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Layered Navigation

for Magento 2

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Introducing Layered Navigation

To enhance the native Magento catalog navigation **Magento 2 Layered Navigation** releases filter multiselects, image support for attributes, improved horizontal filter bar, interactive popover, filter clearance, and other UI and UX features. With filter management amplified, store admins can set filter modes, position, logic of sorting, assigned product categories and other parameters for faster and more intuitive routing around the catalog.

Compatibility: Magento Open Source 2.3.X, Magento Commerce on prem 2.3.X **,** Magento Commerce on Cloud 2.3.X

Extension Logic

On the **front** side, the task of the **Layered Navigation** extension is to enhance the native Magento catalog navigation functionality, improve intuitiveness of routing, release stress from page reloading and speed up navigation. These benefits, by far, speak for higher satisfaction of customers with their shopping experience, and thereby improve buyers retention.

On the **backend** side, the module allows configuring filters and navigation as a whole. Filters are tweaked against the existing product attributes. For each filter, you can set the title, format (filterable or not filterable), availability in search results, position within the navigation panel, mode, attribute sorting logic, image support and more. Category and price filters have their own, extended configuration options. Working the navigation panel, admins can fine-tune the default state of all filters, the maximum number of attribute values to display within each filter, price filter look, etc.

Business Advantages

The **Layered Navigation** extension provides merchants with the following key features:

Enhanced **Magento 2 navigation panel** with additional and improved filters;

AJAX page reloads to refresh only the product results instead of an entire page;

Filter **single-** and **multi-select** modes;

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Image support for filter attributes and **swatches** editing option;

Integration with the Advanced Search extension by Aheadworks, makes filtering products on search result pages possible (in addition to the catalog ones);

Integration with the Shop by Brand extension by Aheadworks adds a brand filter to the navigation panel.

What's new?

The present version introduces the following new functionality:

'From-To' filter type for numeric attributes;

Slider filter type for numeric attributes.

Please note version 2.1.1) of the Layered Navigation extension is compatible only with Magento 2.3.

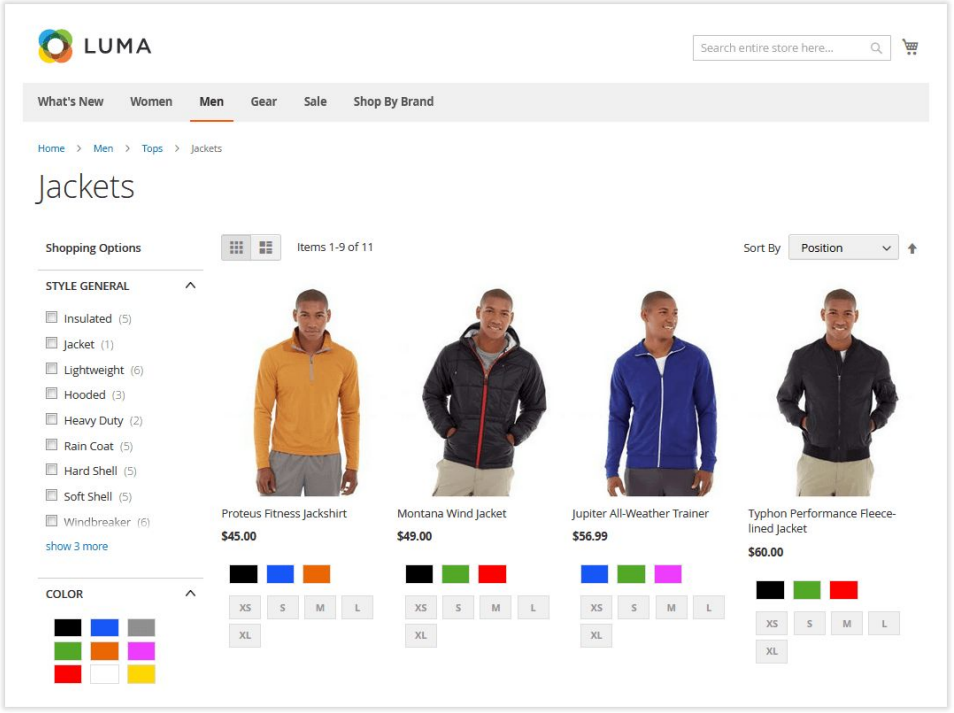
Watch out, if you disable the extension and then enable it again, loss of data will occur in the database tables of the extension. You may have a reason to disable the extension, but make sure it is worth the loss of the previously saved data on filters and their configurations.

The bug is caused by the Declarative Schema, implemented by Magento ealier this year within Magento 2.3. The bug is reproduced with every extension for Magento, given the above scenario. We will delete this note, on official announcement by Magento on a patch to eliminate the bug.

On Frontend

The provided navigation functionality can be implemented in two ways: **with or without the navigation popover**. In the latter case, the module updates the product results page upon each filter selection. With the popover enabled, on the other hand, customers can choose all the necessary attribute values and then refresh the resulting page at once.

Each of the above page refresh methods changes the appearance of the layered navigation bar. For example, the bar without the popover features the count of products available upon the attribute value selection in brackets.



If enabled, the popover shows up displaying the number of items matching the current selection. Once a user has clicked Show in the popover, the catalog reloads via AJAX showing the appropriate results.

Enabled / Disabled Popover Modes

Clicking the area outside the popover will close the latter. The chosen filters will not be applied, but the checkboxes will remain selected. No other events happen, the products are not added to cart (as an example), it is just the popover that get closed.

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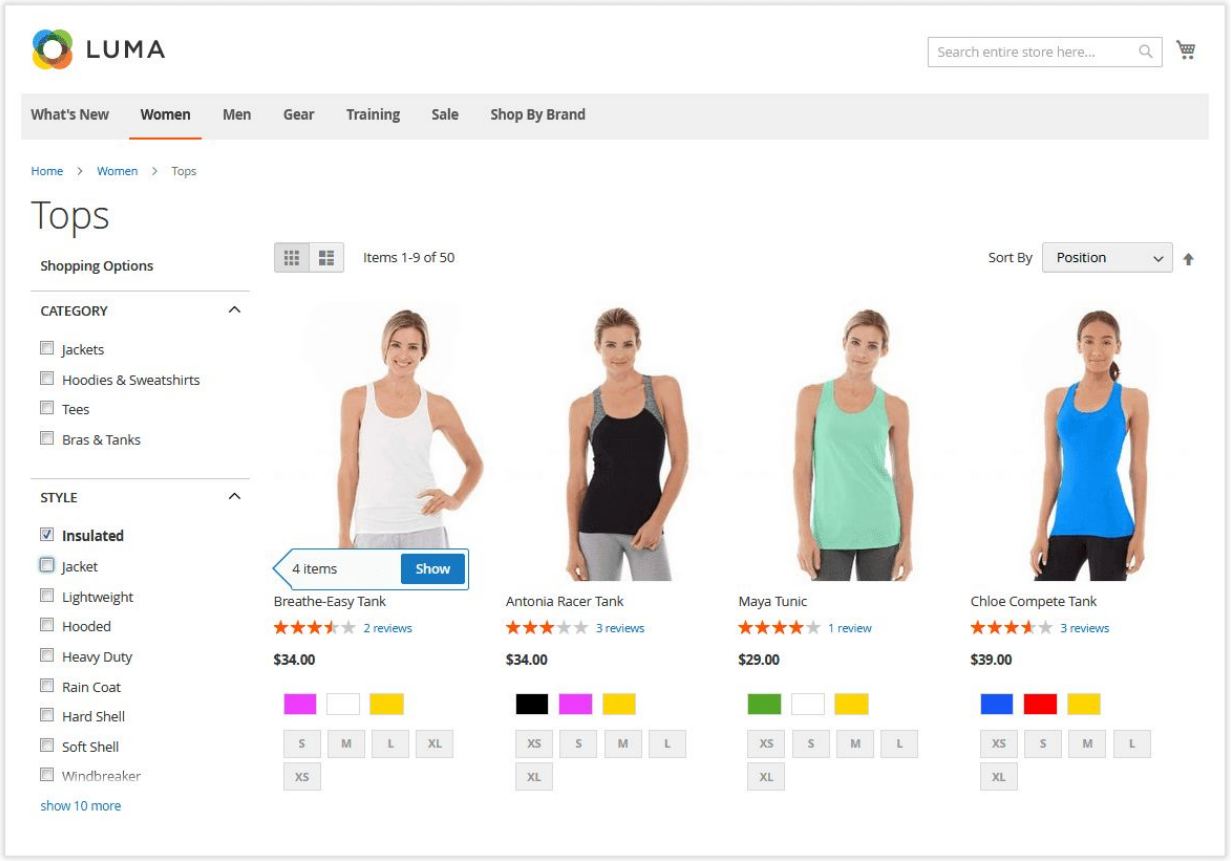

