

## 1. GUI Construction

A Java technology GUI can be created using either of the following techniques.

- **Programmatic construction**  
This technique use code to create the GUI. This technique is used for learning GUI construction. However, it is very laborious to use in production environment.
- **Construction using a GUI builder tool**  
This technique uses a GUI builder tool to create the GUI. The GUI developer uses a visual approach to drag-and-drop containers and components to a work area.

## 2. Example of programmatic construction

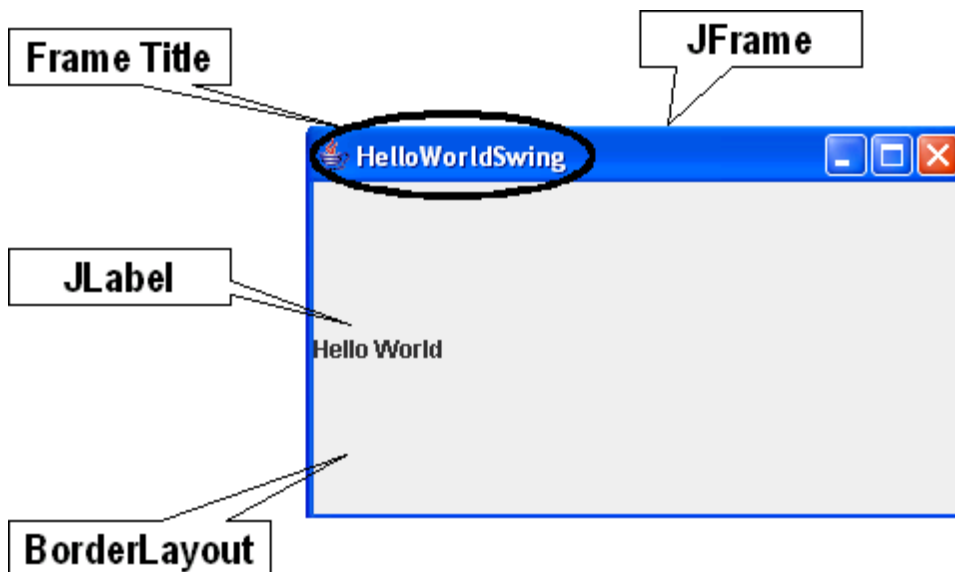
This sections a simple GUI that prints a Hello World. The code shown in below create a container **JFrame** with a title HelloWorldSwing. It later adds a JLabel with the Accessible Name property set to Hello World.

```
import javax.swing.*;
public class HeloWorldSwing {
    private static void createAndShowGUI() {
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("HelloWorldSwing");
        //Set up the window.

        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        JLabel label = new JLabel("Hello World");
        // Add Label
        frame.add(label);
        frame.setSize(300,200);
        // Display Window
        frame.setVisible(true);
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        javax.swing.SwingUtilities.invokeLater(new Runnable() {
            //Schedule for the event-dispatching thread:
            //creating, showing this app's GUI.
            public void run() {createAndShowGUI();}
        });
    }
}
```

The output generated from the program



### 3. Key Methods

Methods for setting up the JFrame and adding JLabel:

- `setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE)`
  - Creates the program to exit when the close button is clicked. There are four possible ways of handling this:
    - a. `DO_NOTHING_ON_CLOSE`: does nothing when the close operation is initiated. This constant is defined in `WindowsConstants`.
    - b. `Hide_ON_CLOSE`: invokes any `WindowListener` objects and hides the frame. This constant is defined in `WindowsConstants`.
    - c. `DISPOSE_ON_CLOSE`: invokes any `WindowListener` objects and hides and disposes the frame. This constant is defined in `WindowsConstants`.
- `setVisible(true)`– Makes the JFrame visible.
- `add(Component c)`– this method adds the components to the container.

To handle these tasks efficiently the Swing framework uses **threads** that are **light-weight process** . The tasks described can be handled by these threads separately and concurrently.

The programmer should utilities these threads. The Swing framework provides a collection of utility methods in the **SwingUtilities** class.

```
SwingUtilities.invokeLater(new Runnable())
```

In the java programming language, threads are created using the Runnable interface. This interface defines a method **run** that should be implemented by all the classes using this interface. The `invokeLater` method schedule the GUI creations tasks to execute the run method a synchronously by the event-handling thread after all the pending events are completed.

#### 4. GUI-Based Applications

You now know how to set up a Java GUI for both graphic output and interactive user input. However, only a few of the components from which GUIs can be built have been described.

The question here is of **How can WE create a menu for your GUI frame?**

#### 5. How to Create a Menu

1. Create a `JMenuBar` object, and set it into a menu container, such as a `JFrame`.
2. Create one or more `JMenu` objects, and add them to the menu bar object.
3. Create one or more `JMenuItem` objects, and add them to the menu object.

Creating a `JMenuBar`

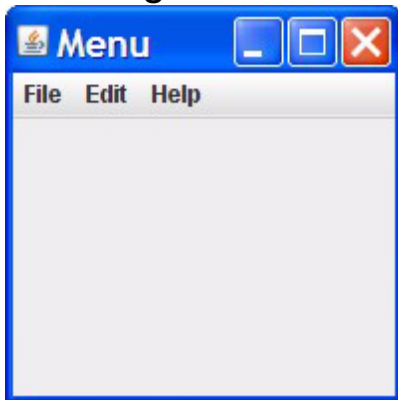
```
f = new JFrame("MenuBar");  
mb = new JMenuBar(); f.setJMenuBar(mb);
```



```
f = new JFrame("Menu");  
mb = new JMenuBar();
```

```
m1 = new JMenu("File");  
m2 = new JMenu("Edit");  
m3 = new JMenu("Help");  
mb.add(m1); // adds objects to JMenuBar  
mb.add(m2);  
mb.add(m3);  
f.setJMenuBar(mb);
```

### Creating a JMenu



## 6. Creating a JMenus Items

```
import javax.swing.*;  
  
public class menubar extends JFrame{  
  
    public menubar(){  
        JMenuBar menubar = new JMenuBar();  
        setJMenuBar(menubar);  
  
        JMenu shape = new JMenu("File");  
        menubar.add(shape);  
  
        JMenuItem rect = new JMenuItem("Rectangle");  
        shape.add(rect);  
  
        JMenuItem star = new JMenuItem("Star");
```



```
shape.add(star);

JMenu color = new JMenu("Color");
menubar.add(color);

JMenuItem black = new JMenuItem("Black");
color.add(black);

JMenuItem orange = new JMenuItem("Orange");
color.add(orange);
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    menubar gui = new menubar();
    gui.setTitle("Menu Bar");
    gui.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    gui.setSize(500,300);
    gui.setVisible(true);
    gui.setLocationRelativeTo(null);
}
}
```