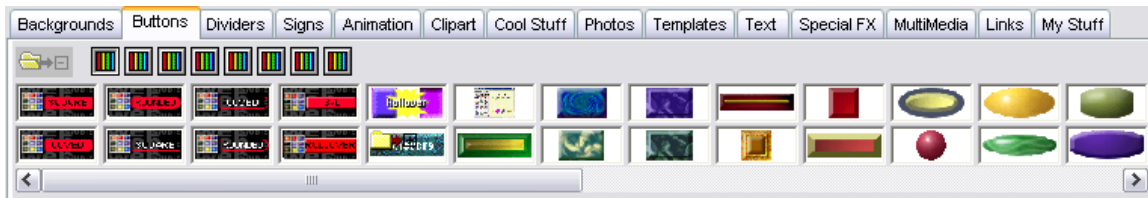


CHAPTER 8 - BUTTONS

Overview of Buttons



Buttons can take your visitor to a different location on the current page (aka “anchor”), to another Web page on your site, or to another Web site on the Internet. Choose a button’s visual style that fits the theme of the page itself. Match a science fiction Web page with science fiction style buttons.

Buttons and Links

In order for your buttons to actually take your visitors to another page on your site or another site altogether, you have to add one additional secret ingredient...a link.

A link is simply the web address of another web page, either yours or someone else’s. You click on a button with a link and your browser takes you to the page represented by that address...kind of a cyber taxi-cab.

The buttons in Web Studio’s Button Gallery don’t come with links, you add them yourself after you’ve placed the button on your page. You do this with the Links Gallery. The Links Gallery has all of the links will need to link your site together in its Site Links lists. For links to other websites, you can easily create them with the Links Gallery’s MyLinks list.

For more information about linking, see the section in this chapter on the Links Gallery.

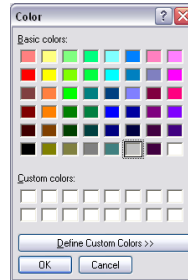
Smart Buttons

You’ll notice there are many different buttons and styles of buttons in the button gallery. The first eight buttons, however, are different; they are “smart” and can change how they look for you. Dragging one of these enables you to add a button of the chosen style with any color you choose.



The styles are square edged, coved, rounded with both filled color and just outlined with color as well as the 3-D button

To create a smart button, simply drag and drop the style of your choice. The Windows Color Dialog will appear.



Choose a color from the dialog. The button will be placed where you dropped it. You can then resize the buttons to whatever size you need.

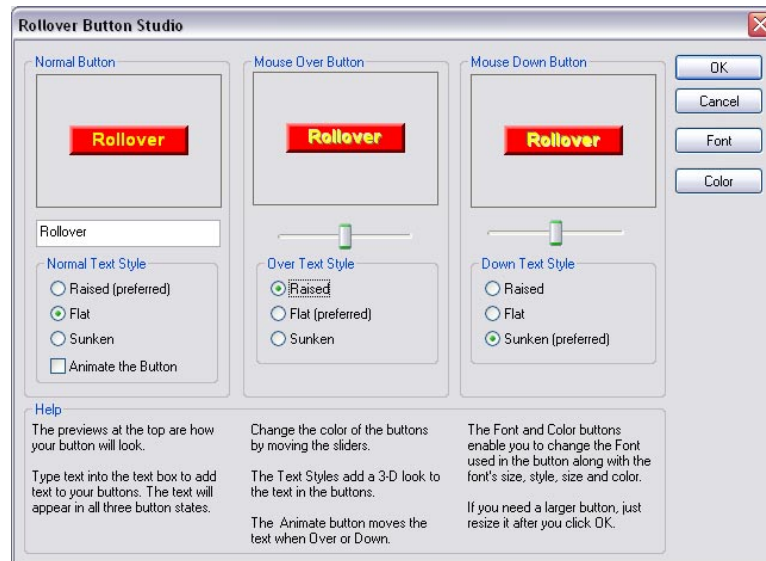
Rollover Buttons

A Rollover Button changes how it looks when a mouse is over it and when it is pressed. Rollover Buttons have three "states": normal, over, and down. When one of these buttons is viewed in a browser it looks as it does on the Web Studio page. When the mouse is passed over top of it, it changes to the over state (state is a fancy name for look or design). When the mouse is pressed on the button, it changes to its down state.



