

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Buzz Lightyear's Guide to Why Your Thread Sucks // PROFESSIONAL // HIGH QUALITY //](#)

Buzz Lightyear - July 13, 2015, 8:04 pm

Buzz Lightyear's Guide to Why Your Thread Design Sucks
-An Original Guide to Your Non-Original Thread-

Introduction

I come into this thread to address a serious problem: Your thread designs. It is not my goal to be a Rush Limbaugh and intentionally look for something wrong that isn't there, or to pick a fight, but rather to point out the repetitive issues that have become prevalent on this site. And by no means am I exempt from these, nor do I claim to have never done any of the following things.

Titles

One of the first things I see when entering the Graphics Market section are the thread titles that everyone uses to try to grab a potential client's attention. Grabbing the attention of someone is important, I don't try to argue otherwise. However, the issue comes when designers are claiming "high quality", "professional" as attributes to claim themselves. See below for examples of this, just on the top half of the first page of the subforum. The issue with this, is how do you claim if you are high quality or not? That is something that you cannot claim about yourself. As for professional, I highly doubt most designers on this site are professional designers, have degrees in graphic design, or anything similar. Again, this doesn't discredit anybody who actually is studying this as a major, or actually does this for a career.

Header Block

I won't get into the frustrations of "flat designs", even though there has been a fantastic guide previously written on this matter. I will address the first thing that comes to my mind: fucking mountains. I understand mountains are gorgeous, I love them myself. However, I do not see how a picture of the mountains or another scenic image contributes or pertains to the quality of your service. I have seen many that look great, with pertinent header backgrounds. Again, see below for examples.

The next thing I notice is all of the buttons in the header image. These are good with website designs, because the button can be clicked and the viewer can be redirected to another page, or another part of the page. On a thread design, however, the button is not active, and when you click it, it takes you to a generic site that is linked with the rest of thread. It does nothing to add to your portfolio, except to copy web designs that do this, such as Squarespace. This isn't Squarespace, so you shouldn't be doing it either.

About Section

Oh, this is too common of one. I don't need to post examples of these. Everyone claims to be a high quality designer. Everyone has been designing for 3-4 years. Everyone has lots of vouches. Everyone values the customer and works fast. Everyone is familiar with Photoshop. The point is,

everyone has the same qualifications apparently. But what does time have to do with anything? Is there a standard which says that you're XXX good if you've been designing for XXX years? What does familiarity with Photoshop have to do with anything? I sure as hell hope you know Photoshop. That's like going to a car mechanic and they try to sell you a service by saying they know how to use a wrench. That should be a given. You care about the customer? You shouldn't have to tell anyone. People should be able to see it through your work. Telling all this redundant, non-pertinent information distracts the customer from what you should be focusing on, your work.

Also, get your tenses straight. Stop referring to "we", or "us", then halfway down using "I" and "me". I can almost guarantee, from personal experience, that you're working alone.

Characteristics

This goes in hand with the thread titles. Everyone seems to post 3-4 pre-made icons claiming their professionalism, quality, and fast pace. Usually using a rocket or clock, this isn't original. I don't see anyone claiming their work is different from anybody else. Those pre-made icons don't promote your "professionalism" either. They detract from your reputation, as you did not create them yourself.

Payment Methods

Some people are emphasizing way too much which methods of payment they are accepting. I promise the client will see it, but when you make it larger than most other things, it appears that you're shoving the service down the client's throat, which demonstrates a lack of care of the person, and a greed.

Contact

Stop making your contact buttons so damn big. This is one of the most prevalent things that people are doing. Same with payment methods, the client will find a way to contact you if they think they want to use your service. If you're spending all your time on how they can reach you, you miss out on persuading the potential customer that you're even worth contacting.

Conclusion

This does not include every example, and every wrong committed by this overused style. Your goal as a marketable service, is to stand out from the rest. I don't see this from many people. Everyone keeps trying to reuse the same format of thread design and hope they get chosen. The services that stand out to me, aren't the ones that try to create an elaborate, gimmick-filled thread, but rather get down to the point and sell their work, the thing that I am actually paying for. They aren't flashy threads, but are well-designed, well-organized, and are clean and to the point. I don't apologize if your thread design was used in my examples, you should develop something new. This thread doesn't apply to all, as there are some designers that do this just fine. I'm sure I left some things out, but have a good day, and get original.

Ienaos - July 13, 2015, 8:26 pm

Thanks Buzz for the enlightenment.

