GIMP® ANIMATION EFFECTS

GIMP ® is all about Images and Text

DOWNLOAD THE GAP ANIMATION PACKAGE

Before you begin this text animation, you will need to download a free animation plugin for GIMP ® called GAP (GIMP Animations Package). Instructions to download are included on the Animations tab of the Web site.

This will add a new Video menu item to the GIMP ® Menu Bar.

ANIMATION BY FILLING IN THE TEXT OR GRAPHIC

Create an animated text or graphic fill using the GAP tool. The animation will consist of two layers – the background layer and foreground layer and a separate image that will animate between the background and foreground layers. The foreground layer will be the same color as the background with letters cut out so the fill with display behind the foreground layer.
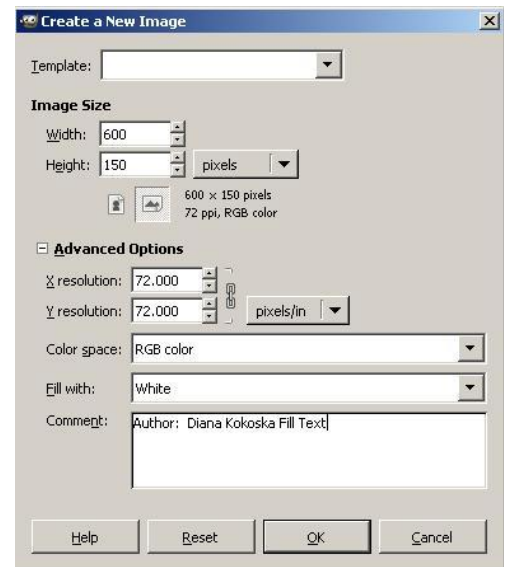
The final animation in this tutorial will have the words *FILL IT WITH COLOR !* The fill or animation will go from the bottom, up to the top slowly between the background and foreground. Your background and foreground should be identical for this type of animation.

CREATING THE BACKGROUND

Open GIMP

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Step 1: To begin a new GIMP ® project, from the Menu Bar, select File | New…At the Create a New Image dialog box and select a Width: of 600 and a Height: of 150. You will need to click the + sign beside Advanced Options to expand the menu. Click the Fill with: down arrow and select white. In the Comment text box, describe the image.

Click the OK button.

A new image canvas displays in the GIMP ® workspace with image information in the Title Bar and a "Background" layer displays in the Layers palette to the right of the image window.
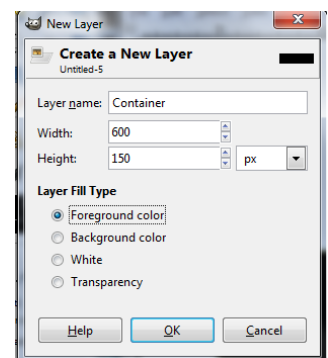
Step 2: From the Toolbox, click the Foreground color icon and select black (or the color of your choice), click the Background color icon and select the black (again your choice) and click the OK button.

From the Menu Bar, select Edit | Fill with BG color to fill the background with black.

Step 3: From the Layers palette, click the Create a New layer and add to image icon and at the New Image dialog box, type *Container* as the Layer name:. Select a Foreground color of Black, and click the OK button.

A new black "container" layer displays above the "Background" layer in the Layers palette.

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Step 4: From the Toolbox select the Text Tool at the Font: select Showcard Gothic (or some other wide font) and at the Size: select 63 px and a white font. Type "FILL WITH COLOR !" in the text dialog box. A new text layer displays above the "Container" layer in the Layers palette.

Step 5: Select the "text" layer in the Layers palette. From the Toolbox select the Scale Tool. Click in the Container layer and at the Scale dialog box, add 40 to the Height: Box. Then click on the Move Tool and select the radio button next to the *Move the active layer.* Center the new text on the page.

