WHY YOU SHOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT CSS SHAPES

By Chen Hui Jing / @hj_chen
LONG AGO, THE WEB LOOKED LIKE THIS:
THEN, CAME FLOATS. AND NOW
MOST OF OUR SITES LOOK LIKE THIS:
LOTS OF VARIATIONS OF STACKED RECTANGLES...
LET'S LOOK AT SOME MAGAZINE LAYOUTS...
HER LOOK

Today's trend: Rocking the denim-on-denim look with a twist. Layering pieces, combining colors, and adding accessories create a chic and modern style. Whether you're heading to a casual lunch or a chic evening event, this look is versatile and easy to master.

**Outfit Details:**
- **Top:** Oversized crop tee in black
- **Pants:** Skinny jeans in dark wash
- **Shoes:** Lace-up booties
- **Accessories:** Layered necklaces, statement earrings, and a chic purse

**Style Tips:**
- Mix textures and materials to add depth and interest to your outfit.
- Play with colors by pairing a black and white top with a colorful purse or nail polish.
- Experiment with different styles by layering a jacket or adding a scarf.

**Top Picks:**
- **Shirt:** Oversized cropped tee
- **Pants:** Skinny jeans
- **Shoes:** Lace-up booties
- **Accessories:** Layered necklaces, statement earrings, chic purse

Stay inspired and keep exploring different styles to find what suits you best!
BUT ON THE WEB, WE WERE STUCK WITH THIS:

Beyoncé is ready to receive you now. From the chair where she’s sitting, in the conference room of her sleek office suite in midtown Manhattan, at a round table elegantly laden with fine china, crisp cloth napkins, and take-out sushi from Nobu, she could toss some edamame over her shoulder and hit her sixteen Grammys, each wall-mounted in its own Plexiglas box.

She is luminous, with that perfect smile and smooth coffee skin that shines under a blondish topknot and bangs. Today she’s showing none of the bodaciously thick, hush-your-mouth body that’s on display onstage, in her videos, and on these pages.

This is Business Beyoncé, hypercomposed Beyoncé—fashionable, elegant, in charge. She’s wearing the handiwork of no fewer than seven designers, among them Givenchy (the golden pin at her neck), Day Birger et Mikkelsen (her dainty gray-pink petal-collar blouse), Christian Louboutin (her pink five-inch studded heels), and Isabel Marant (her floral pants).
NOT ANY MORE :)

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SOME BACKGROUND

My name is Chen Hui Jing.
Self taught designer and developer.
Work at Nurun Singapore.
Write blog posts from time to time.
CSS SHAPES (LEVEL 1)

• shape-outside CSS property
• Defines the float area for inline content to wrap around the shape instead of the float's bounding box.
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE BOX MODEL
ON BOX MODELS AND FLOATS

Shape is clipped to margin-box
Can only ever reduce the float area
Wrapping only occurs on one side (for now)
4 BASIC SHAPE FUNCTIONS

- The circle() function
- The ellipse() function
- The inset() function
- The polygon() function
THE CIRCLE() FUNCTION

.circle {
  /* general styles for the div*/
  width: 200px;
  height: 200px;
  background-color: #A4F4B0;
  border-radius: 50%;

  /* make it a shape!*/
  shape-outside: circle();
  float: left;
}
BASIC SYNTAX

```css
shape-outside: circle( [<shape-radius>]? [at <position>]? )
```

shape-radius takes any CSS length.

position refers to the x, y coordinates, which default to the centre of the element, (0, 0).
THE ELLIPSE() FUNCTION

```
.ellipse {
  width: 100px;
  height: 200px;
  background-color: #A4F4B0;
  border-radius: 50%;

  shape-outside: ellipse();
  float: left;
}
```
BASIC SYNTAX

shape-outside: ellipse( [shape-radius]{2}]? [at <position>]? )

shape-radius takes in 2 variables, length of radius along the x-axis and along the y-axis. position refers to the x, y coordinates, which default to the centre of the element, (0, 0).
THE INSET() FUNCTION

```css
.inset {
  width: 200px;
  height: 160px;
  background-color: #A4F4B0;
  border-radius: 50px;

  shape-outside: inset(0px round 50px);
  float: left;
}
```
BASIC SYNTAX

```css
shape-outside: inset( <shape-arg>{1,4} [round <border-radius>]?)
```

shape-arg syntax is similar to margin or padding: top, right, bottom, left.

Inset is applied from the edge of the element inwards toward the centre.

border-radius is optional.
THE POLYGON() FUNCTION

```
.polygon {
  width: 200px;
  height: 200px;
  clip-path: polygon(0 0, 0 200px, 200px 100px);
  background-color: #4F4B0;

  shape-outside: polygon(0 0, 0 200px, 200px 100px);
  float: left;
}
```
**BASIC SYNTAX**

```css
shape-outside: polygon( [fill-rule],? [shape-arg] <shape-arg> )
```

*fill-rule* is optional, default value is nonzero.

Create your polygon using clip-path.

For complex shapes, try using the [CSS Shapes Editor for Chrome](https://developer.chrome.com/extensions/shapeseditor) extension.
USE AN IMAGE WITH ALPHA PROPERTIES

```css
.shape {
    shape-outside: url("path/to/nicely-cropped-image.png");
    shape-image-threshold: 0.5;
    shape-margin: 10px;
    float: left;
}
```
To be honest, the W3C spec is not that easy to understand, so I will attempt at explaining it in plain English. A prerequisite for applying a shape property to an element is that the element must be non-floated. Otherwise, the shape property doesn't work on non-floated elements.

If the browser you're using right now supports CSS shapes, you should see text wrapping nicely around the image of Beyoncé, otherwise you'll just see the standard rectangular column of text.

(Hint: Try using Chrome or Safari)

There are 4 basic shape functions you can use to define the element's shape, in other words, how you want the text to wrap around your element. In addition to that, you can also extract a shape from images with an alpha channel.

The browser identifies the required shape from the style attribute or the shape-render property. Pixels which have a higher alpha value than the threshold will not be part of the shape, so its value must be between 0.0 (translucent) and 1.0 (opaque). If, for some reason, your image has no alpha channel, you can always use the shape-render property with a value of "image" to specify the area you want to use as the shape.

shape-image-threshold defines the float area, and ranges from 0.0 (transparent) to 1.0 (opaque).
# CAN I USE...CSS SHAPES?

## CSS Shapes Level 1 - CR

Allows geometric shapes to be set in CSS to define an area for text to flow around.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>IE</th>
<th>Edge</th>
<th>Firefox</th>
<th>Chrome</th>
<th>Safari</th>
<th>Opera</th>
<th>iOS Safari</th>
<th>Opera Mini</th>
<th>Android Browser</th>
<th>Chrome for Android</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Current aligned**
- **Usage relative**

### Notes
- **Known issues (0)**
- **Resources (7)**
- **Feedback**

**MS Edge status:** Under Consideration

- Enabled in Chrome through the "experimental Web Platform features" flag in chrome://flags
The go-to polyfill for CSS Shapes is the CSS Shapes Polyfill by the Adobe Web Platform team.
TO FIND OUT MORE...

CSS Shapes Module Level 1

Understanding Reference Boxes for CSS Shapes and Getting Started with CSS Shapes by Razvan Caliman

Creating Non-Rectangular Layouts With CSS Shapes and CSS Shapes 101 by Sara Soueidan
MORE GOOD STUFF ON THE WAY...

CSS Shapes Module Level 2
The shape-inside property let's us put content inside a defined shape

CSS Exclusions Module Level 1
Defines arbitrary areas around which inline content can flow
THE END

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