

Alignment & Gaps

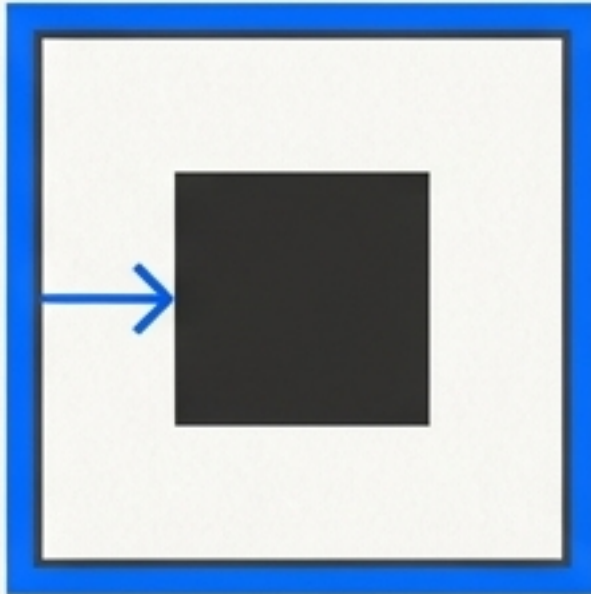
Grid manages space, not just placement.



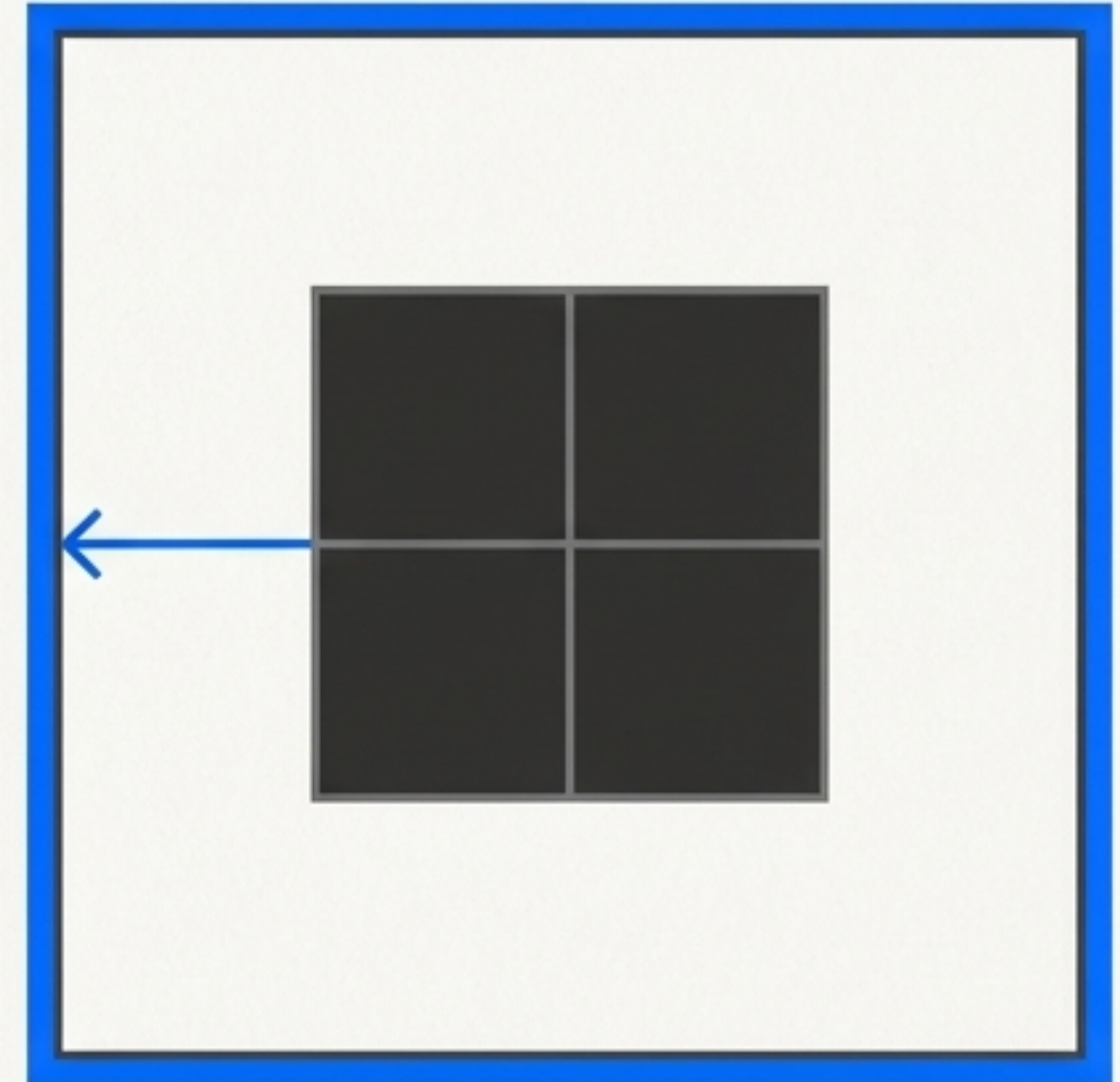
In CSS Grid, space is not an afterthought or a byproduct of margins. It is a fundamental element you control directly.

There are two different alignment stories.

Story 1: How items align inside their cells.

