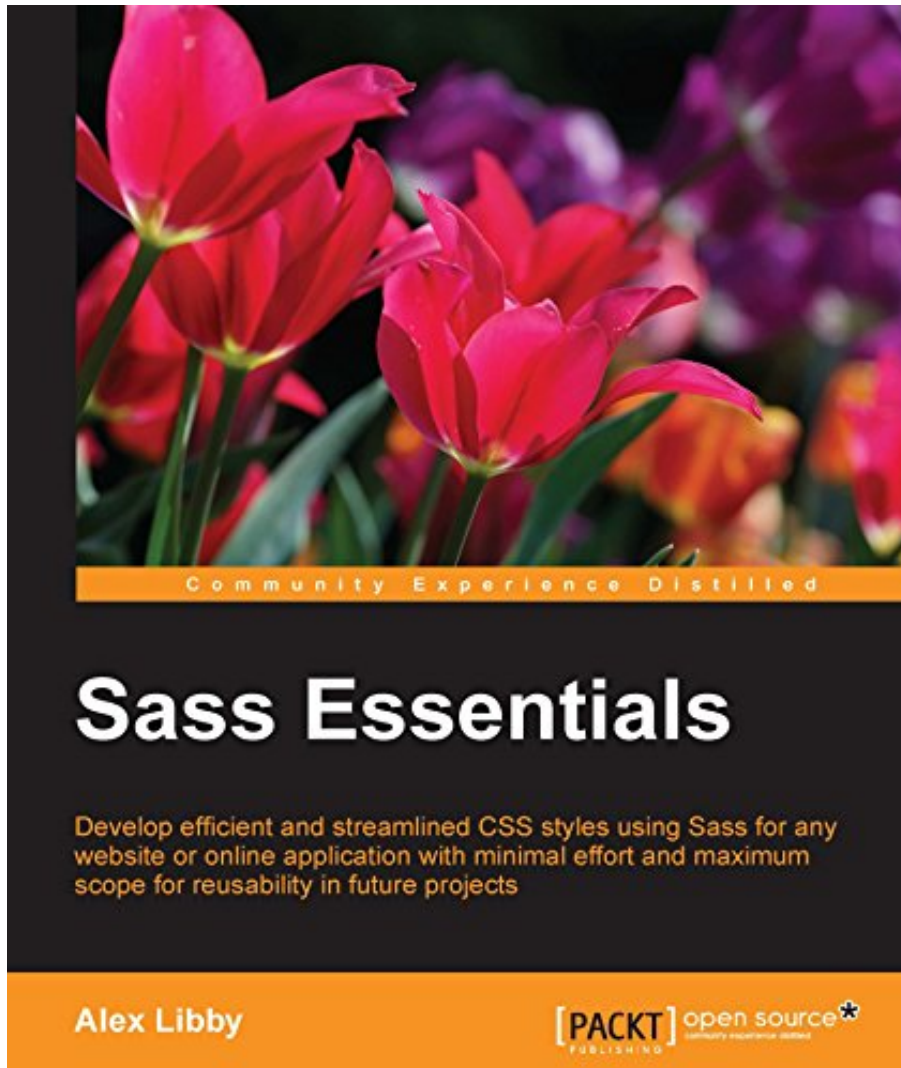


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About the Author

Alex Libby

Alex Libby comes from an IT support background. He has been involved in supporting end users for almost 20 years in a variety of different environments. Currently, Alex works as a technical analyst and supports a medium-sized SharePoint estate for an international parts distributor in the UK. Although he gets to play with different technologies in his day job, his first true love has always been the open source movement, particularly, experimenting with CSS/CSS3, jQuery, and HTML5. To date, Alex has written nine books based on jQuery and CSS3, among others, for Packt. Sass Essentials is Alex's tenth book for Packt. He has reviewed several books and videos as well.

