# Ao3 Coding References

HTML Advice: Mackerel's advice spreadsheet where to start

My (Am's) HTML heavy fics: Phasmophobia CaseFile Epistolary, Hermitcraft S10 Grian CYOA story (my first html), ScarBeans Letters Epistolary (Hermitcraft) April Fools CYOA (Hermitcraft Permit Shenanigans) Average Reddit Conspiracy (Hermitcraft ZITS)

**Basics:**

- This Ao3 Posting Doc converts Google doc into HTML, adding **bold,** underline, *italics*, ~~strikethrough~~, paragraph breaks, and centered text. Major game changer for heavy HTML works
- The Fic Writer's Guide to Formatting by AnisaAnisa: This is a masterpost in itself, covering links, images, boxes, borders, fonts etc. So I'm putting it here since it's amazingly helpful
- HTML References by W3 schools- I've linked the HTML colors here, but this is a platform designed to help people learn/reference HTML
- Ao3's own guide to HTML on their site Lovely Q&A for Ao3 specific HTML questions
- A Guide to Ao3 HTML by Anima Nightmate (faithhope) This walks through what HTML code means SO WELL!

This got long: Text resources, fancy formatting & other website formats below the cut

**Text resources: (altering the color, font, emoji, style etc.)**

Note: some font changes don't even need a workskin! Check this chapter of Fic Writer's Guide to Formatting basics for simple things like the **bold,** underline, *italics*, ~~strikethrough~~, and headers precoded into Ao3.

**Instructions for basics (font weight, size, color, shadows, gradient text)**

- Font's chapter: The Fic Writer's Guide to Formatting: okay I know I already linked it above, but listen it's very good so I'm linking again. Font styles, colors, highlighted text, shadows etc.
- Fonts colors and work skins oh my by Charles_Rockafellor takes fonts to a different level.
- Multicolored text skin by ElectricAlice GRADIENT TEXT
- All the Emoji by CodenameCarrot while Ao3 has signifigantly improved on hosting emojis, this code helps with using some more unconventional emojis. Amazing resource.
- Upsidedown text and Zalgo text generators - these specific text generators allow for you to see their direct HTML codes
- Fun CSS Text Effects by DoctorDizzyspinner
- AO3 Comic Text Effects using CSS by DemigodofAgni Ever want a giant comicbook POW in your fic?
- Toggle for all caps, all lowercase, and capitalization by DoctorDizzyspinner
- Fading Out Text on Ao3 by fiend
- Ruby Text by Elsepth
- Homicipher tutorial by sweetsuke
- A (Quite Incoherent) Tutorial on How to do a Cool Rotated Text in HTML by Nitrogen_Reject
- List of Special Characters in HTML by Metalhead17
- **Collection:** CSS Guides by Goddess_of_the_arena (many helpful text walkthrough resources)

**Fonts with secrets (spoilers, translations, footnotes etc.)**

- [Hide text (Spoilers) on Ao3, A very basic How To](#) by FidgetScribbles
- [Workskin for showing and hiding spoilers](#) by ElectricAlice makes text appear when hovered/clicked. Amazing for Trigger Warnings
- [Make text appear when you click [Work skin]](#) by Khashana clickable end notes buttons for your work, similar to the spoiler button text
- [Hide spoilers like Discord](#) by Professor_Rye
- [Desktop/mobile friendly short tooltips workskin](#) by Simbaline
- [How to make Linked Footnotes on Ao3](#) by La_Temperanza
- [Mmm Whatcha say: Changing Text on Hover for Multilingual fics](#) by mackerel_cheese
- [Testing Work Skins - hover divs](#) by Skits

**Overriding Ao3 Text Madness**

- [User-selectable Names in a Fanfic work](#) by fiend Ever want people to select between different names in a fanfic? I could also see this used as ability to switch gender in a fanfic
- [Custom Names in Reader Insert Fics (Yes Really)](#) by fiend THIS IS BLACK MAGIC
- [Work Skin: Changing Character Names](#) by deathbymistletoe
- [How to override the Archive's Chapter Headers](#) by C Ryan Smith
- [How to target specific sections of your work (for workskins)](#) by hearker(heark)
- [Targeting specific Ao3 work sections (not site) with CSS effects](#) by Charles_Rockafellor
- [Refresh Outcomes/Randomizer](#) by GumbaBunny