Step 6: Select the "Background" layer in the Layer palette and click on the eye to the left of the title. This will hide the layer. Left click on the "Fill with color!" layer in the Layers palette to select it. Right click on the "Fill with color!" layer in the Layers palette to bring up a menu. Select Alpha to Selection at the bottom of the menu box. What is now selected is the text, shown by the *marching ants* surrounding it. Select the "container" layer in the Layers palette, while the *marching ants* are still marching. From the Menu Bar select E<u>d</u>it | Cut. You will see the words "Fill with color !" cut out of the "container" layer in the layers palette.

Step 7: Left click on the "Fill with color!" layer in the Layers palette to select it. Right click on the "Fill with color!" layer in the Layers palette to bring up a menu. Select Delete Layer at the top of the menu box.

The words will now display in a checkerboard pattern, indicating that they are transparent.

You now have the "container" and "background" layers left in the Layers palette. Notice that the "container" layer shows the cutout of the words *FILL WITH COLOR!*.

From the Menu bar, click S̲elect | N̲one. The marching ants go away.

Select the "background" layer in the Layers palette and click where the eye is supposed to be in order to unhide the layer. The image will be only black without the cut out words *FILL WITH COLOR!.* It is still there; do not worry. To check hide the "background" layer once again, **DO NOT FORGET TO UNHIDE BEFORE SAVING…..**

Step 8: From the Menu Bar, click F̲ile | S̲ave and at the Save Image dialog Box, save the image in the \PortableApps\GIMP\background_frames\ folder as Background_000001.xcf.

Note: The name is important as GAP saves all animation files as Background_000001.xcf, Background_000002.xcf, Background_000003.xcf,…

Step 9: In the new " Background.000001.xcf " image window, from the Menu Bar, select Video | Duplicate Frames…

Note: If you do not see a Video item on the Menu Bar, you may not have downloaded and installed GAP.

At the Duplicate Frames(1/1) dialog box, since you only have one Background frame, you will leave the From Frame: and To Frame: values at 1. In the N times: text box, type 60 and click the O̲K button. With the existing background image, you now have 61 frames in your animation.

Note: The number that you select for the N times: is really up to you. You will set the frames per second rate later.

It may take a minute or two for GAP to duplicate the 60 frames.

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Once the frames have been duplicated, you can check your background_frames folder and you will see that you have 61 Background files (Background_000001.xcf to Background_000061.xcf).

<div style="background-color:orange;color:white;">

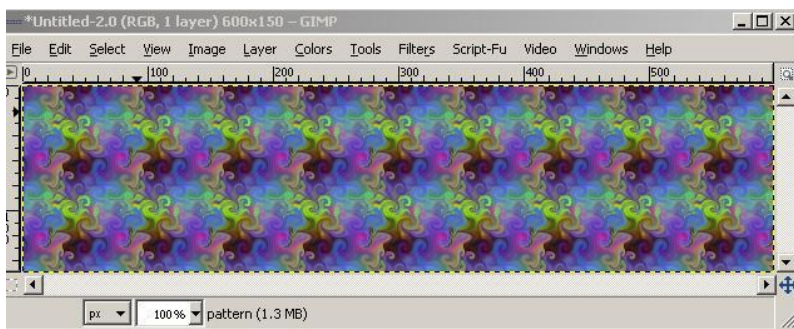**CREATING THE FILL OR COLOR IMAGE   .**

</div>

Step 1: From the Menu Bar, select Eile | New… At the Create a New Image Dialog Box, Select 600 pixels for the Width: and 150 pixels for the Height:. Click the + sign to the right of the Advanced Options and Click the Fill with: down arrow and Transparent. Click the OK button.

Note: The size of the image is up to you – it just has to be wide enough to see the color as it fills.

A new Untitled image window displays in front of the Background_000001.xcf image window.

Step 2: In the Layers Palette, double click on the Background layer and rename it `pattern`.

