

Creating animated gif's with Fireworks MX

1. Create a new Fireworks document with a non-white canvas color that is 400 pixels wide by 80 pixels high.
2. Use the text tool to create a large block of text at a font size of 40 or so.
3. Open the Frames panel by clicking the Window/Frames menu command.
4. Click the white arrow in the top-right corner of the Frames panel and choose the duplicate frame command.
5. Type 3 at the top of this window and leave the "After current frame" option button selected.
6. Single-click the Frame 2 entry in the Frames panel.
7. With the Pointer tool, single-click the text box to select it.
8. Change the text's color in the Property Inspector.
9. Single-click the Frame 3 entry in the Frames panel.
10. With the Pointer tool, single-click the text box to select it.
11. Change the text's color in the Property Inspector.
12. Save the png document in an original images folder.
13. Click the File/Export Preview menu command.
14. On the Options tab, change the format from GIF to Animated GIF.
15. Click the Animation tab.
16. Change the delay time amounts for each frame as desired.
17. Click the Play (white arrow) button in the lower-right corner to preview the animated gif.
18. Click the Export button and save the animated gif to your web site's images folder.

Using the Tween Instances menu command to create animated gif's in Fireworks:

1. Create a new Fireworks document with a non-white canvas color that is 400 pixels wide by 80 pixels high.
2. Click the Edit/Insert/New Symbol menu command.
3. Name the symbol "Slider" and click the OK button.
4. Use the Rectangle tool to create a rectangle that is about 10 pixels wide and 80 pixels high with a color that is different from the canvas color.
5. Close the Symbol editor by clicking the close button in the upper-right corner.
6. A copy of this symbol named Slider should now appear in your main document. A small arrow should appear in its corner to indicate that it is an instance of the symbol.
7. Move the instance to the far left edge of your main document.
8. Click the Window/Library menu command to open the Library panel.
9. Drag a copy of the Slider library item onto the very right edge of your document window.
10. With this second instance selected, click the Scale tool and resize this instance as a large rectangle so that it covers the whole document window.
11. Click the Select/Select All menu command so that both instances of the Slider symbol are selected (even though the narrow instance is "below" the second, wider instance.)
12. Click the Modify/Symbol/Tween Instances menu command.
13. Leave the number 10 entered in the window, place a checkmark in the "Distribute to frames" checkbox and click OK.
14. Click the Preview tab and then the Play button at the bottom of the main document window to test your animated gif.
15. Click the Original tab.
16. Click the Edit/Insert/New Symbol menu command to insert another symbol named "text".
17. Type the phrase "acme.com" using white fore color at font size 12.
18. Close the Symbol editor by clicking the x in the upper-right corner.
19. Drag another copy of the text symbol from the Library panel onto the main document window.
20. Use the Scale tool to scale this instance to a size the fills up the whole document window.
21. Select both of the text instances using the Shift key.
22. Click the Modify/Symbol/Tween Instances menu command. Make sure that a checkmark appears next to the "Distribute to frames" checkbox, enter the number 10 in the window, and click OK.
23. Click the Preview tab and then Play button to preview the animated gif.
24. Use the File/Export Preview command to export and save this animated gif. Change the format to Animated GIF.
25. Be sure to save the original png file in an original images folder.