

# 13

## GOING FURTHER

### Lesson overview

Throughout this book, you have learned how Fireworks can be an essential part of your design workflow. Vectors, bitmaps, prototyping, symbols, interactivity, animation...the list goes on. In this final bonus lesson, you will work with a few of the more complex capabilities of Fireworks, giving you what we hope is a well-rounded perspective on this unique program and how easily it interacts with other Adobe programs.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to do the following:

- Use blending modes to correct images
- Apply AIR event commands to slices and hotspots
- Create an AIR prototype for client review
- Customize a Flex skin for use in an AIR application
- Use Fireworks and Dreamweaver together
- Create graphics for fixed and fluid web-page containers
- Work with native Fireworks PNG files in Flash



This lesson will take about 90 minutes to complete. Copy the Lesson13 folder into the Lessons folder that you created on your hard drive for these projects (or create it now), if you haven't already done so. As you work on this lesson, you won't always preserve the start files. If you need to restore the start files, copy them from the *Adobe Fireworks CS4 Classroom in a Book* CD.



Throughout the book you have learned how Fireworks can be an essential part of your design workflow. Vectors, bitmaps, prototyping, symbols, interactivity, animation... the list goes on. In this final bonus lesson you will work with a few of the more complex capabilities of Fireworks, giving you what we hope is a well rounded perspective on this unique program.

## Interaction review

From a prototype perspective, this console mockup contains all the necessary elements to give the client the appearance of a functional AIR application. The artwork you will be working with is complete, but you will be adding AIR interactivity to the file. (See the “What is AIR?” sidebar later in the chapter.)

This console allows users to browse various campsites affiliated with the fictitious Nature Tours Company, and to check rates and availability of sites.



Standard web interactivity has been used to create this simulation, even though the end result will not be a website.

### AIR functionality in Fireworks

An AIR prototype is akin to an HTML And Images export for a website. You will get the look and feel and the interactivity of the application, but there is no live data connection to other content—it's not a fully functional AIR application. Likewise, features such as scrolling in a text window are not possible. However, rollovers, hyperlinks, and dragging are all possible.

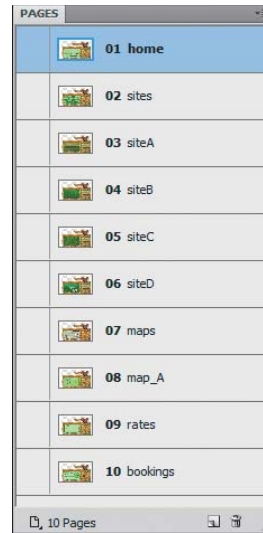
Fireworks gives the client an opportunity to “test-drive” the design and functionality of an AIR application before any time is spent on the coding side.

Most of the techniques used in creating an HTML mockup can be applied to creating an AIR prototype.

- 1 Open the file `nature_tours_console.png` from the Lesson13 folder. If you are prompted about missing fonts, you can simply click Maintain Appearance.
- 2 Expand the Pages panel so you can see the entire list of pages in the document (a total of ten).
- 3 Select the sites page.
- 4 Click Show Slices And Hotspots in the Tools panel.

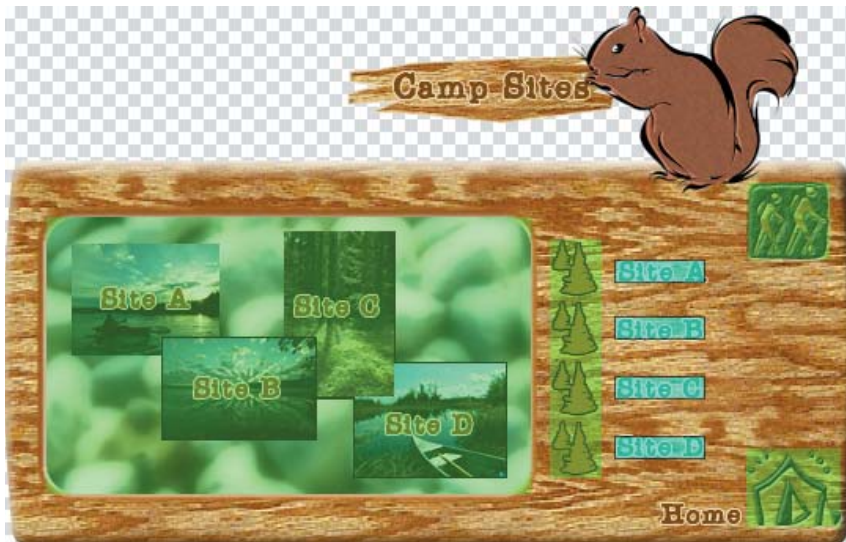
Our little squirrel mascot displays the current location. There are buttons to close the application and to return to the main console display.

Note the hotspots over the site names and the slices over the tree icons and the console screen.

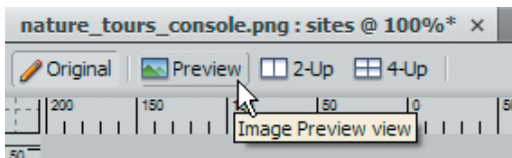


**Note:** The decorative font used in this design is called JI Chaffs. In order to minimize rendering issues, this font has been converted to paths. The only other font used in this file is Arial and that has been left as a true font, rather than being converted to paths.

**Note:** While the company may be fictitious, the photos are the work of the completely real Jim Babbage, of an equally real location called Obatanga Provincial Park in northern Ontario, Canada.



- 5 Switch to the Preview view at the top of the document window.



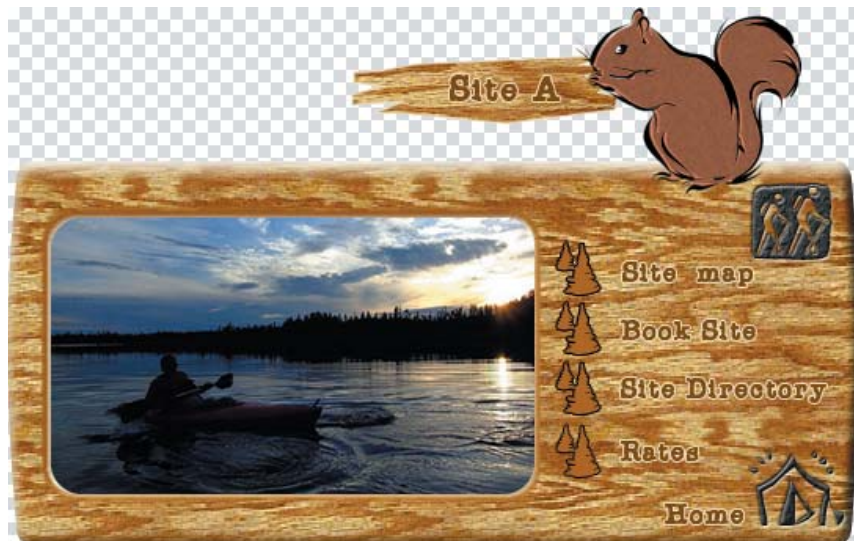
● **Note:** In order for the interaction to work, you must select the Pointer tool in the Tools panel.

- 6 Click Hide Slices And Hotspots in the Tools panel.
- 7 Roll over the Site B link in the right column. Effects have been added so that the screen updates with a different photo on mouseover, and the small tree icon also changes in appearance. The hotspots also link to other pages in the design.



- 8 Select the Site A page in the Pages panel.

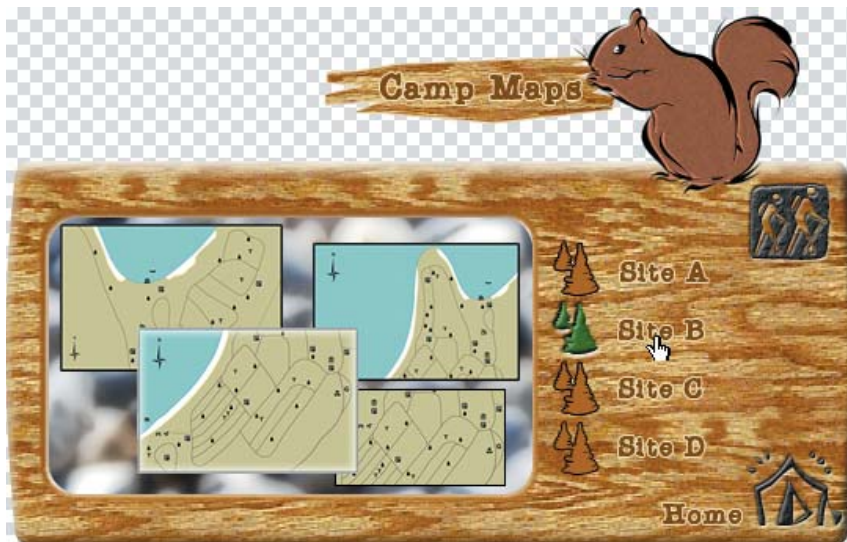
Our squirrel acts as a way-finding device, displaying the current location. The only rollover effects on this page are for the navigation.



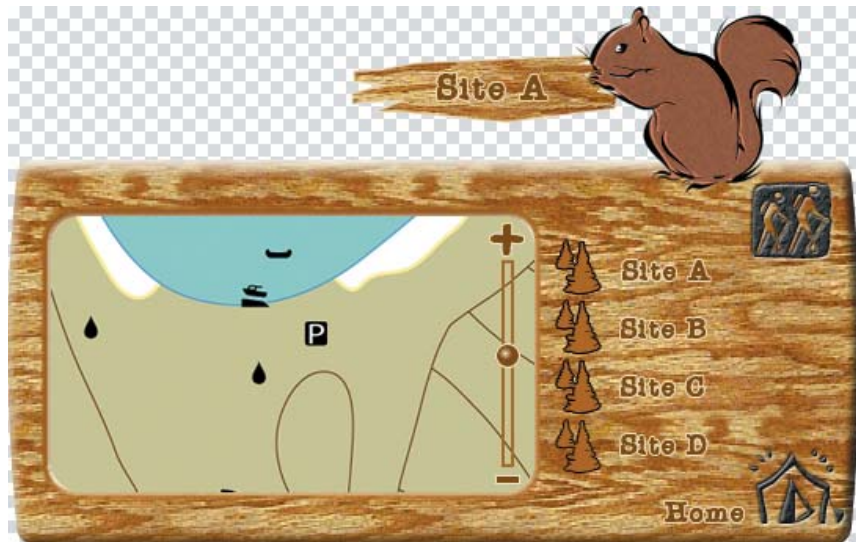
- 9 Switch to the maps page in the Pages panel.



- 10 Mouse over the different map links. The appropriate map thumbnail will highlight in response to your rollover.

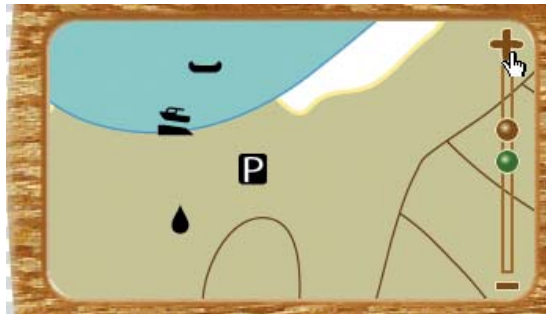


- 11** Select the map\_A page from the Pages panel. Only one final site map has been completed, but this is enough to show the client how that aspect of the console will function.

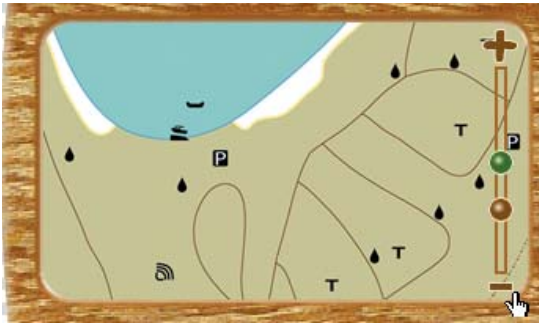


While Fireworks cannot create a user-scrollable area, it can simulate zooming in and out of an area.

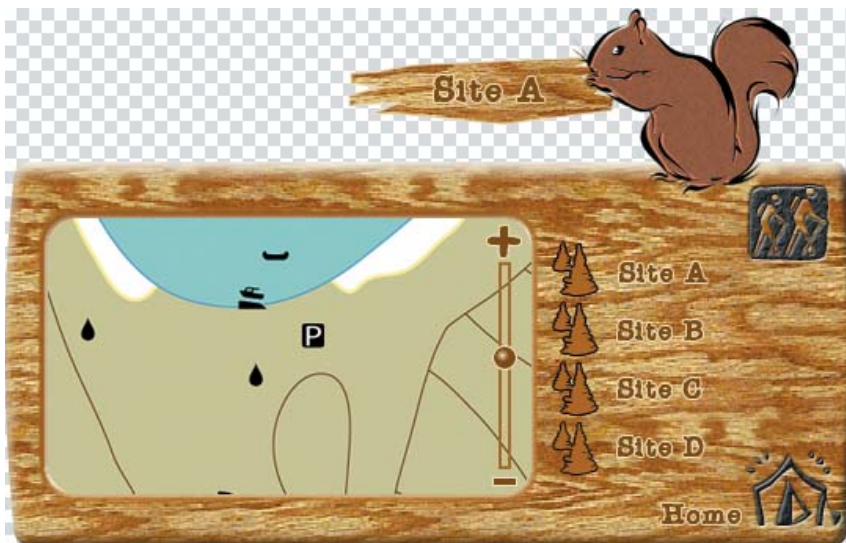
- 12** Click the plus sign (+) on the map zoom bar. A new state appears, with a magnified view of the map.



- 13** Click the minus sign (-). A reduced view of the site appears.



- 14** Click the green dot to return to the original map-A page.



- 15** Switch back to the Original view in the document window.

# Creative and corrective techniques

You will use a couple of different techniques to alter the look of both bitmap images and vectors: image correction and stroking text. The majority of the work has been completed on this file, but there are still chances for you to practice the techniques.

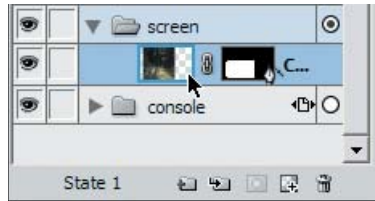
## Blending modes for image correction

There are many ways to improve the look of bitmap images. Sometimes, though, as here, a quick fix is all you need.

