes that don't have a vertical offset are positioned vertically according to where they would be in the flow if they had relative (or static) position. That's also true for horizontal offsets: an absolute-position or fixed-position box that doesn't have a horizontal offset is positioned horizontally according to where it would be if it had relative (or static) position.

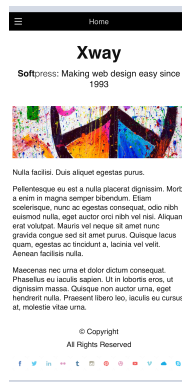
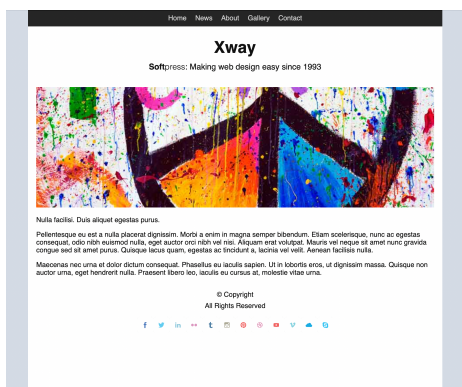
We're not quite there yet, because the menu is offset by padding that is applied to its parent, so we need to remove this. Select header in the Site panel and delete the left and right padding values in the Padding section of the Box Inspector (they're not needed). Now the only thing we need to do is to set a maximum width that is the same width as the page div (page-wrapper): select the menu box again, and give it a maximum width of 960px in the Dimensions section of the Box Inspector.

We still need to set up the links, so they go to pages in the *Ambient Light 2* document. Click on the Home menu item on the master page, go to the Link Inspector, and choose Home from the Page popup. Then press Tab to move to the next menu item (News), and choose News from the Page popup in the Link Inspector. Set up the links for About, Gallery, and Content in the same way.

Now preview in a browser. You should find that you have a working navigation menu. If you have problems with any of the links, go back and check that you set them up correctly. If you want to see how the site will look and behave on a mobile device, try shrinking the browser window, or use Safari's responsive design mode.

Now save the document. Name it **Ambient Light 2** if you haven't already done so.

This is what the *Ambient Light 2* home page looks like in a desktop browser and on a phone:



Further information

Xway tutorials

This is the second in a series of Xway tutorials, following the *Xway Tutorial*, which provides a general introduction to Xway. The next tutorial in this series is the *Xway Flexbox Tutorial*. This introduces Flexbox layout and shows how to use Flexbox in the *Ambient 2* and *Ambient Light 2* documents that are created by this tutorial. All these tutorials, and the documents they create, are available from our website.

There are also short tutorials (tagged “tutorial”) in the Xway discussion forum (see below).

Xway user guide

Xway comes with a detailed reference manual, which you can access by selecting **Xway User Guide** from Xway’s **Help** menu. This contains information on a wide range of topics, including a chapter on menus.

Xway discussion forum

Choose **Support and Community** from Xway’s **Help** menu to visit our Xway discussion forum. This contains Xway-related news and discussions, and is a good place to ask questions and get help from us and from other Xway users.

Xway resources

Choose **Xway Resources** from the **Help** menu to visit the Xway Resources section of our website. This contains links to the latest versions of this tutorial, along with other tutorials and completed tutorial documents. There are also other resources such as templates.