If required, you can disable item count. Go to **Stores > Settings > Configuration > Catalog > Catalog**. Expand the '**Layered Navigation**' tab. Choose **No** in the '**Display Product Count**' box (uncheck the '**Use system value**' box beforehand).

Attribute Multiselect

In contrast with the native Magento layered navigation, our module offers you the attribute value multi-select feature. With it, customers can select several attribute values within one product attribute and, this way, considerably broaden and improve the final product selection.

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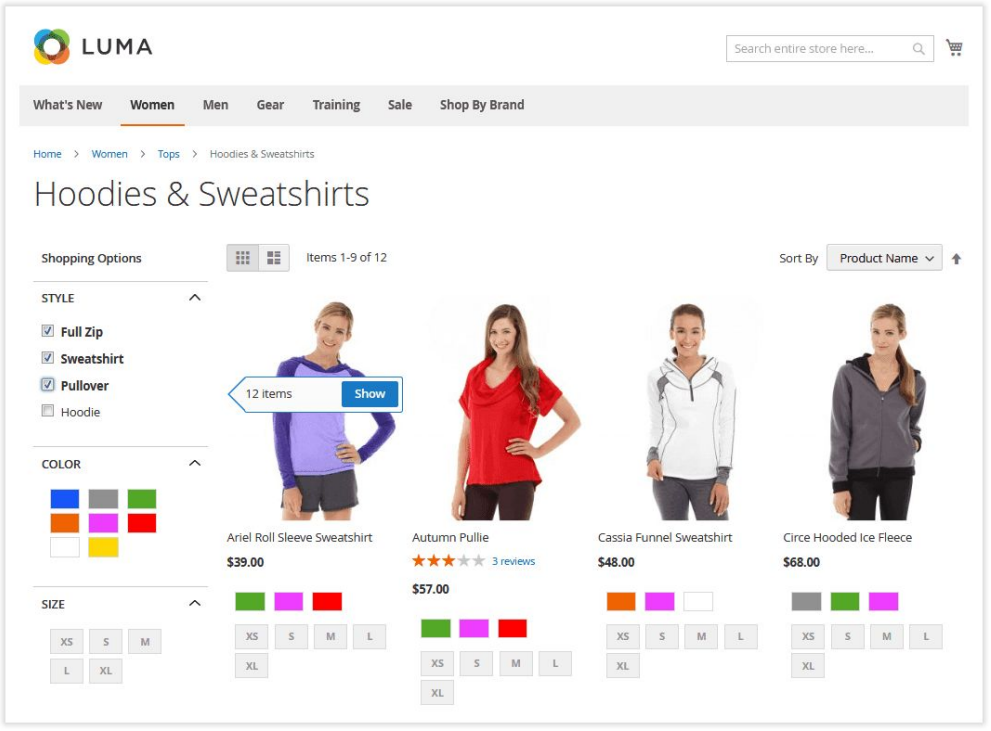
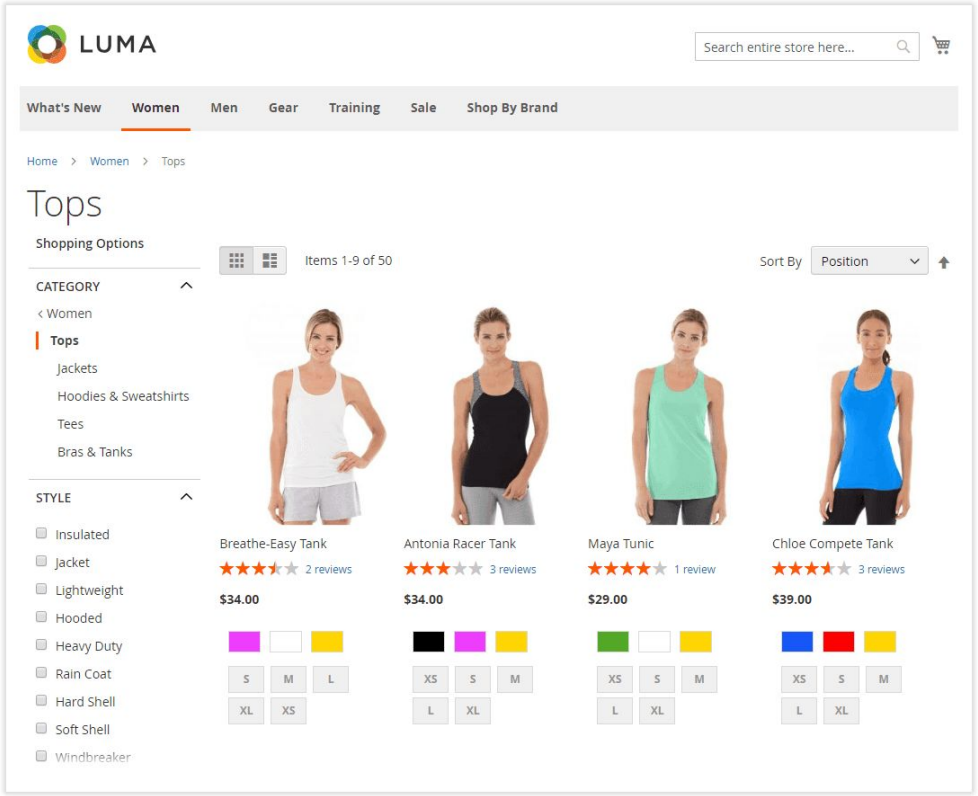


It may well be a good idea to have the **category filter** in the single-select mode, when other filters are in the multi-select. This solution may help customers orient themselves easily when navigating the catalogue for some time.