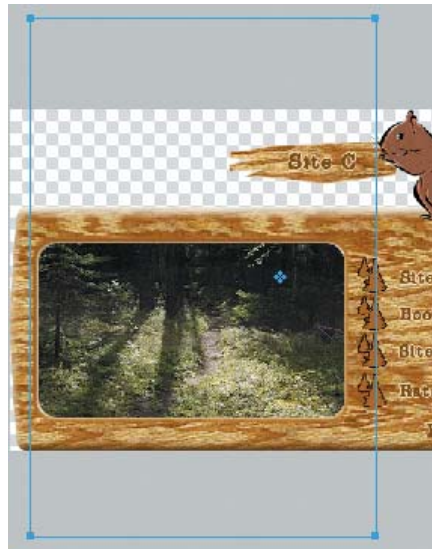
- 1 Switch to the Site C page.

The photo in the console screen lacks color and contrast, due to the sun shining on the lens. You will use Blending modes and Live filters to improve the image.

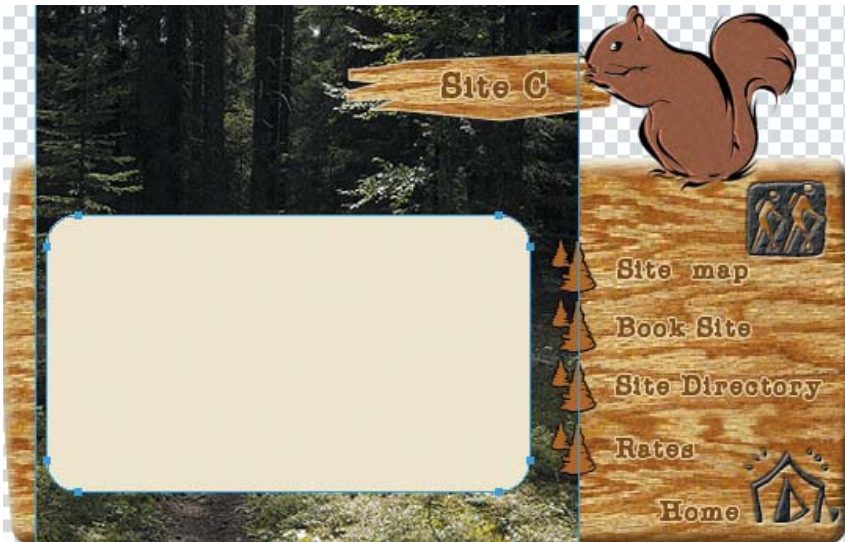
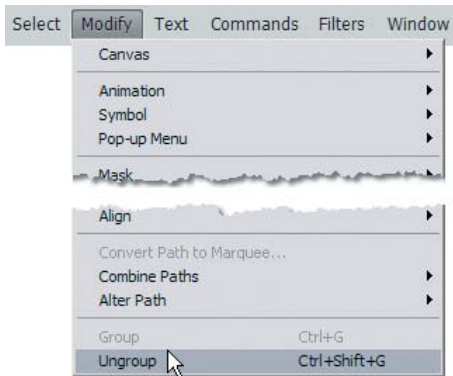
- 2 In the Layers panel, expand the screen layer. You see a masked photo.



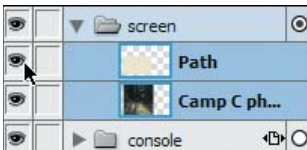
- 3 Select the photo thumbnail in the screen layer. On the canvas, you will see the telltale blue control handle on the image, indicating this photo has been masked. The blue outline indicates the true size of the photo.



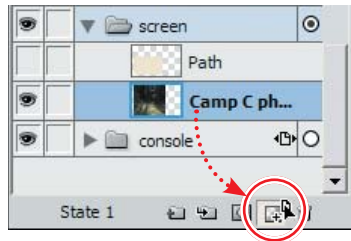
- 4 Choose Modify > Ungroup. This breaks the mask apart into its two original objects.



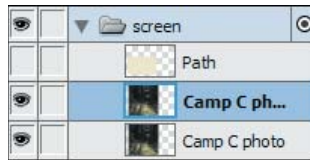
- 5 Hide the rounded rectangle by clicking the Show/Hide icon (👁) in the Layers panel.



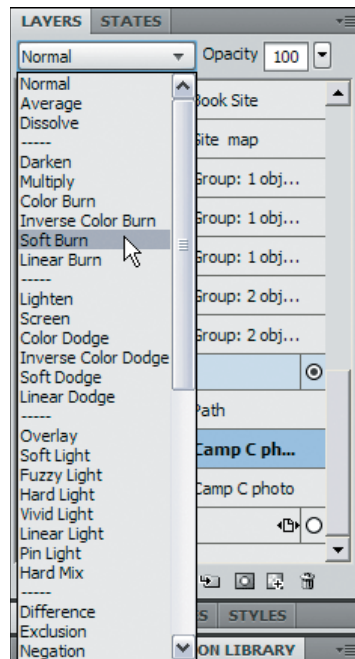
- 6 Drag the photo to the New Bitmap Image button at the bottom of the Layers panel.



A duplicate of the photo appears in the screen layer.



- 7 Making sure the topmost of these two images is selected, change the blending mode from Normal to Soft Burn in the Layers panel.



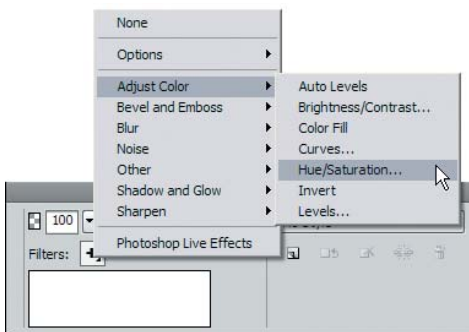
The image darkens noticeably, but not so much that a lot of detail is lost.



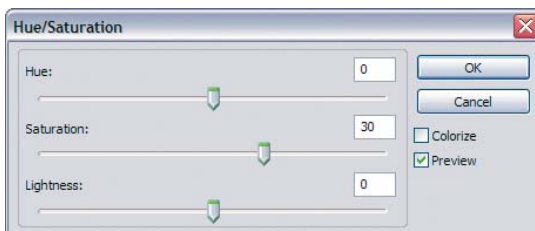
Before Soft Burn

After Soft Burn

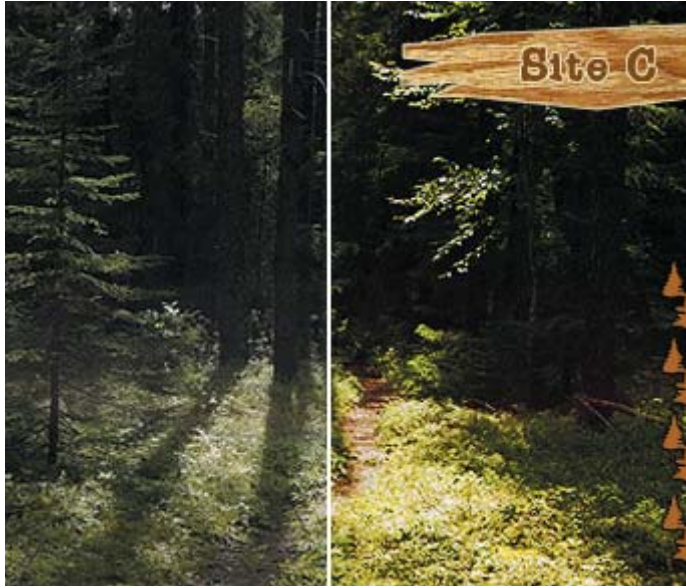
- 8 Click the Add Live Filters (+) button in the Filters section of the Property inspector, and choose Adjust Color > Hue/Saturation.



- 9 Set the Saturation to a value of 30, and click OK.



The new image appears much more lush and green. And because the manipulation was all done using Live Filters and Blending modes, the effects are completely editable in the future.

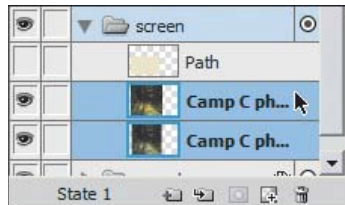


Original image

Image with Soft Burn blending mode  
and Hue/Saturation Live Filter applied

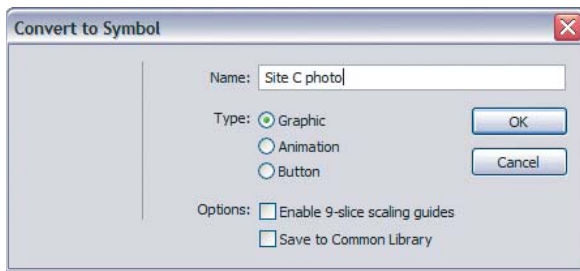
In your case, though, you also need to mask the image combination, which means you've got a decision to make. You can't apply a single mask to a stack of objects in the Layers panel. Grouping the two images together would let you mask the group but removes the blending mode. Flattening the two images together (to maintain the appearance of the effects) would rasterize them, turning them into one image, so they will no longer be editable. In order to get the best of both worlds, the optimal solution is to convert the two images to a symbol and practice a little layer trickery.

- 10 Select both image objects in the Layers panel.



- 11 Choose Modify > Symbol > Convert To Symbol.
- 12 Rename symbol to **Site C photo**.

- 13** Select Graphic as the symbol type, leave all other options deselected, and click OK.



The two images are replaced by an instance of the Site C photo symbol. You may notice though, the blend mode has disappeared. At this time, blend modes are not supported when they are applied within a symbol. Here's how you can work around this.

- 14** Double-click on the instance on the canvas. You will be taken to Edit in Place mode.
- 15** Drag Layer 1 to the New/Duplicate layer icon at the bottom of the Layers panel.
- 16** Lock and hide the new layer.
- 17** Select Layer 1 and choose **Modify > Flatten Selection**. This combines all the effects into a single flattened image.
- 18** Click on Site C in the breadcrumb trail to be brought back to the Site C page.

Anytime you wish to edit the blend mode or the Hue/Saturation Live Filter, just double-click on the symbol, reveal and unlock the preserved layer, make your edit and then, as before, create a duplicate layer with the new alterations. Remember to delete the old flattened layer (or just lock and hide it, in case you want to compare different adjustments).

Note: You could do this without converting to a symbol, but having multiple objects in a symbol also opens up other non-destructive editing features, such as applying different Live Filters to each object and then adjusting the top object's opacity to create different visual effects.

- 19** Reveal the rounded rectangle path in the Layers panel by clicking the empty square to the far left of the object name. This will also select the object.
- 20** Choose **Edit > Cut**.
- 21** Choose the instance of the symbol you named Site C photo, and then choose **Edit > Paste As Mask**.

The rectangle masks the instance and all your (still editable) effects are retained.



You can edit those effects any time by first selecting the photo on the canvas with the Pointer tool, and then choosing **Modify > Symbol > Edit In Place**.

**22** Save your file.

## Stroking rendered text

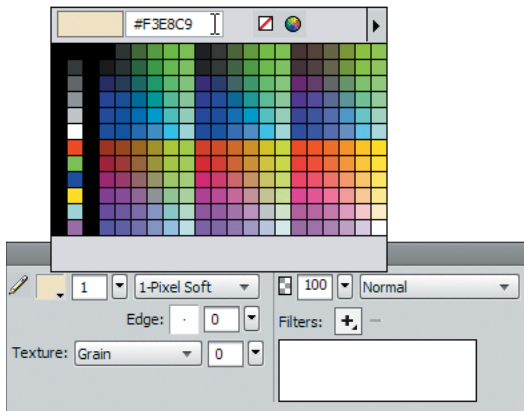
At the beginning of the chapter, we mentioned that all the decorative text was converted to paths to minimize any rendering issues. Actually, this technique can be used on paths or text.

The text in this example is a little rustic, and is in keeping with the color theme of the site—but without a stroke, it blends into the background elements too easily. While all the other text is fine, the Site C text on the squirrel’s sign has not yet been changed. You will do this now.

**1** Use the Pointer tool to select the Site C rendered text.



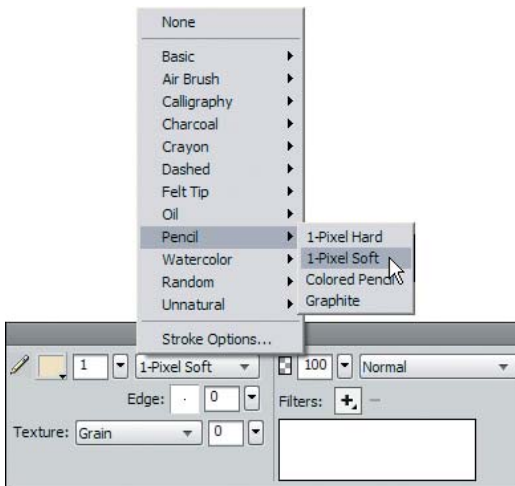
- 2 In the Property inspector, change the Stroke color to #F3E8C9.



## How do you convert text to a path, anyway?

Select the text block with the Pointer tool, and then choose Text > Convert To Paths from the main menu bar. The text will be converted to a group set of paths. You can select individual letters with the Subselection tool.

- 3 Set the Stroke Category to Pencil > 1-Pixel Soft.



You may find that the stroke does not match the other text elements on the console.



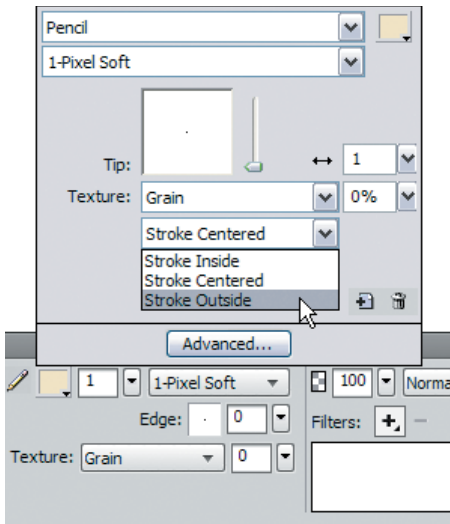
This mismatch is due to the default stroke position of Stroke Centered. If this has happened to your object, here is how to fix it.

- 4 Zoom in to 500%.
- 5 Select the Subselection tool.
- 6 Hold down the Shift key, and click on each letter (remember, the letters are no longer a true font, but rendered paths).



