

Covers working with
**Macromedia
Dreamweaver 4**



**VISUAL
QUICKSTART
GUIDE**

SANDEE COHEN

MACROMEDIA

FIREWORKS

FOR WINDOWS & MACINTOSH

*Teach yourself Fireworks the
quick and easy way! This
Visual QuickStart Guide uses
pictures rather than lengthy
explanations. You'll be up
and running in no time!*



VISUAL QUICKSTART GUIDE

MACROMEDIA FIREWORKS 4

FOR WINDOWS AND MACINTOSH

Sandee Cohen



Peachpit Press

Visual QuickStart Guide

Fireworks 4 for Windows and Macintosh

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Berkeley, CA 94710

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Find us on the Web at <http://www.peachpit.com>

Published by Peachpit Press in association with Macromedia, Inc.
Peachpit Press is a division of Addison Wesley Longman.

Cover Design: The Visual Group

Production and additional design elements: Sandee Cohen

Illustrations: Sandee Cohen

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ISBN 0-201-73133-9

0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed and bound in the United States of America

DEDICATED TO

Jeffry
With all my love and best wishes

THANKS TO

Nancy Ruenzel publisher of Peachpit Press.

Marjorie Baer executive editor at Peachpit Press.

Karen Dominey who has become an integral part of the team.

Pattie Belle Hastings who did the screen shots of the new interface. Her illustrations and icons are terrific. I look forward to reading her new book.

Myrna Vladic the production coordinator from Peachpit Press.

The staff of Peachpit Press all of whom make me proud to be a Peachpit author.

Steve Rath who does the best index in the business.

Diana Smedley of Macromedia. Congratulations on a great new interface.

David Morris of Macromedia who gave me a wonderful preview of all the new features.

Doug Benson of Macromedia who answered my continuing questions after the beta program ended.

Mark Haynes, Karen Duban, and Julie Hallstrom, the technical reviewers from Macromedia.

Joe Lowery author of *The Fireworks 4 Bible*. Joe has been a great resource, and I'm honored to call him a friend.

Linda Rathgeber author of *Playing with Fire*. Thanks for putting my technique in your new book.

Fireworks beta list participants, too numerous to name, who all gave me great insight into features and techniques.

Michael Randasso and the staff of the New School for Social Research Computer Instruction Center.

David Lerner of Tekserve who helped me do something I swore I would never do—change computers in the middle of an important project. Without his great shop, I would have never been able to get the book finished.

Susan Gladding of Xsense. She helped get my XRouter Pro back up in service to keep my cable modem connection to the Web.

Pixel my cat who thinks chapter 13 is all about her. And won't let me change the title to "Working with Bitmaps."

Colophon

This book was created using Macromedia Fireworks 4, Adobe Illustrator, Macromedia FreeHand, and Adobe Photoshop 6 for illustrations; QuarkXPress 4 for layout; and Ambrosia SW Snapz Pro for screen shots. The computers used were a 450 MHz Power Macintosh G4, a PowerBook G3.

Fireworks 4 for Windows ran on Virtual PC 3 from Connectix. (No Intel inside.)

The fonts used were Minion and Futura from Adobe and two specialty fonts created using Macromedia Fontographer.

A single cable modem Web connection was shared between computers using the miraculous Xsense XRouter Pro.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to learning Macromedia Fireworks 4. In a very short period of time Fireworks has become an important tool for creating all sorts of Web graphics.

What makes Fireworks so useful? Perhaps the most important reason is that it allows designers to work visually to create not just the images for Web sites but also the special code needed to assemble graphics and create interactive elements.

Another reason is that, instead of using three or more separate programs, Fireworks combines features found in image editing, Web optimizing, and vector drawing programs. So instead of requiring you to jump from one program to another, Fireworks lets you use one program from start to finish.

It has been very exciting to revise this book—my fourth time! Some features that used to be covered in a page or two have now been expanded into their own complete chapters. And yet, other features have been so simplified they can be covered in just a few pages.

Using This Book

If you have used any of the Visual QuickStart Guides, you will find this book very similar. Each chapter consists of numbered steps that explain how to perform a specific technique or work with a feature of the program. As you work through the steps, you gain an understanding of the technique or feature, helped along by insightful tips. The illustrations let you judge if you are following the steps correctly.

Instructions

Using a book such as this will be easier once you understand the terms I use. This is especially important because some other computer books use terms differently. So, here are the terms I use throughout the book and explanations of what they mean.

Click refers to pressing down and releasing the mouse button in the Macintosh, or the left mouse button in Windows. You must release the mouse button or else it's not a click.

Press means to hold down the mouse button or a keyboard key.

Press and drag means to hold the mouse button down and then move the mouse. In later chapters, I use the shorthand term *drag*; just remember that you have to press and hold as you drag the mouse.

Move the mouse or cursor means to move the mouse without pressing the mouse button.

