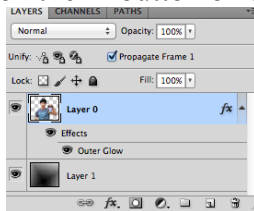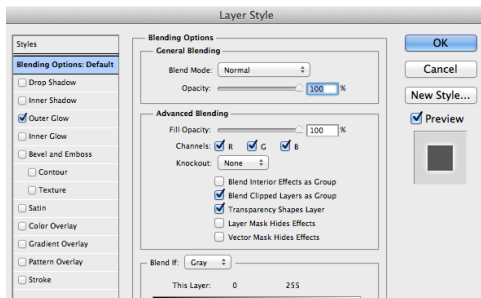# Photoshop .gif Animation Portrait

Swfs and gifs are the most common online animation file formats. That's one reason why we're reviewing Photoshop and creating them. Another reason is for you to have an animated profile picture for your portfolio site, a smaller one for the class website possibly, and a still picture for the class network site. If your website portfolio accepts swfs but not gifs you can convert it in Flash by importing and publishing. You will use a photograph or several of yourself with the green screen as the background. Using the solid green background will make it super simple to delete with the Magic wand tool by simply changing the tolerance if needed and deleting.

The new background layer that you will add should be a simple gradient. You will then apply an FX(effect) in Photoshop and tween it changing.

1. Open Photoshop and your photograph.
2. Unlock layer by double clicking and selecting OK.
3. Crop (5th tool on toolbar)
4. Use a Selection tool such as the MAGIC WAND to select all of background.
8. Delete the green background.
9. Create a New layer by going to LAYER, NEW.
10. Drag the new layer to the bottom & Select it.
11. Select the Gradient tool (located under the paint bucket -hold it down).
12. Create a gradient you like (there are several types located on the Options Bar).
13. Select your portrait layer & Create an effect (FXs) on your portrait layer by clicking on the fx button on the bottom of the layer panel.

*The Effects panel has numerous options for each effect (fx) so choose which one you want and change the options to your liking. You can add a glow, drop shadow, emboss, etc. Choose an effect that you will animate by tweening. Do not change the effects from one frame to another later but do change the PROPERTIES of the frames before you tween.

14. Open the Animation Panel by going to WINDOW, ANIMATION.
15. Go to IMAGE, IMAGE SIZE and change width or height to 4 inches.
*It must be small in dimensions so the file size uploads fast enough on websites.

16. Zoom in so it's 100% so you can see it at full scale (hold CMD & press +).

Now it's time to add frames, make some changes to your effect, and tween them so it's a smooth looping animation.

17. Duplicate the 1st frame in the Animation Panel (button next to the trashcan).
18. Select 2nd frame and double click on the "Effects" layer in the layer panel.
*This frame will be your middle frame so think about how you want your effect to animate in the middle.

19. Select the effect you have already applied (should have check mark on it) to the previous frame. Change the properties of the effect.
*Now you should have 2 frames that are identical except for the effect properties.

20. Tween them now by selecting both (hold down shift) and clicking on the tween button or going to the drop down menu and selecting tween.
*You'll probably want to tween all layers, position, opacity, & effects but you choose.

21. Duplicate the 1st frame and drag it to the right so it's the last frame.
22. Now tween the last two. Change the timing of the frames if you prefer.
23. Now save the .psd to two locations (your portfolio folder & "Portraits" folder)
*remember all your files should be titled, "last name, project name"
24. Optimize a .jpg to your portfolio folder & "Portraits" folder for a grade.
*remember go to FILE, SAVE FOR WEB AS to save as a .jpg or .gif
25. **Optimize your animated version now by going to FILE, SAVE FOR WEB again and change the file format (top right) .gif. Change the properties (size, amount of colors, Dither, Diffusion, Perceptual, etc.) to ensure that you are saving a file that is less than 1 megabyte.**
*So you should have 3 files saved to the "Portraits" folder with your last name (.psd, .jpg, .gif)

Criteria
Delete the green from your background
Add a gradient to your background
Add an effect to your portrait
Animate the effect so it loops smoothly
Create a .gif with less than 60 frames.
Save all 3 file formats to "Portraits" folder with last name.