Blog Layout and Design

Blog layout and design is one area many bloggers enjoy and look forward to. It is here you can show personality and have fun experimenting with different settings. You will be using the Template Designer to choose a different template for your blog, set the main color scheme, choose a layout and background, as well as customize specific page elements, such as the color and font of post titles, page text, link color and more.

You will also learn how to add gadgets like a calendar or search box, as well as remove, or rearrange gadgets in your blog’s sidebar. In the header area of your blog’s layout, you will be installing a custom banner to use in addition to the desired Blogger template.

Although we’ll review Page Elements and Template Designer in the Design area of your blog, you will learn how to further customize your blog using HTML and CSS code in Chapter 7, within the Edit HTML area.

Page Elements

When entering the Design portion of your blog from the Dashboard, you will see three tabs: Page Elements, Edit HTML, and Template Designer. Page Elements displays a visual layout of your blog and where all your gadgets lie. A gadget is an item in your blog’s layout. When you first created your blog in Chapter 2, there were gadgets that Blogger automatically inserted into your blog’s layout (see Figure 3-1): About Me, Followers, Archives, and Page Header (the banner area which currently displays your Blog’s Title and Description previously entered in Chapter 2). Gadgets can be deleted at any time. We discuss gadgets in more detail later in this chapter.

In addition to the existing gadgets in your layout, there are other elements or areas of your blog that we’ll review, such as the Navbar, Header, Blog Posts, and gadgets like a Search Box.
Figure 3-1. Page Elements

Navbar

The Navbar is a built-in feature of your blog used to quickly navigate to your Design, compose a New Post, or to Sign Out, and displays your email (username). On the left side on the Navbar when viewing your blog, you will also see an area to report abuse, or the ability to go to the next Blogger blog.

In the Navbar page element, you can edit the Navbar color to best match the coloring of your blog. The only option when editing the Navbar (without using custom HTML/CSS code) is choosing a color. I would recommend one of the “transparent” settings (see Figure 3-2).