

PHOTOSHOP

Extra 3.3

Name _____

Animated Gifs

GIF and JPG are two commonly used file formats for displaying graphics on the Web. GIF is recommended for images that contain elements with sharp edges, such as flat colour areas, line art, and text. A GIF file can contain up to 256 colours. The fewer colours used the smaller the file size will be therefore the shorter the download time.

Animated GIFs can be viewed on web pages as moving images or text; they have multiple image frames that play back in a specified sequence, for a specified amount of time.

You may create your animated gif for any purpose or you may choose one of the following options-

- Neon sign for a company/organisation website. (size - 500px wide X 350px high- 72ppi)
- An advertisement banner for a company/organisation website. (size 800px wide X 150px high- 72ppi)
- An animated greetings card (size 500px wide X 350px high- 72ppi)

- Plan the animated gif that you are going to produce by getting ideas down on paper, this can be done with a combination of words and sketches. Keep your ideas simple.
- Create a new document at one of the specified sizes. Create your animation by considering that each separate layer will become a frame. Once you have enough layers to test your animation open up the animation pallet (view>animation) and convert the layers to frames in the pallet options dialogue box.
- You will almost certainly need to refine or develop your animation by working on the individual layers and 'make frames layers' again.
- To create a smooth transition you can 'tween' the frames, this creates more incremental frames between the start and finish points of two frames to give the appearance of movement or fading an object in or out.
- Save your gif (file>save for web and devices), try limiting the amount of colours used to bring the file size down. Test you animated gif in a Safari or Firefox by clicking and dragging the file from the finder into the web browser window.
- Print out the key frames for your folder and email the gif to richard.wain@gmail.com with the subject line as 'your name- animated gif'.



Lecturer's Comments: _____

Objectives

- Gaining an understanding of image sizes for screen
- Gaining an understanding GIF compression
- Gaining an understanding of creating moving images for web