Modifying the Frame Page Layout

You have limitless options when it comes to laying out pages with frames. You can divide frames the same way you created them initially: by splitting or by dragging. You'll probably do some experimenting before you achieve the layout you want.

To split frames:

1. In the Document window, click within the frame you want to split.

2. From the Document window menu bar, select Modify > Frameset > (as shown earlier in **Figure 13.5**), and then choose one of the following options: Split Frame Left, Split Frame Right, Split Frame Up, or Split Frame Down.

Splitting left or right, up or down may look exactly the same unless there is already content in the frame. For example, the left window in **Figure 13.23** shows a frame that was split left, and the right window shows the same frame split right instead.

To drag and reposition frame borders:

1. Mouse over the border between two frames, and the pointer will turn into a double-headed arrow (**Figure 13.24**).

2. Click on the border, and drag it to a new location. When the border appears where you want it to, release the mouse button.

✔ Tip

■ To split a frame while dragging it, hold down the Alt (Option) key while you click the mouse button (**Figure 13.25**).
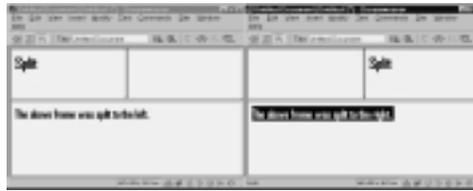
Figure 13.23 These two frames pages are pretty much the same. In the one on the left, the top frame was split left, whereas in the right-hand window, the same frame was split right. Which option you choose depends on where you want any content in the frame to land.
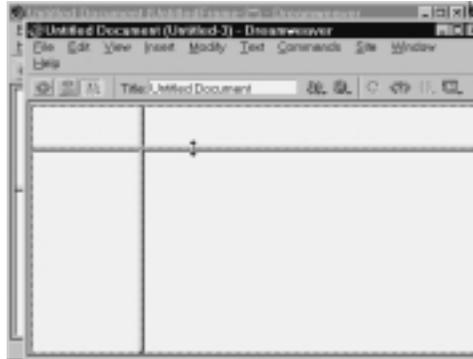

Figure 13.24 When you mouse over a border between frames, the pointer becomes a double-headed arrow that you can use to drag the border.
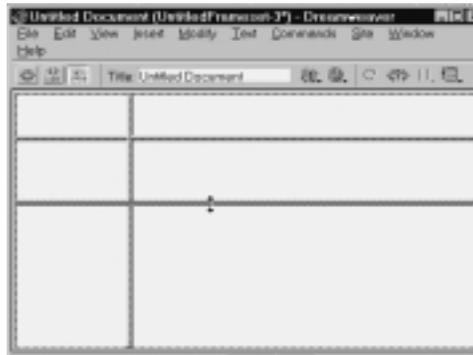

Figure 13.25 If you hold down the Alt (Option) key while clicking on the frame border, you can split a frame by dragging the border.

Figure 13.26 Click on the border of the unwanted frame, and drag it off the page. You'll get rid of both the frame and the border.
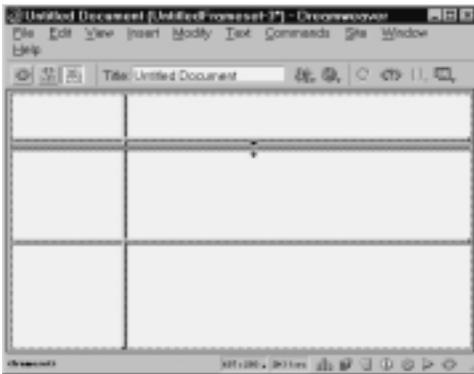
Figure 13.27 You can also drag a frame border into another frame border to get rid of it.
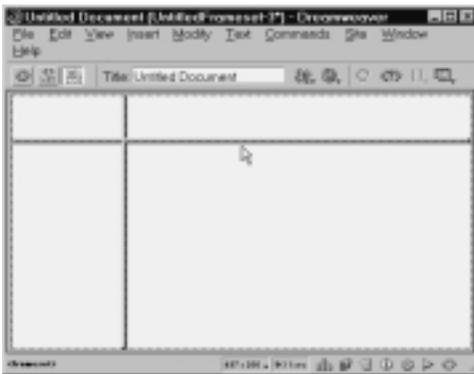
Figure 13.28 Either way, you'll be free of the unwanted frame.

Deleting a Frame

You can keep splitting frames until you achieve the layout you want, but if you create a few frames too many, getting rid of them is easy.

To delete a frame:

1. Click on the frame border, and drag it off the page (**Figure 13.26**).

   or

   Click on the frame border, and drag it until it meets another border (**Figure 13.27**).

2. Let go of the mouse button. The frame will disappear (**Figure 13.28**).

Moving Content Between Frames

Before you delete that frame, you can drag its content into another frame on the page. This works for all sorts of objects, including text, images, multimedia objects, and form fields. Click on the object to select it, or highlight the text you wish to move. Click and hold down the mouse button while you drag the object to a new frame. When the stuff is where you want it, let go of the mouse button, and it will reappear in the new location.

