

## Image Slicing in ImageReady

### Prepping your file in Photoshop

- Make sure your Photoshop file is *pixel-perfect*.
- Name your layers so that they mean something to you.
- If you are creating a rollover effect, make sure that you have a layer for both the off and on states, and that the layers are meaningfully named.
- When the file is ready, bring it into ImageReady.
  - File > Jump To > Adobe ImageReady, or
  - Click the bottom-most button in the Tools palette.

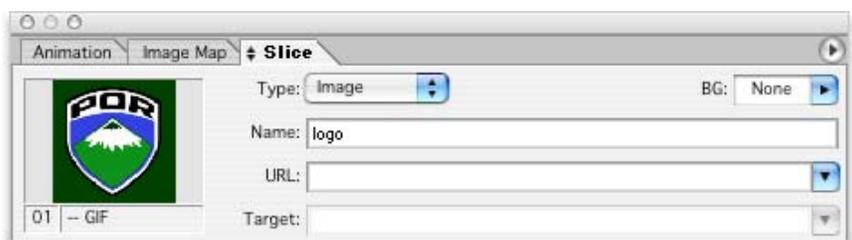


### Planning your slices

- Analyze your design and identify how best to slice your artwork.
- Determine which design elements should be created using artwork and which should be created using HTML in Dreamweaver.
- All sliced must be rectangles, and slices cannot overlap
- Any active areas (ones that contain links or rollovers) are good areas to slice into individual, smaller images instead of being part of a larger one.
- Make use of the **No Image** slice type:
  - Areas of text can be sliced and set to No Image in the Slice palette. This allows for the insertion of HTML text later in Dreamweaver and prevents the creation of extra, unused images.
  - Areas of solid color can be also be set to No Image. Solid colors can be recreated in Dreamweaver using layout boxes and background colors.
  - Using No Image will help keep the number of exported slices to a minimum.
- Try to isolate imagery that frequently changes for easier editing.
  - Portfolio pieces are a good example of this type of content.
- Where it makes sense, try to align the edges of your slices before saving the optimized versions. This can eliminate alignment headaches when you begin working in Dreamweaver.

### Primary slicing palettes

- The **Optimize** and **Slice** palettes are the two most-used palettes during the slicing process.
  - Clicking the palette title will show/hide additional options.



- Optimize
  - Allows you to set individual export settings for each image slice.
  - Works on selected slices only.
  - The resulting appearance of these settings can only be seen when the Optimize window tab is selected (See Step One on next page).
- Slice
  - This allows you to specify a unique name for the slice, among other things.
  - This is also where you specify the image Type as either **Image** (an image is exported) or **No Image** (no image is exported).

## The Slicing Process

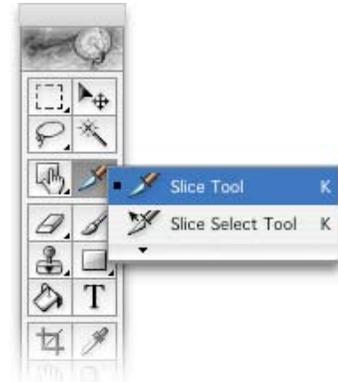
1. Open your file in ImageReady and click on the **Optimize** tab in the main image window. This will allow you to view exactly how the image will look when optimized.



- This is the only way to make optimization decisions.
- Original shows you a full quality image, regardless of the type of compression chosen.
- You can also use **2-Up** and **4-Up** to make quality comparisons between optimization settings.

2. Select the **Slice** tool from the tool palette and begin drawing slice boxes on your design.

- This icon also allows access to the **Slice Select Tool**. Click-and-hold the Slice tool to select this tool.
- By clicking on the small arrow at the bottom, you can "pull-off" these tools to provide quick access.



3. Set the appropriate options in the **Optimize** and **Slice** palettes.

- Before making these adjustments, you must first select a slice using the Slice Select Tool. Note that by holding down the shift key and selecting multiple slices, you can make adjustments in the Optimize and Slice palettes to multiple images at the same time.
- **Optimize Palette**  
In the Optimize palette, select whether to save the slice as a **GIF** or **JPEG**, and adjust the quality setting to find a balance between image quality and file size. (See the Web Imagery handout for more information.)
- **Slice Palette**  
In the Slice palette, change the **Name** field and give the slice a meaningful name. The default names assigned by ImageReady are not user-friendly. This will be the name of the file when you save the optimized images. You do not need to include the file extension when naming slices.

For slices automatically created by ImageReady, or for slices you've created and do not want to export, select those slices using the Slice Select Tool and change the Type pull-down menu in the Slice palette from Image to **No Image**. ImageReady will not create an image for these slices.

- Repeat this step for every slice in your layout.

4. Save your image slices:

- Select **Save Optimized As...** from the File menu. (Do not select Save Optimized).
- Select **Image Only** from the Format menu, and **All Slices** from the bottom pull-down menu. Do not choose HTML and Images.
- Create a new folder or navigate to the images folder in your site root directory and click **Save**.

