

Creating a rollover image with Photoshop

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The Photoshop file for this example can be found in the 'psd files' folder in the 'Keeleys' folder.

What is a rollover

A rollover is created by making two graphics that will share the same space on a web page. When the mouse moves over the area containing the rollover, the images are swapped. This is enabled in the HTML by JavaScript which is created in Dreamweaver simply by going - Insert > Image Objects > Rollover Image.

The first image is referred to as the *first state* (mouse out) and the second image as the *second state* (mouse over).

Typically, rollover images are used for menu navigation buttons and, as in this example, to bring attention to a featured link.

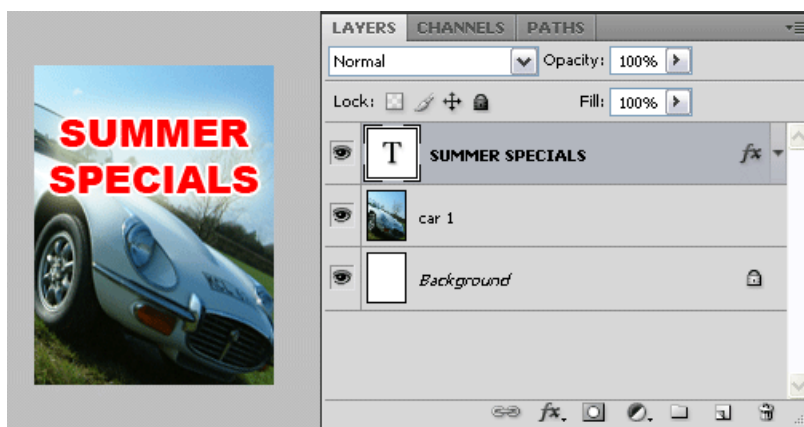
Making a rollover

The process outlined here uses Photoshop (PS). This involves creating a layered PS document with all the visual elements that are required for the two versions of the rollover. Two separate images will be optimised from this document by turning on or off the visibility of various layers to create the two image versions. Both images should be the same size.

Starting off in PS

Create a new document, File > New, to the required pixel dimensions to fit into your web page. Set the image resolution to *72 pixels per inch*. Save this as a Photoshop document (.psd), ideally with the same filename you wish to use for the optimised versions. In this particular case, the file is saved as a .psd document with the filename of 'specials'. *Remember that PS documents are not to be saved into your root folder.*

Start by creating an image of what you would expect to see on your web page when it first appears in a browser.



The second part of the process is to add elements to the document for what you expect to see for the second state of the rollover. Place these elements on new layers.



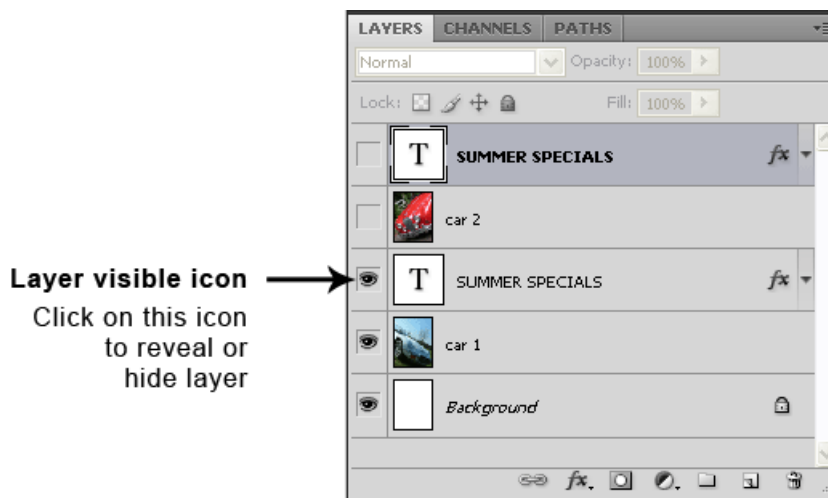
Optimising from the PS document

This entails going through the Save for Web and Devices process twice, in order to create two optimised images. The images can be saved with the same filename as the PS document but each filename should be appended differently e.g.

specials_out
specials_over

‘Out’ refers to the *mouse out* state and ‘over’ refers to the *mouse over* state.