Rollover with its three states: normal, over, and down.

To make a Rollover, simply drag the Rollover Smart button onto your page. First you'll see the Windows Color dialog. Choose the color you'd like for your button and press OK. Then the Rollover Studio dialog appears.



In this studio, you can add text to the button, and also change the font, style and color of the text as well. You can then change the hue (fancy word for color) of the Over and Down buttons.

Note: Once you have created a Rollover Button and it is on your page, you can double click on it at any time to return to the Rollover Studio. This enables you to change its text, font, color or the hues used for the over and down states (you get to change your mind!).

Note 2: This also implies that you can create an entire family of buttons with the same look and color by creating one and then duplicating it and changing the text as appropriate (you get increased productivity!).



Graphic Buttons

Graphic Buttons are simply that, graphics that look like buttons. To use them you simply drag one onto your page. They don't change themselves, don't have text (unless the button you choose already does), they are simply graphics that look like buttons.

Rollover and Smart Buttons and Graphic Buttons

If you want to create a Rollover style button out of one of the smart buttons or any other button in the Button Gallery, simply hold down the **'ALT'** key when you drag the button onto your page. After that, the process is the same as creating a Rollover from the Rollover Smart Button.



Here's a coved smart button that is now a Coved, Smart, Rollover Button.

Tip: This enables you to add text to any Graphic button as well as change their colors.

Graphic Rollover Buttons

The final type of button is the Graphic Rollover button. It consists of three different graphics that make up its normal, up and down states. To create one of these you must add three graphics (or text objects) to your page. They can be anything you like, but they should share the same proportions since Web Studio will scale them to the same size as the "normal" state graphic.

Once you have three graphics on your page select them in the order you want them to appear—normal, over and down. (Remember to hold the shift key down while you select all three.) Web Studio uses the order you select them to determine which is the normal, over and down graphics.

Once the graphics are selected, drag the Rollover Button Maker onto any of the graphics.



Rollover Button Maker

The Graphic Rollover Studio dialog will appear.



This dialog is similar to the previous Rollover Button Studio but it enables you to change not only the text, font and color, but also the actual graphic used for the over and down states.

Note: You don't *have* to add text to any of the rollover buttons. This is especially true with the graphic rollovers since they may already have graphic content that indicates their state and purpose in life.

Note: you can use graphics or text objects to make Graphic Rollover Buttons. You don't have to use 3 graphics or 3 text objects, it can be any combination of each.

Changing Your Rollover Buttons

In addition to the Rollover Studio's abilities, the *Take Apart* command in the *Object* menu lets you "take apart" your rollovers into their component parts. You select the rollover, then choose *Take Apart*. The individual graphics that make up the button will be placed on your page in the order they were in the button. The bottom graphic is first, the middle is the over and on top is the down graphic. You can then change any of the button's graphics, change the order, create and add new graphics.

To re-create the rollover, select the graphics in the appropriate order and drop the Rollover make on to them. See the section titled *Graphic Rollover Buttons* for more information.