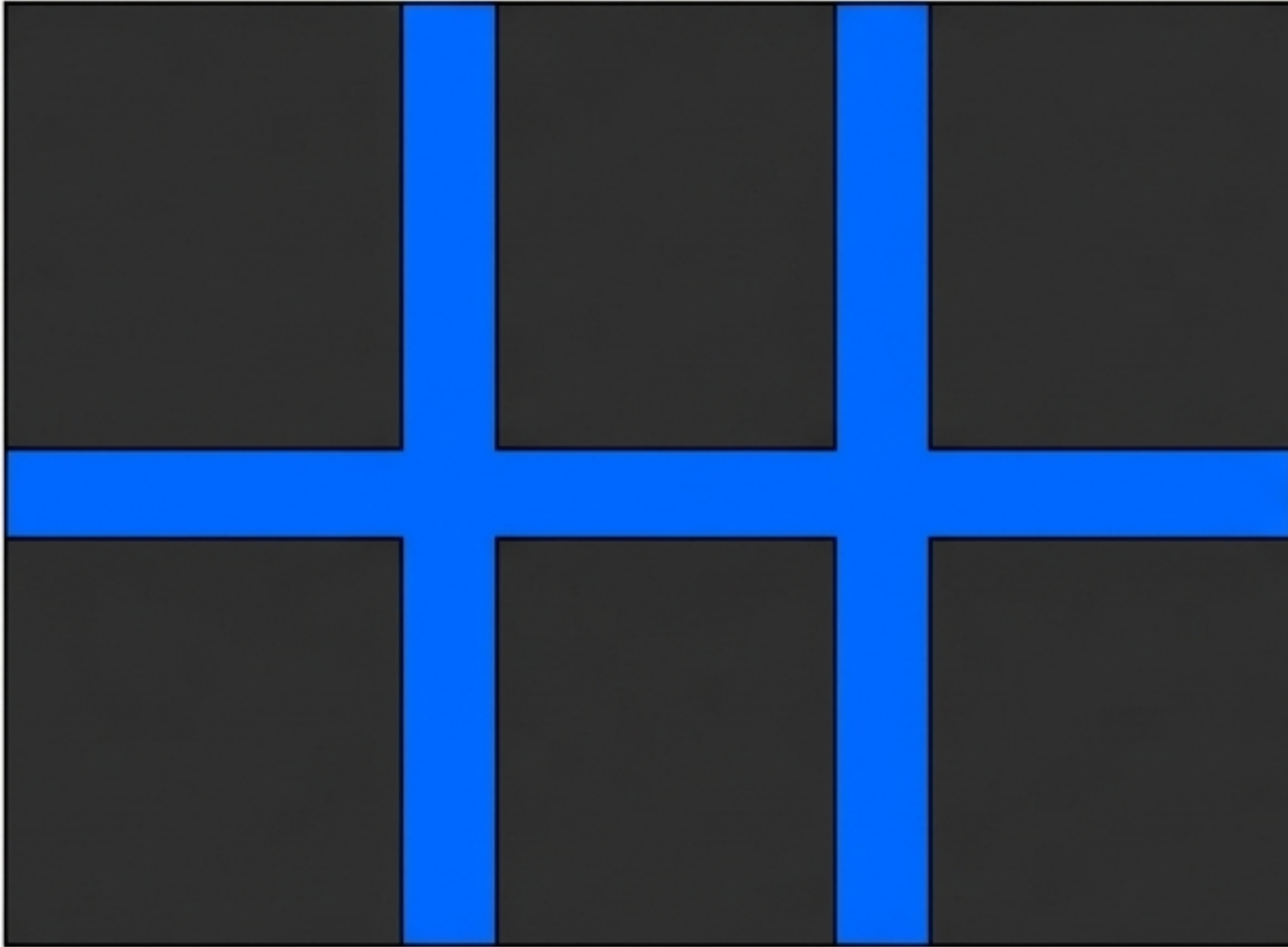


Story 2: How the grid aligns inside its container.

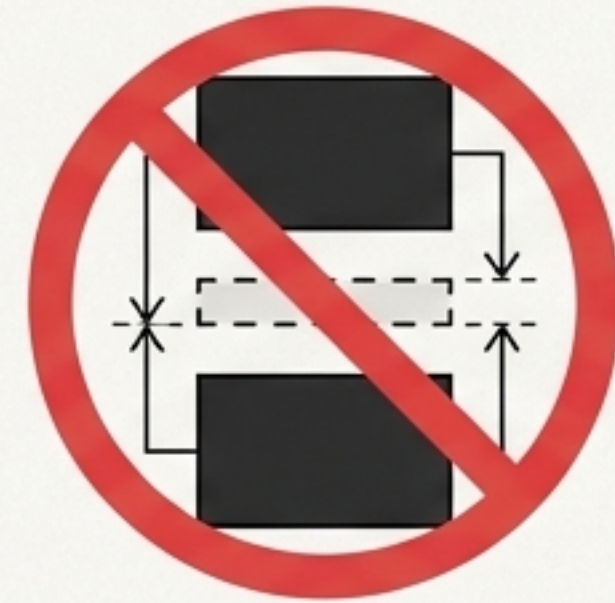


Gaps Are Not Margins

`gap(JetBrains Mono)`



- Works in both directions (row and column)
- Doesn't collapse
- Doesn't leak outside the grid

