

Step One > creating the main pages template in fireworks

You will need a number of files for this lesson, they are available for download from my site

Open Fireworks, FILE>NEW, 640x406, White

VIEW>RULERS

Drop three horizontal guides (drag them from the top ruler down), drop one at 84 pixels (double click to set the exact increment), one at 137p and one at 355p.

Choose the rectangle tool from the tools panel and draw a rectangle from the guide at 84 pixels down. In other words, the entire canvas should now be covered in a rectangle but for the 84 pixels above the topmost guide. Make sure that the rectangle has no stroke, the fill colour doesn't matter at this point as we will be using this as a mask for our large picture.

FILE>OPEN and open up the file called tiger.jpeg from the PAWS folder (the large picture of the tiger).

Choose, MODIFY>NUMERIC TRANSFORM when that box opens, choose resize, as it will default to scale. Resize to 640 x whatever the ratio comes out to.

Copy the image, click onto the working canvas and paste it on. If you are prompted to resample, say no or cancel. Place the image onto the canvas so that the x axis is set to 0 (left/right),

place it so that the tigers head is not over the topmost guide. Once it is in position, choose the picture and hit, CMD+X (EDIT>CUT),

select the rectangle and choose EDIT>PASTE INSIDE. The Tiger should now be within the mask. To get an object out of a mask you select it and choose, MODIFY>UNGROUP.

Choose your rectangle tool again and draw another rectangle, this one from the guide at 137 to the guide at 355. Fill of White and no stroke. In the LAYERS panel (WINDOW>LAYERS) choose and opacity of 80% (top left)

Save your work.

Lock your layer, insert a new layer. Select your HORIZONTAL LINE tool from the tools panel, hold down the shift key to keep the line straight and draw 4 lines the span the entire width of the canvas. They can extend beyond the canvas.

Place on at the 84p guide,  
one at the 137p guide,  
one at the 355p guide and  
the last one right at the bottom of the canvas.

Make each stroke 3pt, BASIC>HARD LINE, the one at the 84p mark and at the bottom are black the other two (should be at the top and bottom of the 80% white rectangle) should be white. Lock your layer.

Save your work

Insert a new layer, choose FILE>IMPORT, import the paws.png file that is in the PAWS folder.

You'll notice that your cursor will turn into a corner icon, click anywhere on the canvas to insert the imported file.

Place the graphic of the paws at the upper left of the canvas. Consult the finished piece for precise placements.

Choose your text tool and type in the wording for the site. The Wordmark PAWS is 70pt Futena (Futura) with a tracking of -10, not bolded. The text above is the same font but at 11 pt with no anti-aliasing. You can choose which kind of anti-aliasing you wish, the option are on the PROPERTY INSPECTOR.

The Subhead text that says Welcome to PAWS is 25 pt and the body text is 12 pt. Just play around with it and try and match what I have done. Make sure that you create all of the navigation links at the top right of the canvas.

They are home | events | animals | gallery | about | contact 12 pt futena, no anti-aliasing, #666666, note that the lines in between the text links are black.

Copy the large paw graphic, past it resize it, remove the fill colour and place it at the bottom of the body text.

Copy the paw that you just manipulated, we will use it again for the link rollovers.

Save your work, lock all of your layers and insert a new layer.

Inside of the PAWS folder is a .zip file. Unzip that out of Fireworks, there are a number of images in there. They are already sized.

Open your FRAMES panel (WINDOW>FRAMES), in Frame 1 import the fist picture, place it on the canvas off to the right/mid, about, 419 pixels from the left and about 175 pixels down from the top.

Zoom into the top of the picture and type in what the animal is above it i.i. Tortoise, use the same font as the subtitle that says welcome. Should line up with the welcome line as well.

Now the events icon



Start with a circle, 90x90, draw a rounded rectangle over it, move the small yellow

diamonds to increase the rectangle roundness to 100%. Should look like this:

Fill is, #EFEFEE, stroke is: #5C5C5C, 1pixel soft rounded. Select both objects and choose: MODIFY>COMBINE PATHS>UNION.