This deserves a sticky/Important Threads.

Vector Master - July 13, 2015, 8:42 pm

Thanks Buzz for the enlightenment

This deserves a sticky/Important Threads

[img]http://www.gifwave.com/media/557387_slow-clap-well-done.gif[/img]

Buzz Lightyear - July 14, 2015, 12:53 pm

Glad you guys enjoy this.

Weebex - July 14, 2015, 2:02 pm

Wow look at that mountain view on all the designs, such a trendy view to look at. The buttons are real, please sticky this thread!

Forgot this:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Defy - July 14, 2015, 7:31 pm

This is fucking golden. Imfaoo

Travs - July 15, 2015, 4:53 pm

THIS ISN'T GETTING THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES

Agitator - July 16, 2015, 2:07 pm

Stfu up ren, the fact buzz even put the slightest bit of effort into critiquing the hf graphic scene is a joke in itself. Fuck.

\$uicide - July 16, 2015, 7:14 pm

This is fucking hilarious, <3 mountains xD! but HQ thread, lol

mparks277 - July 16, 2015, 11:22 pm

Really nice thread. I really enjoyed reading the About Section, hopefully this will bring to light to people that it doesn't matter how many years you've been designing, but it matters how frequently you design. You could design once a month for 3 years, and be much worse than the guy who's been designing every day for 6 months.

Delevingne - July 17, 2015, 8:03 am

You included my thread title, so now I hate this thread. jk, good thread.

Buzz Lightyear - July 17, 2015, 12:31 pm

(Jul 17, 2015 08:03 AM)B?EF Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You included my thread title, so now I hate this thread. jk, good thread.

Sorry, just trying to explain why I seem to give everyone such a hard time.

cortz - July 18, 2015, 2:43 am

You forgot to mention that 'Cheap' and 'Fast' are being used in the same titles as 'HQ' and 'Professional'.

Febreze - July 18, 2015, 2:46 am

Good thread, Buzz!

I should start using all your tips on my threads.

Aired - July 18, 2015, 4:02 pm

Here's a better suggestion: leave HF graphic scene altogether. It's toxic and it's not doing you any favor. This shit's like the design section on fucking Fiverr, people undercutting themselves to earn 3 dollars for hours of work.

Have some pride in your work. Stop fucking using "flat design" when you don't even know what that means. Stop fucking saying you're different when all of your work look like the faces in Beijing. If you want to be different, get rid of that mushroom haircut and get double eye lid surgery, because hun actions speak louder than words.

Flashy - July 18, 2015, 11:51 pm

(Jul 18, 2015 04:02 PM)Aired Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Here's a better suggestion: leave HF graphic scene altogether. It's toxic and it's not doing you any favor. This shit's like the design section on fucking Fiverr, people undercutting themselves to earn 3 dollars for hours of work.

Have some pride in your work. Stop fucking using "flat design" when you don't even know what that means. Stop fucking saying you're different when all of your work look like the faces in Beijing. If you want to be different, get rid of that mushroom haircut and get double eye lid surgery, because hun actions speak louder than words.

You can be in the HF graphic scene and get a design job outside of it to make money, just saying

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The problem with most kids is that they only see this as a money making method and nothing more

They try to do quick and lazy designs for a quick buck, or they try to make something worth more but they don't know what a good design is

Their scale of what is good and what isn't is fucked because the only people they look up to is each other, which is why all their designs look similar

**iLoveBeagles** - July 19, 2015, 8:19 am

Great thread. Gang trash the lq threads and self-proclaimed designers. Make people afraid and think twice about the design before they open up a new thread.

Well, Im simple minded and that is my primitive solution.

**Agitator** - July 19, 2015, 10:10 am

(Jul 19, 2015 08:19 AM)iLoveBeagles Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great thread. Gang trash the lq threads and self-proclaimed designers. Make people afraid and think twice about the design before they open up a new thread.

Well, Im simple minded and that is my primitive solution.

Wow, you must be a real pleasure with the ladies.

(Jul 18, 2015 04:02 PM)Aired Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Here's a better suggestion: leave HF graphic scene altogether. It's toxic and it's not doing you any favor. This shit's like the design section on fucking Fiverr, people undercutting themselves to earn 3 dollars for hours of work.

