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Thank you for purchasing Sofa Rooster WordPress theme! For any questions you might have please contact me at info@sofarider.com.

Introduction

Sofa Rooster is flat Blog theme but extremely robust one. It uses Plugger system for easy sidebar content management and is fully settable through theme options page integrated into Admin panel. You can set it up in just a few minutes and start blogging. Almost everything needed for a kick-start is already there; Flickr, Twitter, 125x125px advertising slots, pagination, smart subnavigation system, breadcrumbs, widget-reserved sidebars (x6), jQuery featured content slider and much more.

Requirements & Compatibility

Any JavaScript enabled Browser will make this theme work with no issues! PC or Mac system does not make the difference as well. It has been tested on Firefox 2 & 3.5 (PC, Mac), Safari 3.1 (PC, Mac), Opera 9.5, 9.6 & 10 (PC), Internet Explorer (6, 7, 8 PC).

Theme options

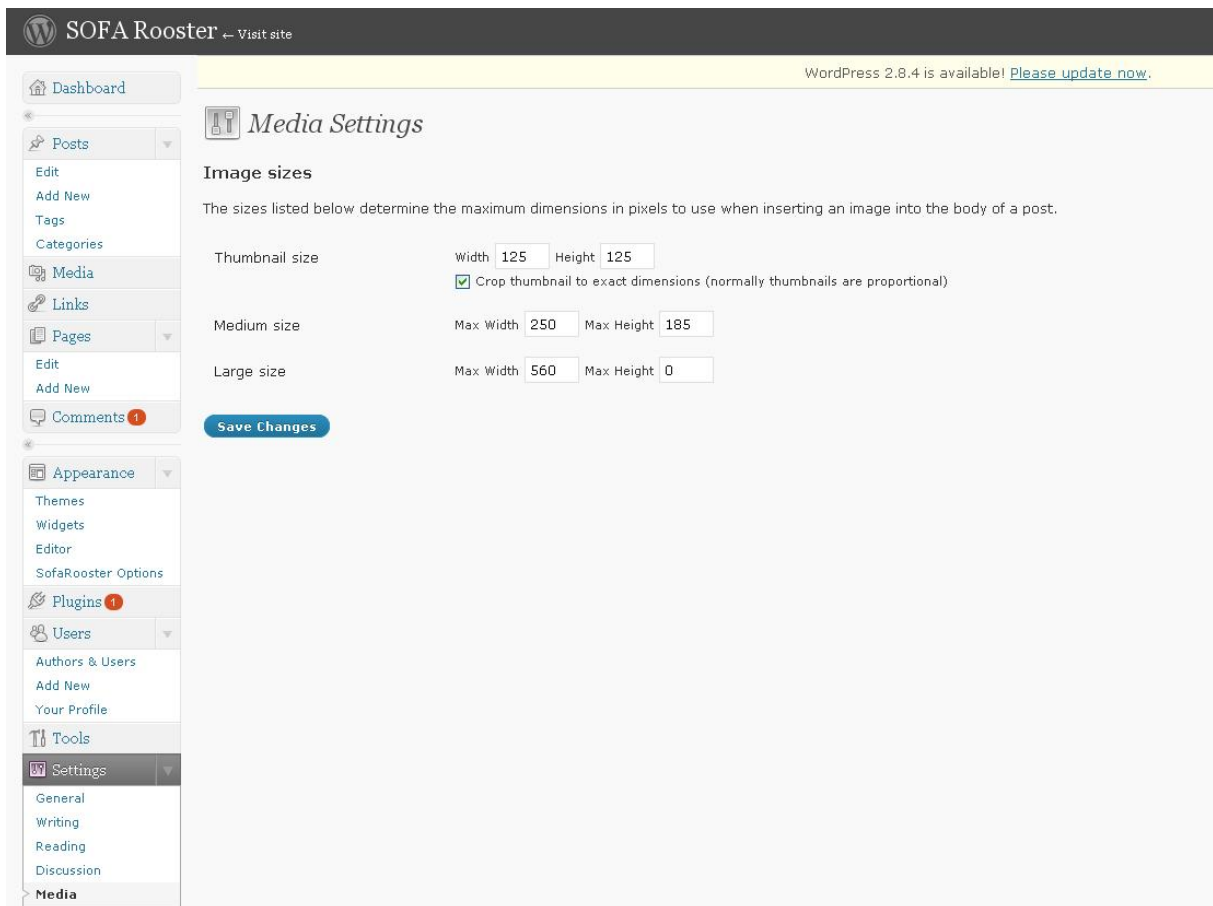
Login to WordPress Admin, select Appearance > SofaRooster Options

