

CSS prefers-color-scheme Guide

Dark Mode Pattern Design: Techniques & Pitfalls

About This Document

This reference accompanies the article: Dark Mode Pattern Design: Techniques & Pitfalls

Read the full article at: <https://svgeneration.com/docs/dark-mode-pattern-design>

Article Summary

Design patterns that look stunning in both light and dark modes without duplicating SVG files or JavaScript complexity.

```
Code example: :root { --pattern-url: url('_VERSION'); -
-pattern-bg: #f5f5ff;}@media (prefers-color-scheme: dark) { :root { --pattern-url:
url('_VERSION'); --pattern-bg: #1e1b4b; }}.section {
background-image: var(--pattern-url); background-color: var(--pattern-bg);}
```

Dark Mode Colour Principles

Dark backgrounds should not be pure black (#000000) use very dark tinted values like #0f172a (dark blue), #111111 (warm near-black), or #0a0a0a (neutral dark). Pattern motifs on dark backgrounds should be 1025% lighter than the background not white. Saturated colours on dark backgrounds should be slightly desaturated to avoid vibrating.

Testing Dark Mode Patterns

Test patterns in four states: light mode (light system), dark mode (dark system), light mode high contrast, dark mode high contrast. Chrome DevTools lets you emulate all four with keyboard shortcuts. Also test in Windows High Contrast mode it overrides all custom colours and replaces them with system colours, making patterns disappear entirely (which is usually the correct behaviour).

Free Resources

Visit [SVGeneration.com](https://svgeneration.com) for 600 free SVG background patterns. No attribution required.

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