

Divi Builder Settings

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to the second Divi Builder lesson, where I'd like to have a closer look at the Divi Builder, but this time I will focus on the Settings Modal panel, which is basically where all the magic happens with the plethora of customization options.

Opening Settings Modal

Now, the settings panel can be opened by clicking on the gear icon of any section, row, or module, or you can just double-click on the element. The double-click doesn't work well with the Text modules though, because it brings up the inline editing toolbar instead. But with other modules, you should be fine, and I use it a lot.



Modal location and size

So once we have our settings panel opened, we can change its location and size. Either by simply dragging and dropping. Or by using these icons at the top of the panel.



The first one will make it small or fullscreen. The next icon will fix the panel to the side. You can change this fixed position by clicking **Cmd (or Ctrl) and the arrow key (right, left or down arrow key)** on your keyboard.

This fixed to the side (or bottom) position probably isn't the best if you are working on a small device, but if you do have a big screen, then keeping the settings panel fixed to the side might work well for you. That is how I use it most of the time.

Remember, you can change the default position in the Builder settings; otherwise, it will always open in the last position it used previously.

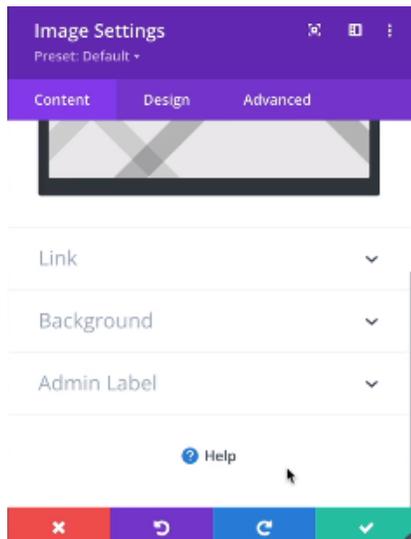
Now let's look inside. First, the buttons at the bottom.



To be honest, I only ever use the green one here to save my settings. Sometimes I click exit (but usually just use the ESC key on the keyboard). I haven't really noticed the undo and redo buttons until just now when I started preparing this lesson. I think I might start using these more often.

Divi help videos

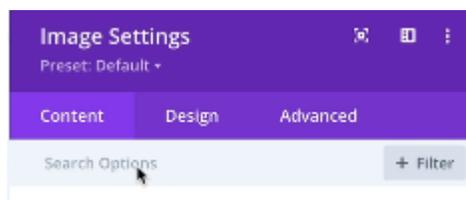
If you are still relatively new to the Divi Builder, I do recommend watching some of the videos.



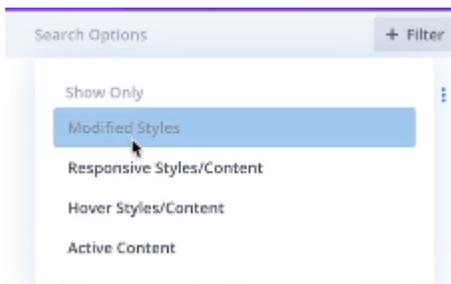
By clicking the help icon here, you can watch the walkthroughs for the specific module right inside the Builder. And if not for yourself, this is something you might want to mention to your clients if they are going to edit the website themselves.

Search and filter settings

This is one of these things you may not be using and I think it is a good idea to give it a try as this may speed up your workflow a little, once you get used to doing it. Because you can simply start typing the name of the property you want to edit or check, and it will come up.



You also have some useful filtering options.



I use the Show Only Modified Styles filter quite a lot. Responsive Styles/Content will show you the elements which have been edited for tablets and phones, and Hover Styles will show you elements which have been edited using the hover style. Active Content will filter the content elements to only show you where you have added your custom text. So filtering is kind of useful, but I find the search functionality especially powerful.

Content, Design, and Advanced tabs

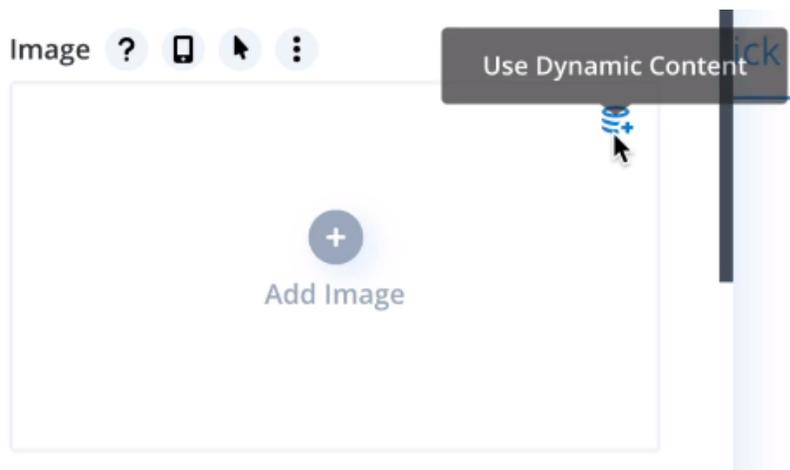
Now, the three main tabs: Content, Design, and Advanced.



