



*The techniques within this Acrobat™ PDF file are from the upcoming Adobe Press book Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design.*

## ***Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design***

***by Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton***

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design is a portable seminar on web page design taught by experienced professionals that documents Adobe software such as Adobe Photoshop 4, Adobe Illustrator 7, and Adobe PageMill 2, as well as the latest HTML language protocols.

This October 1997 Adobe Press book will bring all the essential information of a two-day seminar into a compact and reusable format, complete with CD and step-by-step techniques. Two noted Web seminar instructors, Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton of ElectraVision, have distilled their training sessions into over a hundred two-page techniques using popular Adobe applications to simulate how Web pages are actually created. The result is a reference book of clear, simple explanations and designs that are reusable page after Web page.

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design

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## Compositing Graphics to a Background Tile



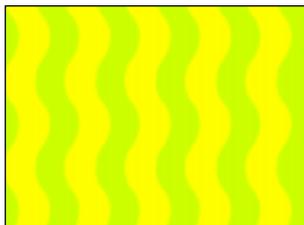
To keep the download time to a minimum, yet keep a rich feel to a Web page, people often use a decorative background tile. The problem with background tiles, however, is correctly preparing graphics so that they match when placed on top of the tile. Because you cannot predict where the tile will fall on the Web page, people often assume that they need to use rough-edged aliased graphics. This exercise, however, shows how to prepare soft-edged, anti-aliased graphics that will match your tile.

**PHOTOSHOP 4.0** Object Gear, Amusements: Dog Biscuits, Crocodile  
Font: Image Club Overprint



### STEP 1: PREPARING A SINGLE MERGED LAYER

Prepare an anti-aliased, soft-edged image merged into a single transparent layer and set aside for later.



### STEP 2: FILLING A LAYER WITH A BACKGROUND TILE

Create a new layer and fill it with the background tile (To create a background tile, see Exercise C5.) To fill a layer with a background tile, first select the tile with the Marquee selection tool and then choose Define Pattern from the Edit menu. With the pattern defined, choose Fill from the Edit menu and select "Pattern" from the Contents pop-up options.



### STEP 3: CREATE AN ALIASED SELECTION

Leave the background tile layer and select the image layer. Using the Magic Wand, you need to make an aliased selection around the image. To do this, set the Wand's tolerance to zero and uncheck the anti-aliased option. Click on the transparent area around the image and then choose Similar from the Select menu to make sure you capture all the transparent areas. Invert the selection so that the object is selected.

**NOTE:** As opposed to generating a "shrink-to-fit" selection by Command-clicking on the layer icon, the Magic Wand works best in this case because you are creating an aliased selection that will include the soft anti-aliased edges.



### STEP 4: OPTION MERGE

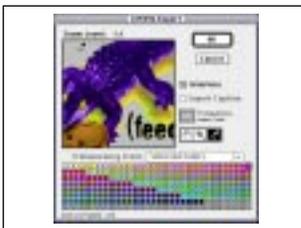
With the selection still active, merge the image layer with the background tile layer (or create an "option merge," see Lesson B7). Make sure the new merged layer is the active layer, and copy the selected portion. Although you have an aliased selection, you will be grabbing the soft-edges that have been blended to the background tile pattern.



### STEP 5: SELECTING A TRANSPARENT COLOR

Create a new file and fill it with a solid color from the web palette (see Lesson E2 regarding the Web-safe color palette). This will become your transparent color so be sure to select a color that is not in your image (a bright color often works well). Paste the copied image into this new file.

**NOTE:** When you create a new file, its dimensions will automatically be the size of the copied image.



### STEP 6: EXPORTING A GIF

Change the image's mode from RGB to Index Color and select either the Web colors or the Mac System palette. Next, export the image as a Gif using Photoshop's Gif 89A export feature located in the File menu. When the Gif 89A interface comes up, position the cursor over the color to be transparent and click once; the area should turn gray. Decide whether you want the image to be interlaced or non-interlaced and click OK.

**TIP:** The Mac system palette includes all of the Web safe colors plus 40 extra. On 16 and 24 bit displays, you will not notice any change in quality. On 8 bit displays, the 40 extra colors will dither, but the effect is negligible.