**Fancy Formatting {Note: this got long so I split it up into more manageable sections}**

**Coding Masterpieces (Multiple things within the same fic)**

- [Personal Experiment with HTML and CSS](#) by MohnblumenKind This has a variety of help, Chapter 6 & 7 were great for choose your own adventure, Chapter 4 talks about columns and skins, and Chapter 10 even has a newspaper made entirely from site code.
- [Repository](#) by gaudersan google searches, ao3 stats, instagram and [text messages galore](#)
- [CSS in Testing/Bleed Gold](#) by InfinitysWraith Masterclass in cool formatting, including overidding default headers, Doors opening animation, Grid interactive photos, Hovering to change a photo, Retroactive text etc.
- [CSS in Testing:Second in Series](#) by InfinitysWraith: Interactive keypads, Mock news site and interactive locking mechanism.
- [Coding Encyclopedia](#) by Anonymous: chess, opening html envelopes, functioning clocks, HTML Art– this book is genuinely the most advanced stuff I've seen with HTML code on Ao3– and I've looked at every guide on this list.
- [CSS Practice](#) by chronondecay: while not technically a tutorial, my god does this man know how to make cool things.
- [A Complete Guide to 'Limited HTML' on Ao3](#) by CodenameCarrot – **This is an amazing explanation of all possible HTML tags**
- [HTML/CSS Shenanigans](#) by nerdzeword –receipts, CDs, and polaroids

**Decorations (Boxes, Dividers, letters/background)**

- [How to mimic letters, fliers and stationary without using images](#) by La_Temperanza Really helped with box formatting
- [Epistolary workskin](#) by irrationalpie
- [Decorations for Fic (HTML/CSS): Fanart, Dividers, Embedded Songs and More](#) by Jnsn this has SO MANY cool coding features, including a chessboard that moves when you hover over it
- [Chess puzzle extravaganza](#) by Charles_Rockafellor
- [Build a divider tool demo](#) by skinforthesoul
- [How to make custom Page Dividers](#) by La_Temperanza
- [Found Document work skin](#) by hangingfire
- [Neon Signs Workskin](#)– O_O_MLM
- [Best Scene Dividers Lightsabers Make](#) by Magnolia_in_black_Velvet
- [Page Dividers Workskin by Linwelin](#)
- [Styled dividers/scene breaks](#) by lovewich_codes
- [Footnotes demo](#) by lovewich_codes
- [Public work skin - Typewriter + letter-style-theme](#) by Redrushrug

**Embedding other formats: (Images, gifs, youtube videos, audio, alt text)**

- [Embed that Audio](#) by Azdaema
- [Newbies guide to Podficcing](#) by Azdaema
- [Embedding youtube videos on ao3 to scale with the screen](#) by pigalle add youtube videos mid fic
- [Conlangs and Accessibility](#) by Addleton this fic instructs how to have accessible translations in fic
- [How to make Images Fit on Mobile Browsers](#) by La_Temperanza great image adding code
- [How to Wrap text around images](#) by La_Temperanza image text wrapping
- [How to put pictures and gifs on Ao3 from Google Drive](#) by gally_hin

**Choose Your Own Adventure Code**

- [How to make a Choose Your Own Adventure Fic](#) by La_Temperanza allows for clickable links and hidden text.
- [Interactive fiction Workskin Tutorial](#) by RedstoneBug BEST CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE RESOURCE
- [How to make your fic look like the game](#) by MelsShenanigans, ThoughtsCascade (I was a Teenage Exocolonist is the game but it's a Choose your own adventure re-skin)
- [The Choose Your Own Adventure Guide to Choose Your Own Adventure Fics with Limited HTML](#) by O_O_MLM
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**Newspaper/Article/Blog mimic**

- [How to make a News Website Article Skin on Ao3](#) by ElectricAlice
- [Newspaper/Magazine Article Template](#) by deathbymistletoe
- [Newspaper Article](#) by lordvoldemortsskin --basic but adaptive for mobile
- [Newspaper Article Adaptation](#) by KorruptBrekker modification for different columns
- [TMZ WorkSkin](#) by Anonymous
- [Basic blogpost skin](#) by Anonymous
- [Blog Post Work Skin](#) by Anonymous
- [Journaling App](#) by egnimalea

- [Icarian Desires: A knockoff Rolling Stones News Article Ao3 Workskin](#) by mackerel_cheese
- [Fire and Ice Archive - Work Skin](#) by Anonymous


