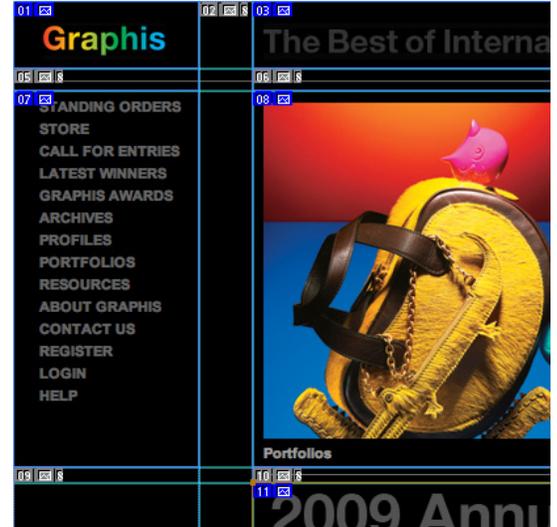


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Handout:
Buttons + Rollovers 1



(fig. 1)



(fig. 2)

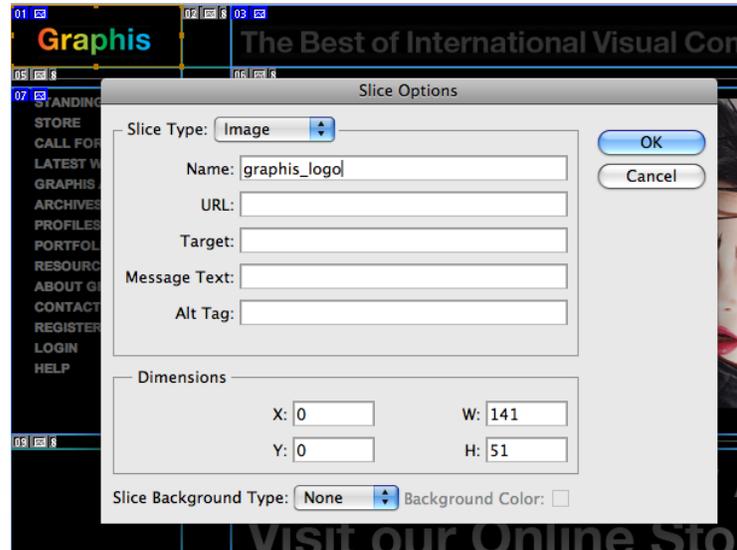
Slicing your images

1. Separate your webpage into regions. Each region will be a section of your webpage. A more traditional design will follow some kind of grid system. This grid system will follow you through a series of pages. This way you will have a basis for continuity. Start by creating ruler guides for each region of your design. (fig. 1)

2. After the guides have been created, slice your image according to your guides. Select the Slice Tool and draw a selection according to your guide. Parts of the image that are just solid pieces of color will be ignored because those areas are easy enough to fill as solid colors in Dreamweaver. Eliminating them makes the file much more efficient. (fig. 2)

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(fig. 3)

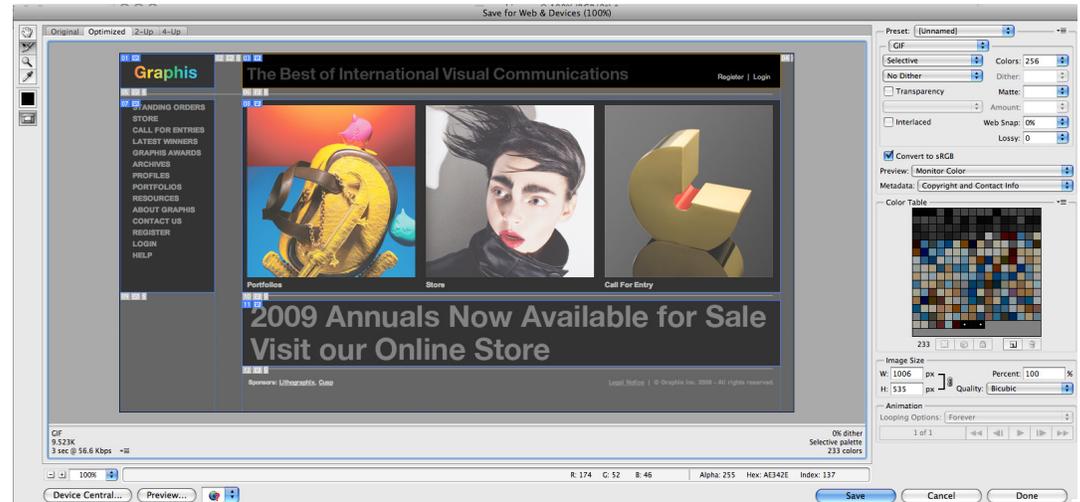
Once the slices are done, they have to be named. This is so that you will be able to save the slices as separate images with their own unique file names. The slices created in Photoshop are only references as to where you want to separate your graphic. Once the slices are named and saved, they will be generated as individual images.