- 7 Click on the Stroke Category menu, and choose Stroke Options.

- 8 Change Stroke location to Stroke Outside.



- 9 Click away from the Stroke Options panel to close it.  
Your Site C text should now match the text on the console.

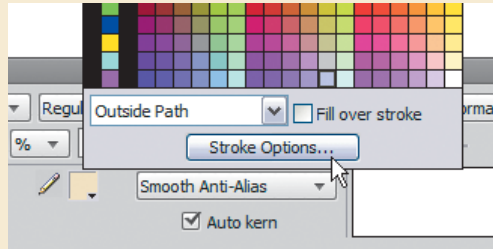


- 10 Save your work.

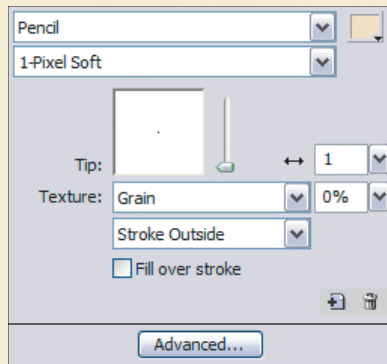
## Stroking real text

The workflow for adding strokes to true text is a little different.

- 1 Select the Text block.
- 2 Choose the Stroke (or Text Outline) color box.
- 3 Choose Stroke Options.



- 4 Select the type of stroke you want (in our example, it was Pencil > 1-Pixel Soft).



- 5 Press Enter or Return.

If your stroke color changed during the selection process, just click on the Stroke color box again, and choose your color (in our example, this value was #F3E8C9).

# Working with Adobe AIR

Fireworks supports four AIR mouse events: Close, Drag, Minimize, and Maximize. Just like rollovers or hyperlinks, AIR events must be attached to a web object (a slice or a hotspot). If the area being used as an AIR event doesn't require a rollover, you can use a hotspot. If you do need a rollover effect (as is the case with our Close button), you've got to use a slice to enable image swapping. You will add hotspots and mouse events to various parts of the console so users can drag the prototype around on their desktop. You will also add a mouse event to the Close button.

## What is AIR?

AIR (Adobe Integrated Runtime) is a cross-platform runtime environment for building rich Internet applications using Adobe Flash, Adobe Flex, HTML, or Ajax. Unlike traditional web applications, the AIR application runs on your desktop without a web browser, often as a floating panel. Some examples of AIR applications are Adobe's Kuler panel ([www.adobe.com/products/kuler/faq/](http://www.adobe.com/products/kuler/faq/)) and Twhirl ([www.twhirl.org](http://www.twhirl.org)) by Seesmic, for Twitter.

To learn more about AIR, visit the AIR product section ([www.adobe.com/products/air](http://www.adobe.com/products/air)) on Adobe's website.

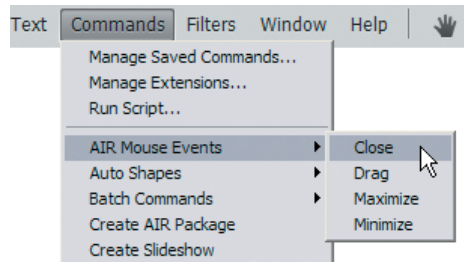
## Adding AIR events

You will now add an AIR mouse event to the Close button.

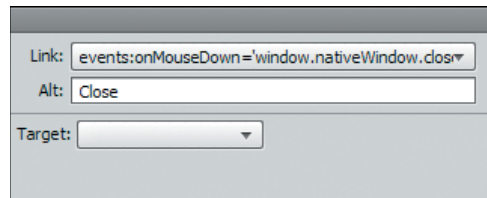
- 1 Choose the home page from the Pages panel.
- 2 Click Show Slices And Hotspots in the Tools panel if the slices and hotspots are not visible.
- 3 Select the slice that covers the Close button (the pictogram of the hikers).



- 4 Choose Commands > AIR Mouse Events > Close.

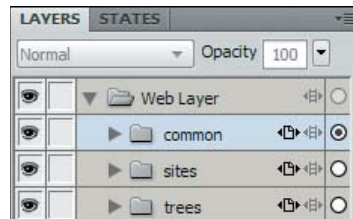


Nothing changes in the slice, but if you look down to the Property inspector, you will see that some JavaScript has been added, along with some alt text.

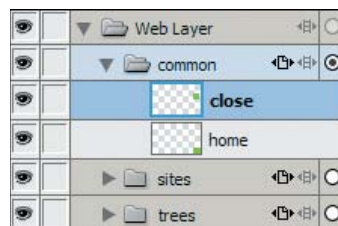


This AIR event has already been added to the other pages, using a shared web layer.

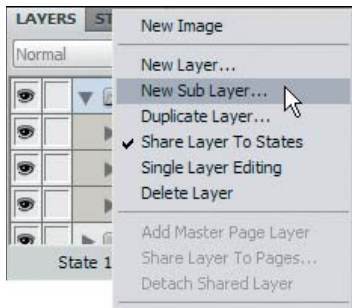
- 5 Switch to the sites page, and select the slice over the Close button. The Property inspector displays the same JavaScript code and alt text.
- 6 Expand the Web Layer in the Layers panel.
- 7 Expand the common web sublayer. It stores the slices for both the close and home slices.



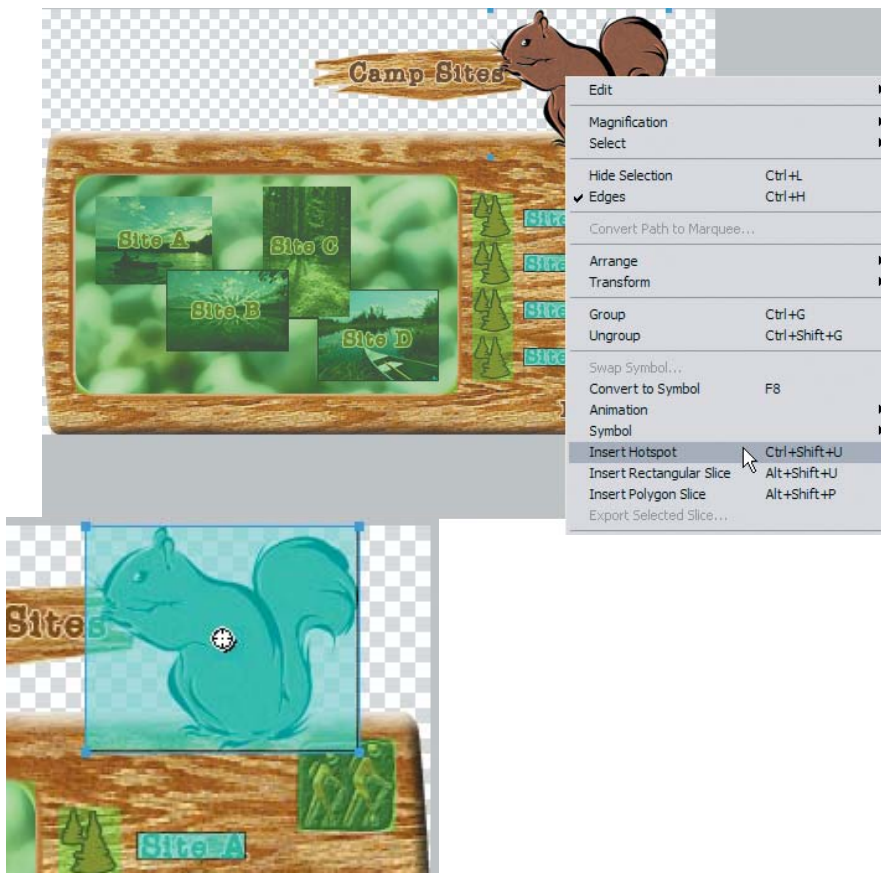
- 8 The common sublayer was not shared to the home page because there was no need to have a home link on that page.



- 9 Select the main Web Layer in the Layers panel again.
- 10 Choose New Sub Layer from the Layers panel menu.



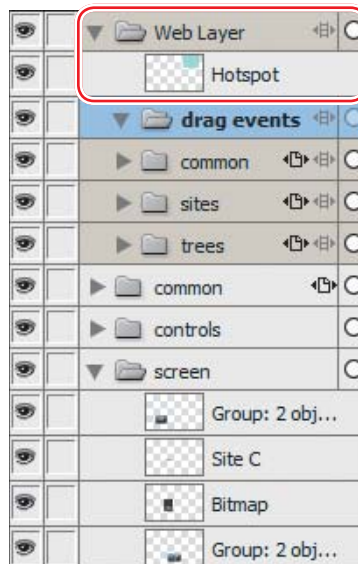
- 11 Name this new web layer **drag events**. Note that even web sublayers are shared across states.
- 12 Right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac) on the squirrel illustration, and choose Insert Hotspot.



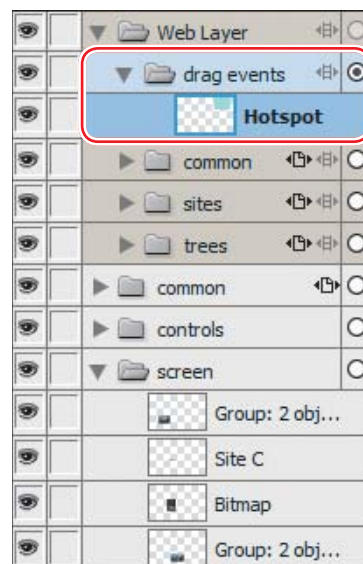
- 13** Use the Pointer tool to resize the hotspot, so it doesn't overlap the Close button.



- 14** Check the Layers panel. The new hotspot may not be nested in the drag events sublayer. If it's not, move it there now by cutting and pasting the hotspot or by dragging the layer to the correct position in the Layers panel, as shown here.



Not inside the drag layer

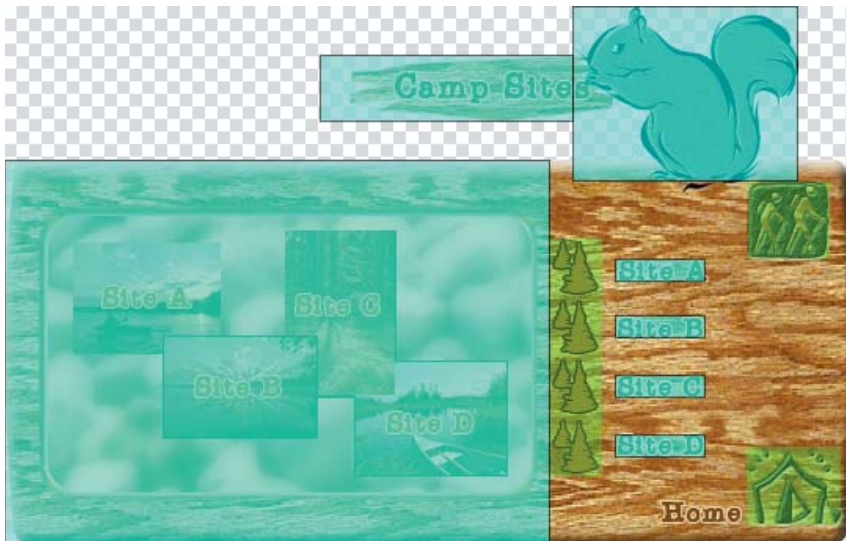


Inside the drag layer

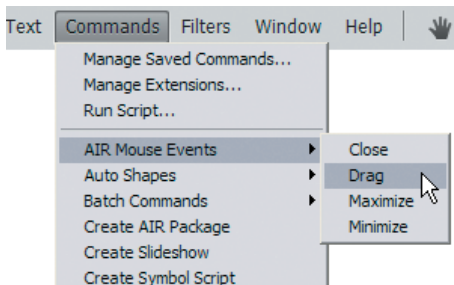
- 15** Make sure the new hotspot is selected. This will force additional hotspots to be created above the current one, but they will still be nested in the drag events sublayer.
- 16** On the canvas, draw a rectangular hotspot around the Camp Sites sign.



- 17** Draw one more hotspot, covering the entire console from the left corner to just before the tree rollover slices.



- 18** Select all three hotspots, and then choose Commands > AIR Mouse Events > Drag.



- 19 Right-click (or Control-click) on the drag events sublayer, and choose Share Layer To All Pages, as we want this shared with every page in our mockup.
- 20 Save the file.

## AIR mouse events

You can attach specific mouse events to hotspots or slices in your AIR mockup. Select the web element (slice or hotspot), and then choose Commands > AIR Mouse Events. You can choose from four options:

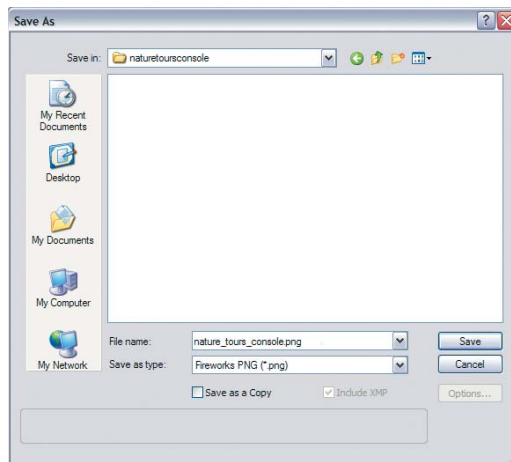
- **Close.** Closes the application.
- **Drag.** Applied to a web object, this option lets the user drag the application around the desktop.
- **Maximize.** Maximizes the application.
- **Minimize.** Minimizes the application.

## Creating an AIR prototype

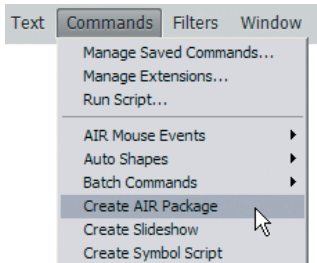
Yes, you are finally at the point where you create the prototype! Much like an HTML prototype, this gives you and the client a chance to interact with a simulation of the AIR application before any time is spent coding the real thing.

First you should save this file to its own directory. This makes the rest of the process a little easier.