## Email Mimic

- [How to insert Gmail emails in your fic](#) by DemigodofAgni
- [How to mimic Email Windows](#) by La_Temperanza
- [Gmail Email Skin](#) by Sunsetcurbed
- [The idiot's incoherent guide for learning css & html for ao3 in dystopia](#) by anonymous (Gmail skin)

## Search Engine Mimic

- [Google Search Suggestions Work Skin and Tutorial](#) by Bookkeep
- [Baidu Search History Work Skin](#) by Bookkeep
- [Repository](#) by gaudersan
- [Chrome History Mock](#) by jihn (html_hell on Ao3)
- [Web Search Mimic](#) by Ultraviollett

## Misc. General formats with HTML (mission reports, spreadsheets, other documents)

- [Screenplay skin](#) by astronought
- [Screenplay workskin](#) by legonerd
- [Mock Spotify Playlist WorkSkin](#) by Anonymous
- [How to make a rounded playlist](#) by La_Temperanza Ever want to show a character's music playlist within your fic
- [Now Playing/Music Notification Ao3 Workskin Guide](#) by imperiousmarshmallow
- ["Objection" Shout Button](#) by FerdieLance
- [Workskin for in Universe Investigative/Mission Report with Redaction](#) by wafflelate case files/CSI reports
- [Learn to Microsoft Excel](#) by ssc_lmth insert a spreadsheet in your fic
- [Ao3 Work skin: a simple scoreboard](#) by revanchist shows how to code a scoreboard
- [Colossal Cave Adventure](#) by gifbot Working Keyboard anyone?
- [Tabbing experiment](#) by gifbot (clickable tabs)
- [Rainchord–CSS Workskin](#)–by Im_bad_at_usernames0939 (while this is technically a discord skin, it has CLICKABLE TABS)
- [Calendar workskin](#) by Linwelin
- [Simple qna box](#) by bluuscreen
- [Phone Screen/Lock Screen Ao3 Workskin Guide](#) by imperiousmarshmallow
- [Digital Clock Tutorial](#) by One_of_Them(greenbean_paste)
- [Tablez](#) by Hooty_is_a_bug Table formatted like a class schedule
- [Heark's character creator](#) by heark
- [Refresh Outcomes/Randomizer](#) by GumbaBunny

**Other Websites:**

**Texting**

- -[How to make iOS Text Messages on Ao3](#) by CodenameCarrot, La_Temperanza
- -[A Quick Generator for Embeddable iOS Text Messages](#) by 221b_ee
- -[imessage Skin](#) by Adzaema
- -[Retro imessage](#) by Adzaema
- -[Basic Text Message Work Skin](#) by ProfessorMotz
- - [Bubble platform [workskin]](#) by Khashana
- -[Chat Log HTML](#) by deathbymistletoe
- -[LINE Messenger/Chat](#) by imperiousmarshmellow
- [How to make LINE Chat on AO3](#) by ran_a_dom (revabhipraya)
- [微信作品皮膚 WeChat work skin](#) by Anonymous
- -[IDOLish Rabbit Chat Workskin](#) by associate
- -[Replika workskin](#) by FaeriMagic
- -[How to make Grindr messages on Ao3](#) by DesignatedGrape
- [Dating App & Notification Bar workskin](#) by Anonymous
- -[Texting Workskin to match light/dark mode](#) by irrationalpie
- [Old School Text Message Work Skin](#) by riocf
- [Minimalist Texting Template](#) by GhostoftheLibrary
- [Telegram Work Skin Live Test](#) by impulserun
- [Message thread skins](#) by lovewitch_codes –multiple types of texting skin in one

**Tumblr**

- -[Tumblr style CSS Tweaks](#) by Aposiopesis
- -[Ao3 Workskin Testing and Tutorials](#) by junietuesday25 tumblr DM
- -[How to make Tumblr Posts on Ao3](#) by phyyripo
- -[Plain Text Social Media Platforms](#) by anubisms
- -[Tumblr Post Work Skin](#) by tsukinosaugi

**Twitter**

- -[Repository - Twitter](#) by gadaursan
- - [How to mimic Social Media in an Ao3](#) work by aerynevenstar
- -[Twitter Work Skin Template](#) by etc e tal
- -[Twitter Workskin: Tweets and Profile](#) by starskin
- -[Twitter Mock-Up](#) by TheBrookesNook
- [[Ao3 skin] Twitter with Threads](#) by oakleaf
- [Twitter Trending Page Work Skin](#) by cottongod
- [Mimicking Twitter posts for some fics](#) by Ultraviollett