You can also select content and use key combinations to move it.

◆ To move the selection to an adjacent frame, hold down the Alt (Command) key and press the Left or Right arrow key.

◆ To move the selection to the parent frameset, press Alt+Up arrow (Command+Up arrow).

◆ To move the selection into the child frame, press Alt+Down arrow (Command+Down arrow).

DELETING A FRAME

Nested Framesets

Once your initial frame page layout is created, you can divide the space within any individual frame by inserting another frameset that is nested within the original frameset. Dreamweaver creates nested framesets automatically when you split a frame. The original frameset is called the parent, and the frameset within the parent set is called the child. You can theoretically keep nesting framesets until the cows come home, and the hierarchy will always have the child frameset reporting to its immediate parent.

An original frameset is shown in **Figures 13.29** and **13.30**. In framesets with no nested framesets inside them, all frame borders go from one edge of the browser or document window to the other. In **Figures 13.31** and **13.32**, the first frameset includes one frame of its own (the left-hand frame), plus the nested frameset. The second, nested frameset includes the two frames in the right-hand column.

Creating a nested frameset involves the same tasks as any other frameset. You can watch how Dreamweaver modifies the code by keeping the Code inspector open while you follow these steps.

To create a nested frameset:

1. Open (or create) a frameset page in the Dreamweaver window (**Figure 13.29**).

2. Click in one of the frames, and then split it by selecting, from the Document window menu bar, Modify > Frameset > and then Split Frame Left, Right, Up, or Down. In **Figure 13.31**, I selected Split Frame Up for the right-hand frame in **Figure 13.29**.

Dreamweaver has created a second frameset nested within the original frameset. You can examine the structure of the document by using the Frames panel.
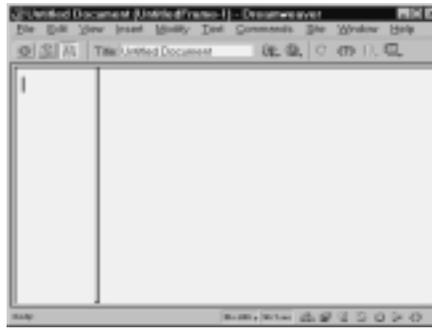
Figure 13.29 Here's a page that contains one frameset that is comprised of two frames.

Figure 13.30 In the Code inspector, you can see the highlighted code for the frameset, which includes the locations of the documents within it. Two frames, one frameset.


Figure 13.31 I split the right-hand frame in two; in order for one frame to contain two more frames (whose borders don't go across the whole frame), the original frameset must be subdivided to include a new frameset.

Figure 13.32 Now, in the Code inspector, you can see a new frameset tag nested within the original frameset tag.

Nested frameset (child) code selected

Child frameset selected

*Nested frameset tag selected in tag selector*
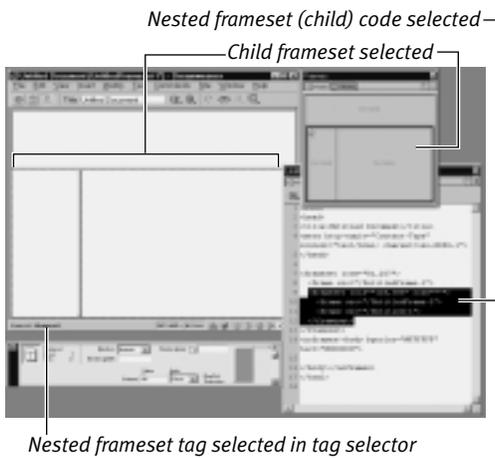
Figure 13.33 Dreamweaver automatically nests a new frameset inside the original, and you can select the child frameset with the Frames inspector. In the Code inspector, you can see that only the nested frameset code is selected. And in the tag selector, you can see two `<frameset>` tags, the second of which is selected.

Figure 13.34 Click on the nested frameset border in either the Frames panel or the Document window.

Figure 13.35 In the tag selector, select either the parent or the child frameset (the latter is selected here).

✔ Tips

■ Remember that you may have already created nested framesets by splitting frames or by using one of Dreamweaver's preset layouts.

■ The main reason you need to be aware of nested framesets is so that you can select and modify them separately. I bet you're glad you don't have to hand-code this stuff.

Selecting nested framesets

It can be difficult to tell which frame belongs to which frameset; you can tell by selecting the frame and then the frameset around it (**Figure 13.33**). Additionally, you'll often want to modify the properties of framesets separately.

To select any frameset:

1. Display the Frames panel, if necessary, by selecting Window > Frames from the Document window menu bar.

2. As you click on each frame in the Frames panel, it becomes highlighted. Additionally, a dashed line appears around the frame in the Document window.

3. To select an embedded frameset, click on the heavy border around the frameset in the Frames panel (**Figure 13.34**). A dashed line will appear around each frame in the embedded frameset in the Document window.

✔ Tip

■ You can also select an embedded frameset by clicking on the nested frameset tag in the tag selector (**Figure 13.35**).

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