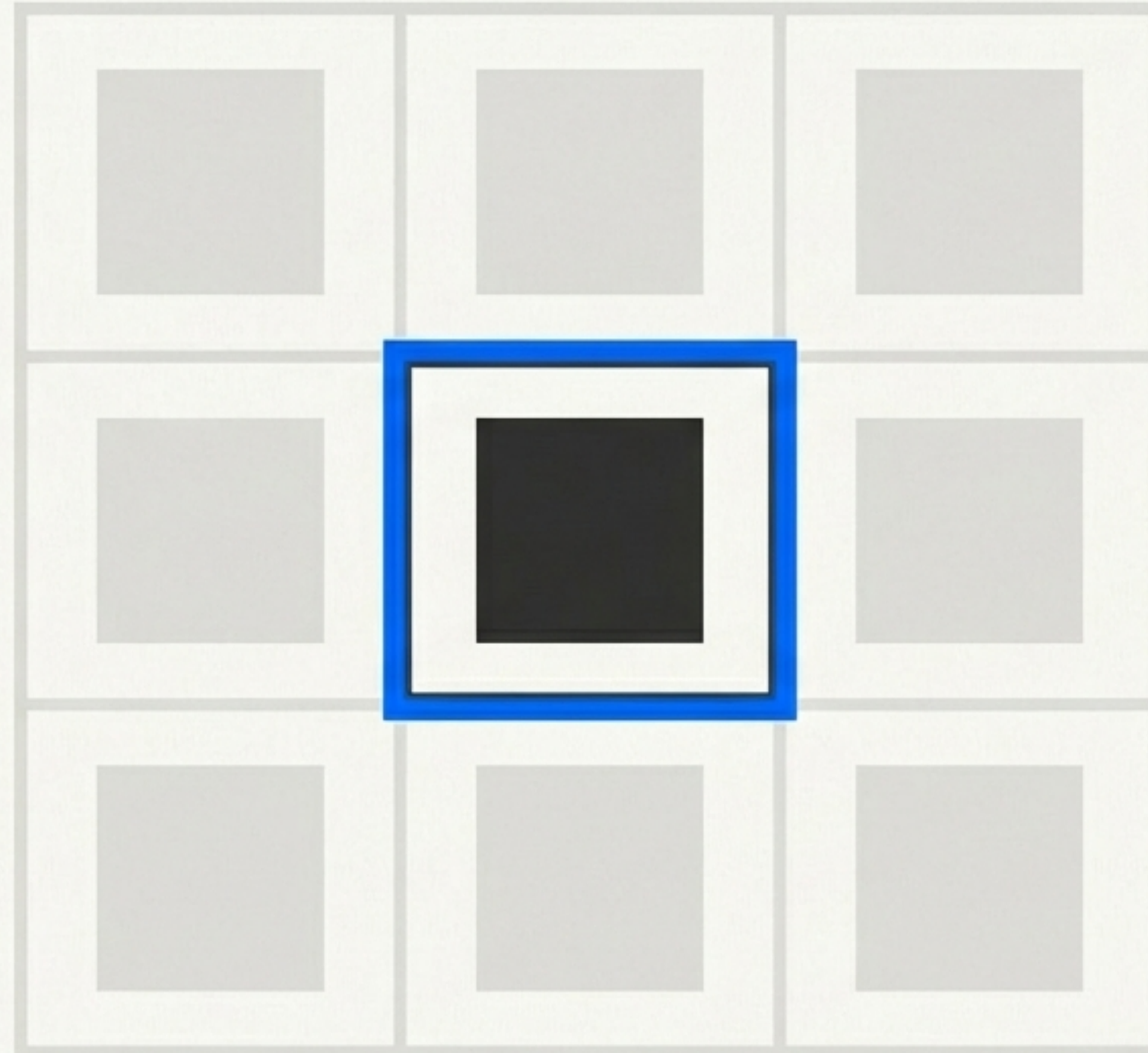


Margin Collapse

Use it. Love it.

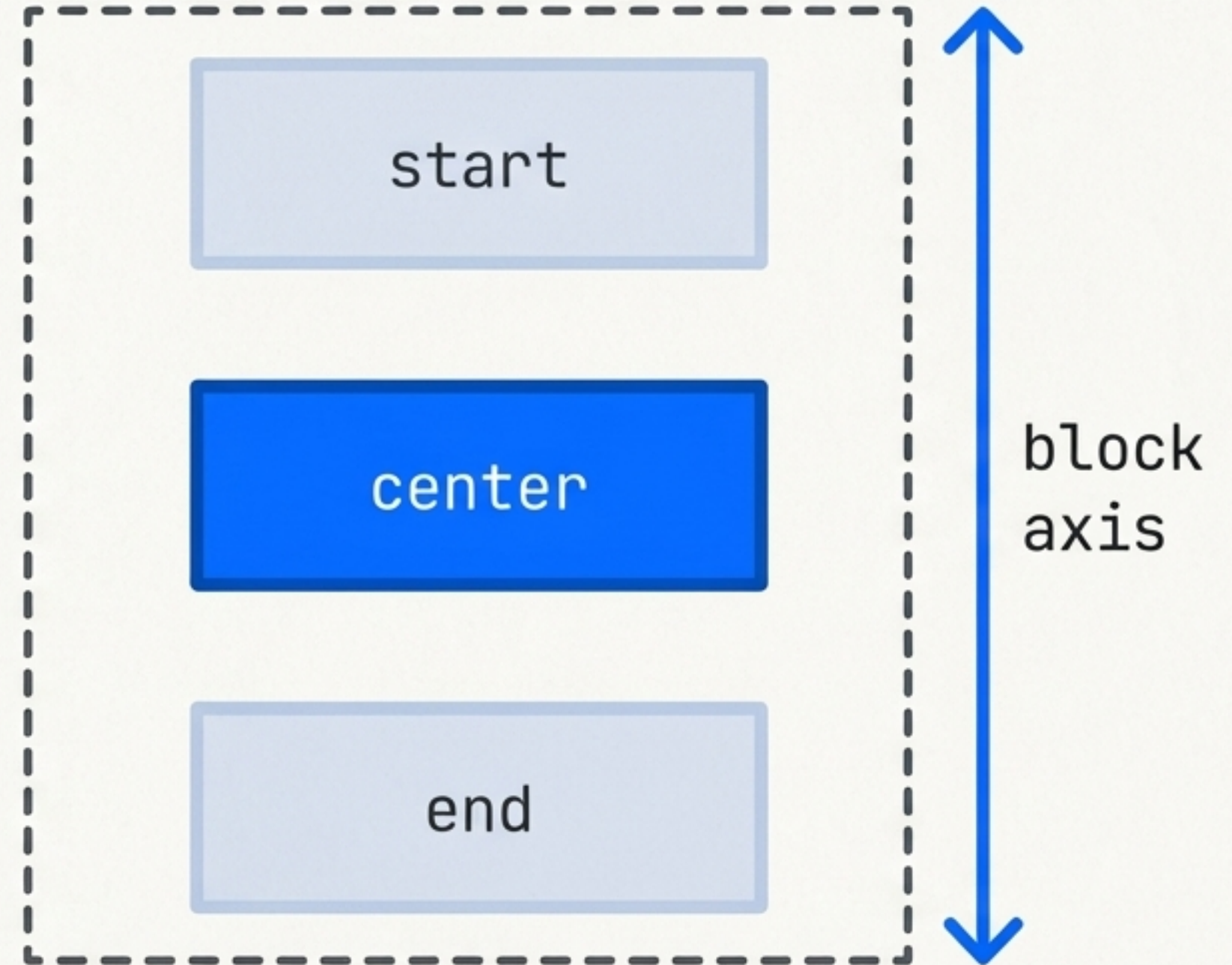
Story One: Aligning Items (Inside Cells)

These properties affect how items sit within their individual grid areas.



