


Creating Rollovers

Rollovers allow you to seemingly put one image on top of another when a user performs an action such as moving the mouse over an object. Rollovers are essentially developed by creating two images of identical size (one to be the original image and another to be the image that shows when the action, such as a mouse over, occurs) that are controlled via a Javascript action. Dreamweaver automatically write the Javascript code so your most important job is creating two pictures of identical size.

For this example, we'll create a navigation/menu bar since many of you are interested in doing this. The menu bar will include four terms: Units, Assignments, Policies and Students. For each term we'll need two images (one that displays originally and one that displays when the mouse rolls over it). We'll create a rollover that displays a "drop shadow" effect. Remember, you can be creative with the images; this is just an example. You can also use any image editing program to create these 8 images so don't feel discouraged if you do not think you'll have access to Photoshop in your classroom.

For this example, we'll use a program that is embedded within Photoshop 7 known as Image Ready. Image Ready enables us to do "slices". This means that we can create our navigation bar as a whole and then "slice" it into smaller images using Image Ready. First, open Photoshop. Second, in the toolbar, select bottom right hand tool (the "jump to Image Ready tool") 

- (1) Using the "text tool" in Image Ready (it works exactly the same as in Photoshop) create the menu bar by making four text layers (See Figures 1 & 2)

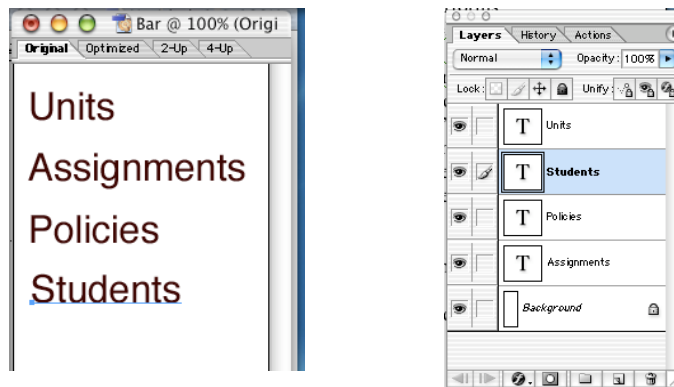


Figure 1 & Figure 2

- (2) Now we have the "original" look for our menu bar. In order to create rollovers each word must be a separate picture so a different word can change depending on where the user puts the mouse. To do this we use Image Ready's slice tool. There are two slice tool options (Slice Tool and Slice Select Tool). Hold the mouse down on the tool to see both options. The Slice Tool lets you create individual pictures while the Slice Select Tool lets you modify the slice/picture once it is created. Select the "Slice Tool" (See Figure 3) and create your first slice. You'll notice that Image Ready automatically "slices" the entire image, including white space. Figure 4 shows you the menu bar in slices.