Step 3: In new image window, you will need to add a pattern. From the Toolbox, click the Bucket Fill Tool and in the Bucket Fill properties click the radio button to the left of Pattern fill, Click the pattern icon to display saved patterns. Select a pattern – I selected Pastel Stuff. Click the image canvas to fill it with the pattern.

Step 4: The "pattern" layer is the only layer that should be in the Layers palette. Delete any others by right clicking on that layer and selecting *Delete Layer* on the pop up menu.

<div style="background-color:orange; color:white; font-weight:bold; padding:5px;">

FILLING THE TEXT .

</div>

Step 1: With the Background_000001.xcf image open, select Video | Move Path… At the Move Path dialog box, follow the instructions below (step-by-step diagram follows the instructions):
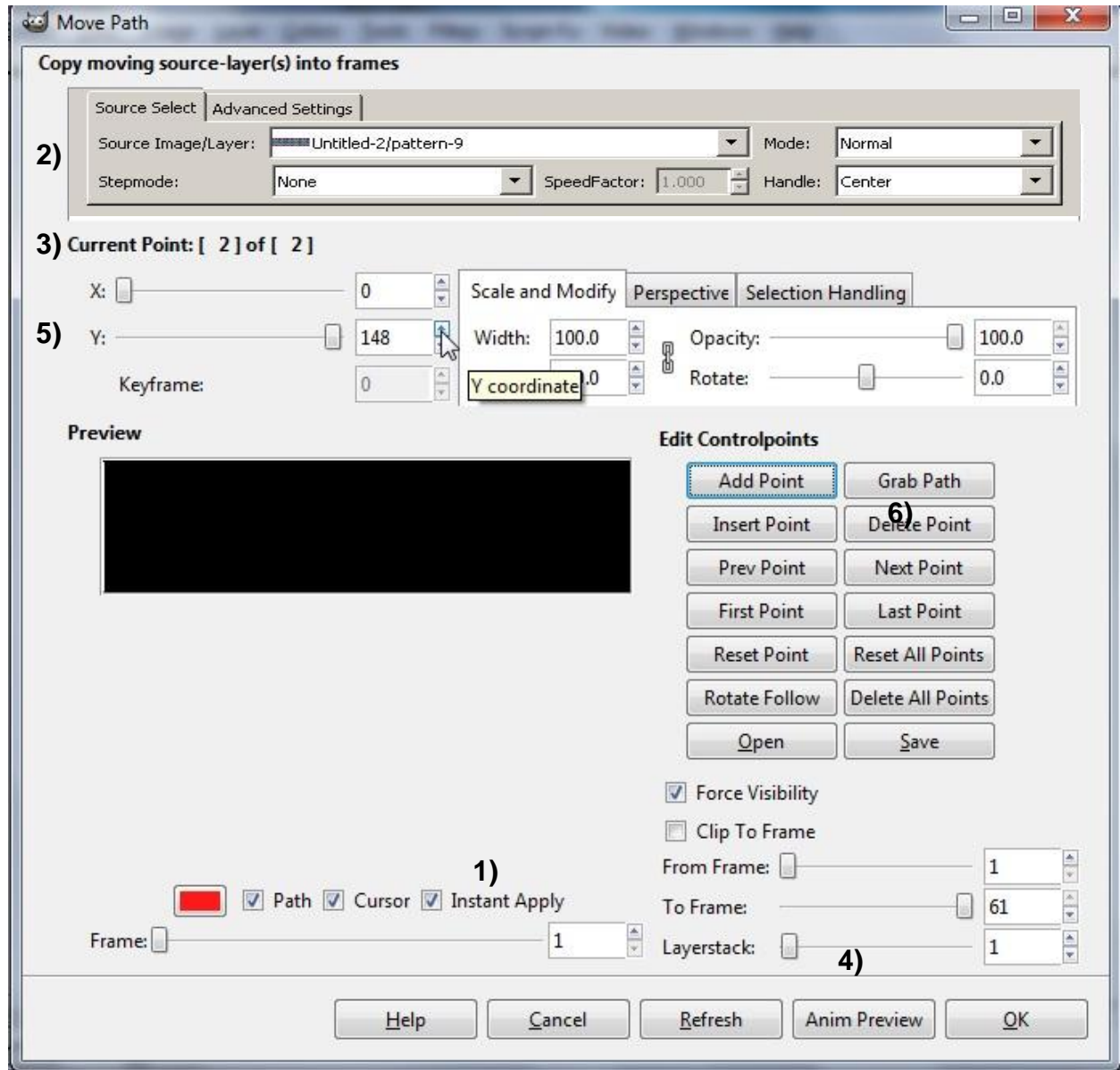
1) Select the Instant Apply checkbox to turn on the Live Preview. This will allow you to see the results of any setting you select.

