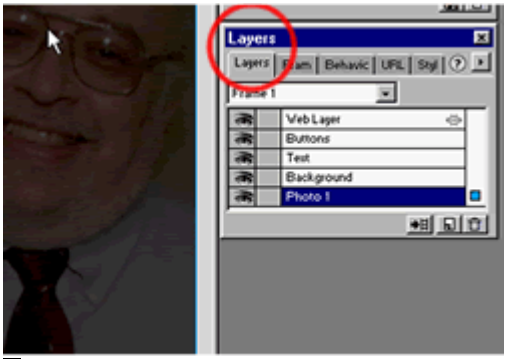
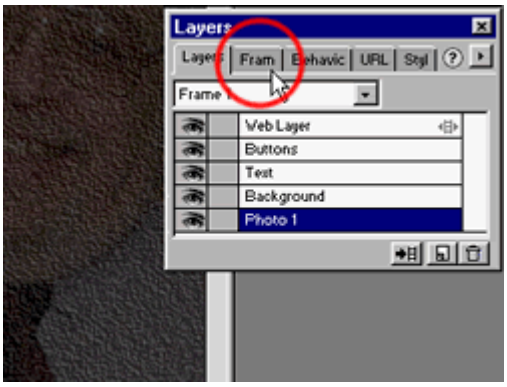
Creating Sliced Images with Rollovers in Fireworks 3

1 Open your PNG master file in Fireworks. What we're going to do is: 1) duplicate the frame that contains this image; 2) modify the appearance of each rollover object on the new frame; 3) insert slices on each rollover object on the original frame; 4) insert Simple Rollover Behaviors on each slice; 5) save the new master (with a new name); 6) export the slices and HTML for further work in Dreamweaver

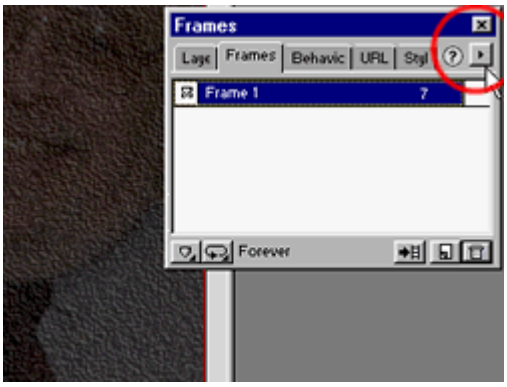


2 Before we get to work, let's see how this image is organized. If you're a Photoshop user, you're used to Layers. You can use Layers in Fireworks too, as this image does. This image has five layers. From bottom up: 1) Photo 1 - the background photo; 2) Background - a textured rectangle; 3) Text - the Name and "Welcome..." text; 4) Buttons - the four "buttons", each of which consists of a rectangle (styled with one of Fireworks' built-in styles) and "button" text. The "Web Layer" was inserted by Fireworks itself.

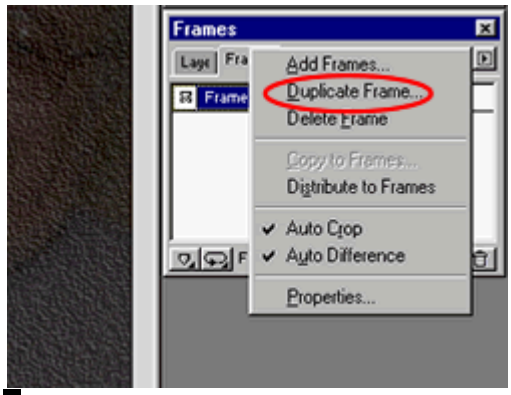
3 Back to creating our sliced image with rollovers... Make sure that each "button", image or line of text where you want to have a rollover is isolated as a separate object. If you created all the places where you want rollovers in one object, then recreate each rollover area as a separate object, i.e. create each object separately, one at a time. Note: this doesn't mean that each rollover object has to be on its own layer. As noted in #2, the button objects on the home page image are all on the same layer.



