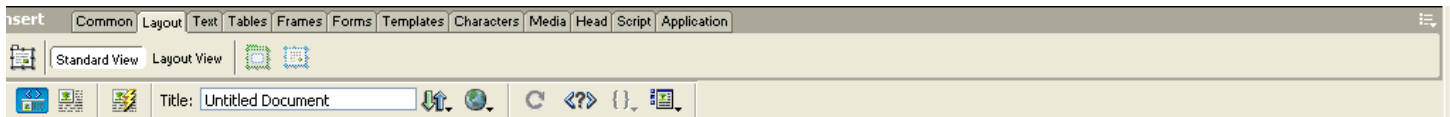


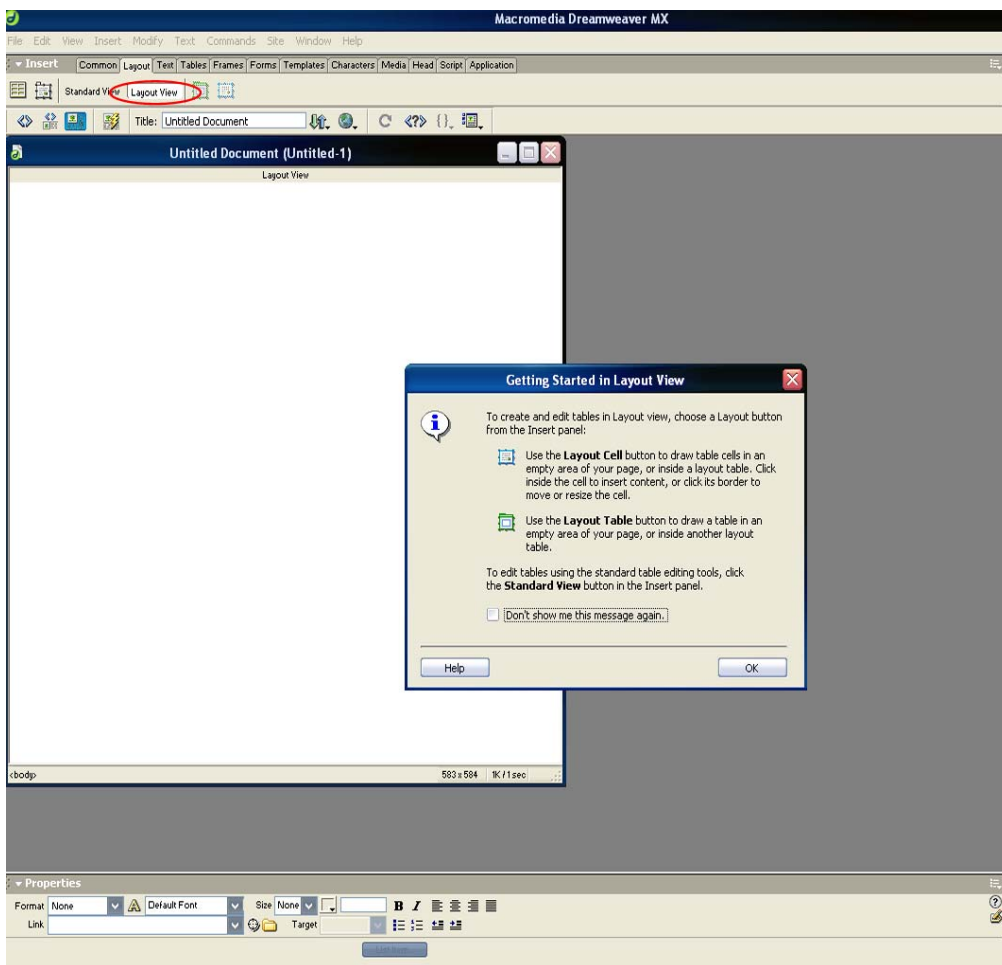
# Layout Tools in Dreamweaver MX

There are layout tools that will help you arrange your pages to ensure a consistent look. Look at the insert toolbar below. The default toolbar is the common toolbar. However, before you begin using the common tools, you should use the layout tools to lay the foundation of your page. These tools should always be a precursor to the addition of content to your pages. The layout toolbar looks like the example below:



There are two views available to manipulate the way your page looks - Standard view and Layout view. Standard view allows you to use the tools to the left of the text menu items. Those two items are "Draw Table" and "Draw Layer". Layers are difficult to work with, and are not recommended at this time. Tables are a more effective method for formatting your pages.