Each and every theme option is quite well explained so there shouldn't be any questions. You can also find translation list on options page which will definitely reduce launch time for any non-english site. However, 'comments.php' and 'contact.php' templates contain portions of text which must be translated manually because of technical reasons.

Quick Setup

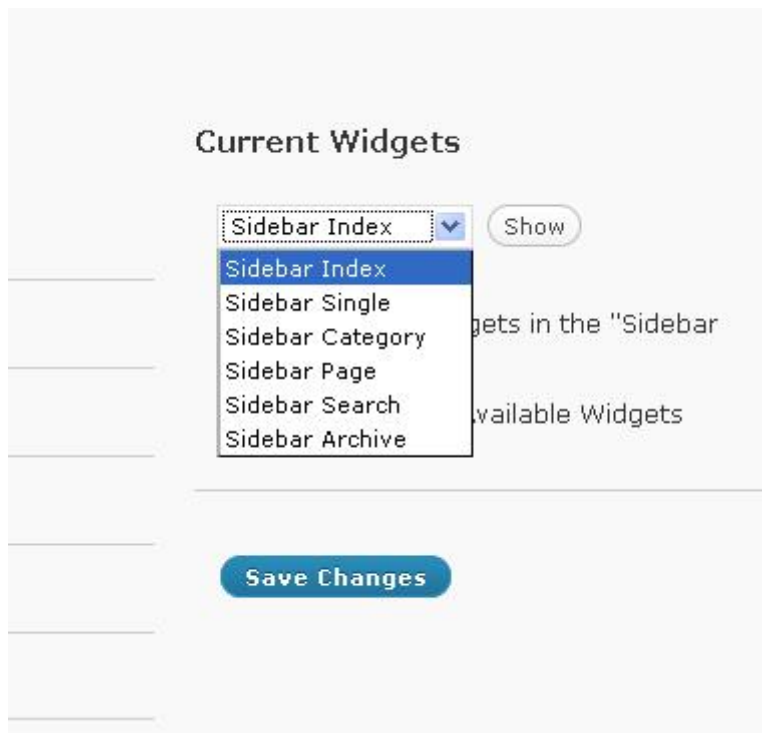
The following chapter contains **recommended** settings for this theme. It's good idea to keep them, otherwise certain offset in layout/functionality may occur. However, if you are familiar with CSS and PHP those deviations may easily be corrected.

Media settings



These are theme's default Media Settings and I do not recommend Medium size image wider than 250px, otherwise (if used) narrow columns on Home page may screw up the layout. However, image height is not 'locked' and you may set other value for both Thumbnail and Medium size. Large size images are not used with this theme so I guess it's OK to leave values as is.

Widgets



Each template file (index, single, category, page, search, archive) may use different widgets so in total there's 6 widget reserved areas. Put whatever you find suitable for search results, archive, single page...

