

How to get the actual width of an element in jQuery, even with border-box: box-sizing

This article was originally published at <https://gist.github.com/joepie91/5ffffefbf24dcfdb4477>.

This is ridiculous, but per [the jQuery documentation](#):

“Note that `.width()` will always return the content width, regardless of the value of the CSS `box-sizing` property. As of jQuery 1.8, this may require retrieving the CSS width plus `box-sizing` property and then subtracting any potential border and padding on each element when the element has `box-sizing: border-box`. To avoid this penalty, use `.css("width")` rather than `.width()`.”

```
function parsePx(input) {
  let match;

  if (match = /^([0-9+])px$/.exec(input)) {
    return parseFloat(match[1]);
  } else {
    throw new Error("Value is not in pixels!");
  }
}

$.prototype.actualWidth = function() {
  /* WTF, jQuery? */
  let isBorderBox = (this.css("box-sizing") === "border-box");
```

```
let width = this.width();  
  
if (isBorderBox) {  
  width = width  
    + parsePx(this.css("padding-left"))  
    + parsePx(this.css("padding-right"))  
    + parsePx(this.css("border-left-width"))  
    + parsePx(this.css("border-right-width"));  
}  
  
return width;  
}
```

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