1. Arrange the visibility of the layers in the PS document to show how the *first state* will look. Then go to – File > Save for Web and Devices. Optimise as required and save the image inside the root folder.



Showing layers visible for the ‘mouse out’ state of the rollover

2. Go back to the PS document and arrange the visibility of the layers to show how the *second state* will look. Then go to – File > Save for Web and Devices. Optimise as required and save the image inside the root folder.

Inserting a rollover with Dreamweaver

Inserting a rollover in DW is very easy, though the function in the code is quite complex.

- Click in the document where you want the rollover to be
- Go to - Insert > Image Objects > Rollover Image

The *Insert Rollover Image* dialogue appears:

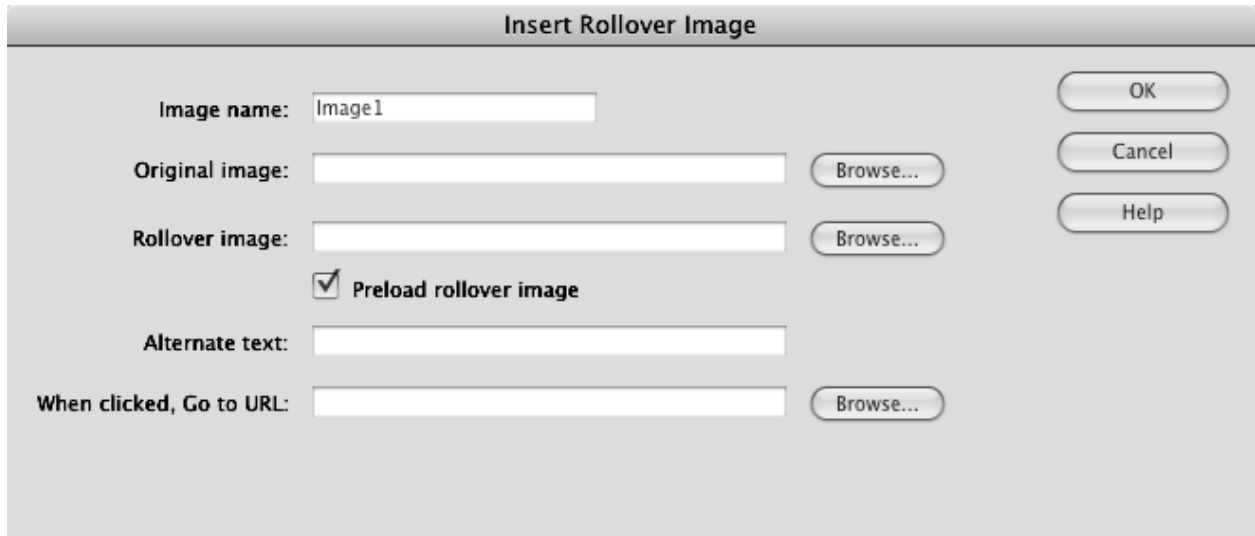


Image name:

Can be left as it appears or a unique name given – no spaces. This name is referenced in the JavaScript.

Original image:

The *first state* (mouse out) of the rollover.

Rollover image:

The *second state* (mouse over) of the rollover.

Alternate text:

Insert appropriate text.

When clicked, Go to URL:

The page that the rollover will link to. This does not need to be specified at this time. This can be done via the Properties panel as with other images. Insert '#' (hash) if no link required.

The rollover does not operate in the Design view in DW. Preview in a browser or in Live View.

What is happening in the code?

To make the rollover image work, Dreamweaver includes JavaScript within the image tag. You can see the mouse out/over functions referenced there. In turn, this script references the JavaScript that is entered in the <head> of the HTML document. The script in the <head> effectively acts as the engine to make the whole thing work.