3. To name your slices, Select the Slice Select Tool and double-click on the slice number. Give the slice a unique name. Each slice must be named otherwise any slice left out will have generic name. Only name the blue slices. The grey slices will be ignored. (fig. 3)

4. Repeat step 3 for all slices.

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(fig. 4)

Saving slices

Once the slices are named, it's time to save them. Remember you must choose the file type correctly to make the page be as efficient as possible. The file will either be a GIF image or a JPEG image. Limited color images will most probably be saved as a .gif, while a continuous tone image will be saved as .jpg. PNG images will rarely be used, but there will be times when you want to include an alpha channel (transparency) - that's when a .png option will be used.

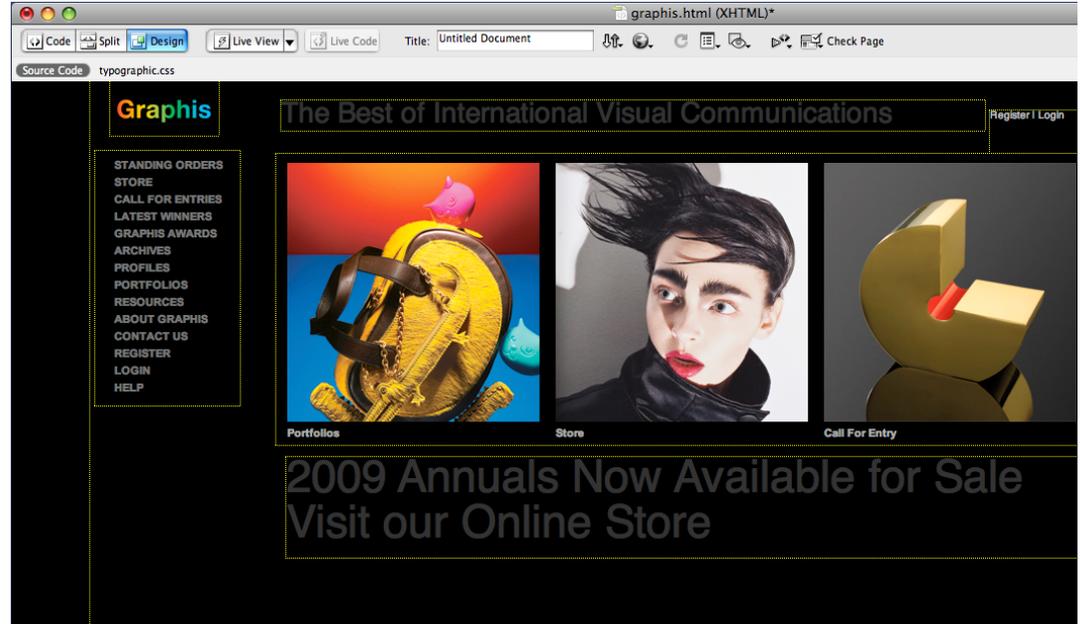
1. To save your file, choose the File Menu → Save for Web & Devices. (fig. 4)
2. In the figure above, you will see your slices. Select each slice with the Slice Select Tool and on the right side of the window choose the correct file format.
3. Be sure to review every option before you click the save window. There aren't that many options to be concerned with. For GIF images, just make sure the color depth is as low as possible and the color algorithm is set to Selective. In order to keep image color consistent across the spectrum, make sure you have the Convert to sRGB checkbox checked. This makes the images travel with a wider spectrum of colors. Don't ever use the Dither, Web Snap, Lossy, Transparency/Matte options. They were once used when the internet had greater limitations. They are no longer necessary and will degenerate your images.

