

myPHP Guestbook®

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„Include“-Notes for *myPHP Guestbook* V 4.10.9

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1. Introduction

Included in this download package are the supplementary files that are intended to show even less experienced PHP users how to include the *myPHP Guestbook* into your web presence via “PHP include”, instead of including it via <iframe>. The solution presented here is one possibility, not the only one.

The files in this download do not replace the files included in the original *myPHP Guestbook* download, but are only a supplement to it. The package with all the necessary original files can be downloaded from <<https://www.php-guestbook.de>>.

Support for versions 4.x and higher of the guestbook is available at <<https://www.php-guestbook.de/>>.

Before installing the guestbook, be sure to read the "ReadMe.pdf" included with the *myPHP Guestbook* download and the following notes.

myPHP Guestbook is an open source guestbook and is licensed under the GNU General Public License. By installing and using *myPHP Guestbook* you accept the GNU General Public License. A copy of the GNU for reference is included.

2. Disclaimer

- **It is not possible to offer an always and everywhere error-free working software or even to assume liability for faulty software or possible security gaps and any resulting damages and/or consequential damages, which is therefore excluded in principle.**

***myPHP Guestbook* is offered "as is" and accepted by you with the installation, under exclusion of any warranty and under exclusion of any liability. For more see also the GNU license.**

3. How-to-do: Steps for a first or new installation

3.1. Important notes in advance

- If you have created only one "index.php" page for your website, in which changing contents are included, e.g. by "switch" with "include", changing id's or similar, the include of the guestbook with the files from this package **does not work!** You should then either work with an <iframe> or call the guestbook directly.
- Also for the integration in CMS the instructions and files from this package **can not** be used without further adjustments!
- A first or new installation should initially be made only with the files from the original download of the *myPHP Guestbook* in the latest version (v.4.10.8). Only when the installation has been completed successfully, the files from this "include" package should be adapted and uploaded as described below! - The files from this download cannot be used for including any of the earlier *myPHP Guestbook* versions 4.9.3 or smaller. If you need the include supplement files for an older version of the script, please contact me and I will send them to you.
- The script of the *myPHP Guestbook* uses among other things the variable "\$page". If you also use this variable in your website, e.g. for navigation or similar, conflicts will occur and one of the variables must be renamed!

- If you insert further, own PHP commands in the head of the web pages, which represent the guestbook entries and the entry form, e.g. for navigation, a counter or whatever, please make sure that there are no conflicts especially with the PHP statements in the files "gbook.head.php" and "insert.head.php".
- If you notice after completion, that the layout of the guestbook in the included version differs from the non-included original, the cause is usually conflicting or overlapping CSS styles of your own pages to those of the guestbook script. As a solution I advise **not to edit the external CSS file, but to add correcting CSS instructions in the Admin Panel under the link "CSS Style" → "Edit Style"**. This facilitates especially future updates, where possibly the external CSS is exchanged. - The easiest way to find out which CSS commands cause problems in detail and have to be edited, if necessary, is to use a corresponding program to examine the page called up live in the browser. For this purpose, e.g. the Firefox browser is excellently suited, there in the menu the link "Web Developer" and then the link "Inspector".
- For a long time I was of the opinion that with this description and the additional notes in the source code of the two pages "gbook.php" and "gbook_insert.php" I had written a manual that also offers less experienced users a safe way to include the *myPHP Guestbook* into their own website. In many cases this was also confirmed to me.

However, I have repeatedly noticed that some Admins try to use the "include" package and at least in some cases make hardly comprehensible mistakes that lack even rudimentary basic knowledge of HTML, CSS and PHP and the structure of a website in general. The most annoying cases for me are those, where malfunctions or display errors are simply due to the fact that what is written here and in the source code is simply not taken note of or is ignored for other reasons. –

Therefore at this point my request to all who would like to use this "include" supplementary package: Read and pay attention to what is written. If it is incomprehensible, just stick to the basic version of the guestbook and include it via `<iframe>`, as is the rule in by far the majority of cases.

3.2. New or first installation

There are a few, **but non-negotiable conditions**, that must be met in order to include the "myPHP Guestbook" script into a web page via "PHP include" without errors. These are:

1. The two pages or files, that you create on the top level of your web space to include the *myPHP Guestbook* in them, must be given the names:
 - „[gbook.php](#)“ for the page where the guestbook entries should be displayed

and

 - „[gbook_insert.php](#)“ for the page with the entry form for the guestbook entries,

so exactly as the two files are named in the download.
2. The "normal" file "index.php", which is used to display the guestbook entries in the

basic version of the script, had to be split into three code blocks each, as well as the file "insert.php", which is used to display the form for the guestbook entries.

For "index.php" these are the files "gbook.head.php", "gbook.body.php" and "style.myphpgb.php", for "insert.php" the files "insert.head.php", "insert.body.php" and again the (identical) "style.myphpgb.php".

