



**BUILD
UP YOUR
RESOURCES**



Get organised

The internet is a wonderful place filled with a whole load of free stuff, especially for designers. This guide will show you a few great places to get high quality resources to work with.

This guide will also cover a couple of things you can do to organise the resources you find so you don't spend forever searching for that thing you saw a while ago.

A little word of caution about using free stuff, there will usually be a licensing doc attached or linked to. Make sure you read it to check you're not breaking any of the terms of usage and you'll be fine.

Style, layout & inspiration

Before you start any project you should be looking at what's out there already to help push you in the right direction. These sites showcase the best of the best so check them out.

<http://dribbble.com/>

Snapshots from great designers great for visual inspiration

<http://behance.net/>

A showcase for really beautiful design projects

<http://pinterest.com/>

You'll probably know this one but it's great for design inspiration

<http://abduzeedo.com/>

Full of great articles and free stuff

<http://smashingmagazine.com/>

Again great articles particularly around everything web design

<http://visuelle.co.uk/>

Another great collection of beautiful design

<http://llgd.net/>

A collection of multi disciplinary design projects by professionals

Tutorials

One of the best ways to learn new techniques and skills is do do some tutorials. The links below showcase some of the best ones out there.

<https://design.tutsplus.com/categories/adobe-illustrator>

<http://vectips.com/>

<http://www.skillshare.com/>

<http://blog.spoongraphics.co.uk/>

<http://graphicdesignjunction.com/2015/12/free-illustrator-tutorials-for-vector-graphics/>

Patterns

Patterns are great for backgrounds and giving sections some depth and definition. The sites below range from customisable pattern editors to tileable squares to vectors. Just be sure to check how to use them once you download a pattern.

<http://subtlepatterns.com/>

<http://www.patternizer.com/izfa>

<http://thepatternlibrary.com/>

Stock photography

Beautiful images can really help bring designs to life and they're even better if they're free. Here's a list of some great free stock sites but check the licensing to ensure you're using them legally.

<https://www.pexels.com/>

<http://unsplash.com/>

<http://littlevisuals.co/>

<http://join.deathtothestockphoto.com/>

<http://nos.twinsnd.co/>

<http://superfamous.com/>

<http://picjumbo.com/>

<http://www.gratisography.com/>

Fonts

There are so many free fonts out there but the majority are terrible so you need to sift through them to find the gems. These sites are full of great free fonts so should get you up and running.

<http://www.google.com/fonts>

<http://www.fontsquirrel.com/>

<http://fontfabric.com/>

<https://www.theleagueofmoveabletype.com/>

<http://losttype.com/>

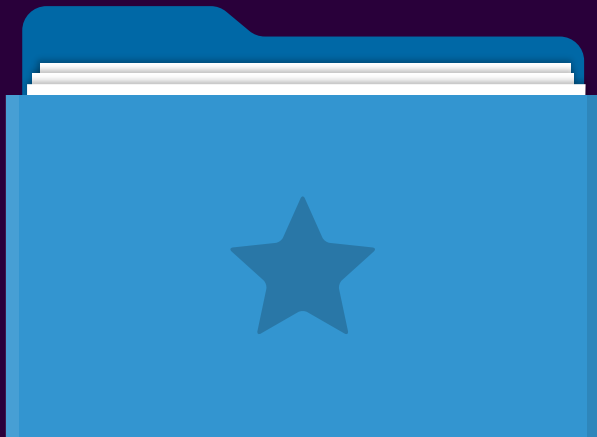


IT'S AS EASY AS THAT

It's a big wide world out there on the internet and new resources becoming available all the time so get out there and find some. If you want some more awesome guides, hints and tips then head on over to

<http://madebyslurpp.com/treats>

Bookmark it



Bookmarks are your friends and organised correctly they can be a great resource for inspiration and design elements.

You should create a folder for each project to keep specific inspiration but one of the most useful ways is to build up a 'resources' folder. Within that folder you create sub folders for things like 'fonts', 'icons' and 'tutorials' then once you start getting lots of links create sub folders of these like 'illustrator tutorials' or 'grungey fonts'.

The key thing to remember is that you want to be able to navigate all your bookmarks quickly and have a good idea of the content of each link. Changing bookmarks to have a more descriptive title rather than the URL will help with this.

Create a resources folder on your computer



With all the free stuff out there it's great to start a folder somewhere on your computer to keep all the great resources you've downloaded. Things like icon sets or vector iphone templates are always handy to have stored somewhere. It will save you a massive amount of time down the line if everything is neatly organised.

Pretty much identical to the approach of the bookmarks you want to create a structure that is easy to understand and navigate. With a main resources folder containing sub folders like 'icons' and 'vectors'

One of the most important things to do is give the actual resource file a meaningful name so that when you do come back you have an understanding of what's inside. There's nothing worse than having to open 10 files to find the one you want!