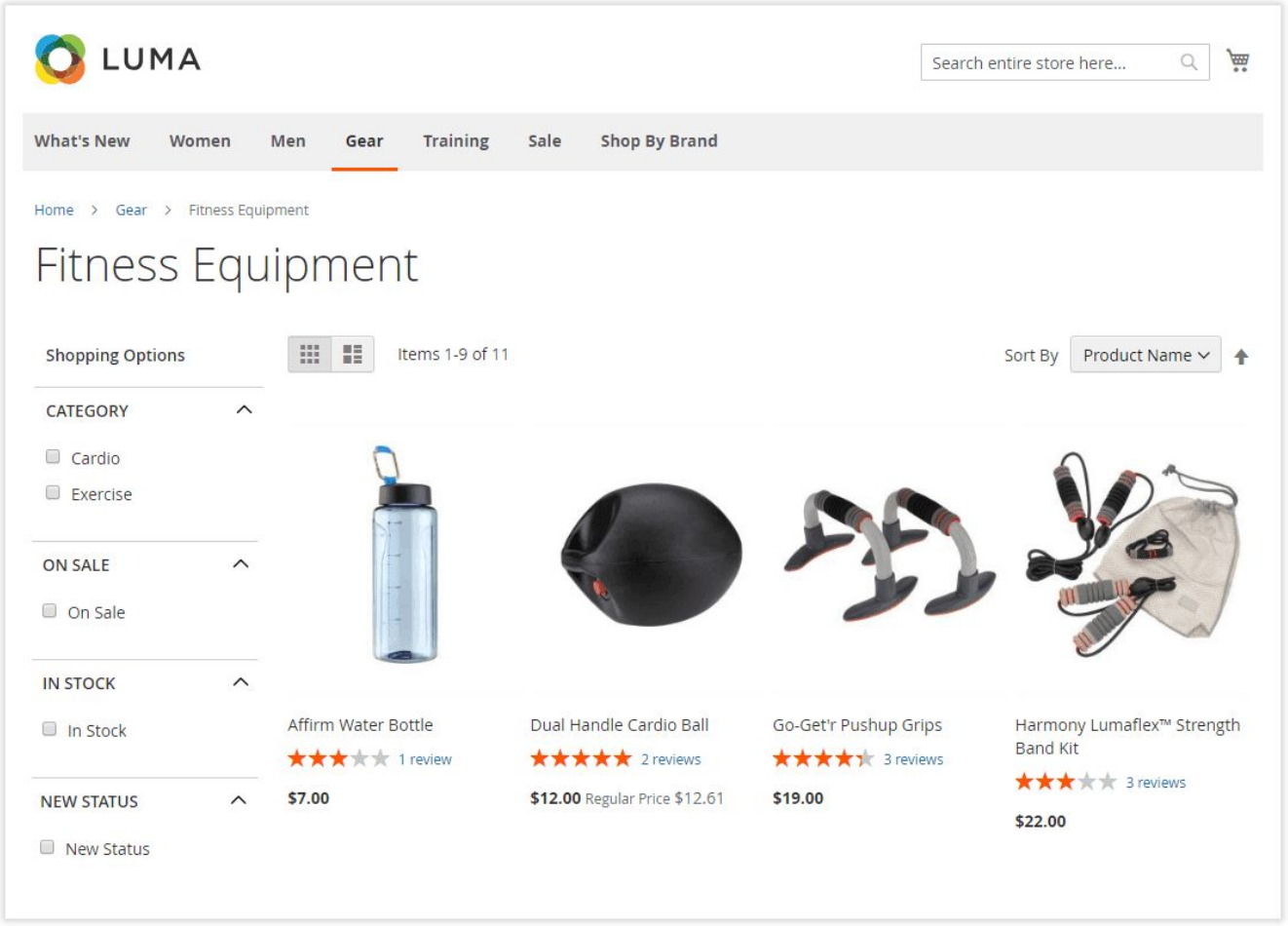


To enable the single-select mode, go to Catalog > Layered Navigation by Aheadworks > Manage Filters. Click on the 'Category' filter in the list. On the filter settings page, expand the 'Category list style' box and choose the 'Single path' option.

The Layered Navigation extension catches up all the product attributes available for a particular category. Attribute sorting options, values, availability in layered navigation - these are the native Magento 2 settings described in the .

New Filter Options

Along with the enhanced navigation functionality, the Layered Navigation extension offers three new filters:



In Stock - shows all the products in stock. Useful if you display out-of-stock products in your store (the filter is automatically disabled if there are no out-of-stock products in a particular category);

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On Sale - shows all the products with the '**Special Price**' attribute (the filter is automatically disabled if there are no products with 'Special Price' in a particular category);

New - shows all the new products with the '**Set Product as New from Date**' option enabled (the filter is automatically disabled if there are no 'new' products in a category).

The new filters herein act in no different way to all other single-select filters, exploiting same native Magento 2 attributes, though with a respectively different logic.

The Layered Navigation extension is compatible with the **Magento Solr** search out of the box with no manipulations required.

'Show X More' Active Link

In order to truncate extra long lists of multiple attribute values, the extension uses the '**Show X more**' active link. The link shows the number of hidden filter values. With it, customers can unfold long attribute value lists with one click.

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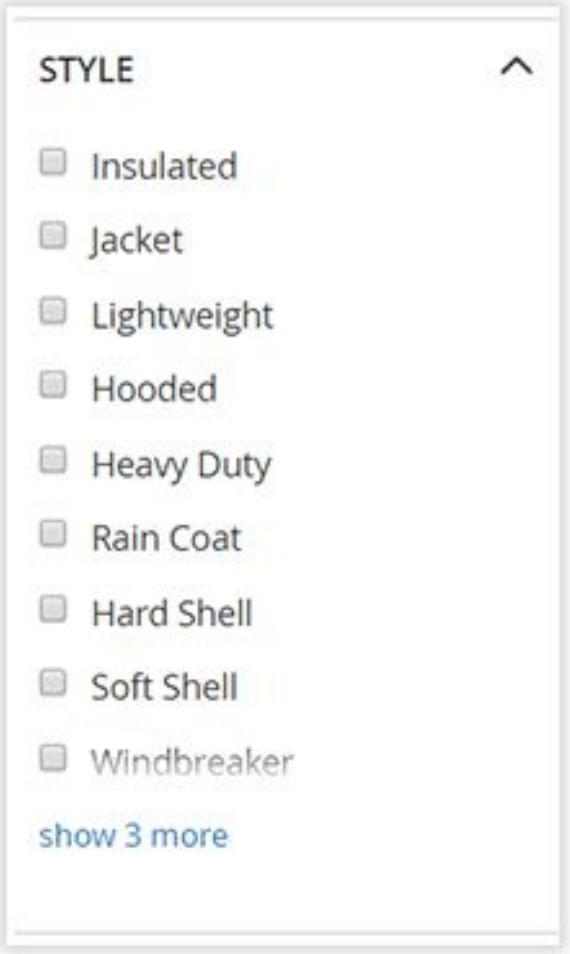
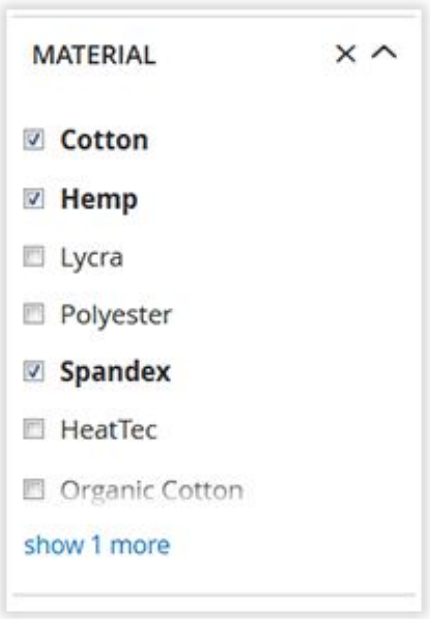


Clear All

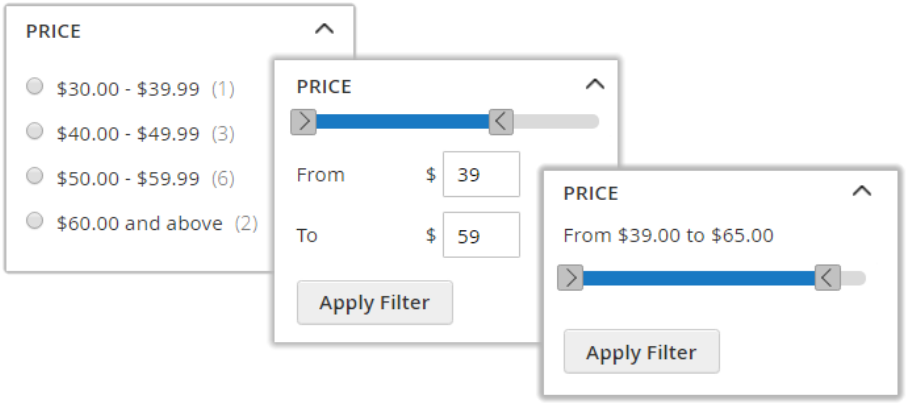
Since customers can simultaneously multiple attribute values within the same filter, disabling them one by one might become quite time-consuming. With Layered Navigation, they can cancel all the selected filter values with just one click on ✕ next to the filter name.