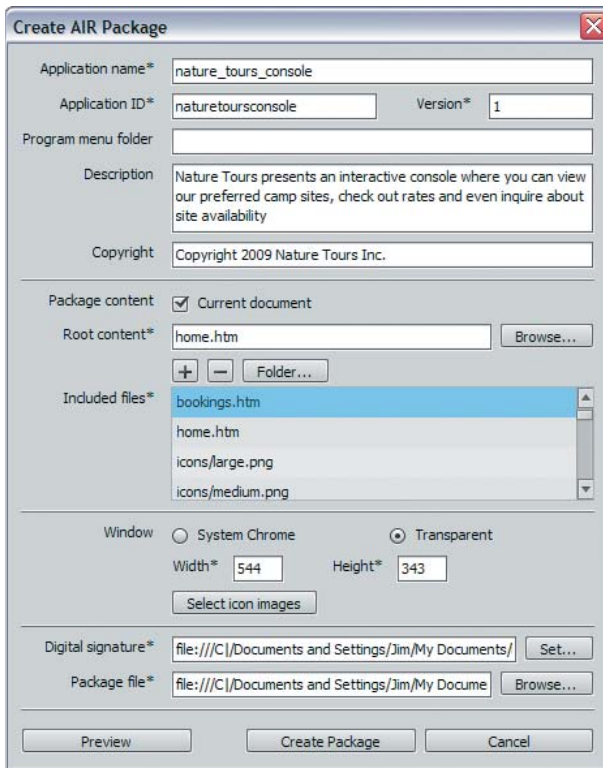
- 1 Choose File > Save As.
- 2 Create a new folder inside the Lesson13 folder, and call it **naturetoursconsole**.
- 3 Open this folder, if necessary, and save the PNG.



- 4 Copy the Lesson13/icons folder to the naturetoursconsole folder.
- 5 Choose Commands > Create AIR Package.



The Create AIR Package dialog box appears, and it's a big one.



Complete the Create AIR Package dialog box as follows:

- **Application Name.** Specify the name that appears on installation screens when users install the application. By default, the filename is used, but you can change this.
- **Application ID (required).** Enter a unique ID for your application. Don't use spaces or special characters in the ID. By default, the filename is used.
- **Version (required).** Specify a version number for your application. The default value is 1.
- **Program Menu Folder (Affects Windows only).** Specify the folder in the Windows Start Menu where you want the shortcut to the application created.
- **Description.** A description of the application to be displayed when the user installs the application. The description we used is: Nature Tours presents an interactive console where you can view our preferred campsites, check out rates, and even inquire about site availability.

## Transparent chrome in AIR prototypes

One of the unique characteristics of an AIR application is that it can “float” on your desktop. So you could have a custom shape to the application interface—much like we have in our nature tours console—and you will see only the application, not the background of the original PNG file, surrounding the design.

To use this look, make sure your canvas color is set to transparent and that you use PNG 32 as your Optimization setting. This file has already been set to PNG 32.

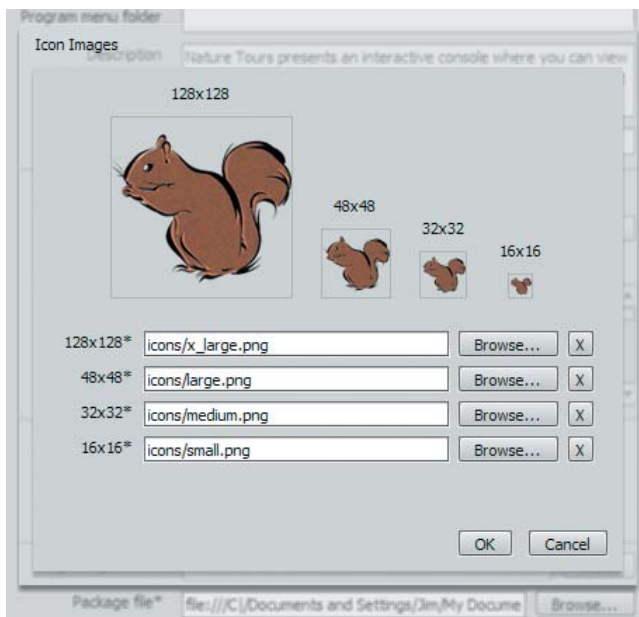
● **Note:** Fireworks generates all the graphics needed for the prototype at this stage, so it's not unusual for Fireworks to become nonresponsive for a couple of minutes as it runs through all the pages in the design.

- **Copyright (Affects Mac only).** Include copyright information to be displayed in the About information for Adobe AIR applications installed on OS X.
- **Package Content.** Select Current Document to automatically select the folder from which the files are to be included. The resulting list will be simpler if your PNG file is in its own folder rather than, for example, your desktop or main documents folder. This is why you saved the PNG file to its own folder earlier.
- **Root Content.** Browse to select the page that appears as the root content (starting screen of the prototype). If you selected Current Document, the root content is automatically set.
- **Included Files.** Specify the files or folders to include in your application. You can add additional HTML and CSS files, image files, and JavaScript library files. Click the plus button (+) to add files, and click Folder to add folders. To delete a file or folder from your list, select the file or folder, and click the minus button (-).

The files or folders you include in the Adobe AIR package must be in the root content folder. Scroll through this list and locate the original PNG file. Select it, and then click the minus sign (-). The PNG file is not necessary for the AIR app, and this will reduce the file size of the AIR file.

- **System Chrome and Transparent.** System Chrome surrounds the prototype with the standard window control of the operating system. Transparent lets you use your own custom chrome instead. Choose Transparent.
- **Width and Height.** Specify the dimensions of your application window in pixels when it opens. Depending on your page sizes, outer glows, and drop shadows, you may need to increase the dimensions slightly to prevent scroll bars from appearing. Set the dimensions to 545 and 345, respectively.
- **Select Icon Images.** You can select custom images for the application icons. Select the folder for each icon size, and select the image file you want to use. Only PNG files are supported for application icon images.

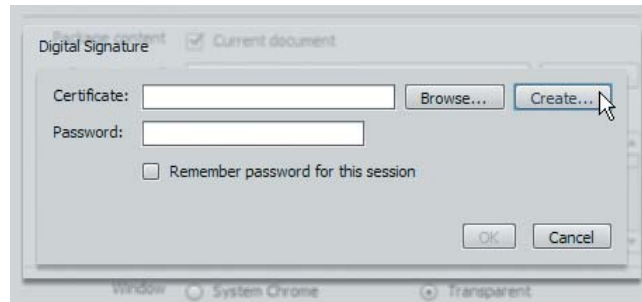
Click the button and for each of the four icons, browse to the icon folder you copied over to the naturetoursconsole folder. Match the 16x16 pixel icon with the small.png file, the 32x32 pixel icon with the medium.png file, and so on. These icon files must be in the root directory in order to be selected.



- **Digital Signature (required).** All Adobe AIR applications require a digital signature in order to be installed.

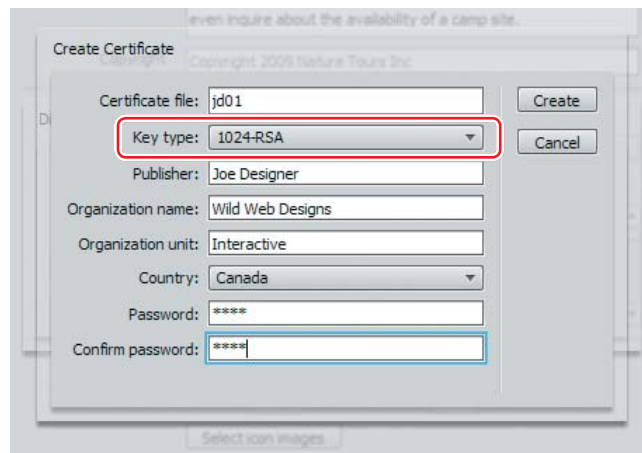
To add a digital signature, click the Set button next to the Digital Signature field, and do one of the following:

- **To sign an application with a digital certificate that you have already purchased,** click the Browse button, select the certificate, enter the corresponding password, and click OK.

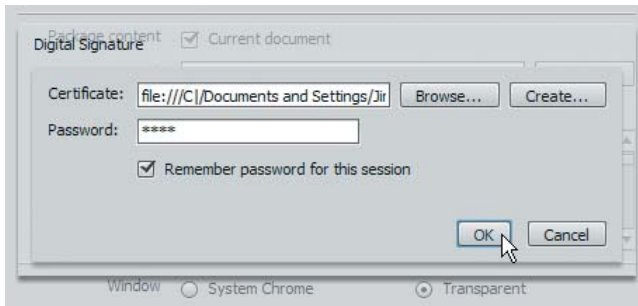


The Key Type option refers to the level of security of the certificate: 1024-RSA uses a 1024-bit key (less secure) and 2048-RSA uses a 2048-bit key (more secure).

- **To create your own self-signed digital certificate,** click the Create button. You must fill in every field in order for the Create button to become active. You can use the settings in the figure below as a guide.

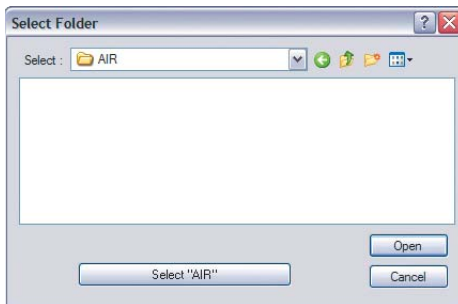


When you're finished, click Create. Then enter the corresponding password in the Password field of the Digital Signature dialog box, and click OK.



- **Package File (required).** Specify the folder to save the new application installer (.air file). The default location is the site root. Click the Browse button to select a different location.

Create a new folder called AIR in the naturetoursconsole folder, and select the new AIR folder as the location to place the installer package.



The only file required by the user will be the AIR installation file. All the necessary files are added to the AIR installer by Fireworks.

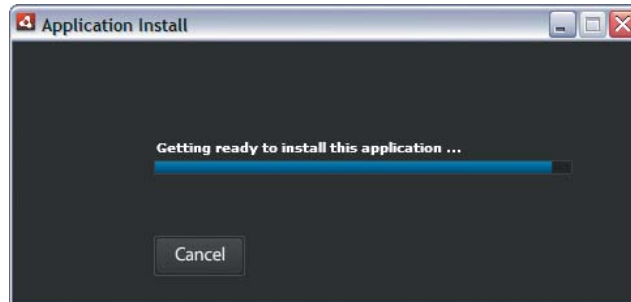
- 6 Before you click the create button, test out the prototype by clicking Preview. Fireworks builds a temporary version of the prototype and launches it. You can test interaction and check for unsightly scroll bars at this time. Click the prototype's Close button (the hiker pictogram) to exit the application.
- 7 Click Create Package.

## Installing the prototype

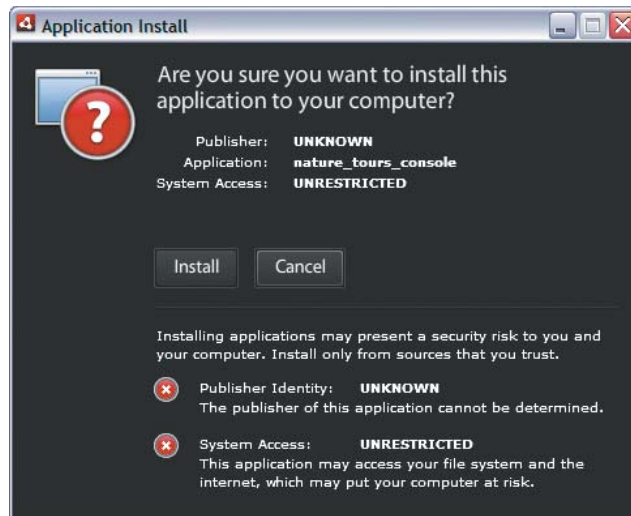
You will test the installation of the AIR prototype now. In order to do this, you may have to have administrator rights on your computer, because this is like installing a real software application.

- 1 Browse to the AIR folder, and double-click on the `nature_tours_console.air` file to launch the installer.

An AIR Application Install window will open.



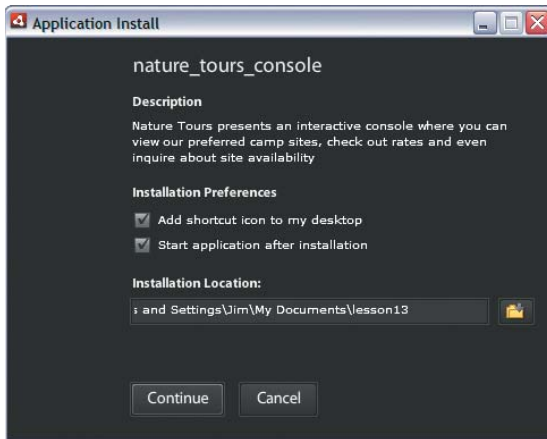
You may be prompted whether or not you wish to install this program, as it is created by an unknown publisher.



- 2 We'll assume you trust yourself. Click Install.

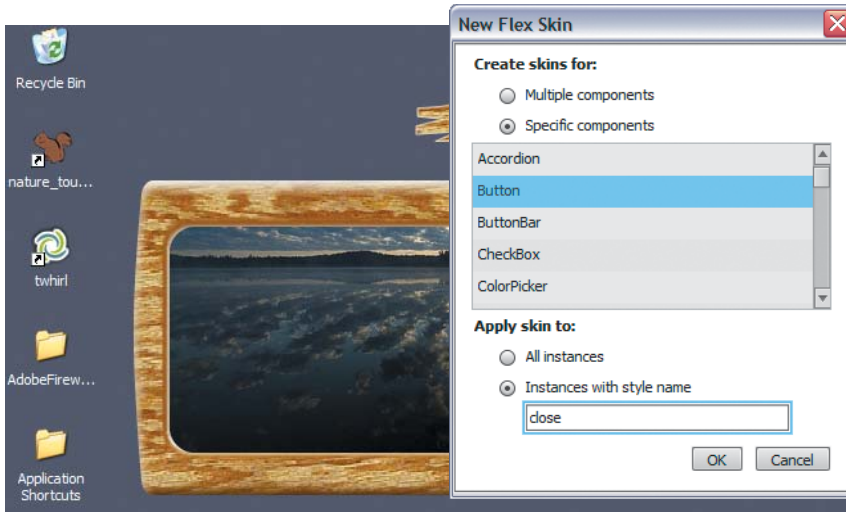
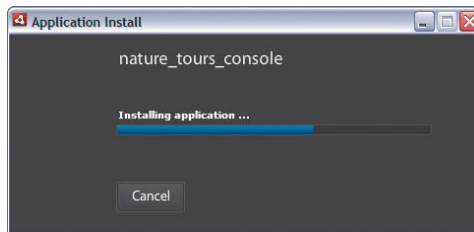
The window contents will change, displaying the description you wrote earlier and giving you options for adding a shortcut icon to the desktop, whether to start the application after installation, and where to install the application.

