

Beaver Builder vs the Divi Theme – a WordPress Theme Speed Test

[Oliver Nielsen](#) Jan 28 2016



You *do* want a fast website, right? Most of us do.

One of the best ways to speed up [WordPress](#), is to use fast loading WordPress themes and plugins. We don't really need to optimize *WordPress* itself – rather, we should target what's running *on top of* WordPress, as *that's* where your page load speed can grind to a halt.

I've previously [reviewed the Divi theme](#) by [Elegant Themes](#), [as well as the Beaver Builder plugin](#) (and its optional Beaver Builder theme).

[Divi](#) and [Beaver Builder](#) are taking the WordPress-world by storm. Each lets you/anyone design unique websites, via drag'n'drop, no coding required. Yet, such ease-of-use and WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) functionality is usually at the cost of performance.

Yes, [Divi](#) and [Beaver Builder](#) are clearly competitors, but two quite distinct, different creatures – from a technical standpoint and in actual use.

In [my Divi review](#), you could read that [I prefer Beaver Builder over the Divi theme](#), for usability *and* technical reasons. The [infamous Divi theme](#) is impossible to ignore though!

Will the fastest WordPress theme framework please stand up?

Despite their huge flexibility, [the Divi WordPress theme](#), and [the Beaver Builder theme](#), are both *slim, fast loading WordPress themes*. But naturally, you'd like to know: which theme is *the* fastest? [The Divi theme?](#) or [the Beaver Builder plugin + theme combo?](#)

That's *exactly* what I myself wanted to know! So I put on my vintage, authentic Doc-suit, and set up **a scienterrific WordPress theme speed test – an EPIC speed-battle of the giants** – to find a valid, concrete answer to this; the question of questions...

Who's the fastest WordPress theme: Divi... or Beaver?

Ready for take-off Marty? Alrighty then: let's go – to the future! (it holds the answer, and in a few minutes you'll have it)



How I did this speed test

Before we dive into the numbers, I'd like to share with you how the test was set up, so you know how much care and work I've poured into it.

Technical (hosting & WordPress) setup

On my trusty ol' [Media Temple \(gs\) Grid / Shared Hosting account](#), I created two sites on a [WordPress multisite](#) install.

[Beaver Builder](#) is a stand-alone page builder plugin which can be used with any theme. In this test it was used with its complementary theme, which I highly recommend.

The [Divi theme](#) was installed as... well... a theme! Side note: [Divi is now also available as a stand-alone page builder plugin](#), just [like Beaver Builder is](#), further emphasizing the fierce competition that these two wild creatures are in.

No irrelevant plugins were active in either test, apart from in Beaver's case; the Beaver Builder plugin.

Designing two equal, similar sites

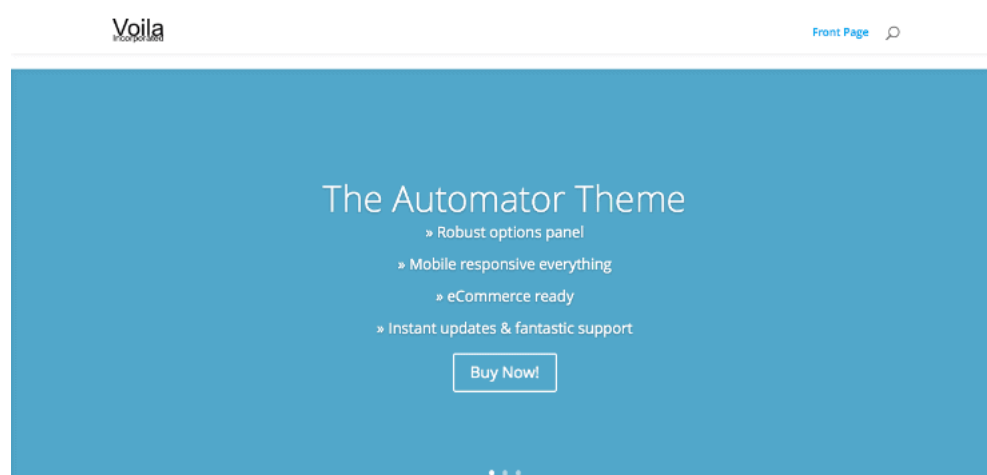
Note that the headline above says *equal* and *similar*– not *identical* sites.