2) Select the Source/Image Layer. The Source/Image Layer is the file and layer that contains pattern file file (in this case, "Fill it with Color!")

3) Click the Stepmode: down arrow and select None.

4) The Layerstack determines which layer is in front. A layer with a value of 0 is always at the back of the layer stack. Since there are two layers in your Background_000001.xcf file ("Background" and "Container"), GAP needs to put the fill or pattern between the two layers. The "Background" layer of the Background_000001.xcf image (the black without cut out words) is (by default), Layerstack 0. The fill or color layer will be Layerstack 1, which moves the "container" layer (black with cut out words to Layerstack 2, which puts the fill or color Layer between the background and the see-through container layer.

5) Before you enter a Current Point: (starting point) for our fill or color, it is important to understand that X is the number of pixels across the width of the background image and Y is the number of pixels down the height of the background image.

==Click the Y up arrow until the fill or color disappears.==

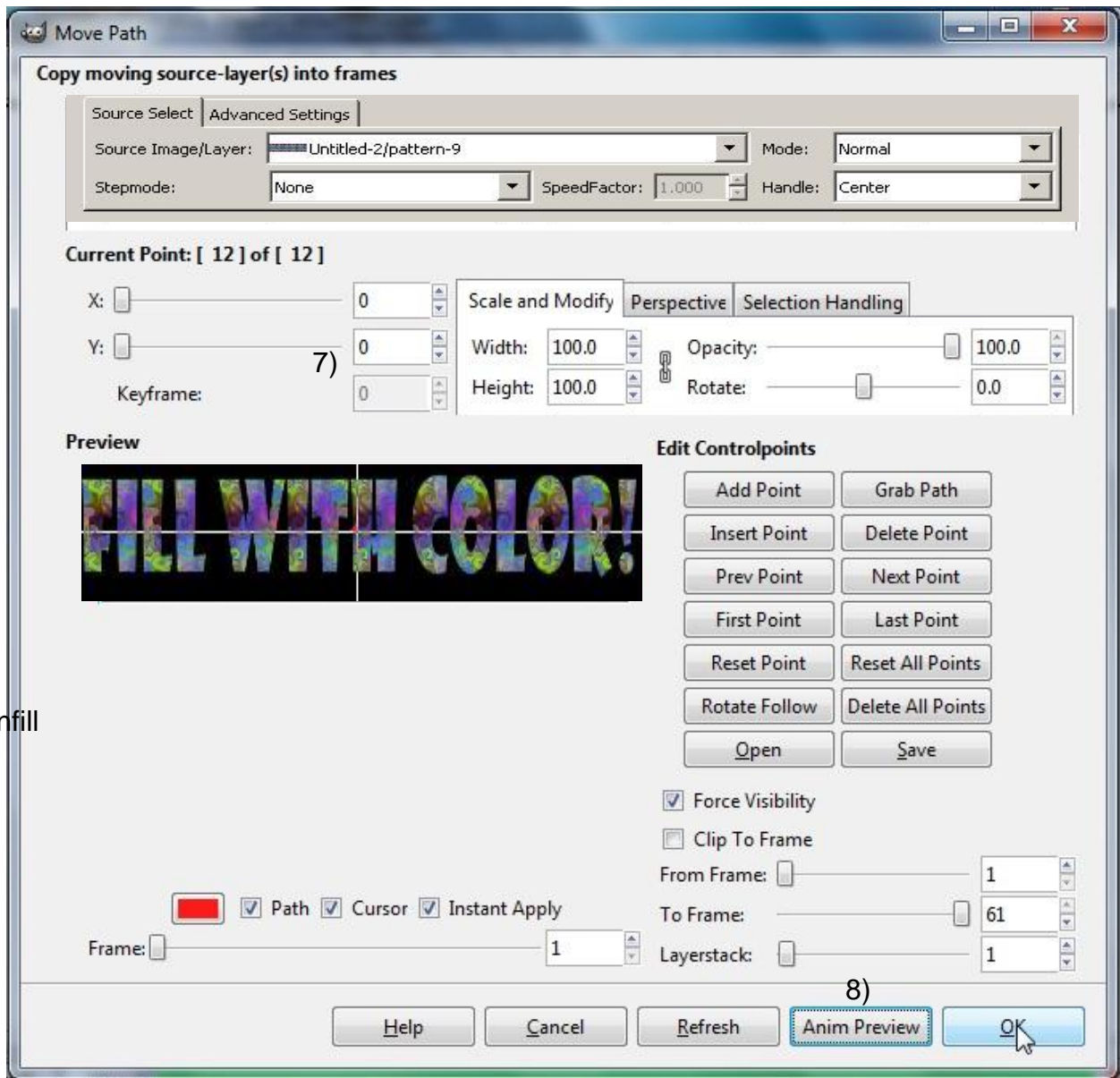YOU HAVE NOW DETERMINED THE STARTING POINT FOR YOUR IMAGE..

