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# Pragmatic Guide to Sass



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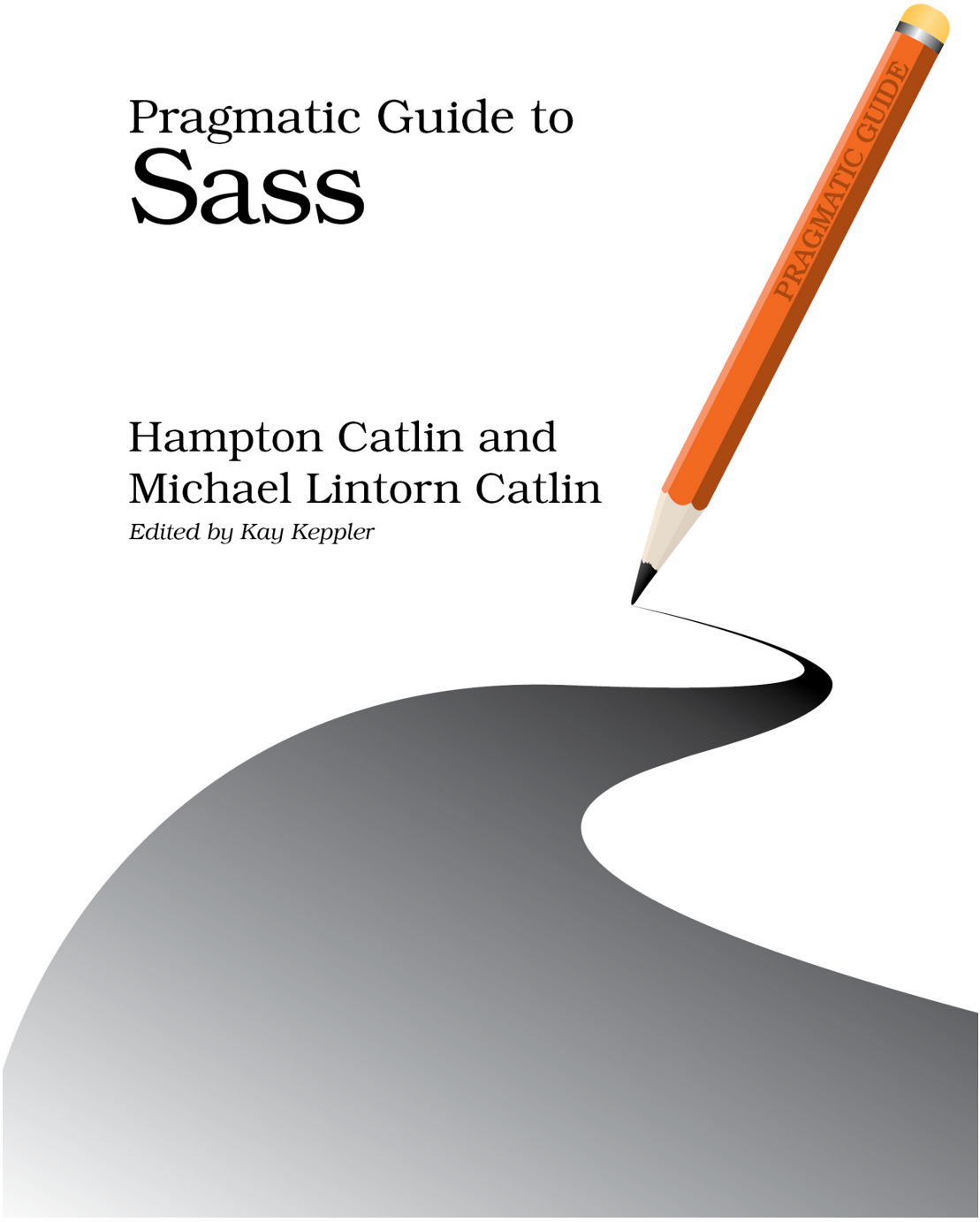


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Let's look at a core feature of Sass: nesting. If you've been working with CSS for a long time, you know the advantages of giving more specific selectors to your style sheets. Using `.sidebar p em` allows you greater specificity to the `em` element versus a standalone `em` selector. It gives you more freedom with reusing names and making your HTML more semantic and readable. We generally refer to this as *scoping*.

It's a good thing to scope, except it's not DRY. (Remember *D*on't *R*epeat *Y*ourself?). We keep having to repeat our classes or IDs—for example, repeating an apply-to-all class like `.infobox`—on every line. Typing this by hand is laborious and makes us want to be lazy. When writing CSS, scoping can be very tedious. It involves a lot of copying and pasting. What's more, keeping track of parent-child relationships is tough. We can do better than that! Technology should support good behaviors. Sass is here to help us with *nesting*.

We can put a style such as a border color *inside* a declaration block, and Sass will automatically do the repetitive part for you when you generate CSS. I bet your fingers are thanking you already for saving all that typing. Cool, huh?

A small note: the CSS that's compiled in the example opposite looks a bit funny, doesn't it? Especially when we compare it to the original (repetitive) CSS example we wrote out. What happens is that the Sass engine keeps the indentation when it converts to CSS. All it does is insert the missing selectors.

➤ Look at this scoped CSS.

Look how much repetition there is in this file. Holy cow!

**Download basics/scoping.css**

```
.infobox                 { width: 200px; }
.infobox .message        { border: 1px solid red; }
.infobox .message .title { color: red; }
.infobox .user           { border: 2px solid black; }
.infobox .user .title    { color: black; }
```

➤ See it in Sass.

Instead of repeating it, just nest it inside the parent selector.

**Download basics/example_nesting.scss**

```
.infobox {
  width: 200px;
  .message {
    border: 1px solid red;
    .title {
      color: red; } }
  .user {
    border: 2px solid black;
    .title {
      color: black; } } }
```

This compiles to:

```
.infobox {
  width: 200px; }
  .infobox .message {
    border: 1px solid red; }
    .infobox .message .title {
      color: red; }
  .infobox .user {
    border: 2px solid black; }
    .infobox .user .title {
      color: black; }
```