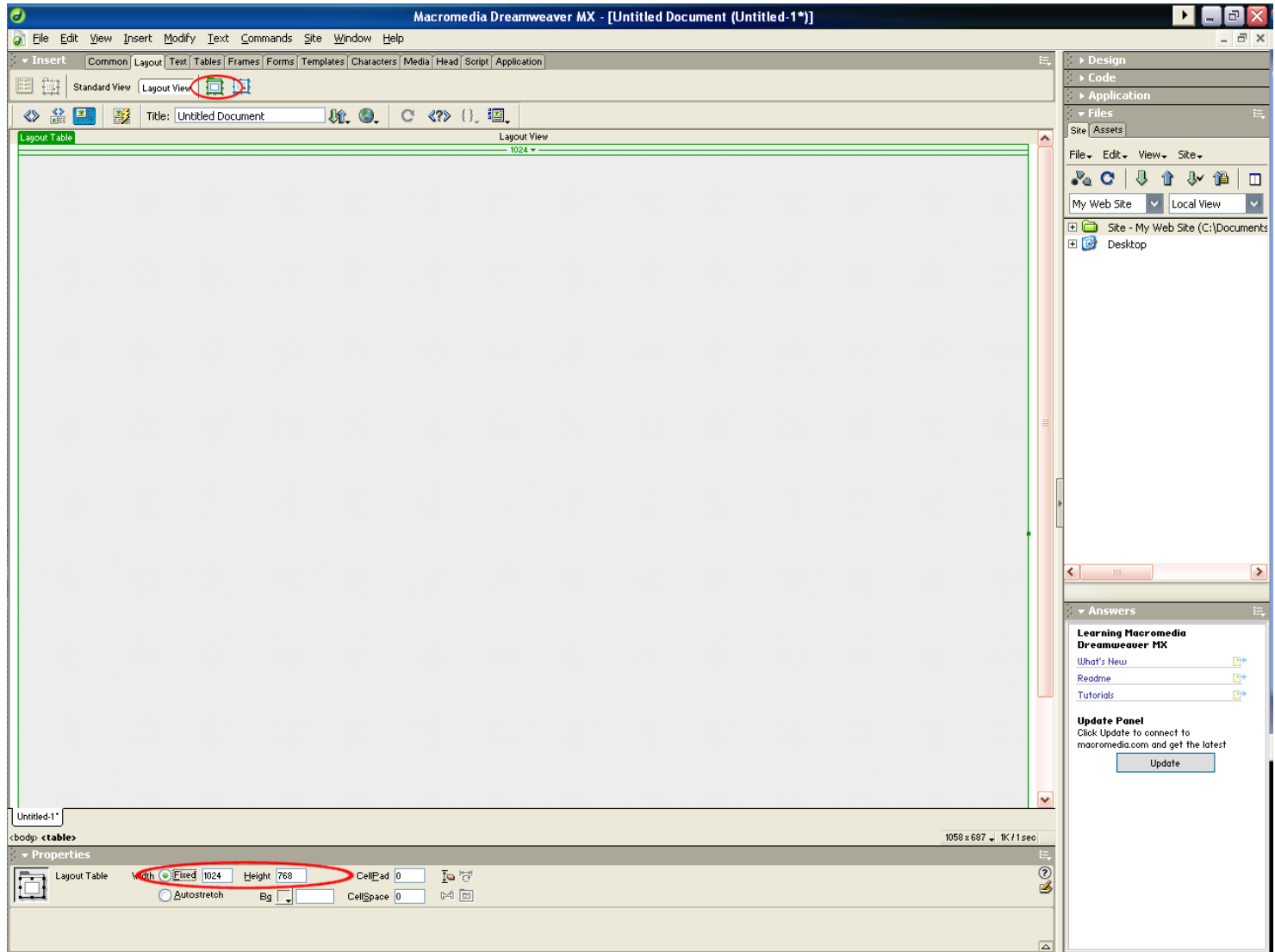
There are multiple ways to add tables using Dreamweaver. Standard View allows you to add a simple table. By clicking Layout View, you are then able to add either a layout table or layout cell. This is a very effective way to use Dreamweaver for formatting your pages. Essentially, Dreamweaver MX creates a large table with margins you can define by dragging the crosshair cursor across the page. When you click **"Layout View" (Circled)** you will see the following:



As you can see described above, a **Layout Table** should be created first as a way to define the width and height of your overall page, while the **Layout Cell** button will allow you to create cells within a table. In this way, you can play with the design of the table in ways that are much harder to define by selecting table from standard view.