6) Under Edit Control points, click the Add Point Button.

7)

Step 2: You are now ready to specify the ending point for your animation.

8) Since you want your image to move up from the bottom of the rectangle, you will click the Y down arrow until the fill or color reappears and finally fills the cut out words (this will probably be 0). And click the final "Add Point" button.

9) Click the Anim Preview button to preview the animation.

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Step 3: At the Move Path Animated Preview dialog box, click the Framerate: down arrow and select 24 (the lower the Framerate:, the slower the animation).

Click the radio button to the left of the Exact object on the frames and click the <u>O</u>K button.

Step 4: At the Animation Playback: Untitled window that displays, click the Play button to preview the animation.

The fill or color rises up to fill the cut out text.

Step 5: Close the Animation Playback: Untitled window and close the small Untitled window and click the Don't Save button.

Step 6: Click the <u>O</u>K button on the Move Path screen.

The GAP processes the animation. **Caution: do not interrupt this process; just wait until it is finished.**

Step 7: From the Background_000001.xcf Menu Bar, select Video | Frames to Image… and at the Frames to Image dialog box, accept the defaults and click the <u>O</u>K button.

Step 8: At the new Untitled image window, from the Menu Bar, select Filte<u>r</u>s | An<u>i</u>mation | Optimize (for <u>G</u>IF).

Since an animation consists of multiple layers, the size can become quite large. In an animation, many of the elements are shared by all layers, and optimizing an image saves the shared elements only once and the modified elements with each layer.

Step 9: At the new Untitled image window, from the Menu Bar select File | Save. At the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the \PortableApps\GIMP\animation\anim_images\ folder as "filling_1.gif ".

Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) and select GIF image. Click the Save button.

At the Export File dialog box, select the Save as Animation option (note that you can select whether you want the animation to loop continuously here by checking the Loop box) and click the Export button.

At the Save as GIF dialog box, add a comment and click the Save button.

Step 10: Close all open windows. Do not Save the Untitled image window.