Have some pride in your work. Stop fucking using "flat design" when you don't even know what that means. Stop fucking saying you're different when all of your work look like the faces in Beijing. If you want to be different, get rid of that mushroom haircut and get double eye lid surgery, because hun actions speak louder than words.

damn kwak aren't you asian? why you throwing asian low blows

**Meow** - July 19, 2015, 7:50 pm

THIS IS REAL G SOMEONE STICKY THIS A\$AP! AGREED 101%.

**Fusi** - July 19, 2015, 8:03 pm

This thread is honest af. This needs a sticky asap. Nice thread xD

**Fox™** - July 19, 2015, 8:57 pm

The title killed me. Great thread.

**God of Thunder** - July 19, 2015, 9:00 pm

You pointed out the right things, hahaha.

Especially those parts where you say " The fuck is this ", it's actually true.

**RelationShit** - July 19, 2015, 9:25 pm

Smh thread from amateur himself talking about other amateurs this shit ain't kinky anymore

**Gustav** - July 19, 2015, 9:58 pm

I guess the mountains just bring out a more soothing atmosphere lmao.

Anyways, I agree with you man :)

**Agitator** - July 19, 2015, 11:17 pm

(Jul 19, 2015 09:25 PM)RelationShit Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Smh thread from amateur himself talking about other amateurs this shit ain't kinky anymore

Aw poor guy, must be upset because you can't do anything. Also sad calling buzz a him when it's a lady.

**Hash G.** - July 20, 2015, 1:10 am

Intersting read, thank you for writing this. It can be great if you wants to start a GFX shop.

**Maxi** - July 20, 2015, 2:09 am

I suck at graphics but you, buzz are very inspirational. Well said.

**Trygon** - July 20, 2015, 6:02 am

Finally someone who's not afraid to say something people have been thinking for years.

**Delevingne** - July 20, 2015, 8:08 am

The [Purchase Now], [Click to Purchase], [Click to Autobuy], [Etc.] aren't weird in my opinion.

**Mr. WAVES** - July 20, 2015, 9:48 am

Someone stick this thread!!

**Cibor** - July 20, 2015, 11:35 am

I can't agree more, very accurate thread

**Charlemagne** - July 20, 2015, 11:37 am

My favorite part was when you said "The fuck is this".

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 20, 2015, 1:30 pm

(Jul 20, 2015 08:08 AM)B?EF Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The [Purchase Now], [Click to Purchase], [Click to Autobuy], [Etc.] aren't weird in my opinion.

Why not? Because when you click on them, it actually links you to a payment center? No. You click it, and it does the same thing as if you clicked any other forsaken pixel on the thread. Therefore, there is no point in putting a button, when it does not add a function.

My spare tire on my car does not do anything but sit there. It does not drive the car, but does what the rest of the car does. Much like these buttons.

**Salty Bacon** - July 20, 2015, 7:59 pm

This is fucking on point. This needs more attention.

**Tonight** - July 20, 2015, 8:01 pm

(Jul 20, 2015 11:37 AM)Charlemagne Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My favorite part was when you said "The fuck is this".

Edited in paint or hyperdesktop too equals even more bonus points. ?

**Agitator** - July 20, 2015, 8:39 pm

(Jul 20, 2015 08:01 PM)Satu Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Edited in paint or hyperdesktop too equals even more bonus points. ?

Babe I'll give you all the bonus points if you're picking up what I'm putting down

**lenaos** - July 21, 2015, 2:39 am

(Jul 19, 2015 09:25 PM)RelationShit Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Smh thread from amateur himself talking about other amateurs this shit ain't kinky anymore

On a scale of 1-10 how out of place are you here

**n3y4k0** - July 21, 2015, 8:24 am

mind blown

edit:

(Jul 13, 2015 08:04 PM)Buzz Lightyear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The next thing I notice is all of the buttons in the header image. These are good with website designs, because the button can be clicked and the viewer can be redirected to another page, or another part of the page. On a thread design, however, the button is not active, and when you click it, it takes you to a generic site that is linked with the rest of thread. It does nothing to add to your portfolio, except to copy web designs that do this, such as Squarespace. This isn't Squarespace, so you shouldn't be doing it either.

**spradebassen** - July 21, 2015, 8:40 am

(Jul 21, 2015 08:24 AM)n3y4k0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)

mind blown

edit:

According to Buzz you made hf into Squarespace!

mind = ?

ayy lmao

**n3y4k0** - July 21, 2015, 8:43 am

You obviously need to think inside the box if you think a good thread design should only be in one image.

no h8 just innov8

edit:

Watch me break the hype train, i'm so sorry :'( :'( :'(

**lenaos** - July 21, 2015, 11:01 am

(Jul 21, 2015 08:40 AM)Clark Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) According to Buzz you made hf into Squarespace!

mind = ?

ayy lmao

Are you trying to be funny or...

