

# PunBB Style Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide a quick cross reference between the styles in the style sheets and what you see on your screen. This guide covers versions 1.0.1 through to 1.1.1. Where items only relate to one version they are indicated. The guide also includes some information regarding layout changes using the template file main.tpl. No information is given regarding making changes which involve anything other than editing the style sheets. An Advanced Style Guide is coming which will deal with advanced styling.

## **PART 1 – GENERAL SETTINGS**

### Using Stylesheets

PunBB comes with several stylesheets all of which are in the /style folder (or directory if you prefer). You can change the default stylesheet for PunBB through Admin-Options. Individual users can change stylesheets through their own profile settings.

If you add a stylesheet of your own then all you have to do is add it to the /style folder and it will automatically be available.

### Screen Background

The background colour of the screen as a whole is set by **BODY**. It's default setting is a background colour of white or black depending upon which style sheet you are using. You can set it to whatever colour you wish. If you want a tiled background image using a file call backgif.gif then you would change it as follows:

```
BODY {background-color: #ffffff; background-image: url("backgif.gif");}
```

You may have to change the url of the image file according to its actual location in your setup..

### Positioning & Size

One fairly common thing users wish to do is to centre the board in the browser and/or adjust its width. In order to do this with CSS and avoid problems in IE5 I recommend the following method. First, open the file main.tpl which is in the include/template directory. Immediately after the body tag insert a <div> tag with an id as follows: <div id="wrapper">. Go to the bottom of main.tpl and immediately before the </body> tag insert a closing </div> tag. What you have done is to wrap your whole board inside a <div>. Now for the stylesheet. Change the style of **BODY** to this

```
BODY { background-color: #FFFFFF; margin: 20px 0px; padding: 0px; text-align: center;}
```

Underneath the BODY selector, add the following:

```
#wrapper {text-align: left; width: 90%; margin: 0px auto; }
```

Your board should now have a width of 90% and be horizontally centred with a 20px margin at the top and bottom. If you wish to make your board fixed width then simply change the percentage width to pixels e.g. width: 750px.

## Board Title & Description

The title of your board, by default “My PunBB Forum” is set through Admin-Options. You can change the name of your board to whatever you want. The board description is also set via Admin-Options.

As of version 1.1 the appearance of the board title is set by the class **.puntitle** in the stylesheet. You can change the size, font and color etc. For example the following sets the board title to be 24px yellow.

```
.puntitle {font-size: 24px; color: yellow;}
```

I am not suggesting this as a colour scheme (ugh!) it is just an illustration.

## **PART 2 – TABLE & BOX ELEMENTS**

PunBB mainly consists of tables and, in some instances, nested tables i.e. an inner table inside a <td> element of an outer table. Altering the background colours of the table elements is probably the most major change you can make to the appearance of PunBB just using the stylesheets.

### Table Borders (Exterior & Interior)

The main tables which make up PunBB all have an exterior border. Some of the elements also have interior borders which give parts of PunBB (and every other forum) a spreadsheet like appearance. The exterior and interior borders are controlled using a well known trick which is to set the table background to a different colour to the <tr> and <td> elements and then set cellpadding=”1”. The result is that the table background bleeds through the gap between the table cells (<td> elements) created by cellpadding. All the tables in PunBB use the class **TABLE.punmain** to set their background colour. To change the colours of the borders you simply have to change the value of background-color: # #606060 to something else. Heres what happens if you change background-color to red.

	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
Test category					
	<b>Test forum</b> This is just a test forum	2	5	Today 21:30:30 by Admin	
	<b>Test forum 2</b> Another test forum	0	0		
Another category					
	<b>New forum</b> Another test forum	0	0		

You cannot change the width of the borders using the stylesheet. The only way to do this is to go through all the php files and replace cellpadding=”1” with something else. You cannot make the interior and exterior borders different colours.

