GIMP® GETTING STARTED

GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

WORKING WITH IMAGES

In order to work effectively with Web images, you must recognize the personality traits that make an image Web friendly, such as **image sizes**, **file formats**, and color **parameters**.
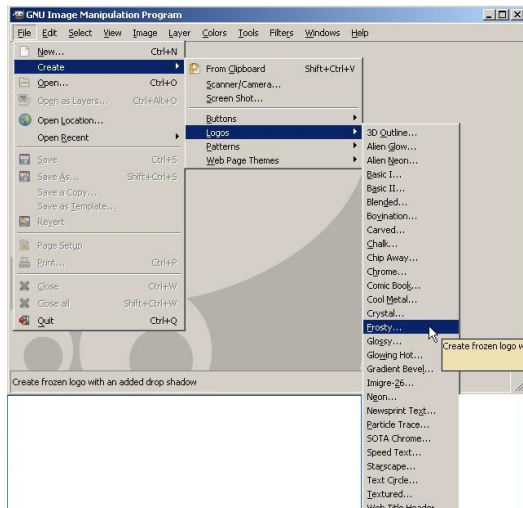
Image Windows

GIMP® opens a separate window for each new image that you open using the <u>F</u>ile menu. This way you can adjust the size of the window to the size of your image.
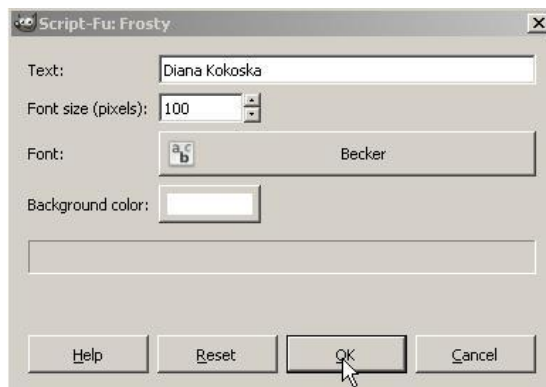
One of the easiest ways to create a Web image is to use GIMP®'s built-in **Web development tools**. The instructions below show one example – you will want to experiment with various fonts, colors, and sizes.

OPEN GIMP®

Step 1: From the Menu bar, select <u>F</u>ile | Create | <u>L</u>ogos and select the Frosty option to display the Script-Fu: Frosty dialog box.

Step 2: Key the text you want to display in the logo in the Text: box. (Type your first and last name).

You can change the Font size (pixels) by clicking the up or down arrows.

You can change the font face by clicking the Font button to the right of Font:

You can change the background color: by clicking the white color swatch to the right of Background color.

Click the OK button.

The new image displays in the GIMP® window.

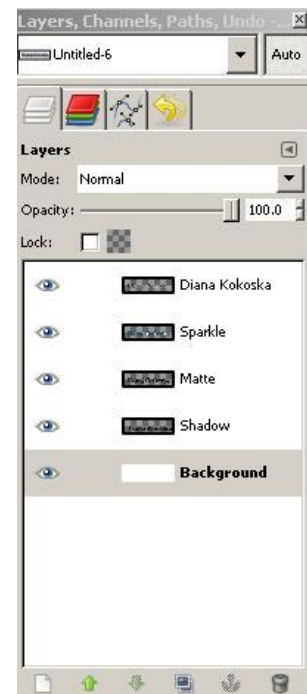The Zoom level is set to 100% to display the entire image.

The title bar provides information about the image such as its name (Untitled), view numbers, whether it is full color (RGB), number of layers, and its size in

Five separate layers display in the Layers palette to the right of the image canvas: Background, Shadow, Matte, Sparkle, and the text layer with the name you typed [Diana Kokoska].

Note: As you learn more about the Text Tool, you will be able to change the font color from the GIMP® Toolbox.

The bottom layer "Background" is the back layer of your image. "Shadow" is the second layer from the back, etc., with the text layer as the front layer.

Step 3: To demonstrate this visually

1. Click the visibility icon 👁 to the left of the "Background" layer in the Layer's palette to make the layer invisible.

2. Click the visibility icon to the left of the "Shadow" layer and notice which portion of the image is invisible.
3. Click the visibility icon to the left of the "Matte" layer.
4. Click the visibility icon to the left of the "Sparkle" layer and you are left with only one layer – the text layer with the name [Diana Kokoska].
5. Click the visibility icon to the left of the "Diana Kokoska" layer.

When you move your cursor over the "Background" layer in the Layers palette, two boxes display to the left of the layer name.

Click the left box to make the "Background" layer visible.

The "eyeball" icon displays to indicate that the layer is visible.

Continue clicking the Visibility icon (left square) one at a time, starting with the "Shadow" layer to observe the stacking of the layers from front to back.

Step 4: On the image canvas, as you move your cursor around the image, you will see small black triangles on the rulers defining the position of the cursor as the number of pixels from the top and left of the image. You can change the ruler display to inches, millimeters, points, picas, and centimeters, but for Web design, you will probably use the pixels measurement exclusively.

