



Animation: Text – Letter by Letter

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GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

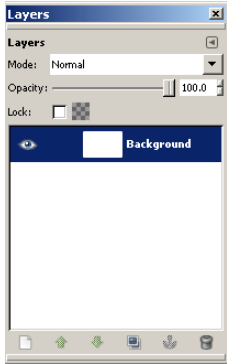
CREATING THE TEXT

Open GIMP®

Step 1: To begin a new GIMP® project, from the Menu Bar, select File | New... At the Create a New Image dialog box, click the Template down arrow and select an image size of 400 x 200 pixels.

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 a dark blue (I selected 00004b)

From the Menu Bar, select Edit | Fill with FG color.

The background is filled with dark blue.

Step 3: From the Toolbox, select the Text Tool .

Text tool options display below the Toolbox.

Click the Font: icon and select a wide font. I selected Tw Cen MT Bold.

Select a font size by typing the size in the font text box or by clicking the up or down arrows to change the font size. I selected 100px.

Click the Color: icon to select a text color. Select a color from the palette, type the R-G-B color equivalent, or type the Html notation: I typed `ffffff` for white.

Click the up arrow on the Character Spacing icon and select 10 to



add extra white space between the characters.



Step 3: Click on the image canvas. At the GIMP Text Editor, type `GEEK` and click the checkbox to the left of Use selected font to turn on that option.

Drag the text to position it vertically and horizontally on the background.

Click the Close button.



The typed text is inserted on the image canvas and a new layer named “GEEK” displays above the “Background” layer in the layers palette.

Step 4: With the “GEEK” layer selected in the Layers palette, right click and select Flatten Image to merge the text layer with the “Background” layer and remove transparency.

Only the “Background” layer remains in the Layers palette.

Step 5: Click the Text Tool in the Toolbox and at the Text options, click the Color: icon and type `ff702f` in the HTML notation: text box to select a dark orange. Click the OK button.

Click on the image canvas and at the GIMP Text Editor, type G. You may want to zoom to about 400%. Drag the orange “G” directly on top of the white “G”.



Step 6: With the “G” layer selected in the Layers palette, click the Text Tool again and click on the image canvas and type an E.

Click the Color icon in the Text options and select a blue (I used `278ff9`).


Drag the blue “E” directly on top of the first “E” in the text.

Step 7: Scroll the image to view the 3rd character (“E”), and repeat Step 7 – using `c6dbf1` as the color.

Step 8: Scroll the image to view the 4th character (“K”), and repeat Step 7 – using `ffb193` as the color.

Set the zoom level back to 100%.



Step 9: Click the Crop Tool  in the Toolbox and drag a rectangle selection around the text. Click in the center to accept the crop.

Step 10. Click File | Save and at the Save Image dialog box save the image in the `PortableApps\GIMP\Animations\text\` folder as `letter_to_letter_mm_dd_yy.xcf` replacing the `mm_dd_yy` with the current month day and year.

Note: It is important to save the image at this time because you will be using this text again in another tutorial.

ANIMATING THE TEXT

The next set of steps will animate the text so each letter displays individually and fades to the next.

Notice that you have five layers in the Layers palette: the Background, G, E, E, and K.

Step 1: From the Menu Bar, select Filters | Animation | Blend... and at the Script-Fu: Blend dialog box, select 1 for the Intermediate frames: and 0 for the Max. blur radius:. Select the Looped checkbox.

You may want to experiment with different Intermediate frames: and Blur radius:

Click the OK button.

Notice that in the Layers palette, you now have eight frames named Frame 1 – Frame 8 and a small *Untitled window displays in front of the image canvas.

Step 2: In the small window, click Filters | Animation | Playback. At the Animation Playback: Untitled window click the Play button



to preview your animation.

Each frame displays individually in sequence.

Click the Close button on the Playback window.

Step 3: With the small *Untitled window active, click the Filters | Animation | Blend option and at the Script Fu: Blend dialog box, change the Intermediate frames: value to 2 and press the OK button. (Currently you have eight frames in the Layers palette).

The number of frames in the Layers palette has increased to 21.

Step 4: From the new *Untitled window, click Filters | Animations | Playback and click the Play button to preview the animation.

The text animates more slowly with a faded effect.

Close the Playback window.

Step 5: If you like, blend the animation again using “3” as the intermediate frame:

The frames in the layers palette increase to 80 and a new *Untitled window displays.

Step 6: Preview the animation. Close the Playback window.

Close the top (latest) animation window, and when asked if you want to save, click the Save button and save in the `\PortableApps\GIMP\animations\lettertoletter` folder as `letter_to_letter_mm_dd_yy` as a `.xcf` image.

Note: It is important to save at this time as you may use this image again in another animation.

Step 7: Close the other two *Untitled windows without saving.

The original `.xcf` file is active. You may want to save this as `geek.xcf` in the same folder. Close the `geek.xcf` image and open the `letter_to_letter_mm_dd_yy.xcf` file that contains the 80 frames.

SAVING THE IMAGE AS AN ANIMATED GIF

Step 1: From the Menu Bar, select Filters | Animation | Optimize (for GIF). From the new “Untitled” window, click File | Save and at the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the same folder with the same name.

Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) and select



Click the Save button.

At the Export File dialog box, select the **Save as Animation** radio button and click the Export button.

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

Step 2: Close the GIF image window.

Step 3: Close the XCF image window.

Step 4: Close the GIMP® application.

PLAYING THE ANIMATION IN THE BROWSER

Step 1: Navigate to the location of the `letter_to_letter_mm_dd_yy.gif` file.

Step 2: Right click the file and select Open With and select either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

The image should animate in the browser.