There will be some differences depending on which element you are editing, and I am not going to go through every module and every feature, but there are a lot of similarities here, so let's go through the things that all elements have in common, and I will share a few tips with you.

Content

In the Content tab, each setting has the option to use the Dynamic Content.

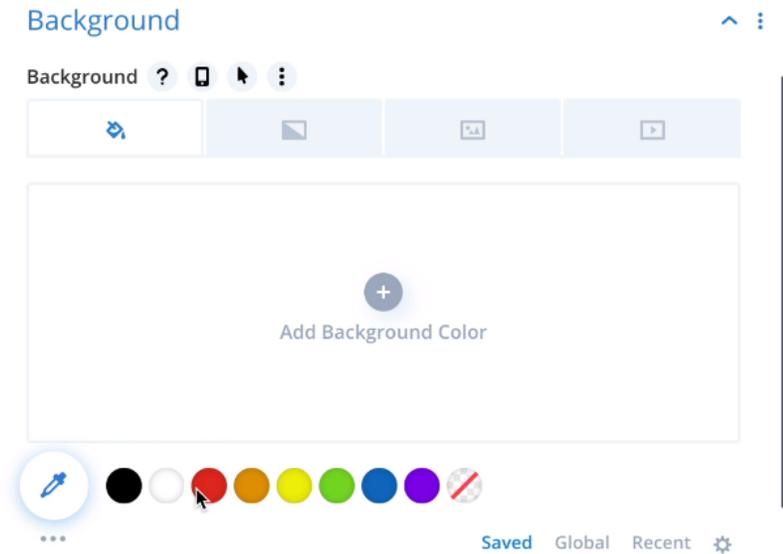


It is especially useful when designing templates inside the Theme Builder, as it allows you to pull dynamic data, such as the current post title, or the current date, or your own custom fields, and display these values dynamically inside modules.



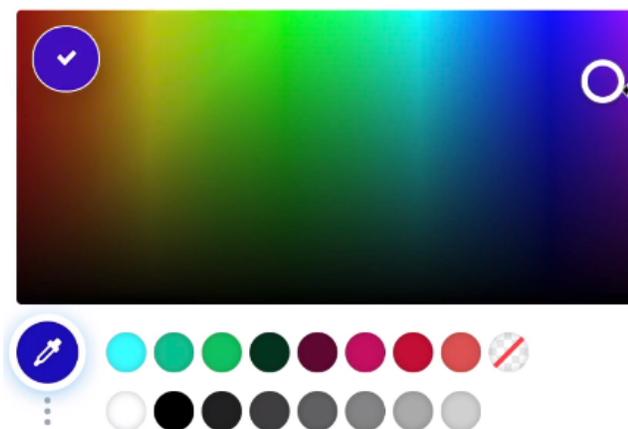
Now, when you hover over the setting's name, you will see additional icons with actions, and not all of them will always be there (depending on the setting) but this is what you might see: the question mark - help icon which displays some additional info about the setting; the mobile icon - to edit the setting for tablets and phones; the cursor icon - to change the setting on hover; the pin icon, which would only be visible if you are using the stick on scroll feature, it allows you to change the setting when element is in its sticky state. Next, the round arrow icon - to reset the setting back to the default value and the 3 dots icon with additional menu, where you can find options like copy/paste, extend style, find & replace. They are very useful to apply to Presets, which we will look at in more detail later.

Now, let's look at the color settings. Any time you are editing a color option, whether it's a background setting, or just a link or a border color - you access the Builder Color Picker.



The saved colors are the ones you can set in the Theme options, and you can edit these colors right here in the Builder by clicking the gear settings icon. The Global Colors are great to use, so I do recommend using Global Colors always, and you should define these colors, your website palette, upfront.

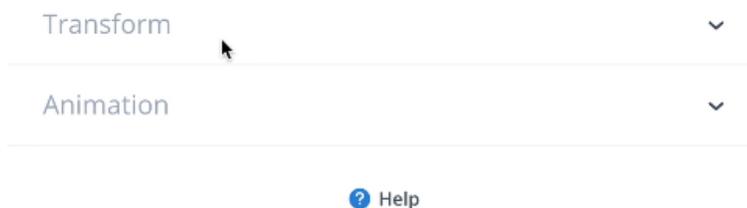
Now, for the color you have selected, if you click the little 3 dots below the color, the Builder will give you some suggestions for complimentary colors.



