

# Using RGBA Colour

Oxford Geek Night 10 – 21 January 2009  
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# Using RGBA Colour The Bagpuss Way

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**There are lots of different ways to specify colours in CSS**





fuchsia  
#FF00FF

#FOF

rgb(255, 0, 255)

rgb(100%, 0, 100%)





**However you write it,  
they're identical colours.**



**(it's all the same biscuit)**



**They all have one other important aspect in common.**





**These all specify solid colours.**





**CSS3 introduces**

**rgba()**



**Red**

**Green**

**Blue**

**Alpha (opacity)**





`rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)`





**rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)**





**But that's what CSS3 opacity  
does isn't it?**





```
filter:alpha(opacity=50);  
-moz-opacity: 0.5;  
opacity: 0.5;
```





# Opacity affects the entire object





**RGBA is about the opacity of a colour**

Hello world

Hello world

Hello world





**Pink stripes 100% opacity**



**Entire Bagpuss 50% opacity**



**Pink stripes 50% opacity, as nature intended**



**Closer to a tiled, flat colour  
semi-transparent PNG, without  
the image.**





**... but also works for text,  
borders, foregrounds,  
backgrounds, playgrounds.**



**(maybe not playgrounds)**

# How?





`rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.5)`





**Browser support is ok,  
but not great.**





**Firefox 3**  
**Safari 3**  
**Opera 10**





**So how can we use this today without ending up with a nasty old mess in rubbish old browsers that don't support all this lovely RGBA stuff?**



**Fall back to solid colour**

**background: rgb(187, 192, 187);**

**background: rgba(120, 130, 120, 0.5);**



## Fall back to alpha PNG

```
background: transparent url(green50.png);  
background: rgba(120, 130, 120, 0.5) none;
```



**Tell me more!**

**<http://allinthehead.com/code/rgba/>**

**<http://dorward.me.uk/www/css/alpha-colour/>**



[allinthehead.com/presentations](http://allinthehead.com/presentations)



Thank you.