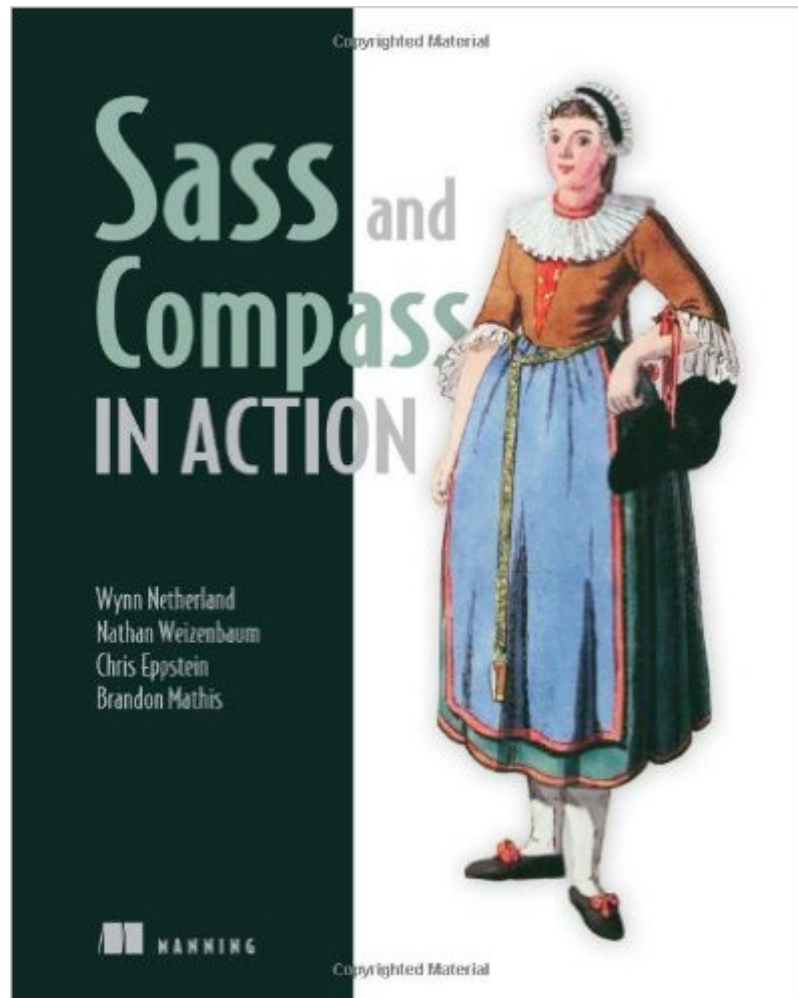# Sass And Compass In Action

Synopsis

SummarySass and Compass in Action is the definitive guide to stylesheet authoring using these two revolutionary tools. Written for both designers and developers, this book demonstrates the power of both Sass and Compass through a series of examples that address common pain points associated with traditional stylesheet authoring. The book begins with simple topics such as CSS resets and moves on to more involved topics such as grid frameworks and CSS3 vendor implementation differences.About this BookFor 15 years, we've been using CSS to patiently paint the web by hand. No more! Sass and Compass add scripting and a library of components to standard CSS so you can simplify stylesheet authoring, automate tedious tasks, and add dynamic styling features to your pages. Think of Sass and Compass as power tools that allow you to paint with remarkable speed and precision.Sass and Compass in Action is a hands-on guide to stylesheet authoring using these two revolutionary tools. This practical book shows you how to eliminate common CSS pain points and concentrate on making your pages pop. You'll begin with simple topics like CSS resets and then progress to more substantial challenges like building a personal stylesheet framework to bundle and reuse your own approaches and opinions.Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications.What's InsideCSS for desktop and mobile web apps Loaded with examples and reusable techniques Authors are Sass and Compass creators and core team membersAbout the AuthorsWynn Netherland is a full stack web developer who co hosts The Changelog Podcast. Chris Eppstein is the creator of Compass and a member of the Sass core team. Brandon Mathis is a passionate professional web designer with deep Sass skills. Nathan Weizenbaum is the creator and lead developer of Sass.Table of ContentsPART 1: GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH SASS AND COMPASS Sass and Compass make stylesheets fun again Basic Sass syntax PART 2: USING SASS AND COMPASS IN PRACTICE CSS grids without the math Eliminate the mundane using Compass CSS3 with CompassPART 3: TUNING FOR PRODUCTION Spriting From prototype to production High-performance stylesheetsPART 4: ADVANCED SASS AND COMPASS Scripting with Sass Creating and sharing a Compass extension

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm pleased to report that this book is VERY well written, meaning it's easy to read and comprehend. It's also not overly-verbose, it conveys points succinctly and moves on. I'm learning a ton of stuff that I had not picked up on my own when using Sass.As probably anyone who reads book reviews knows, tech books, like any other books, are hit and miss. Some people are just out to make money--stamp a poorly written book with an alluring title, such as "Mastering jQuery" and wait for the money to roll in. (by the way, that's a real book, and it's a great case in point). Others, however, are truly great authors who seem to enjoy the art of writing and teaching and have a talent for it. Those are the books you want to read, and this is one of them.