For jpg images, there's really not much either. Make sure the Optimized, Embed Color Profile, and Convert to sRGB options are selected. Keep the Quality option as low as possible. Use the Blur feature to compensate if necessary.

4. Once completed click Save.

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(fig. 5)

Importing the images

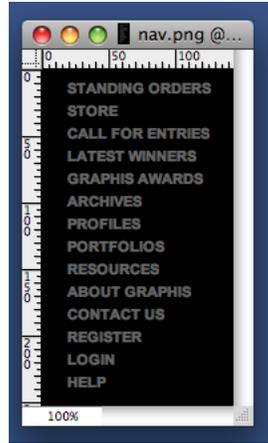
Once the basic slices have been generated, you are going to want to build a rough prototype. Keep in mind you will have to create a new root folder and all that comes with it. Build the Div tags and format your page to accept your newly saved images.

Create a rough layout with the images that were just saved. Use the current images as placement to get an accurate format. Once your layout is acceptable, then you can exchange the navigation bar with individual buttons. (fig. 5)

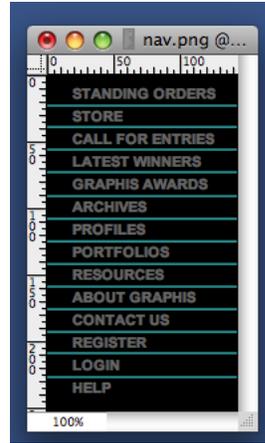
Now you will open your Nav Bar graphic in Photoshop. You will create guides separating the typographic buttons and generate slices, save them out, build rollover images and save them out again.

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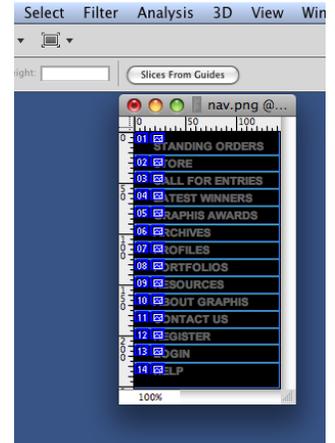
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(fig. 6)



(fig. 7)



(fig. 8)