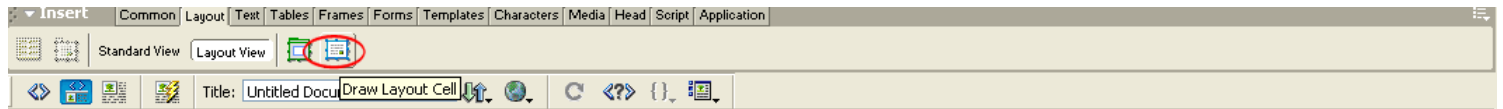
## LAYOUT TOOLS CONTINUED:

When you begin creating the design of your page, you need to consider how wide and long the page will be. Generally, you will create a page that is either 800 or 1024 pixels in width. 1024 pixels is a more conservative estimate of the screen capacity of your users. Click the button that is circled below **"Draw Layout Table"** as you see below.

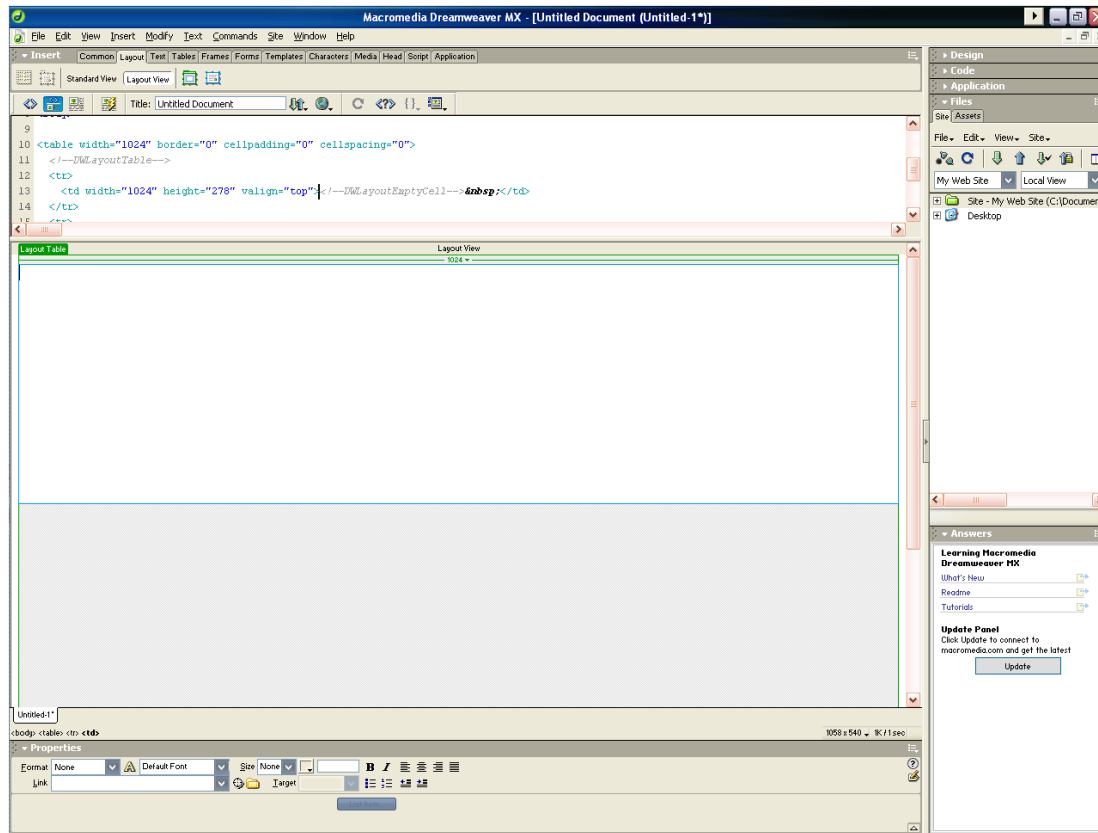


If you look at the bottom of this page (The second circle), the width of the table is fixed at 1024. You should fix the height of your layout table as well so that you have enough room for your content. In general, between 1000 and 2000 pixels is a good length - assuming you don't want your users to scroll for more than 2 pages (recommended) to read your content.