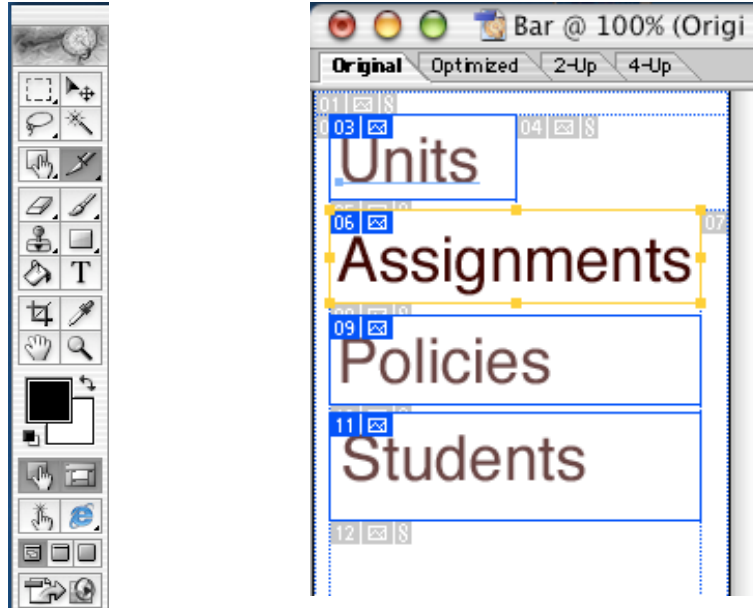


Figure 3 & 4

- (3) Now you want to name the slices something that will allow you to recognize it by name. The default is to name slices by number. You can do this while you slice if you'd like. Select the "Slice Select Tool" (see Figure 5). Select the slice you want to name (in this case Assignments). Go to the Slice Property window and name the slice (See Figure 6). If you do not see this window; Go to Window in the menu bar and select Slice.

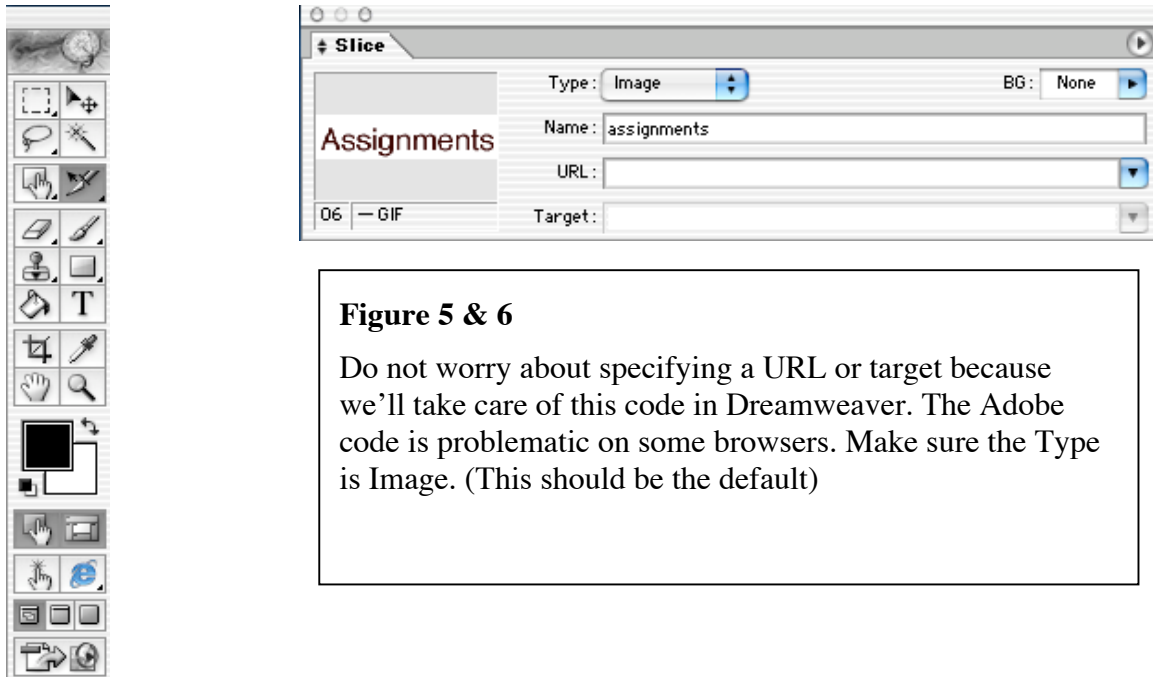
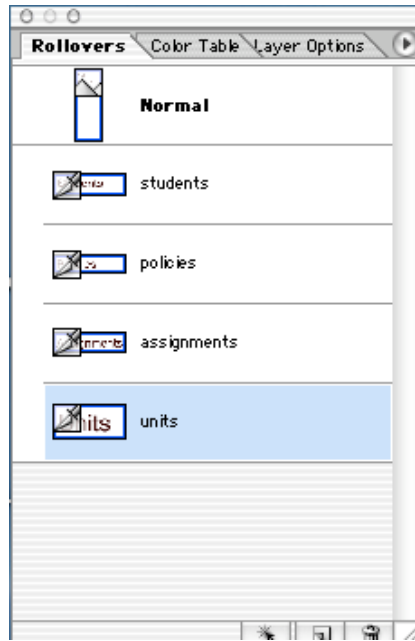