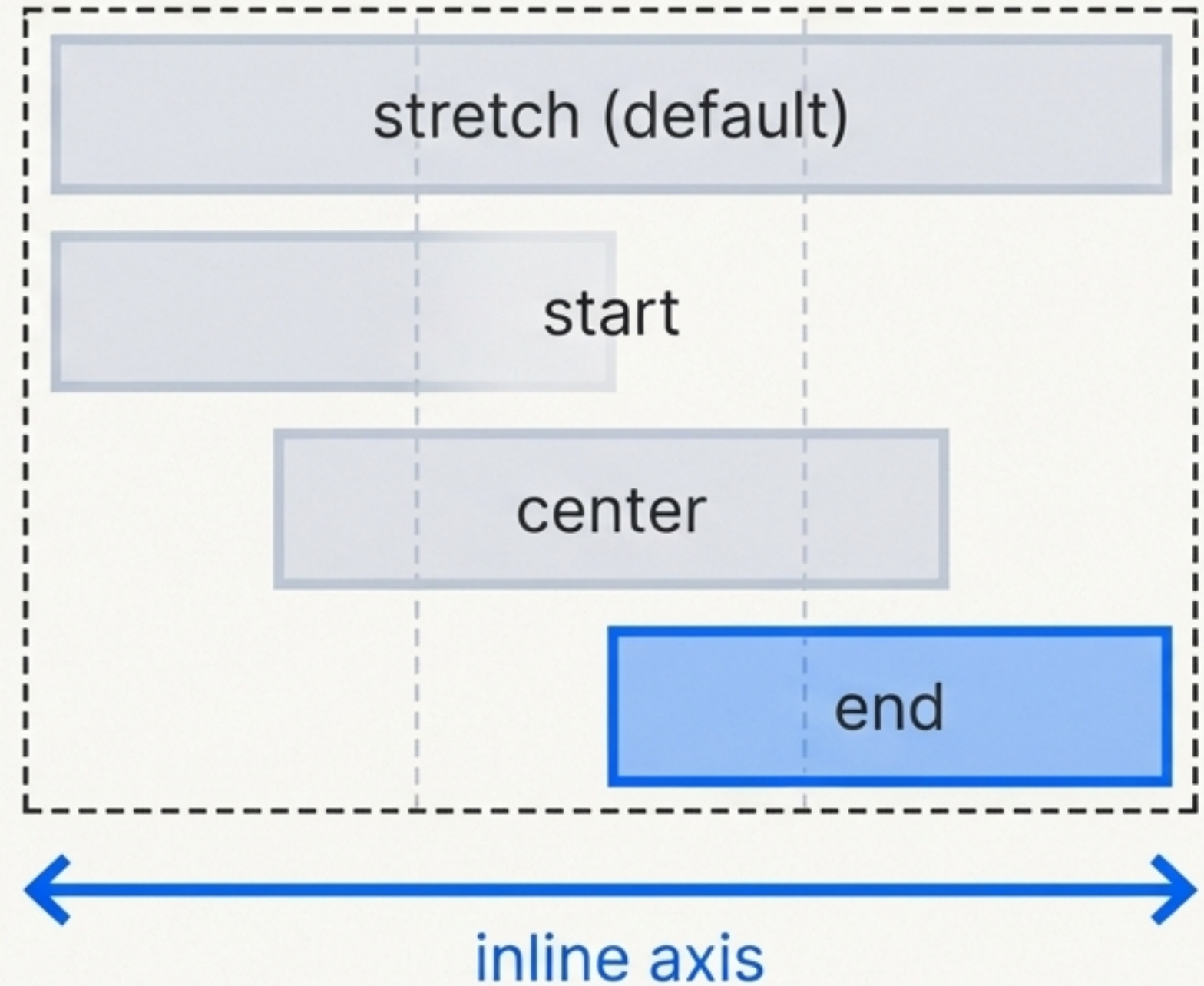
`align-items` (block axis)

```
.container {  
  align-items: center;  
}
```



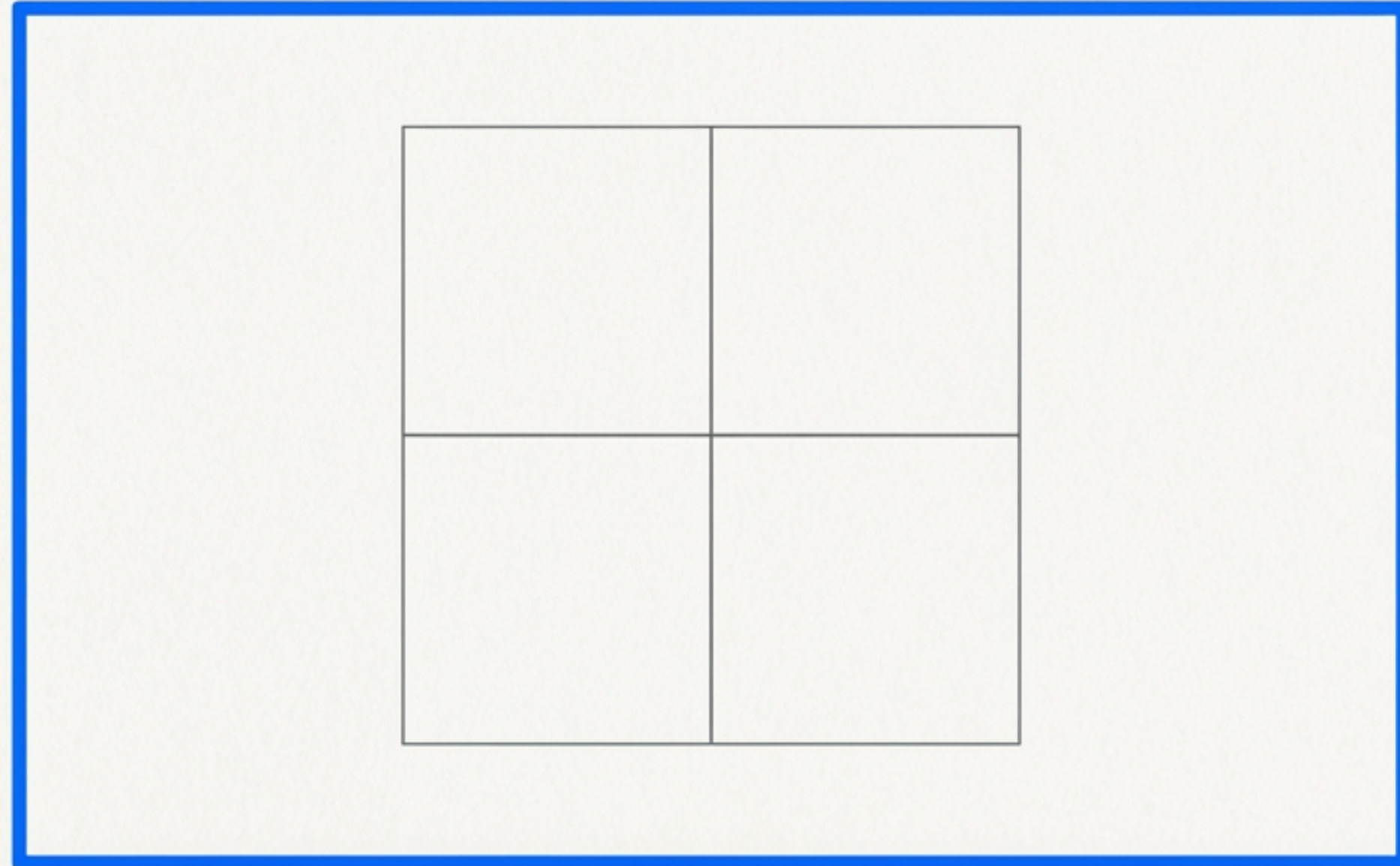
`justify-items` (inline axis)

```
.container {  
  justify-items: end;  
}
```



