

# GIMP® ANIMATION EFFECTS



Animation: Image Fade

## ANIMATION: IMAGE FADE

GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

### BACKGROUND IMAGE

Before you begin this image animation, you will need to download four public domain images and crop them to the **same** size. Save the images in the

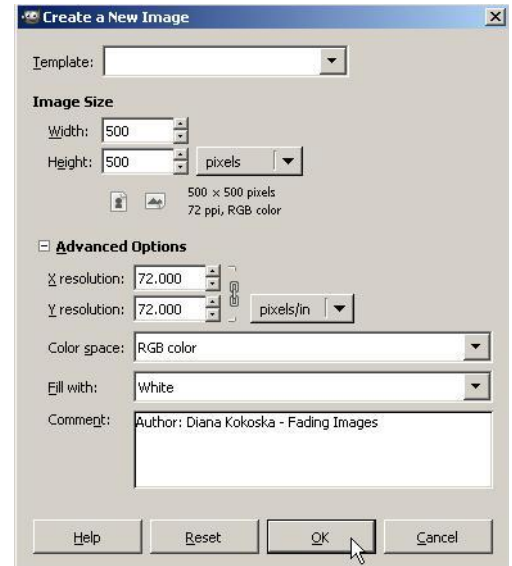
`PortableApps\GIMP\animation\image_fade\` folder.

If you prefer, you can download the four basket images that I am using in the tutorial: `blueberry.jpg`, `lobster.jpg`, `moose.jpg`, and `patriotic.jpg`. These have a width of 300 pixels and a height of 225 pixels.

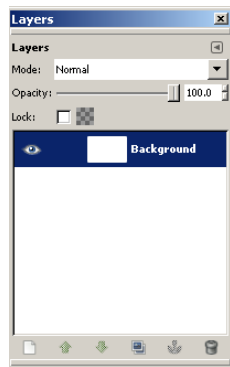
### INSERTING THE IMAGES

**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, select a Width: of 500 and a Height: of 500. 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.

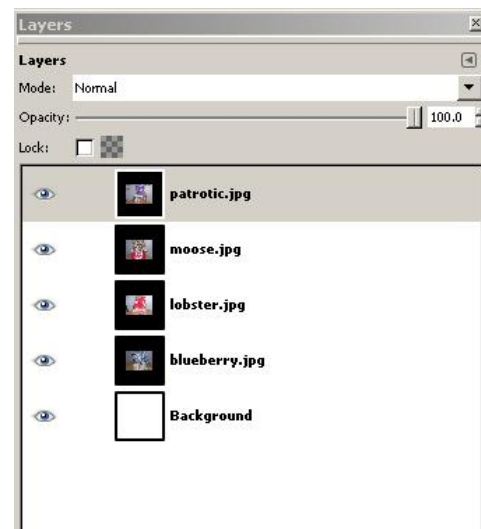


Click the OK button.



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:** Drag each of the four images from the PortableApps\GIMP\animation\image\_fade\ folder onto the image canvas.



My images are scaled to the same size. A new layer is created in the Layers palette for each image.

#### CREATING THE FADE-IN EFFECT

**Step 1:** To create a fade-in effect, you will need duplicate each image eight times and begin with an opacity of 20% and increase the opacity level on each image by 10%.

With the "blueberry.jpg" layer selected in the Layers palette, use the shortcut key Ctrl+Shift+D nine times to insert eight copies of the "blueberry.jpg" layer in the Layers palette.

**Step 2:** With the "blueberry.jpg" layer selected in the Layers palette, drag the Opacity: slider to 20% or type 20 in the Opacity: textbox and press the Enter key.

Repeat this step with each of the "blueberry.jpg copy" layers in the layers palette, increasing the Opacity by 10% each time.

**Note:** If you duplicated the layer 20 times and used 5% opacity change between each layer, the transition would be smoother.

Since the layers are transparent, you will need to duplicate the "Background" layer for each image and merge the two layers.

**Step 3:** Select the "Background" layer in the Layers palette and press Ctrl+Shift+D to insert a "Background copy" layer above the "Background" layer.