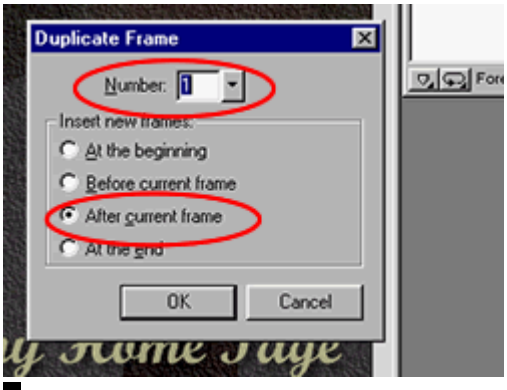
4 Once all you have all your rollover objects separated find the Frames Panel. In this version of the program, it's located next to the Layers Panel. If you can't find it, open the Windows menu and select it.



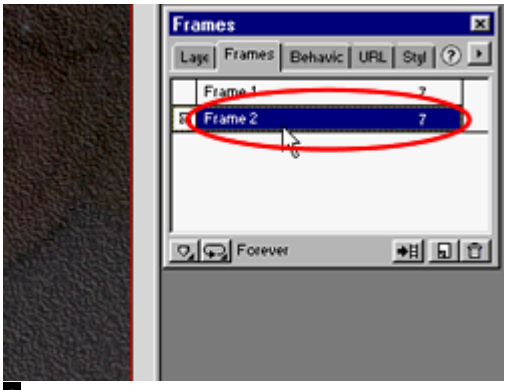
5 Click on the Frames Panel Tab, then open the Panel menu.



6 Choose Duplicate Frame.



7 Add 1 frame after the current frame.



8 A second frame appears in the Frames Panel. Click on Frame 2 to select it.

9 In Frame 2 modify the appearance of each of the rollover objects. Either click on each of the rollover objects and change them individually or change them all at once by Shift-clicking on each and applying the change. In this case all the buttons were changed to a brighter red background color.

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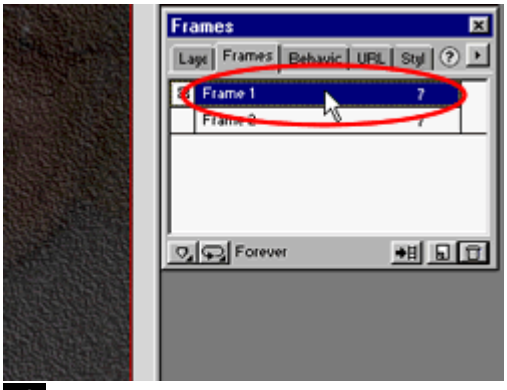
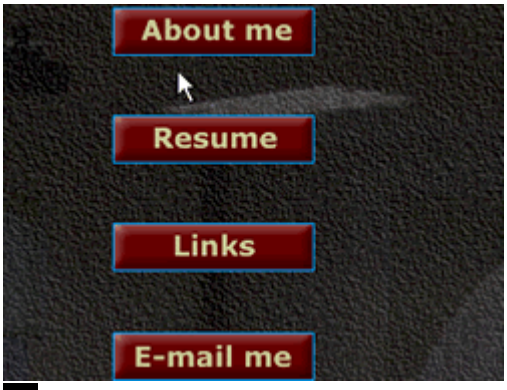
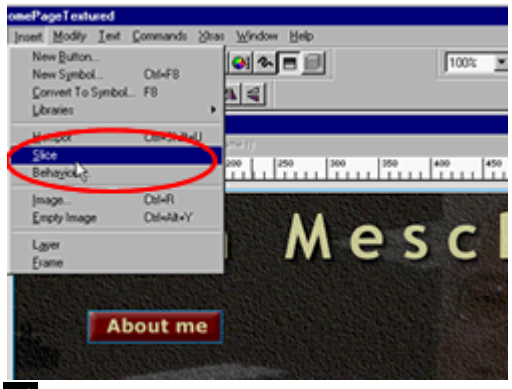