Setting up Contact page



The screenshot shows the WordPress page editor interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Visual' and 'HTML'. Below the tabs, there are buttons for 'code', 'more', 'lookup', and 'close tags'. The main content area contains a paragraph of text with an image placeholder. Below the text, there is a 'Value' field containing the text 'Introduction: 1, Twitter: 2, Flickr: 3'. At the bottom, there is another 'Value' field with a dropdown arrow. On the right side, the 'Attributes' sidebar is open, showing the 'Parent' dropdown set to 'Main Page (no parent)', the 'Template' dropdown set to 'Contact', and the 'Order' field set to '60'. The 'Attributes' sidebar also contains explanatory text for each section.

Attributes

Parent

Main Page (no parent) ▼

You can arrange your pages in hierarchies, for example you could have an "About" page that has "Life Story" and "My Dog" pages under it. There are no limits to how deeply nested you can make pages.

Template

Contact ▼

Default Template Custom templates you

Contact pages that might have additional features or custom layouts. If so, you'll see them above.

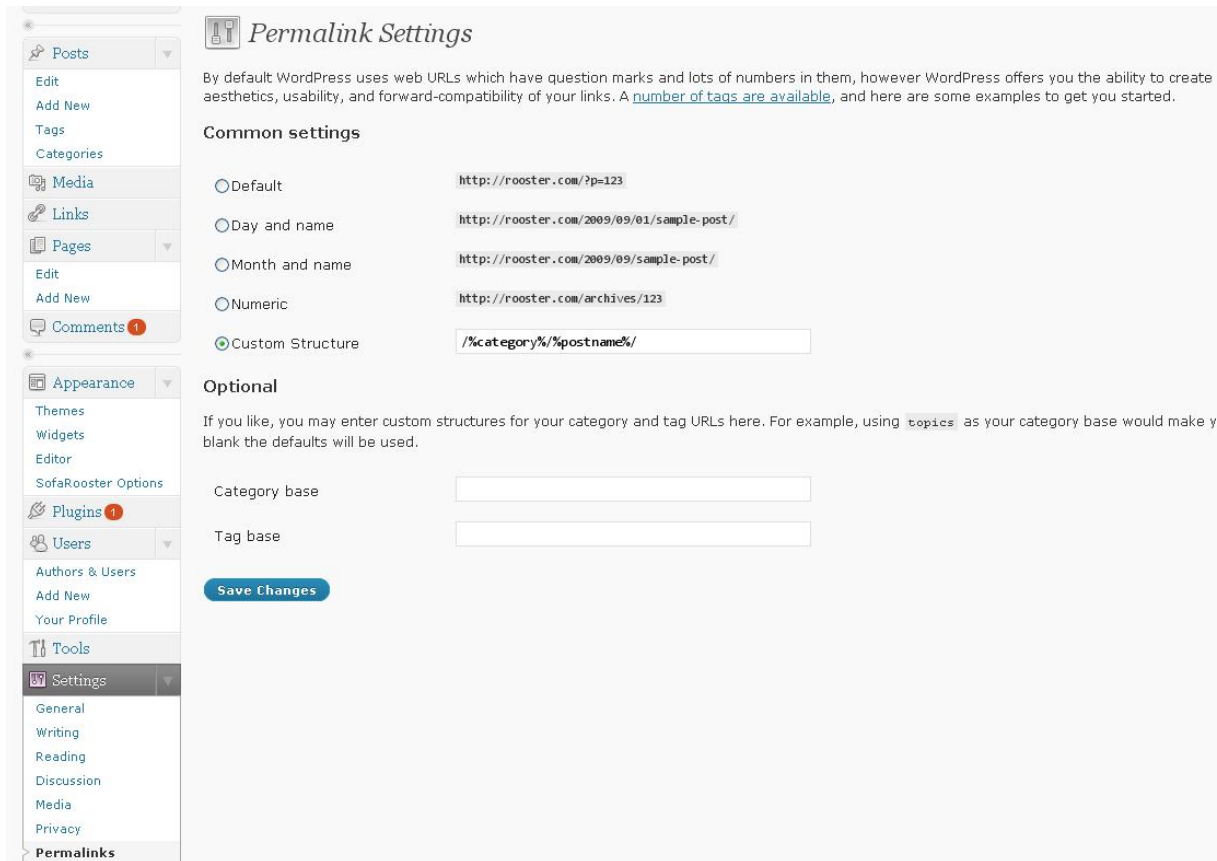
Order

60

Pages are usually ordered alphabetically, but you can put a number above to change the order pages appear in. (We know this is a little janky, it'll be better in future releases.)