### Whitespace

Between the visible table elements there is whitespace. In some cases the whitespace contains nothing and in others it contains such things as page numbers and “Post New” links. All the whitespaces are actually tables. The class that controls the appearance and size of these tables is **TABLE.punspacer**.

TABLE.punspacer does not have a background color or image set in the stylesheet. This means that by default whitespaces between tables will pick up the background colour or background image set for **BODY**. If you do set a background colour for **TABLE.punspacer** then that setting will override the background colour for **BODY**. Heres an ugly example showing **BODY** with a background colour of red and **TABLE.punspacer** with background-colour: yellow;

<b>PunBB Forum v.1.1.1</b> Style Sheet Guide				
<a href="#">Home</a>   <a href="#">User list</a>   <a href="#">Search</a>   <a href="#">Profile</a>   <a href="#">Admin</a>   <a href="#">Logout</a>				
Logged in as <b>Admin</b> . Last visit: Today 21:59:38				
<b>Announcement</b> Enter your announcement here.				
	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
				Moderators

Changing the settings of **TABLE.punspacer** is particularly useful for changing the space between tables. Heres the same example with height:50px; set for **TABLE.punspacer**

<b>PunBB Forum v.1.1.1</b> Style Sheet Guide				
<a href="#">Home</a>   <a href="#">User list</a>   <a href="#">Search</a>   <a href="#">Profile</a>   <a href="#">Admin</a>   <a href="#">Logout</a>				
Logged in as <b>Admin</b> . Last visit: Today 21:59:38				
<b>Announcement</b> Enter your announcement here.				
	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
				Moderators

Here we hit a problem. The problem is decreasing the height of whitespace between tables from the default. The reason this is a problem is that by default all the whitespace tables have cellpadding="4" and a non-breaking space inserted. This effectively stops height being reduced. This is not a problem where the whitespace table contains links etc but it is a problem where it contains nothing and is being used purely for spacing. I have a suggestion for the next release of PunBB and that is **TABLE.punspacer** should be reserved for totally empty spaces and have cellpadding="0" and no non-breaking space. This would enable the height of empty spaces between tables to be set in the stylesheet right down to zero if required. Whitespace tables which contain links etc could be assigned a class of their own e.g **TABLE.punbetween**.

## Main Page Elements

In order to identify which classes in the stylesheet control which of the main tables and table elements which make up PunBB I have prepared images of the various parts of the board and labelled them. Where there are particular things to watch out they will be mentioned under the image which illustrates the particular feature in question. Now for the tricky bit. The style of certain table elements are actually controlled by two classes, one applying to the <tr> tag (row) and the other applying to the <td> tag (cell). In such cases the class controlling the row is responsible for the background colour and the class controlling the cell is responsible for text alignment. I hope my labelling in self explanatory in this regard.

(Board Header/Announcement)

<b>PunBB Forum v.1.1.1</b> Style Sheet Guide	<b>TR.punhead + TD.punhead</b>
<a href="#">Home</a>   <a href="#">User list</a>   <a href="#">Search</a>   <a href="#">Profile</a>   <a href="#">Admin</a>   <a href="#">Logout</a>	<b>TD.puncon1</b>
Logged in as <b>Admin</b> . Last visit: Today 00:14:45	
<b>Announcement</b>	<b>TR.punhead + TD.punhead</b>
Enter your announcement here.	<b>TD.puncon2</b>

(Table Header Rows)

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
<b>TR.punhead + TD.punheadcent</b>				
Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
<b>TR.punhead + TD.punhead</b>				

All other table header rows are **TR.punhead + TD.punhead**

(Index Page)

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
<b>TD.puncon3</b>				
<b>Test forum</b> This is just a test fo	2	5	Yesterday 21:30:30 by admin	
<b>Test forum 2</b> Another test forum	0	0		
<b>TD.puncon3</b>				
<b>New forum</b> Another test forum	0	0		
<b>TR.puncon1 + TD.puncent</b>				


(View Topics)

TD.puncon1cent		TD.puncon1		TD.puncon1cent	
	Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
	• Testpost [ N	Admin	1	7	Today 11:30:30 by Admin
	• A New Topic	Newbie	3	24	Yesterday 21:30:30 by Admin
TD.puncon2cent					


Also be aware of **TR.puntopic** which sets the line height for rows displaying topics on this page.