In the two "head" files are (not only, but also) PHP functions that must be called before any actual output is sent (either by normal HTML tags, blank lines in a file, or from PHP – see: <https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.header.php>) In the two "body" files is the necessary code for the representations on the screen and in the "style" file, as the name already suggests, essentially the necessary CSS. - From this principle follows the necessary installation in a web page:

- a. The first PHP code needed is a variable called "\$gbook_folder", which is assigned the name of the directory (folder) where the files of the "myPHP Guestbook" are located on the server including all subdirectories:
`$gbook_folder = "Name-of-the-folder";` **(Must be inserted by you!)**
- b. Afterwards follows immediately the second code line, with which the respective "head" files are included:
`include_once ("".$gbook_folder."/gbook.head.php");` in „gbook.php“ and
`include_once ("".$gbook_folder."/insert.head.php");` in „gbook_insert.php“.
- c. This is followed by the usual "DOCTYPE" information and the "normal" head of a web page enclosed by the well known tags `<head> --- </head>`. At the end of this block immediately before the closing head tags ("`</head>`") is in each case the inclusion of the guestbook CSS:
`include_once ("".$gbook_folder."/style.myphpgb.php");`
- d. Then the body area containing the content of the web page follows between the usual tags `<body> --- </body>`.
You fill this with your text, images, etc. and include the "body" of the guestbook there too in the place you want:
`include_once ("".$gbook_folder."/gbook.body.php");` in „gbook.php“ and
`include_once ("".$gbook_folder."/insert.body.php");` in „gbook_insert.php“.
- e. Final Sprint! Immediately before the closing body tags ("`</body>`") on both web pages, the Javascript of the *myPHP Guestbook* is now inserted.
In the „gbook.php“ through the code snippet: `echo "" . $js_gbook . "";` and
in the „gbook_insert.php“ through the code snippet: `echo "" . $js_limit . "";`.
- f. **Done!** - Have a look at the source code of the two files "gbook.php" and "gbook_insert.php" included in the download. If you follow these instructions exactly, everything will work without problems; if you deviate from them, please do not complain or be surprised about functional problems.

Then upload all files to your server:

- The two pages "gbook.php" and "gbook_insert.php" to the top level.

You load the files contained in the *myPHP Guestbook* folder of this download into the Guestbook folder or into the subfolders located there:

- The total of five files:

```
"gbook.head.php"
"gbook.body.php"
"insert.head.php"
"insert.body.php"
"style.myphpgb.php"
```

into the main folder of the guestbook, that is where the "index.php" and "insert.php" are located. (The two original files "index.php" and "insert.php" from the main folder of the guestbook should **NOT** be deleted).

- The three files:

```
"lang.inc02.php"
"spam.mail02.php"
"spamfilter02.php"
```

into the "includes" folder of the guestbook. Again, do not delete any other files from the "includes" directory!

- The two files:

```
"admin.php"
"logout.php"
```

into the „admin“-folder of the guestbook.

The two files that have the same name in the "admin" folder from the basic version of *myPHP Guestbook* can easily be overwritten by the two from the "include" package.

4. How-to-do: Things to consider when updating already existing installations

4.1. Changes as of v. 4.5.0

Since *myPHP Guestbook* version 4.5.0, the page "gbook_insert.php", **has not been changed** and therefore does not need to be adjusted and uploaded again when updating from a guestbook version from 4.5.x to the current version.

The page "gbook.php" was added with v.4.10.4 at the end immediately before the closing </body> tag still the already above mentioned short PHP code snippet:

```
<?php echo' '.$js_gbook.' ' ?>
```

This code makes the new javascript code added with guestbook versions 4.10.4 and 4.10.6 available for the "include" version. Apart from this, this file has otherwise remained unchanged since v.4.5.0. - See the note in the "Read-Me-Update.pdf" included with the original download.

In addition to the files from the "*myPHP Guestbook*" folder of this "include supplementary package", the files described in more detail in the original download of the *myPHP Guestbook* for the individual updates must also be exchanged during an update.

4.2. Update version from 4.5.6 and higher

IMPORTANT !

Since the *myPHP Guestbook* v.4.5.6 the URL to the website, where the installation is done,

is additionally stored in the "[config.inc.php](#)" when a complete new installation of the guestbook script is done, as it is needed for the "include" package.

Therefore, the separate file "url.inc.php" previously required for the "include" package has been omitted for new installations since 01/02/2016.

If your configuration file for the *myPHP Guestbook* is from an older installation before 2016, the "PHP include" will not work with these files. The "[config.inc.php](#)" must then be rewritten.

5. License

myPHP Guestbook is licensed under GNU General Public License. Therefore, before using the guestbook, you should read the "license.txt".

By installing and using *myPHP Guestbook* you accept the GNU General Public License and the disclaimer.

6. Copyright

In order for *myPHP Guestbook* to spread as widely as possible, I would appreciate it if you would leave the visible copyright notice in place. In any case it is not allowed to remove the copyright notice in the source code.

For more information you should read the "GNU General Public License.txt".

Remscheid (Germany), January 2022