Figure 5 & 6

Do not worry about specifying a URL or target because we'll take care of this code in Dreamweaver. The Adobe code is problematic on some browsers. Make sure the Type is Image. (This should be the default)

- (4) Next, you want to create the images that will appear when the image is rolled over. Image Ready has a special Rollover Window for this. Go to Window and select Rollover. Figure 7 shows the Rollover Window.



Notice that the rollover items correspond to the slices we created. Notice that the selected rollover item (in this case –units) corresponds to the selected slice on your image. Select another slice and notice that the yellow slice outline in the document moves accordingly.

Figure 7

- (5) Now we're ready to create our secondary images or the images that will appear when the mouse rolls over the image. *Make sure the item selected in the Rollover Window is also selected in the Layers Window.* In the Rollover Window select the right-pointing arrow (Figure 8) and go to New Rollover State. Another item with the term "Over State" will appear below the slice that was selected (See Figure 9)

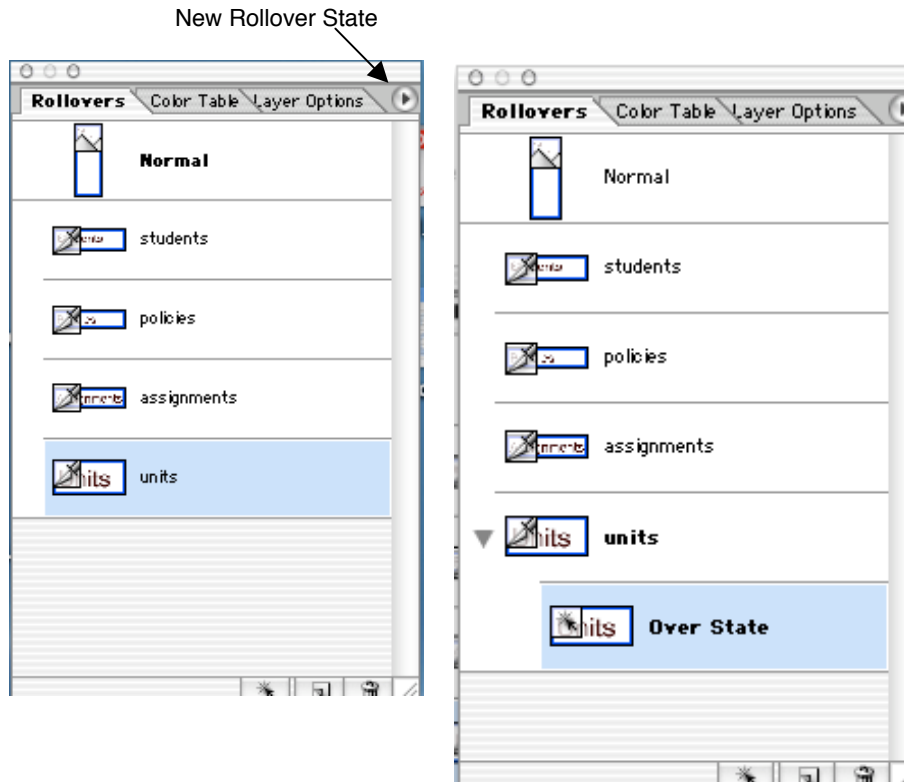


Figure 8 & 9

- (6) The Over State has been created. Now we have to specify what it will look like. In this case we'll make the Over State a drop shadow. With the Over State selected go to Layer –Layer Style-Drop Shadow as we did when we created banners. Unfortunately, the Drop Shadow commands are placed in the same window as the Rollover commands so you'll automatically go to the Drop Shadow Commands and loose sight of the Rollover Commands. (See Figure 10)