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# SASS ESSENTIALS BY ALEX LIBBY PDF

Develop efficient and streamlined CSS styles using Sass for any website or online application with minimal effort and maximum scope for reusability in future projects

- Streamline CSS development using the power of SASS
- Discover how to transition existing projects to SASS
- Create dynamic websites with faster load times, reusable CSS code, and simplified workflows

## Who This Book Is For

This book is primarily aimed at web designers who have a good understanding of CSS, jQuery, and HTML, but who are new to using CSS preprocessing. Some prior knowledge is assumed of WordPress, CSS grids, and Bootstrap, although these skills can be picked up reasonably quickly.

## What You Will Learn

- Install Sass and compile code to produce valid CSS style sheets
- Work with mixins and variables to help streamline writing styles
- Define CSS attribute values using the power of functions and operators
- Reduce repetition of code through the use of nesting styles
- Understand how to rationalize code by extending existing styles
- Explore the use of directives to control how styles are created
- Apply techniques to existing projects or well-known applications such as WordPress or Bootstrap

## In Detail

Sass is a professional grade CSS extension language known for its stability and versatility in the field of web design. It introduces new concepts to CSS, such as variables and nesting, that allow users to speed up their workflows and make their code more dynamic.

Sass Essentials is a fast-paced, hands-on guide that breaks down the mysteries of preprocessing CSS styles using the Sass preprocessor and shows you how you can apply simple techniques to quickly and efficiently create CSS style sheets.

With this book, you will dive in and familiarize yourself with some popular directives and see how, with some care and planning, they can prove to be really powerful tools to use in Sass.

- Sales Rank: #1145981 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-07-28
- Released on: 2015-07-28
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

It has promise, but it never quite takes off due to code that doesn't work and editorial oversights.

By Joel Bousley

First, let me say that I think three stars is too many for this book - it's more like 2.5 stars almost. I typically don't buy books unless I'm familiar with the author's work or the book has really good reviews. I decided to take a chance and purchased it directly from Packt Publishing. Big mistake.

The first thing I noticed was that there are a number of editorial mistakes and it begins with clumsy use of the English language on the books cover, followed by the author's biography and it keeps on from there. For example, in the author's bio the book states, "...Alex works as a technical analyst and supports a medium-sized SharePoint estate for an international parts distributor in the UK. Although he gets to play with different technologies in his day job, his first true love has always been the open source movement, particularly, experimenting with CSS/CSS3, jQuery, and HTML5." Yikes! Another example of odd turns of phrase, one of the section headings is "Making a start on our code" -- why not simply "Start Coding"? These same peculiar occurrences crop up throughout the book. That's not the half of it, because once I got to the reason I purchased the book (to brush up on my Sass skills), things quickly became frustrating. To add to that, the attempts at humor come off as especially vexing because the author seems to be trying to write in a conscious flow of thought; e.g., "Ah! Yes. I know. In this age of automation, why are we spending time completing..." All I could think after reading the rest of that was, "So, you just wasted my time in a pointless exercise. Nice, man!"

In Chapter 1: Introducing Sass, far too much time is dedicated to talking about a particular IDE - Sublime Text. Things start out fine with stepping you through installing Ruby and Sass via command line, but then beginning on page 6 through page 10, the instructions in the book are all about working with Sublime Text. Working with Sublime isn't the problem here though -- it's the fact that the instructions given by the author are out of date and most of the packages are no longer named as he lists them. Next he dives into compiling Sass with Koala -- another diversion not needed for a book on Sass. Rookies should be learning how to do things from the command line FIRST so that they have a better understanding of tools like Koala. By the time the author finally gets around to using Node and Grunt, my temperature was rising, and the fact that his instructions don't work didn't help. For example, when you run the grunt command, you get an error as shown in my second screenshot. This becomes a show stopper and I ended up investing some time debugging the issue. This happened multiple times throughout the book with code.

Now, to be fair, it wasn't all bad, because there are certainly useful lessons and advice throughout the book, and once you get past the strange grammar and syntax, it's fairly informative. For example, the author gives great advice on naming conventions, expertly breaks down mixins and how to pass arguments to them, a solid dive into the very useful subject of breakpoints, provides a working example (with some needed

tweaking on the reader's end), how to extend styles, animating with Sass, retrofitting responsiveness into a site, and adding Sass into your current projects.

