


Lesson Five

~ Customizing The Twenty Ten Theme ~



Manage Themes

Current Theme

Twenty Ten by the WordPress team

The 2010 theme for WordPress is stylish, customizable, simple, and readable — make it yours with a custom menu, header image, and background. Twenty Ten supports six widgetized areas (two in the sidebar, four in the footer) and featured images (thumbnails for gallery posts and custom header images for posts and pages). It includes stylesheets for print and the admin Visual Editor, special styles for posts in the "Asides" and "Gallery" categories, and has an optional one-column page template that removes the sidebar. [Read more about Twenty Ten](#)

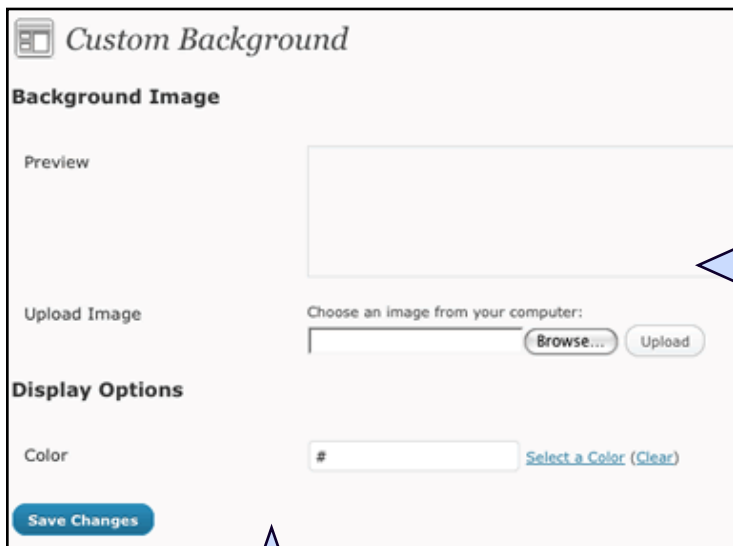
OPTIONS: [Widgets](#) | [Menus](#) | [Extras](#) | [Background](#) | [Header](#) | [Typekit Fonts](#) | [Edit CSS](#)

Tags: black, blue, white, two-columns, fixed-width, custom-header, custom-background, threaded-comments, sticky-post, translation-ready, microformats, rtl-language-support, editor-style, custom-menu, full-width-template, blog, business, lifestream, photography, bright, clean, elegant, formal, generic, light, minimal, modern

Appearance

- Themes
- Widgets
- Menus
- Extras
- Background
- Header
- Typekit Fonts
- Edit CSS

When customizing Twenty Ten you still deal with the appearance pane in the WordPress menu. You can access the customization options in the actual menu (pictured left) or you can reach them from the Themes page from last lesson (pictured above).



Custom Background

Background Image

Preview

Upload Image

Choose an image from your computer:

[Browse...](#) [Upload](#)

Display Options

Color

[Select a Color](#) [Clear](#)

[Save Changes](#)

The first customization we will make is the background of your blog. I suggest matching the background color to your business's color scheme. You have an option to use an image here, but I suggest just a solid color. An image can display differently on many different monitors and resolutions. It can be tricky to get right.

You can change the background color of your site by adding the html hex code for the color, or by clicking on select a color and choosing from a color wheel.

When you have chosen a color it will show up at the top in the preview window. When you are happy with the color you have chosen, click on the blue "save changes" button and the color change will then be live on the site.

Custom Background

Background updated. [Visit your site](#) to see how it looks.

Background Image

Preview

Upload Image

Choose an image from your computer:

