

HTML Pocket Reference, 2nd Edition
By Jennifer Niederst
Reviewed by Russell L. Tobias

HTML Pocket Reference, 2nd Edition, by Jennifer Niederst, published by O'Reilley and Associates (January 2002), is a reference book with an alphabetical list of HTML tags, their attributes, and explanations. For example, after receiving this book, I heard SIG leader Reed Gustow mention the "DIV" command during our meeting and I tried to remember "What is the DIV command"?

Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to page over to page 30 of the book, which tells me that DIV "denotes a general division within the document." It tells me that it's implemented in Netscape versions 2,3,4,and 6, Internet Explorer 2,3,4,5,5.5, and 6, is part of the HTML 4.01 specification, and is also supported by WebTV and Opera5. Its attributes (parameters) and syntax are defined thoroughly, and a paragraph gave me a brief history and some additional useful information about it.

Other sections of the book define the tag groups in HTML, tag structures, a character entity chart which breaks out all those &# thingies, all of which you can rarely find complete in a single place, and finally extended HTML 4.01 Entities where support was introduced by Internet Explorer 5.5 and Netscape Navigator 6. The gist of the book, however, is the alphabetical listing of the tags, and like the Philadelphia telephone directory is all characters but no plot. I'm not going to tell you how the book ends, though, to avoid spoiling the story for you (all right, I'll tell you. Decimal to Hexidecimal Conversion Chart), but at \$12.95, this gem makes an excellent gift and belongs on every serious web designer's bookshelf!