(View Posts)

This page is a little more complex as it includes a fair number of nested tables. To make it easier to understand this first illustration shows the outer tables labelled with the names of the classes which are used to set the appearance of the rows that make up the table.

Author	Message	Pages: <u>1</u>
<b>Admin</b> Administrator  Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum.	
Yesterday 17:29:05	E-mail	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote
<b>Newbie</b> New member From: Somewhere Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	<div> Admin wrote:  If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum. </div> Posting with a quote	
Today 23:17:49	E-mail   Website	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote

This next illustration shows the inner (nested) tables outlined in red and given a yellow background. All inner tables used throughout PunBB are given the class **TABLE.punplain**. This class is used simply to keep various elements together and is otherwise unstyled. The other classes attributed to these inner tables are only being used to set text alignment either to top or right.

Author	Message	Pages: <u>1</u>
<b>Admin</b> Administrator  Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum.	
2004-01-30 17:29:05	E-mail	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote
<b>Newbie</b> New member From: Somewhere Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	<div> Admin wrote:  If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum. </div> Posting with a quote	
Yesterday 23:17:49	E-mail   Website	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote

## (Footer & Copyright)

Both the footer and the copyright box used nested tables. Again the first illustration shows the outer table and the classes which are used to set the background colours

This forum has 2 registered users, 2 topics and 6 posts. The newest registered user is <a href="#">Newbie</a> . Currently serving 1 registered user and 0 guests. <a href="#">Admin</a>	<b>TD.puncon1</b>	You <b>can</b> post replies to topics You <b>can</b> post new topics You <b>can</b> edit your posts You <b>can</b> delete your posts You <b>can</b> delete your topics
<a href="#">Show new posts since last visit</a> <a href="#">Show unanswered posts</a> <a href="#">Show your posts</a> <a href="#">Mark all forums as read</a>	<b>TD.puncon2</b>	Powered by <a href="#">PunBB</a> Version: 1.1.1 © Copyright 2002-2004 Rickard Andersson

This illustration shows the classes which are used to set the text alignment within the nested tables.

This forum has 2 registered users, 2 topics and 6 posts. The newest registered user is <a href="#">Newbie</a> . Currently serving 1 registered user and 0 guests. <a href="#">Admin</a>	<b>TD.puntop</b>	You <b>can</b> post replies to topics You <b>can</b> post new topics You <b>can</b> edit your posts You <b>can</b> delete your posts You <b>can</b> delete your topics	<b>TD.puntopright</b>
<a href="#">Show new posts since last visit</a> <a href="#">Show unanswered posts</a> <a href="#">Show your posts</a> <a href="#">Mark all forums as read</a>	<b>TD.puntop</b>	Powered by <a href="#">PunBB</a> Version: 1.1.1 © Copyright 2002-2004 Rickard Andersson	<b>TD.puntopright</b>

## Page Elements Including Forms

(Quick Reply and All Other Tables containing Forms)

Quick post	
Message	<div></div>
<b>TD.puncon1right</b>	
Actions	<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>
	<b>TD.puncon2</b>

I am not going to waste your time with more pictures like this of the Registration, Login and Search pages etc. All pages containing forms are styled the same as the Quick Reply Box. The left hand column is always **TD.puncon1right** and the right hand column is always **TD.puncon2**.

## Search Results Pages

All pages showing search results including Unanswered Posts, New Posts etc are styled exactly the same as the View Topics Page.

