

Animated "OK" Lesson

Animated GIFs are great for creating life into otherwise dull looking Websites. The good thing with animated GIFs is that you don't need any special players to view them. But, with good there's bad - to create animated GIFs, you have to create each frame individually, and that's what we're going to have to do.

Part 1: from the start

Before you can start animating, you have to create your frames. To do this, we are going to use Photoshop.

- Load Photoshop
- Create a new image from the file menu
- Create an image 400x400 pixels
- Set the image format to RGB
- Create a white background
- Click OK to create the canvas

The first thing we want to do is create a new layer to place some text onto. This is going to be used as the basis for our animation. We are going to create a twirling animation of the work 'OK'.

- From the layer menu, select new layer
- Click on the text tool
- Click on the canvas to open the text dialogue box
- Choose a nice font
- Set font size to 200 points
- Change the font color to a bright red
- Type in the word 'OK'
- Click on the ok button to create the text
- Move the font into the center of the screen
- Right mouse click on the text layer and select 'render layer'

Ok, now we've got the first frame of our animation - we need to save it as a GIF format.

- From the file menu, select 'Export Gif89
- Save the file as a GIF file (call it stage1.gif)

For the second frame we need to add a special effect to give the illusion that the text is moving.

Open Adobe Image Ready on open the file stage1.gif

Click New Frame on the Animation Window

Right Click, on Layer 1 and select Duplicate Layer

Remove the eye from Layer 1.

- On the filter menu, select distort > twirl
- Set the level to 50
- Click ok

We've twisted the text but it doesn't actually look like it's going anywhere. To do this, we need to add some radial blur.

- From the filter menu, select blur > radial blur
- Set the blur level to 6
- Click OK

The text will now have a motion blur on it and it actually looks like it's moving

Now you have two images in place, we need about another 3 frames to complete the animation.

Toppers' tip: *use the distort and blur filters*

Part 2: adding more frames

Now, we need to do this another three times to create the remaining frames. It's a bit boring, but it is something that has to be done when creating animated GIFs. As I said earlier, each frame has to be created individually.

Select a new frame

Right Click on the last layer and select duplicate layer

Remove the eye from previous layers

- From the filter menu, select distort > twirl
- Keep the level at 50
- Click ok
- From the filter menu, select blur > radial blur
- Increase the blur level to around 12
- Click OK

Select a new frame

Right Click on the last layer and select duplicate layer

Remove the eye from previous layers

- From the filter menu, select distort > twirl
- Again, keep the level at 50
- Click ok
- From the filter menu, select blur > radial blur
- Increase the blur level to around 21
- Click OK

Select a new frame

Right Click on the last layer and select duplicate layer

Remove the eye from previous layers

- From the filter menu, select distort > twirl
- Increase the level to 160
- Click ok
- From the filter menu, select blur > radial blur
- Increase the blur level to around 60
- Click OK

Your image will be really blurred now.

Click on "Play Animation"

You will now have five slightly different images that when displayed very quickly one after the other, will give the impression that the word OK is actually moving.

Lesson from:

http://www.tvchannel.co.uk/knowledge/tutorials/masterclass/photoshop/animated_gif.htm