# ImageReady Slicing Example

Numbers at the end of each paragraph refer to slice numbers in the site design

## Company Logo and Tagline

Since we want the logo to look its best, and the logo itself uses few colors, this slice would work best as a GIF. Using JPEG would display unwanted noise. (1, 3)

## Photograph

In general photos are saved as JPEGs due to the unlimited color range and photo-optimized compression techniques provided by the JPEG format. In addition, individually slicing site imagery will allow you to easily make changes in the future. (7)

## Navigation Rollovers

Because each of the navigation buttons is an independent rollover it's necessary to slice each separately. The GIF format is best for these images due to the limited number of colors and the need for these to be pixel-perfect. (8-14)

## White Space

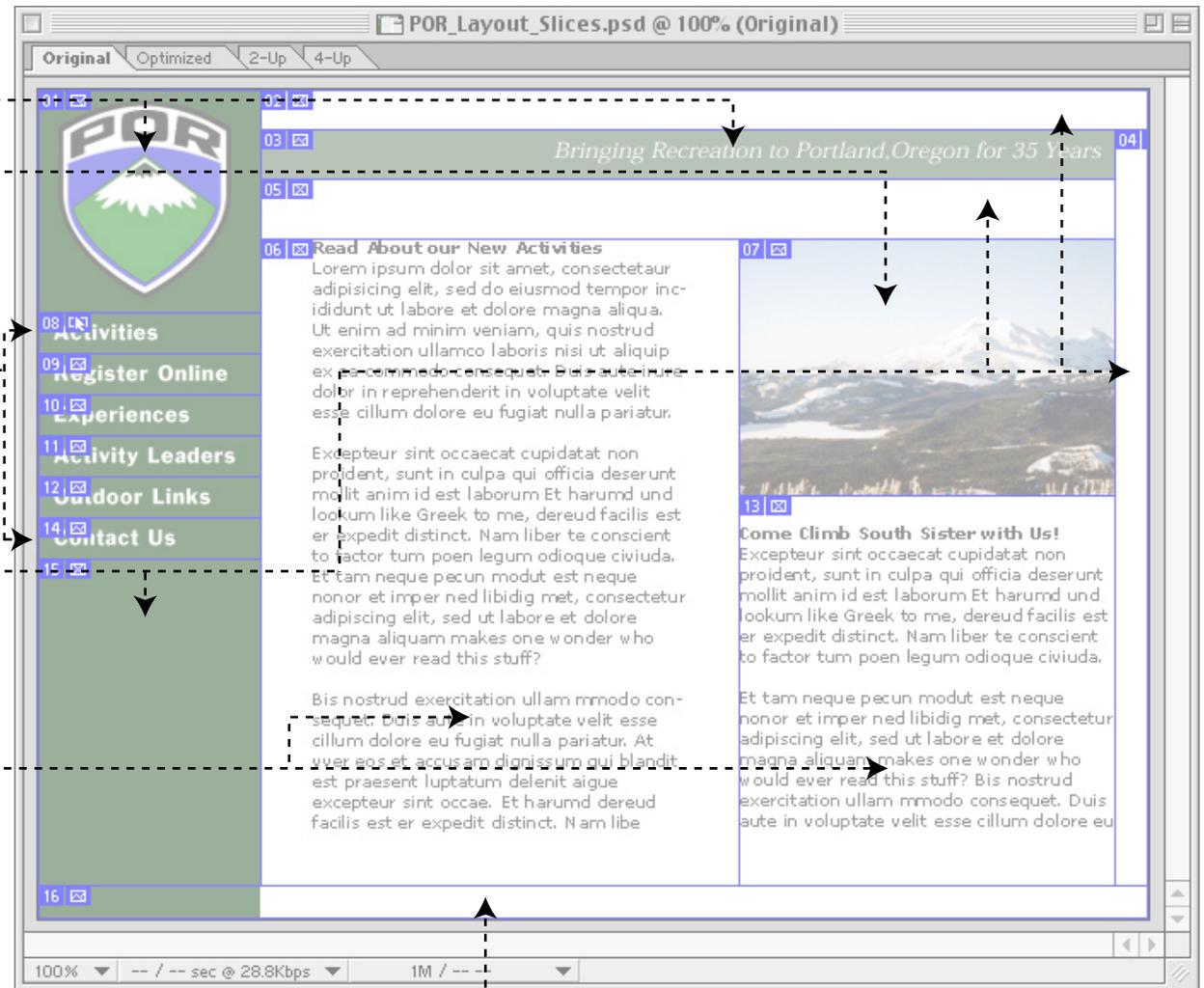
Areas that are the same color of the background should be sliced as No Image. When working in Dreamweaver, you will not need to place objects in these areas. (2, 4, 5) This is also true for the green space below the navigation. (15)

## HTML Text

These areas are designed to contain text created in Dreamweaver, not Photoshop. Specify these areas as No Image in the Slice palette to avoid exporting them as images. In Dreamweaver you can recreate these areas and simply type in the appropriate text. When assembling in Dreamweaver, be sure to include not only the active text area but the gutter area as well. (6, 13)

## Background Image

This slice will be used to as the background image for the page. The image will create the green color bar down the left-hand side of the page. A GIF image is preferred since there are only two colors present in the slice: green and white. (16)



- Content Area
- White Space/Gutter Area

# Dreamweaver Table Layout Example

All measurements are in pixels

