

# VIVA THEMES

We Help You Look Good

## PARALLELS THEME INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Thank you for purchasing this theme. This is your first step towards having a great looking site. Please read the instructions below. If you need more help please use our [support forum](#). Please visit also our section of [Video Tutorials](#)

If you like this theme you might consider switching to the ALL THEMES PACKAGE. Please [click here for details](#)

## THEME OVERVIEW

Parallels is a minimalist portfolio theme. If you are a web or graphic designer, or an artist looking to build an attractive website to showcase your portfolio, Parallels does just that. Flexible, easy to use and with many features.

- Theme compatible with latest version of WordPress
- 100% tableless css design.
- Post thumbnail feature.
- Blog category template.
- Custom menu navigation system, multi-level dropdown
- Background customization panel.
- Theme options panel.
- Very flexible front page slider
- Custom shortcodes.
- Included lightbox.
- Two widget ready locations
- Threaded comments.
- Integrated blog pagination.
- Cross-browser compatible.
- Delivered with .png source files (.psd files available in the forum)

## HOW TO INSTALL THE THEME

Please unzip the '[parallels\\_unzip\\_first.zip](#)' file that you received.

The theme is the '[parallels.zip](#)' file inside the folder. In your WordPress administration area, go to '[Appearance - Themes](#)'. In the top there appears a new tab navigation. Click on the '[Install Themes](#)' tab, then click the '[Upload](#)' item in the new menu and browse for the '[parallels.zip](#)' file in your computer and after locating it press the '[Install Now](#)' button and after that '[activate](#)' the new theme.

You can also install this theme the traditional way, by unzipping the '[parallels.zip](#)' file, and upload the theme folder using an ftp client to the '[wp-content/themes](#)' folder of your WordPress installation.

After installing the theme, go to '[Appearance-Themes](#)' in your WordPress administrator area, and click the '[activate](#)' link of the newly installed theme. The theme is now the active one.

## THE THEME OPTIONS PANEL

This theme comes with an options panel that allows you to configure some aspects of the theme without touching code. To access the options panel, in your WordPress administration area go to '[Appearance – Parallels Options](#)'. Please take a look at the different options you have there.

## CHANGING THE LOGO

You can change the logo from the theme panel, by changing the 'Logo Image Url' with your new logo image url.

You can also switch to text logo from the theme panel. In this case your 'Site Title and description' will replace the logo.

## CONFIGURING THE MENU

The theme uses in full the custom menu navigation system introduced in WordPress 3.0. There are two menu locations in this theme: the 'Main Menu' and the 'Top Right Menu'.

You need to go to '[Appearance – Menus](#)' in your WordPress admin to start configuring your menus. You first need to create a menu in the right side and then from the left you can select the pages and categories you want to be part of each menu. Don't forget to click 'Save Menu' after you add the items. *Note that you have to have created your pages and categories first and they will be available in the list to include in the menu.*

In the left you will see the active menu location and you need to assign the new menu to the location using the dropdown selection.

To enable dropdown in the menu interface, you have to drag the menu items below another menu item (child item), and drag them a bit to the right (a mark will appear).

## THE FRONT PAGE SLIDER

You can include any page or post in the slider, by simply creating a custom field in the page/post. The custom field name should be `'slider'` and the value should be `'1'`. Custom fields area is located in the bottom of the screen when you edit a page/post. Note that you should use a different post/page for each slide.

When you include a page/post to the slider, by default the featured image will be used, the title of the page/post will be the title of the slide, the excerpt will be the caption and the slide will link to the page/post.

If you don't want the page title to be used as the slide's title, you can create a custom field name `'slidetitle'` and in the value field enter the title you want.

If you want to use another image, not the featured one, you can create a custom field with name `'slideimage'` and value the url of the location of the image. Please note that if you use custom images instead of the featured one, the image size should be exactly 550x250px.

If you don't want the slide to link to the page/post, you can create another custom field named `'slidelink'` and in the value area enter the url to be linked to. Please check the screenshot below for an example of the custom fields used.