Numeric Attributes

The extension offers the following types of filters for numeric attributes (decimal, integer amd price):

Radio-box (with the increment '10');
Slider (continuous or discrete);
'From-To';
From-To and slider.



The above numeric filters use the values of the attribute into an organized range. The minimal and maximal values will start and end the range. The Radio-box filter will split the range into shorter sections with increment 10, and will present them as a list. The From-To filter will feature the maximal and minimal values by default in the text-boxes, thus giving the visual idea of the available range. The Slider will also feature the minimal and maximal

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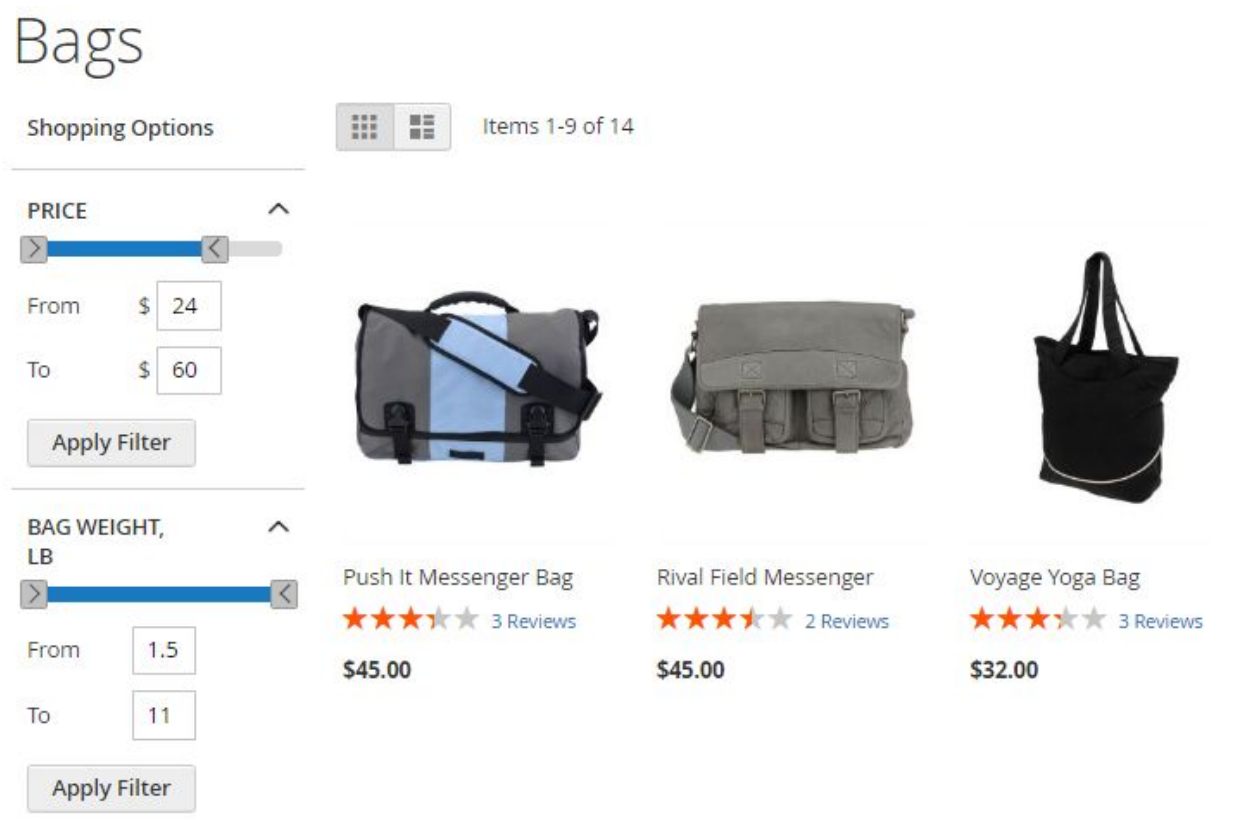
values of the attribute to visually indicate the available range. The discrete slider will have an increment 10, and the continuous - 1.

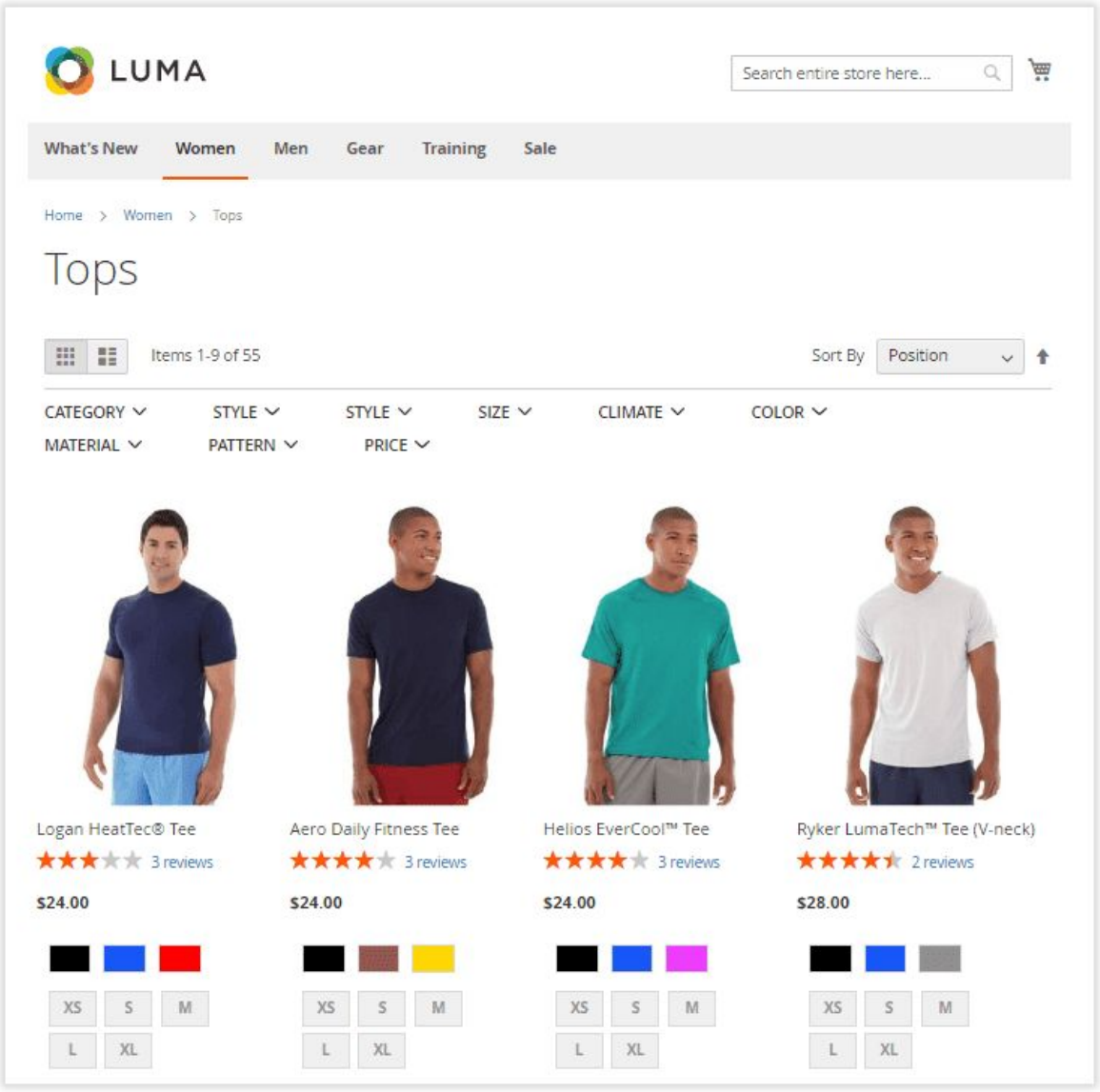
The slider is especially useful for quick selections. With the from-to input, customers can manually specify the required price range.



