

Blend Mode Reference Sheet

CSS Blend Modes & mix-blend-mode Mastery

About This Document

This reference accompanies the article: CSS Blend Modes & mix-blend-mode Mastery

Read the full article at: <https://svgeneration.com/docs/css-blend-modes>

Article Summary

Use CSS blend modes to layer SVG patterns over photos and colours for stunning, non-destructive visual effects.

Two Blend Mode Properties

CSS provides two blend mode properties: mix-blend-mode controls how an element blends with the content BELOW it (compositing with the stacking context). background-blend-mode controls how background LAYERS within a single element blend with each other. For blending patterns with page content, use mix-blend-mode on an absolutely positioned pattern overlay.

The Blend Mode Values

CSS supports 16 blend modes. The most useful for patterns: Multiply: darkens (white in the source = transparent). Screen: lightens (black = transparent). Overlay: high contrast darkens darks, lightens lights. Soft Light: subtle Overlay variant. Color: applies pattern hue/saturation to background luminosity. Luminosity: opposite of Color. Difference: creates surreal inversion effects.

Multiply: The Pattern Overlay Technique

mix-blend-mode: multiply is the designer's favourite for pattern overlays. A dark pattern element on a white background becomes fully opaque; on a coloured background it tints. A light pattern element approaches transparency. This means a black geometric pattern at multiply blend mode looks correct on any background colour - no need to choose pattern colours per-page.

Free Resources

Visit SVGeneration.com for 600 free SVG background patterns. No attribution required.

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