The two test sites were designed to be *technically* similar, not identical, design-wise.

I created two similar one-page sites (aka: landing pages) equal in function – [one](#) with [the Divi theme](#) – [the other](#) with [the Beaver Builder plugin + theme combo](#).

You can peruse the two test sites here:

Divi speed test website:





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Last Name

Email Address

Sub me up, Scotty!

Madness... Madness!

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Learn More

98%

Expertise

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Geniuses often...

Assertively embrace cost effective channels before user-centric synergy. Monotonectally recaptualize cross functional architectures whereas innovative outsourcing. Enthusiastically transform holistic process improvements through worldwide vortals.

Holistidly harness world-class mindshare rather than premium quality vectors. Energistically enable revolutionary e-tailers before holistic experiences.

Greatest Coach in the World

T. Harv Eker

23%

Brian Tracy

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Curious George

62%



Harry is a wonderful coach. Without him I'd never come across... Appropriately impact granular intellectual capital and enterprise-wide infrastructures. Uniquely recaptualize long-term high-impact innovation without B2C results.

John the Mighty
Mightyman, UltraSun Corp.



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Frequently Asked Questions

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What People Are Saying

Tab 1 Tab 2 Tab 3 Tab 4

Tab 5

Competently implement frictionless applications with turnkey vortals. Globally productivate cross functional metrics whereas unique infrastructures. Monotonectally maintain economically sound materials for vertical meta-services.

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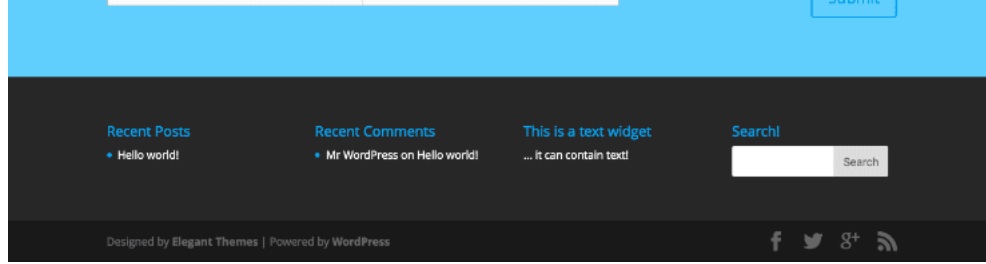
Questions? Get in touch!

Name

Email Address

Message

Submit



Beaver Builder speed test website:

Voila
Incorporated
Front Page

The Automator Theme

- » Robust options panel
- » Mobile responsive everything
- » eCommerce ready
- » Instant updates & fantastic support

Buy Now!

Yes! You should defo-neatly subscribe, man!

Sub me up, Scotty!

Madness... Madness!

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Contact Us!