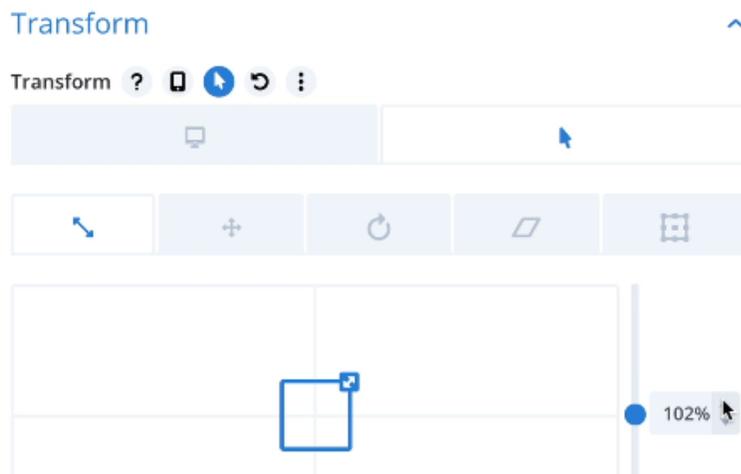
You might find this useful, but as I mentioned, I do recommend doing your colorwork and deciding on the color palette earlier, before even opening up Divi.

Design

Now the Design tab. And I will talk about some of these settings here in the lesson about Presets, and we'll discuss sizing in Module 5: Divi Mobile Responsiveness. But there are two sections I want to mention now: Transform and Animation.



Firstly, the **Transform** settings are very powerful, but I just want to say that just because you have an option to change something, it doesn't mean that you should use it. I do like to use transformations, especially for nice subtle hover effects. But the key word here is: subtle. If you want to scale something on hover, for example, do it just slightly. Scale it to 102% for example.



You can use the Translate section to move the elements without affecting the website flow (like you would with negative margins for example), but you need to be careful and do this only sparingly and using small distances.

It will be a nightmare to make it look good on every device if you decide to move a module by a few hundred pixels, for example. Because remember that in the Desktop

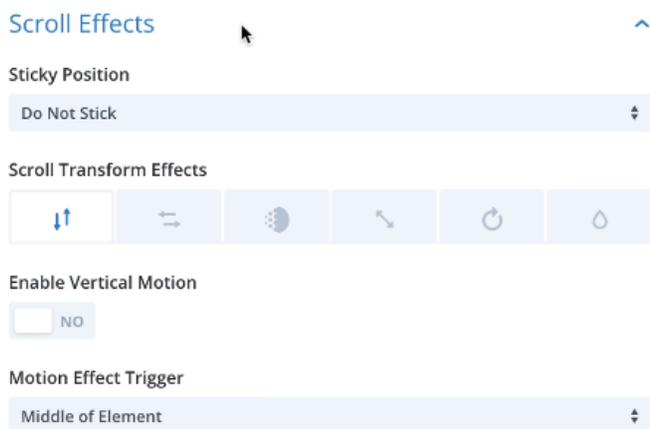
view, all the desktop settings within the Builder apply to screen sizes from as small as 981px to as wide as the screen can get.

We'll talk more about it in the module on Responsiveness, but it is something you need to keep in mind when working with Transformations, regardless of which element you are editing. The key is to be subtle and only use it in small doses.

Now, **Animation**. All I'll say is this: animating every section, row, and module will not make your website look professional. Trust me on that. You have to limit yourself to avoid using too many animated elements, and use animations only if it really makes sense - please.

Advanced

And finally, the Advanced tab. We have another animation type - the Scroll Effects. And similarly to Transform and Animation, you need to use this with caution.



The sticky feature and sticking some elements can work great in many cases and can improve your user experience, but scroll effects - not so much, I'm afraid. I'm not saying you shouldn't use this feature, but I am saying that it is very difficult to use it with great effect and not overdo it.

The safest way to approach it is to make sure the element is in its normal, default state for as long as it makes sense while we scroll, and then the starting and ending offset should be as low as possible to make sure the effect is only nice and subtle.



A good example would be to use it on some background elements: set the image position to absolute, and then play with the scrolling effects as long as it doesn't distract user attention and only adds this nice background feel - then you are safe.

I will get back to the Advanced tab when we start working with custom CSS, but there is one functionality I have to mention: **Display Conditions**. You can decide when any Builder element is visible based on a number of different conditions. For example, you can create two types of navigation menu and display a different menu for logged in users. Or you can have a countdown timer be visible only until a certain date and time, and have a different section show from that same time once the countdown stops.. Or something like "Today's Special" section - where you can dynamically display different sections on different days of the week, without editing the page every day - super powerful! And for more advanced use, if you are working with Custom Fields, you can choose to show or hide builder content based on the value of your field. It's very powerful especially combined with creating page templates in the Theme builder.

And that sums up my overview and hopefully, you will find these tips helpful.

Resources

SAVE TIME

Keyboard Shortcuts cheat sheets for Windows and Mac (available in the Downloads section of this lesson)

Action Items

- Try using the search functionality the next time you go inside the Settings panel to edit something.
- Print out the Keyboard Shortcuts cheat sheet and keep it close to your screen. Try learning and using some of the shortcuts to speed up your work.