Button Tips and Techniques

- You can use the Rollover Studio to simplify the creation of all of the buttons for your web site. You don't even have to use them as rollovers. The tip is that you can use the Studio to add editable text to your buttons. In previous versions of Web Studio, you'd have to create a text object, and merge it with a button graphic. Once you did that you no longer could change the text in the button (remember, you'd do this to make an entire family of buttons). With the Button Studio you can do this easily.
- Easily create buttons with text in them. You don't have to use the rollover feature of the buttons. If you leave the color of the over and down states the same as the normal state, they won't appear to be rollovers on your web site. They will seem to be normal, run of the mill buttons. The same goes for the graphic buttons. You can use the Studio to add the editable text to a graphic button and use the same graphic for all three states.
- You can use Graphic Rollover buttons using the same graphic for each state but with a different color hue. To do this simply drag the same graphic three times from the Button Gallery or copy and paste an existing one twice. In any event, get three copies of the same graphic on your page. Then drag the *Photo Correction Wizard* from the *Special FX Gallery* onto one of them. Page through the wizard until you come to the *Hue* page and change its hue. Do this to the third button using a different hue. Finally select the objects in the order you want them (normal, over and down) and drop the *Rollover Button Maker* onto any of them.
- You can use Graphic Rollover buttons using the same graphic for each state but with different text. To do this simply drag the same graphic three times from the Button Gallery or copy and paste an existing one twice. In any event, get three copies of the same graphic on your page. Create three text objects using *Insert>New Text Object*. Enter the text you want for the normal button into one of the text objects. Move that object on top of one of the buttons. Resize it so that it fits within the button. Select both the graphic and the text object and choose *Object>Merge Selected Objects*. This combines the graphic button and the text into one object. Do this with the other two graphics. Finally select the objects in the order you want them (normal, over and down) and drop the *Rollover Button Maker* onto any of them.

- You can use the Graphic Rollover buttons to create cool rollover effects on your site. For example, a “moody” photography site with a black background (popular with photo sites) could have a “table of contents” made of very dark versions of photos. When the mouse passes over one of these photos the picture lightens to its normal value. When it is pressed, you could take the visitor to that section of the photo site with the appropriate link from the Link Gallery. To do this effect, simply add three copies of the same graphic to the page. Use the *Photo Correction Wizard* from the *Special FX Gallery* to darken the “normal” photo. Then select all three photos with the dark one selected first, and drop the *Graphic Rollover Maker* onto one of them. That’s it!

Working with Buttons

The buttons gallery is filled with a variety of graphic buttons, rollover buttons, and button makers.

The first eight buttons are “smart” buttons. You can drag one of these to create a button of the style you choose and a color of your choice.

The next button, isn’t a button, but the Rollover Button Maker. This enables you to create buttons from three individual graphics that will visually change when the mouse is over top of them and when the mouse button is pressed over them.

The Smart buttons can be created as Rollover buttons as well.

The remainder of the gallery consists of individual graphics and a sub-gallery of pre-made rollover buttons. Note that any of the graphic buttons can be created as Rollover buttons.

Adding a button to a page:

Choose the *Button* Gallery

Find the button to be dropped on the page.

Drag the button onto the page in the location it is to appear.

Drop the button.

The button is placed on the page.

Using “Smart” buttons

Adding a smart button is a two step process.

To add a Smart button:

Choose the *Button* Gallery

Find the style of Smart button to be dropped on the page.

Drag the button onto the page in the location it is to appear.

Drop the button.

The Windows *Color dialog* comes up. Choose a color for the button and press *OK*.

The button with the chosen style and color is placed on the page.

Adding “Smart” buttons as Rollovers

This type of Rollover button is known as a Hue based button. This type of button changes its hue or color when the mouse is over it or pressed on it. Adding a smart button as a Rollover is a three step process.

To add a Smart button as a Rollover

Choose the *Button Gallery*

Find the style of Smart button to be dropped on the page.

Press and hold down the *ALT* key on the keyboard.

Drag the button onto the page in the location it is to appear.

Drop the button.

The Windows Color dialog comes up. Choose a color for the button and press *OK*.

The Rollover Studio dialog comes up. Use the sliders to change the color of the “*Over*” and “*Down*” buttons. Enter any text into the button. Choose a font, style and size for the text. Choose a color for the text. Choose raised, flat, or sunken as the style for the text on the button. Press *OK*

A Rollover button with the chosen style, text and color is placed on the page.

Adding Graphic buttons as Rollover buttons

The Button gallery contains many graphic buttons. All buttons that are not “Smart” buttons are graphic buttons. Also, any graphic can be used as a Rollover by adding it to the Button gallery and then following the following instructions.