I started reading this book because I wanted to learn how to build style sheets more efficiently using Sass and Compass. I am a web application developer so the thought of being able to build style sheets using variables and functions is definitely exciting. I expected this book to cover Sass and Compass and, of course, it did not disappoint. The author took great care to explain all aspects in detail and even takes you through the creation and sharing of a Compass extension so that one can eventually join the community and start sharing/contributing.I have to say though, this book offered me so much more than a great foundation for learning Sass and Compass. The author also took great care to explain peripheral aspects such as design. When one does not come from a graphic design background, as I do not, these extra details always prove to be invaluable.Thanks to this book, I definitely see a graphic design primer course in my future. I realise that I not only need to improve the efficiency of my style sheet builds, I also need to get my head around print design. I had no idea how closely coupled print design concepts had become with web site design concepts. For instance, I had never heard the term vertical rhythm before reading this book - it turns out this is a very important concept where readability is concerned. The book re-iterates the importance of the

grid framework. All of this ultimately relates back to your style sheets. There are so many great snippets of information that, even if I choose never to use Sass and Compass, I still walk away with a goldmine of information that I can use to improve my site designs.The appendices are very helpful in the sense that they cover installing Sass and Compass and then getting started with Compass. The only negative experience I had was here when trying to install everything. Coming from a Windows background I misunderstood the command line instructions and thought I needed to add the $ in front of a command. That failed! No fear though, Google and the official Sass and Compass sites are your friend.All in all, I'll definitely give this book a thumbs up and I can't wait to start using what I've learnt. I can see it's going to take quite a bit of practice, but I'll have this book on hand as a great reference source.Thank you Manning Publishers for sending me a complementary copy of this book to review.

This book explains its main subject matter well-enough, but lacks useful examples. Don't get me wrong, there is a good amount of examples of SASS and the CSS it produces, but much more HTML markup is needed to be fully demonstrative, especially for topics such as grids which are not part of the CSS specification.

As a developer I have always struggled with CSS. In theory, CSS is easy to understand and follow, but in practice there are so many oddities and browser inconsistencies that makes designing anything but the simplest page a complete minefield. I have never managed to keep up with all the hacks and patterns that are required to write solid CSS that works across all browsers and devices. On top of this CSS is a very un-DRY language - I keep finding myself having to specify a single rule in multiple places. As a programmer having to do this drives me insane. I always end up with a complete mess of unstructured hacked together and no doubt inefficient set of rules. Using Twitter Bootstrap does save a lot of this pain and is an easy fallback, but it has never been a satisfactory solution. A lot is set it stone, it is a pain to customize and it always hurts to pull in a huge CSS file for even the simplest site.So I was very interested when I heard about Sass. When I found out I could declare variables and nest my rules, I was sold. It never actually occurred to me that this was only the start of what Sass could actually do. I was still plagued with having to implement all the various browser hacks myself. When I heard that Compass could help with this, I tried to have a go with it. The documentation for Compass, whilst being a great reference, does not really explain what Compass is about and I really struggled to actually work out what Compass was about and how I could use it.Then I discovered this book. By the end of the first chapter I had learned what Compass

was about and by the second I had tripled my knowledge of the potential of Sass. I could have put the book down at this point and it would have still been worth it!Chapter 3 dives into using a grid system with Compass. Compass really does take away that mundane task of calculating your column widths, which when you are rapid prototyping a site makes a huge difference. One area where the book does lack here is in discussing fitting a grid system into a responsive design - often where you have three columns when viewing the site on a large screen, you will want to just view this in a single column on a mobile device. The book doesn't explain how you can use media queries to adjust the columns in your design. I still haven't managed to work out how to fit the Compass grid system into this.Chapters 4-7 dives into Compass in depth and shows how compass can take away a lot of the CSS pain. I had never really understood the point of sprites before. The book explained this well and showed how easy it was to set this up with Compass. The book covers a lot of the CSS3 features and how to use Compass to make this much easier, although it does neglect to cover animations.Chapter 8 focuses on performance and how you can make your pages load faster. Here I learned that I had been structuring my CSS wrong all along. I had been largely structuring my selectors to match my HTML structure, not good for performance.Chapter 9 is Sass on steroids. Although Sass is not a full Turing complete programming language is still has a number of incredibly powerful scripting features. A lot of these features may not be particularly useful to the average designer for a single site, but for designers of frameworks and reusable components, this is how you can design styles that can be adapted to any site and made to fit in. My mind is only starting to think up the possibilities that these advanced features can offer. The book could possibly provided more in depth examples of where this stuff could be used, although I am sure when I need to use it I will know!Chapter 10 rounds up the book by explaining how to create Compass extensions. As my Sass chops improve I am going to want to save the most useful bits to make it reusable.This book is excellent. Sure it might be possible to arduously scan the internet and slowly pick up all the information, but that process is slow (I tried). With this book the information is all there and is explained in a succinct and clear way. You can get up and running in hardly any time at all. I cannot recommend it highly enough.

I needed to learn SASS real quick and this book really helped me understand how it works, how to set it up, what's it is capable of doing, etc. Compass is very handy for those that prefer to write their own CSS rather than using a framework and Wynn's explanation of it was pretty straightforward. The book is organized in a way so that you can quickly find what you are looking for on the fly. I highly recommend this book for those that want to learn preprocessing (SASS and Compass).

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