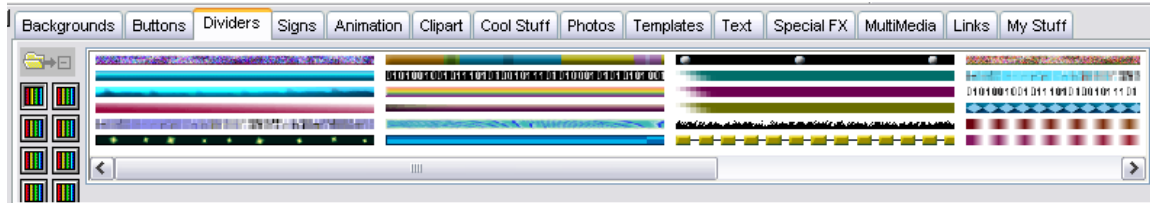


## CHAPTER 9 - DIVIDERS, SIGNS, CLIPART

Some objects in Web Studio have content inside them that can be edited, for example Text Objects. Other's content is static. Dividers, signs, and clipart are simply graphics. Web Studio distinguishes between them solely on the basis of their visual purpose on your page.

### Overview of Dividers



Dividers are used to create visual space and organization on your Web pages. Drag one to your page and use it to separate text from photos or one topic from another. Place one above and beneath your page title to create a banner effect. Place one on your page and drag the "Rotate" Special F/X on top of it. This will make the divider go up and down! And remember you can resize them to make them longer, shorter, and wider.

### Dividers and Other Graphics Erroneously Moving on WebPages

Graphics that are very thin, may not be placed in the correct place on your web page. Certain browsers move thin graphics down the page a bit, this is a bug in the browsers.

See the "Working with thin graphics" section later in this chapter for information about this.

### Selecting Dividers and other thin objects

Since most dividers are very thin it may be difficult to grab the handles to resize them. Try this: double click on the divider, which will bring up its properties dialog. Increase the height of the divider to about 20 pixels and then click ok. This makes the divider big enough to enable you to grab the correct handle. Resize it to the desired width and then double click on it and change the height back to what it was.





This illustrates the problem and solution. The selection handles are too small to grab the horizontal resize handle. So, double click on the divider and the properties dialog shows a height of 4. Change the 4 to 14 and the handles are spread apart enough to enable resizing.

You could also simply type the new width directly into the properties dialog, if you knew how wide it was going to be.

## Overview of Signs



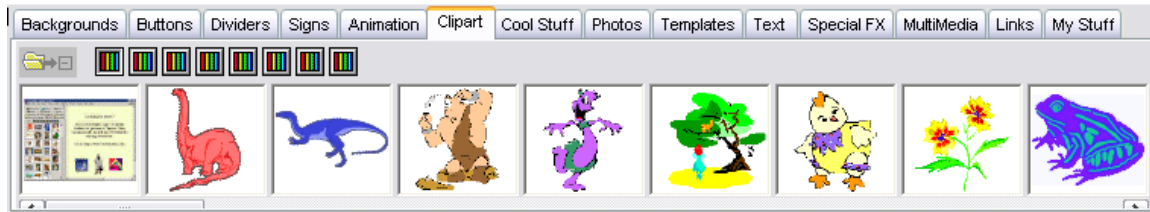
Signs can act as the links, or buttons, to the other pages on your site. Or they can be added to add visual impact to each page! Have them match the theme of your Web Site.

### Solid Color Signs

The first items in the Signs gallery is unique. It enable you to add rectangular graphics to your page with any color you specify. Many people have used these graphics to create the entire graphic design of their website.

You can use these as backgrounds for objects; layer multiple, different colored ones, on top of each other for multicolor effects. Use them as dividers, vertical lines, anything you would need a rectangular splash of color for.

## Overview of Clip-Art



Clip-Art is a term to differentiate photos from “graphics”. Since clip art files tend to be less complex than their photographic counterparts, you can usually add more clip art and not suffer from extremely long download times.

## Working with Dividers, Signs, Clipart, and Graphics

Dividers, clipart and signs are just graphics when added to a page. They don't have any special properties like buttons, backgrounds, or other objects. However, one item in the Signs gallery is similar to the Smart buttons in the Buttons gallery.

### Adding a graphic to a page from the galleries

Choose the gallery with the type of graphic of interest.

Find the graphic to be dropped on the page.

*Drag* the graphic onto the page in the location it is to appear.

*Drop* the graphic.

The graphic is placed on the page.

### Working with the Rectangle signs

The first item in the *Signs* gallery is the *Rectangle maker* object. Use this to create solid color objects for use on a page or in conjunction with other objects. For example, use them as a background for other objects.

These objects are extremely small in terms of download size. In addition the use of multiple objects of the same color on a page results in just one of the objects being downloaded, despite differences in size.

#### **To add a rectangle to a page:**

Choose the *Signs* gallery.

Drag the *Rectangle* object onto the page in the location it is to appear. The Windows *Color dialog* comes up.

Choose a color for the rectangle and click *OK*.

The rectangle is placed on the page.

## Working with thin graphics

Browsers have a problem with graphics that are *less than 16 pixels high*. Graphics thinner than 16 pixels are *moved down* the page when viewed in Preview or on the web. They are moved down the *difference* between their height and 16. For example, if a graphic is 12 pixels high, it is moved down the page 4 pixels from where it is in the Web Studio editor's page.

### **To accommodate the browser's thin graphics bug by moving the graphic:**

Move the graphic up the page an amount equal to the *difference* between its height and 16. If its height is 12 pixels, move it 4 pixels higher than where you really want the graphic to appear.

### **To accommodate the browser's thin graphic bug by changing the graphic's height:**

To change the graphic's height, you add another graphic with the same width and a height of 16 pixels to the page. You then *merge* the two graphics to make one. You then make the graphic's *transparent color* the same color as the 16 pixel high graphic. This effectively makes the shorter graphic higher, but retains its visual properties and hides the additional graphic.

### **To make a thin graphic thicker:**

Choose the *Signs* gallery.

Drag the *Rectangle maker* item onto the page.

Choose a color from the resulting Windows *Color dialog* that is *not* contained in your graphic, or choose the transparent color of the thin graphic if it is already transparent.

Select the graphic, and then holding down the *shift* key, select the rectangle.

Choose *Object>Make Equal>Equal Size*.

Click on the page's background to deselect the two objects.

Double click on the rectangle. The properties dialog comes up.

Increase the height of the object to 16 pixels. Click *OK*.

Choose *Object>Send Selected Object to the Back*.

Select the rectangle and the graphic.

Choose *Object>Align Tops*.

Choose *Object>Align Left Sides*.

Choose *Object>Merge Selected Objects*.

Double click on the merged object. The *Properties* dialog comes up.

Click on the *Graphic* tab.

Click on *Convert to 256 Select Transparency Color* button.

Click on the color at the bottom of the graphic. This should be the color of the original rectangle object. The color will disappear. Click *OK*. Then click *OK* to dismiss the *Properties* dialog.

The thin graphic now looks like it originally did, but is now 16 pixels high and won't be moved by the browser.

Place the graphic in the location it is to appear.