Slider filters work independently from each other, i.e. they do not affect the work of each other.

Horizontal Filter Bar

If some of your catalog pages have a one-column design, opt for the horizontal navigation panel.



To enable a one-column layout, go to **Catalog > Inventory > Categories.** Expand the '**Design**'
tab. Select the '**1-column**' option in the '**Layout**' box.

On Backend

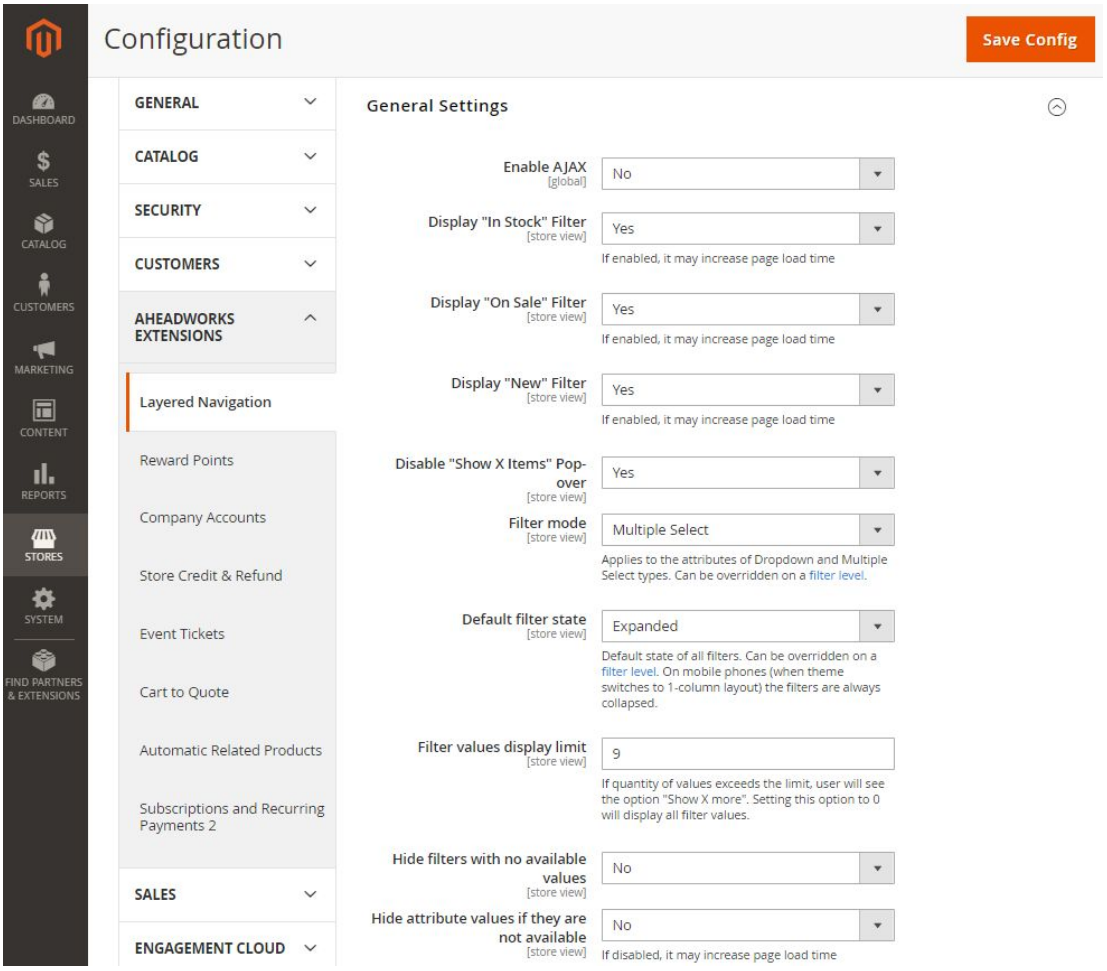
Configuring the extension

To configure the extension proceed to **Stores > Settings > Configuration > AHEADWORKS EXTENSIONS > Layered Navigation.**

The configuration page comes in three sections: **General Settings, SEO** and **Sliders.**

General Settings

This is where you configure the behavior of the extension.



The **General Settings** block lists the following parameters for configuration:

Enable AJAX - defines how the extension handles the category page when the filter is applied:

*- If set to '**Yes**', the extension will only reload the product block;*

*- If set to '**No**', the extension will reload the whole category page;*

Display "New" Filter - defines if the '**New**' filter should be available for customers;

Display "On Sale" Filter - defines if the '**On Sale**' filter should be available for customers;

Display "In Stock" Filter - defines if the '**In Stock**' filter should be available for customers;

Disable "Show X Items" pop-over - defines if the popover with item count matching the currently selected attributes should be displayed;

Filter mode - defines the mode of the filters: "Single-" or "Multi-select" (Applies to the attributes of Dropdown and Multiple Select types. Can be overridden on a filter level);

Default filter state - determines the default state of all filters (expanded or collapsed);

Filter values display limit - determines the number of filter values to be shown above the '**Show X more**' link (if applied);

Hide filters with no available values - defines if filters that do not have values for the currently generated product list should be hidden in the navigation menu;

Hide attribute values if they are not available - shows or hides the attribute values within one filter void for the current product selection.

The **state of all filters can be overridden** on a filter level. On mobile phones (when the theme switches to a 1-column layout) the filters are always collapsed.