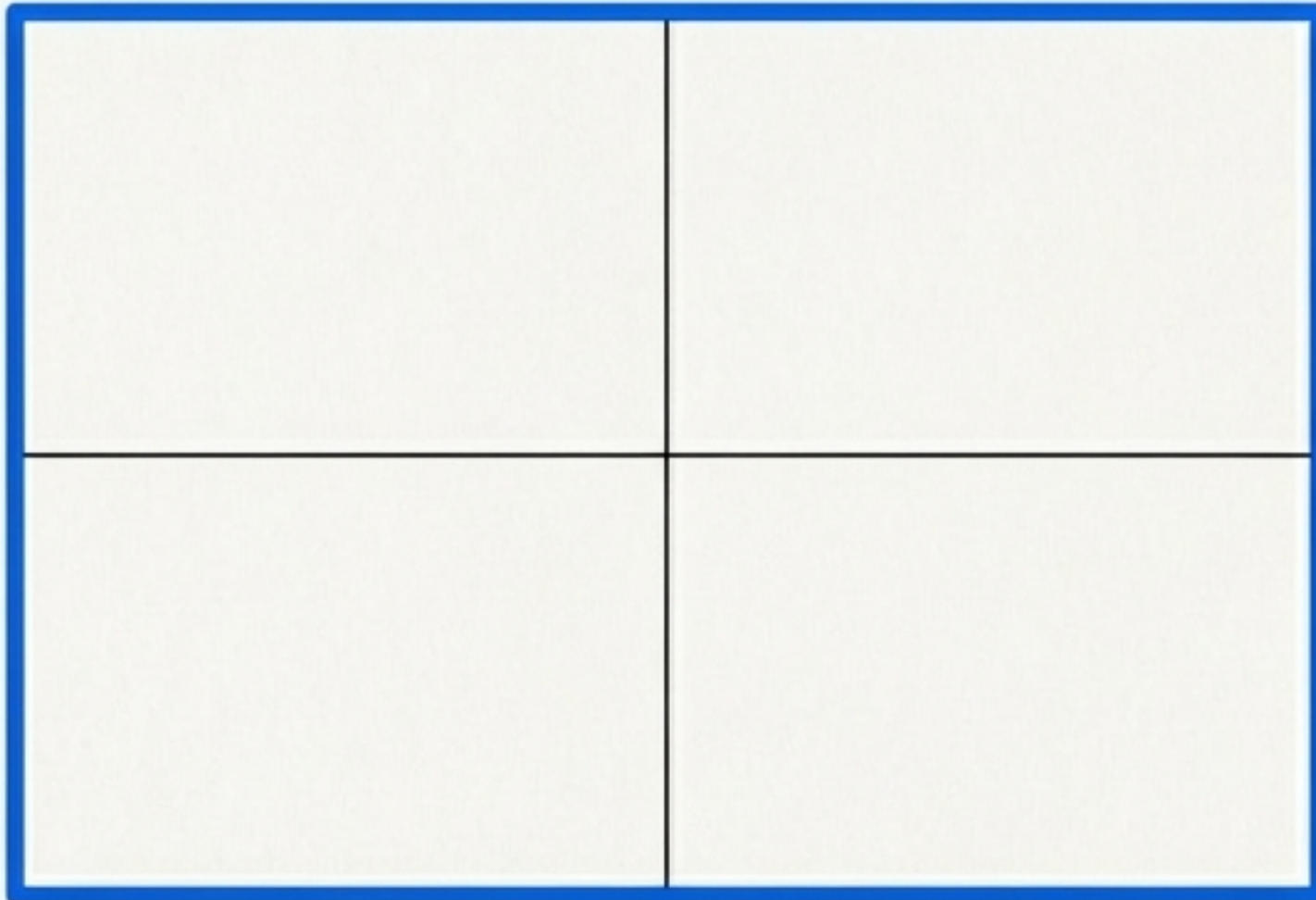
Story Two: Aligning the Grid Itself

These properties affect how the entire grid is packed inside its container.