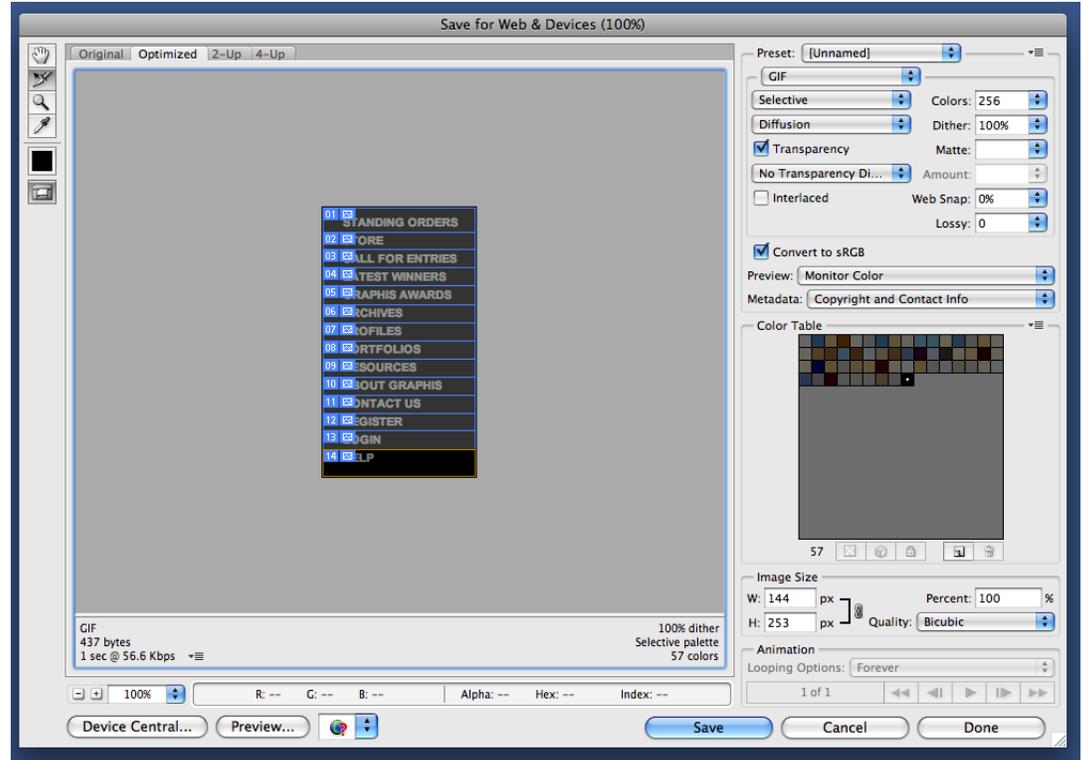
Creating the normal button states

Ideally, being that these typographic buttons are simple Helvetica buttons, we would consider building these as HTML buttons with rollovers, but for the purposes of the demo we will be generating these as images.

1. Open the navbar image that you just recently generated. Generate guides to separate the typographic buttons. (fig. 6 & 7)
2. After creating the guides, select the Slice Tool and in the options bar at the top of the screen click the Slices From Guides option. This option is great when you have guides generated in one direction only like the example above. (fig 8)
3. Just like we did in the slices before, you will have to select the Slice Select Tool and double-Click the slices icon for each slice and name them. Make sure you choose a functional name. The name of the button would be the obvious choice.

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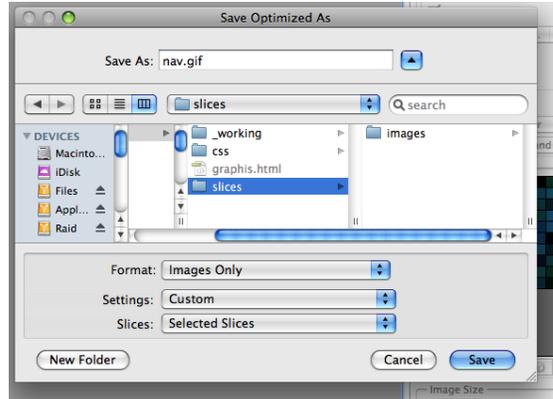


(fig. 9)

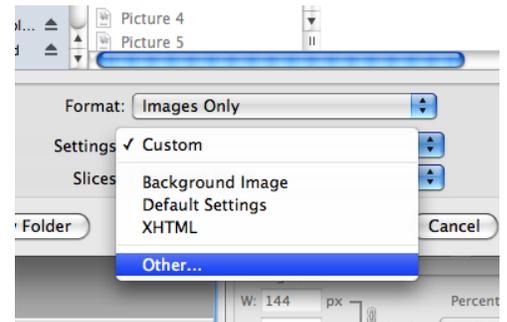
All the same features and option apply here as does in the previous examples. (fig. 9)

1. Once the slices are compressed and prepared to go, select them all with the shift or Command key and save them to a navigation folder inside your site folder. You will be presented with a few more steps more before this process can be completed.