Right click on the "blueberry.jpg" layer and select Merge Down to merge the "blueberry.jpg" layer and the "Background copy" layer.

This layer has an opacity level of 20%, so the image icon in the Layers palette is faded, but it has a white background.

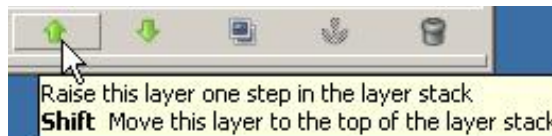
Double click on the "Background copy" layer and type `Blueberry 20` (referring to the 20% opacity level) and press the Enter key.



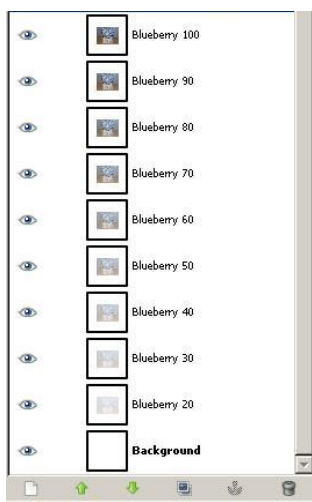
**Note:** Renaming the merged layers will make it easier to see which layers have been merged.

**Step 4:** Duplicate the "Background" layer and drag it below the "blueberry.jpg copy" layer in the Layers palette, and right click on the "blueberry.jpg copy" layer and select Merge Down and rename the "Background copy" layer `Blueberry 30`.

Repeat this process for each of the blueberry images.



**Note:** You can use the **Shift** key at the bottom of the Layers palette to reorder the layers.



To test the animation, from the Menu Bar, select Filters | Animation | Playback... and at the Playback window click the Play button.

You should see a fade-in effect. The frame rate is very fast, but you will adjust that later.

#### CREATING THE FADE-OUT EFFECT


**Step 1:** Duplicate each of the "Blueberry ..." layers in the Layers palette and order as shown below:

```
Blueberry 20
Blueberry 30
Blueberry 40
Blueberry 50
Blueberry 60
Blueberry 70
Blueberry 80
Blueberry 90
Blueberry 100
Blueberry 100
Blueberry 90
Blueberry 80
Blueberry 70
Blueberry 60
Blueberry 50
Blueberry 40
Blueberry 30
Blueberry 20
Background
```

**Step 2:** From the Menu Bar, select Filters | Animation | Playback to preview your animation.

**Step 3:** Repeat the Fade-in and Fade-out effect for the lobster.jpg image, the moose.jpg image, and the patriotic.jpg image.

Preview the animation.

**Step 4:** Before saving the image, with the “Background” layer selected in the Layers palette, select the Crop Tool  from the Toolbox and draw a rectangle around the image. Click to accept the crop.

**Step 5:** From the Menu Bar, click File | Save and at the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the `\PortableApps\GIMP\Animation\image_fade\` folder as `image_fade_mm_dd_yy.xcf` (replacing the `mm_dd_yy` with the current month, day, and year).

#### SAVING THE ANIMATION AS A GIF IMAGE

**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

- ➊ Add a comment that describes the animation.
- ➋ Click the Delay between frames where unspecified: down arrow and select 500.

Note: The default of 100 milliseconds is about 1/10 of a second. The 500 will animate each frame for one half of a second.

- ➌ 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 `image_fade_mm_dd_yy` image 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.

#### MODIFYING THE ANIMATION

**Step 1:** If you decide that you want the image with opacity of 100% to display longer, you can open the `.xcf` file in GIMP® and go to the four files that have a 100% opacity (using Blueberry as the example):

**Step 2:** Double click the layer name and add `(2000ms)` to the end of the name to animate these frames for 1 second each rather than the  $\frac{1}{4}$  second.

```
Blueberry 100 (2000ms)
Blueberry 100 copy (2000ms)
```

**Step 3:** Repeat for the other lobster, moose, and patriotic images.

**Step 4:** Save the `.xcf` file with the same name in the same folder.

**Step 5:** Repeat the steps in Saving the Animation as a GIF image. You may want to experiment with different Delay between frame rates or adding more layers to the image for a smoother transition.