**Ao3/Fandom**

- -[How to mimic Authors notes and Kudos/Comment Buttons](#) by La_Temperanza
- -[How to mimic AO3 Comments](#) by bittermoons
- -[How to insert html/css comments in your fic that still look good after you download them](#) by Magnolia_in_black_Velvet
- [Fic Ending Fakeout Demonstration (Light/Dark Compatible)](#) by JajaLala
- [Comprehensive Ao3 Fic In a Fic (Dark/Light Mode Compatible)](#) by JajaLala

- [Ao3 Fic within a Fic Workskin](#) by cheju
- [Workskin to imitate Ao3 emails](#) by anonymous
- -[How to add mobile Ao3 in your fic](#) by DemigodofAgni
- -[How to make a fanfic style header Ao3 style](#) by ElectricAlice
- -[Template for adding post chapter content](#) by SpookyTesting
- -[CSS based full Ao3 fic integration (Header/Overview, Comments, Title, Summary & Buttons)](#) by deciMae
- [How To Put A Gift Fic Email In Your Fic](#) by pocketsofstars
- -[How to Mimic LiveJournal Posts and Comments](#) by cursedcuriosities
- -[Dreamwidth Entries & Comments Work Skin](#)  by folk_melody

## Facebook/Instagram/Whatsapp

- -[Whatsapp Group Chat builder](#) by FestiveFerret
- -[How to make Facebook Messenger Chat on Ao3](#) by ran_a_dom
- [Facebook Post work skin](#) by BluebeardsWife
- -[Whatsapp Work Skin Template Revamped](#) by etc e tal
- -[Whatsapp group chat skin](#) by ovely
- -[Instagram DMs for Ao3](#) by monarch_rhapsodies
- -[How to make Instagram DM mockup](#) by xslytherclawx
- -[Penstagram chats on ao3](#) by deciMae
- [Instagram and IOS Workskin](#) by Ezrasmoon

## Snapchat

- [Snapchat skin](#) by Azdaema
- [Snapchat Template for Ao3](#) by starskin

## Reddit/Forum

- [UPDATED Reddit Skin](#) by diamine
- [2020 Reddit Work Skin by timstokerlovebot](#)
- [Reddit Work Skin CSS & HTML by knave_of_swords](#)
- [How to mimic Social Media in an Ao3](#) work by aerynevenstar
- [template Reddit Skin](#) by spookedcroon
- [template:Subreddit page](#) by ireseen
- [Ao3 workskin for Forum Thread](#) by fencesit
- [Ao3 workskin for Forum Thread [Expansion Pack]](#) by AMereDream
- [How to mimic 4chan posts without just taking screenshots of 4chan](#)
- [Reddit mock](#) by jihn (html_hell on Ao3)

## Twitch/Youtube/Netflix

- [Mimicking Twitch Chat for fics](#) by Ultraviollett
- [Twitch Chat Work Skin](#) by cherrari
- [Workskin testing](#) by tohmas [Youtube comments]
- [Youtube Work Skin](#) by 1864s
- [Youtube Comment Section Workskin](#) by LupaMoe
- [Youtube Mock](#) by jihn (html_hell on Ao3)
- [work skin testing](#) by tohmas  – simplified youtube comments
- [Netflix workskin](#) by entropy_muffin

**Discord/Slack/Zoom**

- -[2023 Discord Theme](#) Workskin by TrojanTeapot
- -[Discord Work Skin ](#)by unpredictableArtist
- -[Discord (Dark Theme) Workskin ](#)by Heterochromia_Mars
- -[Skin for Recreating Discord's Server Member List](#) by SpookyTesting
- -[Ao3 Workskin Testing and Tutorials b](#)y junietuesday25
- [Rainchord–CSS Workskin](#)– by Im_bad_at_usernames0939 CLICKABLE TABS!!! SO COOL
- [Discord Work Skin ](#)by WildfireValkyrie
- [Simple discord formatting](#) by bluuscreen
- -[Slack Workskin](#) by Khashana
- -[Zoom inspired Ao3 skin](#) by mystyrust
- [Sprinto Sprinto ](#)by EzrasMoon (discord sprintbot messages)

**Wikipedia**

- [Fake Wikipedia article about a TV show: Work Skin](#) by Anonymous
- [Wikipedia article work skin by](#) styletests
- [SCP Wiki Style Workskin](#) by thesnager
- [Fake Fanon Wiki](#) by sophiebybophie