SLICE OPTIONS



(fig. 10)

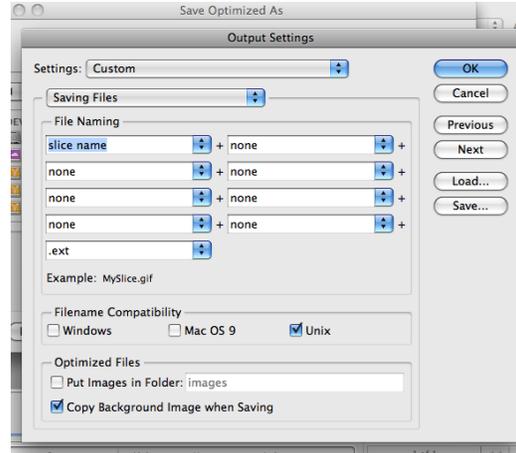


(fig. 11)

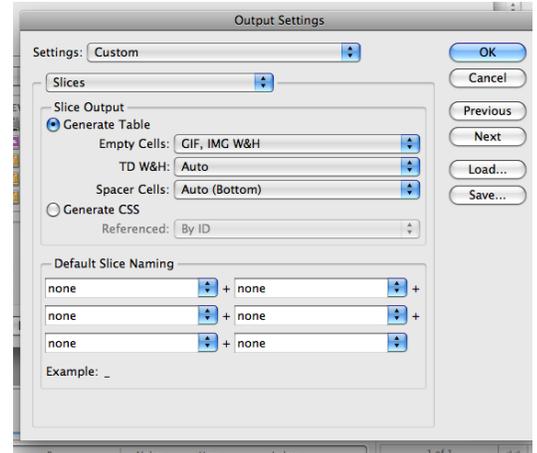
Before you fully save your slices you must take a moment to go through some options to ensure that your slices come out as you expect them. There are three options to consider. Format, Settings and Slices. (Fig. 10)

1. Set Format to Images Only so that you will be saving only image data and not HTML data.
2. Set Slices to the Selected Slices option so that you will be saving the slices that you have selected and not the ones that will be thrown away.
3. Set the Settings to Other (fig. 11)

OUTPUT SETTINGS



(fig. 12)



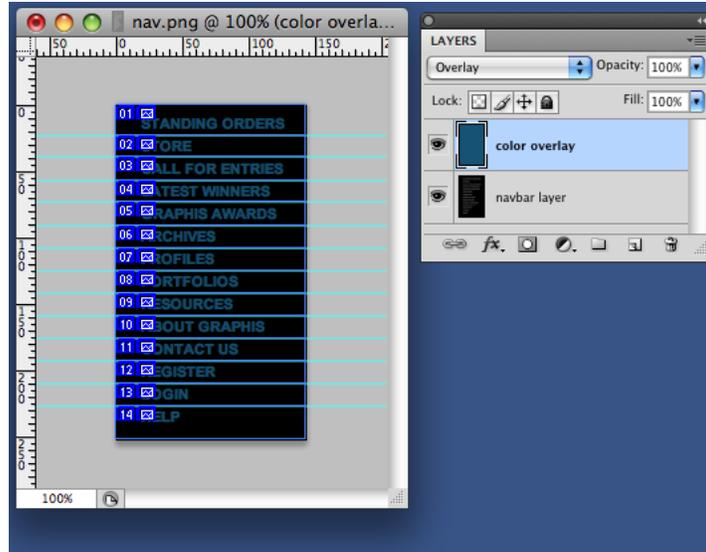
(fig. 13)

When the Output Settings comes up you need to concentrate on only two options, the Savings Files and Slices pulldown. What you are doing here is eliminating extra descriptions in the naming conventions when these files are written to the hard drive.

1. Set the options exactly as pictured in the figures above. (fig 12 and 13)
2. Click OK.
3. Check your destination folder to see if the images came in as expected.

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(fig. 14)

Creating the over state

Once the initial buttons are done, it is a good idea that you create the rollover state right after. You want to make sure that the over states for the buttons are the same size as the buttons. You want to use the same guides and slices so you keep consistency with sizes and names.