- 3 Change the installation location to the Lesson13 folder, so it is easy for you to find and remove the application afterward.



The application will take a minute or two to install.

Once installed, the application will start. If you accepted the defaults, you will also see a shortcut icon on the desktop. The smallest icon will also display in the application bar.



- 4 You can experiment with the prototype or just close it by clicking the Close button.

# Flex skinning

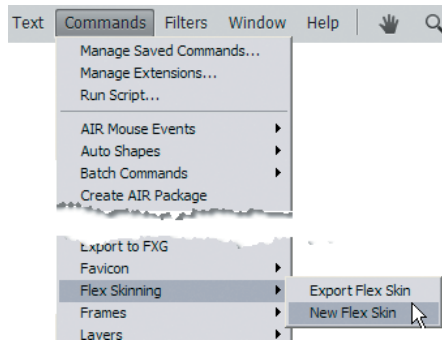
Before you say goodbye to the nature tours console file, you will look at how to convert the graphics into a form that a Flex application developer can use. Fireworks has a default Flex skin from which you can modify either a single component or multiple ones.

## Creating a Flex skin

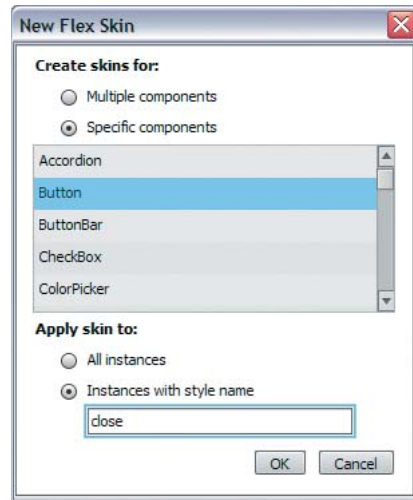
In this exercise, you'll learn to skin a button, using the Close button as an example.

Make sure your nature\_tours\_console file has been saved, and keep it open within Fireworks.

- 1 Choose Commands > Flex Skinning > New Flex Skin.



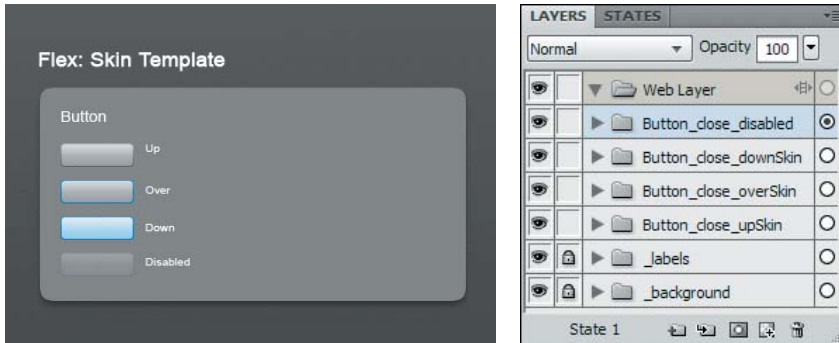
- 2 In the New Flex Skin dialog box, choose Specific Components.
- 3 Select Button from the list of components.
- 4 For Apply Skin To, choose Instances With Style Name, and type **close** in the input field. (There are other buttons in this prototype, so it's a good idea to use style names so the right skin is applied to the right button.)



● **Note:** In a real-life scenario, we recommend you talk with your Flex developer first, to make sure you are both using the same style-naming conventions.

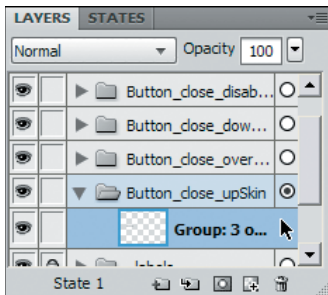
- 5 Click OK.

A standard Flex button template opens within Fireworks.



**Note:** The Layers panel is populated with a series of prebuilt layers. When skinning a Flex component, it is very important that you do not delete or rename any of the layers in the file.

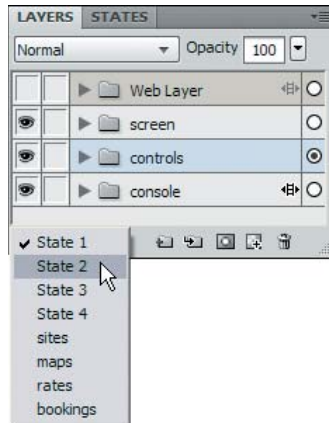
- 6 Switch back to the home page of the console design, and click Hide Slices And Hotspots in the Tools panel if the web objects are showing.
- 7 Select the Close button.
- 8 Choose Edit > Copy.
- 9 Switch back to the skin template, and expand the Button\_close\_upSkin layer.



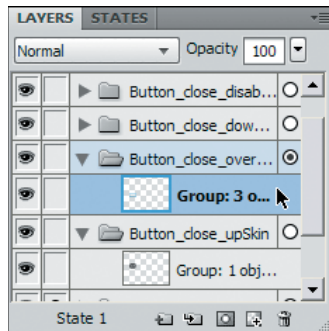
- 10 Select the group in that layer, and delete it.
- 11 Choose Edit > Paste to paste the Up state of the Close button in the layer.
- 12 Reposition the button where you see fit.



- 13** Return to the console design, and select State 2 from the bottom of the Layers panel.



- 14** Select the Over iteration of the Close button, and copy it.
- 15** Switch back to the Flex template.
- 16** Expand the Button\_close\_overSkin layer; and delete the group of objects making up the existing button.



- 17** Paste the copied Over console button.
- 18** Reposition as necessary. Don't worry about lining up the buttons with the labels; those labels are simply there to tell you what button is for which state.

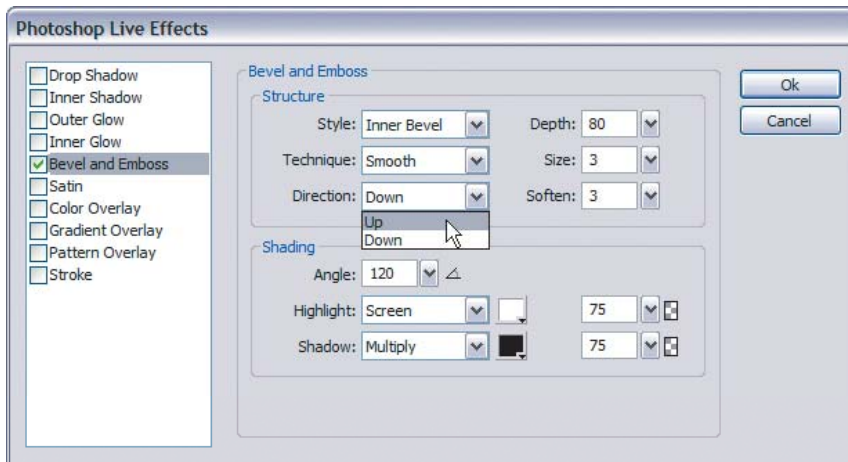
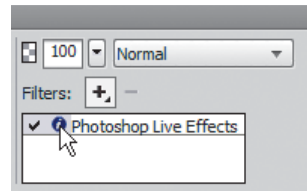
## Adding additional button states

Our current button in Fireworks contains only two states, but you will quickly add the two final states to the template.

- 1 Expand the Button\_close\_downSkin layer, and delete the original button's group.
- 2 Paste in the Over iteration of the console button.

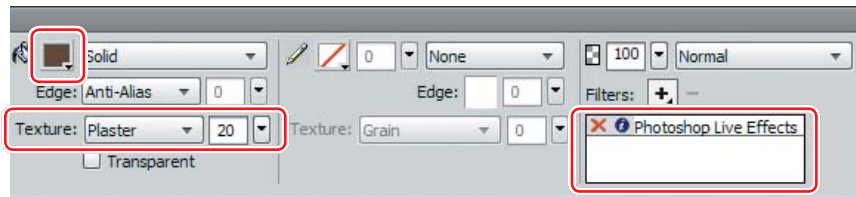


- 3 In the Property inspector, click the *i* icon next to the Photoshop Live Effects filter.
- 4 Change the direction of the bevel from Down to Up, and click OK.

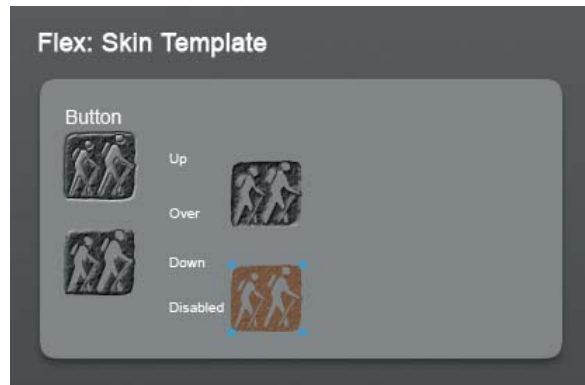


- 5 Delete the button from the Button\_close\_disabled layer, and paste in the Up state of your button again. You can copy the Up state from the Flex skinning template you're working on instead of going back to the console.
- 6 Change the Fill color to #71400F.

- 7 Reduce the plaster texture to **20%**.
- 8 Turn off the Photoshop Live Effect by clicking on the checkmark beside the filter name. We have highlighted the three areas to change in the figure below.



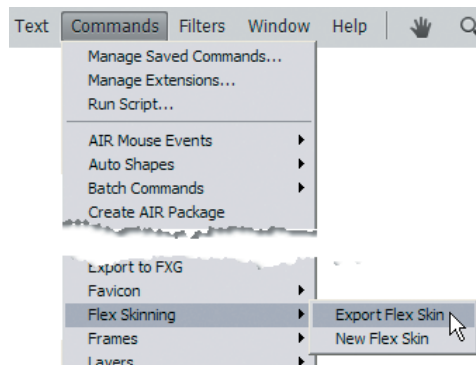
- 9 Your new button template should look something like this image. Again, placement of the button states on the canvas doesn't matter, as long as they're in the correct layers.



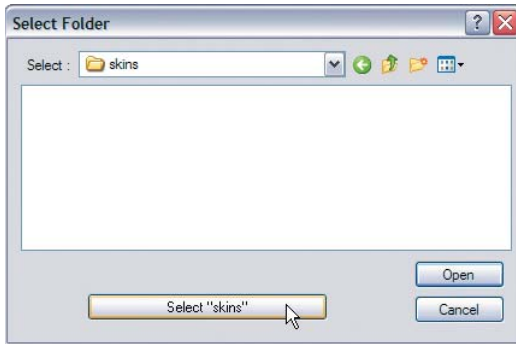
## Exporting the skin

The last step is to export the button template.

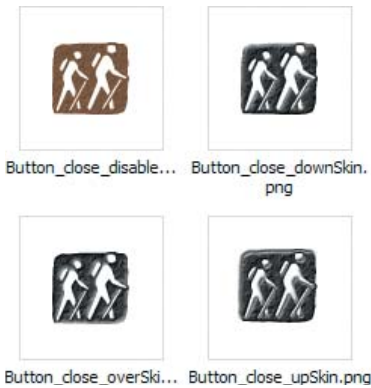
- 1 Choose **Commands > Flex Skinning > Export Flex Skin**.



- 2 Browse to the Lesson13 folder, and create a new folder called **skins**.
- 3 Open this folder, if necessary, and click the Select “skins” (Windows) or Choose (Mac) button.



Fireworks exports out just the four states of the button to this folder.



## Flex skinning resources

In-depth discussion about Flex or skinning entire applications is beyond the scope of this book, but we won't leave you hanging! Here are a few resources that you can continue on with, if you are interested in learning more about Flex skinning.

- **Adobe Developer Center** ([www.adobe.com/devnet/flex/](http://www.adobe.com/devnet/flex/))
- **Layers Magazine** ([www.layersmagazine.com/fireworks-cs4-flex-skinning.html](http://www.layersmagazine.com/fireworks-cs4-flex-skinning.html))
- **ScaleNine** ([www.scalenine.com/](http://www.scalenine.com/))

# Fireworks and Dreamweaver

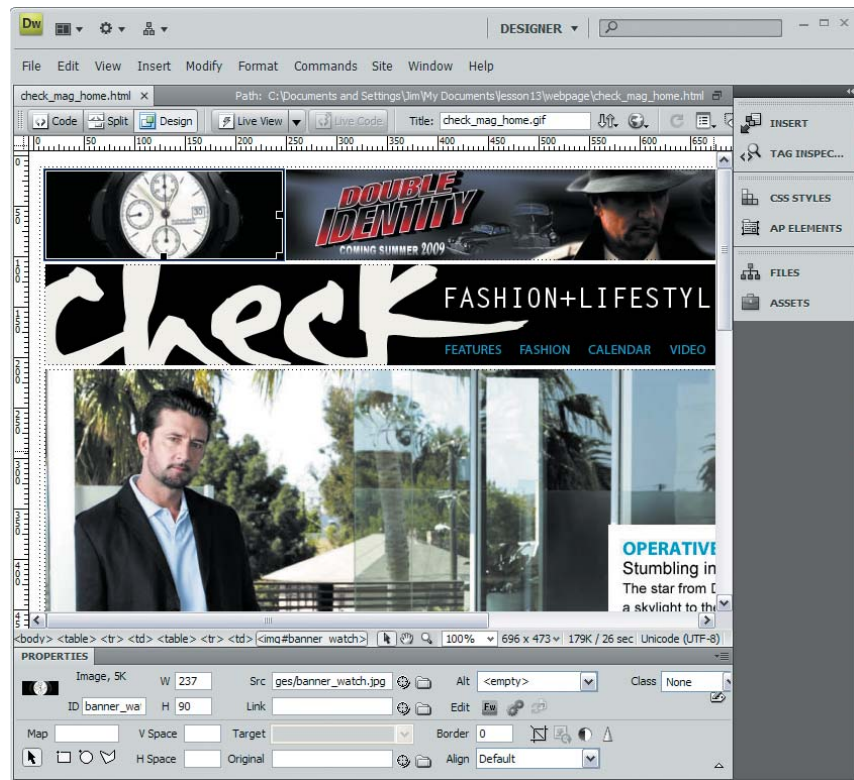
It's no surprise that products within Adobe Creative Suite are meant to play well together—they are a *suite*, after all. In this section, you'll learn some techniques for making the most of the integration between Fireworks and Dreamweaver.