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 21, 2015, 1:55 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 08:24 AM)n3y4k0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)

mind blown

edit:

Yes. This is precisely what users should do. There are a couple users that do something similar. But the thing is, no one is doing what you're doing. You provide hope.

And yes Clark, this is now Squarespace. Times are changing.

**n3y4k0** - July 21, 2015, 2:25 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 01:55 PM)Buzz Lightyear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes. This is precisely what users should do. There are a couple users that do something similar. But the thing is, no one is doing what you're doing. You provide hope.

And yes Clark, this is now Squarespace. Times are changing.  
It's a basic web design strategy though

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 21, 2015, 3:06 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 02:25 PM)n3y4k0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It's a basic web design strategy though  
You would think. But the users here do not do this.

**Removed** - July 21, 2015, 3:28 pm

But the artists here are not trying to sell their services to other designers. The services that stand out to you aren't going to stand out to others. The people who are going to be purchasing the services don't give a shit/really like it therefore you get every thread with buttons and mountains because they are trying to reach their audience.

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 21, 2015, 3:40 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 03:28 PM)Removed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) But the artists here are not trying to sell their services to other designers. The services that stand out to you aren't going to stand out to others. The people who are going to be purchasing the services don't give a shit/really like it therefore you get every thread with buttons and mountains because they are trying to reach their audience.

Right. And like I said, it's smart to do that. However, when it is their absolute only style that they know, that's an issue. They begin (as another user stated) to undermine each other. Instead of trying to become better and improving, as designers should be, they just copy each other's work. Mobile networks keep trying to improve the network to raise more money, not just find clever ways to offer a better price (I understand they do both). Any decent designer should be able to design according to their audience's need. The audience shouldn't have to have a demand that is solely according to this one style.

Your thread literally has buttons that say click me to get to these links. They all do one thing, something different from what that button is for. Do you not see that this is a design flaw? Instead of

settling for the same style everyone else has seemed to adapt, why not grow as a designer and develop something original and new, one that audiences still like.

Audiences here don't know what they like. They're forced to like this style, since it is the only style on this site.

**n3y4k0** - July 21, 2015, 4:07 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 03:40 PM)Buzz Lightyear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Audiences here don't know what they like. They're forced to like this style, since it is the only style on this site.

No a lot of people here have shitty taste

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 21, 2015, 4:08 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 04:07 PM)n3y4k0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No a lot of people here have shitty taste

I was going to say that, but then the user above me would have tried to make the point that everyone just designs to the audience.

**Weebex** - July 22, 2015, 6:01 pm

Nobody is gonna up their game because this overused style gives them the most money.

I think Ren will be the change.

**Agitator** - July 22, 2015, 11:53 pm

(Jul 22, 2015 06:01 PM)RekSai Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nobody is gonna up their game because this overused style gives them the most money.

I think Ren will be the change.

Lol and any innovation or updated style wont? Called trends. Set a trend and prosper. This is the mentality that separates an artist from a copier

**n3y4k0** - July 23, 2015, 3:37 am

(Jul 22, 2015 11:53 PM)Agitator Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Lol and any innovation or updated style wont? Called trends. Set a trend and prosper. This is the mentality that separates an artist from a copier

There's nothing wrong with copying if you are learning... just don't pretend to be a professional..

**Travs** - July 23, 2015, 7:24 am

(Jul 22, 2015 11:53 PM)Agitator Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Lol and any innovation or updated style wont? Called trends. Set a trend and prosper. This is the mentality that separates an artist from a copier

And then there's also the casual dribbble trends falling through the cracks and somehow reaching over here every blue moon.

**Isaac Newton** - July 24, 2015, 12:44 pm

(Jul 21, 2015 03:40 PM)Buzz Lightyear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Any decent designer should be able to design according to their audience's need. The audience shouldn't have to have a demand that is solely according to this one style.

Thread is true mostly. This part is somewhat not.

Most Individual professional designers usually have their own style. I know really good web designers who can't(or don't want to) design with the modern trends(flat elements with bright colors, dribbble like etc). They stick to swiss or minimal (or what they know) because it's their style and produce good work. Due to which the client requests they get is for that style only. The style sometimes starts defining a whole niche.

But when it comes to "any audience", as you said, that's what teams are for. Good agencies are

good because they chose their designers(variety) wisely.