(User List)

User list					
<b>TD.puncon2cent</b>		All	ordered by Username	Ascending	Submit

Username	Title	Registered	Posts
<a href="#">Admin</a>	<b>TR.puncon2</b> ator	2004-01-30	3
<a href="#">Newbie</a>	ber	2004-01-30	3

## PART 3 – TEXT ELEMENTS

### Text Size

The initial size of all text elements apart from some text links is set in the stylesheet by **TD**. The default is 10px. This setting can be overridden by setting font-size for individual board elements which contain text. Simply identify which class controls the element containing the text or, if applicable, the class controlling the appearance of the text itself and set font-size to whatever you want.

### Plain Text

By plain text I mean any text that is not a link or part of a form. Identifying which classes control items of text is very simple. You just have to look at the illustrations of the various board elements already provided and identify which classes control the part of the board containing the text you are interested in. The rules are as follows.

1. If a table element is controlled by **TD.punhead** then this class also sets the text colour
2. If a table element is controlled by **TD.punheadcent** then this class also sets the text colour
3. In all other cases text colour is set by **TD**.

What this means is that if you wanted to change the colour of all plain text to green then you would have to change the color attribute for all three classes.

If you want to change the size of plain text for the whole board then you do it by change the font-size through **TD**.

### Text Links

Much of the text in PunBB is links. In the default Oxygen style the links are all coloured blue.


The colour, weight and decoration of most links is set by **A:link, A:visited** in the stylesheet with the change of colour on mouse over being set by **A:hover**. The text size of most links is set by **TD**, that is, it is the same as the default text size for normal text.

There are a few links to which some or all of the above does not apply and it is these that I will deal with these next.

The font-size-size and font-weight of some of the links is set by **.punheadline** and in the Oxygen style is 12px bold. The illustration below show which items are set by **.punheadline**. To make it easier to identify the elements in question I have enlarged them and coloured them red.

(.punheadline)

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
Test category				
<b>Test forum</b> This is just a test forum	2	6	Yesterday 23:17:49 by Newbie	
<b>Test forum 2</b> Another test forum	0	0		
Another category				
<b>New forum</b> Another test forum	0	0		

Author	Message	Pages: <u>1</u>
<b>Admin</b> Administrator  Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum.	
2004-01-30 17:29:05	E-mail	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote
<b>Newbie</b> New member From: Somewhere Registered: 2004-01-30 Posts: 3 IP: 127.0.0.1	<div> <b>Admin wrote:</b>  If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum. </div> Posting with a quote	
Yesterday 23:17:49	E-mail   Website	Report   Delete   Edit   Quote

The name of guest posters is also set by **.punheadline** even though their names are not links.

In versions of PunBB prior to 1.1 **.punheadline** also set the font-size and font-weight of the board title. From version 1.1 then is set by **.puntitle**.

The closed topics link has its own style. In the Oxygen style this is medium grey changing to light grey on mouse over. The colour is set by **A:link.punclosed**. The colour change on mouse over is set by **A:hover.punclosed**.



## Navigation Links & Main Menu

You will have noticed that the board navigation links and the Post New Topic/Reply links are in bold text. This is not set by the style sheet but is set in the HTML segments of the relevant .php file. The same goes for the breadcrumb trail. That means they cannot be altered via the stylesheet.

The colour and size of all navigation and menu links are controlled by classes which control other text elements so there is no easy way to change colour and size in the style sheet without affecting other parts of the board. If you want to change the text size or colour of the main navigation menu there is an easy way to do it using main.tpl. Simply open up the main.tpl file in a text editor. Look for the following lines

```
<td class="puncon1">  
    <pun_navlinks><br><br>  
    <pun_status>  
</td>
```

Now put <pun\_navlinks> inside a span and set a class. The following sets the menu font-size to 12px and makes it red and bold. It also sets the hover colour to yellow.

```
<td class="puncon1">  
    <span id="punnavbar"></span><br><br>  
    <pun_status>  
</td>
```