**Working Games in Ao3 Tutorials**

- [Logic Grid Puzzle Work Skin & Tutorial](#) by BookKeep
- [The Case Of The Clickable Murdle](#) by VThinksOn
- [Bubble-pop! Game](#) by Charles_Rockafellor

**Review Sites:**

- [Yelp Reviews](#) by kiwiana
- [Amazon Reviews](#) by kiwiana
- [Rate My Professor Work Skin](#) by BookKeep

**Video Game Dialog Mimics**

- -[Dialog [workskin]](#) by Clover_Zero
- -[Dialogue Workskin (with parallax BG effect) ](#)by mystyrust
- -[My S Ranks--System Windows](#) by unpredictableArtist [computer dialog workskin]
- -[Tutorial: Ace Attorney Work Skin](#) by QuailFence
- -[Among Us Ao3 skin](#) by mystyrust
- -[How to Mimic Undertale Fonts on Ao3 ](#)by La_Temperanza
- -[Tutorial:Rain Code Work Skin ](#)by faish
- -[Balder's Gate 3 Documents Work Skin](#) by Professor_Rye
- -[SpookyTesting has SOO many Nintendo based ones](#)
- –[Mimicking Minecraft for some fics](#) by Ultraviollett
- [Runescape Right Click Menu Formatting](#) by fennfics
- [How to put Z skits in your Tales fics](#) by wingedcatgirl
- [How to make Honkai: Star Rail Messages ](#)by html_hell (jihnari)
- [Hold-hands inspired Texting skin](#) by cursedcuriocities(SetsuntaMew)
- [Simple Linkshell Ao3 Work Skin](#) by Pent – Final Fantasy XIV mimic
- [Homestuck Chat Clients](#) by 77angel-skins

- [Workskin: Slay the Princess](#) by ASpooky
- [Slay the Princess: Updated Workskin](#) by Lilto
- [Detroit Become human workskin](#) by thetanimal (gleomu) – screenreader friendly glitch text
- [Zenless Zone Zero DMs (Ao3 Workskin)](#) by Pent
- [Zenless Zone Zero Inner-Knots](#) by Pent
- [How to make the system windows look like the ones in my works](#) by Anonymous –Scum Villain Self Saving system skin
- [Professor Layton and the Lost Future Puzzle Work Skin](#) by gotosleepfeifei
- [Cookie run workskin](#) by ASpooky, Icannothink123
- [Killer Chat! Work skin](#) by writing_tool
- [Work Skin Recreating Fire Emblem Engage Stat Gauges](#) by flameMail

**Misc. Sites**

- --[How to mimic Deadpool Thinking boxes](#) by La_Temperanza
- --[FetLife Skin [Work Skin]](#) by Khashana
- --[Disco Elysium workskin](#) by SarunoHadaki
- --[StarTrek PADD workskin](#) by duskyspirit
- --[MDZS-themed letters](#) by allollipoppins
- --[A Newbie's Guide to Podficcing](#) by Adzaema [skin for podfics]
- --[Skin for making Character Intro Cards](#) by SpookyTesting
- --[Kpop Photocards](#) by legonerd
- –[OVR System Workskin](#) by unpredictableArtist
- -[How to make Stylized CSS Card Links for your fics](#) by buttertartz
- – [vroom vroom kachow: Formula1 Race Results Workskin](#) by mackerel_cheese
- -[How to put Cards Against Humanity into your fic](#) by L56895
- [Grand Army of the Republic chat Workskin](#) by Grumpy_tooka
- [Craigslist Workskin Tutorial](#) by nerdzeword
- [Magnus Archives Transcript Work Skin](#) by Flickersprout
- [Murderbot diaries workskin tutorial](#) by thetanimal (gleomu)
- [Skin for Recreating Deltarune's Stats Screen](#) by SpookyTesting (FierySprites)

Bonus: Ever wanted to see how crazy HTML can be on AO3? Try playing [But can it run Doom](#)? or [Tropémon](#) by gifbot

Happy Creating!

*Last updated:* Aug 17 2025

**Coding Related,**

**Non-Ao3 code that MAY work in Ao3:**

- [CSS Shapes](#) by Chris Coyeir
- [Scroll Shadows](#) by Chris Coyeir

**Cool fics without tutorial I found**

- [Sudoku in Heart Flutter Against the Stars by WordsofWilderness](#)
- [Changing the game](#) by mackeral_cheese
- [WO3 Styling Debug](#) by tbvns