SEO Settings

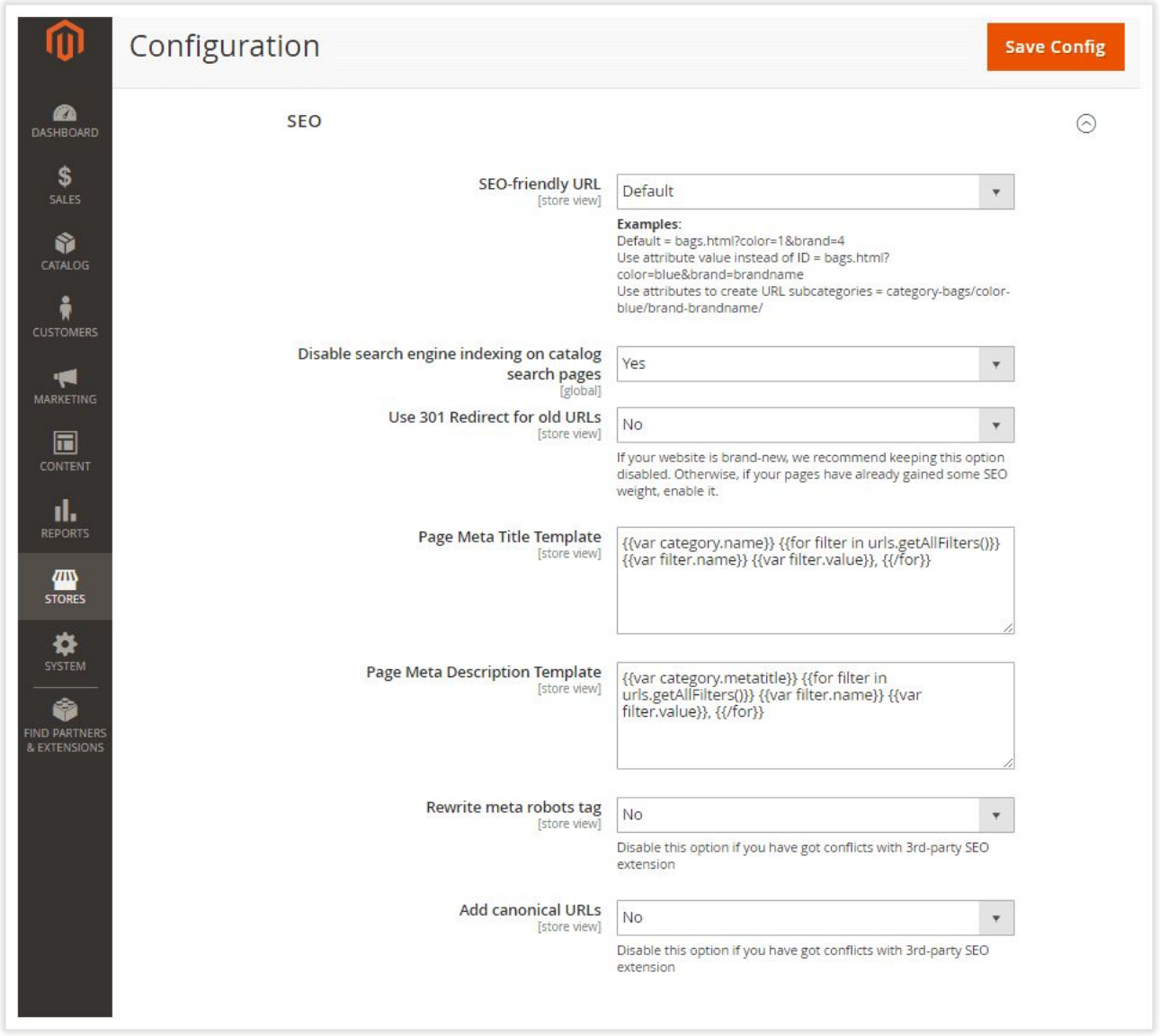
The 'SEO' optimization settings are aimed at improving store presence in search engines and to avoid destructive SEO issues.

The available parameters are:

SEO-friendly URL - defines how the applied filters affect the end-page URL;

Disable search engine indexing on catalog search pages - defines if the search engine indexation should be disabled on catalog search pages;

Use 301 Redirect for old URLs - if the catalog pages with filters have been indexed and then moved, this setting will create the 301 redirect to the old-page URL. The old-page URL is based on the '**SEO-friendly URL**' setting value;



Page Meta Title Template - defines what information should be added to the catalog page's **Meta Title** after the attributes are selected in Layered Navigation;

Page Meta Description Template - defines what information should be added to the catalog page's **Meta Description** after the attributes are selected in Layered Navigation;

To render config values from 'Page Meta Title Template' and 'Page Meta Description Template', standard template directives are used, for example:

{{var %VARIABLE_NAME%}}

{{for %VARIABLE_NAME% in %ARRAY_NAME%}} {{var %VARIABLE_NAME%}} {{/for}}

Variables available in Layered Navigation 2.1.0:

category - current category. Following fields are accessible:

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category.name

category.metatitle

category.metadescription

urls - standard data object. In the present extension returns an array of all the filters applied. Example: urls.getAllFilters(). Filter data objects are the items of the array. The following are accessible via {{for filter in urls.getAllFilters()}} %ACCES TO THE FILTER DATA% {{/for}} :

filter.name - the title of the chosen filter on the frontend

filter.value - the value of the chosen filter

Rewrite meta robots tag - when enabled, the parameter adds the '**NOINDEX**' and '**NOFOLLOW**' meta tags to the category pages if:

- it is the second or the following page (pagination);

- products are filtered by position, name, or price;

- selected several options of the same filter;

- product listing is different from default values - when the product listing value becomes a part of the URL.

Add canonical URLs - defines if the canonical URL's are added to the catalog search pages.

The '**Use 301 redirect for old URLs**' setting works as follows: if the indexed catalog page URL
with filters applied doesn't correspond to the current value of the SEO-friendly URL setting but corresponds to other values, the indexed category URL will be redirected to the URL of the new format.

Sliders

Should you opt for use of slider filters, make sure there are a few parameters to configure for best user experience.

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The block suggest the following parameters for configuration:

Use slider - defines if the slider mode is to be available for layered navigation (the options below will unfold on choice of Yes herein);

Use slider for - declares alternatives on the area of application of the slider: Price Only, Numeric Fields Only, Always Where Applicable.

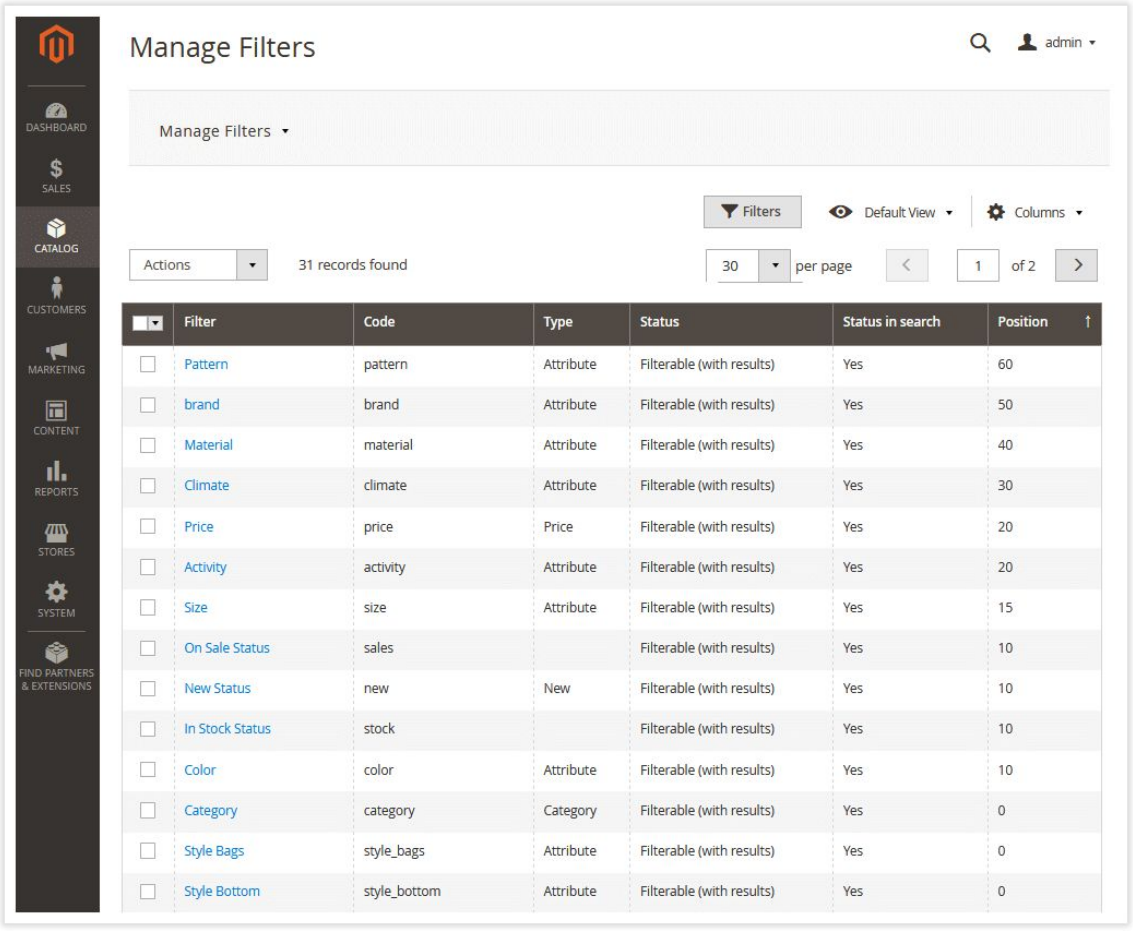
Slider behavior - suggests choice between the "Continuous" and "Discrete" modes;

Use from-to inputs - defines if the Customer will be able to specify the range of values for filters which are in the slider mode.

