

Want a lean CSS drop down menu in Joomla? Meet the suckerfish!

Well, there are a number of techniques you can use with CSS to get more visually attractive menus, all of them use unordered lists (bulleted lists to you and me) to create the menu. Let's look at a few, we'll start with a drop down menu.

A few people (OK, one) wondered how I got Joomla to have a drop down menu on a recent site;

[www.thrutheturnstiles.co.uk](http://www.thrutheturnstiles.co.uk)

The menu is what has been coined "suckerfish" (don't ask me why), its pure CSS, very lean, hack free and just as 12 lines of JavaScript to bail out Microdoze IE.

**You can see a demo here:**

[www.htmldog.com/articles/suckerfish/dropdowns/example/](http://www.htmldog.com/articles/suckerfish/dropdowns/example/)

**You can find guides to how the thing works at a couple of sites:**

[www.htmldog.com/articles/suckerfish/dropdowns](http://www.htmldog.com/articles/suckerfish/dropdowns)

[www.alistapart.com/articles/dropdowns](http://www.alistapart.com/articles/dropdowns)

Now, you might have noticed that you need your menu outputted as a good clean list. Well it just so happens that there is a module out there to do this, and we'll need it. Its called **extended\_menu**,

you can find it here:

[de.siteof.de/detree/extended-menu.html](http://de.siteof.de/detree/extended-menu.html)

So, grab the module and install. Now let's set it up. It's easiest if you give it a menu and module class suffix. I used 'mainnav' (you'll see in the CSS below). A couple of other settings you will need:

Menu style: Tree List

Expand Menu: Yes

So put the menu where you want it, then to the CSS. This is a little tricky, it took me some trial and error to get the effects I wanted, but you can just skip that part and use mine.

```
#twocol{ /*the columns that gets dropped down over yours might be different*/
z-index:20;
}
#leftcol{ /*the columns that gets dropped down over yours might be different*/
```

```
z-index:10;
}
#mainleveltopnav li{
display:inline;
list-style-type:none;
padding-right:5px;
}
a.mainleveltopnav,a.mainleveltopnav:link,
a.mainleveltopnav:visited{
color:#f90;
}
.moduletablemainnav{ /* I have absolutely positioned the module, you might have a different
scheme*/
position:absolute;
top:187px;
left:20px;
z-index:100;
font:0.9em Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
margin:0;
padding:0;
}
#mainlevelmainnav,#mainlevelmainnav ul{
float:left;
list-style:none;
line-height:1em;
background:transparent;
font-weight:700;
margin:0;
padding:0;
}
#mainlevelmainnav a{
display:block;
color:#f90;
text-decoration:none;
margin-right:15px;
padding:0.3em;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li{
float:left;
padding:0;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li ul{
position:absolute;
left:-999em;
height:auto;
width:11em;
```

```
font-weight:400;
background:#36f;
border:#00C 1px solid;
margin:0;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li li{
width:11em;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li ul a{
width:11em;
color:#fff;
font-size:0.9em;
line-height:1em;
font-weight:400;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li:hover ul ul,#mainlevelmainnav li:hover ul ul ul,#mainlevelmainnav
li.sfhover ul ul,#mainlevelmainnav li.sfhover ul ul ul{
left:-999em;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li:hover ul,#mainlevelmainnav li li:hover ul,#mainlevelmainnav li li li:hover
ul,#mainlevelmainnav li.sfhover ul,#mainlevelmainnav li li.sfhover ul,#mainlevelmainnav li li
li.sfhover ul{
left:auto;
z-index:6000;
}
#mainlevelmainnav li li:hover,#mainlevelmainnav li li.sfhover{
background:#039 url(..images/soccerball.gif) 98% 50% no-repeat;
}
}
```

Now, just make sure you have the z-indexes set up properly, also remember to have a z-index, the element needs some sort of positioning, if not absolute then relative.

Last but not least you need to add the JavaScript for IE into the head of the Joomla template index.php (or a js file), it doesn't like the :hover.

```
sfHover = function() {
var sfEls = document.getElementById("mainlevelmainnav")
.getElementsByTagName("LI");
for (var i=0; i
sfEls[i].onmouseover=function() {
this.className+=" sfhover";
}
sfEls[i].onmouseout=function() {
```

```
this.className=this.className.replace(new RegExp(" sfhoverb"), "");
}
}
}
if (window.attachEvent) window.attachEvent("onload", sfHover);
//--
```

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