The author provided great source material and a pretty good book, but the content and technical editors failed him and the readers. Perhaps a second edition will improve on these shortcomings with someone actually going through the code, removing the nonsense dedicated to one IDE, and making sure that there is a forum for communicating with the author. It's what both SitePoint and Wrox do with their titles and they're all the better for it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Solid book for those brand new to Sass

By Matt

In the book's defense, the area of CSS processors has been changing dramatically in the past few years. I think the book could have stated a bit more clearly that there are several ways to compile your Sass to CSS. For example if you don't use Ruby in your workflow but you do use Node.js, you might be a bit upset to install it by following through the book and then later find out you could have avoided it by just using the JavaScript compiler.

The book does a great job of hitting many key essentials to get started with Sass. It also mentions a few issues Sass can create, such as abusing nesting.

If you've never used Sass I think this book is a good method to get started.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Had promise but desperately needs to be use-tested and debugged

By RBV

I managed to use this book to get started with Sass. But only get started -- by Chapter 3 I threw up my hands in disgust and gave up.

The problem, as it too often is in contemporary technical books, is the inexcusable absence of professional technical editing. That editing would include user-testing the book's example procedures.

The book contains five chapters. And the book's downloadable code samples have five corresponding folders, one for each chapter. Sounds straightforward, yes? Unfortunately, no. Almost all of the examples direct the reader to copy files from some other chapter's folders; or at least seem to -- I was never entirely sure which chapter equivalent's file I was supposed to be copying where. ("I'm currently reading chapter 3, but the instructions are telling me to copy a file from chapter 2's examples? Or are they?") Editor, where were you?

The result is that rather than clarifying whatever point an example is meant to illustrate, one ends up with a confusing muddle of files in each chapter equivalent's folders. Which leads to the next problem. Sometimes the examples don't work. When they don't the reader is left to try and figure out what went wrong. Beginning with, did I copy the correct files where there were supposed to go or not? User testing would have caught this problem straight away.

Finally, the examples far too often make tangential "out of the blue" references to one or another third-party tool. A tool whose use hasn't been clearly explained to boot. Virtually all of the tools referred to are useful, yes, but they don't *need* to be discussed at the same time as key Sass concepts. This is *especially* true of the book's recurring reference to the for-a-fee Sublime Text editor (US\$70 as of this writing), including how to install plugins into that editor.

Those references to third-party tools in the middle of explaining Sass concepts mean a reader whose mind is occupied with whatever point the example set out to illustrate also needs to simultaneously learn an inessential tool. It would have been far better if each of these external tools were kept out of the main flow of instruction and instead discussed in a separate appendix, or even appendices, each with their own examples. The reader could then learn Sass essentials (the title of the book, remember?), then learn some Sass non-essential tools at their leisure. A hands-on editor would surely have observed this issue and fixed it.

In fairness, Sass Essentials comes closer to achieving its purpose than many other of today's poorly edited technical books; I at least made it to chapter three. Paradoxically that makes the book all that more frustrating. My analogy is that of waving a steak in front of a hungry dog's nose without letting them eat it, where you the reader are the dog. You get so tantalizingly close to getting what you came for but you never actually receive it.

Some competent technical editing, along with some user-testing of the prose and procedures, could have fixed all of those problems. How annoying that the publisher evidently couldn't be bothered...

See all 4 customer reviews...

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What type of book **Sass Essentials By Alex Libby** you will choose to? Currently, you will not take the printed publication. It is your time to get soft data publication Sass Essentials By Alex Libby rather the published records. You can appreciate this soft data Sass Essentials By Alex Libby in whenever you expect. Also it is in expected area as the various other do, you could read guide Sass Essentials By Alex Libby in your gizmo. Or if you want more, you could read on your computer or laptop computer to obtain complete screen leading. Juts discover it right here by downloading the soft data Sass Essentials By Alex Libby in web link page.

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