Now open up the stylesheet and add the following

```
#punnavbar {font-size: 12px; font-weight: bold;}  
#punnavbar a:link, #punnavbar a:visited {  
    font-size: 12px;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    color: red  
}  
#punnavbar a:hover, #punnavbar a:active {color: yellow;}
```

This is what it looks like



If you want to change the menu separator character, a pipe “|” by default, then you will have to edit the file functions.php. Locate the “generate\_navlinks()” function which starts at line 175. Look for all instances of the pipe character and change them for whatever character you prefer. As far as I can tell the relevant lines to alter are 180, 190 and 213.

## Text in Posts

By this I mean the text that actually appears in the posts which is made up of normal text, quoted text, edits and signatures. Here are the rules

1. The colour of all posted text and quoted text is the same as the default for plain text. If you want to change the colour, size or style of posted text then you should do so via the various classes assigned to the different items of posted text set out below.

2. The size of all normal posted text and quoted text is set by **.punctext**. The default size is 11px.
3. The size of the “edited by” text is controlled by **.punedited** which also sets font-style to italic. The default size is 10px. This only applies from PunBB version 1.1. In previous versions of PunBB there was no separate class for the “edited by” text.
4. The size of signature text is controlled by **.punsignature**. The default size is 10px.

As an illustration of the various elements at work, the illustration below shows what happens if you make the following changes

**.punctext** set to 14px red  
**.punedited** set to 12px yellow  
**.punsignature** set to 12px green

<p><b>Newbie</b>          New member</p> <p>From: Somewhere          Registered: 2004-01-30          Posts: 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <p><b>Admin wrote:</b></p> <p>If you are looking at this (which I guess you are), the install of PunBB appears to have worked! Now log in and head over to the administration control panel to configure your forum.</p> </div> <p>Posting with a quote</p> <p>Edited</p> <p><i>Last edited by Newbie (Today 03:49:00)</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>This is a demonstration signature</b></p>
<p>Yesterday 23:17:49</p>	<p> <a href="#">E-mail</a>   <a href="#">Website</a> <span style="float: right;"> <a href="#">Report</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Quote</a> </span> </p>

## PART 4 – FORM ELEMENTS

Form elements on PunBB consist of text entry boxes, submit buttons, checkboxes and selection buttons. There are three styles in the stylesheet which are relevant to form elements.

**INPUT, SELECT** sets the font and text colour of the following

- Text input boxes
- Button text
- Indicators in checkboxes and radio buttons
- Text in dropdown lists

**TEXTAREA** set the font and text colour for the main text boxes where you compose your posts.

**FORM** sets the outside margin for form elements. By setting the margin to anything above zero the form will become narrower than the other elements on the page. This should not be altered as altering it will definitely not improve the look of your board.

## PART 5 – THE GRAPHIC

PunBB has one graphic which is used to indicate new posts. I am not going to give blow by blow instructions how to create this graphic. Rather I would leave you to recreate it in your own way. To assist the illustration shows the graphic blown up to 800% of normal size so you can see how it is constructed. It is a 16x16 pixel .png file with a transparent background. Given the size of the file I would not worry too much about the resolution.



Please be sure to name the graphic according to the name of your new style otherwise PunBB will not be able to find it. For example, if your stylesheet is called `Mystyle.css` then the graphic should be called `Mystyle_new.png`. The image file must be placed in the folder `/punbb/img`.

For those of you who are artistically inclined, you can substitute any graphic you like so long as it is approximately the same size and is named correctly.

## CONCLUSION

I hope that anybody reading this now understands how the style sheet controls the appearance of their board. I appreciate that many people may want to go further in styling their board. With PunBB this involves making changes to the HTML in the various php files that make up the board and/or changes to `main.tpl`. Advanced styling will be dealt with in the PunBB Advanced Style Guide which will be coming soon. Hopefully other people will contribute their own ideas to that just in case I run out of inspiration.