

Oxygen-Molecule 2.2: Uniform Visual Appearance for KDE4

Created 4/29/09 and last modified 1/6/10 by [S. Christian Collins](#).

This archive should contain the following files:

- kde43-oxygen-molecule.tar.gz – GTK+ theme
- OxygenMolecule.colors – KDE color scheme
- OxygenMolecule-screenshot*.png – theme screenshots
- Oxygen-Molecule 2.2 setup guide.* – documentation

About Oxygen-Molecule

Linux applications are written using different “toolkits” to control their visual appearance and layout. The most common toolkits are [GTK+](#) and [Qt](#), designed to be used with the [GNOME](#) and [KDE](#) desktop environments respectively. You can run programs written in either toolkit under any Linux desktop environment. However, applications written with one toolkit often look out of place alongside applications written with another, since they don't share visual styles. In KDE 4, a user who wants to use a GTK+ application such as Firefox often has to put up with a theme and icon set that don't match the rest of the software on his or her system.

Oxygen-Molecule is a theme for GTK+ applications to provide a uniform look when used under the KDE 4.3 desktop environment. It was originally based on the [kde4.2-oxygen \(modified\) 0.3](#) GTK theme by Dennis Schmitz (which was itself based on work originally by Kim Kahns)

On top of the original theme, I have made the following changes:

- changed colors to match default KDE 4.3 color scheme, including hue adjustment of all pixmaps
- reworked most of the pixmaps and changed measurements for improved visual appearance
- created new spinner buttons, since the original spinners often looked mismatched with the surrounding pixmaps
- linked the GTK theme with the Oxygen icon set (thank you Craig Drummond for showing me how to do this).

Installation

***Note:** Oxygen-Molecule was created and tested using Kubuntu 9.04 and 9.10. Please adjust the installation instructions for your distribution accordingly. Please note that I have not been able to test these instructions on other distributions, so your mileage may vary.*

1. Make sure that neither **gtk-qt-engine** or **gtk-kde4** are installed, since they each have their conflicts with the theme.
2. Install the pixbuf theme engine, which should be available from your distribution's repository. On Kubuntu, the package is called **gtk2-engines-pixbuf**:

```
sudo apt-get install gtk2-engines-pixbuf
```

3. Extract the **kde43-oxygen-molecule** gtk theme to **/usr/share/themes**. Here is the Kubuntu command (run it from the folder you extracted this package to):

```
sudo tar -C /usr/share/themes -xzf kde43-oxygen-molecule.tar.gz
```

4. **Kubuntu 9.10 users:** In the KDE4 system settings, go to Appearance. Under GTK+ Appearance, select “kde43-oxygen-molecule” and click “Apply”.

Other users: Modify or create the **.gtkrc-2.0** file in your home directory (Kubuntu 9.04 users modify **.gtkrc-2.0-kde4** instead). Replace its contents with the following:

```
include "/usr/share/themes/kde43-oxygen-molecule/gtk-2.0/gtkrc"

style "user-font"
{
}
widget_class "*" style "user-font"
gtk-theme-name="kde43-oxygen-molecule"
gtk-font-name="DejaVu Sans 9"
```

Note #1: Adjust the font name and size according to your preferences.

Note #2: You should make a backup copy of your original file in case you wish to restore the original setting.

5. If you want GTK+ apps run as root (or sudo) to be themed as well, copy the newly created file to **/root/.gtkrc-2.0**. Kubuntu (9.04 or 9.10) users type:

```
sudo cp ~/.gtkrc-2.0-kde4 /root/.gtkrc-2.0
```

6. In the KDE4 system settings, go to Appearance. Under Colors → Options tab, un-check “Apply colors to non-KDE4 applications”, and apply the changes.
7. Import the included **OxygenMolecule.colors** file using KDE's System Settings under Appearance → Colors → Import Scheme. Click “Apply” to activate the new color scheme.
8. If all went well, your GTK+ applications should now be Oxygen-themed. Try firing up Firefox or your favorite GTK+ program and see if it works.

Known Issues

- The window color in GTK+ applications doesn't always match the frame 100%. This is due to a limitation in the pixbuf engine.
- Menus do not have rounded corners. Again, this is a limitation of the pixbuf engine.
- ~~The selected menu title isn't supposed to have a gradient.~~ **Fixed in Oxygen-Molecule 2.2.**
- ~~The left ruler markings in Inkscape are truncated.~~ **This is fixed in Inkscape 0.47.**
- When using OpenOffice.org with the GTK style compatibility mode, the top and left ends of scrollbars are truncated.
- Oxygen-Molecule will not make your KDE3/Qt3 apps appear with an oxygen style. I have not yet figured out how to change the KDE3 theme and colors without inadvertently affecting KDE4 apps.

Changelog

2.2

- Removed theme's dependency on the Murrine engine.
- Made check and radio boxes smaller for web pages rendered in Firefox. *Fix committed by [Craig Drummond](#).*
- Fixed appearance of selected menubar items. *Fix committed by [Craig Drummond](#).*
- Improved the appearance of check and radio boxes within menus.
- Fixed tree view text color

2.1

- Redesigned scrollbars with new shading effect.

2.0

- Updated the theme to be compatible with the new KDE 4.3 tabs.
- Oxygen-molecule now links directly to the existing oxygen icons, so the OxygenRefit icons are no longer needed.
- Updated the selection box to match KDE's.
- Set the scrollbar width to 17 pixels to match the new KDE default.
- Tweaked the menubar gradient to match the titlebar in a higher percentage of cases (it's not possible to get it fully accurate for every window width).
- Added a vertical window background gradient, which means that the window background will better match the frame when used with the Oxygen/Ozone window decoration. Due to a limitation in the pixbuf engine, this won't always be perfect, especially for windows that are small vertically.
- Fixed the grey tooltips.
- Greatly improved the appearance of progress bars and scrollbar arrows.
- Made the buttons smaller.

1.2

- Provided solid colorizations for buttons, check boxes and radio buttons so they would not appear transparent in Firefox.
- Made menu item highlight slightly thinner to more closely match KDE apps.
- Reconfigured many icons as symbolic links to the oxygen icon set. This cuts down on disk space use considerably.

1.1

- Redesigned check boxes and radio buttons to have a glowing mouse-over

- Check boxes and radio buttons have improved spacing, especially on web pages in Firefox
- The default button in a dialog now appears as it does in KDE apps, with a dark blue outline
- Redesigned sliders and gave them a mouse-over effect
- Made large improvements to the appearance of frames. Previously, they looked very buggy.
- Buttons are now a little thinner, so they look more like they do in KDE apps.