## Copying and pasting to Dreamweaver

When working on a website design in Dreamweaver, you can quickly add objects from a Fireworks design directly into Dreamweaver.

- 1 Start Dreamweaver.
- 2 Open the check\_mag\_home.html file from the webpage folder of the Lesson13 folder.

● **Note:** This exercise requires the use of Dreamweaver. If you do not own Dreamweaver, feel free to either skip this section, or download the 30-day, fully functional trial version of Dreamweaver from Adobe at [www.adobe.com/downloads](http://www.adobe.com/downloads).



Another watch image has been sent as a seasonal replacement for the existing watch promo image. The client has requested the blue background be removed and replaced with a gradient background.

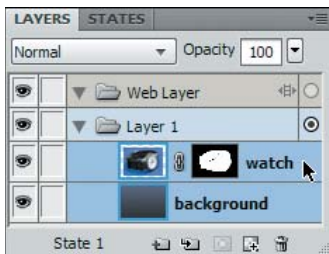


This work has already been done in the file called watch.png, using a bitmap mask and a gradient filled rectangle.



The image is currently not the right dimensions for the watch promo section of the banner. You will create the correct image size without affecting the original file in any way.

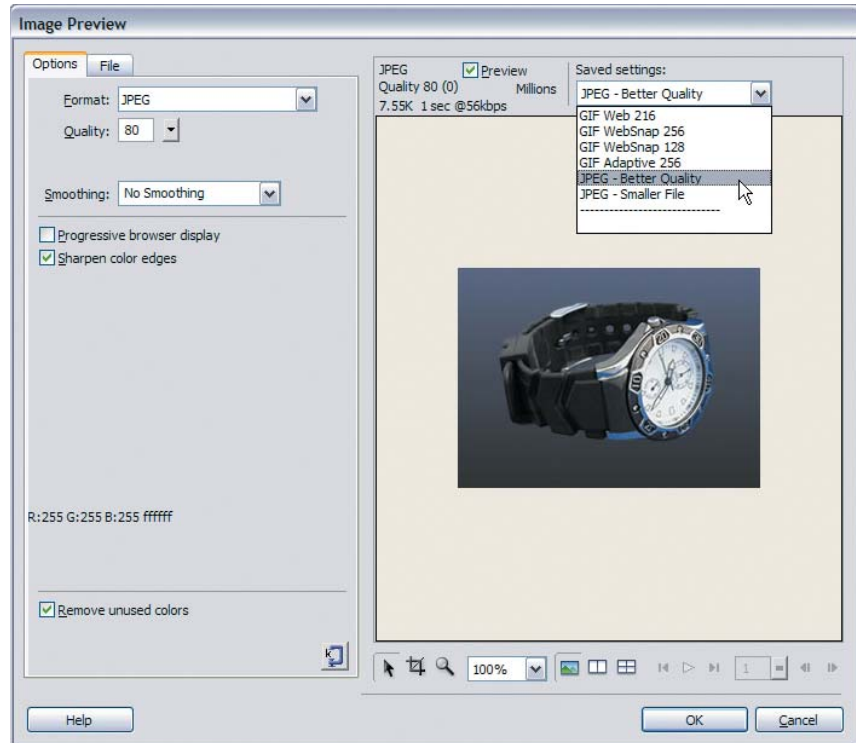
- 3** In Fireworks, open the watch.png file in the Lesson13 folder.
- 4** In the Layers panel, hold down the Shift key and select both the watch and the background.



- 5 Choose Edit > Copy.
- 6 Switch to Dreamweaver.
- 7 Select the original watch image, and delete it.
- 8 Choose Edit > Paste.

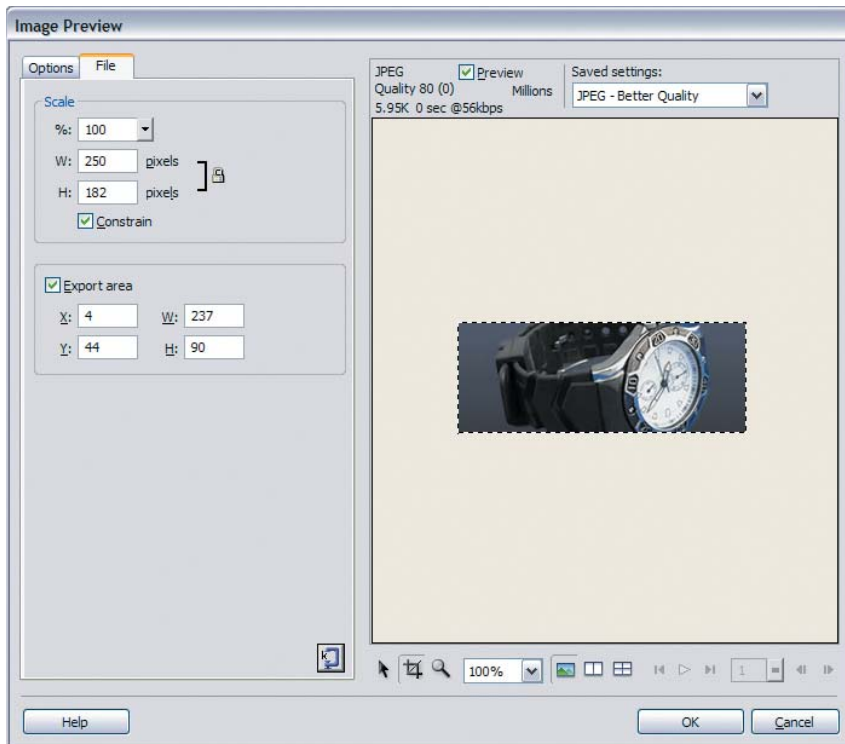
The Image Preview window opens. This is the same Image Preview window you can access from Fireworks, but in this case, it's initiated by Dreamweaver.

- 9 In the Options pane, set the file format to JPEG – Better Quality.

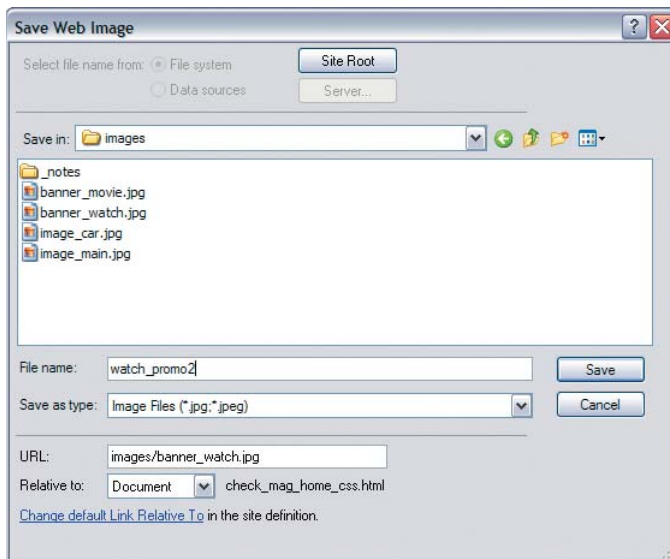


- 10 Switch to the File tab, and then select the Export Area option.
- 11 Type 237 in the width field and 90 in the height field. These are the dimensions of the original watch image.

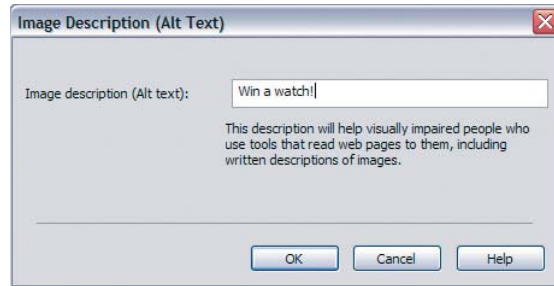
- 12 Type 4 in the x field and 44 in the y field, and click OK.



The Save Web Image dialog box appears.



- 13 Browse to the images folder within the webpage folder of the Lesson13 folder.
- 14 Rename the file to **watch\_promo2.jpg**, and click Save.  
The Image Description (Alt Text) dialog box appears.
- 15 Type **Win the Watch!** in the Alt Text field, and click OK.



The new, cropped image appears on the page, where the old image used to be.



- 16 Return to Fireworks; you will see the original PNG file remains unchanged.
- 17 Close the watch.png file without saving.

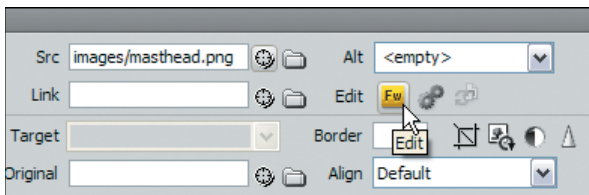
## Roundtrip editing

Another request has come in—this one for a change to the navigation bar. The client would prefer the navigation text to be closer to the right and with more spacing between each link. You will make this change using roundtrip editing.

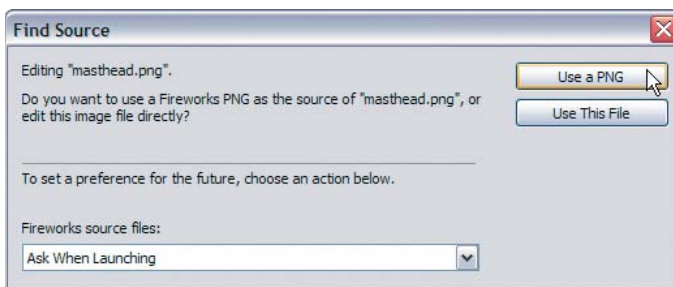
- 1 Select the navigation bar image within Dreamweaver.



- 2 In the Property inspector, click the Edit icon.



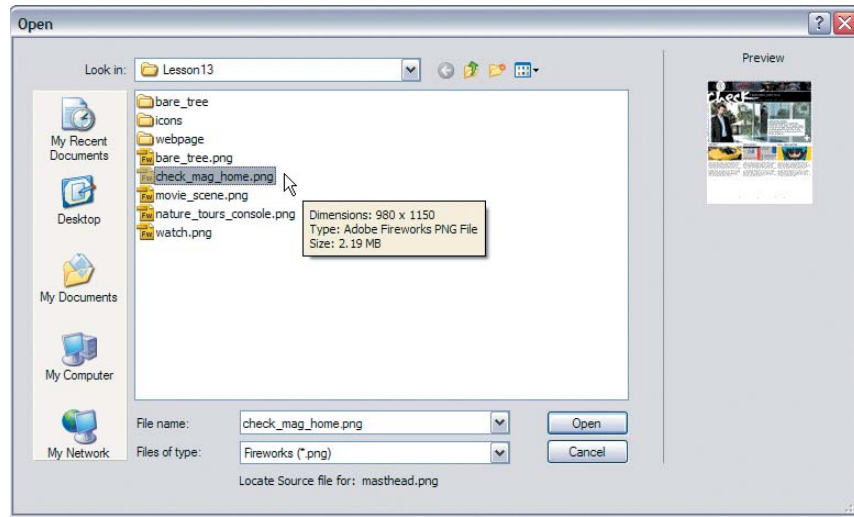
The Find Source dialog box appears, asking whether you want to edit this individual image or locate the Fireworks PNG file.



- 3 Click the Use A PNG button.

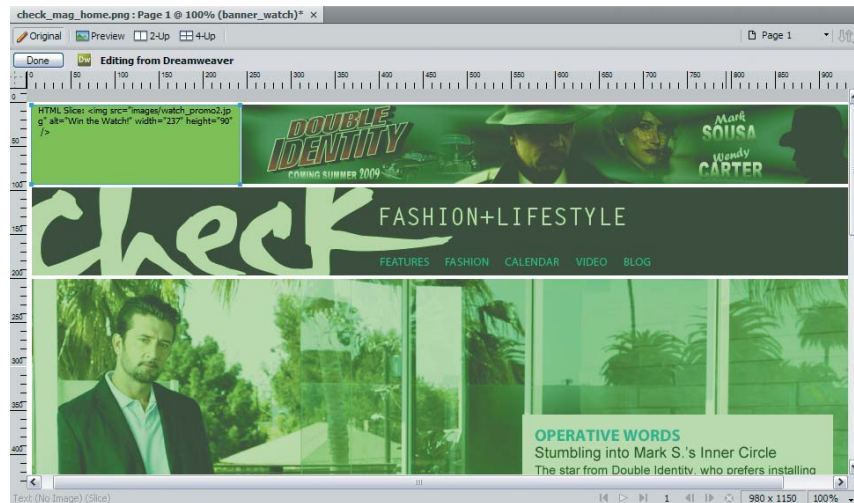
**Note:** Editing the PNG file works properly only if the page was originally exported as HTML And Images. If the file was exported as CSS And Images, roundtrip editing will have a negative effect on the HTML page.

The Open dialog box appears.

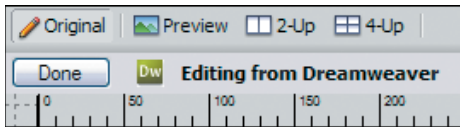


- 4 Locate and open the check\_mag\_home.png file in the Lesson13 folder.

The file opens with two differences. The watch image slice is now a bright green HTML slice. The reason for this is the image was changed within Dreamweaver, and the new watch image is not part of the original PNG file. In order to maintain the new image, an HTML slice is applied rather than the original image slice.



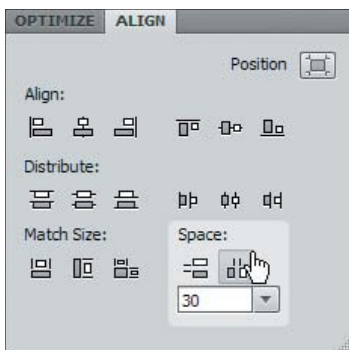
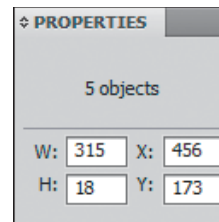
You will also see a Done button and the status message, Editing From Dreamweaver, near the top of the document window.



- 5 Click Hide Slices And Hotspots in the Tools panel.
- 6 Select the five text links using the Pointer tool.



- 7 In the Property inspector, change the X value to 456.
- 8 Open the Align panel, and change the Spacing value to 30.
- 9 Click the Space Evenly Horizontally icon to spread the text links apart.