In Admin panel select **Pages > Add New** from the left sidebar menu. Title the Page with Contact or whatever you like, add some text/content if you want and right before saving the Page, from the right sidebar select Contact as a Template option – just like shown on the illustration above. This will make the contact form automatically show up on frontend.

Permalink structure



The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Permalink Settings' page. On the left is a sidebar menu with categories like Posts, Media, Links, Pages, Comments, Appearance, Plugins, Users, Tools, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Permalink Settings' and includes an introductory paragraph, a 'Common settings' section with radio buttons for Default, Day and name, Month and name, Numeric, and Custom Structure (which is selected), and an 'Optional' section with input fields for 'Category base' and 'Tag base'. A 'Save Changes' button is located at the bottom of the settings area.

Permalink Settings

By default WordPress uses web URLs which have question marks and lots of numbers in them, however WordPress offers you the ability to create aesthetics, usability, and forward-compatibility of your links. A [number of tags are available](#), and here are some examples to get you started.

Common settings

Default `http://rooster.com/?p=123`

Day and name `http://rooster.com/2009/09/01/sample-post/`

Month and name `http://rooster.com/2009/09/sample-post/`

Numeric `http://rooster.com/archives/123`

Custom Structure

Optional

If you like, you may enter custom structures for your category and tag URLs here. For example, using `topics` as your category base would make y blank the defaults will be used.