If you want to have custom text instead of the excerpt, create another field named `'slidecaption'` and in the value area enter the text you want.

Please check the screenshot below for an overview of the custom fields.

Custom Fields

Name	Value
<div>slider</div> <div><div>Delete</div><div>Update</div></div>	<div>1</div>
<div>slideimage</div> <div><div>Delete</div><div>Update</div></div>	<div>http://demo.vivathemes.com/themes/parallels/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/entrapped-550x250.jpg</div>
<div>slidelink</div> <div><div>Delete</div><div>Update</div></div>	<div>http://www.vivathemes.com</div>
<div>slidetitle</div> <div><div>Delete</div><div>Update</div></div>	<div>New Title</div>
<div>slidecaption</div> <div><div>Delete</div><div>Update</div></div>	<div>Your new caption goes here</div>

Add New Custom Field:

## THE FRONT PAGE

In the front page of this theme you have a widget location just below the slider. That's called the 'Front Page Widget'. Please go to 'Appearance-Widgets' and drage and drop a widget to this location. In our demo we have used a text widget.

Below the widget you have three featured categories. You have to go to your theme panel 'Appearance-Parallels Options' and enter the ID of the category you want to feature in each of the sections, and how many posts you want to display for each. You can find the ID when you edit that category, is the last digit(s) that appear in the url, up in the browser.

## SETTING UP THE PORTFOLIO AND BLOG

To create your portfolio(s) simply create a new category and add posts to that category. The theme comes with the lightbox included, so you don't have to install any plugin. Simply add a full sized image as your featured image in that post and you're good to go. Of course you have to enter your content in each of the posts.

All categories of this theme have the portfolio layout, but we have created a new category template for your Blog. So if you need a blog, simply create a category named 'Blog' and include that in your menu.

If you don't want to name the category 'Blog' but 'News' or something else, you need to rename the file '[category-blog.php](#)' located inside the theme. You can rename it as '[category-17.php](#)' where the digit '17' is the ID of the category you want to have with the blog layout. If you want more categories with the same layout, just duplicate the file and rename it with the new category ID.

## USING THE THUMBNAIL FUNCTION

When you edit a post or a page, in the bottom of the right column you have a new area called Featured Image. Click on the [Set Featured Image](#) link and you will be taken in the image uploader interface, where you can upload or select one of the existing images. Make sure that after you view your image press the '[Use as Featured Image](#)' link. The image will be resized and cropped to fit your thumbnail size. The thumbnail is visible only in the category view. It will not be visible when viewing the full post. You can add images directly to your post if you want to.

## THE WIDGET AREAS OF THE THEME

This theme has two widget ready areas. The **LEFT SIDEBAR** are the widgets in the left of the website, available only in page or post view. The **FRONT PAGE WIDGET** is the widget in the front page, just below the slider. You can add widgets to each area by going into 'Appearance – Widgets' in your WordPress administration area and dragging & dropping widgets into each bar. Note that you can add as many widgets as you want to each area.

You might also find these articles useful :

<http://www.vivathemes.com/blog/how-to-add-links-in-a-text-widget/>

<http://www.vivathemes.com/blog/adding-an-image-in-a-text-widget/>

## CUSTOM BACKGROUND PANEL

One of the new features introduced is the custom background that enables you to easily change the background color of your website or upload an image as your background.

To do so, in your WordPress admin go to 'Appearance – Background' and there you can easily make the necessary changes.



## USING SHORTCODES

Shortcodes are custom styled elements ready for you to use. To check out our shortcodes please see here :

[http://demo.vivathemes.com/themes/parallels/?page\\_id=61](http://demo.vivathemes.com/themes/parallels/?page_id=61)

Sample usages:

Big buttons: `[bluebutton]link text[/bluebutton]`

Small buttons: `[smallblue]link text[/smallblue]`

Boxes: `[download]some text[/download]`

Columns: `[halfcolumn] some text [/halfcolumn]`

Best regards,

The Viva Themes Team