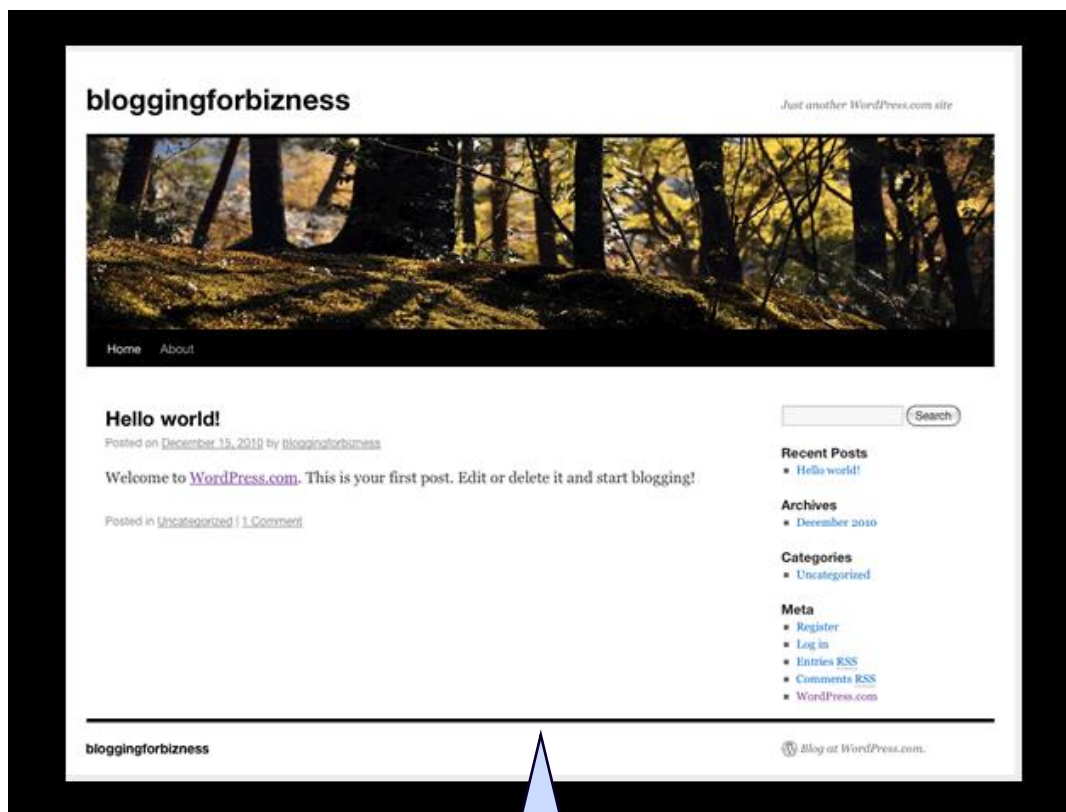
Display Options

Color

[Select a Color \(Clear\)](#)

Once you click on “save changes” you will see a yellow box pop up on the page near the top. This box will prompt you to check out your website. You can click the “visit your site” link to see how the new background color looks.

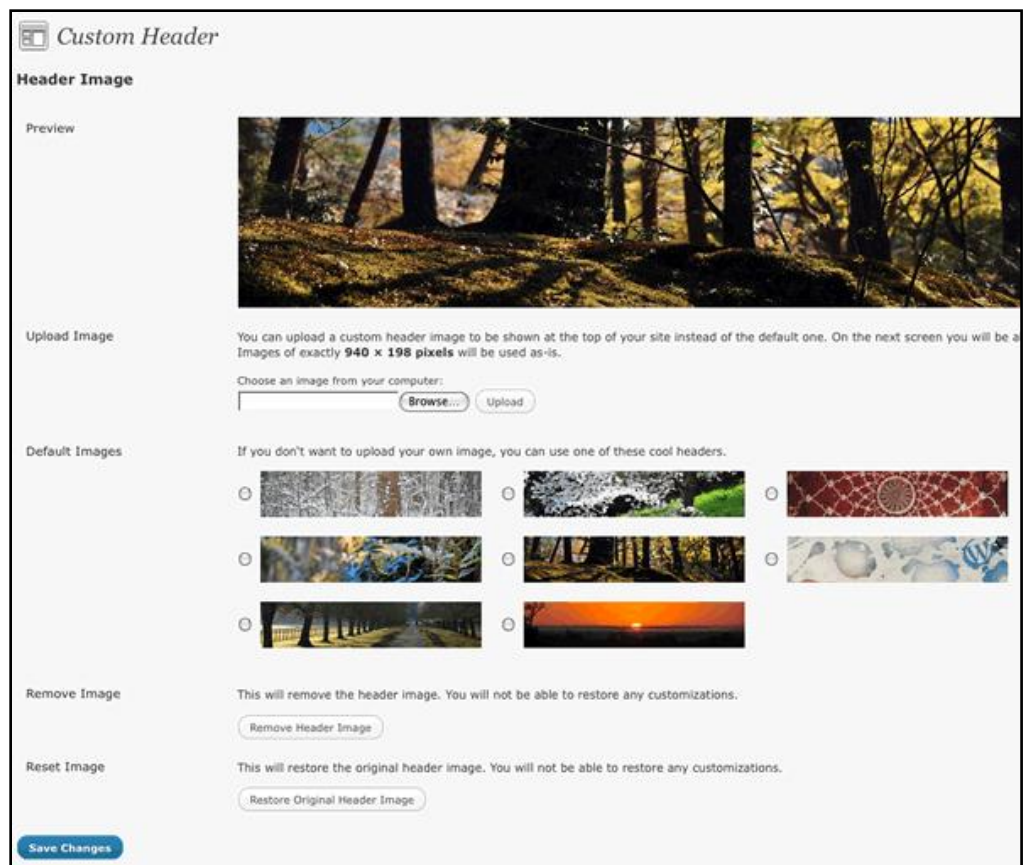
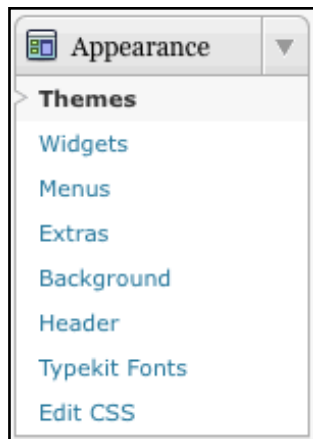
If it looks good then you are done, if not you can continue tweaking until you get a look that you like.



