

# Make your Template Set Use RWD

<tip c w>**THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS** - don't go following these instructions just yet, we're still working on them! We'll have this tutorial finished for you by the time 7.3 final ships.</tip>

## Warning / Info About These Instructions

These instructions are meant to be followed for sites updating from versions **before 7.3.0** that wish to keep their existing design, but would like to make it use newer RWD techniques to make it more "mobile / device friendly" like the new default design does in 7.3 and higher.

We do not recommend following the instructions, as for most sites it will actually be easier to start from the new default design, and re-customize starting from the new design so you are starting from something that is already RWD. We still provide the instructions below as a guide to those that wish to "convert" rather than "re-customize", but this route is not recommended.

## Compatible Design Warning

If your design first started from versions **prior to 7.0**, or if your design is **very deeply customized**, these instructions may not work for you. You may be able to use some of the steps as general tips, but most of the instructions are specifically geared for designs that still match the basic structure of more recent versions of the software. If you find that you do not have a lot of the templates that the instructions are referring to, you may fall into this group.

If you fall into this group, you will likely need to convert the design on your own (or hire a designer to do this for you if you wish), or you might consider "starting over" as it may be less work than converting a deeply customized design. For the most part you will be on your own as there is simply no way to account for every different way the design can be customized.

Something to keep in mind is that we spent roughly 2 months working on overhauling the default design, to make the design responsive and "mobile/tablet friendly" in the latest version. If your customizations are deep enough, you can expect to spend a similar amount of time or possibly even more in order to make your own design responsive.

## Update Friendly Template Sets Warning

These instructions were made for sites that already have an "update friendly" template set, meaning that minimal work is required for "normal updates" and it is not just a complete copy of the default templates. If your template set was originally created using the **Create Main Template Set** tool within the admin at **Design > Template Sets**, you should be fine.

If the template set was originally created by making a full copy of the default templates of the original version using FTP or other means, you will need to follow the [Make your Template Set Update Friendly](#) tutorial before beginning this one.

If you aren't sure, check your template set, if it has "system", "module" or "addon" folders in it with a complete copy of all the sub-folders and files in them from the default template set, when very few (if any) of them are actually customized, then yes you will need to follow those instructions linked above.

**Note:** Be sure to read [Make your Template Set Update Friendly](#) instructions along with the instructions below before you begin, so you can get an idea of just how much work lies ahead of you. For many it will probably be a lot faster to **start over** using a new template set created from the new design and re-applying customizations, than trying to convert an existing deeply customized design.

## Instructions

1. First you will need to copy all CSS used in your design, into a new **custom.css** file in your template set. You may have already done this as part of the "full update instructions", but if not, here are the steps:
  1. Using FTP program such as Filezilla, or the admin interface at Design > Manager,download the following 6 files:
    - default/external/css/**theme\_styles.css** <
    - [your template set]/external/css/**theme\_styles.css**<sup>1)</sup> <
    - default/external/css/**primary\_theme\_styles.css** <
    - [your template set]/external/css/**primary\_theme\_styles.css**<sup>2)</sup> <
    - default/external/css/**secondary\_theme\_styles.css** <
    - [your template set]/external/css/**secondary\_theme\_styles.css**<sup>3)</sup> <

If using FTP, these will be in the geo\_templates/ folder.

Download the files into 2 different folders, one for default and one for your own template set, so that they don't get mixed up.<

1. This step is **optional but recommended**: To reduce the end "CSS footprint" in half, resulting in faster pages and a faster website:

Use a program like **Winmerge**, to merge the files together, in such a way that the file from your own template set would "overwrite" differences in the default.

The end result is that for each of the **theme\_styles.css**, **primary\_theme\_styles.css**, and **secondary\_theme\_styles.css** files, you have any missing CSS that might be in the default copy but not your own, and at the same time any changes you have made to your own copy, should over-write the CSS from the default.

If you choose to do this, in the following step you will only be copying in the "merged" contents for each file, a total of 3 merged files. <

1. Copy the contents of each file, into a new file **custom.css** using your favorite text editor such as **notepad++** or **gedit** or similar. Be sure the files are in the same order in the **custom.css** as they are in the list above. When doing this however:

**Omit (remove)** any starting line or lines that start with: [code]@import[/code] If the first line or first few lines of the CSS file starts with that, do not include those lines when you copy the CSS contents to the **custom.css**. You should see such lines in each of the 3 CSS files from your own template set. <

1. Use FTP or the admin interface at **Design > Manager** to upload the new **custom.css** that you just created, into your own template set in the **external/css/** folder. <
2. In the admin at **Design > Manager**, edit the file **[your template set] / main\_page / head.tpl** <
3. Remove Each of these lines if any of them exist in the file:

```
{* Load the theme_styles.css files last, so it can over-write any
page/module specific CSS files if desired. *}
<link href="{external file='css/theme_styles.css'}" rel="stylesheet"
type="text/css" />
<link href="{external file='css/primary_theme_styles.css'}"
rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<link href="{external file='css/secondary_theme_styles.css'}"
rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```

If you do not have lines exactly like that, you need to remove any lines that reference **theme\_styles.css**, **primary\_theme\_styles.css**, or **secondary\_theme\_styles.css**. <

1. Save the changes to the **head.tpl** file.

**Note:** If your own template set does not use head.tpl, you will need to do a search to find and remove any lines that add any of those 3 theme\_style files. <

1. In the admin, at **Design > Template Sets**, click the button to **Create Main Template Set**, and name it **"rwd\_reference"**. You will be using this template set for easy reference only. <
2. Copy the following 3 files from the **rwd\_reference** template set you created, to your own, in the same folder:
  - main\_page/layout-1-column.tpl <
  - main\_page/layout-2-column.tpl <
  - main\_page/layout-3-column.tpl <

You can use **FTP** or the admin interface at **Design > Manager**, whichever you are more comfortable with. <

1. Edit each of the files you just copied, and copy in any customizations. The "head" contents are now part of the overall template instead of being in **head.tpl**, this way it is a lot easier to have meta tags or title or things like that change based on what page you are viewing.

So open up your own **head.tpl** file, and any customizations such as meta tags added, custom JS, things like that: copy the customizations in to the **<head>** section in each of the 3 files you copied in the last step. This may only apply if you have custom JS (for instance, adding a 3rd party script for a fancy slider or similar), or if you have some other custom changes to head.tpl. **Many sites may not need to make any changes at all**, if you do not have anything customized in your head.tpl there will be nothing to copy in.

When doing this, do not change the *doctype*, *head*, or *html* tags in the layout templates, and it is a good idea to NOT remove anything from the template. You should only be **copying in your customizations, not modifying or removing what is already there**. Otherwise you may accidentally remove or break something required for RWD layouts.<

1) , 2) , 3)

Replace *[your template set]* with the folder name for your main template set, usually **my\_templates**

Last  
update: tutorials:design\_adv:convert\_design\_rwd [https://geodesicsolutions.org/wiki/tutorials/design\\_adv/convert\\_design\\_rwd?rev=1380731414](https://geodesicsolutions.org/wiki/tutorials/design_adv/convert_design_rwd?rev=1380731414)  
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