



Avactis[®]
SHOPPING CART

**Best
Practice**

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1. Introduction

A best practice is a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has been proven to reliably lead to a desired result.

In this document you will find best practice methodology that will help you to create graphic files for your Avactis shopping cart theme.

If you do not know how to create graphics for an Avactis theme, this document is your starting point.

2. Five simple steps to create an Avactis template

Follow these simple steps and you will be able to create graphic files for your Avactis shopping cart theme.

2.1. Header and menu design

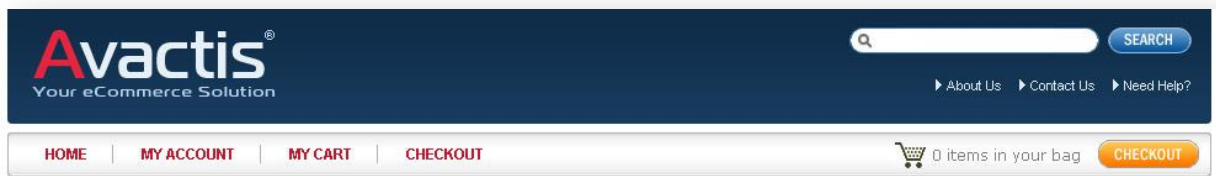
The header and main menu are very important pieces of a theme design. In most cases the creation of a header creates the design concept and color scheme for the whole store.

At this stage you decide which colors to use, which background is best for your theme, and what image to use in the header.

You then decide what design you want to create.

For example, in this document we create a design for photographers. It is light colored with a white background and a wide header.

Here is a screen shot of the default header design:



And here is how we redesigned this element:



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As you can see, almost all of the elements, such as the main menu and checkout button, stay in the same place.

However the design is completely different. This now defines the color scheme for our future store. All text will be black or white, and the background will be blue or white.

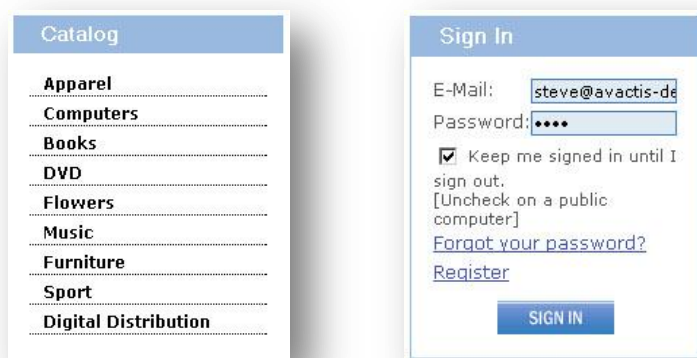
2.2. Buttons and default storefront boxes design

In this step we simply apply the header color scheme to the buttons and storefront boxes.

Default storefront boxes and buttons:



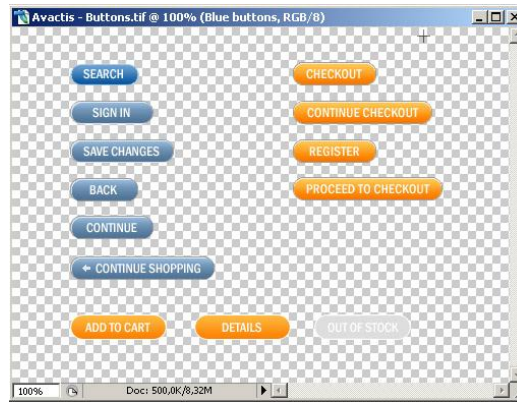
New storefront boxes. The color is optimized for the new theme:



➔ Note

It is possible to redesign all the buttons at once. You can find the [Avactis – Buttons.tiff](#) file in the design pack, with source code for the buttons:

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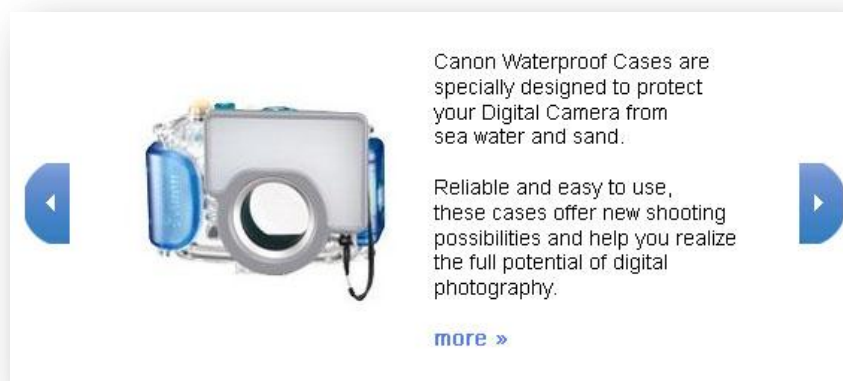


2.3. Main banner design

A main banner is an optional element. You can replace it with any image or completely remove the default banner:



In the theme we create here, we replace it with a modified “Hot Deals” box:



2.4. Bottom menu and footer design

You can use the default footer, or redesign it as you like.

