

Tutorial on TextPattern Presentation Model
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This tutorial focuses on the TextPattern presentation model. Three elements of the model are discussed: page templates, stylesheets, and sections. After you see the interrelationship of these elements, you will be well on your way to developing your website using TextPattern.

A Simple TextPattern Tutorial

Part 1 - Modify the default page template

This is a simple TextPattern tutorial, focusing on the presentation tab. You should already have the program installed and working. You will need your ftp program later in the tutorial. This tutorial is running on version g119 (June 2004).

1. Using the tabs at the top, click on "presentation", then click on "pages" in the secondary tabs.
2. Make sure the screen says "You are editing page template *default*".
3. Now we are going to make two changes, so you will be able to see which page template you are using (step 4) and to make links to your content titles (step 5).

4. Find the language

```
==<!-- head -->  
<div id="head">==
```

Right underneath those lines, type this phrase:
Using Default Page Template

5. Find the language

```
==<!-- left -->  
<div id="left">==
```

Right underneath those lines, type this phrase:
==<txp:recent_articles />==

6. Click the 'Save' button to save your changes to the default template.

Done? Great!

Let's go on to Tutorial - Part 2

A Simple TextPattern Tutorial

Part 2 - Modify the archive page template

Now we are going to make a minor change to the archive page template.

1. Using the tabs at the top, click on "presentation", then click on "pages" in the secondary tabs.
2. Look at the list in the right column. Click on "archive".
3. Make sure that the screen says "You are editing page template *archive*".

4. Find the language

```
==<!-- head -->
```

```
<div id="head">==
```

Right underneath those lines, type this phrase:

Using Archive Page Template

5. Find the language

```
==<!-- left -->
```

```
<div id="left">==
```

Right underneath those lines, type this phrase:

```
==<txp:link_to_home>Home</txp:link_to_home>==
```

6. Click the 'Save' button to save your changes to the archive template.

Done? Great!

Let's go on to Tutorial - Part 3

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Part 3 - Create some content.

Now let's make some content. We are going to make three articles (writings). This looks like a lot of steps, but really you are just doing the same routine 3 times. It isn't hard!

1. Click on the **content** tab at the top. The **write** secondary tab should be selected for you. If not, click on the **write** secondary tab.

NOTE: Remember to save! If you in the middle of writing an content, and switch to another tab, your edits will be LOST!

2. You should see three empty boxes. The top little one is the title box, the middle is the content, and the bottom is the excerpt. (we will not discuss excerpts).

3. Type "Test Article 1" as the title.

4. In the middle box, put in some content, whatever you want.

5. Save your writing. When you make a **new** writing, the button will say **Publish**. When you later edit it, the button with say **Save**.

6. Click on the secondary **write** tab at the top again. The boxes should be empty.

7. Type "Test Article 2" as the title.

8. In the middle box, put some content (different than Test Article 1).

9. Save your writing, by clicking the "Publish" button.

10. After the screen refreshes, look at the bottom of the screen. You will see a list, with "Test Article 1" and "Test Article 2" in it.

11. Click on the secondary **write** tab at the top again. The boxes should be empty.

12. Type "Test Article 3" as the title.

13. In the middle box, put some content (different than Test Article 1 or 2).

14. Save your writing, by clicking the "Publish" button.

15. After the screen refreshes, look at the bottom of the screen. You will see a list, with "Test Article 1", "Test Article 2" and "Test Article 3" in it.

You're still with me? Onward to Tutorial - Part 4!

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Part 4 - Look at the Content

1. Now click on the tab **view site** at the top right of the screen.
2. Your website will open. If you did the template changes in the previous parts, you should see:
 - a. At the top, in the center, the words **Using Default Page Template**.
 - b. On the left, a list of the articles.
 - c. In the middle, the articles you just wrote, starting with the most recently written article **Test Article 3**, followed by **Test Article 2**, followed by **Test Article 1**.
3. Now the \$64 dollar question: "What the #%*# (blazes) am I looking at?"
 - This is the **home** page (a/k/a the frontpage).
 - It uses the **default** page template.
4. Click on any one of the article titles on the left (or click on the title of the article in the middle section). You will now see:
 - a. At the top, in the center, the words **Using Archive Page Template**,
 - b. At the left, the word "Home",
 - c. In the middle, just the one article you clicked on.

Now what am I looking at?

-- This content is using the "article" section. The "article" section was picked for you by default.

-- The "article" section is using the **archive** page template. (more on this later).

Got it? Go on to Tutorial - Part 5.

A Simple TextPattern Tutorial

Part 5 - Create a new stylesheet.

You have completed a very basic run at understanding TextPattern, namely, the effect of a Page Template. Now we are going to add to your understanding by creating a stylesheet.