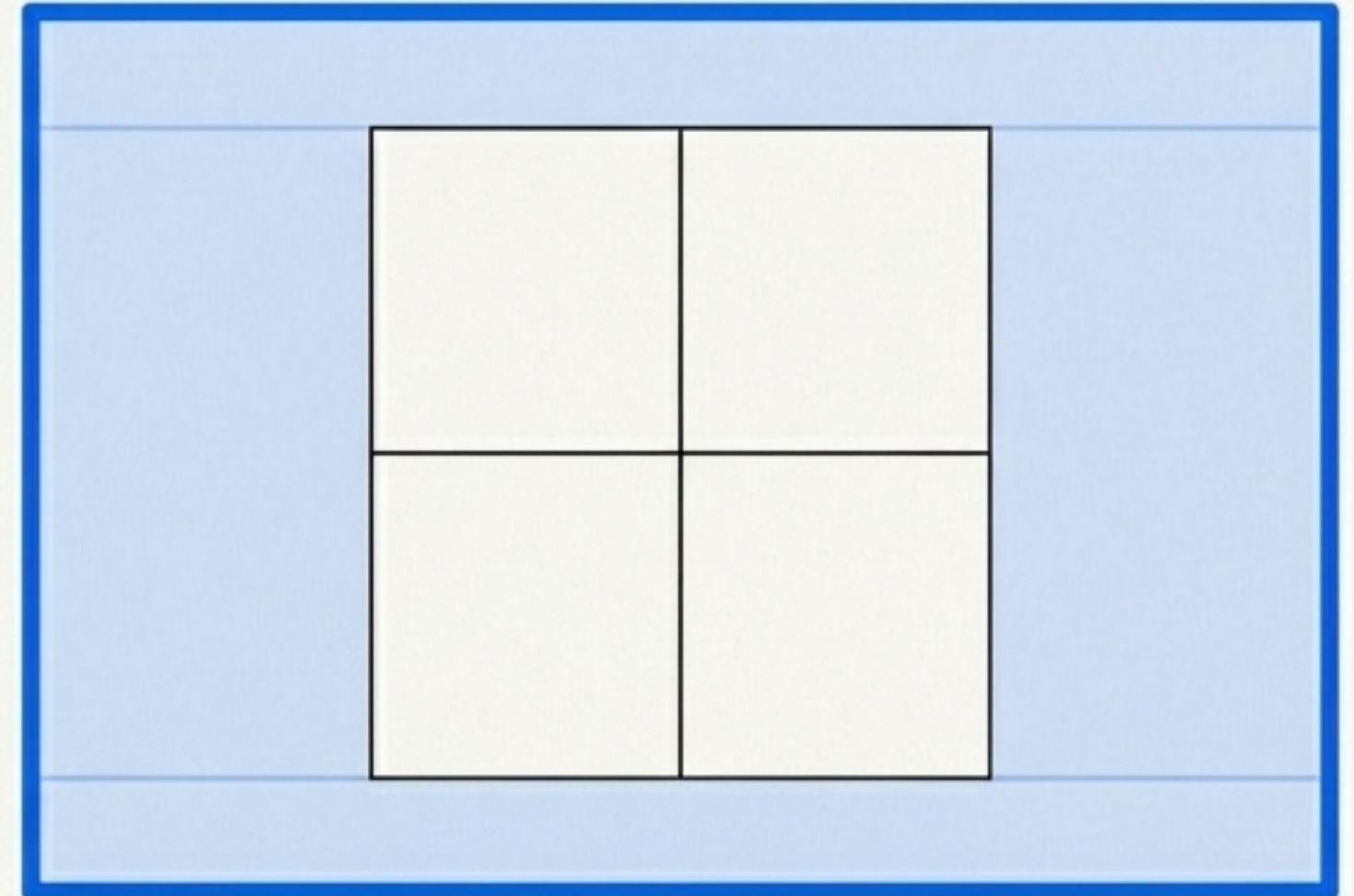


They only matter when there's extra space.

``align-content`` has no effect.



Now there is space to distribute.



`align-content` (block axis)

```
.container {  
  align-content: space-between;  
}
```



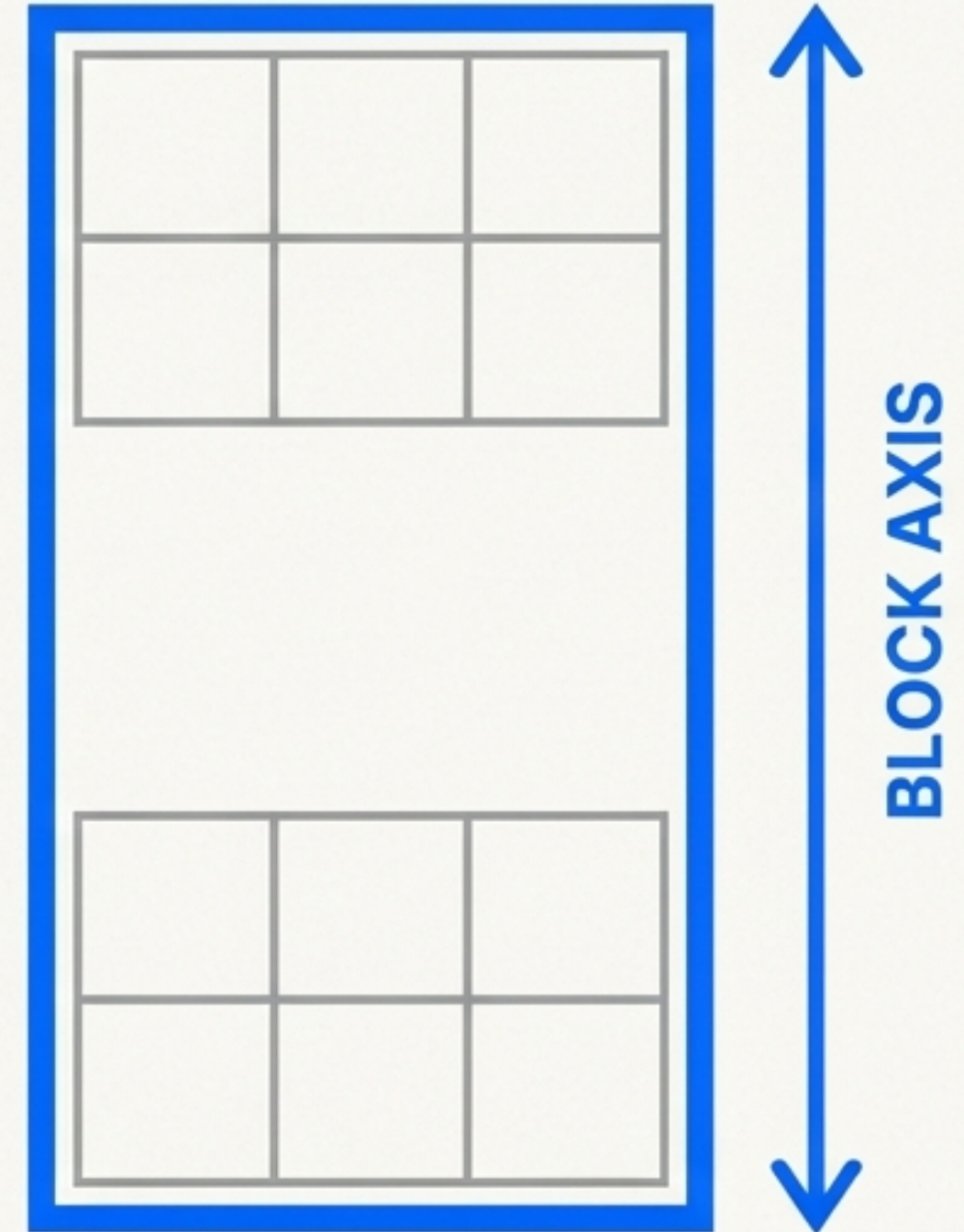
start (top)