**10** Reveal the hotspots and reposition the navigation hotspots so they cover the links again.

**11** Click the Done button.

You are returned to Dreamweaver, and the navigation bar has been updated to reflect the changes in the PNG. The PNG file is saved automatically.



## Three-slice technique for content containers

A very common visual technique for containing web content is to put the content inside some sort of container, often called a *pod*, which can expand vertically or horizontally to contain additional content. The three-slice technique creates a pod that expands in one dimension while the other dimension remains fixed.

In this exercise—we're back in Fireworks now—you will create the slices for vertically flexible pods for the Bare Tree Society website.

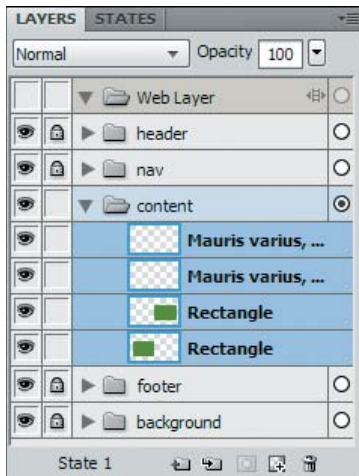
**1** Open the `bare_tree.png` file from the Lesson13 folder.



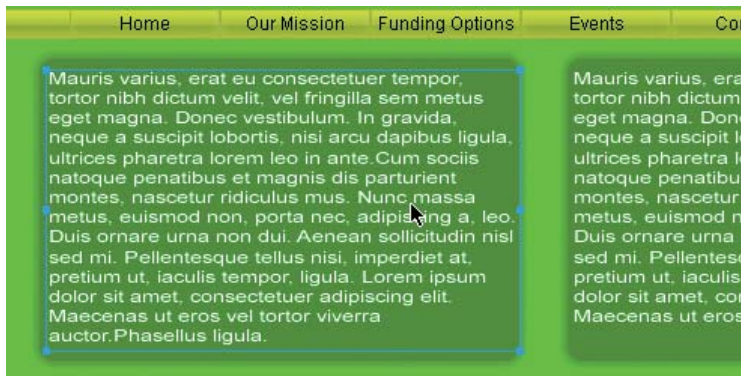
Conveniently, both pods are the same width, so you need only slice up one pod and use the same exported graphics for both pods in the final web design.

In order to create slices that will export only the pod areas and not the text, you will have to hide the text in one pod.

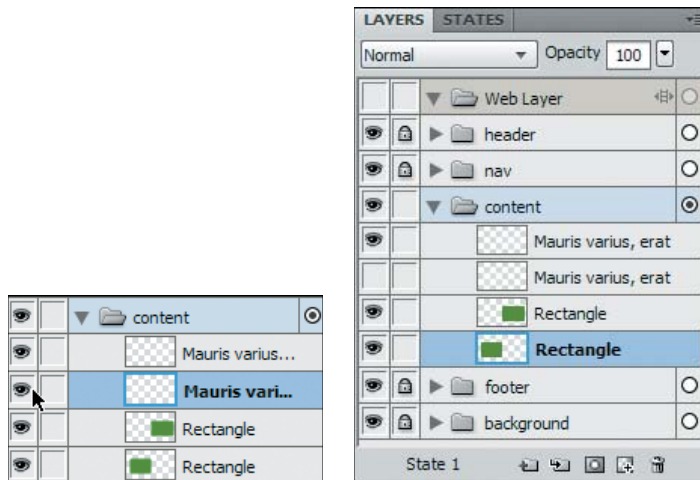
The content layer holds all the elements for the content area of the design: two text blocks and two rounded rectangles.



- 2 Select the text in the left pod with the Pointer tool.



- 3 Locate the selected object in the Layers panel, and hide the object by clicking its Show/Hide box (👁).

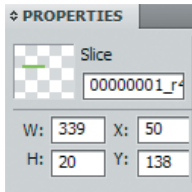


- 4 On the canvas, right-click (or Control-click) on the rounded rectangle, and choose Insert Rectangular Slice.

This slice will cover the entire rectangle, including the outer glow. When you have shapes that use glows or drop shadows, letting Fireworks create the initial slice can be more accurate.



- 5 In the Property inspector, change the height of the slice to 20 pixels.



► **Tip:** If you hold Shift while pressing the arrows, your slice will move ten pixels at a time instead of just one pixel.

- 6 Choose Edit > Clone to create an exact copy of the slice.
- 7 Use the Down Arrow key to reposition this new slice below the original slice.

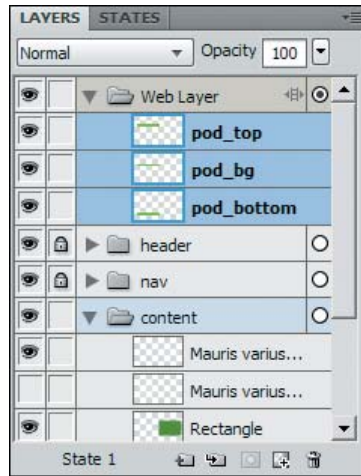


- 8 Change the height to 10 pixels in the Property inspector. This will become the repeating background image for the pod. Its exact Y position is not too important, as long as it doesn't overlap the other slices.
- 9 Select the top slice and clone it again.
- 10 Use the arrow keys to reposition the new slice at the bottom of the pod. The Y value for the new slice position will be 338.



- 11 Select all three slices, and change the Slice Export Settings option to JPEG – Better Quality from within the Property inspector.

- 12** Name the slices appropriately in the Layers panel: **pod\_top**, **pod\_bg**, and **pod\_bottom**.



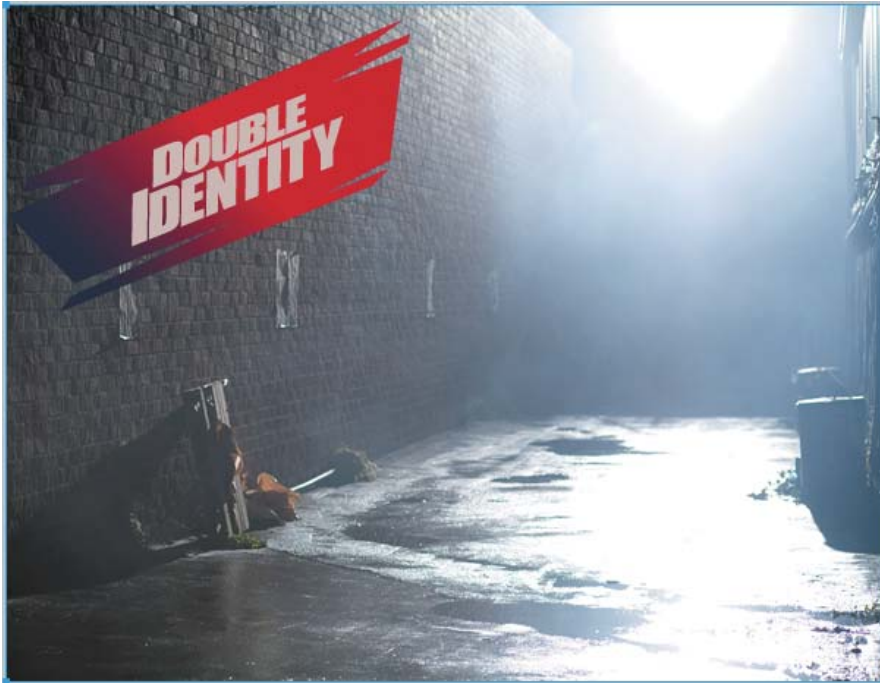
Once the graphics have been exported, the design can be assembled in Dreamweaver using a combination of HTML and CSS. There are several different ways to achieve this result. In this figure, you see how adding additional content to a container within Dreamweaver expands the left container, leaving the right container unaffected.



# Fireworks and Flash

Fireworks and Flash work together in a couple different ways. Fireworks PNG files can be imported into Flash as movie clips, maintaining the layer structure of the PNG file. Flattened bitmaps can be altered using roundtrip editing—similar to roundtrip editing between Dreamweaver and Fireworks.

You will use the `movie_scene.png` file as a backdrop for a Flash interface promoting the Double Identity movie. It consists of a background image, two text blocks, and a vector path filled with a gradient.



## Preparing files for Flash

Before you jump in to this process, it's best to know what to expect from the process of importing and editing between these two programs.

Transformations such as skewing text are not carried over into Flash. Likewise, custom letter tracking is ignored by Flash. You can convert the type to paths to retain text transformations and tracking, but it will no longer be editable as text with Fireworks or Flash.

Additionally, certain Live Effects and blending modes are not supported in Flash. Table 13.1 and Table 13.2 list the supported features.

**Table 13.1** Fireworks effects supported in Flash

FIREWORKS EFFECT NAME	FLASH FILTER NAME
Drop shadow	Drop shadow
Inner shadow	Drop shadow (with Inner Shadow automatically selected)
Blur	Blur (where blurX = blurY= 1)
Blur more	Blur (where blurX = blurY= 1)
Gaussian blur	Blur
Adjust color	Adjust color brightness
Adjust color	Adjust color contrast

**Table 13.2** Fireworks blending modes supported in Flash

FIREWORKS BLENDING MODE NAME	FLASH BLENDING MODE NAME
Normal	Normal
Darken	Darken
Multiply	Multiply
Lighten	Lighten
Screen	Screen
Overlay	Overlay
Hard light	Hard light
Additive	Add
Difference	Difference
Invert	Invert
Alpha	Alpha
Erase	Erase

## Importing Fireworks documents into Flash

It's important to understand the differences between importing a Fireworks PNG file and importing a flattened bitmap. You will test both methods in this final exercise.

### What are my import options?

**Fireworks PNG.** Import the Fireworks PNG as a multilayered file if you will need to animate or add ActionScript to individual objects within the PNG design. There is no automatic connection between the imported file and the original Fireworks PNG file; if elements within the design require additional editing, you will have to open the source PNG file within Fireworks, make your changes, save the file, and then update the specific object within Flash. The real advantage of this method is that you can bring into Flash a fully layered file, so that your various bitmaps are available as separate objects and your vector elements are editable within the Flash environment. You can also import a specific page from a multipage Fireworks document.

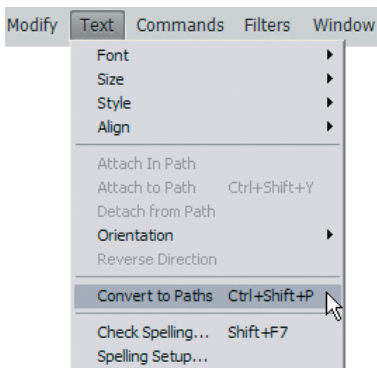
**Flattened bitmap.** Flattening is the process of converting multilayered image file into a single graphic with no individual editable layers or objects. A flattened file is imported into the Flash library using the original filename as its label.

Flattened bitmaps can make use of roundtrip editing by right-clicking (or Control-clicking) the desired object in the Library panel or on the stage.

### Importing a Fireworks PNG

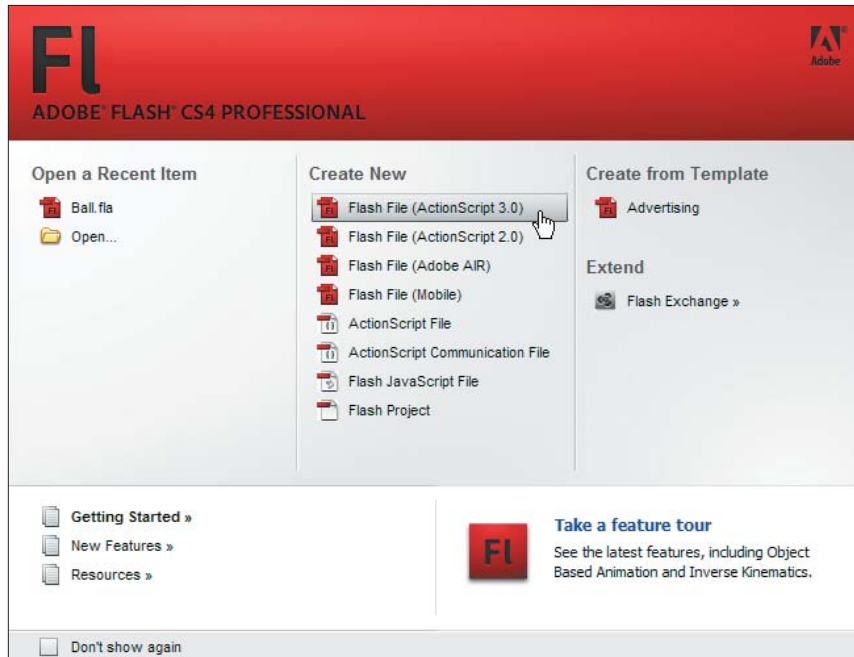
The text in this design has been skewed to a specific angle and has custom tracking applied to different letter pairs in the text block. Flash will discard the tracking and skewing on import, so you will convert the text elements to paths to retain its look.

- 1 In Fireworks, open `movie_scene.png` from the Lesson13 folder.
- 2 Select both text blocks using the Pointer tool.
- 3 Choose Text > Convert To Paths.

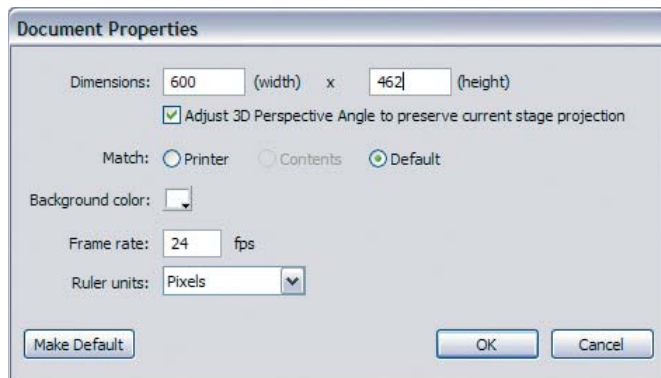


**Note:** This exercise requires the use of Flash. If you do not own Flash, you can either skip this section, or download the 30-day, fully functional trial version of Flash from Adobe at [www.adobe.com/downloads](http://www.adobe.com/downloads).