Managing Filters

Manage Filters Grid

To configure the filters open the '**Manage Filters**' grid. The grid can be found in **Catalog > Layered Navigation by Aheadworks > Manage Filters.**



Filter	Code	Type	Status	Status in search	Position
Pattern	pattern	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	60
brand	brand	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	50
Material	material	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	40
Climate	climate	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	30
Price	price	Price	Filterable (with results)	Yes	20
Activity	activity	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	20
Size	size	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	15
On Sale Status	sales		Filterable (with results)	Yes	10
New Status	new	New	Filterable (with results)	Yes	10
In Stock Status	stock		Filterable (with results)	Yes	10
Color	color	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	10
Category	category	Category	Filterable (with results)	Yes	0
Style Bags	style_bags	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	0
Style Bottom	style_bottom	Attribute	Filterable (with results)	Yes	0

The '**Manage Filters**' grid contains six columns, including filter names, codes, types, their general status, status in search, and position. Change status, status in search and sync filters individually or in bulk with the help of the **Actions** dropbox above the grid on the left.

To edit a filter, click the filter name.

Note on Use of Numeric Filters

For Store Admin

I. **To feature in the Manage Filters grid as a filter**, the attribute is to match the following criteria:

Input type - Text Field;

Input Validation - Decimal Number or Integer Number;

Use in Search/Visible in Advanced Search - Yes.

II. See **Stores → Attributes → Products → Properties/Storefront properties** for configuration. **Changing the above settings** of a numeric attribute will remove the corresponding filter from the grid. Returning to the above settings will bring the filter back again;

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III. **To feature on the frontend**, Elasticsearch should be chosen as the default search engine (see **Stores → Configuration → Catalog → Catalog → Catalog Search** for configuration).

We do not recommend using numeric/price attributes, where all values are within the range [0;1]. It's impossible to apply a filter for such a range of values due to the bug of the native Magento algorithm for range calculation.

Disabling filters which correspond to the native Magento attributes may turn into loss of the values of that attribute, even if you enable the filter back.

For Developer

I. Decimal values for numeric filters are rounded to 2 digits after the point.
Entry point to change precision:

```
class Aheadworks\Layerednav\Model\Filter\Type\NumericAttribute\Formatter
```

Field

```
precision
```

II. If a product attribute isn't handled as numeric, it is possible to integrate a numeric filter for that attribute.

Entry point:

```
etc/di.xml
```

Node:

```
<type name="Aheadworks\Layerednav\Model\Product\Attribute\NumericCandidate\Resolver">
    <arguments>
      <argument name="attributesCodes" xsi:type="array">
        <item name="sample_data_weight" xsi:type="string">weight</item>
      </argument>
    </arguments>
  </type>
```

Add the above code for the desired attribute.

To be displayed correctly on the frontend as a numeric filter, the attribute still should meet the following criteria:

Input Validation: Decimal Number or Integer Number

Use in Search/Visible in Advanced Search: Yes.

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Make sure, you are aware of what you are doing when changing the code. Carelessness may end up in accidental data loss.

Filter Editing

The Edit Filter page comes in four sections: **General Settings, Categories, Frontend, Manage Swatches.**

The '**General Settings**' suggests the following parameters for configuration:

Filter Title - the name of the product attribute and the layered navigation filter, respectively;

Use in Layered Navigation and **Use in Search Results Layered Navigation** - enable the filter within the navigation area;

Position - determines the position of the filter in the navigation panel;

Default filter state - specifies if by default the filter will be collapsed or expanded;

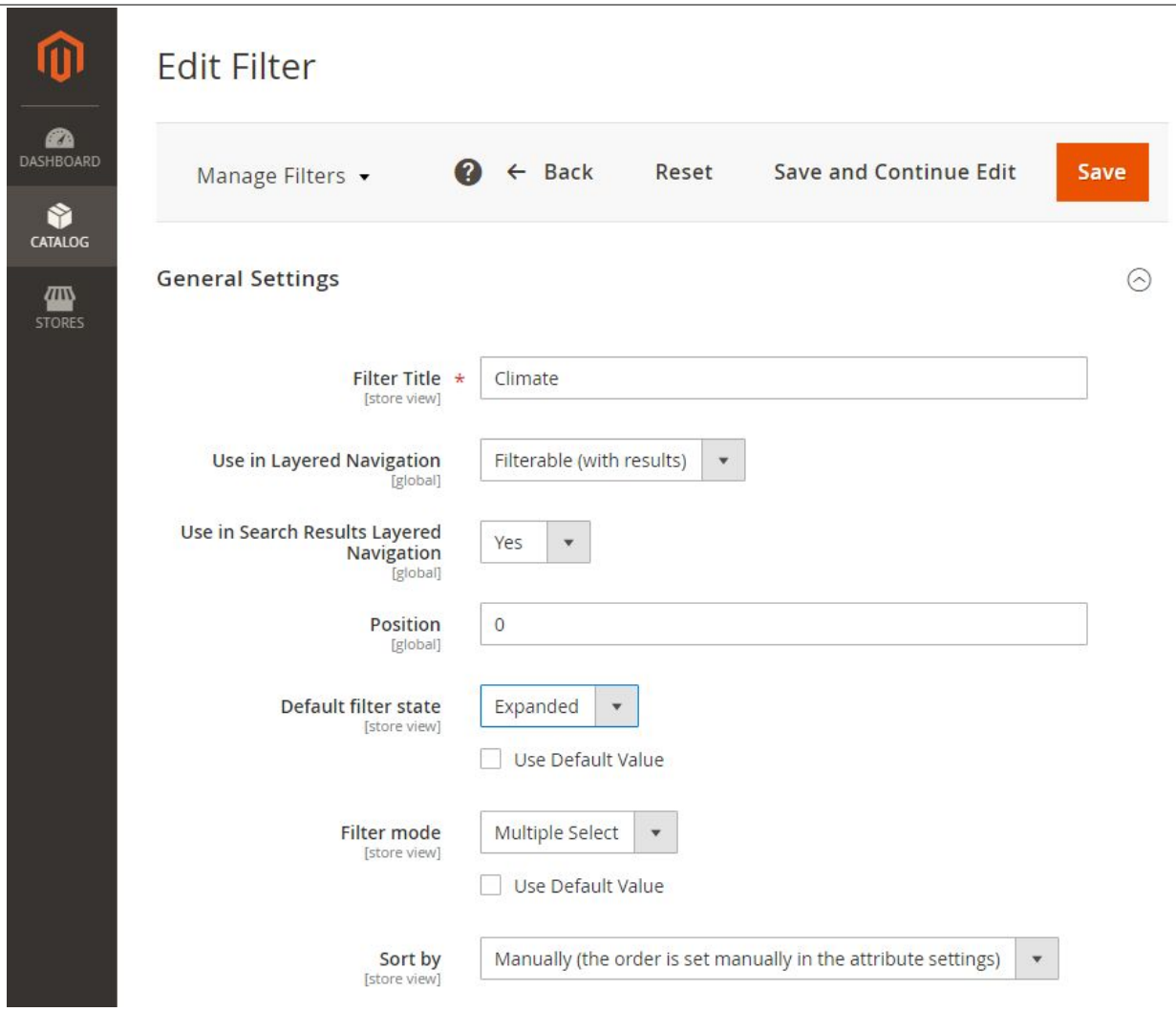
Filter Mode (for non-numeric/price attributes) - specifies the mode of the filter by default (multi- or single-select);

Sort by (for non-numeric/price attributes) - specifies the sorting order of the filter list.