Category base

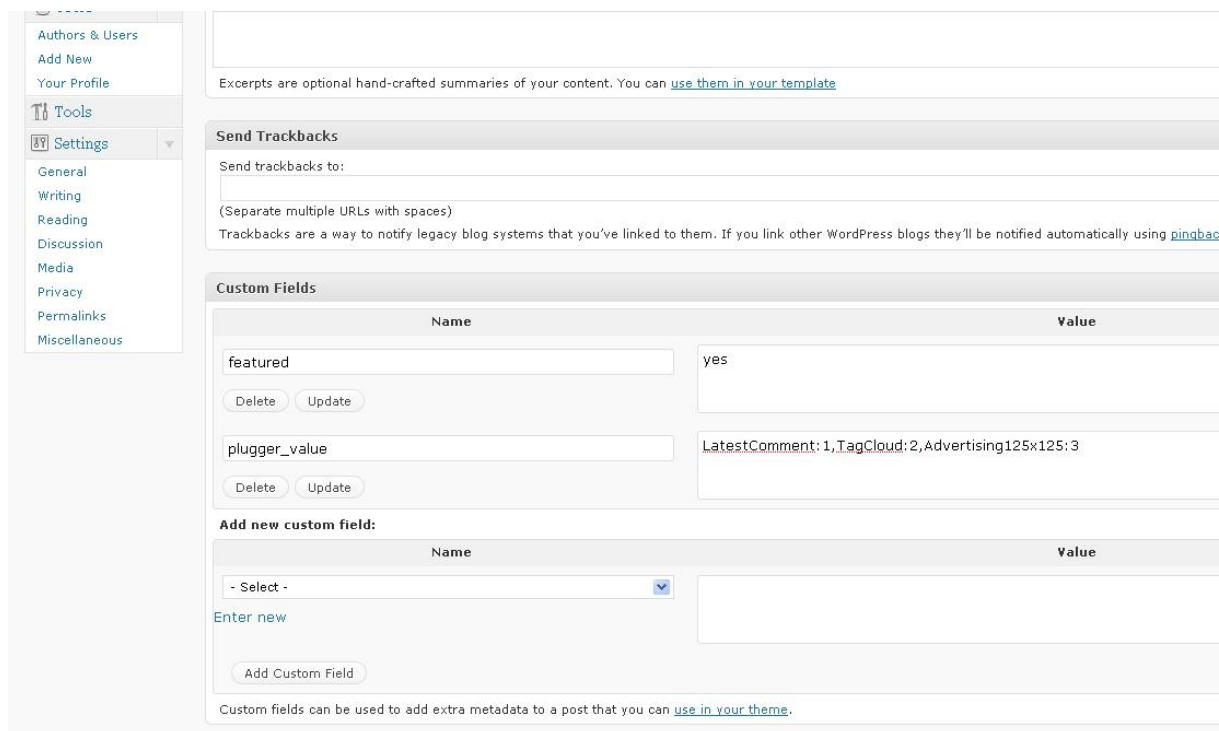
Tag base

[Save Changes](#)

This theme uses custom permalink structure. It's good for SEO and looks better than Default link structure. The only thing you need to do here is to select Custom Structure option and enter the following into input field (copy and paste):

`/%category%/%postname%/`

Featured content (Home page content Slider)



The screenshot shows the WordPress Custom Fields settings page. On the left is a sidebar menu with 'Settings' selected. The main content area has a 'Send Trackbacks' section and a 'Custom Fields' section. The 'Custom Fields' section contains a table with two existing fields: 'featured' with value 'yes' and 'plugger_value' with value 'LatestComment: 1, TagCloud: 2, Advertising125x125: 3'. Below the table is an 'Add new custom field:' section with a dropdown menu set to '- Select -', an input field containing 'Enter new', and an 'Add Custom Field' button. A note at the bottom states: 'Custom fields can be used to add extra metadata to a post that you can [use in your theme](#).'

Any new or existing Post/Page you add to your site may become 'Featured' and thus displayed in Home page content slider. How? It's easy!

Below Post/Page write panel is Custom Fields tab. Spot the line reading 'Add new custom field:' and a link named 'Enter new'. Click on it then enter 'featured' in blank 'Name' slot (input field). Now enter 'yes' as a Value, just like shown on the illustration above.

Next time you want to add Featured Post or Page, 'featured' Name will be available on – Select – list, right below 'Add new custom field:'.

'plugger_value' is auto-generated Custom Field related to Pluggers you decide to use in certain Post/Page sidebar. Leave as is, otherwise error may occur!

Update Pluggers

```
<?php
// little gray box tag text
$tag_text = "My Flickr";
// display this much image thumbnails
$num_of_images = 6;
// take images from this user [ replace @ with %40 ]
$source_user = "14897087%40N04";
// size; s, t, m...
$size = "s";
// width, height
$w = 75;
$h = 75;
// decide whether to display images by tag or user
$source_type = "all_tag"; // "all_tag" for tagged images or "user" for user set
// if tags - make the tag list separated by comma
$tag_list = "swift";
?>
```

There are 2 Pluggers supposed to display – I guess – personal data; Twitter and Flickr. Both of them require user name plus some extra info important for server from which data will be returned. On the illustration above you may see my own Flickr settings. Just replace with yours and save.

On the illustration bellow you may see default Twitter settings. As you guess, replace with your own and save.

```
<div class="panel">
  <?php
  // SETTINGS - change to fit your needs!
  // twitter username
  $username = "dameer";
  // number of twitts to display
  $number_of_tweets = 3;
  // we must add at least one empty list item in order to avoid HTML Validat
  ?>
```

Pluggers named 'OnlineActivity' and 'Advertising125x125' must be opened and edit according to existing HTML structure. It's good idea to keep images used for both of them in 'images' folder of this theme – unless you prefer remote location.

Error in sidebar?

After you install WordPress, by default there will be 'About' page and one Test post titled with 'Hello World!'. These two entries are already present in database and they do not contain required meta values, crucial for this theme which may result in displaying certain error message in sidebar.