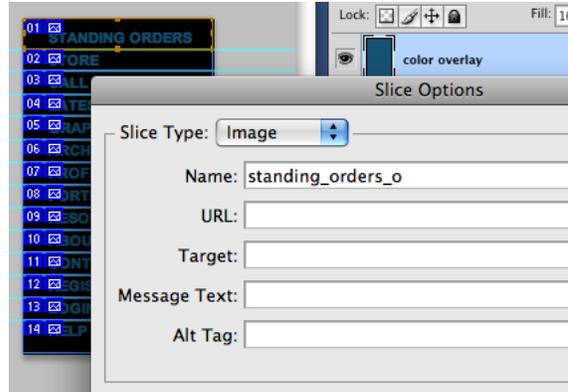
Rollovers are created by exchanging artwork of a button when the user navigates his cursor over that button. You have to create that new artwork.

1. In Photoshop create a new layer and on that layer create an indication that this is going to be an over state. I changed the color of the layer and put an Overlay layer mode on that layer. This new layer with the color mode mixes with the bottom button layer and changes the color of the buttons to something different. (fig. 14)

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SAVING THE ROLLOVER SLICES



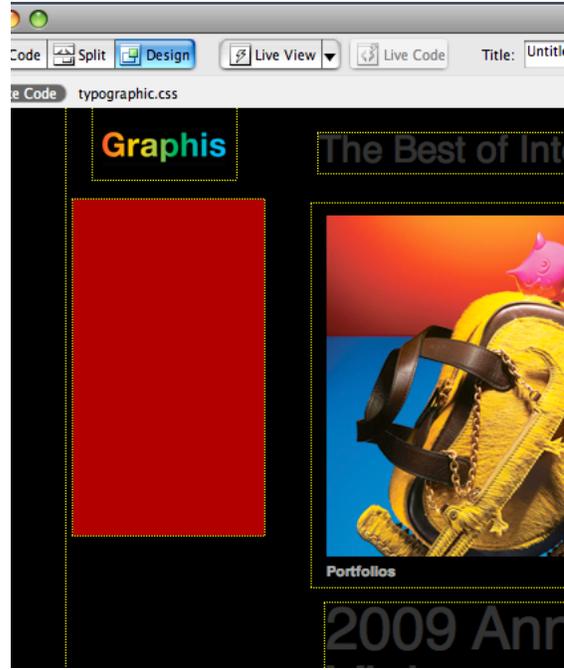
(fig. 15)

When saving the rollover images you must rename them so that you save a new button, otherwise you will replace the original buttons you created because they will have the same name. You must make sure you change the names of the over images.

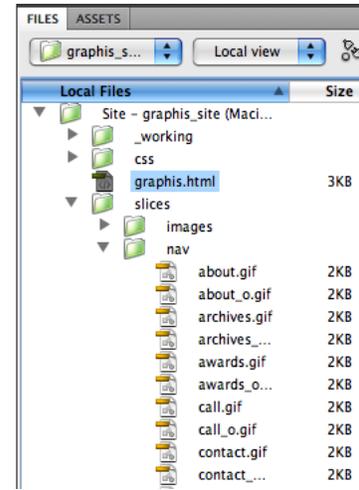
1. Double-Click the slice number with the Slice Select Tool and just simply add an “_o” to the end of the name. This will ensure that your Normal Buttons and Rollover Buttons will remain together for easy placement later on. (fig. 15)
2. Click OK and repeat the process for all the images.
3. Follow the steps above for saving the images.
4. It is safe to save the rollover images in the same folder as the original buttons.

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(fig. 16)



(fig. 17)

Replacing the navbar graphic with buttons

In Dreamweaver I'm going to assume that you understand the process of creating the Div Tags to achieve the desired layout. If you are still having trouble please refer to the Div Tags handout on my iDisk, dariovdiclaudio.

We will have to replace the navbar graphic with the individual buttons.