Our new stylesheet will be based on the default stylesheet. The only change we are going to make is to the background color.

1. Click on the presentation tab then on the style tab.
In the left column, make sure it says "You are editing CSS *default*"
2. Click just below that where it says "Edit in CSS editor"
3. After the screen changes, find in the box on the left where it says "Copy stylesheet as". Type in "teststyle". Click the "Copy" button. Your new stylesheet will appear in the list on the right.
4. Select "teststyle" style from the list on the right, by clicking on it.
5. Make sure the screen on the upper left now says "You are editing CSS *teststyle*".
6. In the grey box, find the `*body*` section. It is the first section and looks like this:

```
body
{
    background-color: #fff;
}
```

Change the background-color line so `*body*` looks like this:

```
body
{
    background-color: #ddeedd;
}
```
7. Click the `*Save*` button at the bottom of the screen to save your changes to the `*teststyle*` stylesheet.

Done? Great! Now on to Tutorial - Part 6.

A simple TextPattern Tutorial Part 7 - Creating a new Section.

In this part of the tutorial, you will need your ftp program.

In an earlier part, you made changes to the **about** section. Now you will create a new section called **testsection**.

1. Click on the presentation/sections tabs.
2. When the page opens, at the top in the box next to "Create", type in the word **testsection** and click the Create button.
3. When the page refreshes, scroll down to the new testsection section. Change "uses page" from "default" to "archive".
Change uses style from "default" to "teststyle".
4. Click the Save button at the bottom of the testsection section.
5. Now, notice the teeny little button with **!** on it, next to the word testsection. Click that button.

6. Read and follow the instructions:

a.

You are using clean URL mode, and have created a section for which there is no corresponding placeholder file in your site directory. No big deal, just create a text file (not a directory!) called testsection in /home/YOURPATH/APPEARSHERE and paste the following code inside it:

```
==  
<?php  
    include "./textpattern/config.php";  
    $s = "testsection";  
    include $txpcfg["txpath"]."/publish.php";  
    textpattern();  
?>  
==
```

(Place it in the same directory as the **about** file and the **article** file.)

- b. open up the .htaccess file in /home/YOURPATH and paste this at the bottom:

```
==  
<Files testsection>  
    ForceType application/x-httpd-php  
</Files>
```

==

(Some ftp programs hide these types of files, you may have to unhide it to see it.)

A BIG NOTE If you are not using Clean Urls (under admin/preferences), you probably don't have to create the testsection file or make the .htaccess change to make your new section work. However, you really will learn something if you do.

A TIP Save a copy of your modified .htaccess under another file name. If you upgrade TextPattern "in-place", you will probably overwrite .htaccess, causing your hand-made sections to stop working. You can swap the saved version back in after doing the upgrade.

7. After you have done that, the little ***!*** button will disappear.

8. Now click the content/write tabs, and then select ***Test Article 3*** from the list at the bottom of the screen. On the right side, look in the Sections drop-down box, and change it to "testsection". Save your changes.

9. Click on "view site" from the topmost menu. Click on Test Article 3. It will now use your new "teststyle" section. It will appear the same as Test Article 2, which uses the "about" section, because both of these sections use the archive page template and the teststyle stylesheet.

10. Click on "presentation/sections" and play around, changing the uses page and uses style for your new "teststyle" section and see what effect your changes have on the appearance of Article 3.

11. Go back to Toot 5 and create a third stylesheet. Call it ***teststyle2***, but this time change the background color to `#7890ab ` instead.

12. Now go to presentation/sections find the "testsection" section. In the "uses style" area, select "teststyle2" from the drop down box.

13. Click the Save button at the bottom of the testsection section.

14. View your site again (refreshing the screens if necessary). You will see that each article now has a different color background, because each is using a different section, and each section now is using a different stylesheet.

You made it! Congratulations!

This tutorial has covered a lot of ground. You should now have some idea of the interplay between page templates, stylesheets, and sections.

For the curious, there is a very short Tutorial - Part 8.

A simple TextPattern Tutorial
Part 8 - What about the front page?

If you have been wondering about the settings for the "front page" and why you can't change it, here is the reason:

There is a file called `*publish.php*`, which is hard-coded to look for a hidden section called `*default*` for the frontpage. In the mysql database, the sections table has a record which assigns the `*default*` page template and the `*default*` stylesheet to the default section. As a result, the frontpage `*always*` uses this default/default combination.

You can't edit or delete this record through presentation/sections. There really isn't much need to do so. If you don't like the default appearance, you can edit the default page template and the default stylesheet.

You have now reached the end of my tutorial. Thanks for reading it. I hope it has been helpful to you.

-doug edmunds