Menu Commands

Like any application, Fireworks has menu commands that you choose to open dialog boxes, change artwork, and initiate certain actions. These menu commands are shown in bold type. The direction to choose a menu command is written like this:

Modify > Arrange > Bring to Front.

This means that you should first choose the Modify menu, then choose the Arrange submenu, and then the Bring to Front command.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Most of the menu commands for Fireworks have keyboard shortcuts that help you work faster. For instance, instead of choosing New from the File menu, it is faster and easier to use the keyboard shortcut.

Different software companies and authors differ as to the order in which they list the modifier keys used in keyboard shortcuts. I always list the Macintosh Command and the Windows Ctrl keys first, then the Option or Alt key, and then the Shift key.

In actual practice, the order that you press those modifier keys is not important.

However, it is very important that you always add the last key (the letter or number key) after you are holding the other keys.

Rather than cluttering up the exercises with long keyboard commands, I've listed the shortcuts in Appendix A, separated by platform.

Learning Keyboard Shortcuts

While keyboard shortcuts help you work faster, you don't have to start using them right away. In fact, most likely you'll learn more about the program by using menus. As you look for one command you may see a related feature you would like to explore.

Once you feel comfortable working with Fireworks, you can start adding keyboard shortcuts to your repertoire. My suggestion is that you look at the menu commands you use a lot. Then choose one of those shortcuts each day. For instance, if you import a lot of art from other programs, you might decide to learn the shortcut for the Import command. For the rest of that day, every time you import art use the Import shortcut. (It happens to be Cmd/Ctrl-R.) Even if you have to look at the menu to refresh your memory, use the keyboard shortcut to actually open the Import dialog box anyway. By the end of the day you will have memorized the Import shortcut. The next day you can learn a new one.

Cross-Platform Issues

One of the great strengths of Fireworks is that it is almost identical in look and function on both the Macintosh and Windows platforms. In fact, at first glance it is hard to tell which platform you are working on. However, because there are some differences between the operating systems themselves, there are some things you should keep in mind.

Modifier Keys

I always list the modifier keys with the Macintosh key first and then the Windows key second. So a direction to hold the Command/Ctrl key as you drag means that Macintosh users should hold the Command key while Windows users should hold the Ctrl key on the Windows platform. When the key is the same on both computers, such as the Shift key, only one is listed.

In most cases, the Mac's Command key (sometimes called the Apple key) corresponds to the Ctrl key on Windows. The Option key on the Macintosh usually corresponds to the Alt key on Windows. The Control key on the Macintosh has no Windows equivalent. Notice that the Control key for the Macintosh is always spelled out while the Ctrl key for Windows is not.

Platform-Specific Features

A few times in the book I have written separate exercises for the Macintosh and Windows platforms. These exercises are indicated by (Mac) and (Win).

Most of the time this is because the procedures are so different that they need to be written separately. Some features exist only on one platform. Those features are labeled to reflect this.

Fireworks Workflow: How to Use this Book

I structured this book so that you could start with an empty document and build your skills and understanding step by step. The first two chapters deal with the basics of Fireworks's onscreen elements and the document window. The next eight chapters cover the illustration and drawing tools in Fireworks. The rest go through all of the features in an orderly fashion. So, if you tend to be a little obsessive/compulsive, you should start right with Chapter 1 and march straight through the book, one chapter after another.

However, if your client is demanding that you finish the Web site tonight you may need to skip some features and jump right into specific techniques such as optimizing and exporting existing scans.

How you use this book depends on what you need to learn, how quickly you need to learn it, and what your learning style is. This workflow guides you as to how to move around and choose the chapters that most interest you—like a buffet dinner.

Basics ❶

Everyone needs some basics to cover the workings of the program. So whatever your ultimate goal, you should begin with:

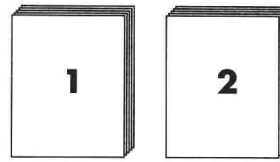
- Chapter 1: Fireworks Basics
- Chapter 2: Document Setup

Optimizing ❷

If you're in a hurry to get scanned images up on the Web you can then skip directly to these chapters—this means you don't want to edit or add artwork to your images.

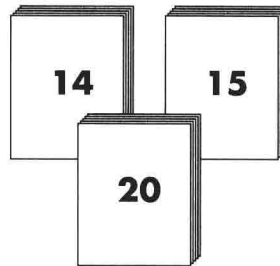
- Chapter 14: Importing
- Chapter 15: Optimizing
- Chapter 20: Exporting

Basics



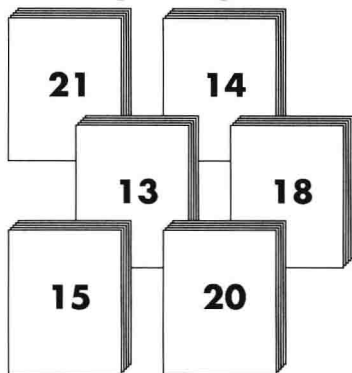
❶ Chapters 1 and 2 cover the Fireworks basics—the interface and document setup.