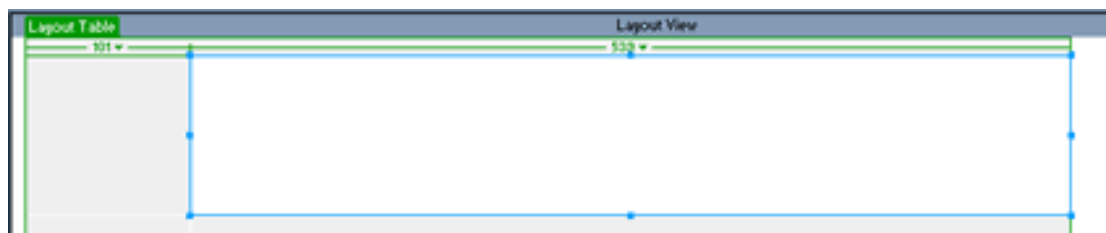
To place content within your page, you must now create cells within the table. Click the "Draw Layout Cell" button to begin layout for the inside of your defined table. You can then use the crosshair cursor to drag a box within the layout table.



Below, notice that a cell has now been created within the table (the white area). The cell can become the location of the page title. This can either be an editable section or an uneditable section so we can standardize the title of all pages or decide that this section is reserved for any title.

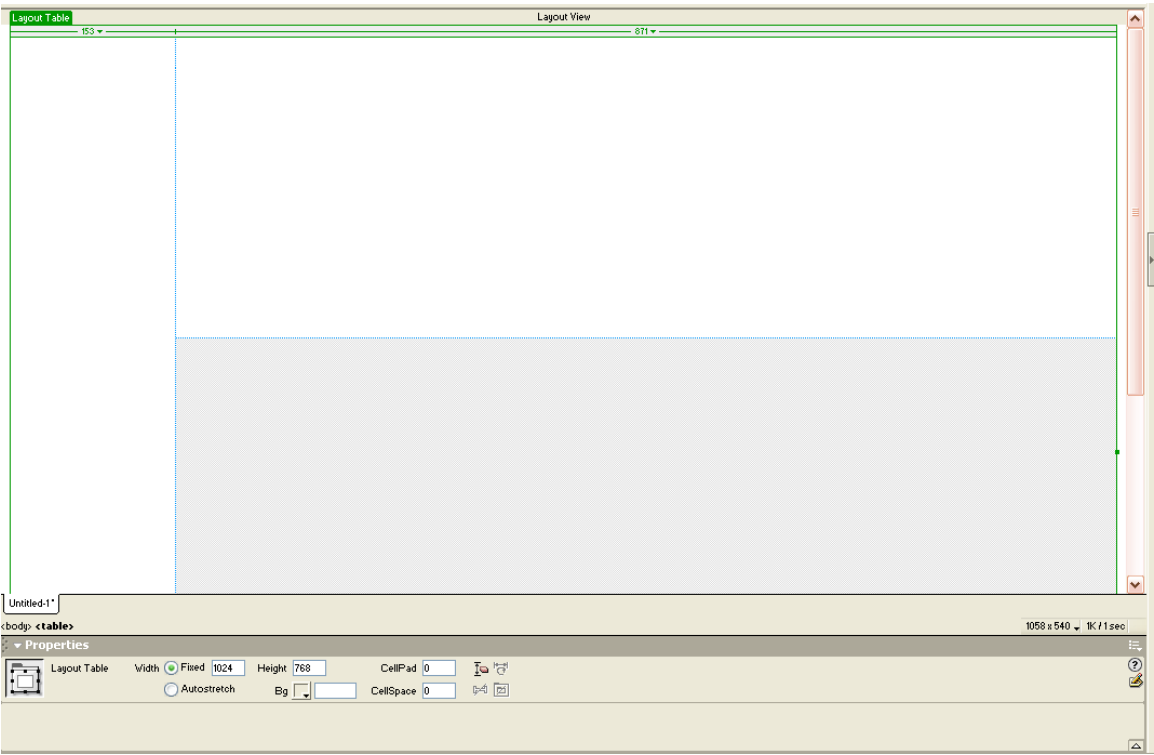


On the last page, we created a title section. Yet, in this case, a menu section may also be required. In this page layout, the menu section can be added. To do so, click on the title section so that the blue border contains points for dragging the border.



Drag the title section border within your layout table to the right so that about 100 pixels (this example on the top left of the window reads 101) are available in the left section of the table. You can then draw another cell using the crosshair so that the left menu section is flush against the title bar.

The page should now look as you see below:



The final step is to draw the remaining table cell. Place the cursor (crosshair) near a top corner of the remaining area of the screen, below the title area and to the right of the menu area. Left click from this point just as you did with the other layout cells and drag the area to the opposite bottom corner of your entire layout table area. You now should have three sections: a title section at the top, a menu section to the far left, and a main content window in the remaining area.