center

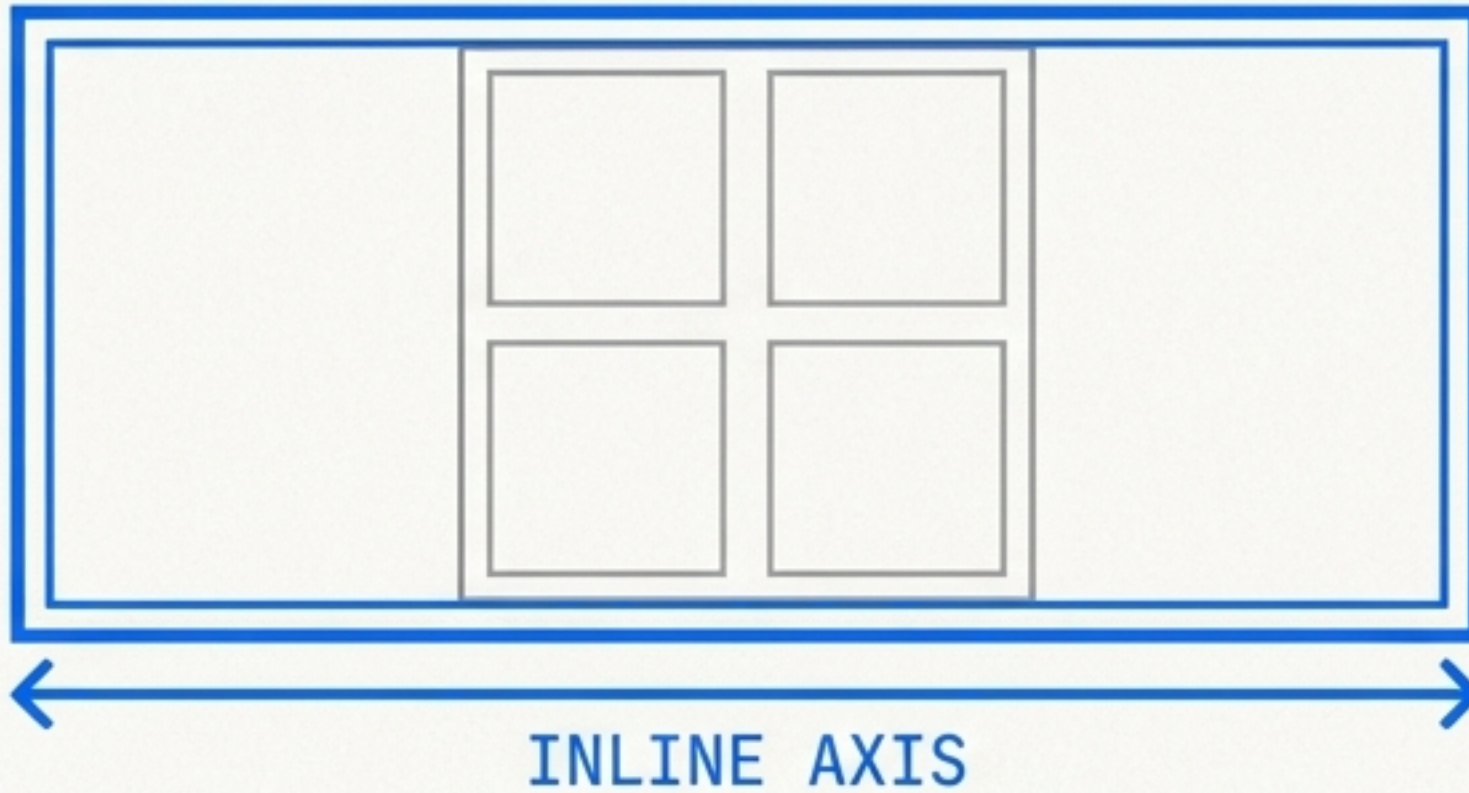


end (bottom)



`justify-content` (inline axis)

```
.container {  
  justify-content: center;  
}
```



start (left)