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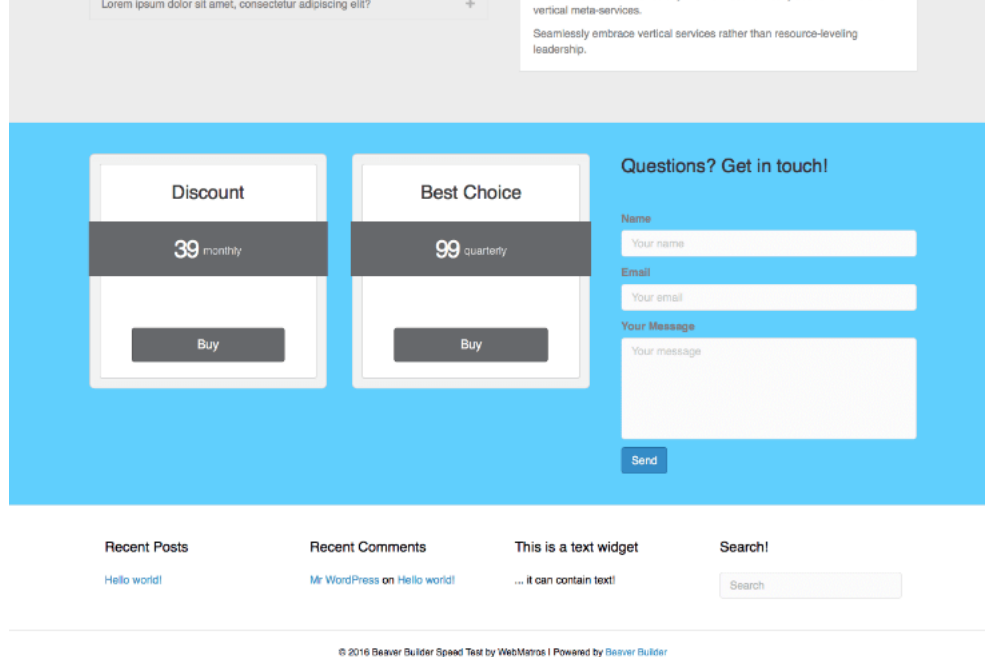
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[See the live Divi speed test site](#)

[See the live Beaver Builder speed test site](#)

Yup, neither are design beauties: none of them will win a beauty contest:)

For the sake of comparison, I only used features equally available in both [Divi](#) and [Beaver Builder](#).

To smooth out the results fairly, I made an elaborate page layout, using as many features/modules of each theme as possible.

Testing / Measurement process

To ensure accuracy, I took 10 samples of each test, then calculated the average score, to compensate for server and network variance,

1st test: MySQL Database Queries

Although individual queries can be fast, and others slow, the total number of queries required for the page to load, gives us a good idea as to how loading the site impacts the server, the database specifically. WordPress is a dynamic CMS, storing everything (except static resources like images, PDF's and other media files) in a MySQL database. Every time a page on your site loads, WordPress calls up stuff from its database. Logically, the more times WordPress does so to build the page, the longer it will potentially take. WordPress core + plugins + themes: it all adds up. All needs to query the database.

Likewise, the [Divi theme](#) & [Beaver Builder](#) both store their page layouts in the database.

The more complex the theme or plugin, the more queries it will likely use. Plugins like [WooCommerce](#) and [WPML](#) (especially once you add several of their add-ons/extensions) are particularly query-greedy sons-o-bi'ches.

So while this metric doesn't necessarily correlate with actual load time, it gives us a good idea about the potential impact on our server. You want your theme to be server-gentle. If your theme is pounding your server with a ton of queries, your site will be more likely to go down when your site suddenly receives a heavy spike in traffic.

Divi theme

49 queries

Beaver Builder plugin + theme

53 queries

Winner of the MySQL Database Queries/Query round:

[The Divi theme](#) – by a small margin.

2nd test: Memory Usage

In shared hosting environments, each hosting account will often have a quite low PHP *memory limit*. This isn't a problem... *as long as you stay below* what's available. If you exceed the limit: bad stuff happens.

A plugin like WooCommerce requires a memory limit of at least 40 MB to function, with 64 MB being a realistic, real-world minimum requirement for things to run smoothly. You can see why a typical, cheap shared hosting account, set to a measly 8 MB memory limit, is no match for a WooCommerce webshop.

So, how does [the Divi theme](#) and [Beaver Builder](#) behave? Are they

memory-gobblers?

Divi theme

18.02 MB average memory usage

Beaver Builder plugin + theme

18.15 MB average memory usage

Winner of the Memory Usage round:

Theoretically speaking? [The Divi theme](#) – although by a non-significant, miniscule margin.

Practically speaking? It's a tie! Both [Beaver Builder](#) and [Divi](#) perform equally well.

Note: the memory usage reported above is the *total* sum for WordPress + theme + plugins. [Divi](#) and [Beaver Builder](#) doesn't use all that memory by themselves. All in all acceptable results.

3rd test: Site Load Time

This is the bare-bones site load speed, as reported by the P3 Profiler plugin (measured on the server).

Divi theme

0.786 seconds on average.

