Balsamiq stencils for Series 40 UI Design

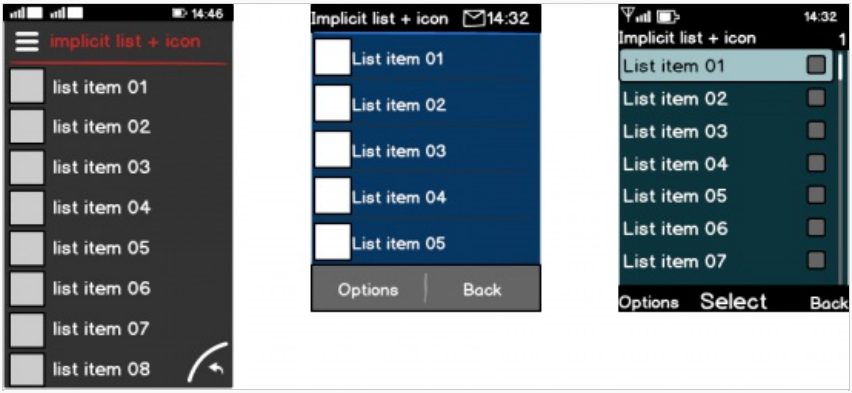
This article is a short introduction into the Series 40 UI design stencils for the Balsamiq rapid wire-framing tool.

Introduction

Basamiq Mockups is a rapid wire-framing tool which makes it very easy to draw and visualise your UI designs. The tool is more fit-for-purpose than generic drawing packages like Adobe Illustrator or Inkscape, and often makes creating designs in electronic format faster than with pencil and paper.

This article delivers a complete set of Balsamiq stencils for Series 40 LCDUI, covering all current Series 40 releases, including: non-touch, touch-and-type and full-touch. These complement the generic templates available in the tool "out of the box", and make it possible to create designs tailored for Series 40.

The stencils are available as standard ***.bmml** file and a Symbol file, further split into files for full-touch, touch and type, and non-touch (split required because of the large number of graphical elements).



Series 40 full touch, touch and type, and non touch layouts for an implicit list with icons

Downloads (Fast lane)

All stencil sets in *.bmml and symbol format.

Series 40 full touch Alert

Why Balsamiq?

The idea behind Balsamiq is that you can quickly visualize and capture your ideas in electronic format, and then easily refine and evolve them. The intention is not to deliver something "pixel perfect" but to capture the "essence" of your design. The fact that they are not "perfect" is an advantage - rather than argue about the details, design can concentrate on the basic arrangement and organisational flow of your layouts.

Series 40 touch and type StringItem as button

Baslamiq's success is partially build on people contributing to their libraries – like these stencils. Baslamiq is affordable and you can download a 7 day trial version to figure out if it is right for you. There are standalone versions, cloud and wiki solutions with reverting possibilities.

Personally, I like Balsamiq because:

- It allows teams to work on layouts and solutions – not only for mobile apps but for whatever you want to sketch.

(C) Copyright Nokia 2014. All rights reserved.

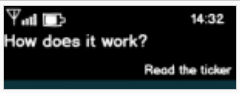
- You are not influenced to concentrate on detail. There are only a limited number of icons and so far I have always managed to design effectively using this set. If really necessary you can import an image, e.g. a company logo.
- It is fast, really fast, especially if there are ready symbols available.
- The result is perfect for interaction design - no graphics overhead.
- You can get pdf and png as output.
- Faster results then e.g. Inkscape or Illustrator.

There are other solutions out there and you might find something you like more. That said, so far Balsamiq has ticked all the right boxes for me and I do not see a reason why to change to anything else. Please check Balsamiq.com for more information about Balsamiq software and solutions.

Oh yes, I am not endorsed in any way by Balsamiq, I am simply a fan!

Using the stencils

How to open



Series 40 non touch Ticker

- Double click the ***.bmml** file and copy the elements you need.
- The symbol file must be placed in the “assets” folder of your project. The items load automatically to “assets” and “all” from the topmost bar.

How to operate

- After placing the asset, break the symbol apart and ungroup the asset to enable editing.
- The checkboxes are “activated” by reducing the opacity of the overlaying (square) geometric shape.
- In full touch, radio buttons are “activated” by reducing the opacity of the overlaying (square) geometric shape.
- Check boxes and radio buttons are created with square geometric shapes to get close to the surround (squircle) shape.
- The form items should be placed on the Canvas.

About accuracy

- The sizes are related to amount of pixels.
- The stencil sizes are very accurate when it comes to amount of pixels.
- The font size might differ by one or two points, since Balsamiq is not using Nokia Sans.
- The amount of actual amount of text for an item might vary. But in case things get tight it is anyways a good idea to rethink the layout at this point.

The minimum touch area is a reference for custom UI touch components. As the name implies, the touch area of a custom UI component should not be less than what you find from the minimum touch area.

How to get the correct size for paper prototypes

Scale the printout (png or pdf) according to the target release:

- Full touch diameter is 3″ = 76 mm
- Touch and type diameter is 2.4″ = 61 mm (there exist also phones with 2.6″, but you should test for the worst case)

Available components

This section lists all the available components - which provide complete coverage of LCDUI.

(C) Copyright Nokia 2014. All rights reserved.

A few examples - DateField in full touch, touch and type, and non touch

Tip: The stencil set focuses on LCDUI, but LWUIT layouts should be easy to add where needed. The important thing is that you have the “ballpark size” at hand and from there it should be straight forward to add LWUIT UI components, e.g. Tab bar instead of a Category bar.

