

Web Designer

Craig Skoney

Web Design

I am able to design and write standards compliant XHTML and CSS based web sites. I understand web graphic optimization and am able to use Photoshop's tools to successfully speed page load times for a better user experience. I am also familiar with basic SEO techniques.

Graphic Design

I understand the principles of graphic design. I study design constantly and own several books on various subjects including, but not limited to typography, grids, color theory and layout. I subscribe to Layers and How magazines to try and keep up with ever changing trends.

Software

I am fluent in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. I know my way around Flash, but am not an action script expert. I use Dreamweaver in code view and have used Eclipse, as well. I am more at home on a Windows XP machine, but also own an older Mac (OS10 Jaguar). I am also familiar with PowerPoint.

Education

I am self taught in graphic and web design. My education is working as an in-house and freelance designer.

I am a high school graduate. I hope to, one day, attend college for art and design.

Work History Starting with the Most Recent

Trackspeed, LLC – 04/2007 to 09/2008

My responsibilities included the design and coding of several front and back end interfaces for this web-based B2B software firm. I also created Flash animations and presentations, designed stationery, business cards, magazine advertisements and PowerPoint presentations.

Freelance Web and Graphic Design – 10/2001 to Present

I've gone through it all, just about, as a freelance designer: Struggling to get work and then struggling again to get content. Dealing with the clients who want you to push the buttons while they design the piece. Dealing with the whole "I can get it cheaper" mentality. Trying to get the final payment out of someone once the project is finished. Getting a down payment and doing more than that amount of work only to not hear from the client again until six months later. Realizing that it would be much better having someone else sell my services, so I might be able to spend more time designing...

I ended up taking a full time position, in April of 2007, and getting away from freelancing. I still have one loyal freelance client who found me instead of me finding him. Go figure.

Toolmaker - Machine Builder- Machinist – 01/1995 to 10/2001

Started with Pico (now Pico Comau) as a machine maintenance/repair person. I transferred to the build floor at my request. Pico builds automated assembly machinery for the auto industry. I was with them until September of 1997. After Pico, I did a stint as a contract employee for a couple of different outfits, until I accepted an in-house position at Utica Products in June of 1999.

At Utica Products, I helped build, supervise the building of, and installation of Net Form and Pierce lines. I worked on several projects for them, including the Dodge Viper and Pacifica, the VW Passat, and The Chrysler Mini Van, to mention a few. I made several trips as sole support technician to Chrysler's St. Louis Assembly plant. I was laid off in October of 2001. The lack of work in the automotive field helped me decide to pursue my web design "hobby" full time.

About Me? Well...

This is always the hardest part for me. How does one talk about oneself, without sounding conceited or too modest? I guess one would just tell the truth.

Here's my version of the truth:

I started learning to make web pages, in late 1999, out of curiosity. I played around with Photoshop and Notepad tearing apart all sorts of pages I found on "The Web". For fun, I would help family and friends who thought they could use a web site.

Fast forward to about a year later and a friend gives my name to a multimedia firm who is looking for a web designer. I worked there for around six months before leaving to try it on my own.

I am a pretty quick study. I usually don't have much difficulty picking up on things, provided we're not talking about a programming language (I lose interest in programming pretty quickly). I have made some really nice designs and a few that don't deserve another look. I can be outspoken, if I feel strongly enough about something. I love to laugh, especially if it's in good company. I love art and design. I'm constantly striving to be a better designer. I am probably the only person you'll ever meet who has tried to design a website using constructivist ideas (notice I said "tried"). I am honest to a fault. I am punctual, dedicated, and I take great pride in my work.

My personal website is <http://idesyns.com>.