Optimizing



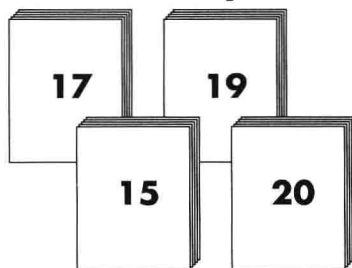
❷ Chapters 14, 15, and 20 cover the steps needed to optimize graphics and put them on the Web.

Bitmap Images



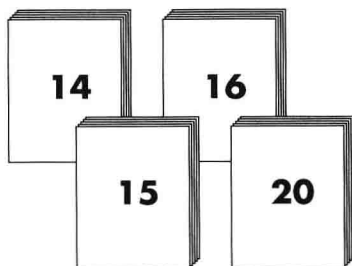
❶ Photoshop users can explore these chapters to make the transition to Fireworks.

Interactivity



❷ Chapters 17, 19, 15, and 20 show you how to add interactive elements to your graphics.

Animations



❸ Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 20 explain how to make Web animations.

Bitmap Images ❹

It's very possible that you are familiar with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe ImageReady, which many people use to produce Web graphics. If you're interested in learning how you can use Fireworks as you would use these programs, you should cover:

- Chapter 21: Compared to Photoshop
- Chapter 14: Importing
- Chapter 13: Working with Pixels
- Chapter 18: Slices
- Chapter 15: Optimizing
- Chapter 20: Exporting

Interactivity ❺

People expect to click buttons to move around Web pages. Here's a quick course for you if you want to know how to augment your pages with interactive elements such as buttons and links.

- Chapter 17: Hotspots and Links
- Chapter 19: Behaviors
- Chapter 15: Optimizing
- Chapter 20: Exporting

Animations ❻

Once you've succeeded with buttons, you'll be ready to try your hand at animations:

- Chapter 14: Importing
- Chapter 16: Animations
- Chapter 15: Optimizing
- Chapter 20: Exporting

Graphics Creation ⑥

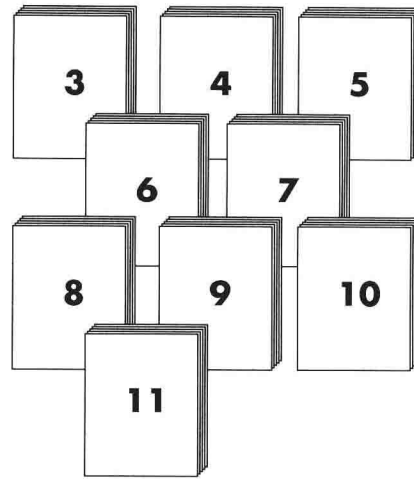
Fireworks is more than just optimizing and exporting graphics for the Web. Its graphics creation tools are among the best in the business. These are the chapters that show you how to create graphics:

- Chapter 3: Colors
- Chapter 4: Path Tools
- Chapter 5: Selecting Paths
- Chapter 6: Working with Objects
- Chapter 7: Fills
- Chapter 8: Strokes
- Chapter 9: Effects
- Chapter 10: Text
- Chapter 11: Masks and Interactions

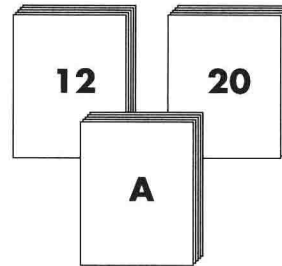
Working Faster and Smarter ⑦

It's not enough to know how to use Fireworks—you also want to finish your projects quickly. Here are the timesavers that let you automate your process, work more efficiently, and use Fireworks in conjunction with other Macromedia products:

- Chapter 12: Automation Features
- Chapter 20: Exporting
- Appendix A: Keyboard Shortcuts

Graphics

⑥ These chapters show you how to use Fireworks's extensive arsenal of drawing tools.

Faster and Smarter

⑦ Once you understand the program, you can learn to work faster, which is covered in chapters 12, 20, and appendix A.

Continuing Your Fireworks Education

One of the benefits of the Visual QuickStart series is that the books are straightforward and don't weigh you down with a lot of details you don't need. However, they were never designed to be a complete reference work. So, if you need the most complete reference book on Fireworks, I recommend that you look at *The Fireworks 4 Bible* by Joseph W. Lowery. Joe's book goes far beyond the scope of this QuickStart Guide, particularly in areas such as JavaScript actions and integration with Macromedia Dreamweaver. (Since many Fireworks features are designed to work with Dreamweaver, you may also want to get Joe's other book, *The Dreamweaver 4 Bible*.)

If you'd like to explore the creative aspects of Fireworks, you may also want to look at Linda Rathgeber's *Playing with Fire*. Outside of the fact that Linda's book features a technique I developed, she has a wealth of techniques for working with the program. Also, check out her Web site Playingwithfire.com.

But however you use Fireworks, don't forget to have fun!

Sandee Cohen

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January, 2001