Step 5: By default, the Zoom level is set to 100%. Click the Zoom magnification down arrow to view the image at preset zoom levels. You can also key any percent in the Zoom text box to view at that percent. Choose 200%.

Step 6: Click and drag the Panoramic View icon ⊕ located at the bottom of the vertical scroll bar to pan the image.

Change the Zoom magnification back to 100%.

Step 7: From the Menu bar, click <u>F</u>ile | <u>S</u>ave to open the Save Image dialog box. In the Name: text box, type a descriptive name for the image that describes the contents and specifies the date the image was created.

`your_name_web_banner_4_10_11` would be a good name.

Note: When you save an image for display on the Web, you should not put any spaces or symbols in the filename. It is best to use the underscore to separate words. Case is important; it is good practice to type all filenames in lowercase characters.

By default, the image will save in the My Pictures folder on the "C" drive.

Step 8: To save the image in a different location, click the Save in folder: down arrow to select the destination folder. Click the + sign beside Browse for other folders to select a subfolder.

Click the Create folder button and type `getting_started` to create a subfolder in your GIMP directory. Inside the "getting_started" folder, create another subfolder named `images`.

Click the <u>S</u>ave button.

Note: By default, GIMP® saves all new images in its native format `.xcf`. It is always a good idea to save the files in this format first so you will always have an untouched original image. You will learn to save images in a Web compatible format later.

The Title bar now displays

diana_kokoska_web_banner_11_09.xcf-1.0 (RGB, 5 layers) 819x202 – GIMP

Web-Friendly Images

There are three file formats that are unique to GIMP®. The first is `.xcf`, which is the only format that can save all of the features of GIMP®, such as selections, layers, paths, and channels. Since no other program can read the `.xcf` format, you will eventually want to save the image in another format.

The two other formats that are used exclusively by GIMP® are `.pat` and `.gbr`. The `.pat` extension is used to save GIMP® patterns and the `.gbr` extension is used to save GIMP® brushes.

Step 9: From the Menu bar, select <u>F</u>ile | <u>C</u>lose to close the banner image.

Loading and Saving Images in a Web Format

You can open images in two ways – <u>F</u>ile | <u>O</u>pen... from the Menu bar or by dragging an image from the storage device onto the image window. (We will only be working with the first option in this video tutorial).

Note: This is important because when you open a new image, a new image window is opened, but when you drag an image onto an open window, a new image window is not opened. This would allow you to combine multiple images.

Step 1: From the Menu bar, select <u>F</u>ile | <u>O</u>pen and select a directory folder on the left and navigate to the `gimp/getting_started/images` folder in the Name window.

The current directory structure appears at the top of the Open Image dialog box.

Step 2: Click `your_name_web_banner_4_10_11.xcf` to select it and display an image preview to the right of the Open Image dialog box. Click the <u>O</u>pen button to load the image.
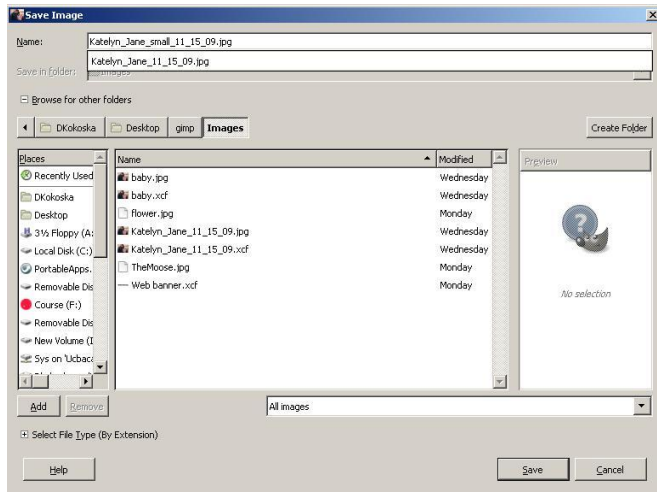
Note: A file can also be loaded by double clicking the filename. A new canvas appears with the your_name_web_banner_4_10_11.xcf image displaying in the document window.

Another timesaving feature of the Open Image dialog box is name completion. Simply type the first few letters of the filename in the Location text box. GIMP® will automatically complete displaying the filenames that match.

Step 3: To save the image in a format that can be displayed on a Web page, from the Menu bar, select File |Save As. The Save Image dialog box displays.

By default, when you click the Save button, the image saves in its current file format (in this case, `.xcf`). Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) to expand the File Type Menu.

File Type	Extensions
By Extension	
GIMP XCF image	xcf
Alias Pix image	pix,matte,mask,alpha,als
AutoDesk FLIC animation	fli,flc
bzip archive	xcf.bz2,bz2,xcfbz2
C source code	c
C source code header	h
Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine image	dcm,dicom
PNM image	pnm
PostScript document	ps
PPM image	ppm
Raw image data	
Silicon Graphics IRIS image	sgi,rgb,bw,icon
SUN Rasterfile image	im1,im8,im24,im32,rs,ras
TarGA image	tga
TIFF image	tif,tiff

Windows BMP image	bmp
X BitMap image	xbm,icon,bitmap
X PixMap image	xpm
X window dump	xwd
ZSoft PCX image	pcx,pcc

Web-Friendly Features

How do you know if an image is Web friendly? Just look at the extension. If it is a `.gif`, `.jpeg` (`jpg`), or `png`, it should fit well in the Web family. If it has some other extension (such as `.bmp`, `.tif`, or GIMP's native format (`.xcf`), it will need to be converted to a Web-friendly format before it can be displayed on a Web page. If you try to open a non-Web-friendly image in the browser, it will appear as a broken image.

