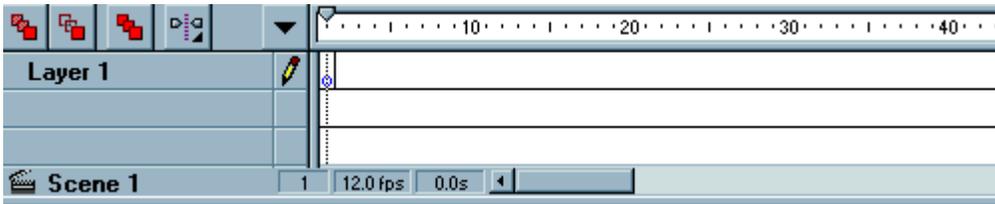


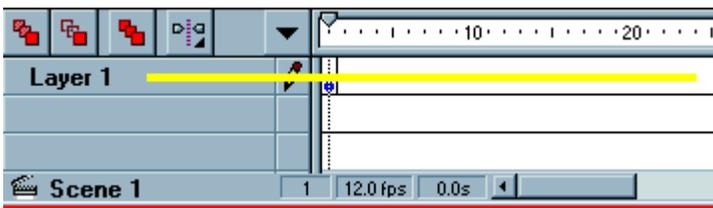
HOME

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Ex. 1: Timeline

So, you open up Flash for the first time cuz you hear that it's totally kick butt, you see the tool bar. OK, that looks familiar, but what the hell is the bar with all the lines and numbers and stuff. This looks harder than what I thought. Well, don't give up. People are here to help you along.

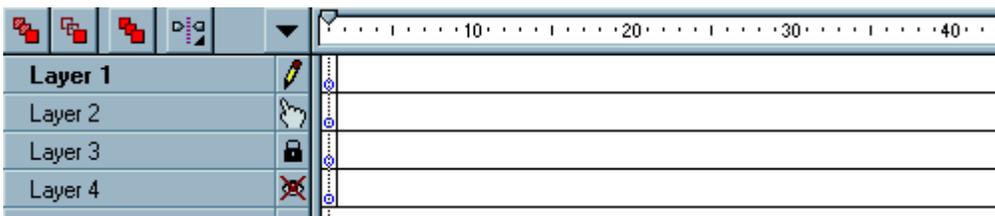
For starters, your timeline (the place with the numbers and nicks) is just like the sequence of animation. Before long you will add objects to specific places in your timeline, to create the effect of movies and animation. Get to KNOW your timeline and love it. Learn how to use layers, create and edit keyframes (which will go over further into this tutorial), create symbols and edit them.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LAYERS

Ex. 2: Timeline showing layer

Layers are extremely important in Flash. The yellow line in the picture above is considered the layer. You can have lots of layers. To see more layers (if you need to) you would just grab the 'bar' (red in picture above) and drag it down. But in exchange for doing that you cut down some of your working space in the movie.

- To rename a layer just double click the text and type in the new name for the layer. Make sure the name resembles the object you are going to place on it. Doing this will help you organize your scenes. Plus in with animation, you are only allowed one animation per a layer.
- You can move layers around by clicking the text and pulling/dragging the layer up or down. This is important in laying out your objects. For example: if you want your background on one layer, and you want your text on top of it. Let's say you inserted a layer, but it came below your background so you couldn't see any of your text, then you would just drag the layer above your background layer. SEE?

LAYER MODES

Ex. 3: Layer Modes

*** I will show you how to get to these modes in the section right below this one. So don't freak yet :)

There are 4 layer modes. KNOW them. They will help you in the long run, and cut out LOTS of frustration.

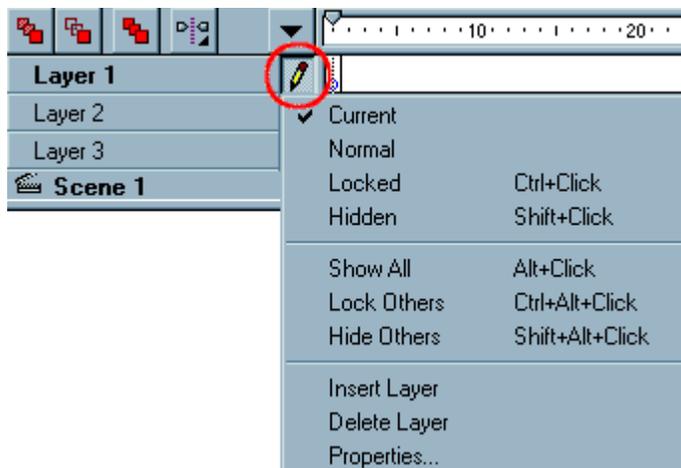
Current mode - This is the layer with the pencil by it. It just lets you know that this is the layer you are working on. The current layer will also have bold text.

Normal mode - This is the mode when nothing is going on in the layer. It's just sitting there basically.

Locked mode - When a layer is locked then you can't select any of the object on that layer. A good example again, is if you wanted a background, you could lock it when you were finished, so that you could work with objects above that layer without accidentally selecting anything in your background. A shortcut to turn this mode off is to double click the layer.

Hidden mode - This will not show or let you select any objects in the layer. It's nice when you are wanting to concentrate on another object and you don't want the distraction of other objects or colors in the background. A shortcut to turn this mode off is to double click the layer.

HOW TO ADD/DELETE LAYERS & CHANGE LAYER MODES



Ex. 4: Layer Menu

By clicking on the red highlighted area on a layer, it will bring up a list of selections (Longer than the one displayed here. We will go into the other 2 - Motion Guides & Masking a little later).

In the first section you select the mode you would like the layer to be in. In the second you can put multiple layers in a certain mode (this is probably obvious, so I won't go into detail). And the third section is quite obvious also. 'Properties' is will simply bring up a dialog box where you can name the layer. You can do this more easily by just double clicking the layer name.

LAYER TIPS, SHORTCUTS, & SUMMARY

To cut & paste in exact spot between layers - Flash, when pasting normally, sticks your art anywhere it wants in the layer you are pasting into. So to paste the art in the exact same spot you cut it from use 'Paste in Place' from the Edit menu. This way you are sure to have your object *exactly* where you want it.

Naming a layer - Just double click the layer name. A dialog window will pop up asking you to name the layer.

Moving a layer - Simply grab the layer name and drag the layer up or down between other layers.