A filter becomes available on the frontend only if either **Use in Layered Navigation** or **Use in Search Results Layered Navigation**, or both are set to anything but the default 'No'.

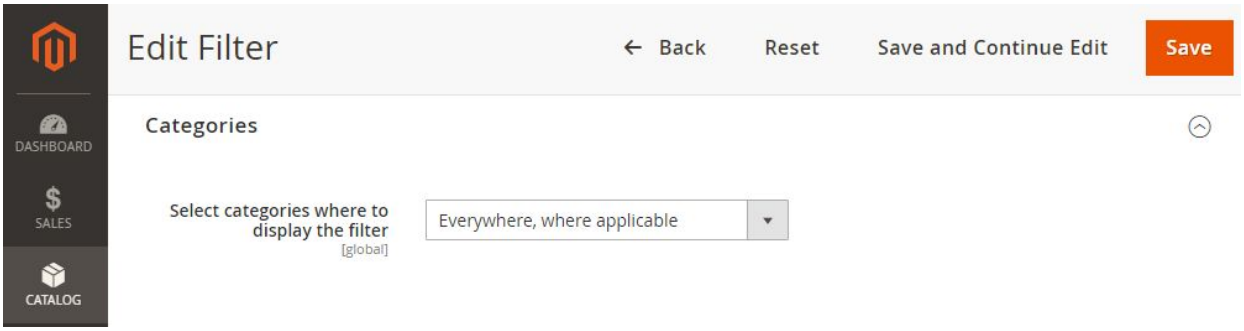
Note, that native **Magento parameters** of an attribute 'Use in Layered Navigation' and 'Use in Search Results Layered Navigation' **are not synchronized with** the corresponding parameters of a **Layered Navigation filter from Aheadworks**.

Note, that cashe should be cleaned and reindex should be done so that the filters work properly.



The '**Categories**' section suggests only one parameter for configuration:

Select categories where to display the filter - the option makes the filter available: a) everywhere where applicable, b) only in the categories of the lowest level, c) exclude specific categories to be available for the filter.



The '**Frontend**' and '**Manage swatches**' sections allow further visualization support to the filter and its attributes:

Image - upload an image to accompany the name of the filter on the frontend;

Image title - alter the default title of the image;

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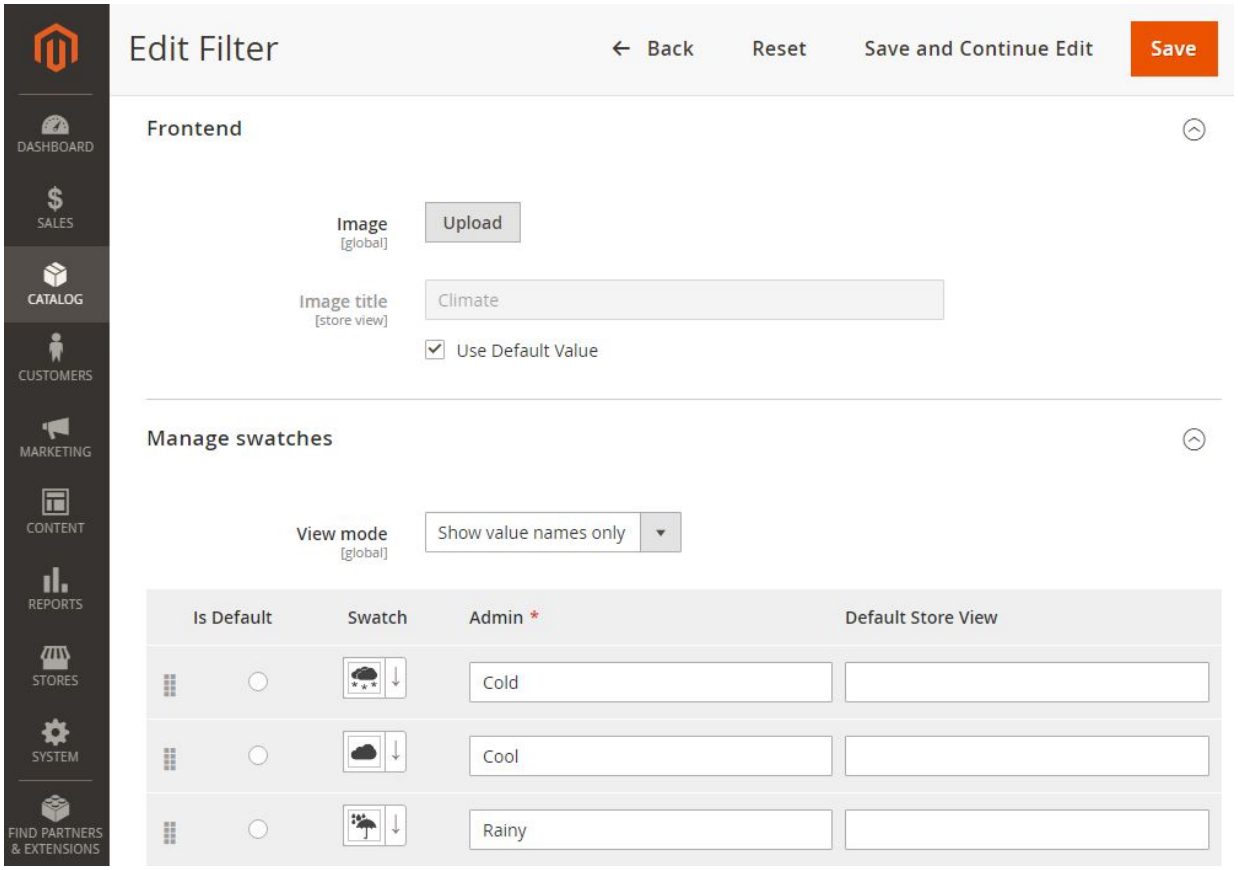
View mode (for non-numeric/price attributes) - decide on the look of the filter attributes: name, swatch or combination of;

Swatch grid (for non-numeric/price attributes) - browse and manage swatches and filter attributes here (to add a swatch click the Add Swatch button at the bottom of the table).

Use default slider settings** (only for numeric and price attributes / NA in the picture below) - specify a different behavior for the slider filter.



The Manage Swatches block is available for filters, which attributes are of the catalog input type.

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Uninstalling Layered Navigation

Manual Removal

1. Disable the module by executing the following commands:

```
php bin/magento module:disable Aheadworks_Layerednav
php bin/magento setup:upgrade
```

2. Remove the extension files from the following folder:

```
app/code/Aheadworks/Layerednav
```

Automatic Removal (via Composer)

1. Disable the module by executing the following commands:

```
php bin/magento module:uninstall Aheadworks_Layerednav
```

For an in-depth look visit Layered Navigation demo store at the extension's product page.

Feel free to contact our support team with any questions:

helpdesk@aheadworks.com

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