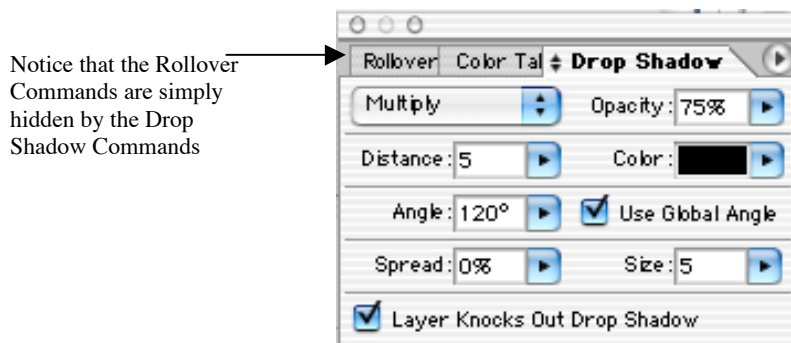


Figure 10

- (7) Select the Rollover Tab and you'll see that your Over State item now has a drop shadow effect to it (See Figure 11). Repeat this with each original picture/slice. (See

Figure 12 for what this will look like for our example). *Make sure the item selected in the Rollover Window is also selected in the Layers Window*

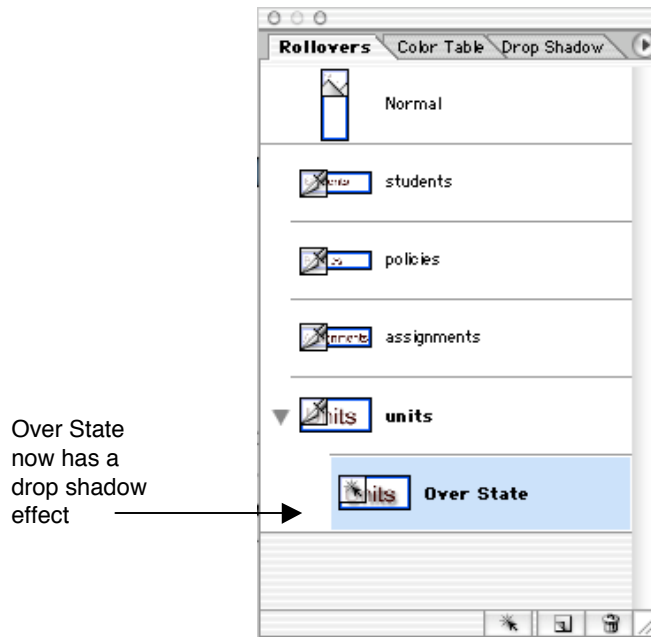


Figure 11

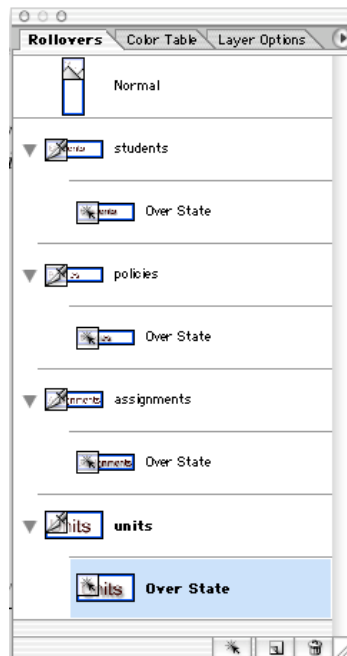


Figure 12: All Over States created

- (8) Now we want to save each original image and Over State image as a separate file. Select each slice in its original state by holding down the Shift Key as you select each one. (See Figure 13)

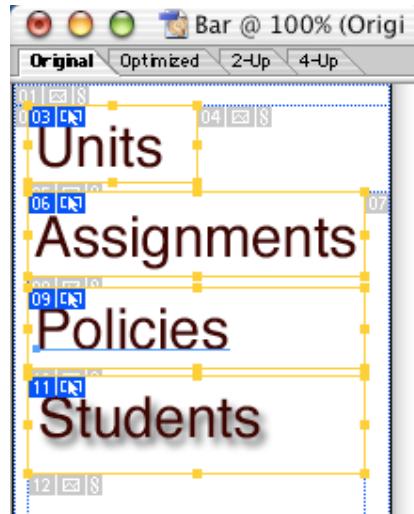


Figure 13

- (9) Go to File – Save Optimized As. For Format select “Images Only”. For Slices select “Selected Slices” (See Figure 14). Save.