Draw a circle within this new shape: 74x74, fill #343543 no stroke.

Draw another circle: #F6C28C 64x64,

type in Click for events at PAWS, 13pt Futena (futura).

Make a rollover state for this in frame 2.

Place this onto the page

unzip the anipics file and place one of the pictures onto the piece.

The below directions are for creating an animated gif within our design. We will do this if time permits.

*Drop guides at the left of the picture, the top, and the left side and bottom of the text. You are doing this because your are creating an animated gif and you want the images to change without shifting positions. Each image that you place should have the same x and y coordinants. Make a note of the images x and y coordinates in the property inspector.*

*In your FRAMES PANEL at the top right is a small icon, click that and choose DUPLICATE FRAME>7 AFTER CURRENT. Each Frame in Fireworks is like a frame in a reel of film, each frame is a different instance that, when played in sequence, creates an animation. Frames are also used in Fireworks to create button rollovers and swap behaviors. Even though rollover states must reside in Frame 2, there can be multiple actions per frame.*

*Click into Frame 2, delete the current animal picture that you just imported and import the next animal. Make sure that the title of the animal suits the picture. Repeat this procedure for each of the remaining frames/pictures.*

*In the FRAMES PANEL, you will see a small 7 beside the frame number. That is the time that that frame will remain viewable. 7 is very fast. Click into the top Frame, hold down the Shift key and click into the last frame, double click, in the box that open up, change the 7 to 300. This is the frame rate measured in milliseconds. 300 is 3 seconds.*

In Frame 2 we are going to set the rollover up. Make sure that you are in frame 2. Change the text links colours to black, and place a small PAW logo behind each of the links. Use the FREE TRANSFORM tool to rotate the paws slightly as you go from the left-most paw to the right. Again, consult the finished file to see an example of this.

Save your progress, you need to slice up the page now.

Use your SLICE tool to draw in the slices. Slices are the areas that will later be images and table cells once it has been exported to Dreamweaver. You will need to be careful with the dimensions of a couple of these slices, as we will be reusing certain areas of this file. For your first slice, draw a slice from the top of the black line at the 84pixel mark (zoom in to do this) and the bottom of the slice at the bottom of the white line at

the 137pixel mark. Now slice each of the text links. Slice the entire area where the animated gif will be. Now slice the rest of the page.

A few things to remember when slicing: - never overlap a slice - do not leave small gaps inbetween your slices - if you are going to slice, then slice the entire canvas. - slices should be 'snapping' together. If they aren't choose, VIEW>SLICES>SNAP TO GUIDES - you'll notice that the guides have a thin red outline. You should be able to see where these outlines overlap if you did so in error. Zoom in there and look at your slices to assure that they do not overlap nor have any gaps.

You need to add behaviors to the slices now. Use your black selection tool to highlight the slice over the home link. In your BEHAVIORS menu (Window>behaviors) click the + sign and choose SIMPLE ROLLOVER. Repeat this step for each of the slices over the text links. click off the slices so that nothing is highlighted and bring up your OPTIMIZE Panel (WINDOW>OPTIMIZE). Choose Gif>ADAPTIVE>256 COLORS>100% DITHER.

***Click onto the slice where the animation of the animals is to happen. In the OPTIMIZE PANEL choose ANIMATED GIF instead of GIF.***

Save your progress

Choose, FILE>EXPORT. Make sure that you are exporting to the folder that you created to house this site. If you did not create a folder and folder structure for the site, then do so before you export. You will be exporting slices, images and html. Click the small check box that says, PUT IMAGES IN SUBFOLDER. This is where the multiple images will save, click the little browse button and save the images into the GRAPHICS>HOME folder (you will probably need to create these folders, you can do that right out of the fireworks export box). Click OK to that box. Click the OPTIONS button to the side there, choose the TABLES tab and make sue that it is set to NESTED TABLES NO SPACERS. Click OK, and SAVE. There you go.