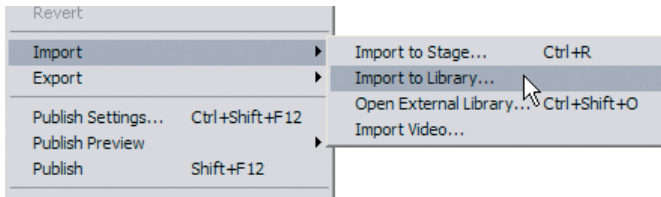
- 4 Save the file as **movie\_scene\_working**.
- 5 Start Flash CS4.
- 6 Choose Flash File (ActionScript 3.0) from the Create New column of the Welcome screen.



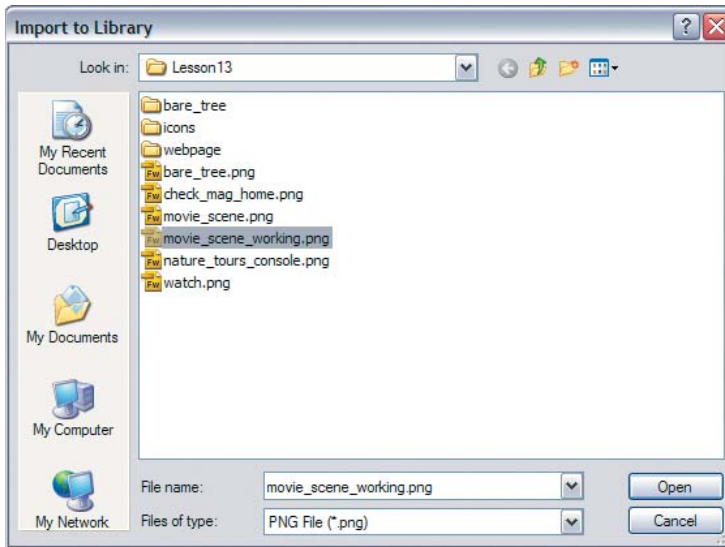
- 7 Choose Modify > Document.
- 8 Change the dimensions of the file to 600 pixels wide by 462 pixels high (same dimensions as our Fireworks design). Leave all other settings at their defaults and click OK.



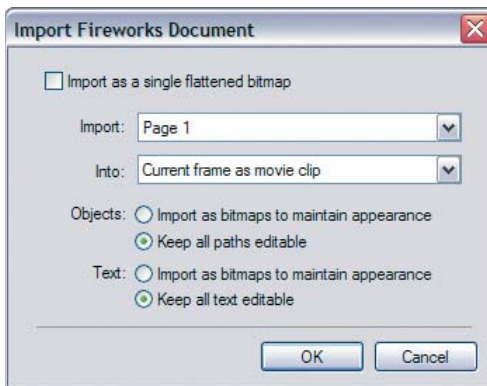
- 9 Choose File > Import > Import To Library.



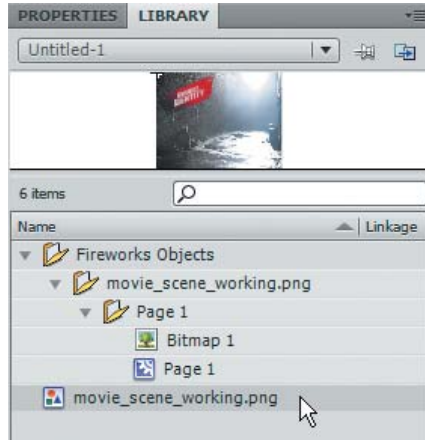
- 10 Browse to the Lesson13 folder, and open the movie\_scene\_working.png file.



- 11 When the Import dialog box appears, use the settings seen in the figure below to keep objects as editable as possible, and click OK.



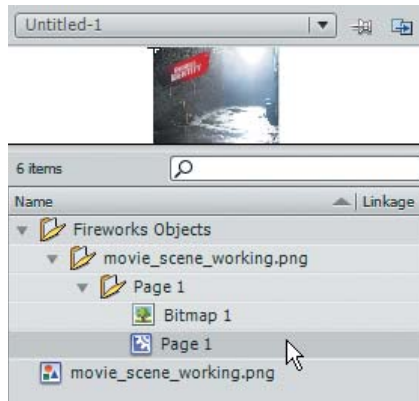
The PNG file is placed in the Library panel.



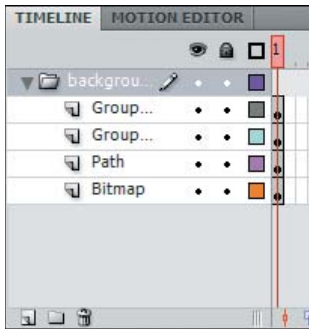
Flash has created a special folder to store the objects from the Fireworks PNG file. The alleyway photo is saved as a separate bitmap, and the vector objects are grouped within the movie clip. Flash also generates a graphic symbol automatically when you import assets directly to the Library.

The layer structure of the PNG file has also been maintained within the movie clip.


- 12** Double-click on the Page 1 movie clip in the Library panel.



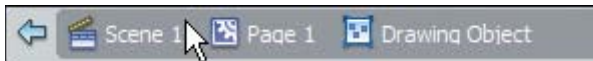
- 13** Open the Timeline panel (Window > Timeline); you will see all four objects in their own layers in the timeline.




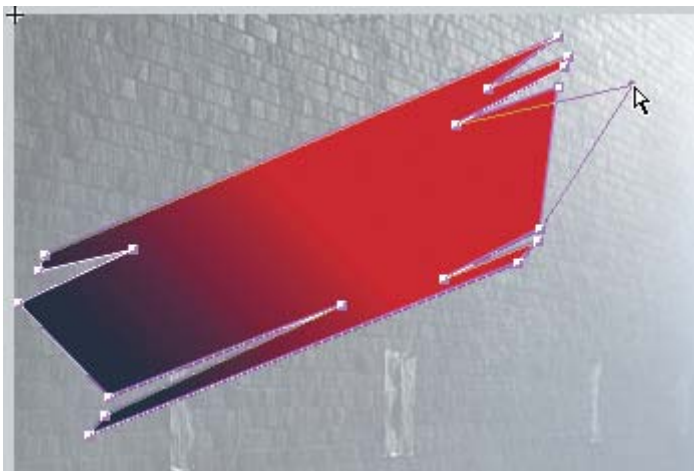
Each vector object within the timeline is editable within Flash.

- 14** Use the Selection tool (  ) to double-click on the red custom vector shape on the stage.

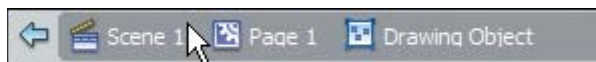
Double-clicking on an object on the stage activates Edit In Place, moving you deeper into the movie clip, as can be seen from the breadcrumb trail above the document window.



- 15** With the Subselection tool (  ), move your cursor near the border of the shape, and click. Vector control handles appear, and, just as in Fireworks, you can drag those control points to alter the shape of the path.
- 16** Drag a control point.



- 17 Press Ctrl+Z (Windows) or Command+Z (Mac) to undo the edit.
- 18 Click the Scene 1 segment of the breadcrumb trail to go back to the main movie clip.

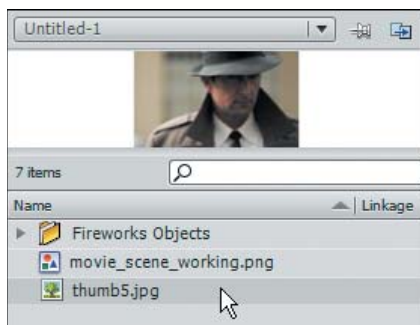


## Importing a flattened bitmap

Bitmap objects cannot be edited within Flash, but this is where Fireworks comes in very handy. Standard bitmap objects are easily imported into Flash.

- 1 Choose File > Import > Import To Library.
- 2 Browse to the Lesson13 folder and select thumb5.jpg.

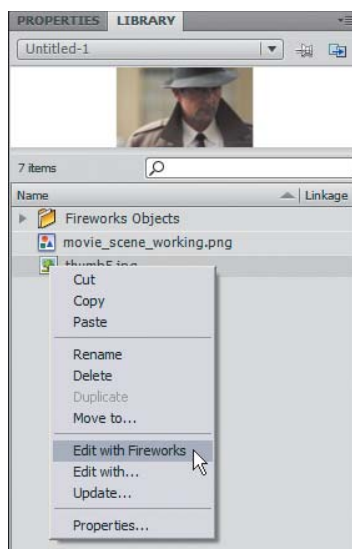
Because this is a flattened image, no dialog box appears. The image is just directly imported into the Library.



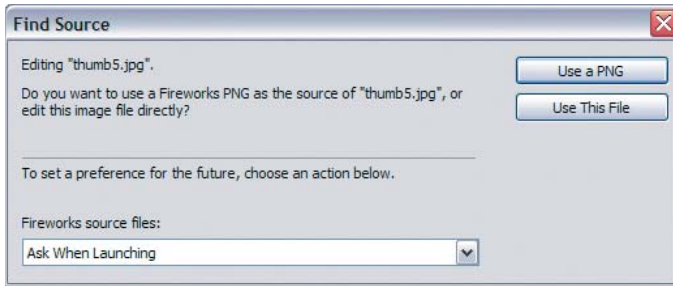
Flattened objects like this image can benefit from the other Flash/Fireworks integration feature, roundtrip editing.

- 3 Right-click (or Control-click) on the image name in the Library panel.
- 4 Choose Edit With Fireworks. If it doesn't say Edit With Fireworks, then choose Edit With, navigate to where Fireworks is located, and open it that way. From then on, it will say Edit With Fireworks, as expected, here.

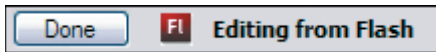
Much like roundtrip editing with Dreamweaver, the Find Source dialog box will appear and you will be asked if you want to edit this image directly or locate a PNG file to make the edits.



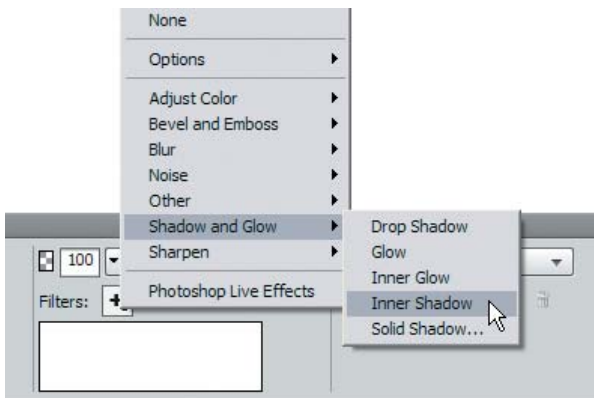
- 5 There is no PNG file for this image, so click the Use This File button.



The image opens in Fireworks, and above the document window you see a Done button and the phrase Editing From Flash.

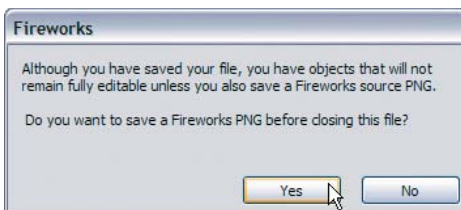


- 6 In the Property inspector, click the Add Live Filters button (+) button to add a Live Filter. Choose Shadow And Glow > Inner Shadow.



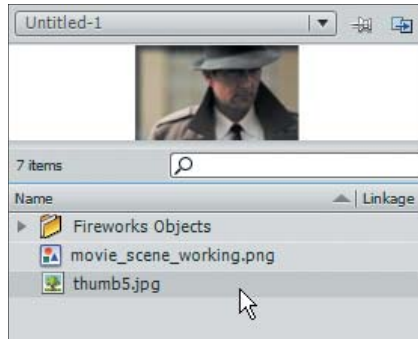
- 7 Click the Done button.

Fireworks prompts you to save a PNG version of the image, because you have added a Live Filter. As this change will be a permanent one to the JPEG file, it would be wise to create a PNG image that can be edited later.



- 8 Click Yes, and save the thumb5.png file to the Lesson13 folder. This way, you can always further edit the Live Filter at a later time.

You are returned to Flash, where the thumb5.jpg image has been updated with the inner shadow.



From this point forward, if you need to make further edits to this image, choose Use A PNG from the Find Source dialog box. In this manner, you are not constantly editing and resaving a JPEG file, thus reducing its quality each time.

- 9 Close the Flash file without saving it.

## Additional considerations when importing to Flash

- **HTML:** Pop-up menu code is not supported by Flash. Likewise, interactivity and button behaviors are not imported to Flash.
- **Vectors and Text:** Flash does not support all the special effects, fills, and strokes available in Fireworks. When you import a Fireworks PNG file and choose to keep the file as editable as possible, these features may look different. Flash supports only solid fills, gradient fills (except the contour gradient), and basic strokes.
- **Bitmaps:** When Fireworks graphics are imported or copied and pasted into Flash, some attributes are lost, such as Live Filters and textures.
- **Graphic Symbols with 9-slice scaling** are supported in Flash, but 9-slice scaling is not maintained for animation symbols.

## Review questions

- 1 What is the three-slice technique?
- 2 How do you add AIR events?
- 3 How do you export an AIR prototype?
- 4 What are the steps to choosing a Flex component for skinning?
- 5 How do you import a multilayered Fireworks PNG file into Flash?

## Review answers

- 1 The three-slice technique creates graphics for an expandable panel or box on a web page. In Fireworks, you draw your container, and then add a slice to the top and the bottom, and a third slice to be used as a repeating background image for the main content area of the container. You can then assemble the panel within a series of divs within Dreamweaver, or use the Fireworks CSS And Images option to export a page containing the flexible container.
- 2 To add an AIR event, you draw a slice or hotspot to cover an interactive element in the AIR mockup, choose **Commands > AIR Mouse Events**, and then pick the desired event. You can choose from **Drag**, **Close**, **Minimize**, and **Maximize**.
- 3 To create an AIR prototype, once all your interactivity is in place, choose **Commands > Create AIR Package**. Fill in all of the required portions of the **Create AIR Package** dialog box, browse for or create a digital signature, preview the application, and then choose **Create** to have Fireworks build the actual package.
- 4 Choose **Commands > Flex Skinning > New Flex Skin**. Select the **Specific Components** option, and then choose the component you wish to skin from the component list. You can also choose whether to apply this skin to all instances of that component, or apply it only to skins with a specific class.
- 5 To import a multilayered Fireworks PNG into Flash, first you open an existing Flash document or create a new one. Choose **File > Import > Import To Library**. Browse for the file. You can then choose whether to import the file as a flattened bitmap or as a multilayered, editable file. You gain more flexibility within Flash if you do not flatten the file.