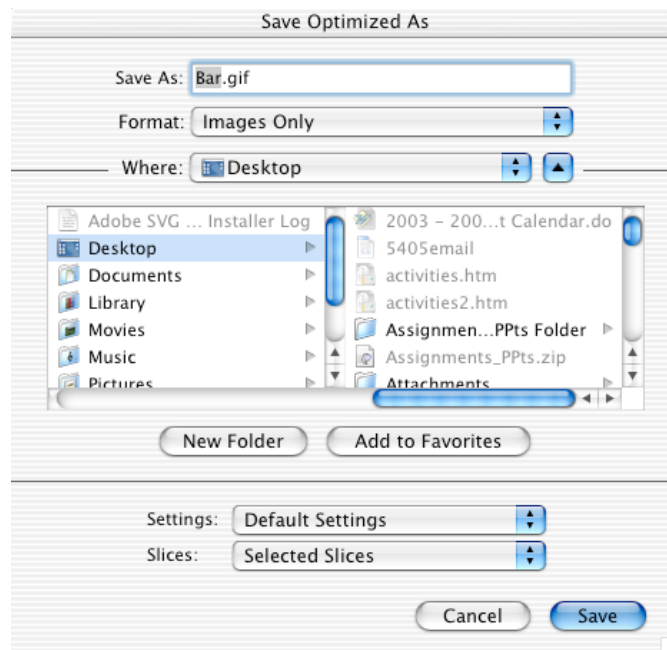


Figure 14

- (10) A folder named “Images” will be in the location to which you saved. *If you’re using a Dreamweaver site, it is recommended that you save in the Images folder of this site.* In this folder you will see two images for each part of the menu bar (i.e. “assignments.gif” and “assignments-over.gif”). Be sure you know where this folder is.
- (11) Open Dreamweaver and your site (hit F8 if you want to see your site files). Open the file in which you want to put your navigation bar (probably your template). If you’re using your template file, select the cell in which you plan to place your

- navigation bar. Select the cell or the place you want to put the navigation bar. Go to Insert-Interactive Images-Navigation Bar. An “Add Navigation” window will appear.
- (12) Fill in the window with the information for your first rollover. (See Figure 15).
 - (13) Hit the “+” button to add more elements. You can use the up and down arrows to change the order of your elements as well. Do not worry about the “Down” and “While Down” states but know you can specify images to appear when the mouse is held down on an image or hovered over an image.

The screenshot shows the "Insert Navigation Bar" dialog box. At the top, there are two labels: "Add or delete elements" pointing to the "+" and "-" buttons, and "Reposition elements" pointing to the up and down arrow buttons. The dialog has a title bar "Insert Navigation Bar" and a close button. Below the title bar, there is a list of "Nav Bar Elements" with "assignments" selected. Below the list, there are fields for "Element Name" (assignments), "Up Image" (images/assignments.gif), "Over Image" (images/assignments-over.gif), "Down Image", and "Over While Down Image", each with a "Browse..." button. There is also an "Alternate Text" field (Link to Assignments) and a "When Clicked, Go To URL" field (assignments.htm) with a "Browse..." button and a window selection dropdown (Main Wind...). At the bottom, there are "Options" for "Preload Images" (checked) and "Show 'Down Image' Initially" (unchecked), and an "Insert" dropdown set to "Vertically" and a "Use Tables" checkbox (checked).

- (13) When you have added all your elements, click OK and you’ll see the navigation appear. Preview it in the browser to see how it looks. If you added this navigation bar to a template, you’ll never have to create it again.