As the LCDUI components visualization and interaction changes between platforms some names will vary. But it is very likely that you will find the components just by looking them up from the topmost bar. A mouse hover over the item in Balsamiq's up-most toolbar bar will reveal the full name. The following items are available:

LCDUI component description	Full touch name	Touch and type name	Non touch name
Timed Alert	Alert 0btn	Alert 0btn	Alert 0btn
Alert, 1 button	Alert 1btn	Alert 1btn	Alert 1btn
Alert, 2 buttons	Alert 2btn	Alert 2btn	Alert 2btn
Alert, 3 buttons, image,indeterminate progressindicator	Alert 3btn img progrbar	Alert 3btn img progrbar	Alert 3btn img progrbar
Standard icons for Alert	-	Alert Icons	Alert Icons
Base layout	-	Base layout	Base layout
Canvas	Canvas	Canvas	Canvas
Category Bar	Canvas CategoryBar	-	-
Category Bar extension, 6 items	CategoryBar extn06	-	-
Category bar extension, 15 items	CategoryBar extn15	-	-
Form - Choice Group exclusive, 2 items	Form ChcGrp excl2	-	-
Form - Choice Group exclusive, 3 items	Form ChcGrp excl3	-	-
Form - Choice Group exclusive, max items	Form ChcGrp excl4	Form ChcGrp excl4	Form ChcGrp excl6
Form - Choice Group multiple, 2 items	Form ChcGrp mlt2	-	-
Form - Choice Group multiple, 3 item	Form ChcGrp mlt3	-	-
Form - Choice Group multiple, max item	Form ChcGrp mlt4	Form ChcGrp mlt4	Form ChcGrp mlt6
Form - Choice Group popup, closed	Form ChcGrp pop-	Form ChcGrp pop-	Form ChcGrp pop-
Form - Choice Group popup, focus	-	-	Form ChcGrp pop focus
Form - Choice Group popup,2 items	Form ChcGrp pop2	-	-
Form - Choice Group popup,3 items	Form ChcGrp pop3	-	-
Form - Choice Group popup,max items	Form ChcGrp pop4	Form ChcGrp pop5	Form ChcGrp pop7
Form - Custom Item, paired button A	Form Cstm sgmbtnA	-	-
Form - Custom Item, paired button B	Form Cstm sgmbtnB	-	-
Form - Custom Item, 3 buttons with label	Form Cstm btnlbl3	-	-
Form - Custom Item, segmented button	Form Cstm sgmtbtn	-	-
Form - Custom Item, switch	Form Cstm switch	-	-
Form - Date Field, time	Form Date time-	Form Date time-	Form Date time-
Form - Date Field, time edit	Form Date time2	Form Date time edit	Form Date time focus
Form - Date Field,time am/pm edit	Form Date time3	-	-
Form - Date Field, date	Form Date date-	Form Date date -	Form Date date-
Form - Date Field, date edit	Form Date date3	Form Date date edit	-
Form - Date Field, date + time	Form Date datetime-	Form Date datetime-	Form Date datetime-
Form - Date Field, date + time, date edit	Form Date datetime date	Form Date datetime date	-

(C) Copyright Nokia 2014. All rights reserved.

Form - Date Field, date + time, time edit	Form Date datetime time	Form Date datetime time	-
Form - Gauge, determinate progress indicator	Form Gauge progbar	Form Gauge progbar	Form Gauge progbar
Form - Gauge, slider	Form Gauge slider	Form Gauge slider	Form Gauge slider
Form - Gauge, slider edit	-	Form Gauge slider active	Form Gauge slider focus
Form - Gauge, indeterminate progress indicator	Form Gauge spinner	Form Gauge spinner	Form Gauge spinner
Form - String Item, button	Form Strg btn	Form Strg btn	Form Strg btn
Form - String Item, button + label	Form Strg btn label	Form Strg btn label	Form Strg btn label
Form - String Item, hyperlink	Form Strg hypl	Form Strg hypl	Form Strg hypl
Form - String Item, hyperlink + label	Form Strg hypl label	Form Strg hypl label	Form Strg hypl label
Form - String Item, paragraph of text	Form Strg paragraph	Form Strg paragraph	Form Strg paragraph
Form - Text Field	Form TextField	Form TextField	Form TextField
Form - Text Field edit Abc	Form TextField edit	Form TextField edit Abc	Form TextField focus
Form - Text Field edit 123	-	Form TextField edit 123	-
List - exclusive	List Exclusive icon	List Exclusive	List Exclusive
List - implicit	List Implicit	List Implicit	List Implicit
List - implicit with icon	List Implicit icon	List Implicit icon	List Implicit icon
List - multiple	List Multiple icon	List Multiple icon	List Multiple icon
Menu - Context/Longpress/Item	Menu Longpress	Menu Longpress	-
Menu - Options	Menu Options	Menu Options	Menu Options
Nokia Popup list	Popup List	-	-
Nokia Popup list	Popup List icon radiobtn	-	-
Ticker	Ticker	Ticker	Ticker
Text editor ITUT	Text Editor Java ITUT	-	-
Text editor QWERTY	Text Editor Java QWERTY	-	-
Text Box, editable	TextBox editable	TextBox editable	TextBox editable
Text Box, not editable	TextBox not editable	TextBox not editable	TextBox not editable
Touch area minimum, finger + thumb	Touch Area minimum	Touch Area minimum	-

(C) Copyright Nokia 2014. All rights reserved.

(C) Copyright Nokia 2014. All rights reserved.