That's OK, no need to worry!

Go edit both 'About' and 'Hello World!'. From the Pluggers panel in sidebar you may select some but it's not actually a must. The most important is to re-save both entries after which an error message will be gone.

Make your own Plugger

If you open '**pluggers**' folder found in '**sofa_rooster**' download package you will see 7 **php** pages having the same prefix '**plugger_**'. This is how the system identifies Plugger and automatically makes one available for use. Each new Plugger will be visible in SofaRooster theme Options.

Plugger content may either be static or dynamic, it doesn't make the difference. Go ahead, open any of available Pluggers with text editor or Dreamweaver. As you may see this is nothing but a simple piece of code. Let's create one or two right now by following three simple rules...

1. Each Plugger file you create MUST start with the prefix '**plugger_**' and be saved with extension '**.php**'. Everything between '**plugger_**' and '**.php**' will become **Plugger name**.

2. **Plugger name** may strictly consist of Alpha-Numeric combination. No special characters and spaces are allowed otherwise Plugger will NOT BE REGISTERED BY THE SYSTEM! For example, you want to add a new Plugger called '**Most Commented Posts**'. As a Plugger it will only be recognized in this form: '**plugger_MostCommentedPosts.php**'. Hopefully it does make sense to you.

3. All the Pluggers you make must be kept/saved in 'pluggers' folder.

OK, here we go with our first STATIC content Plugger named 'Hello dudes'. Create new, blank text document and save it as 'plugger_HelloDudes.php'. Plugger's content is displayed within pre-styled elements., like so:

```
<div class="panel">
  <div class="label"><span>Gray box tag</span></div>
  <div class="panel-content">
    <h2 class="smaller">Real Title</h2>
    <p>
      This is my very first Plugger which will become a part of one
      or more available sidebars.
    </p>
  </div>
</div>
```

Upload to 'pluggers' folder and check whether it's available in SofaRooster theme Options. It is? Congrats, you just have successfully created your first Plugger!

Now let's create DYNAMIC one...

This one is supposed to display the latest comment. Imagine the Post with more than 100 comments. Sometimes I'm too lazy to scroll down entire screen in order to read the last one so **why not to keep the very last comment in sidebar?**

The logic is quite similar to the previous Plugger we have created. Create new, blank text document and save it as 'plugger_LatestCommentTest.php'. As you guess a little WordPress/PHP programming knowledge is required but this one doesn't suck your brain out, it's really the matter of basic programming skill.

```

<?php
    $scout_comments = 0; // internal counter
    $show_comments = 1; // how many latest comments to display?
    // we need approved comments only
    $comment_array = array_reverse( get_approved_comments( $post->ID ) );
    // any comments in the house?
    if( $comment_array ) {
        foreach( $comment_array as $comment ) {
            // we need the number of '$show_comments' only
            if( $scout_comments < $show_comments ) {
?>
        <div class="panel">

            <!-- PRE-TITLE TAG -->
            <div class="label"><span>Latest comment by</span></div>

            <div class="panel-content">
                <!-- TITLE TAG -->
                <h2 class="smaller"><?php comment_author(); ?></h2>
                <p>
                    <?php
                        $comment_text = get_comment_text();
                        $author_email = $comment->comment_author_email;
                        echo get_avatar( $author_email, '125' );
                        echo $comment_text;
                    ?>
                </p>
            </div>
        </div>
    <?php
        }
        $scout_comments ++;
    }
?>

```

Upload to 'pluggers' folder again and check this Plugger's availability in SofaRooster theme Options. Is it there? Sure it is. So, each and every new Plugger you make in the future will automatically be pulled into theme Options and added to Post/Page write panel (sidebar). Keep experimenting, keep building your own Pluggers, this is the best way to practice! For a case you need a quick overview of WordPress built-in functions, please refer to http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference.

That's it guys and girls, enjoy!