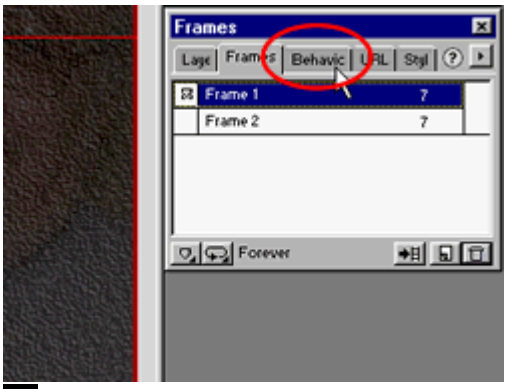
10 Go back to Frame 1 by choosing it in the Frames Panel.



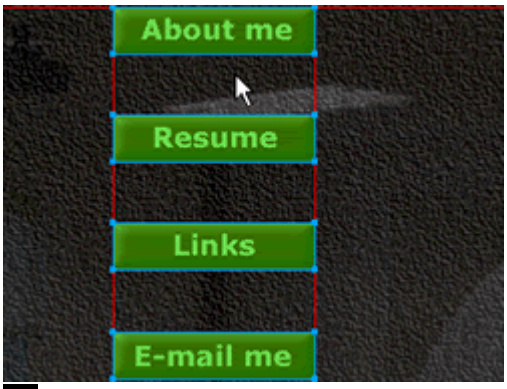
11 Select all the rollover objects on Frame 1 by Shift-clicking on each. Note a blue border appears on each as you select it.



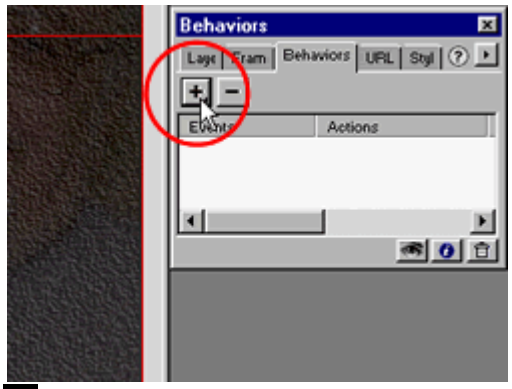
12 Open the Insert Menu and choose Slice. Click the Multiple button in the dialog box that appears next. Green slices will appear on each rollover object.



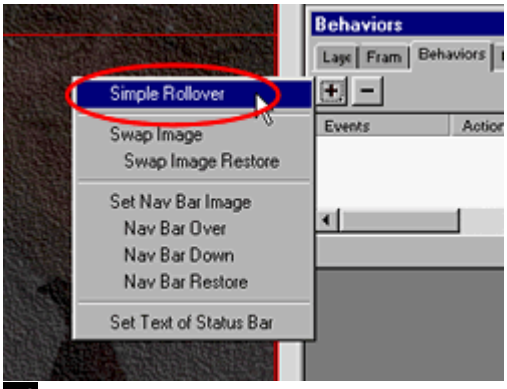
13 Find the Behaviors Panel Tab and click on it. If you can't find it, open the Windows menu and select it.



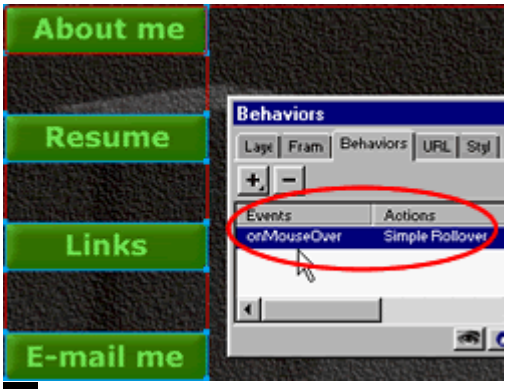
14 Make sure only the rollover objects with the green slices are selected (i.e. blue borders.) If you haven't clicked on the image since step 12 they should still be.



