MUSIC ON/OFF BUTTON -- ADVANCED

For use across scenes and permanent background music
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- *NO .FLA AVAILABLE*
- **SKILL LEVEL: ADVANCED**
- Know how to use the Load Movie & Unload Movie features
- Know how to import sounds (easy)
- Have a basic knowledge of Flash and how to edit your movies features

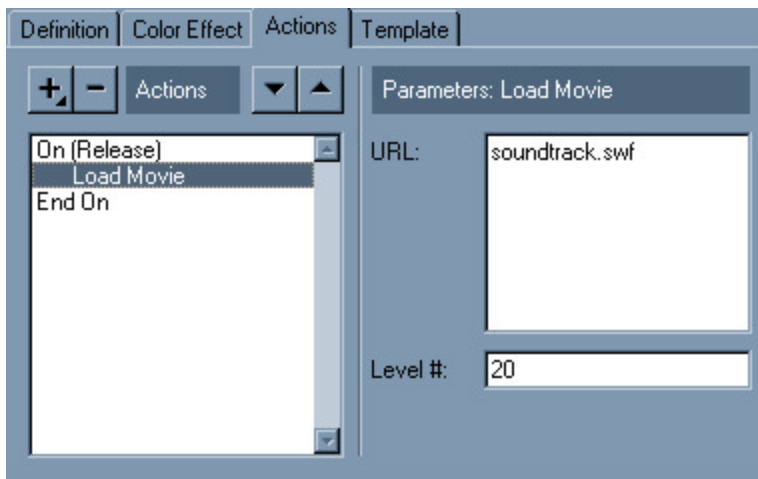***** Not recommended for large sound files *****

NOTE: Due to the fact that this tutorial involves sounds clips and not visual effects I'm not gonna list an .FLA here to view or download. Besides, if you are an advanced/intermediate user this tutorial should be easy to follow.

TUTORIAL

Ok. Here's a quick tip on starting and stopping music on your FLASH site. The way I've seen people explaining how to do it involves the "Stop all sounds" command in FLASH. The problem with this, is that though it does turn off your soundtrack, it will also turn off your sound effects.

Anyhow, here is how I implement a "soundtrack" to my site as something completely separate from my sound effects.

1. Create a new Flash file and call it Soundtrack. This will simply be a movie with JUST music in it. You will make another movie later in this tutorial that will actually call this file to play.

2. Make your movie the same color as your HTML background file it will eventually be exported to. Set the movie to 18pxls by 18pxls.

3. Now, import your music file into your movie by going to FILE > IMPORT and selecting your music file from it's source.

4. Open your library by clicking on WINDOW > LIBRARY and move the music file to your stage.

5. Perfect. Now export your movie. FILE > EXPORT MOVIE and specify where you want to save it. Close the Soundtrack FLA file you are working on.

6. There is now a file called Soundtrack.swf on your harddrive. Move it to the directory where you are working on your site. This will be the final directory where you will load it up to the web.

7. Now, in your main Flash movie create two buttons. One says "Music on" and the other says "Music off."
   NOTE: You may need to create a new movie or may already have one created.

8. On the Music On button, you will see the 'down' frame. Double-click this frame and click on the 'Actions' tab. Add the 'Load Movie' action.   In the URL box on the right type in 'Soundtrack.swf'. In the 'Level' box below the URL box type in 20.

9. On the Music Off button, you will see the 'down' frame. Double-click this frame and click on the 'Actions' tab. Add the 'Unload Movie' action. In the 'Level' box below the URL box type 20.

10. Now, just add these two buttons anywhere on your site to give your customer's control over the background music. Regardless of whether the music is running or not, your cool sound effects will continue to work.

11. If you would like the music to start automatically when they enter your site, just double click the very first frame of your site's movie add the Load Movie action to it. Remember to always add the Soundtrack.swf movie to level 20 so your button will always work. And don't load any other movies into that particluar level as they will replace your music and that's not good :)

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Last Updated 06/17/1999