Creating a Rollover button from a graphic results in a Hue based button. This type of button changes its hue or color when the mouse is over it or pressed on it. Adding a graphic button as a Rollover is a three step process.

To add a Graphic button as a Rollover:

Choose the *Button Gallery*

Find the button graphic to be dropped on the page.

Press and hold down the *ALT* key on the keyboard.

Drag the button onto the page in the location it is to appear.

Drop the button.

The *Rollover Studio* dialog comes up. Use the sliders to change the color of the "Over" and "Down" buttons. Enter any text into the button. Choose a font, style and size for the text. Choose a color for the text. Press *OK*.

A Rollover button with the chosen graphic, text, and over and down colors is placed on the page.

Creating Graphic Rollover buttons

The button gallery contains a *Rollover Maker* item that creates a Rollover from three *individual* graphics. These buttons are known as Graphic Rollovers.

To create a Graphic Rollover button:

Add three graphics to the page. One that represents the *normal* state of the button. One that represents the state when the mouse is *over* the button. One that represents the state of the button when the mouse is *down* over the button.

Select the graphics with the *Shift key* pressed. Select the normal graphic *first*, then the over graphic, and then the down graphic.

Drag the *Rollover Button Maker* onto *any* one of the selected graphics.

The *Graphic Rollover Studio* dialog comes up.

Enter any text to be added to the buttons. Choose a font, style and size for the text. Choose a color for the text. Press *OK*.

A Graphic Rollover button is placed on the page.

Note that the *normal* graphic's size is used at the size of the button. If the other graphics are different sizes, they will be scaled to suit.

Editing Hue Rollover buttons

Editing a hue rollover enables changing the text, font, text color, or hues for the button. This is useful when creating a suite of buttons for a site. From the original button, copy and paste the number of buttons necessary and then edit the buttons to change the text to what is needed for the site.

To change the hue or text in a hue rollover button:

Double click on the hue rollover button.

The *Rollover Studio dialog* comes up. Use the sliders to change the color of the "Over" and "Down" buttons. Enter any text into the button. Choose a font, style and size for the text. Choose a color for the text. Press *OK*.

Editing Graphic Rollover buttons

Editing a graphic rollover enables changing the text, font, text color, or any of the graphics in the button. This is useful when creating a suite of buttons for a site. From the original button, copy

and paste the number of buttons necessary and then edit the buttons to change the text and or graphics to what is needed for the site.

To change the text or graphics in a graphic rollover button:

Double click on the graphic rollover button.

The *Graphic Rollover Studio* dialog comes up.

Edit the text, font, size or text color. Choose a different over and/or down graphics. Choose Press *OK*.

Taking rollover buttons apart

This enables the replacement of the pieces in a rollover button. Each graphic in the button is placed on the page. Modify any of the graphics or add new graphics and then use the Rollover Maker to recreate the rollover with the new graphics.

To take a rollover button apart:

Select the rollover to be taken apart.

Choose *Object>Take Object Apart*.

The three graphics that make up the rollover are placed on the page.

Adding links to buttons

A button isn't a button without a *link*. The link tells the button what web page to go to when it is pressed.

To add a link to a button from the Links gallery:

Choose the *Links* gallery

Find the link to be added to the button.

Drag it from the *Links* gallery onto the button and release the mouse button.

The link is applied to the button.

To add a link to a button from the Add/Edit Link dialog.

Right click on the button.

Choose *Add/Edit Link* from the resulting menu. The *Add/Edit Link dialog* comes up.

Enter the *Name, URL, Description* for the link and press *OK*.

The link is applied to the button.

To add a link to a button from the Object Properties dialog:

Right click on the button.

Choose *Properties* from the resulting menu.

Click on the *Link* tab in the dialog.

Click the *Add/Edit Link* button. The *Add/Edit Link* dialog comes up.

Enter the *Name*, *URL*, *Description* for the link and press *OK*.

The link is applied to the button.