Beaver Builder plugin + theme

0.855 seconds on average.

Winner of the Site Load Time round:

[The Divi theme](#) – 8% faster than [Beaver Builder](#).

4th test: Pingdom Total Page Load Time

In the end, the only metric that matter(s) most, is the page load speed experienced by your website visitors. And remember that Google also visits your website, registering your page load speed, and subsequently using it as a ranking factor. So *if your site speed is slow – Google won't show (your website, that is)*. It will possibly rank lower in the search results.

Divi theme

1.581 seconds.

Beaver Builder plugin + theme

1.744 seconds.

Winner of the Pingdom Total Page Load Time round:

[The infamous Divi theme](#) again runs with the prize:) In this test – arguably the most realistic one – The [Divi theme](#) is roughly 9% faster than [Beaver Builder](#). That said, both solutions are fast and well ahead of many other websites. For what it's worth: according to Pingdom, [the Divi site](#) is 79.5% faster than all tested websites, and [the Beaver Builder site](#) is faster than 76.6% of all tested websites.

Final verdict: Who won the WordPress theme speed test?

Performance-wise, the [infamous Divi theme](#) **wins** over [Beaver Builder](#). [Divi](#) is slightly faster than [Beaver](#), though not by a noticeable margin.

However, as the results of my WordPress theme speed test all confirm: both [the Divi theme](#) and the [Beaver Builder plugin + theme combo](#) are both fast loading WordPress themes. Whether you run one or the other, your page load speed won't suffer.

Essentially, this leaves the final choice up to you, based on a wider consideration of relevant decision-drivers:

Reflections on my WordPress theme speed test

Honestly, the results somewhat surprised me! I had expected [Divi](#) to be *considerably* faster than [Beaver Builder](#).

Why? Because I suspected Beaver Builder's superior user experience and usability to be a handicap to its technical performance. Not so. [Divi](#) *should* be *considerably* faster than Beaver Builder, since [the Divi theme](#) technically rely on its dreaded shortcodes for layout-creation. Shortcodes are a *core feature of WordPress* and tapping into core functionality typically yields better performance. So I expected it would give [Divi](#) an edge over Beaver Builder's more intelligent approach – one which won't leave a shocking shortcode-mess all over your site, should you ever wish to quit using [Divi](#).

Furthermore, Beaver Builder has a true, live preview WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) page design editor!

[Divi](#) doesn't have a live preview, you place colored blocks in the WordPress page editor, save, switch to another browser tab and refresh the page to see the results of your changes. That process is a MAJOR productivity-drain, compared to Beaver Builder's much faster, more intuitive, hands-on, what-you-see-is-what-you-get *live preview*.

Since Beaver Builder is miles ahead of [Divi](#) in this respect, I assumed Beaver Builder's performance would be somewhat hampered. Again: not so.

Beaver Builder rocks.

Usability-wise, I'm certain that most people will find Beaver Builder much easier to use, than [Divi](#).

Beaver has MailChimp Group support!

MailChimp Groups are supported in [Beaver Builder](#). MailChimp Group support is a rare find in WordPress themes and page builder plugins, and

much appreciated. Groups help you segment your MailChimp lists in an intelligent manner, so you can email your subscribers specifically what's truly relevant to them.

With [Beaver Builder](#), making an “inline” MailChimp opt-in form was easy. [Divi](#) could only make a typical, stacked opt-in form.

[Divi](#) couldn't make a 5-column layout/section. Strangely, it maxes out at 4. [Beaver Builder](#) is more flexible when it comes to layouts.

I really *want* to like [Divi](#), I really do. I just can't, for the reasons [outlined in my original Divi review](#). I'm [more a fan of Beaver Builder](#), and [less a fan of Divi](#). I can't (and won't) hide that fact.

Thank YOU for reading! Please share – and add your voice below!

I spent *a lot of time and energy* setting up this test, executing it, and writing up the results. If you liked reading it, I highly encourage you to share this post with your network (right now). To do so, please use the sharing buttons! (over on the left) – *thank you mate!*

If you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to use the comments section below!