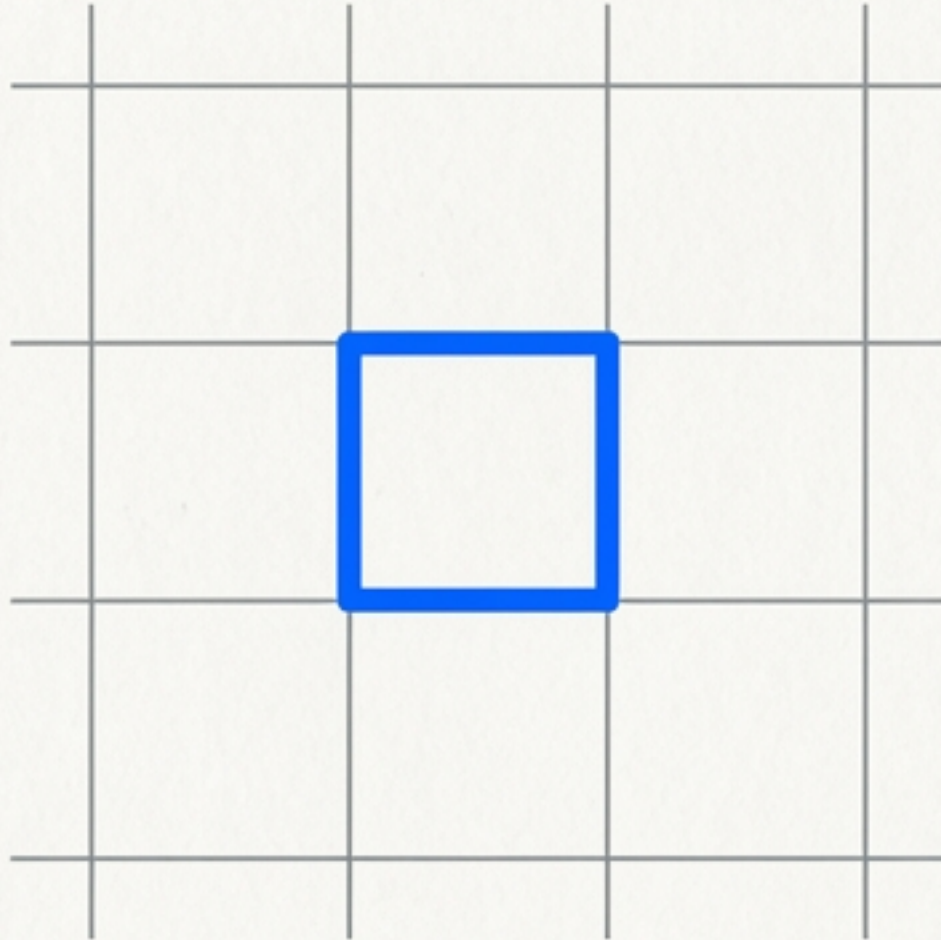
end (right)



space-around

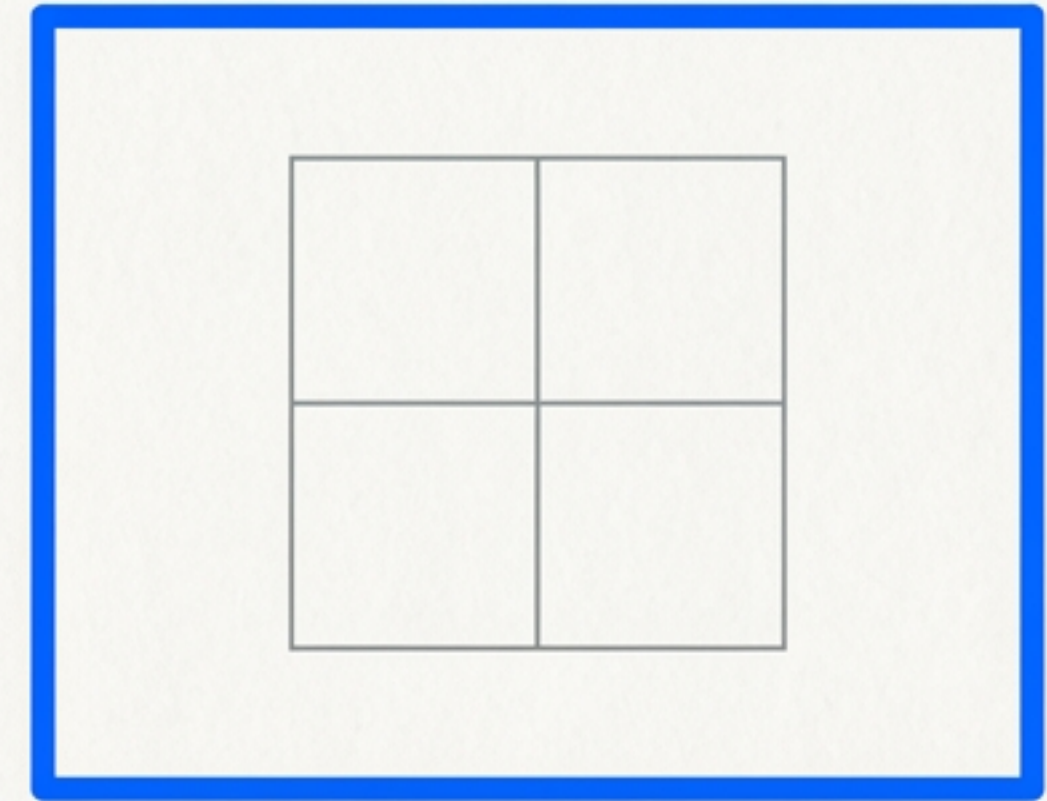
The Distinction: Cells vs. Container

***-items**



Aligns an item inside its cell.

***-content**



Aligns the entire grid inside the container.



MiniMo — Alignment Lab

- Change gaps.
- Shift items.
- Watch space move.

gap: 2.25rem

justify-items

stretch

align-items

stretch

justify-content

space-between

align-content

space-between

A

B

C

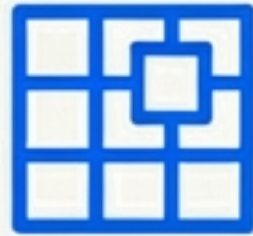
D

E

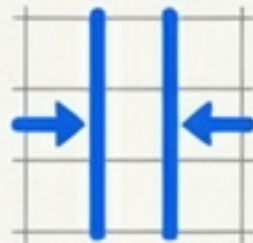
F

The Takeaway

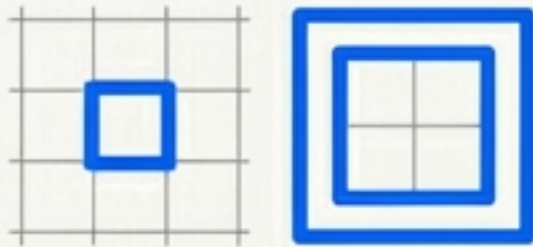
Grid gives you total control over:



Placement (The tracks you define)



Spacing (The gap between them)



Alignment (The two stories you just learned)

Once you see the difference, the properties stop feeling redundant.

Space is a design decision.



p.s., keep learning!