1. Start by deleting the Navbar graphic. The Div Tag is colored red so that you can identify it easier in the picture. (fig. 16)

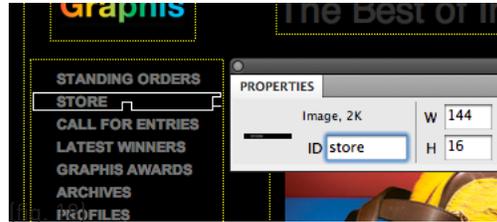
2. Either in the Code View or carefully in the Design View, drag each button from the Files Palette in order of appearance in the red Div Tag. It's preferable that you do this in the code view because there is no chance of the images fumbling around and losing their order. (fig. 17)

Remember the Image Tags should be sandwiched between the Div Tag and /Div Tag. It should look something like this.

```
<div class="nav" id="nav">  
  
  
  
  
</div nav>
```

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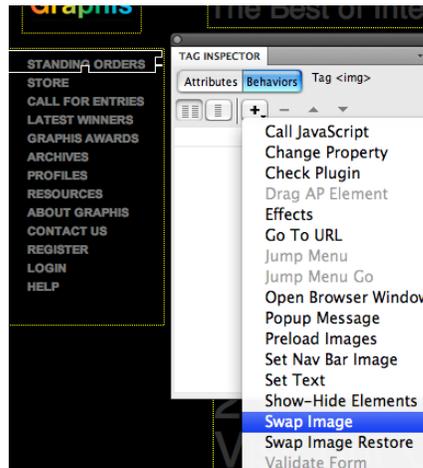


Naming the images in Dreamweaver

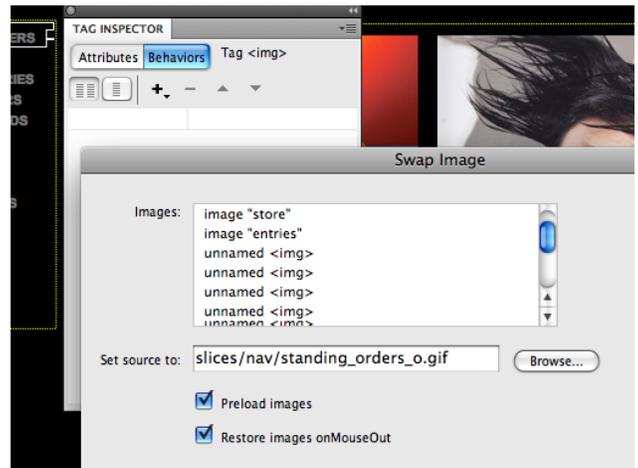
Dreamweaver needs to refer to the images in order to create the rollover. The rollover is created by a javascript which Dreamweaver controls with Behaviors. We have to prepare these images for Dreamweaver by giving them names in Dreamweaver. These names will be used in the Javascript. These names are different than the file names we created earlier.

It's a good idea that you get in the habit of naming all of the images you use in Dreamweaver

1. Select one image at a time, and in the Properties Palette give it a functional name. The name can be the same as the file name. However, the name cannot start with a number, space or unique character. It's a good idea that you not include number unless you have to. Try to keep it neat. (fig. 18)
2. Repeat for images.



(fig. 19)



(fig. 20)

Swapping the image

We will need the Tag Inspector. Windows Menu → Tag Inspector. Choose the Behaviors options in the Tag Inspector.

1. Select a button graphic and click the + Button in the Behavior Palette.
2. Choose the Swap Image option. (fig. 19)

Once the Swap Image Dialog Box appears, you are given some choices. You will also notice that next to the Images section, you'll see the images that you've named. If you fail to name the images, Dreamweaver will name them for you as described above as "unnamed ". You can imagine that it would be pretty difficult to keep track of images like this.

3. There will be an image already selected in blue for you. Make sure this image is the correct one. You might have selected the wrong button. If the image selected is incorrect, then click Cancel and repeat the step. (fig. 20)
4. Next to Set Source to, click the Browse Button and navigate to the Rollover Image.
5. Check Preload Images checkbox to ensure the rollovers act immediately. Restore Images on MouseOut will bring back the original button image when you drag the mouse cursor away from the button. Click OK.
6. Repeat steps 2 thru 5 for all images.