How do you determine which image format is best? Each file format has unique properties that make it the best choice for displaying specific types of images.

Format	Uses
JPEG - Joint Photographic Experts Group .jpg	Pictures, photos, gradients
GIF (Graphic Interchange Format)	Line art, logos, icons, transparent images, and animated graphics
PNG (Portable Network Graphics)	Maps, charts, diagrams, photographs, transparency

Saving as a JPEG Image

`Jpeg` or `.jpg` is the most common format for saving Web images as it allows you to compress the image (reduce its file size) without losing the image quality. If your image contains more than 128 colors, you will want to save it as a `.jpg`. Most digital photos, for example, will be saved with a `.jpg` extension.

Step 1: Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) and select `JPEG` image from the submenu.

Step 2: Click the Save button to display the Save as JPEG dialog box. Click the Save button again.

At the Save as JPEG dialog box, notice the Quality: slider shows 83, which shows a File size of 26.6 kb. With the
☑ Show preview in image window selected drag the slider to the left. The image on the GIMP® canvas displays the effect of the compression and the reduced file size displays below the Quality slider in the Save as JPEG dialog box.

Drag the slider all the way to the left to see the loss of quality in the image. Move the slider to approximately 80 and notice that the file size has been reduced to 24.5 kb, but the image quality is affected very little. The goal here is to balance the file size and file quality

Step 3: Click the + sign the left of Advanced Options to display additional JPEG settings.

Optimize (which is selected by default) helps to reduce file size without affecting quality.

Progressive: Did you ever notice the difference in the way some images appear on your Web page? Some images display all at once while others appear to gradually fade in. Some images do not display on the Web page until the entire image has been loaded in the browser. When you have a large image, this may take some time. Instead, you may select the Progressive option, to have the image display immediately, starting out with less quality and slowing coming into focus.

 Comment. The comment area is a place for you to add additional information about the image, such as a description of the photo.

The remaining options will probably not need to be changed unless you want precise control over every feature of the image.

If you would like to apply these advanced options to future .jpg images, you can click the Save Defaults button and use the Load Defaults button when you are ready to save another file with a .jpg extension.

Step 4: Click the <u>S</u>ave button. The Title Bar info changes to reflect the new file extension.

<u>Saving as a GIF Image</u>

`.gif` (Graphic Image Format) is another commonly used compression format. There are times when you will need to save your image in this format, specifically when you have a limited number of colors, no gradients, or complex shading.

There are two other reasons that one would want to choose the `.gif` format over the `.jpg` format:

1) You can save .gif files as transparent images. This means that you can see the background through the image. This works great for making banners and logos that will need to blend with the background of your Web page.

   If you have a .jpg image with a white background, for example, and place it on a Web page with a teal background, a white box would display around the image as shown below:

.jpg image

.gif image

2) Another feature supported with the `.gif` format that is not supported by the `.jpg` format is image animation. You can combine several frames of an image and animate them by saving them as an animated `.gif`.

Step 1: Click the Visibility icon to the left of the "Background" layer in the Layers palette to remove the background layer and make the image background transparent.
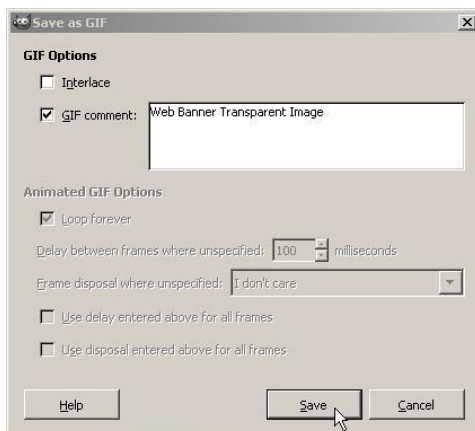
Step 2: From the menu bar, select <u>F</u>ile | Save <u>A</u>s and at the Save Image dialog box, select a destination.

Step 3: Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) and select the GIF image and Click the Save button.

Step 4: At the Export File dialog box, click the Export button.

Step 5: At the Save as GIF dialog box, add a comment: Web Banner Transparent Image and click the Save icon.

You may also save your transparent images and animated graphics using the `.png` extension. The `.png` extension is fine to use for any images that you know you will be using in Web development projects.

In later tutorials, images will be saved exclusively with this extension.

Step 6: Click the GIMP® Close icon on the Title Bar to close the GIMP® file and again to close the GIMP® application.

You should now have three images saved in your `PortableApps\GIMP\getting_started\images` folder: the `your_name_web_banner_4_10_11` image saved with the `.xcf`, `.gif`, and `.jpg` extensions.

If you want, you may also save the image with a `.png` extension.