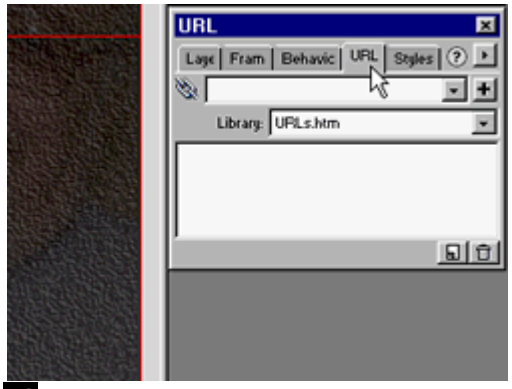
15 Click on the plus sign in the Behaviors Panel.



16 Choose Simple Rollover from the Popup menu. A Simple Rollover Action for the onMouseOver Event will appear in the Behavior Panel



17 Fireworks will now be able to slice the image, create the HTML table needed to recreate the sliced image and write the Javascript that will control the rollover action.



18 **Optional Step**. If you know the URL of each rollover's link, go to the Objects Panel, then click each button slice and enter the URL address in the link box. If you don't know the URL, you can enter it later in Dreamweaver.

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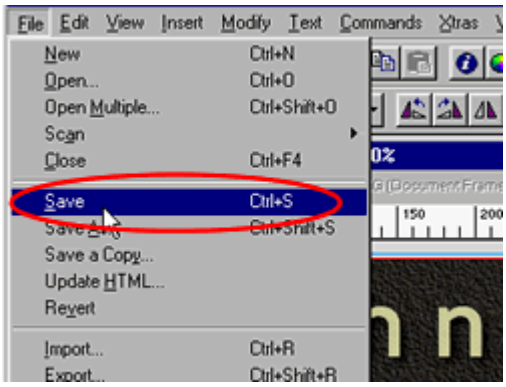
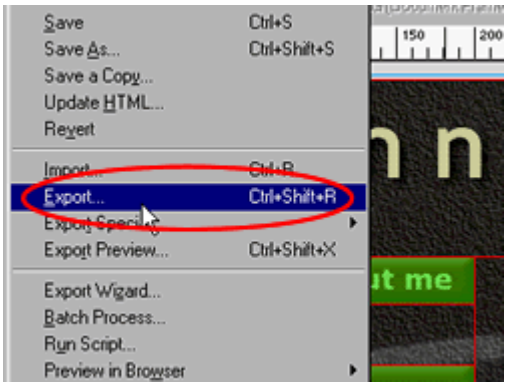
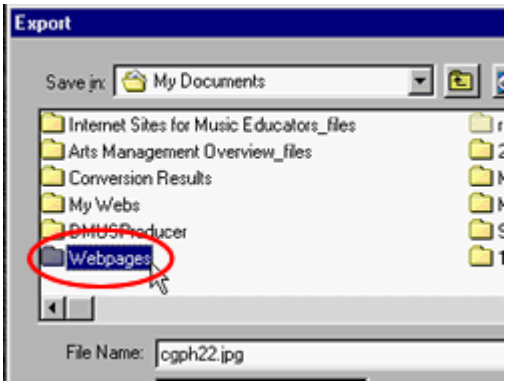
19 If you look closely at the image, you'll see red lines which indicate where Fireworks will slice the image. For this image, eleven slices have been created with each rollover object in a separate slice. What's important to remember here is that Fireworks will slice an image so all rollover objects are in separate slices. This way the object is isolated and the rollover area can be properly defined and tracked by the browser.



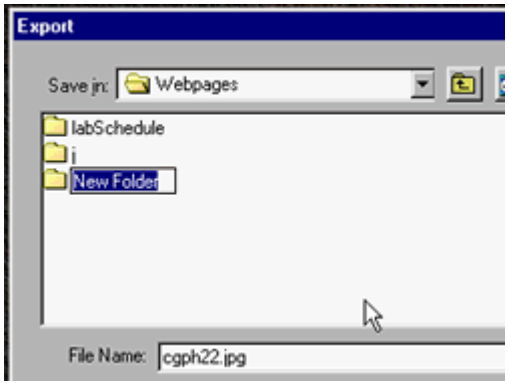
20 Next, save the PNG master file for your sliced image. File Menu > Save and save it in your Web page folder. (Actually, you should have been saving the file all through these steps.)