Everything above Not related to HF, HF is shit anyways. I'm more talking about the general IRL scene.

**Buzz Lightyear** - July 24, 2015, 1:41 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 12:44 PM)Isaac Newton Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thread is true mostly. This part is somewhat not.

Most Individual professional designers usually have their own style. I know really good web designers who can't(or don't want to) design with the modern trends(flat elements with bright colors, dribbble like etc). They stick to swiss or minimal (or what they know) because it's their style and produce good work. Due to which the client requests they get is for that style only. The style sometimes starts defining a whole niche.

But when it comes to "any audience", as you said, that's what teams are for. Good agencies are good because they chose their designers(variety) wisely.

Everything above Not related to HF, HF is shit anyways. I'm more talking about the general IRL scene.

I agree with you. I apologize if my words seem to go back and forth. I feel like every time that I make a stand, it gets twisted into something else, so I appear to be wavering on my stance on these issues.

You are correct. While there are successful freelance designers, there are also very successful design agencies.

This thread coincides with you when you say most designers have their own style. That's what I'm encouraging designers here to do, instead of everyone having the same one.

**Agitator** - July 24, 2015, 10:10 pm

(Jul 23, 2015 03:37 AM)n3y4k0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There's nothing wrong with copying if you are learning... just don't pretend to be a professional..

Selling copied styles and works is technically a cc violation but who cares

**iLoveBeagles** - July 24, 2015, 10:49 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 10:10 PM)Agitator Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Selling copied styles and works is technically a cc violation but who cares

As he said, copying for educational purpose. If he means recreating something you see from scratch (and eventually deleting .psd not selling it), I agree with him, I tend to try and recreate a design that blasts my mind. Its a better way of learning then following tutorials.

**n3y4k0** - July 25, 2015, 4:05 am

(Jul 24, 2015 10:10 PM)Agitator Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Selling copied styles and works is technically a cc violation but who cares

I feel like you would need to re-read the stuff in your head 3 times before posting.

**Raymond Reddington** - July 25, 2015, 4:09 am

Viva this thread. A true enlightenment to GFX Artists.

**Defy\_** - August 6, 2015, 8:09 pm

I think the main thing you people need to realize is that nothing you say will stop anyone doing any of these things you're complaining about. 90% of these people are in it for the money, they don't

give 2 shits about any of the things you're saying. If people actually cared about improving, they'd be trying new things, and trying to practice not just constantly undercutting each other and ripping each others thread designs.

**Buzz Lightyear** - August 6, 2015, 9:24 pm

(Aug 6, 2015 08:09 PM)Defy\_ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the main thing you people need to realize is that nothing you say will stop anyone doing any of these things you're complaining about. 90% of these people are in it for the money, they don't give 2 shits about any of the things you're saying. If people actually cared about improving, they'd be trying new things, and trying to practice not just constantly undercutting each other and ripping each others thread designs.

I'm quite aware, and don't need to be told so to realize anything. This is more of a thread to call out the designers and to let those who know nothing become informed. I also do know that 90% of these people are in it for the money. And actually, the number of thread designs with mountain headers have decreased significantly. Must be a coincidence.

**FrankieDickhard** - August 7, 2015, 6:13 am

its amazing dude, nice thread love it.

**iLoveBeagles** - August 8, 2015, 8:09 am

(Aug 6, 2015 09:24 PM)Buzz Lightyear Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm quite aware, and don't need to be told so to realize anything. This is more of a thread to call out the designers and to let those who know nothing become informed. I also do know that 90% of these people are in it for the money. And actually, the number of thread designs with mountain headers have decreased significantly. Must be a coincidence.

Yes, Thanks.25 characters

**Kyzz** - September 13, 2015, 9:04 pm

Savage as fuck. Good job OP ?

**Meow** - July 14, 2016, 1:46 pm

This thread should be bumped. ?

**? THEINsPIREDONE** - July 15, 2016, 1:46 pm

The only thing I'd like to disagree with would be this part:

"The issue with this, is how do you claim if you are high quality or not? That is something that you cannot claim about yourself. As for professional, I highly doubt most designers on this site are professional designers, have degrees in graphic design, or anything similar."

You don't need a degree or any official diploma to determine whether you're a professional or not. If somebody is doing this and makes a living out of it, then it's considered his profession. So, he's a professional!

What that problem is here, is the fact that people have connected "Professional" and "Quality" as having the same meaning. They don't!

Had fun while reading the thread, cheers!