When you visit your site this is what you will see. For the purposes of this tutorial I chose a black background. I feel it makes the blog pop more, but any color you choose will be just as good. Especially if you have a color scheme that matches your business.

Any color you choose will replace the black in the above picture. That is the “background” area.

One other thing to notice is the forest picture under the blog title. This picture is also customizable and that is what we will tackle next...



To customize your header you need to click on the header link under Appearance. Like we noted above you can also find the header link on the manage themes page.

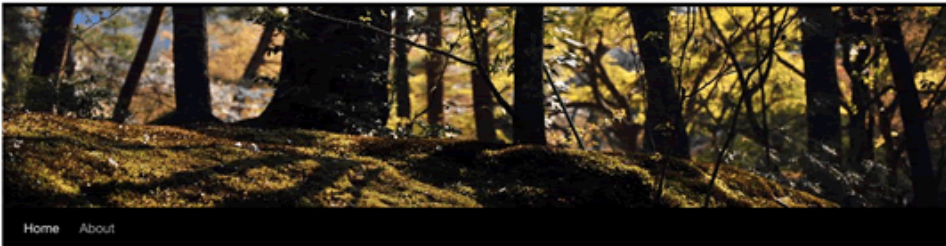
When you click on the header link you will see the page above. The page consists of the preview at the top, an option to upload an image, some default images to choose from as well as some options to remove the picture entirely or reset it.

If you find one of the default images work for your site go ahead and choose one then click the save changes button. If you want to really customize your site then choose to upload your own image. Beside the upload Image title there is a blurb that includes the image size (940x198). This is important because any image you create or purchase should be that size.

For best results you will have to create an image that is exactly the above size. You can use Paint, Fireworks, Photoshop or a free image editing program like GIMP. You can also outsource this step - a site like fiverr.com will allow you to outsource a custom header for \$5. Once you have your image, it is easy to add to your website:

Click the Browse button -> Navigate to your image on your computer -> Click upload -> If your image is too big you will be taken to a crop screen where you can crop it to required dimensions -> When you have it cropped to your liking hit "crop and publish"

When you are done you will get the yellow box prompting you to visit your site, do so and check out your new header. If it is fuzzy your image wasn't the right size or you cropped it wrong. If it looks good then you are now done customizing your theme!



[Home](#) [About](#)

Hello world!

Posted on [December 15, 2010](#) by [bloggingforbizness](#)

Welcome to [WordPress.com](#). This is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Recent Posts

- [Hello world!](#)

Archives

- [December 2010](#)

Categories

bloggingforbizness

Business Blogging Orangeville

The premiere website for information about business blogging in the Orangeville, ON area.



"Better Business Blogging Means More Leads, More Sales and More Exposure..."

Learn How To Tap Into The Online Customer Funnel With Our Helpful Articles"

[Home](#) [About](#)

Hello world!

Posted on [December 15, 2010](#) by [T. Payne](#)

Welcome to [WordPress.com](#). This is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#) | [Edit](#)

Recent Posts

- [Hello world!](#)

Archives

- [December 2010](#)

Categories

- [Uncategorized](#)

Meta

- [Site Admin](#)
- [Log out](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

Business Blogging Orangeville

Blog at WordPress.com.

As you can see, these 2 simple steps can really make your business blog stand out from the pack and reflect your business.