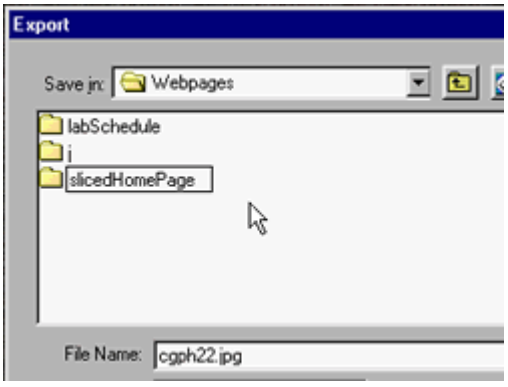
21 Finally, let's export the sliced images and the HTML page Fireworks writes to "reassemble" the sliced image. File Menu > Export. If a dialog box appears telling you that "Sliced objects will be ignored", don't worry. We'll take care of that in the next step.



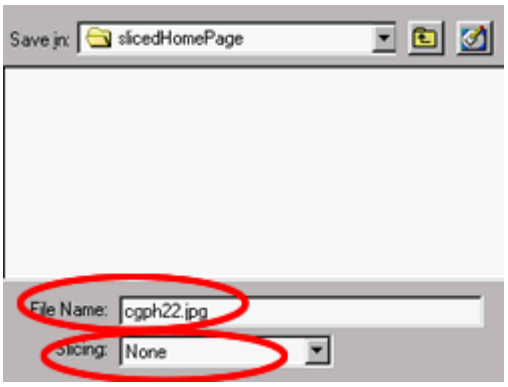
22 The Export process has multiple steps. First, navigate to your Web page folder.



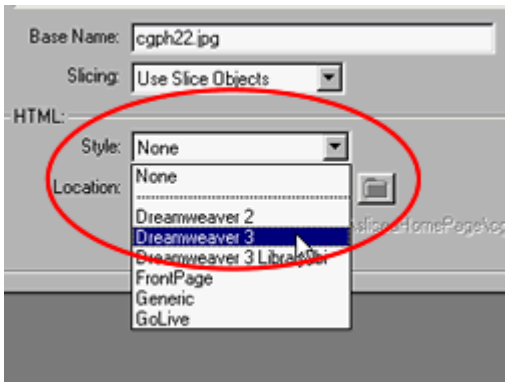
23 Create a new folder with an appropriate name inside that folder.



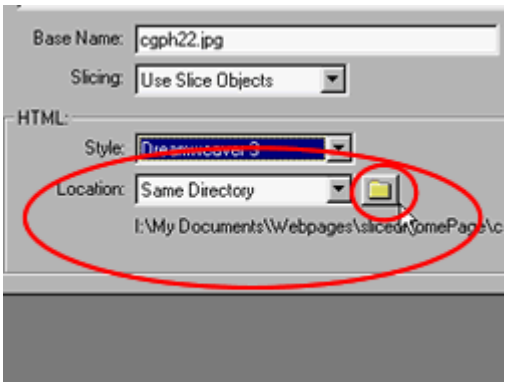
24 This is where you'll store the eleven slices and the JPG version of the unsliced image. Open the new folder, but don't click Save yet!



25 Enter an appropriate name for the full unsliced JPG version of your image, then open the box labeled Slicing and choose "Use Sliced Objects." Don't click Save yet!



26 In the HTML section of the Export dialog box, choose Dreamweaver 3 for the Style. You could click Save now, or



27 You can change the location where the HTML file will be saved. Either leave the Location set to Same Directory or click the folder icon and set the location to your Web page folder – one folder up in the "tree."

More instructions to follow…