WEB TIPS

Enhance Your Time Online

Print Your Own Pad

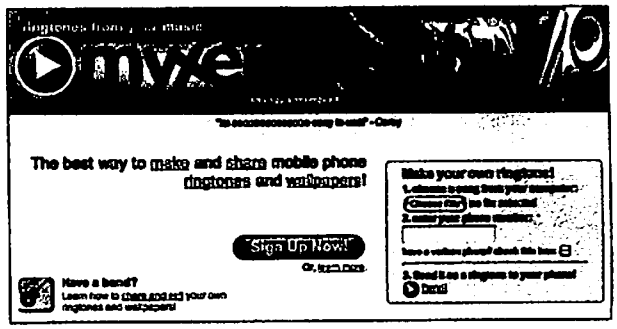
Problem: I have been looking for a specific kind of graph paper that my local office supply store doesn't seem to carry.
Solution: Engineers and graph paper geeks rejoice! PDF Pad (www.pdfpad.com) provides downloadable ready-to-print blank charts and graphs. Choose Cartesian, engineering, isometric, or hexagonal graph paper or even more rarified types like logarithmic, probability, or Smith Chart paper. These are all customizable, from page size to unit of measurement and size of the cells. If this all seems too techie for you, there are other blank documents to print: calendars, music staff paper, storyboard layouts, sudoku games, etc.

Use What You Have

Problem: I like looking at recipe sites, but I always end up spending money buying a bunch of ingredients I'll only use once.
Solution: It's pretty easy to find a recipe on the Internet if you already know what you want to make. What if you don't? Experienced chefs know how to assess what's in the pantry and whip up something using ingredients on hand. Those of us who need a little more inspiration in that area can check out Recipe Matcher (www.recipematcher.com). Enter in the list of stuff you have to cook with, and this site suggests a number of recipes. Obviously, this works best if you can be as complete as possible in your entry, though some recommendations suggest a simple purchase of one or two more ingredients. There's also a similar tool for drinks.

Contact Me, Don't Spam Me

Problem: I've been advised not to put my email address on my Web site for fear of spammers snatching it up. How can I tell people how to contact me?



Make your phone sing with free, custom-made ringtones.

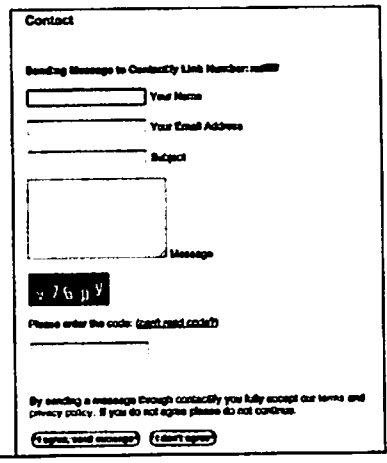
Solution: A live, hyperlinked email may seem convenient, but it's a surefire way to flood your account with spam. One standard alternative is to "spell out" your address, like "bob at bobspage dot com," though this can sometimes confuse your friends. So here comes Contactify (www.contactify.com) with a simple, free contact form you can put on any site.

Hype The Game

Problem: I'm looking for more extensive game coverage than I get from the local sports page and the big major league sites.
Solution: Sports fans know that it's hard to get too much news about your favorite pastime. Here comes Ballhype (ballhype.com) to make things more exciting. On one hand a news aggregator—it collects stories from over 1,800 sports blogs and lets users rank them, similar to sites like Digg (www.digg.com)—Ballhype also has a community feature, so you can track stories on your team, post your own stories, or set up a group for contests and predictions.

Bring The Ringtone

Problem: I just got a new phone with a huge storage capacity and the ability to play back music . . . but I can't set one of my MP3s as a ringtone.
Solution: Though it may seem like a no-brainer to simply select a song to be your ringtone, many cellular carriers do not allow this so that they can sell ringtones. But if you've already bought this fall's hot track, how can you get it ringing every time you get a call? Go to Myxer (www.myxertones.com) and make it happen. Register free and you can upload a song to this site, edit it into a ringtone, and send it to your phone in a compatible format (you must be able to access the Internet with your phone to download the ringtone). Beware, though . . . while this site provides a free service, depending on your phone's data plan, you may be charged to download the tune to your phone.



A slick contact form for your site without having to do the heavy coding.