

Dear Friend,






Hello & welcome back to [Firewire](#), your friendly guide to the exciting world of web-design & web-solutions!

This newsletter covers most important techniques to reduce the size of a Flash movie and thereby increasing its speed.

General Optimization

1. **Group** objects and use **Symbols** whenever possible to minimize the file size.

To get a idea about the file size of objects and symbols we have used the same circular objects in different way. Refer the image given below,

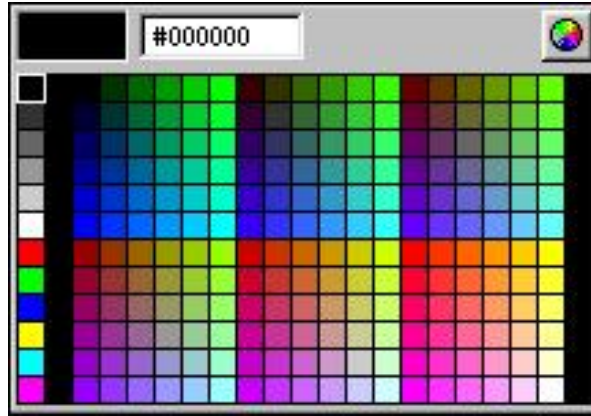
Normal Object		Grouped Object	
			
113 Bytes		12 Bytes	
Graphic Symbol	Movie Clip Symbol	Button Symbol	
			
12 Bytes	42 Bytes	39 Bytes	

2. **Backgrounds** that continue for several frames should be turned into a symbol (graphic or a movie clip).
3. Keep the first few frames of the movie blank, to enhance streaming performance of Flash movies.
4. **Avoid bitmaps as much as possible:-** Use simple vector graphics rather than bitmap images for better playback performance. If you are using bitmaps, use them only for still elements - don't animate them.
5. **Minimize** the use of **alpha transparency, gradients, masks, and tweens** as Complexity can slowdown the performance of the Flash movie, even if the movie size is small.
6. Break up larger movies into smaller movies and join them together using the **Load Movie action**.
7. Use **solid lines** instead of **dashed, dotted and other line types** wherever possible. Try to avoid custom line widths as this may slowdown the performance of the flash movie and also increase the file size.

8. Create lines with the **Pencil tool** instead of using **Brush tool** as it requires less memory.

Optimizing Color

1. Avoid **custom colors** as it occupies more memory.
2. Use **Web-safe color** palette.



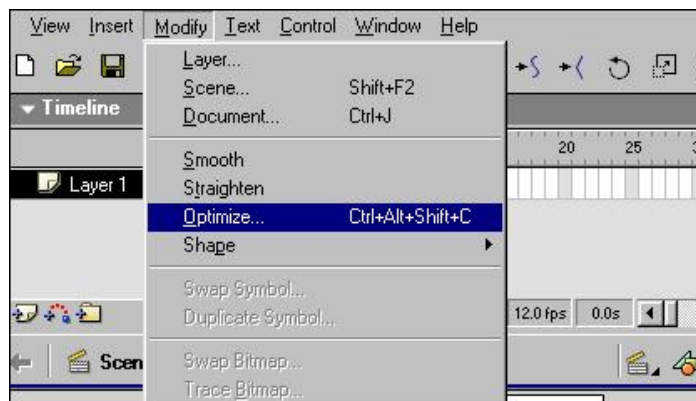
3. Use **solid fills** instead of gradients wherever possible as gradient fills are more complex for the computer to process than solid fills.

Optimizing Text

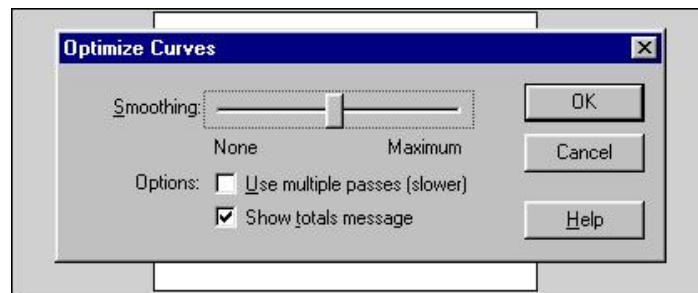
1. Reduce the number of **fonts** and **font styles** as much as possible. This can reduce the file size of your Flash movie.
2. Don't break apart fonts unless you need to edit the paths of the characters, because breaking apart fonts will increase the number of curves which will result in the increase in file size.
3. Use **device fonts** instead of embedded fonts this may yield somewhat smaller Flash movie file size because device fonts are not embedded in the flash movie but they are loaded in the flash movie from the user's machine. If users do not have a font installed on their system that corresponds to the device font, then the font may look different than expected on a user's system.

Optimizing Curves

1. **Optimize curves** (choose Modify > Optimize) whenever possible.



- In the Optimize Curves dialog box, drag the **Smoothing slider** to specify the degree of smoothing, this may reduce the number of curves used to create a shape.



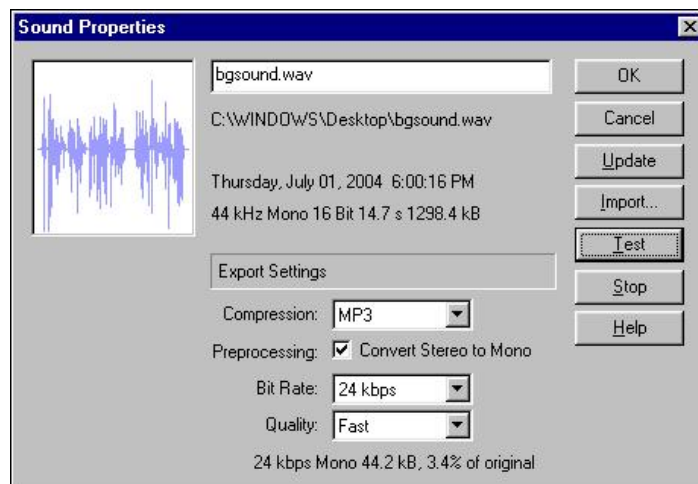
- Optimizing curves** also **reduces** the size of the Flash movie and the exported Flash Player movie.

Optimizing Sound

To reduce the file size you need to compress sounds.

Here are some other ways you can reduce the size of your sound files:

- Don't loop **streaming sounds** as it increases the file size.
- Keep **Background sounds** as short as possible.
- While looping sounds for Background music, keep it as **Event sound** mainly for faster download and smaller file size.
- Use the **MP3 format** whenever possible because it compresses well.



- Set the **in and out points** to prevent silent areas from being stored in the Flash movie and to reduce the size of the sound

Regards,
Manoj Kotak.

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