You may not remove the “Powered by Avactis Shopping Cart” text from the footer if you create a free Avactis theme.

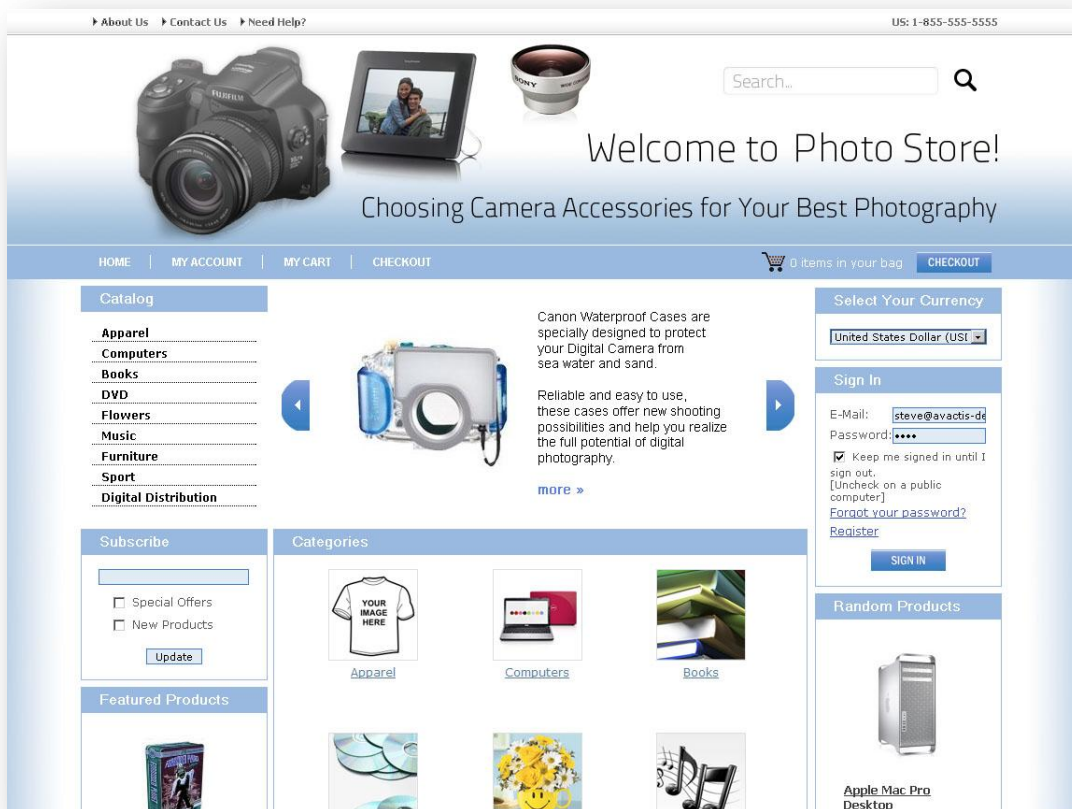
However, you can add your web studio link and copyright, for example:

Copyright 2004-2010 Your Company Name. All rights reserved.
Powered by [Avactis Shopping Cart](#). Theme design by [Web Design Studio](#).

2.5. Color scheme modification

In this step you will choose the colors for the main elements, background, texts, etc. We recommend using the colors applied in the header design. All you need to do is apply these colors to the other elements.

It is always better to bring all elements you have designed together to see the whole picture. Here is a theme we designed:



3. Conclusion

We developed the Avactis Shopping Cart to make design modifications easy.

Of course you can use the default design and make only small changes:



Or you can use the free templates developed for Avactis:



However, if you need a unique design we recommend creating your own theme.

If you have your own web design studio, you can create multiple themes and list them on our site or our partner sites with your copyright and links to your web studio site.

This will increase your site traffic and sales of your own unique products: free and fee-based themes for Avactis shopping cart.

